

CNS Address at AFA Passing out Parade on 16 December 2017

1. Air Marshal SRK Nair, AOC-in-C Training Command, Air Marshal Amit Tiwari, Commandant AFA, Officers, newly Commissioned Officers and Flight Cadets on Parade, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. I am honoured to be here to review this Combined Graduation Parade, marking the successful completion of the 200th Pilots Course of the Indian Air Force. At the outset, I would like to commend you on your immaculate turnout, smart bearing and impressive drill this morning.

3. This day marks an important milestone in your professional journey. I compliment you on successfully completing your training and on being awarded the President's Commission. To the award winners, I extend my heartiest congratulations. Your achievement is testimony to your commitment, perseverance and pursuit of excellence. I also congratulate all the officers who have earned their wings today.

4. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the instructors and members of the staff who have enabled these young men and women in achieving this all-important milestone. Well done and keep it up.

5. I am sure that it is also a day of great pride and joy for the parents, families and friends of these fine officers on parade. You have all undoubtedly been a source of strength for them, during this arduous journey. I also congratulate you and thank you for your contribution.

6. I have a few thoughts to share with the graduating officers. Firstly, the commission that you receive today brings with it immense responsibility.

7. You will be required to continuously push your limits, as you serve to protect our nation's sovereignty, from those who threaten it, both within and beyond our borders. To succeed, you will need to be a thorough professional, a perceptive intellectual, an astute manager, and above all, a good military leader.

8. Over and above these traits, it is imperative for each one of you to be a paragon of integrity and moral uprightness. The value system of the Armed Forces is the foundation of our way of life and the way we fight. While we continue to evolve and adapt to the changing social environment, we must ensure that these values do not get compromised.

9. Officers, you are joining the Forces at a time of great change and modernisation. As we induct new technologies and fine tune our warfighting procedures, you will need to shoulder the responsibility to make such transitions seamless. You must continue to build your understanding of both technology and tactics, to ensure that you can get the best from the aircraft in every mission. Remember, at the end of the day, it is the man or woman behind the machine, who makes the difference between success and failure.

10. Officers in the Armed Forces have the added honour of leading the men who serve at our side. As leaders, you are expected to lead by personal example. You must develop a close and genuine relationship with your team and be mature in your interactions. Remember, it is more

important to do what is right than what is popular. Have the courage of conviction to speak honestly, to superiors and subordinates alike, especially when your inputs are contrary to what that they would like to hear. Encourage this among your subordinates as well. Be receptive to their advice and accept constructive criticism.

11. The Academy has prepared you well for the challenges ahead. Your formal training will end as you march out of the portals of Sekhon Block today but the process of learning continues throughout your career. Hereafter, you would need to draw on your training, your passion for the Service and your belief in yourself. This will guide you through the challenging and exciting times ahead.

12. Ladies and Gentlemen on Parade, you have chosen to dedicate your future to the service of our great nation. There is no profession more honourable than the Armed Forces. For this, the nation thanks you and every Indian is proud of you.

13. The Indian Air Force is among the best in the world. To join the ranks of these elite air warriors is a great privilege. I congratulate you all on being commissioned into this fine service, and into the larger fraternity of the Indian Armed Forces. As you 'prepare to take off' on your professional careers, I wish you success in all your endeavours.

14. May you always touch the sky with glory.

Jai hind.