

Restored by B'luru MP, yesterday's fighter will be star of today's show

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In May, Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Chandrashekhar gifted the Indian Air Force with a Dakota DC3, a vintage Indian military aircraft used in the 1947-48 Indo-Pakistan war, 1962 Indo-China war and the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war. This craft will be the star of this year's IAF Day celebrations on October 8 and will be on display at the IAF base in Hindan, near Ghaziabad. This year marks the 86th anniversary of the Indian Air Force.

MP Chandrashekhar, an aviation enthusiast and a licensed pilot himself, is the son of Air Commodore MK Chandrasekhar, who served as trainer of fighter aircraft, flew the Dakota aircraft and has been a part of several sorties of Dakota. The MP gifted the aircraft to the IAF on February 13 this year and renamed it from Dakota DC3, bearing tail number VP 905, to Parashurama. MP Rajeev Chandrashekhar said, "The Dakota is an important part of Air Force's history. If it was not for the Dakotas and the troops it airlifted in 1947, Srinagar would not be with India today."

"The restoration took over six years and cost me a lot of money. But I was



The Dakota DC3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Was at the forefront of operations from 1947 to 1971 and played an indispensable role in logistics and transportation during its flying years in the IAF● Was deployed to | <ul style="list-style-type: none">fight Pakistan army aided by an irregular militia consisting of tribesmen from the frontier who invaded Kashmir in 1947● Was used for crucial para-drop operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">in Tangail (60 miles from Dhaka), on 11 December 1971, four days ahead of Pakistan military's historic surrender to the India-Bangladesh Joint Command on December 16 |
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motivated by my father and many others who have served the nation. I wanted to remind country of the bravery of IAF and Army in 1947," he added.

Chandrashekhar had spotted the aircraft on a trip to UK and made up his mind to refurbish it and bring it back to India. A gift deed was signed between Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa,

Chief of the Air Staff (IAF) and Air Commodore MK Chandrasekhar (Retd). It was formally inducted into the IAF Vintage Flight on May 4, 2018 in a ceremony at Air Force Station Hindan, where Air Commodore MK Chandrasekhar, handed over a symbolic key to the Chief of Air Staff and Air Marshal BS Dhanoa.