#### NEW DELHI TUESDAY **JANUARY 19, 2021**

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## **MY INDIA**

# Rafale jets to debut in Republic Day flypast

#### **Rahul Singh** rahul.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force's Rafales, Sukhoi-30s and MiG-29s — fighters that are part of its muscular posture in the Ladakh theatre — are among the 42 aircraft that will take part in this year's Republic Day flypast - the highlight of India's biggest ceremonial parade, air force officials said on Monday.

The Rafales, whose induction into the IAF began last September and is work in progress, are taking part in the flypast for the first time. A woman fighter pilot will also participate in the parade for the first time.

The IAF's solitary Rafale squadron will add more muscle with the arrival of at least three more fighter jets by the end of the month. The delivery of the three jets will take the number of Rafales in IAF's inventory to 11.

The IAF's C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft, C-130J Super Hercules special operations plane, Apache AH-64E attack helicopters and CH-47F (I) Chinook multi-mission choppers platforms that have formed part of the force's role in the Ladakh sector — will also participate in the flypast, the officials said.

As many as 42 aircraft will be a part of different formations

RAFALES, SUKHOI-30s AND MIG-29s -FIGHTERS PART OF INDIA'S MUSCULAR POSTURE IN THE LADAKH THEATRE - ARE AMONG THE **42 AIRCRAFT THAT** WILL TAKE PART

during the flypast including 15 fighter jets, five transport aircraft, 21 helicopters and a vintage Dakota aircraft, the IAF said in a briefing on its role in the parade. A Rafale aircraft will fly with two Jaguars and two MiG-29 fighter jets in one of the formations at the flypast, which will wrap up with the Rafale carrying out another manoeuvre.

The flypast will see a vintage Dakota aircraft fly in formation with two Mi-17 V5 helicopters, marking the 50 years of the liberation of Bangladesh. A Bangladeshi military contingent is also taking part in the parade. An IAF C-17 heavy-lifter last week flew 122 Bangladeshi military person-

nel from Dhaka for the parade. The participation of the Bangladeshi soldiers in the parade will mark the second time that foreign soldiers will march

**HT Correspondent** 

on January 26.

letters@hindustantimes.con

Bhawana Kanth will be a part of

She will be a part of the

Indian Air Force's (IAF's) tab-

leau that will showcase mock-

ups of the light combat aircraft.

light combat helicopter and the

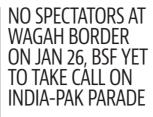
down Baipath, as reported by HT on January 3. The Bangladeshi contingent has been invited to take part in the parade at a time when the two countries are celebrating the golden jubilee of the birth of Bangladesh.

Foreign soldiers took part in the parade for the first time in 2016 when a French army contingent of 130 soldiers marched down Rajpath (then French President Francois Hollande was

the chief guest that year). Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, one of the first women fighter pilots in IAF, will be a part of the air force's tableau that will showcase mock-ups of the light combat aircraft, light combat helicopter and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane. The LCA model will be armed with India's first anti-radiation missile Rudram.

The parade will be shorter, involve fewer participants and only a fourth of the usual number of spectators will be allowed at Rajpath, with the ceremonial event being curtailed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The shortened route of the

parade will see it end at National Stadium instead of Red Fort. Not more than 25.000 spectators will be allowed at Rajpath, compared to at least 100,000 people who usually turn up for the parade.



**HT Correspondent** letters@hindustantimes.com

AMRITSAR: No spectators will be allowed on the Indian side of the Attari-Wagah joint checkpost on Republic Day in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, officials familiar with the matter said on Monday. A Border Security Force (BSF)

official said that a decision is yet to be taken on whether the coordinated parade with Pakistan will be held this year or not. "Due to the coronavirus pan-

demic, no spectator will be allowed to enter the joint check post (JCP) at Attari this Republic Day. But we have yet to decide our programme, including the parade ceremony, to celebrate the day on the border," said a senior Punjab BSF official, requesting anonymity.

The joint parade was held on Independence Day last year.

Another BSF official said that while they are yet to receive a programme for Republic Day, it is likely that the parade will be held. Celebrations for the Republic Day may be similar to the beating the retreat ceremony which was held in August without any spectators, the official said.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak in March last year, only a flag-lowering ceremony is conducted at sunset on the Indian side of the border.

experimental scheme for their

induction into the IAF's combat

stream was introduced in 2015.

Kanth, who belongs to Dar-

Rafales, Su-30s and MiG-29s,

the fighter jets which are part of

the IAF's muscular posture in

the Ladakh theatre, will be

## Woman fighter pilot in parade for first time



Bhawana Kanth



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Sukhoi-30 fighter plane, Indian Air Force officials said on Mondav **NEW DELHI:** Flight lieutenant

One of the first three women to get commissioned into the bhanga in Bihar, was born and brought up in the Refinery Township, Begusarai, where her IAF as a fighter pilot, Kanth is currently posted at an airbase in father worked as an engineer in Rajasthan where she flies the MiG-21 Bison fighter plane. IOCL.

Kanth, Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh were inducted into the IAF as the first women fighter pilots in 2016. Ten women have been commissioned as fighter pilots after an

among 42 aircraft taking part in Republic Day flypast. **INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY** 0 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002 Website: www.insaindia.res.in **RECRUITMENT NOTICE Post:** Web Developer (full time fixed tenure)

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, YANTRIK KHAND, U.P. JAL NIGAM, MEERUT Letter No. 32 / निविदा / 04 Date : 16.01.21 Short Term E-Tender Notice E-Tender for Running & Maintenance of GSM based alarm system in Nagar Nigam Meerut is invited by U.P. jal Nigam that shall be downloaded and uploaded at e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in from 19.01.2021 at 15:00 hrs. onwards to 26.01.2021 upto 17:00 hrs. E-tender shall be opened on 27.01.2021 at 15:30 hrs, onwards at office of Executive Engineer, Yantrik Khand, U.P. Jal Nigam, Meerut. The cost of tender document is 1,000+18% GST. All other conditions shall be as per NIT and tender document.

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Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBE website www.natboard. edu.in for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

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