



Harshit Jain

E-Mail: x26harshitj@iima.ac.in Mobile: +91 9953734186 LinkedIn: www.linkedin.in/erjainharshit

Summary

Strategic leader with 11+ years in the Indian Air Force, offering deep cross-functional expertise across consulting, digital transformation, supply chain strategy, and large-scale program delivery. Adept at operating across the full strategy-to-execution spectrum - from shaping institutional policy and multi-agency ecosystems to delivering high-stakes programs at scale. Known for bringing structured thinking, cross-functional influence, and operational discipline to deliver outcomes that are built to last.

Professional Experience

Deputy Director - Strategy, Tech & Operations | Indian Air Force

- Served on the IAF specialist audit board, assessing combat readiness across war-time bases spanning a multi-billion dollar inventory of radars, missile systems, and aircraft, with structured findings driving 3-4 month remediation cycles.
- Conducted surprise ISO 9001/27001-aligned audits across missile units, assessing technical readiness, SOP compliance, documentation integrity, and access controls.
- Led end-to-end capex and vendor-selection strategy to commission a 1 MW solar power plant (₹5 Cr), reducing grid dependency and lowering operational energy costs for the airbase.
- Established performance governance frameworks including KRAs, KPIs, and review mechanisms across delivery units; accelerating decision cycles and improving milestone adherence across geographically dispersed teams.
- Optimised a multi-modal logistics network across 7 remote locations by managing 20-vehicle convoys and specialised cargo movements, achieving 100% on-time delivery and zero damage incidents.
- Selected as 1 of 4 officers for India-Israel Proof-of-Concept trials, representing operational requirements during OEM evaluations, conducting technical trade-off analysis and vendor benchmarking, and authoring the final feasibility report presented to the Defence Ministry for a strategic weapon system acquisition.
- Participated in the India-Israel strategic procurement evaluation by conducting vendor benchmarking and technical trade-off analysis to inform Ministry-level acquisition decisions for a new weapon system.

Senior Program Manager - Strategic Initiatives | Indian Air Force

- Directed O&M for a ₹4,800+ Cr missile asset portfolio across 7 locations, leading 200+ technicians across specialisations to sustain 90%+ serviceability, ensuring uninterrupted operational readiness.
- Managed Level 1–3 repair operations across missile and radar systems, driving component-level quality control that reduced electronic assembly rejection rates and sustained combat readiness during critical activations.
- Program-owned the ₹120 Cr digitisation and modernisation of a missile platform - spanning radars, control systems, and diagnostics - coordinating with foreign OEMs, DPSUs, and private manufacturers via Agile/Scrum to deliver zero-downtime rollout on live operational systems.
- Drove demand planning transformation using ERP-based forecasting and replenishment automation that improved forecast accuracy, reduced inventory holding costs by ~20%, and supported elimination of 200+ redundant SKUs through master data standardisation over 4 years.
- Led change management and capability uplift for 2,000+ personnel over 3 years by digitising training content in response to critical instructor shortages, institutionalising standardised learning that sustained operational readiness across units.
- Digitised training content for ~2,000 Agniveer personnel in response to instructor shortages, scaling standardised digital learning modules across units.
- Commanded a strategic train-based movement of missile systems and ~500 personnel over 3 months, coordinating Defence and Railways ministries and shaping inter-ministry logistics strategy to deliver a complex deployment on schedule with zero operational disruption.
- Led on-ground execution of civilian evacuation operations during Cyclone Michaung (December 2023) in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh by coordinating with civil agencies and Indian Air Force relief teams to safely evacuate ~5,000 civilians from coastal areas with zero casualties.
- Managed concurrent administrative portfolios as Officer-in-Charge of canteen procurement serving ~2,000 families and as administrative head of Air Force school, improving enrolment outreach to surrounding village communities.

Senior Manager - Engineering, Operations & Capability Enhancement | Indian Air Force

- Enabled a first-of-its-kind high-altitude deployment of missile systems beyond OEM performance limits by engineering two field innovations under operational pressure, thus securing operationalisation of critical assets in the Ladakh region.
- Led SATCOM infrastructure deployment across 3 strategic airbases in mountainous terrain by conducting site selection and redundancy planning, delivering full operationalisation within 2 months with zero disruption.
- Led ERP-based supply chain transformation (IMMOLS/EMMS) across a ₹3,000+ Cr portfolio, establishing real-time cross-unit spare visibility that eliminated duplicate procurement and streamlined Plan-Buy-Make-Deliver workflows across 7 locations over 4 years.
- Led enterprise risk and compliance initiatives including sensitive security investigations at a forward Airbase, strengthening information governance and eliminating identified vulnerabilities in organisational integrity protocols.

- Spearheaded a phased, zero-defect transfer of 100+ combat assets to the Indian Army by enforcing strict handover protocols across performance checks, inventory controls, and logistics; ensuring complete asset accountability with zero discrepancies.

Manager - Engineering Operations, Project & IT | Indian Air Force

- Conceptualised and delivered an in-house digital simulator for missile radar crews via Scrum-based development, reducing dependency on live systems and institutionalising the product into standard operational doctrine.
- Executed a value engineering and indigenisation program for missile radar decoy systems, scaling from prototype to full production and achieving ~40% unit cost reduction (₹2.5L → ₹1.5L) while maintaining OEM-equivalent performance.
- Led retail supply chain transformation serving ~2,000 families, optimising demand forecasting, inventory turns, and vendor coordination to deliver measurable profitability improvement and reduce procurement inefficiencies.

Trainee Officer | Indian Air Force

- Underwent rigorous military and technical specialisation training, building foundational expertise in missile sub-systems, aeronautical engineering, electronics, and air force operations and maintenance protocols.

Education

PG Diploma (Aeronautical Engineering) – *Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgaum* | *India*

BE (Electronics & Communication) – *Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida* | *India*

Accomplishments and Awards

- Commendation by Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force
- Letter of Appreciation by Commanding Officer, Indian Air Force

License & Certifications

- Management Essentials - IIM Shillong
- Project Management Professional - PMI
- Advanced Excel Skills for Business - Macquarie University

Co/Extra-curricular

- Selected as Member – Profile Committee at IIM Ahmedabad.
- Coordinated COVID-19 vaccination operations in a conflict zone by aligning Air Force medical teams and civil authorities to vaccinate ~10,000 civilians under operational constraints.
- Led civil liaison and security planning for Air Force Day Chandigarh (2023), managing ~15,000 civilian attendees with zero incidents.