Air Force Station Avadi honoured with the Tamil Nadu Governor's Unit Citation

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News

Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar presented the Governor's Unit Citation to Air Force Station Avadi at a ceremony at Lok Bhavan (Makkal Maligai), Chennai, on 4 Nov 2026; Air Commodore Pradeep Sharma, Air Officer Commanding, received it on behalf of the station. It recognises sustained commitment to operational excellence, logistics readiness, training and personnel welfare. At the same ceremony the National Security Guard's 27 Special Composite Group, Chennai, also received the Governor's citation.

Key facts

Award	Governor's Unit Citation
Date / venue	4 Nov 2026 – Lok Bhavan (Makkal Maligai), Chennai
Presented by	Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Received by	Air Commodore Pradeep Sharma, Air Officer Commanding
Station roles	Procuring & distributing uniforms, vehicles; small-arms repair/overhaul, ammunition management; driver, technical and base-protection training
Also honoured	NSG 27 Special Composite Group, Chennai

Background

- Governor's Unit Citation: an appreciation given by the Governor to units that served with distinction in military operations, disaster relief and the like. In July 2025 the then Governor R.N. Ravi gave it to four Army units – 16 Madras (Travancore), 35 Field Regiment, Ordnance Depot Avadi and 65 Company ASC.
- IAF structure: 7 commands – 5 operational (Western–Delhi, South Western–Gandhinagar, Central–Prayagraj, Eastern–Shillong, Southern–Thiruvananthapuram), Training Command–Bengaluru and Maintenance Command–Nagpur. In Nov 2025 the AOC-in-C of Maintenance Command reviewed Avadi station's readiness.
- National Security Guard (NSG): a counter-terror force raised in 1984 and given statutory status by the NSG Act, 1986; it works under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs ('Black Cats'). After the 2008 Mumbai attacks, regional hubs (Special Composite Groups) were set up in major cities including Chennai.
- Rank equivalence: IAF 'Air Commodore' = Army 'Brigadier' = Navy 'Commodore'. Group Captain = Colonel; Air Vice Marshal = Major General.

Tamil Nadu link: Avadi is in Tiruvallur district; it was upgraded to a Municipal Corporation by Tamil Nadu Act 24 of 2019. Ordnance Depot Avadi also received the Governor's citation (2025). Tamil Nadu also has Air Force stations at Tambaram, Sulur and Thanjavur.

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