

# Why does India struggle to modernise Aviation Research Centre (Research and Analysis Wing)?

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**Abstract-** Aviation Research Centre (ARC) is part of Research And Analysis Wing (R&AW) which is mainly functioning on the basis of imagery intelligence organization and also the part of the Directorate General Of Security. In this paper we are studying why does India still struggle to establish and modernise the Aviation Research Centre (ARC) ?. We would also study the linkage between ARC and NTRO (National Technician Research Organisation) and most important thing is the role of Arvind Saxena sir for making more efficient and effective the function of aviation research centre (ARC).

**Key Words:** NTRO , ARC , R&AW , imagery intelligence organization etc.

## Introduction

When we talk about the aviation research centre , we could remembered Research and analysis wings (R&AW) because it's another wing of R&AW. And recently R&AW is planning to development aviation wing as a new organ of the Research & Analysis Wing. But India is still struggling to develop and modernise the Aviation Research Centre (ARC) , behind that there are many causes which are creating a hindrance to modernise ARC.

## History.

ARC was created by 1963 with R N Kao Sir and an acting group member was captain Lal Singh Grewal who worked as operational manager.

Later it was moved to the prime minister office's under secretariat and in 1965 it was moved and handed over to special frontier force and special service bureau (under sashastra Seema Bal) which brought under the Directorate General Of Security under the central cabinet secretariat.

In 1968 , this ARC shifted under Research & Analysis Wings and In 1971 ARC made permanent organisation under Prof H B Mohanti.

Recently ARC included high fly mach 3 capable Mikoyan- Gurevich MIG -25.

Chronology Of ARC.

- 1) IN 1963 – ARC was created
- 2) IN 1965 – ARC moved under special frontier force and special service bureau.
- 3) IN 1968 – ARC moved under Research & Analysis Wing ( R&AW).
- 4) IN 1971 – ARC made permanent organisation.

**ARC began in the operation in the year of 1962 with Hello Twin Courier loaned from the USAF. ARC**

## Bases – Aviation Research Centre.

Under Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) , the aviation research centre has a air bases at Charbatia Air Base In Choudwar , Cuttack District , which one is the largest one and another one is Sarsawa Air Base near Saharanpur on the uttarpradesh -Haryana Border , Dum-Dum Air Base Near Tinsukia in Assam , Palam Air Base In Delhi and another one is Farkhor Air Base is the military airbase located in Tajikistan.

## Function – Aviation Research Centre.

The main function of Aviation Research Centre – ARC under Research and analysis wing (R&AW) is to create aviation surveillance on the enemies through the SIGNIT Operation, photo reconnaissance flights (PHOTINT) , and also imagery intelligence (IMINT) , were the main functions of the aviation research centre (ARC).

**The Aircrafts were fitted with the state of the aer electronic surveillance equipment and also long range cameras capable of taking pictures of targets from very high altitudes.**

ARC is associated and played a prime responsibility along with INDIAN AIRFORCE (IAF) to transport Special frontier force (SFF) commandos from their translocation at Sarsawa , 250 KM north from New Delhi , though the SFF's own base is the Chakrata in Uttarakhand.

## Primary Functions Of ARC'S.

- A) Air Surveillance On Enemies.
- B) Air Attack On Enemies
- C) Combined With IAF ( Indian Air Force).
- D) Combined with Indian Army ( Specially Defence Intelligence Unit & Military Intelligence Unit).

- E) Develop the air base for the Surveillance and research on the aircraft which would be made enable with the high equipment
- F) Actively participate in the military operation whenever specially enabled required to fight against the enemies.
- G) Function as launching vehicle and granade from air strike whenever it has required in the emergency situation.

### **Kargil War & Aviation Research Centre.**

As we know , ARC was the product of an intelligence cooperation agreement between India and US in immediate aftermath of the 1962 indo – china war. The eight C-46 aircraft and four smaller planes with their pilots were deployed in Aviation Research Centre ( ARC) TO THE SECRET INDIAN AIR BASE which was code names as OAK TREE.

During the kargil war , ARC was tasked to check the intrusion and detect it. ARC failed to check the intrusion when Pakistan crossed the Line Of Control (LOCI to india and violated the agreement which was signed between two countries.

During the war , number of missions in which ARC was request to flown the aircraft for Indian army and PMO.

The committee was headed by K. Subramaniyam which reported that there was not intelligence failure has been attributed on account of functioning Of R&AW and ARC.

### **Controversies – Aviation Research Centre.**

Actually ACR was blamed many failure during the battle of kargil (1999). It was failed to detect the intrusion by Pakistan during the war. And there was also rumour about the split for ARC from R&AW. It was very difficult to pass the information between Intelligence Bureau and R&AW. And it was also reported the turf war between newly established National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and ARC (Aviation Research Centre).

### **Project 596 – Aviation Research Centre.**

The significant task to take a aerial photography inside Tibet and Xinjiang and also inform to the intelligence and military services to india and support Indian ground military service for their operations.

The United States supplied Surveillance to aviation research centre to spy on China's nuclear programme and naval assets from 1962. The programme 596 is the first nuclear weapons test conducted by people's republic China and which was a uranium 235 implisoin fission devices made from weapons grade uranium (U-235) enriched in a gaseous diffusion plant in lanzhou.

### **Current Status – Aviation Research Centre.**

In 2021 , ARC was included with R&AW and It's technical wings. This was superb step towards the organising and enhance the efficiency of ARC. The ARC was removed as a separate organisation form the second schedule of the right to information act.

There is conflict to manage ARC by R&AW because R&AW is a wing of the Cabinet Secretariat , the post of the Director General Of Security (DGS) whereas ARC was a part of Directorate General Of Security. The post of the director , ARC was upgraded as Special Secretary, ARC and Head Of Department, SFF (Special Frontier Force).

**When Mr Arvind Saxsena was a DGS , ARC had changed to report the NSA (National Security Agency) instead of Director General Of Security (DGS). This was the major change Mr Arvind Saxsena brought in the structure of ARC.**

### **Impacts Of The Active Role Of Mr. Arvind Saxsena Sir in ARC.**

Mr Arvind Saxsena is an Indian civil servant and he took a charge as special officer un aviation research centre (ARC) and he notified many changes in aviation research centre in order to make it more effective and efficient. Mr Arvind Saxsena suggested following changes , initially these all should be brought in the ARC otherwise it would be very difficult to survive ARC.

The following suggestions.

- A) It should be made separate organisation and there should be separate administration for the aviation research centre.
- B) Separate department for the aviation research centre and directly controlled by prime minister office.
- C) Recruited both intelligence officer as well pilot or those who have taken a aviation training.
- D) Super sonic and subsonic fighter aircraft and also Boeing Aircraft and have to focus on helicopter research centre. These all should directly connected with satellite and artificial intelligence technology.
- E) It should not be part of Research and analysis wing but it should be separate intelligence organization which would be directly connected with all Indian intelligence organizations.
- F) The Aviation Research Centre should directly be connected with all wings of the indian internal security which are AIRFORCE , NAVAL AND BORDE MILITARY FORECE.
- G) Recruitment in ARC should be from Airforce , Navl services , military service and these all recruited people should be trained under R&AW and Aviation training should be given under the ministry of civil Aviation in which the trainers should be highly efficient pilots.
- H) He suggested to change the reporting authority that means ARC should have to report to NSA directly instead of Director General Of Security (DGS).

### **Author Review.**

The main question is raised in my mind and the question is why does india still struggle to establish and modernise the Aviation Research Centre (ARC) ? The answer of this question is improper organisation structure of ARC is the main cause behind the struggle to modernise the ARC. There was a rumour about the decommissioned this organisation but this organisation is still existing but india needs to focus on following things to modernise ARC.

The following things, India has to focus....

- a) Proper Organisational Structure.
- b) Proper Reporting Authority.
- c) Make it separate organisation.
- d) Combine with Military, Air force and Naval Services.
- e) Select the officers from the three wings of the Indian internal security which are AIRFORCE , NAVAL And Military Services.
- f) Should not be part of any organisation, and not influence under any organisation.
- g) High Technical Equipment enabled fighter aircraft Should be deployed in ARC. The super sonic and sub supersonic fighter jet should be deployed.
- h) Should be controlled directly by PMO ( Prime Minister Office).
- i) Should be connected with all intelligence agencies of India.
- j) Should be removed the turf of the conflict with National Technician Research Organisation.

#### **Conclusions:**

The final conclusion of above study is that India must not remove the ARC (Aviation Research Centre) because aviation research centre is playing vital role in military and paramilitary operations and also become a bridge between all Indian intelligence agencies for national security. The war like kargil which was fought between Indian and Pakistan whereas Pakistani army was at mountain and Indian army was at down side. In this kind of condition, India needs this kinds of research organisation Initially India must have to focus on revitalizing steps for resurrection of ARC then focus on modernise ARC. Firstly India must have to focus on organisational structure of the ARC and take this organisation under NSA (National Security Agency). But India should not remove this organisation or wing as part of Indian internal security and also Indian intelligence organization.

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