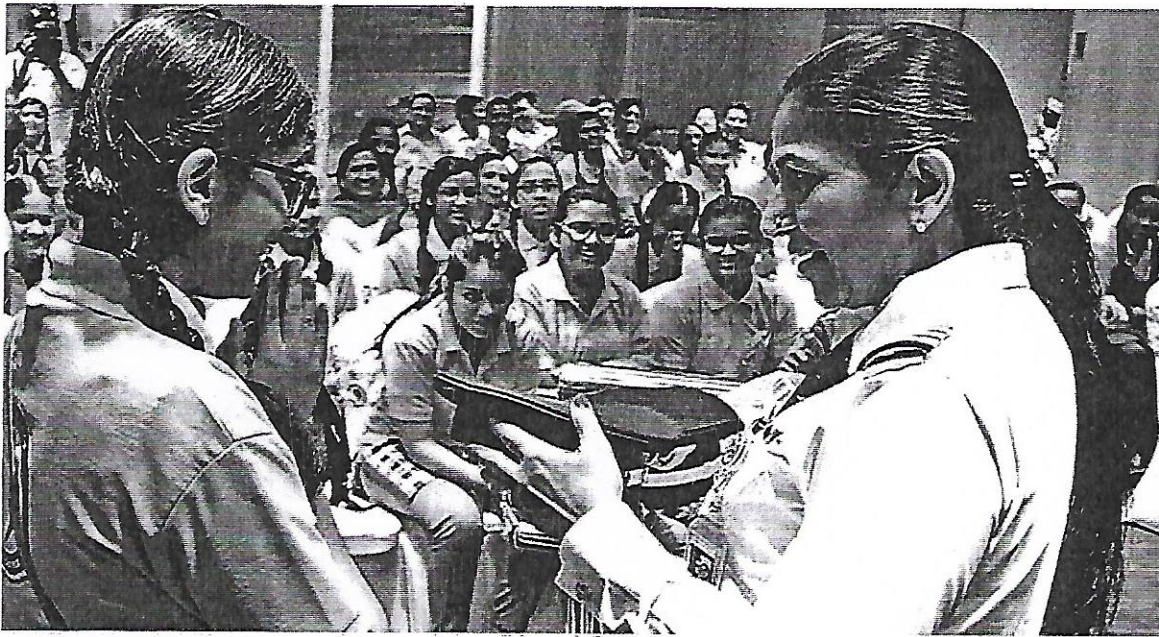


Girls get a peek into the world of aviation



Special Correspondent



Nivedita Bhasin during an interaction with students in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. K.R. Deepak

Special Correspondent

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More than 30 girls from two schools got a chance to explore the exciting world of aviation and engineering during a visit to the Visakhapatnam airport on Wednesday, as part of the 'Girls in Aviation Day' initiative.

Jointly organised by the Lockheed Martin and the India Chapter of Women in Aviation International (WAI), the event was held to encourage girls to take interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and explore careers in aviation.

For Shambhavi and Nikita, students of the Kendriya Vidyalaya – I, the opportunity opened up a world of information from the aviation field. "We learnt so much about career opportunities beyond air hostess or pilots, which we earlier never knew about. We also got to see how the

communication system works in the ATC,” they said, excitedly. The girls also met representatives from the industry to discuss the relevance of careers in engineering and aviation.

Air India Captain Nivedita Bhasin, the third woman pilot in India, spoke about jobs in the aviation and aerospace for women. In an inspiring speech narrating her journey, she told the students that the key in any field to excel was to be disciplined, dedicated and determined.

Phil Shaw, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India, said the firm had a diverse workforce in every sense and its objective was to substantially raise the percentage of women employees in India.

District Collector Pravin Kumar said the initiative was very educative in understanding how the sector worked and also opened up a world of opportunities for the girl students.