

UNIT 8

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INDIAN FIGHTER PILOT










Pre-task

(A) Recite and understand the message of the poem with the help of your teacher.

Due to brave hearts
brave souls
The brave and the bold
Who braved the enemy
and braved the cold
We attained freedom
What should we do to retain this freedom?
To remain free; should be our goal to remain free
Free; should be our souls.
Free from the fear of doubt,
Free from reel of or rout,
Free from the fear of loss,
Free from the fear of effect and cause.
Free to thank each one
Who made us free.
Each one who created history
Let's remember each one.
Each one who sacrificed his being
To attain and retain our freedom.

• Now write five sentences to show your respect and gratitude for the soldiers.

(B) Read the information about the Indian Air Force.

| Badges and stripes | No. | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| | Air Chief Marshal | Air Marshal | Air Marshal | Air Commander | Group Captain | Wing Commander | Squadron Leader | Flight Lieutenant | Flying Officer |

Source: Bharat Rakshak.com



MiG 21

It is 5 O'clock on a cold February morning. Wing commander K. S. Suresh steps into a staff car that will take him to an air base of India's western sector. The black car passes through barrack type houses and stops at an Air Force security gate. A uniformed guard recognizes Suresh and salutes him smartly. Behind the gate stand MiG of IAF squadrons, each under a different commander. K. S. Suresh, called as Kukee, commands 321 squadron.

At 5.20 am Kukee is in a flight planning room. There are maps and identification charts on the walls. Today's order for Kukee is : an air strike at Batala, Punjab, at 7.00 am. He will lead a two plane formation against "enemy" 17th Armored Brigade of a hostile country.

This mission is assigned by command Headquarters. Wartime conditions are practised as actually as possible. On this day Kukee is too busy to worry about the risks. He calls the Meteorological officer to get the weather report: thick clouds at 550 meters, visibility 5 kilometers, a haze at 400 meters, west wind at 15 kph, and slight air disturbance. Now marker pens, rulers, protractors and compasses are waiting for him on a long wooden table. Kukee takes out a map from the shelf and chinks out the path and speed of the plane. In one hour the mission is planned. Then he goes to another room and discusses the target with an army officer. Squadron leader "Bundle" Tyagi is present there. He is Kukee's wingman on this trip. During these exercises, rank means nothing.

Only twenty minutes are left before engine starting time. Kukee grabs helmet, oxygen mask and lead set, and walks to the servicing station. There he examines forms certifying that every part in the plane has been checked. Then he walks around the plane to check for leaks, loose panels and pins. There are none, so he climbs into his seat, connects his Oxygen supply and radio. Next he pulls out a safety pin from the seat, and then becomes 'Live'. If he pulls the cord, the seat with a parachute will rocket 200 meters out of the aircraft in less than a second. Finally, the last compulsory check before take off. It is called TAFFLOHP trim, air pressure, air brakes, ailerons, flaps, fuel instruments, oxygen, hydraulics and pneumatics.

Now he begins to taxi. On the runway, wingman Tyagi joins him in another MiG 21, which is a

single seater fighter plane. Take off permission received, the two pilots accelerate the runway. Their wing tips are just some centimetres apart. They lift off at 360 kph and soon climb up and get 950 kph. It is 6.45 am, 15 minutes before their time on Target.

At 6.55 am they reach their first check point a village named Mirthal down on the earth. Kukee begins to time his target. As they rise up to 450 meters Tyagi's plane rocks violently due to air bumps. "A bit bumpy here," says Tyagi on radio. "Breakfast may come up before the bomb goes down," Kukee Jokes. Two Hunters appear far to the right as "enemy" planes. They turn away and vanish.

There are clouds all around. The earth has disappeared too. The MiGs are fast approaching the target. Now both the planes dive below the clouds, their planes are flying lower. Kukee sees the target, an "enemy" tank and he releases the bomb.

This is a perfect opportunity to rehearse attack procedures and bomb aiming. At the time of firing automatic camera captures the action. The two planes circle, then come down on another target, a bridge. There was a strong wind therefore they released the bombs earlier, but with accurate calculation. "We have got it right," they say. Visibility has become worse. "Let's go home," says Kukee.

Back at the base, they report to the army man. He admired them, "Commanders, your planes were in the right place at the right time. You have given effective support to the Army."

Like every Indian fighter pilot Kukee Suresh does several hundred hours of flying in a year. Generally, two daytime flights and one night sortie. This means that more than half of his working hours are devoted to flying, mission planning and reporting. For the rest of time, 41 year old Kukee is an attack instructor, an air combat leader and a teacher of accurate weapon delivery techniques. He also sees that all the pilots in his squadron maintain this proficiency. Every few years, a pilot is 'rested' for a year or two at a desk job.

The Wing commander of 321 squadron K. S. Suresh is proud of IAF; so is IAF.

(by Paul Watched in Readers Digest – 75 years selection of articles)

Glossary

barrack a building for soldiers to live in **protractors** instrument used to form a semi circle **vanish** disappear **recognizes** to be able to identify **compasse** હોકાચું, device to find direction **releases** sets free ,goes **identification** process of identifying **procedures** order of way of doing things **hostile** showing strong dislike or enmity **ailerons** hinged part of a wing of an aircraft **accurate** free from error **assigned** gave someone something to do **hydraulics** of water moving through pipes **squadron** a unit of an air-force **pneumatic** operated by air under pressure; **opportunity** a chance **visibility** the distance you can see **combat** fighting between armed forces **take off** start to fly **to taxi** to move slowly along the ground before taking off or after landing **desk job** a piece of furniture like table with drawers where you sit to read, write or work **chalk out** make a sketch of **proficiency** ability to do something well because of training and practice **haze** fog(ધુમ્મસ) **meteorology** હવામાનશાસ્ત્ર **meteorological officer** હવામાનખાતાનો અધિકારી

Vocabulary

V. 1 Choose the most appropriate meaning for the underlined words.

1. A uniformed guard knows Suresh and salutes him.
 (a) recognizes (b) admires (c) misses (d) known
2. The mission is charged by Command Head Quarters.
 (a) expelled (b) dismissed (c) assigned (d) in charge
3. The enemy planes turn away and disappear.
 (a) go up (b) go back (c) vanish (d) reappear
4. The MiGs are fast approaching the aim.
 (a) mark (b) target (c) sign (d) point

V. 2 Match A with B. Write the number from 'A' in the boxes .

| A | B | |
|---|-------------|----------------------|
| 1. buildings for soldiers to live in | hostile | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. a unit of an air force | enemy | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. a person in command | compass | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. an instrument for measuring angles | barrack | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. an instrument containing a pointer which shows the direction | accurate | <input type="text"/> |
| 6. having to do with a military enemy | squadron | <input type="text"/> |
| 7. reaching an intended target | commander | <input type="text"/> |
| 8. a person who is hostile to you | protractors | <input type="text"/> |

V. 3 With the help of a dictionary, learn the meaning of the words and also list the sentences from the text wherein these words are used.

hostile, accelerate, supply, identification, due to, release, procedure, accurate, maintain, visibility

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

V. 4 Complete the sentences with the help of the words given in the brackets.

[rested for, assigned by, goes down, due to, waiting for]

1. I am _____ you.
2. Tyagi's plane rocks violently _____ air bumps.
3. The mission is _____ HQs.
4. Breakfast may come up before the bomb _____ .
5. A pilot is _____ a year or two at a desk job.

V. 5 Number these words or phrases in order of the events as they appear in the text:

- ☐ air disturbance ☐ released the bombs ☐ vanish
- ☐ plane information ☐ seat belt ☐ comes fire
- ☐ security gate ☐ air bumps ☐ chalks out

Comprehension

C. 1 Complete the sentences.

- (1) Commander Kukee consults the meteorological department to.....
- (2) At about six forty in the morning K.S. Suresh examines.....
- (3) Kukee and Tyagi reach.....
- (4) With accurate calculation both the pilots..... because there was
- (5) Mr. Kukee devotes more than half of his.....
- (6) K.S. Suresh works as for the rest of time.

C. 2 Read the lesson carefully and fill the details about Commander Kukee's activities at the time given in the table.

| Time of Commander Kukee's routine | Acitivities done by Commander Kukee |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| At 5:00 am | |
| At 5:20 am | |
| At 6:20 am | |
| At 6:40 am | |
| At 6:45 am | |
| At 6:55 am | |

C.3 Complete the dialogue between Commander Kukee and the Meteorological Officer which shows the weather report.

Commander Kukee : Hello. How are you? I am commander Kukee.

Meteorological Officer : Fine sir. What can I do for you?

Commander Kukee : _____

Meteorological Officer : At 550 meters, sir.

Commander Kukee : And what about visibility?

Meteorological Officer : _____

Commander Kukee : How far is the haze?

Meteorological Officer : _____

Commander Kukee : _____

Meteorological officer : The speed of west wind is at 15 kph.

Commander Kukee : _____

Meteorological Officer : Yes, sir. There is a slight air disturbance.

Commander Kukee : _____

Meteorological Officer : Welcome, sir.

C. 4 Answer the questions.

- (1) What does No 321 refer to?
- (2) Where is K.S. Suresh at 5.20 a.m.? What is the order for him on that day?
- (3) Write two or three sentences about the weather of the day.
- (4) What is Mr. Tyagi called?
- (5) What is the final compulsory check called?
- (6) What does Kukee carry with him while walking to the servicing station?
- (7) "A bit bumpy here". Who says this? What does Kukee joke in reply?
- (8) What did the army men say in praise of Kukee and Tyagi?
- (9) What duties does K.S.Suresh perform for the rest of time?
- (10) What precautions does Kukee take before the final take off?
- (11) What are MiGs and Hunters? Write two to three sentences about each.

C. 5 Discuss the questions with your friends in a group and read your answer before the class.

- "The wing commander of 321 squadron K.S.Suresh is proud of IAF so is IAF." What does this mean?
- Find out some information on 'Career with the Indian Army'.
- Would you like a career in Indian Army, Navy or Air Force? If yes, which one? Why?

Language Practice

L.1 Read this passage.

You must have heard of the famous swimmer Michael Phelps. Here is an imaginary interview with him. You will be surprised to know his daily diet.

Interviewer : Hello Michael! It is fortunate to have you here with us.

Michael : My pleasure.

Interviewer : So Michael, tell us at what age did you start swimming?

Michael : It must be when I was seven. Partly I was influenced by my elder sisters and partly it was a sort of outlet for my energy.

Interviewer : Did you ever think that you will become a world champion swimmer one day? Can you tell us how many medals have you won in Olympics?

Michael : Ahh! Frankly I actually did not think I would become a champion. But it feels good to have 22 Olympic medals in my bag.

Interviewer : That is indeed remarkable. It requires great strength and energy. Tell us about your diet and food habits. What keeps you fit?

Michael : I eat a lot actually. I usually take heavy breakfast with three fried egg sandwiches with a lot of cheese, salad, tomato, fried onions, and mayonnaise. I also drink two cups of coffee, and eat a five egg-omelette, one bowl of boiled corn, three slices of French toast with powdered sugar, and three chocolate chip pancakes.

Interviewer : That is indeed a heavy breakfast. What do you have in your lunch and dinner then?

Michael : In lunch I take 500 grams of pasta with tomato sauce, two large ham and cheese sandwiches with mayonnaise on bread, plus energy drinks. My dinner includes another 500 grams of pasta with sauce, a whole pizza of six or eight slices, and more energy drinks.

Interviewer : This is really too much!

Michael : Yes I know that. But my health experts and physicians say that I can probably eat to this extent because my body is able to burn that much calories which is faster than an average man.

Interviewer : Yes, I had read somewhere that Michael Phelps possibly consumes 12,000 calories each day. But it's required, I think, because the kind of exercise and training you are involved in for swimming requires great energy and stamina. Moreover, you are said to swim nearly 80 kilometers per week. And undoubtedly it requires great strength.

Michael : Well, that's true.

Interviewer : OK Michael! Thanks a lot for talking to us. You are truly an inspiration for youngsters.

Michael : My pleasure. Thank you.

- **Now write the answers in the column of 'Number' or 'Quantity'.**

| Question | Number | Quantity |
|--|--------|----------|
| At what age did Michael Phelps start swimming? | | |
| How many Olympic medals has Michael Phelps won? | | |
| How many egg sandwiches does Michael eat in his breakfast? | | |
| How much coffee does he take in his breakfast? | | Two cups |
| How much pasta does he take in his lunch? | | |
| How many calories does Michael consume in a day? | | |
| How many kilometers does Michael swim in a week? | 80 | |
| How much boiled corn does Michael eat? | | |
| How many slices of French toast does Michael eat ? | | |
| How many chocolate chip pancakes does he eat ? | | |

L. 2 Ask these questions to your teacher. Your teacher will answer them.

- Where did you go on a picnic or a tour with the students of our school?
- How many students had come for the tour?
- Did you go by bus or by train?
- How long did it take to reach the place from our school?
- How many days did you stay there?
- Did you enjoy the tour?
- How many classes do you teach in a week?
- How far is your home from our school?
- How much time does it take to reach school from your home?

L. 3 Answer these questions in one or two words.

- How many glasses of water do you usually drink? _____
- How much milk does your family use in a day? _____
- How far is your home from school? _____
- How many brothers/sisters do you have? _____
- How many days in a week do you come to school? _____
- How many hours do you spend watching TV? _____.
- How much do you weigh? _____

- How far is the railway/bus station from your home? _____
- How many players make a team in cricket? _____
- How long did you enjoy your summer vacation? _____
- How long did you stay out of town during summer vacation? _____
- How many months have 28 days? _____
- How many biscuits can you eat on an empty stomach? _____
- How much milk do you drink? _____
- How many chapattis did you eat yesterday? _____
- How many times have you travelled by plane? _____

Now work in pairs. Your partner will ask you these questions. Answer them in full sentence.

Example : Partner : Hello Mayur. How much water do you drink?
You : I drink 8 glasses of water everyday.

L. 4 Form the questions using 'how many' or 'how much'.

1. _____ does this parcel weigh?
2. _____ does it cost by flight to Mumbai?
3. _____ sisters do you have?
4. _____ marks did you get in English ?
5. _____ people are you going to invite to your birthday party?
6. _____ days will you be on leave?
7. _____ milk do you drink everyday?
8. _____ time do you spend on playing harmonium in a day?
9. _____ rupees did you pay for this shirt?
10. _____ did you save this month?

L. 5 Frame a question for each of the answers. Use 'how many', 'how much', or 'how far', 'how long' for framing questions.

1. About 10,000 books are available in the library.
2. Only one person will have a chance to get scholarship.
3. 50 kg approximately.
4. Only 30 minutes are left to catch the train.
5. I will stay there for three nights and four days.
6. 45 kilometres.
7. We expect around 100 people for this function.
8. I generally have two glasses of milk a day.
9. I spend almost six hours every day on computer.
10. A bamboo can grow upto 91 cm per day.

- L. 6** You are planning a tour with your family during the vacation. One of you will play the role of a travel agent and the other of a passenger. Work out your travel plan making an enquiry to the travel agent. The travel agent too will ask you a few questions regarding your plan. Clues are given in brackets. Work in pairs.

From Ahmedabad...

| Place | Bhopal | Mumbai | Goa | Delhi | Hyderabad |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Distance in kms | 590 | 520 | 1100 | 940 | 1140 |
| Approximate Bus fare | ₹ 885 | ₹ 780 | ₹ 1650 | ₹ 1410 | ₹ 1710 |
| Approximate Train fare (II Class) | ₹ 1180 | ₹ 1040 | ₹ 2200 | ₹ 1880 | ₹ 2280 |
| Approximate travel time by bus | 13 hours | 10 hours | 24 hours | 20 hours | 28 hours |
| Approximate travel time by train | 12 hours | 9 hours | 20 hours | 15 hours | 22 hours |

Travel agent (stay duration, hotel budget, number of travellers, etc.)

Passenger (distance/ time to reach destination, number of bus/train availability, bus/train fare, accommodation charges)

- L. 7** Look at the information boxes given below. Work in pairs. One person will frame questions and the other will respond. Use 'how many', 'how much', 'how long', 'how far' for framing questions.

Example : How much does it weigh? How long can it be used?

How many ingredients does it have? How much menthol does it contain?

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Mfg. Dt. M/16
M.R.P. ₹ 115.00
Net Wt: 80 g X 4N

Value Pack: SAVE ₹ 20 on a Pack of 4 soaps.

L.8 Look at the information boxes given below. Work in pairs. One person will frame questions and the other will respond. Use ‘how many’, ‘how much’, ‘how long’, ‘how far’ for framing questions.

Example : How much does the elephant weigh? How long does he live?

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Facts about Indian Elephant</p> <p>Scientific name : Elephas Meximus Indicus</p> <p>Size (H) : 2m – 3 m (7ft – 10 ft)</p> <p>Weight : 3000 – 5000 kg</p> <p>Top speed : 43 km/h</p> <p>Average life span : 55 – 70 years</p> <p>Colour : Grey, Brown, Black</p> <p>Main prey/food : grass, fruits, roots</p> <p>little known facts :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elephants can recognize themselves in the mirror • Worn out teeth will be replaced 6-7 times in a lifetime • Sleep 2-3 hours per day | <p>Facts about Fly</p> <p>Scientific name : Diptera</p> <p>Size : 2.5-3cm (0.2-1.2 in)</p> <p>Top speed:</p> <p>Number of species : 2,40,000</p> <p>Average life span : 25 days</p> <p>colour:</p> <p>Main prey/food : nectar, sap, blood</p> <p>Unknown facts :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A female fly can lay approximately 9000 eggs • A fly can beat its wings 200 times per second • Can fly at the speed of 5 miles per hour |
| <p>Facts about Rhinoceros</p> <p>Scientific name : Rhinocerotidae</p> <p>Size : 1.3 -2.2 m</p> <p>Weight : 800 – 3500 kg</p> <p>Top speed : 48 km/h</p> <p>Average life span : 35 – 50 years</p> <p>colour : Brown, Grey, Black</p> <p>Main prey/food : grass, fruits, leaves</p> <p>Little known Facts :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its horns are made of the same substance (called keratin) that makes our nails • Longest measured horn was 4 feet and 9 inches long • Have poor eyesight, but they have excellent sense of smell and hearing | <p>Facts about Bat</p> <p>Scientific name : Chiroptera</p> <p>Size (L) : 3 cm - 180 cm (1.2 in - 71 in)</p> <p>Weight : 2g - 1000g</p> <p>Top speed : 40 km/h</p> <p>Number of species : 1100</p> <p>Average life span : 10 - 30 years</p> <p>colour : Brown, Black, Grey</p> <p>Main prey/food : Mice, Frogs, Fruit</p> <p>Unknown facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just three species out of 1100 known species eat blood. • Some species of bat have excellent eyesight • Other species use echo-location • Bats can detect frequencies between 20 and 120 000 Hz (humans can hear only those from 20 - 20 000 Hz) |

L.9 Work in pairs. Ask upto ten questions to your partner with ‘how many’, ‘how much’, ‘how far’ and ‘how long’. Try to know your partner better. Then tell about your partner to the class.

Example :

- For how many hours do you study in the evening?
- How much milk do you drink everyday?
- How far is your home from our school?
- How many trees are there? around your home?

Writing

W.1 Look at this medium sized transport aircraft made in Russia. It is known as AN- 32. The capacity of this aircraft is to carry upto 39 airmen or a load upto 6 to 7 tonnes. The aircraft requires a crew of 5 people. It achieves the highest speed of 530km/hour with the power of its 2 turbo prop engines.



Now fill in the blanks with the help of the information about the aircraft.

This is _____ Aircraft of Indian Air Force. It has twin _____ engines. It is used as _____. It is imported from _____. There are five _____ and the plane can carry _____. It can carry a maximum load of _____. It can fly at a maximum speed of _____.

W.2 Write a paragraph on 'A Day in the Life of a Fire fighter'. Use the points for your writing.

name of the fire-fighter, name of the fire-station, uniform, duty in emergencies, duty timings, daily preparations, attending phone calls, reaching the place of fire, saving people, hard duty, happiness for saving lives

W.3 Meet a police constable. (The teacher can invite a constable to the class.) Talk to him/her about his/her duty and daily routine. List five hardships that the police have to face.

Eg. Duty hours – not fixed – family life – training – risk

WHAT TO DO IN AN EARTHQUAKE

Stay indoors, Stand away from windows, mirrors and other glass.

Take Shelter under a table or desk. This will protect you from falling objects and give you breathing space. Otherwise, standing in the corner of a room or in a doorframe is safest.

Lower-level floors are safer than higher ones, but getting in a lift or trying to run downstairs is dangerous.

If you are outside, lie flat on the ground away from tall trees and buildings.

If you are near the Sea, get to higher ground as a tidal wave may follow the