

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India**

**Friday, June 01, 2007**

**Ministry of Defence**

**IAF'S NEW GLOBAL VENTURE**

**CHIEF FLAGS OFF 'ROUND THE WORLD' MICROLIGHT  
EXPEDITION**

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**15:9 IST**

1. The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Fali Major 'flagged off' a 'Round the World' Microlight expedition today from Air Force Station Hindon. The Microlight expedition has been undertaken by two IAF pilots Wg Cdr R Monga and Wg Cdr Anil Kumar. This expedition is a part of ongoing IAF platinum jubilee celebration, with a purpose of living the spirit of adventure and international goodwill.

2. The expedition has been undertaken in a German manufactured Microlight aircraft called the 'CSTW Advance'. The Microlight aircraft would be attempting to cover more than 39,000 kms in about 45 days. In addition, rest and maintenance activities have been planned on 19 days. This would also be an attempt to set a new world record for fastest time in circumnavigating the world in 300-500 kg weight category. The route has been approved by the Aero Club of India, which represents Federation Aeronautique International (FAI), the governing body for aerosports.

3. In an address prior to the flagging off, Air Chief Marshal Major said " I wish I could take the place of the expedition's crew for what they are setting out to accomplish has all the ingredients of a great adventure-challenge, excitement hint off danger, unpredictability of elements of nature, foreign lands & unfamiliar route". Giving example of various aviation adventurist from Wright brothers to Mr Vijaypat Singhania he said "Aviation & flight are very embodiment of human striving and sprit of adventure". He also said "as the prime custodian of the legacy of aviation in India, the IAF has responsibility not only to push the envelop itself but also to promote aero-sport activity in the country. This would also help inculcate an air-mindedness in our people". The chief wished the crew 'bon-voyage' on behalf of the IAF.

4. Wg Cdr Monga, on being asked how he feels to be going around the world for the expedition, said "We are keen on getting on with the expedition. I am proud to represent the country and the Indian Air Force in such an event. Me and my entire team have put in a lot of effort 'planning' the expedition, it's time to live it. With God's grace and well wishes of the entire country we will be successful".

5. The Empty weight of Microlight is 300 kgs and it has a range of 1400 km. The Microlight has ceiling of 14,000 feet. It has a glass cockpit, and electronic flight instrumentation system (EFIS), internal GPS, a satellite tracker and a VOR coupled R/T set. It is also fitted with an emergency parachute recovery system.

6. The IAF is attempting an expedition requiring great fortitude. The expedition will be a true test of both men and machine. There will be challenges of extremes of weather, change of time zones, flying through different countries and interacting with various agencies all across the world. The crew would be totally independent; even for undertaking scheduled servicing. In addition to highlighting the capability of IAF in undertaking such an expedition, it also embodies the true sprit of adventurous aviation. The route of Microlight would be from Delhi (India) – Myanmar – Thailand – China – Russia - Canada - Alaska – Greenland – EU Countires – Turkey – UAE – Oman and back to India.

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