

MILITARY HISTORY BROUGHT ALIVE

Exhibition at C P Art Centre has defence photos, models

S VISHNU SHARMAA

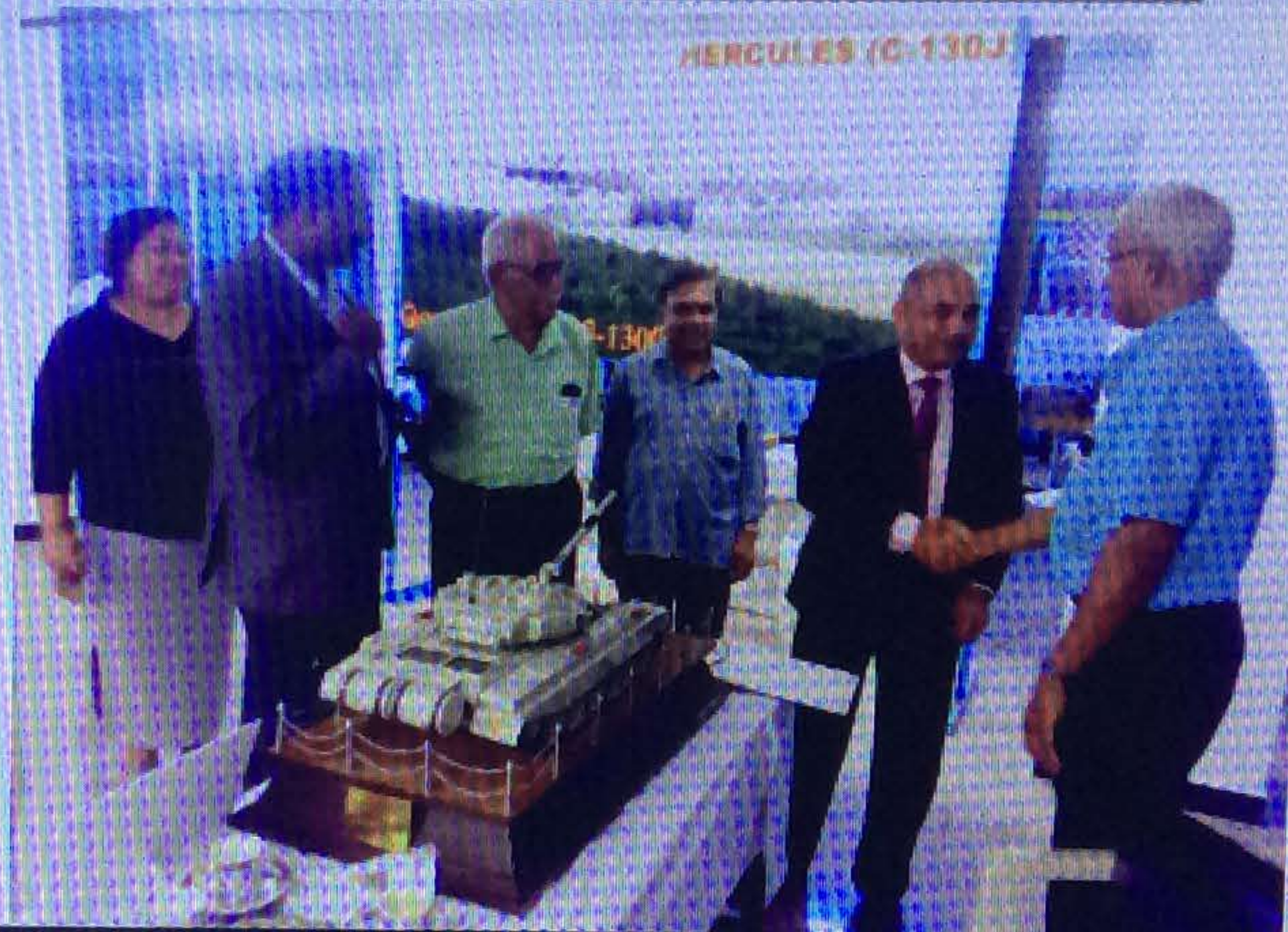
Chennai, Aug 14:

India is celebrating its 70th Independence Day tomorrow (Tuesday, 15 August) and it is the right time to pay rich tributes to the armed forces who do everything possible to keep the nation safe. Coinciding with this theme is the exhibition going on at C P Art Centre that tells us the rich history of the armed forces, their victory stories in this country and abroad.

The Military Heiritage Exhibition, inaugurated by Flag Officer of Tamilnadu and Puducherry Area Rear Admiral Alok Bhatnagar on Saturday (12 August) and being organised by Colours of Glory Foundation and C P Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, aims to take the rich history of the armed forces to the present generation.

'We want to show how our Army, Navy, Air Force personnel work hard to keep the nation safe for our younger generations', said Captain D P Ramachandran, founder and managing trustee of Colours of Glory.

This is perhaps an apt way to celebrate Independence Day by remembering the contributions made by our soldiers whose hard efforts never be overemphasised, he



Flag Officer of Tamilnadu and Puducherry Area Rear Admiral Alok Bhatnagar along with Captain D P Ramachandran of Colours of Glory taking a look at a model of a battle tank at an exhibition of military heritage at C P Art Centre in Chennai. Also seen are models of weapons used by the armed forces. Photos: B ANAND

reminded. The one thing which reflects true spirit of patriotism is the memorial at Neuve-Chappelle in France. It is here where Indian soldiers were interred after they laid down their lives in World War I. Every year French soldiers gather there to sing the Indian national anthem as a mark of respect for the heroic deeds of the soldiers.

Photograph of the memorial displayed in the exhibition reflects that spirit. There is yet another photograph in black and white which shows the surrender of Pakistani troops after their defeat in the Indo-Pak war of 1971. The efforts of the Army at Siachen, said to be the world's highest battlefield, are glorified through

another picture. The Indo-Pak war of 1965 did really prove a graveyard for the Pakistani Patton tanks as a large number of them were completely knocked out by India's Centurion tanks. The fighting spirit of the Army is reflected in the black and white still which shows the destroyed Patton tanks. The highlight is the photo which displayed Westland Wapiti Biplane,

the first aircraft of the Indian Air Force. On 1 April 1933, Indian Air Force commissioned its first squadron, the No 1 Squadron, with four Westland Wapiti Biplanes and five pilots. Among them was Subroto Mukherjee who was to become India's first chief of Air Staff. 'Despite their heroic efforts, the highlight of our armed forces is their commitment towards democracy. If

PERFECT RATION

The most exciting part of the Military Heiritage Exhibition were the miniature models of bridge laying tank MT 55, Main Battle Tank Arjun Mark II (MBT Arjun Mark II), made by Lt Col Palani Raj Janardhan. Made of aluminium on a 1:12 scale, they look realistic. The special one among them is the model of MBT Arjun Mark II which can be made to run and perform all the manoeuvres that a real tank performs, with the help of a remote control.

the Army wished, they could have taken power long ago, but that did not happen in our country; the credit for that goes to the armed forces' belief in democracy which needs a special salute,' said Captain Ramachandran. The next major event Colours of Glory will be conducting is Military Tattoo on 20 August at MCC Higher Secondary School at Chetpet. Soldierly skills will be displayed in this event like bike stunts, military band performance, equestrian show. 'Hope this event would strengthen the image of our armed forces among our people,' he said. The exhibition, organised to celebrate Madras Day, will be on till 24 August from 11 am to 6 pm. But it will be closed on 15 August.