

### **Army acts as per political leadership**

**The Asian Age, 1 February 2009**

Srinagar: The Army will flex its muscles only if the political leadership of the country decides for it. Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor said here on Saturday, "It is for the country's political leadership to take a decision. If it wants us to, we'll go for it. We're prepared to face the challenge." He was responding to a question if the Army will flex its muscles after Pakistan has virtually rejected India's dossier on the Mumbai terror attacks...

### **Failed test and rocketing costs: Army says no to Brahmos missile**

**The Indian Express, 1 February 2009**

New Delhi: The recent failure of the 290-km-range Brahmos missile to hit a pre-defined target and the high over-run in its production cost has put a question mark over fresh orders for 240 of these missiles from the Indian Army. Though an RFP (Request For Proposal) for equipping two regiments with this missile was placed with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) mid-January, it's learnt that Army chief General Deepak Kapoor has indicated he would not opt for its purchase unless the missile proved its capability and was available at a reasonable price. ..

### **Forces fully prepared, says Army chief**

**The Hindu, 1 February 2009**

Srinagar: Chief of the Army Staff General Deepak Kapoor on Saturday said the armed forces were fully prepared to accomplish any task. Gen. Kapoor, who was here to review the overall situation in the backdrop of operational preparedness in the State, told journalists that the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control was intact...

### **BrahMos induction only if it's capable**

**The Asian Age, 2 February 2009**

New Delhi: With the BrahMos failing to meet the mark in January's test, the Army on Sunday made it clear that the supersonic cruise missile would be inducted only after it proves its capabilities. "The Army would want DRDO to prove the capabilities of the missile before we move the proposal to the Cabinet Committee on Security for purchasing of missiles from them," Army sources said here...

### **Arms companies make beeline for India**

**The Times of India, 3 February 2009**

New Delhi: There is simply no business like the arms business, murky and time-consuming it might be. India says the global economic meltdown will not adversely impact its quest for military hardware and software. With India to spend well over \$30 billion for importing weapon systems and platforms over the next four-five years, global armament giants are jostling to grab a piece of the lucrative action..

### **India steps up defence ties with Maldives, Mauritius**

**The Times of India, 4 February 2009**

New Delhi: As part of its policy to further bolster military ties with Indian Ocean Region (IOR) countries and counter Chinese strategic moves in the region, India is stepping up the defence engagement with Maldives as well as Mauritius. Defence minister A K Antony held talks with his counterpart from Maldives, Ameen Faisal, on Tuesday about the various steps which can be taken to boost defence cooperation between the two countries...

### **New pay scale for Lt. Colonels**

**The Hindu, 4 February 2009**

New Delhi: The government has issued orders placing officers of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and their equivalents in the other two Services in the pay band-4 with a grade pay of Rs. 8,000 and identified "non-combat" deputations that will not draw this benefit. The government indicated in January its decision to address the issue of anomalies in the pay structure and orders to this effect were received by the Services on Monday, sources in the Defence Ministry said...

**Antony wants red tape in defence purchases cut**  
**The Hindu, 5 February 2009**

New Delhi: Acknowledging the need to keep pace with changing technology and systems, Defence Minister A.K. Antony on Wednesday said there was a need to cut red tape and procedural delays in the country's procurement mechanism for the armed forces. Admitting that allocation of huge budgets was not being fully reflected in the efforts of the government to modernise the armed forces, the Minister said the issue was timely and judicious utilisation of allocations...

**India: Our sub didn't stalk China ships**  
**The Asian Age, 5 February 2009**

New Delhi: Indian defence sources on Wednesday said no Indian submarine had "stalked" any Chinese Navy destroyer in the Gulf of Aden and dismissed reports in this regard published in a section of the Chinese media. According to Chinese media reports, the two Chinese destroyers — which are on anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden — were "stalked" by an Indian Navy submarine in the region which they alleged, was trying to track the "electronic signals and sonar data" of the Chinese destroyers...

**Indian submarine, Chinese warships test each other in pirate waters**  
**The Indian Express, 5 February 2009**

New Delhi: An Indian Kilo class submarine and Chinese warships, on their way to the Gulf of Aden to patrol the pirate-infested waters, reportedly engaged in an hour-long game of "hide and seek" in international waters last month. Chinese media reports said its warships — two destroyers were sent last month — "forced" the Indian submarine to surface after more than an hour of manoeuvres during which anti-submarine helicopters were scrambled...

**Purohit an aberration: Army chief**  
**The Times of India, 6 February 2009**

New Delhi: Army chief Gen Deepak Kapoor on Friday ruled out existence of a network of communal elements within his force, maintaining that the case of the alleged involvement of a serving lieutenant colonel in the Malegaon blast was an "aberration". He also made it clear that the army would initiate internal action against Lt Col Srikant Purohit, an accused in the Malegaon blast case being prosecuted by the Maharashtra Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS)...

## **Waterworlds**

### **The Indian Express, 6 February 2009**

If the Chinese navy had reasons to embroider a recent encounter with its Indian counterpart in the Gulf of Aden, New Delhi had every reason to downplay the incident. Navies track each other as part of their routine, and the Indian navy was simply doing its job in trailing the Chinese warships once they entered the Indian Ocean from the Malacca straits and headed towards the African coast...

## **Armed Forces want pay parity for Lt Gen with DGP-level officers**

### **The Indian Express, 7 February 2009**

New Delhi: With the issue of higher pay for Lieutenant Colonels resolved, the Armed Forces have written another letter to the Defence Ministry asking for clarification on their demand of equating Lt Gen and equivalent officers with Director General-level IPS officers. The letter, sent to the Defence Secretary last month, says it is necessary to place Lt Gens in the Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) plus pay scales to give them parity with DG level officers of the IPS...

## **Govt to offer 50,000 jobs in forces**

### **The Asian Age, 8 February 2009**

New Delhi: At a time when jobs in the private sector are dwindling, there is a silver lining with the government planning to go into a major expansion drive for security forces which will offer at least 50,000 jobs in the next three to five years in all Central paramilitary forces (CPMFs). Hectic meetings are being held in the home ministry which has asked all CPMFs to submit 10-year plans spelling their requirements in terms of manpower and creation of infrastructure...

## **Surgical strikes are feasible militarily: Army chief**

### **The Times of India, 8 February 2009**

New Delhi: Against the backdrop of much-debated option of surgical strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan post-Mumbai terror attack, Army chief Gen Deepak Kapoor has said that such strikes are "very much feasible" militarily. "Surgical strikes are definitely feasible but whether you wish to take that decision or not is a separate issue," he said when asked whether such strikes were feasible...

## **'Subs kept track of China ships'**

### **The Asian Age, 8 February 2009**

New Delhi: Highly-placed naval sources on Saturday reiterated that no Indian submarine had been forced to surface by any naval Chinese destroyer vessel in the Gulf of Aden but the Indian Navy is believed to have kept track of the movements of the two Chinese destroyers as the destroyer vessels made their way through the Indian Ocean towards the Gulf of Aden, sources have indicated...

**Shortage of Hawks hits pilots' training**  
**The Hindu, 8 February 2009**

BANGALORE: An insufficient number of Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) has forced the Indian Air Force (IAF) to reduce by half the number of personnel who will train on these recently inducted aircraft. The IAF, which has started using the BAE Systems, designed and developed Hawk AJT at the Air Force Station at Bidar for the third and fourth semesters of its fighter pilot training programme...

**After 26/11, Defence Ministry puts purchase of hi-tech weapons for Army on fast track**

**The Indian Express, 8 February 2009**

New Delhi: Jolted by 26/11, the Defence Ministry has directed the Indian Army to fast-track its hardware acquisition on the pattern of US land forces in Afghanistan and has projected more than 30 per cent hike in the capital outlay (Rs 42,000-43,000 crore) for the armed forces in the defence budget for the coming fiscal to maintain its conventional edge in the region...

**'Armed forces prepared for surgical strikes'**  
**The Asian Age, 9 February 2009**

New Delhi: Post-Mumbai terror attack, after months of debate on the option of surgical strikes against terror targets in Pakistan, Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor has stated that such strikes were militarily very feasible. "Surgical strikes are definitely feasible but whether you wish to take that decision or not is a separate issue," Gen. Kapoor said...

**India sends 2nd warship to Aden to fight pirates**  
**The Asian Age, 9 February 2009**

New Delhi: The Indian Navy has sent warship INS Tabar to the Gulf of Aden to conduct anti-piracy operations, an official source said here on Sunday. The Navy's guided missile frigate INS Beas is already in the region, patrolling the seas against pirates. "INS Tabar has sailed from Mumbai to the Gulf of Aden to conduct patrolling," a senior Navy official told IANS, requesting anonymity...

**Flawless dress rehearsal for air show Aero India-2009**  
**The Hindu, 10 February 2009**

Bangalore: Those magnificent men in their flying machines kicked off their final dress rehearsal at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, on Monday morning in preparation for Wednesday's Aero India 2009 air show. Aircraft from overseas and from India scotched the skies as fighter, transport and helicopter pilots rehearsed, with pin-point accuracy, the manoeuvres that they will perform during the inauguration...

**'Recession will not affect defence modernisation'**  
**The Hindu, 10 February 2009**

Bangalore: India will not allow the economic recession to affect the modernisation programme of the armed forces, Defence Minister A. K. Antony said here on Monday. Mr. Antony was presiding over the inaugural of a three-day international seminar on "Aerospace – Perspectives and Trends in Technologies," organised as part of Aero India 2009 here...

### **India, Russia to work on advanced fighter plane**

**The Hindu, 10 February 2009**

Moscow: India will join Russia in practical work to develop the fifth-generation fighter plane later this year after the two sides sign research and development contracts. "We have made good progress since concluding an inter-government agreement in 2007 for the joint development and production of the fifth-generation fighter aircraft and are ready to sign detailed contracts this year for implementing the programme," said Mikhail Pogosyan, CEO of the Sukhoi aircraft building company, which is the chief contractor of the fighter on the Russian side...

### **Major amphibious exercise in Gujarat**

**The Hindu, 10 February 2009**

New Delhi: The armed forces on Monday conducted the largest-ever amphibious exercise "Exercise Tropex 2009" on the Madhavpur beach in Gujarat. Amphibious landing is considered the most complex of all military manoeuvres, involving coordination and synergy from conceptualisation to planning and final execution. A Coast Guard element was also a part of this short, swift and intense conflict...

### **Op-Ed: Lay off, politicians, don't scuttle IAF's 126-jet deal**

**The Asian Age, 10 February 2009**

India's annual defence budget can be looked at in two ways — as an extravagant waste in a country where one in three Indians live on less than one dollar a day, or as an annual life insurance premium payment by a country which at present can only talk the walk. But remember 26/11 in Mumbai when you make your choice...

### **Largest-ever air show from today**

**The Hindu, 11 February 2009**

Bangalore: India's largest-ever air show, Aero India-2009, opens here on Wednesday with participation by frontline fighter aircraft from the United States, Europe and Russia, all of whom are in the race for the Union Government's plans to acquire multi-role combat aircraft. The Americans have flown-in the F16 (Lockheed Martin) and have been providing "sorties" to people before it flies Olympian Abhinav Bindra, while Boeing will showcase its F/A18 Hornet...

### **News Analysis: A defence partnership for the future**

**The Hindu, 11 February 2009**

France and India share a common vision of the world. In fact, France is working towards building an international order in which India and other emerging nations share full responsibilities. France is doing this with the conviction that a prosperous India, whose strategic interests are secure, contributes to world stability. India taking up its full role at the international level is in the interests of France and Europe as well as the rest of the world...

### **Glitches hit Indian participation at Aero show**

**The Indian Express, 11 February 2009**

Bangalore: A series of delays, production hitches and an air crash have hit Indian

participation at this year's Aero India military air show. While no new Indian products will be on display, even older "in development" products will give the show a miss. For starters, the indigenous effort to develop an Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) by HAL received a jolt just days before the air show...

### **End-user hurdle in Indo-US arms deals may soon be cleared**

**The Indian Express, 11 February 2009**

New Delhi: India is close to signing a new overarching end-user agreement for weapon purchases from the US that will give it access to top-end technology but will entail inspections of the systems by American regulators. A top Pentagon official said the two countries were close to resolving the end-user issue that had become a major obstacle in Indo-US defence relations after the Left parties objected to its conditions that mandated annual inspections of higher-end technology sold to foreign countries...

### **France for enhancing defence ties**

**The Hindu, 12 February 2009**

Bangalore: France on Wednesday offered to extend cooperation in transfer of defence technologies to India. There are already agreements on Scorpene submarine and short range surface-to-air missile. French Minister of State for Defence and Veterans Jean Marie Bockel said this at a press conference after a meeting with Defence Minister A.K. Antony here...

### **India's first nuke sub soon: Antony**

**The Indian Express, 12 February 2009**

Bangalore: India is likely to have its first indigenous nuclear submarine up and running shortly. Defence Minister A K Antony on Wednesday said the project was in its final stages and the launch would be announced once it is ready. Commenting on the secretive Advance Technology Vehicle (ATV) project — India's efforts to develop a nuclear powered submarine to complete its 'triad' or its ability to deliver nuclear weapons from the air, ground and sea — the minister said though there had been some bottlenecks in the project, things were improving now...

### **Tejas LCA stars in flying start to Aero India**

**The Asian Age, 12 February 2009**

Bengaluru: Speed, style and the rush of pure adrenaline. The world's lightest combat aircraft began Bengaluru's air show party on a steep climb. Then, Indian Navy pilot Capt. Jaideep Maolankar brought the Tejas aircraft down to 300 feet, flew inverted close to the stands, took a hard right turn to show its high angle of attack capability, looped up vertically in the distance, and finally came down to do a low-level, high-speed flypast, as if in a salute; 6,000 on people on the ground, astounded enough to ignore the scorching heat beating down on them...

### **IAF needs 42 squadrons: Major**

**The Indian Express, 13 February 2009**

Bangalore: The Indian Air Force needs 42 squadrons of fighter aircraft to maintain a

conventional edge in the region, but the number is likely to be achieved only after 2020, said Air Chief Marshal F H Major. With a large number of fighters being de-inducted in the coming years, the IAF's squadron strength will come down to 30 in the next decade before picking up again, he added...

### **'Fighter fleet strength below sanctioned level'**

**The Asian Age, 13 February 2009**

Bengaluru: The IAF now has fewer fighter squadrons than authorised by the government and it may be able to achieve full sanctioned strength only by 2020, Air Chief Fali Homi Major said on Thursday. "We are at the moment at 34 squadrons. We might come down a bit. And then start picking up and hopefully by 2017, we will have what we want and perhaps a little more by 2020," the Air Chief told reporters when asked how long it would take the Air Force to reach full sanctioned strength...

### **Army may send 570 more officers for NSG**

**The Asian Age, 13 February 2009**

New Delhi: The Indian Army may have to depute as many as 570 officers and 11,480 personnel below officer rank (PBOR) to the National Security Guard (NSG) for establishment of the proposed four NSG hubs in the country, South Block sources have estimated. This is in addition to the 140 officers and 4,320 PBOR from the Army who are already in the NSG. According to calculations currently underway in the ministry of defence (MoD), the Army may have to depute 220 officers and 4,070 PBOR for the first phase of the NSG expansion...

### **India, Israel to expand defence ties**

**The Times of India, 13 February 2009**

Bangalore: Away from prying eyes, kickback allegations and political sensitivities, India and Israel continue to quietly expand their already expansive defence ties, with joint R&D projects ranging from missile systems to ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) platforms as well as arms deals. "We have a very special defence relationship with India. It's now moving towards joint development of equipment. There are several new projects in the pipeline," Major-General Ehud Shani (ret'd), the chief of Israeli defence export and cooperation agency Sibat, told TOI on Thursday...

### **5,000-km Agni missile to be ready next year**

**The Indian Express, 14 February 2009**

Bangalore: India will develop a nuclear-capable missile with a range of over 5,000 km as part of the Agni series by December next year, the country's top defence scientist has said. Revealing for the first time that the missile, dubbed Agni 3+, having a range of more than 5,000 km, will be ready for trials by 2010, DRDO chief M Natarajan has said work is already on to add a third engine to the Agni 3 missile that has already been successfully testfired...

### **Full squadron strength in eight years: Air Chief**

**The Hindu, 15 February 2009**

Bangalore: Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major on Thursday said the Indian Air Force would have its full sanctioned strength of 39 squadrons in eight years and asserted that operating at lesser strength did not compromise its fighting edge. "The programme of phasing out, upgrading and induction is being carried out in a concerted manner without losing the combat edge. We should be able to reach 39 squadrons by 2017 and will have what we want and more by 2020," the Air Chief said at a press conference here...

### **IAF reluctant to follow on order for Hawk trainer**

**The Hindu, 16 February 2009**

Bangalore: Worried over shortcomings in product support from BAE systems, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM), issues over maintenance and a price considered too steep, the Indian Air Force (IAF) appears reluctant to go ahead with the follow-on order for the Hawk trainer. The IAF, through a \$1.75-billion contract signed in March 2004, is receiving 66 Hawk Mk 132 advanced jet trainers...

### **Israel largest defence supplier to India: report**

**The Hindu, 16 February 2009**

Jerusalem: Israel has emerged as India's largest defence supplier, overtaking Russia. It has signed defence deals worth \$9 billion with New Delhi in the last decade, a media report here said on Sunday. "There is close cooperation and the Indians respect the Israeli systems and our experience in fighting terror," a defence official was quoted as saying by *The Jerusalem Post*...

### **Higher pay pushes up defence outlay**

**The Hindu, 17 February 2009**

New Delhi: The interim budget on Monday proposed an increased outlay of about Rs. 27,000 crore for defence as against the revised estimates of Rs. 1,14,600 crore during the current fiscal. However, over half the increase is on the revenue account for pensions, higher salaries for armed forces personnel and civilians and enhanced allocation for stores and works...

### **Defence is up 34% but Govt couldn't spend last yr's money**

**The Indian Express, 17 February 2009**

New Delhi: Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee today allocated Rs 1,41,703 crore for defence, a 34% increase over the last fiscal. However, the defence ministry wasn't able to utilise about Rs 7,000 crore of its allocation towards capital expenditure last year. The allocation for 2008-09 has been revised to Rs 41,000 crore from Rs 48,007 crore...

### **Major IAF exercises from tomorrow**

**The Hindu, 17 February 2009**

Bangalore: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be conducting from Wednesday major operational exercises for eight days across the southern peninsula, including over key offshore installations on the east coast, and the Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands in the south-west. Called 'Dakshin Prahar 09' (Southern Attack) the exercises are being coordinated by the Thiruvananthapuram-headquartered Southern Air Command (SAC)...

### **Op-Ed: Act now, put 'blue water' Navy on the fast track**

**The Asian Age, 17 February 2009**

IT IS most welcome that in view of the myriad security threats that India faces, the Interim Budget 2009-10 has increased the allocation for defence by almost 35 per cent to Rs 141,703 crores. The total revised expenditure for 2008-09 was Rs 114,600 crores. The Plan expenditure will now be Rs 86,879 crores, up from Rs 73,600 crores last year...

### **Major IAF exercise over peninsula, Lakshadweep from Wednesday**

**The Times of India, 17 February 2009**

New Delhi: To maintain its high operational readiness after 26/11, IAF is all set to launch another major exercise, 'Dakshin Prahar', with top-notch fighters like Sukhoi-30MKIs, Mirage-2000s and maritime Jaguars as well as IL-78 mid-air refuellers, AN-32 transport aircraft and Mi-8 helicopters. The high-voltage, week-long exercise over peninsular India as well as Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands will kick off on February 18...

### **Latest arms procured to modernise Army**

**The Asian Age, 18 February 2009**

A slew of equipments is being procured for modernisation of the Indian Army, a report of the ministry of defence (MoD) has revealed. This includes light assault weight rifles and combat free-fall parachutes for the Army's Special Forces commandos, Strella 10 M missiles for the Army's Air Defence wing, direction-finding and imagery interpretation equipment to enhance surveillance and intelligence-gathering for the Indian Army, thermal-imaging sights for anti-tank rocket launchers and Milan 2T missiles with Tandem war-heads...

### **India's indigenous aircraft carrier to sail by 2011: Indian Navy chief**

**The Times of India, 18 February 2009**

New Delhi: Progressing towards self-reliance in the defence industry, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier will be in the waters by 2011, Indian Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta said Wednesday. The under-construction aircraft carrier will be ready in two years. "Our indigenous aircraft carrier is being constructed in Kochi. It has been three years since the work started. On Feb 28, what we call keel laying of the carrier will take place," Mehta told reporters here...

### **Navy chief warns of nuke attack from sea**

**The Times of India, 18 February 2009**

New Delhi: Indian Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta has warned of a potential nuclear threat from the sea route. Nuclear weapons may be smuggled into India in a cargo container, said Admiral Mehta. "Today, 70-75 global cargo is containerised. It is acknowledged that the container is the most likely means for terrorist organisations to illegally transport a nuclear weapon and, hence, there is a serious concern about container security," he said while inaugurating a seminar organised by the National Maritime Foundation here...

### **Defence ministry finally gets cracking after surrendering Rs 7,007cr**

**The Times of India, 18 February 2009**

New Delhi: A day after the interim budget disclosed the defence ministry had failed to spend as much as Rs 7,007 crore from last fiscal's capital outlay, a top-level meeting on Tuesday cleared several pending proposals of the armed forces. The Defence Acquisitions

Council, chaired by defence ministry A K Antony and attended by the three Service chiefs, among others, gave the green signal to procurements of offshore patrol vessels, fast-attack craft and radars for both Coast Guard and Navy in a step towards bolstering coastal security...

**Naval Chief sees threat through containers**

**The Hindu, 19 February 2009**

New Delhi: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Wednesday said there was need for a comprehensive maritime security in the country as containers could be used by terrorists to illegally transport nuclear weapons...

**IAF rapped for misuse of aircraft by officers**

**The Indian Express, 19 February 2009**

New Delhi: A parliamentary committee has come down heavily on the Indian Air Force for the unauthorised use of VIP aircraft by armed forces officers and their spouses. It has also sought a detailed statement from the IAF of the expenses incurred in flying "non-entitled" passengers, including presidents of the Army and Air Force wives welfare associations, over the past decade and directed the Defence Ministry to conduct a probe into the misuse...

**Navy Chief: Ports unsafe**

**The Asian Age, 19 February 2009**

New Delhi: The Indian Navy Chief, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, on Wednesday said cargo containers transported over the seas could be used to move nuclear weapons and called for the tightest security at seaports in the country and thorough screening of containers on the lines of airport security. The statement came on a day when Admiral Mehta also confirmed that the government had cleared the creation of a joint operations centre (JOC) "from (eastern) coast to (western) coast" that will bestow "comprehensive control over all maritime deployment and assets"...

**Russians want another \$700 mn for Gorshkov**

**The Indian Express, 20 February 2009**

New Delhi: This makes the deal worth \$2.9 billion, which is almost thrice the original amount agreed upon when the agreement was first reached on January 29, 2004 by the NDA Government for \$974 million. While India did expect cost-escalation to the tune of \$350-400 million in the course of refurbishing the old ship, Russia stunned India by proposing a \$1.2 billion hike in November 2007 that pushed up the cost to \$2.2 billion...

**Editorial Comment: Listen To Him**

**The Times of India, 20 February 2009**

When Admiral Sureesh Mehta pointed out that terrorists may exploit weak security at Indian ports to smuggle in nuclear weapons, he was highlighting a threat that has despite being around for a number of years now unfortunately been largely ignored. It is no coincidence that the US launched the Container Security Initiative (CSI) and Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) programmes within months of 9/11...

### **India depends on Russia for indigenous aircraft carrier too**

**The Indian Express, 21 February 2009**

New Delhi: With the first prototype of the naval LCA to take flight at the earliest by 2010, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier — christened the Indian Aircraft Carrier (IAC) — will only have Russian MiG 29 K fighters onboard. India may find little room for negotiations after Moscow demanded three times the original price for the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier, as its indigenous Air Defence Ship (ADS) is now fully dependent on Russian carrier borne fighters due to delays in DRDO's naval Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project...

### **Expensive gift**

**The Indian Express, 21 February 2009**

India's attempt to procure the Admiral Gorshkov may not have been technically bad from the start, but it appears to be so now, without doubt. This Kiev Class aircraft carrier was decommissioned in 1996 after a rather chequered and short history of service. Now, Moscow has told New Delhi that the deal will cost yet another \$700 million. The ship will not be delivered before 2012; and the final amount stands at \$2.9 billion, a rather heavy price for something Russia was to deliver on August 15, 2008 at a gift price of \$1 billion...