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# DEFENCE & SECURITY ALERT

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The First and Only ISO 9001:2015 Certified Defence and Security Magazine in India

The Only Magazine Available On The Intranet Of Indian Air Force

OCTOBER 2023

VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 01

## AIR FORCE SPECIAL

### TEJAS AND FUTURE OF INDIAN AVIATION INDUSTRY

# 91TH RAISING DAY



**Air Chief Marshal  
Vivek Ram Chaudhari**  
Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)  
PVSM AVSM VM ADC



## ANNIVERSARY EDITION



THE FIRST CHOICE IN THE DOMAINS OF  
DEFENCE, SECURITY AND WORLD  
AFFAIRS WORLDWIDE

# 14 YEARS OF STRATEGIC SAGA







## MISSION

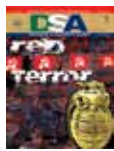
We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



**The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...**

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya



# DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



**I**ndia has taken delivery of its first Airbus C-295 medium tactical lift transport aircraft. That segment of the transport fleet had gradually aged into obsolescence and since it doesn't feature much on the radar, remained out of the discussion circles. But now greater focus is thankfully being paid to this very important sector as well. In the long run the C-295 is going to become the standard ubiquitous transport aircraft for medium lift capability is the one that performs the maximum duties. That is why it is important to have the numbers as well as adequate quality in the fleet.

The Air Force may well be inducting an outstanding aircraft, and one that is sorely needed in significant numbers. But a simple count of the different types of transport aircraft that the Air Force operates in its inventory is an astonishing variety, and nationalities. From Soviet era IL-76s and An-32s to American C-130s and C-17s, German Dornier and Brazilian Embraer, and now to the freshly inducted Airbus C-295.

Each comes with its own operating principles, which is something the professionals can handle with some skilful adaptation. It is the logistics of the astonishing variety that always remain a pressing matter.

The Air Force remains the service which garners more eyeballs than the other two for the simple reason that it operates in a techno-sphere where human skills match bravado and superior technologies. The software and hardware are attractive in a rather dramatic sense, hence the constant focus on its resources and capabilities. While the overwhelming attention has always been on its dwindling combat squadron strength, there are other aspects that need equivalent attention as well. The transport fleet being one such segment that needs regular modernisation. In due course the An-32s will also be facing retirement sooner rather than later.

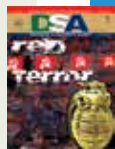
The Indo-Russian Medium Transport Aircraft joint venture has been hanging fire for a long time now. While Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has scored significant successes with the

Tejas Light Combat Aircraft and the Dhruv helicopter series. They are milestones in aeronautical achievements, and the same needs to be replicated in the transport sector as well, for there is much more to gain there. The indigenisation of the transport fleet is the surest route to India developing a vibrant commercial aircraft capability. As is well known the market for civilian transport aircraft will continue to grow exponentially, disproportionate to all other segments.

Success in the military side can provide spin-offs into the civilian sector, as well as future export orders. Expansion into the civilian side will make products cheaper for the Air Force, helping manage budgets as well as increasing the number of assets. Which is of course the ultimate aim of all defence managers since a robust Air Force is essential for national security. But that is a very expensive proposition, and it can only happen when the country has adequate resources to invest. All efforts must be made to raise resources required for Air Force modernisation. Solutions are available domestically.

**Manvendra Singh**





An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Magazine

Volume 15 | Issue 01 | October 2023

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Sourabh Chauhan

Legal Advisors  
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E-mail: (first name)[@dsalert.org](mailto:info@dsalert.org)  
info: [info@dsalert.org](mailto:info@dsalert.org)  
articles: [articles@dsalert.org](mailto:articles@dsalert.org)  
subscription: [subscription@dsalert.org](mailto:subscription@dsalert.org)  
online edition: [online@dsalert.org](mailto:online@dsalert.org)  
advertisement: [advt@dsalert.org](mailto:advt@dsalert.org)

Editorial and Corporate Office  
Prabhat Prakashan Tower  
4/19, Asaf Ali Road  
New Delhi-110002 (India)  
+91-011-23243999, 23287999, 9958382999  
[info@dsalert.org](mailto:info@dsalert.org) | [www.dsalert.org](http://www.dsalert.org)

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Defence and Security Alert is printed, published and owned by Pawan Agrawal and printed at SRG Traders Pvt. Ltd., B-41, Sector-67, Noida (U.P) and published at 4/19, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi (India).  
Editor: Manvendra Singh



# IT'S A LONG EVENTFUL JOURNEY OF DSA

Our memories are the most powerful conduits for reliving our experiences, whether they be moments of success, joy, happiness, sorrow, or loss. Anniversaries serve as annual markers, allowing us to revisit these memories and reflect upon our journey. Let's begin by revisiting the year 2008, a year marred by the tragic attack on Mumbai's iconic Hotel Taj. This horrifying event claimed the lives of innocent civilians and courageous policemen, leaving hundreds more wounded. It was a somber chapter in India's history.

The aftermath of this tragic event catalyzed the birth of the DSA platform, which emerged in October 2009. As we commemorate and pay tribute to those we lost in the Mumbai attack, we also remember the security lapses and policy decisions that allowed such a tragedy to unfold. Alongside this, we cherish the courage and vision of a small team that gave rise to DSA. Our goal was to establish a formidable platform for addressing India's defense, security, and global affairs, even though they had no prior journalism experience. Over the past 13 years, DSA has evolved

into one of the premier magazines in this genre.

Over the past decade, the realm of defence, security, and global affairs has undergone profound transformations with far-reaching implications transcending geographical boundaries. The early 2010s witnessed the Arab Spring, a series of uprisings and political changes across the Middle East, reshaping the regional dynamics. Europe grappled with complex issues of illegal migration, sparking debates on immigration policies and humanitarian responsibilities. The Syrian Civil War intensified, leading to a protracted humanitarian crisis and regional instability. Populist movements emerged globally, challenging established political norms. Climate change gained prominence, culminating in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Brexit reshaped European politics, while North Korea's nuclear ambitions raised global security concerns.

The transformative event of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted global interdependence. US withdrawal from Afghanistan reshaped regional geopolitics, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict became a significant geopolitical flashpoint.



Ongoing crises in regions like Sri Lanka and Syria drew international attention, emphasizing the intricate challenges faced by nations.

China's assertiveness post-COVID raised concerns, notably in the South China Sea, leading to global condemnation and highlighting China's evolving global role. China's economic rise, Belt and Road Initiative, diplomatic assertiveness, military expansion, and advanced technology investments fueled apprehensions, contributing to its characterization as a "rogue nation" in certain contexts, prompting a reevaluation of global relations in response to China's evolving global role. Collectively, these events have reshaped the global scenario, emphasizing the interconnectedness of nations and the imperative of international cooperation and effective governance in addressing complex and evolving challenges.

In recent years, India has emerged as a prominent player on the global stage, marked by a multifaceted approach encompassing diplomacy, economic prowess, and regional stability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India exhibited unwavering commitment to global cooperation, supplying critical aid such as pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and vaccines, solidifying its role as a global contributor. Simultaneously, India addressed security challenges, notably in Jammu and Kashmir, with a comprehensive strategy emphasizing international collaboration against terrorism. The landmark constitutional reorganization in August 2019 aimed to integrate the region more closely with India and

foster development. India's strategic maritime initiatives, Sagar and Sagarmala, modernized ports and enhanced maritime connectivity, promoting trade and economic growth in the Indian Ocean region. Advocating for a free and open Indo-Pacific, India actively participates in regional partnerships like the Quad and collaborates with various nations in the Indo-Pacific, bolstering regional security and stability. Engaging in forums such as IORA and BIMSTEC, India demonstrates its commitment to regional cooperation. Furthermore, India's soft power initiatives, including yoga and cultural exchanges, amplify its global influence and cultural diplomacy, aligning with its vision as a knowledge and cultural leader on the world stage. India's successful hosting of G20, its remarkable Chandrayaan 3 mission, consistent efforts in shaping global discussions, and the introduction of the Make in India initiative in the defense and security apparatus highlight its potential to once again assume the mantle of "Vishwa Guru," or World Teacher, on the global stage. India's journey signifies a comprehensive and impactful rise as a prominent global player, showcasing its commitment to self-reliance and enhancing its defense capabilities.

In the wake of a new government coming to power in India, the nation has witnessed a remarkable transformation in its defense and security apparatus, resulting in enhanced safety and security. The significant reduction in serial blasts and terrorist attacks reflects our improved resilience. India's foreign policy has gained fresh momentum,



and today, our nation commands greater global respect and influence. Whether dealing with China, Pakistan, or matters in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India's voice is heard and taken seriously on the global stage.

On the 14th Anniversary of DSA, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our invaluable contributors, the dedicated team at DSA, and our steadfast press and paper suppliers, who have been instrumental in producing this world-class magazine. I am confident that this anniversary edition will stand as a collector's edition, much like its predecessors, for our esteemed readers.

Jai Hind!

**Pawan Agrawal**  
Chief Executive Officer







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