

# Vayu's interview with IAF Heritage Flight

**VAYU:** *From where did the need and idea of having a fleet that operates vintage aircraft that IAF operated in the past come from?*

**Ans:** The Heritage Flight (initially known as Vintage Aircraft Flight), was established in April 1988 at Air Force Station Palam to offer a glimpse into the legacy of the erstwhile aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force and showcase its rich heritage and proud history. The nomenclature was changed from Vintage Aircraft Flight (VAF) to the Heritage Flight (HF) in the year 2020.

**VAYU:** *What is the significance of operating a fleet of this type for the IAF?*

**Ans:** The aim of Heritage Flight is similar to the Suryakiran and Sarang Aerobatic Teams, ie, to showcase IAF and to inspire future generations by being a symbol of pride of the Indian Air Force. The Heritage Flight is mandated to carry out ceremonial fly past during occasions of national importance like the Republic Day and Air Force Day. It also undertakes aerial displays during international air shows like the Aero India and other such occasions.

**VAYU:** *What types of aircraft does the Heritage Fleet operate?*

**Ans:** The Heritage Flight currently operates three types of aircraft – the Tiger Moth, which was refurbished and inducted in the year 2012; the Harvard, which was

inducted in 2015, and the Dakota which was inducted in the year 2018.

**VAYU:** *Are there any plans to expand the fleet?*

**Ans:** Two additional aircraft, ie, the Spitfire and the HT-2 are planned to be inducted into the Heritage Flight in near future.

**VAYU:** *Are there any plans to open the fleet for static display for the general public?*

**Ans:** As and when there is an apt occasion, the Heritage Flight undertakes aerial/static displays. On clearance from Air HQs, same is open for general public.

**VAYU:** *What will the future Heritage Fleet look like?*

**Ans:** The flight bears the proud distinction of operating vintage aircraft well before World War II era and the only tail wheel aircraft, presently being flown in IAF.

With the planned inductions, the future of Heritage Flight looks promising in executing its primary task of inspiring the youth of this country towards joining defence forces in general and Indian Air Force in particular. ➔

**Interview and photos by Abhinav Negi of Team VAYU. (Twitter: @ThatArticleGuy)**

**Base visit by Mayyank Kaul and Abhinav Negi**

