

Women in the Indian Air Force



President

Ram Nath Kovind presented the "**Nari Shakti Puraskar**" to **Indian Air Force's (IAF) first women fighter pilots, Mohana Jitarwal, Avani Chaturvedi and Bhawana Kanth**, today at Rashtrapati

Bhawan. Mar 8, 2020

In May this year, three women officers of the Indian Air Force created history after flying a medium-lift helicopter. **Flt Lt Parul Bharadwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (Co-Pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (Flight Engineer)** are the first 'All-Women Crew' who flew a **Mi-17 V5 helicopter for a battle inoculation Training Mission** taking off and landing from restricted areas at a forward airbase in South Western Air Command, according to an IAF release.

The helicopter Mi-17 V5 was taken into air by Squadron leader Richa Adhikari, the unit engineering officer. The pilots had undergone their basic flying training at the 'Helicopter Training School' at Airport Station Hakimpet. This was then followed by advanced training at Air Force Station Yelahanka located in Bengaluru.



The strength of women officers serving the Indian Air Force (IAF) as on September 1 is 1,875 and of them 10 women officers are fighter pilots and 18 women officers are Navigators, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in a written reply.

He said that after approval of Ministry of Defence, IAF commenced a scheme for "Induction of Women SSC officers in Fighter Stream of

Flying Branch" in 2016 under which 10 women fighter pilots have been commissioned till date.

The minister said women fighter pilots are inducted and deployed in IAF as per strategic needs and operational requirements within the laid down policy, which is reviewed from time to time. (ANI).



Avani Chaturvedi, the First Woman Fighter Pilot, is from Satna District in Madhya Pradesh

The Rise of a Fighter

A woman first is becoming reality nowadays rather than just a saying for last many years. This era belongs to women and we have another story of a Flying officer [Avani Chaturvedi](#). Avani is the First Indian woman to fly one of the most powerful fighter aircraft MiG-21 Bison single-handedly. The 24-year-old Avani has become the sensation in India after she achieved this feat. She is among the first three women fighter pilots of India along with **Mohana Singh** and **Bhawana Kanth**.

"Women First, Prosperity for All" - Theme of eighth annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in Hyderabad, attended by Indian PM Narendra Modi and Ivanka Trump, Advisor to President of U.S

Early Background and the making of a Flying officer

Avani hails from Satna district in Madhya Pradesh and was born on October 27, 1993. Her father Dinkar Chaturvedi is an executive engineer in the water resources Department in MP government whereas mother is a housewife. The one person who has a lot of positive impact on Avani since childhood is her elder brother. Her

brother is an army officer and one of the main reasons for her interest in defence services. She did her schooling from Deoland, a small town in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh. She then went on completing her Bachelors in Technology in Computer Science from Banasthali University, Rajasthan in 2014.

[Avani Chaturvedi](#) has proved that if you have passion and love for the cause then there are no boundaries and even sky is not the limit. It is true that dreams do come true, we just need to be dedicated to our goal. The feat of Avani proves that women are no less than men in any field and any aspect. We believe her [achievement](#) will help more and more [Indian women](#) to break the boundaries that confine their talent and respect.

“Don't stop chasing your dreams, because dreams do come true.” – Sachin Tendulkar

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