

The Indian Express, 12 April 2008

Indian Air Force to take off on first visit to China in November

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to make its first appearance over Chinese skies this November with a power-packed performance by the acclaimed Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT). With defence ties between the countries on the upswing, the nine-aircraft aerobatic team is scheduled to leave for a week-long China tour later this year, and will make its debut at Beijing before heading off to other major cities...

The Times of India, 12 April 2008

Mechanism in place to sanitize skies: IAF

New Delhi: The government has put several structures and procedures in place to detect and shoot down any "rogue" plane hijacked by terrorists with the intention to use it as a "missile" to blow up high-value targets in and around Delhi. "The skies are open. It's a question of detecting a threat, analyzing it and taking a decision to counter it as soon as possible. We can do all this much better and faster now," Western Air Command (WAC) chief Air Marshal P K Barbora told TOI...

The Hindu, 13 April 2008

India-China air forces to interact in November

New Delhi: India and China will initiate air force level interaction with an aerobatics display by the Indian Air Force (IAF) from bases made available by their Chinese counterparts in November this year, said official sources. This will be a follow-up to the naval interaction and the joint Army exercises last December. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Homi Major confirmed the interaction but said the event would be held "later this year." The IAF was also open to the idea of joint fighter exercises in the near future...

The Hindu, 13 April 2008

Air Force to place order for Akash missile system

Bangalore: The Air Force will soon place a production order for the guided, medium range surface-to-air Akash missile system. With the process for placing the order with the public sector enterprise Bharat Electronics (BEL) already set in motion with the Ministry of Defence, official sources said the public announcement could be expected "within a matter of days." This is the first time that the armed forces are placing an order for a wholly indigenously developed weapon delivery system of this complexity and class...

The Times of India, 15 April 2008

India is official partner at Berlin Air Show

New Delhi: With both the civilian as well as the military aviation sectors booming in the country, India will be participating in the forthcoming Berlin Air Show as an "official partner country" now. Over 25 companies from India will be participating in the six-day air show, which begins on May 27, with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) leading the pack. A top Indian delegation, led by defence minister A K Antony, will also be attending the show. On its part, HAL will be showcasing the 'Tejas' Light Combat Aircraft, 'Dhruv' Advanced Light Helicopter and 'Sitara' HJT-36 single-engined jet trainer, among other things, during the show...

The Asian Age, 17 April 2008

Srinagar IAF station is 60

Srinagar: Number 1 Wing Air Force, set at a picturesque location here and considered as one of the premier fighter bases of India, has turned 60, the golden year of its inception being celebrated with great exuberance in May this year. A weeklong programme of events during the last week of May has been planned. It includes a reunion dinner for personnel who have served at the base, release of coffee table book, a marathon run, variety entertainment programme, sports and adventure activities and Bara Khana for the personnel...

The Asian Age, 18 April 2008

IAF fighter squadrons go up to 34

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force has some reason to cheer now. The numerical strength of its fighter squadrons has now gone up to 34 from this month onwards from the earlier 32 squadrons. The IAF has inducted one new squadron comprising its elite Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft at Bareilly in UP. Another squadron comprising Jaguar aircraft has also been formed at Jamnagar in Gujarat. The Indian Air Force recently made the revelation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence...

The Hindu, 20 April 2008

Brazilian jets to serve as eye in the sky for IAF

Bangalore: With the question whether the Air Force is still serious about the Rs 1,800-crore indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&CS) programme settled, India is to sign a deal with the Brazilian aerospace firm Embraer for three EMB 145 intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft. The three aircraft together are expected to cost around \$300 million...

The Asian Age, 20 April 2008

IAF will get airbases near China border

New Delhi: The ministry of defence (MoD), following Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Arunachal Pradesh in February this year, will now seek funding from the Cabinet to modernise and expand five "advanced standing grounds" into airfields in the state that it has identified. The MoD decided on this after it concluded that the country required these from a "strategic point of view". All five would be defence airfields...

The Times of India, 20 April 2008

More fighter jets for Pak doesn't worry IAF

New Delhi: Pakistan may be getting more spanking new F-16 fighters from US and JF-17 'Thunder' jets from China but IAF is not scrambling for cover. It remains quite confident of its war-waging capability. "Every country has its own perception of its defence requirements. Pakistan's acquisitions do not disturb us too much or give us sleepless nights," said Western Air Command (WAC) chief Air Marshal P K Barbora, talking exclusively to TOI...

The Times of India, 21 April 2008

IAF faces shortage of fighter jets

New Delhi: At a time when the primacy of airpower in winning wars or at least "shaping" the battlefield for the army to move in is well-established, IAF will not be able to achieve its "sanctioned" strength of 39.5 fighter squadrons even by 2017. The sheer inability of successive governments to formulate long-term integrated defence plans to progressively build the country's military capabilities in tune with its geopolitical objectives means the IAF will continue to grapple with a shortage in fighters for the foreseeable future...

The Times of India, 24 April 2008

IAF gets Boeing Super Hornets proposal

St. Louis: The Boeing Company on Thursday delivered a detailed 7,000-page proposal offering its advanced F/A-18E/F Super Hornet to the Indian Air Force as part of India's Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) competition. "Our proposal team worked diligently to fully understand and meet the requirements set out by the Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD). We are offering India the best-value, most advanced and proven multi-role combat fighter in production today," said Jim Albaugh, president and CEO, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems (IDS)...

The Asian Age, 25 April 2008

Eurofighter deal offered to India

New Delhi: European consortium EADS on Thursday extended an invitation to India to join its "Eurofighter programme" that is engaged in the production of the Eurofighter Typhoon fighter aircraft. The Eurofighter Typhoon is one of the aircraft vying for selection as part of the RFP process for acquisition of 126 Medium Multi-role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) for the Indian Air Force...

The Indian Express, 29 April 2008

Largest global military tender for 126 IAF fighters takes off

New Delhi: India's largest ever global military tender to acquire 126 fighters for an estimated \$10 billion took off on Monday with six aviation companies submitting their technical bids to the Defence Ministry. All contenders who had been given the request for proposals - Russia (MIG-35), Sweden (Gripen), France (Rafale), America (Lockheed Martin F 16 and Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornet) and a European consortium (Eurofighter Typhoon) - have responded with detailed technical proposals, ranging from 7,000-20,000 pages each...

The Asian Age, 29 April 2008

6 global firms bid for IAF deal

New Delhi: Six global military aviation companies have submitted their responses to the Indian ministry of defence (MoD) to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for acquisition of 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) for the Indian Air Force, the last date of which was Monday. The RFP for the deal, expected to be worth Rs 42,000 crores (more than \$10 billion), was issued last year by the MoD. This is the biggest armament procurement RFP that the country has floated...