



Harshit Jain

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Summary

Operations and Strategy leader, Squadron Leader in the Indian Air Force, with 11 years running capital projects, asset-heavy supply chains and multi-function teams. Program-owned a ₹120 Cr platform modernisation delivered on live systems, led ERP-based transformation across a ₹3,000+ Cr supply chain portfolio, and directed operations and maintenance for a ₹4,800+ Cr asset base across 7 locations with 200+ technicians.

Professional Experience

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

Jul 2024 – Jul 2025

- Served on the IAF specialist audit board, assessing combat readiness at war-time bases spanning a **multi-billion dollar inventory** of radars, missile systems, and aircraft; ran surprise **ISO 9001/27001-aligned audits** across **4 missile units**, with structured findings driving **3-4 month remediation cycles**.
- 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**, zero damage incidents and **~15% lower logistics cost**.
- Selected as **1 of 4 officers** for India-Israel Proof-of-Concept trials; ran technical trade-off analysis and vendor benchmarking, and authored the evaluation report presented to the **Defence Ministry** for a strategic weapon system acquisition.

Senior Program Manager - Strategic Initiatives | Indian Air Force

Jan 2022 – Jun 2024

- Directed O&M for a **₹4,800+ Cr missile asset portfolio** across **7 locations**, leading **200+ technicians** across specialisations to sustain **90%+ equipment serviceability**.
- Managed **Line, Intermediate & Depot-level 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, 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, reducing **inventory holding costs by ~20%** and eliminating **200+ redundant SKUs** through master data standardisation.
- Led upskilling and capability enhancement for **2,000+ Agniveer personnel over 2 years** by digitising training content in response to critical instructor shortages, institutionalising standardised learning that sustained operational readiness across units.
- Commanded a strategic train-based movement of missile systems and **~500 personnel**, coordinating Defence and Railways ministries 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 locals** from coastal areas with zero casualties.
- Managed concurrent administrative portfolios as head of Air Force School, improving enrolment outreach to surrounding village communities.

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

Aug 2019 – Dec 2021

- Enabled a **first-of-its-kind high-altitude deployment** of missile systems beyond OEM performance limits by engineering two field innovations under operational pressure, securing approvals and deploying **within 3 weeks** with **100+ personnel** in the Ladakh region.
- Led **ERP-based supply chain transformation** 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.
- Led **Satellite Communication 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 **enterprise risk and compliance** initiatives including sensitive security investigations at a forward Airbase, strengthening information governance and eliminating identified vulnerabilities in organisational integrity protocols.

- Delivered 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

Jan 2017 – Jul 2019

- 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 lift profitability **~25%**.

Trainee Officer | Indian Air Force

Jul 2014 – Dec 2016

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

Education

MBA - <i>Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad</i> India	Apr 2026 - Present
PG Diploma (Aeronautical Engineering) - <i>Visvesvaraya Technological University</i> India	Dec 2016
B.Tech (Electronics & Communication) - <i>Jaypee Institute of Information Technology</i> India	Jun 2014

Accomplishments and Awards

- **Commendation by the Chief of Air Staff**, Indian Air Force - for operational excellence in sustaining legacy missile systems.
- **Letter of Appreciation** by Commanding Officer, Indian Air Force - for operational contribution during Operation Sindoor and command of live-firing detachments.

License & Certifications

- Management Essentials - IIM Shillong
- Project Management Professional - PMI
- Lean Six Sigma - Green Belt
- 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 locals** under operational constraints.
- Led civil liaison and security planning for Air Force Day Chandigarh (2023), managing **~15,000 attendees** with zero incidents.
- Marathon Runner, Keen Traveller.