

OBITUARY



Group Captain Pradeep Kumar Arora (1966-2018)

Born on 13 Nov 1966 in Badayun (UP), Group Captain Pradeep Kumar Arora did his M.Sc. in Physics from St John's College, Agra in 1987. He began his professional career as a soldier in Indian Air Force (IAF) by joining 83 Ground Duty Officers' course in Meteorological Branch of IAF at Air Force Academy located at Dundigal, Hyderabad. After undergoing one year of rigorous training, he got permanent commission on 17 December 1988 in IAF as a Meteorological officer. After commissioning he has undergone six months of rigorous professional training at Air Force Administrative College, Coimbatore to learn intricacies of weather forecasting known as Initial Forecasters Course (IFC). He excelled and stood first in the course. He was also appointed at AFAC twice as a directing staff (DS) in the years 2003 & 2009.

Thereafter, he served as operational weather forecaster at many IAF bases and ensured smooth and safe flying operations by rendering timely weather advice whenever required. He had excellent track record as a thorough professional. He graduated from prestigious Defence Institute i.e Defence Service Staff College (DSSC) Wellington, Tamilnadu in year 2007. He has also excelled in various subsequent professional IAF courses such as Junior Forecasters Course (JFC), Senior Forecaster's Course (SFC) at IAF's prestigious institute AFAC, Coimbatore.

He actively participated in ARMEX in year 2003 and recorded vital environmental data with the help of various on board Met equipment installed in specially modified IAF aircraft AN-32. This mission was highly risky and challenging as the aircraft was operating in extremely bad weather conditions along the west coast of India over Arabian Sea during onset phase of SW Monsoon Season, He successfully completed his M Tech from IIT, Delhi and held various important assignments as instructor at Air Force Administrative College, Coimbatore.

He was responsible for operationalising and successfully running first weather Model MM5 at Air Force Station Yehlnanka, Bangalore. With his keen interest in the field of research and development and Numerical Weather Modelling he has contributed positively in stabling Air Force Centre for Numerical Weather Prediction (AFCNWP), New Delhi. His contribution to AFCNWP would be remembered as he was the founder member of this premium institution. He was also responsible for procurement as well as operationalisation of first HPCS in IAF.

He participated in International Conference of Meteorologists at Sri Lanka on 13-16 Jun 2010. He also contributed research papers in various scientific journals of international repute such as 'Mausam'.

Group Captain PK Arora passed away on 02 Jul 2018 due to sudden heart attack, while undergoing a Tri-service management Course (HDMC) at one of our premier institute, College of Defence Management (CDM) located at Hyderabad.

His demise has left everyone stunned. He is survived by a daughter Saumya and a son Siddant.

He would always be remembered for his outstanding contribution to the Meteorological Branch of IAF and also for his depth of knowledge. He is respected not only in IAF fraternity but also recognised by civil meteorological institutes of world repute such as IMD, NCMRWF, IITM, IIT Delhi for his relentless contribution.

He was an active member of Indian Meteorological Society. We all pay respectful homage to Group Captain Pradeep Kumar Arora.