



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# Squadron Leader Saanya Becomes First Woman Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor in IAF

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The Indian Air Force (IAF) achieved a historic milestone as Squadron Leader Saanya became the first woman officer to earn the prestigious Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor (Cat-A QFI) qualification. The achievement was announced by the IAF through its official social media handle, and Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh felicitated the officer for her accomplishment.

## What is Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI)?

The Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) grading system in the IAF assesses an officer's flying expertise and instructional capability.

### The categories include:

Category-C: Trainee or probationary instructors

Category-B: Instructors qualified for standard pilot training

### Category-A: Highest instructor category authorised to:

Train other flying instructors

Assess advanced flying skills

Maintain operational flying standards

Cat-A instructors play a vital role in preparing the next generation of fighter and operational pilots.

## Career Profile of Squadron Leader Saanya:

### Kamaraj IAS Academy

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Phone: 044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833

Commissioned into the Flying Branch of the IAF on 20 June 2015

Belonged to the 42 SSC (W) FP Course

**Promoted to:**

Flight Lieutenant in 2017

Squadron Leader in 2021

Became the first woman officer in Indian military aviation history to achieve Cat-A QFI status.

**Significance of the Achievement:**

The milestone reflects the growing role of women in India's armed forces and highlights the increasing gender inclusivity in military aviation. The achievement is also seen as an inspiration for aspiring women aviators and defence personnel across the country.

**Additional Key Facts:**

**Indian Air Force (IAF)**

Established on: 8 October 1932

Headquarters: New Delhi

Motto: "Nabha Sparsham Deeptam" (Touch the Sky with Glory)

Current Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh

**Women in Indian Armed Forces:**

Women were inducted into the IAF flying branch in the 1990s.

In 2016, India opened the fighter stream for women on an experimental basis.

The Supreme Court has supported permanent commission opportunities for women officers in the armed forces.