

VAYU on-the-spot report

VAYU interview with IAF's No. 81 Sqn (Skylords)



VAYU: When did the IAF feel the requirement to procure a heavy transport aircraft (in the 80 tonne category)?

Ans: IAF is the fourth largest Air Force in the world and has an ever growing requirement for heavy lift capability. The need for procuring heavy transport aircraft in the 80 tonne category was realised in the early 2000's due to expanding inventory sizes, with need to airlift heavy cargo across the country and globe, if required. With India's growing stature and being a potent force to reckon, in its sphere of influence, C17 becomes an ideal platform to carry out both strategic and tactical tasks. With India's aspiration of Amritkaal by 2047, along with national strategy of projecting and protecting Indian footprint around the globe, IAF has acquired capability to deliver in most expeditious and efficient manner.

VAYU: The C-17 Globemaster is an aircraft well known for its heavy lifting capabilities, how satisfied are the forces especially the IAF with it?

Ans: IAF is extremely satisfied with the performance of the aircraft and the strategic capability enhancement which is enabled by the induction of C-17 in the IAF.



VAYU: IAF has used the C-17 in many operations, be it Op Rahat or Op Ganga. What makes the IAF so confident when operating the Globemaster for critical Ops like the ones mentioned above?

Ans: C-17 is ideally suited to carry out Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief operations across the globe due to its strategic reach and heavy airlift capability. High