

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND
ON THE OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO
CORPS OF ARMY AIR DEFENCE**

Gopalpur, September 28, 2019

1. I am extremely happy to address the coveted Army Air Defence Corps of the Indian Army. This is my first visit to the Army Air Defence Centre here in Gopalpur after assuming office of the President of India. And it is for a very good cause indeed. I would like to compliment the Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks for the spectacular parade presented today.
2. The Corps of Army Air Defence was carved from Regiment of Artillery on 10 January 1994. Its history dates back to World War Two, when its troops fought gallantly in Myanmar – called Burma in those days, Malaya, Bahrain, Singapore, Iraq and Persia.
3. Post-independence, the brave soldiers of 45, 103 and 127 Air Defence Regiments fought gallantly during the liberation of Goa. During Indo-China War of 1962, the efforts made to provide robust Air Defence cover in affected North-Eastern regions are also worth mentioning. The Air Defence Gunners destroyed a number of enemy aircraft during Indo-Pak War of 1965 and 1971 and provided effective Air Defence protection. Valiant soldiers of Army Air Defence also made significant contribution in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir as well as North East.
4. Since independence, the Corps of Army Air Defence has been bestowed with several gallantry honours including two Ashoka Chakras. During 1971 Indo-Pak War four units of the Corps, that is - 27, 29, 45 and 151, were decorated with 'Honour Titles' for their distinguished performance and

steadfastness in battle. The Corps lives by its Regimental motto “आकाशे शत्रुन् जहि” meaning “Kill the enemy in the sky”.

5. At this Colours Presentation Ceremony, I would like to pay homage to the martyrs of the Corps of Army Air Defence. Their sacrifice has secured our sovereignty, brought glory to our Nation and protected our people. I also congratulate all veterans and serving soldiers of the Corps for their stupendous performance. You have been true force multipliers in the most inhospitable terrain and climatic conditions in the world. I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to All Ranks and families of the entire Air Defence fraternity. The Indian Army and the Nation is proud of you.
6. We have taken a solemn vow to defend the sovereignty of our country against all odds. I am confident that we will fulfill this vow and keep the dignity of our Nation and our people intact, whatever be the cost. That is what the ‘Colours’ signify. Carry them with pride and strive for excellence in all your endeavours. I wish all the soldiers and their families a successful and prosperous life.
7. May you walk farther and farther on the path of success.

Thank you,
Jai Hind!