

### **IAF gets 3 Boeings for VVIPs**

**The Asian Age, 2 April 2009**

New Delhi: April 1: The three Boeing Business Jets (BBJs) for VVIP travel were formally inducted into the Indian Air Force's communication squadron on Wednesday after a ceremony at Delhi airport, with President Pratibha Patil undertaking the inaugural flight of the BBJ aircraft named Rajdoot to the Northeast. The white BBJs are equipped with a wide range of security systems and latest communication devices and are India's equivalent of the US Air Force One that transports the US President.

### **Preparedness hit by chopper delay, have to live with it: Air Chief**

**The Indian Express, 2 April 2009**

New Delhi: The cancellation of a global tender to procure 22 attack helicopters for the Air Force will affect its operational preparedness, Air Chief Marshal F H Major said on Wednesday. Commenting on the cancellation of the tenders last month, almost a year after the procurement process was initiated, Major said it would lead to a delay in the acquisition. "Any such delay affects our operational preparedness. But I suppose we have to live with this," he said, answering questions at the sidelines of a function to induct VVIP transport aircraft in Delhi.

### **French Rafale out of race for IAF fighters**

**The Indian Express, 17 April 2009**

New Delhi: The French Rafale twin-engine multi-role fighter has been knocked off a \$10-billion contract for 126 combat aircraft for the Indian Air Force. One of six contenders, Rafale was officially rejected by the Ministry of Defence for what an official called the failure to meet qualitative requirements of the contract. The IAF has been maintaining that all six contenders — American F-18 and F-16, Eurofighter Typhoon, Russian MiG-35, Swedish Gripen NG and the Rafale — for the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) contract have met technical requirements.

### **Army, IAF review meetings begin today**

**The Hindu, 20 April 2009**

New Delhi: Defence Minister A.K. Antony will inaugurate meetings of the top brass of the Army and the Air Force here on Monday. The meetings are part of the bi-annual meetings of the Army and Air Force Commanders that are held separately. The Monday meetings come in the backdrop of an increasing threat from Taliban in Pakistan, signs of rise in attempts to infiltration from across the border and the military offensive in Sri Lanka against the LTTE. The meetings come after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.