

MiG fleet in India safe to fly: Russia

The Indian Express, 20 March 2009

New Delhi: Russia has insisted that its MiG 29 fighters in service with the Indian Air Force are safe to fly. The clarification follows the grounding of MiG 29 fighters by the country last week — a move expected to have ramifications on the IAF which has a sizeable number of the fighters. The United Aircraft Corporation, the Russian Government conglomerate under which the MiG company functions, has said that most frontline fighters continue to fly in the country and the ones that have been grounded include older aircraft that had not been operated for years.

Naik to be next Air Force Chief

The Asian Age, 21 March 2009

New Delhi: Indian Air Force (IAF) vice-chief Air Marshal Pradeep Vasant Naik will be the new chief of the IAF, with the government clearing his appointment to the post with effect from May 31 this year. He will succeed the current Air Chief Marshal F.H. Major who retires on May 31. With this, a fighter pilot will once again head the IAF. Air Chief Marshal Major is a helicopter pilot while Air Marshal Naik was commissioned as a fighter pilot.

Antony reviews security with Service chiefs

The Times of India, 25 March 2009

New Delhi: Concerned at the spurt in terrorist incidents in J&K and unrest in the neighbourhood, defence minister AK Antony on Tuesday held a high-level review meeting with chiefs of the three Services besides the defence secretary. The four-hour-long meeting, attended by Admiral Sureesh Mehta, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major and General Deepak Kapoor and defence secretary Vijay Singh, also reviewed the security apparatus in place in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Govt cancels tenders for 22 copters for IAF

The Times of India, 25 March 2009

New Delhi: India on Tuesday cancelled the tenders issued for the purchase of 22 attack helicopters for the IAF as the three offers received from foreign companies did not meet the qualitative requirements set by the government. A fresh request for proposal (RFP) would be floated soon, an agency report said. The tenders for the purchase of helicopters were issued in May last year to strengthen the IAF's combat and surveillance capabilities. This would further delay the acquisition by another two years once the process starts.