

The Asian Age, 7 August 2008

'Women may fly IAF fighters'

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major, said on Wednesday that there could come a time in future when women could fly fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force. When asked by reporters whether women could ever be fighter pilots in the IAF in future, the IAF chief said, "It may happen in future, why not. The women in IAF are doing a good job.". But the IAF chief added that there was no proposal as of now on the issue before the IAF. "No proposal is under consideration right now. We will have to give a lot of thought on it"...

The Hindu, 8 August 2008

Ensure pure fuel, IAF tells IOC

Kolkata: The air turbine fuel (ATF) supplied by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to the Indian Air Force (IAF) bases should be filtered and unadulterated as adulterated fuel poses severe threat to the functioning of the fighter jets, said Air Vice-Marshal S.S.Gunashekhar, senior maintenance staff officer of the Eastern Command of IAF, at the Air Force Station Barrackpore on Wednesday. In a seminar on aviation fuel discipline and quality control, officials from the IAF and IOC met over the issue of coordination regarding the quality control and supply of air turbine fuel to the IAF bases across the country...

The Asian Age, 8 August 2008

IAF sets up aerospace control base

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force has set up a "dedicated space sub-branch" to "coordinate" all its activities on aerospace, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal F.H. Major announced on Thursday. Air Chief Marshal Major said that the IAF had embarked on "a series of progressive steps to integrate assets in space into its operational plans". This, the IAF chief said, meant "synergising the capability that space provides" along with the traditional systems in the IAF. "Military application (in space) is only beginning to find a foothold in this country," he said...

The Times of India, 8 August 2008

IAF may take part in anti-Naxal ops

New Delhi: It's for the government to decide whether it wants to use airpower in the ongoing counter-insurgency and anti-naxal operations in the country, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal F H Major said on Thursday. "Every balanced air force in the world has the capability to handle the entire spectrum of conflict, ranging from low-intensity to high-intensity," said ACM Major...

The Hindu, 9 August 2008

Fuel: IAF, IOC clarify

With reference to the report headlined "Ensure pure fuel, IAF tells IOC" (The Hindu, August 8), Group Captain R.K. Das, Chief Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Headquarters Bengal Area Complex, Kolkata, writes: Indian Oil Corporation is a partner with the Indian Air Force in ensuring safe flying. The aviation fuel provided by IOC is of the highest quality and specifications, to the fullest satisfaction of the IAF. Air Force Barrackpur and IOC jointly conducted the seminar on August 6 on the subject of Fuel Discipline in Aviation...

The Times of India, 9 August 2008

IAF to upgrade bases to tackle emergencies

New Delhi: The IAF is going in for a major upgrade of its airbases around the country to bolster their employability during war and other contingencies as well as make

them more accessible to civilian aircraft. Under Phase-I of the MAFI (modernization of airfield infrastructure) programme, 30 of IAF's 67 airfields, helipads and advanced landing grounds (ALGs) will be upgraded on a fast-track basis at a cost of around Rs 1,300 crore...

The Indian Express, 12 August 2008

For first time, IAF joins multi-nation air exercise in US

New Delhi: India marked its first-ever presence in the prestigious Red Flag exercise at the Nellis Airbase in Nevada on Sunday. The IAF contingent has been in the US for several weeks but the formal inauguration of the exercise took place on Sunday after a detailed mission planning by the participating countries. IAF, which is participating with eight Su-30s, two IL-78 tankers and an IL-76 aircraft will engage the French Air Force (with Rafale fighters), South Korean Air Force (with F-15s) and the US Air Force with their F-15s and F-16s...

The Hindu, 13 August 2008

New aircraft for IAF pilot training

Bangalore: Having used the piston HPT-32 aircraft made by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with relative success since 1984, the Air Force is looking for a new machine that will serve as its ab initio trainer. With this in mind the Air Force has finalised the qualitative requirements for the aircraft to be manufactured by the HAL. It will use the new aircraft for pilot training and other tasks. Trainees at establishments such as the Air Force Academy in Dundigal (Andhra Pradesh) will first fly this aircraft for 65 hours before they are trifurcated into the fighter, helicopter and transport streams. Of the 65 hours, pilot trainees fly with a trainer for about 14 hours, the rest being solo...

The Times of India, 18 August 2008

IAF chief leaves for Malaysia to boost defence ties

New Delhi: In consonance with India's 'Look East' policy, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major left for Malaysia on Saturday night to discuss bilateral defence cooperation, which recently received a big boost with IAF beginning to train Malaysian pilots to fly Russian-origin Sukhoi fighters. Apart from discussions with the Malaysian defence minister and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) chief on ways to bolster defence ties, ACM Major will also visit the Gong Kedak airbase, where a team of IAF pilots and technicians are now stationed...

The Times of India, 18 August 2008

IAF to add teeth with Israeli missile system

New Delhi: The long-delayed IAF plans to plug gaps in its air defence capabilities are finally making some headway now, with the government giving the go-ahead for the procurement of SpyDer low-level quick-reaction missile systems from Israel. Sources said the deal for the 18 SpyDer systems, at a cost over Rs 1,800 crore, should be "inked within a few weeks" after being approved by the Defence Acquisitions Council. The deal has been hanging fire for quite some time now, with one of the main reasons being the naming of Israeli Aerospace Industries and Rafael in the Rs 1,160 crore Barak-I deal kickbacks case by the CBI...

The Hindu, 20 August 2008

IAF commandos display skills in U.S.

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force's special force commandos, "The Garuds," successfully demonstrated their mission capability during Exercise Red Flag - a multi-nation war game in the U.S. - by neutralising a mock enemy radar site, capturing an

air field and carrying out combat search and rescue operations. The "enemy" airfield in the Nevada desert was considered strategically important for the friendly forces. The intelligence report made available identified the location of the airfield in the desert terrain suggesting medium threat environment and adequate defensive measures...

The Times of India, 20 August 2008

IAF short of 400 pilots: Air Chief

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) faces a shortage of 400 pilots and it will take five years to fill the gap, says its chief, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major. It takes 6-8 years of operational training before an IAF pilot can be fully utilized in his intended role. "They have to be trained over a period of time and there are not shortcuts. We are short of about 400 pilots but with the measures we are taking, we will make good the shortage in the next five years," the chief of the air staff said...

The Hindu, 23 August 2008

Nevada war games in crucial phase

New Delhi: The multinational air exercise "Exercise Red Flag" at the Nellis base of the U.S Air Force in Nevada entered its crucial phase following the crawl, walk and run pattern of exercising. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating with eight Su-30 fighters, two Il-78s (mid air refuellers), an Il-76 and 247 air warriors. This is the first time the IAF has been invited to one version of the Red Flag exercise, originally a Cold War exercise but now expanded to include the US' new-found friends and allies...

The Indian Express, 23 August 2008

IAF earns praise at Red Flag

New Delhi: With the multinational "Red Flag" exercise at the Nellis airbase in Nevada entering its final phase, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has received praise from the USAF which has described it as a "world class Air Force with great aircraft and great leadership". As the exercise, described as one of the world's toughest aerial war games, enters the final "RUN" phase following the "crawl and walk" pattern on exercising, the commander of the USAF aggressor forces that are taking on Indian fighters said the IAF should be a regular participant at the event...

The Hindu, 24 August 2008

Technicians hold Indian flag high at Nevada war games

New Delhi: Though air force pilots corner the glory, it is the unsung group of technicians including software experts which keeps the Indian flag aloft during the ongoing exercises in the Nevada desert, U.S. The technicians have ensured availability of all aircraft in scorching heat and tarmac temperatures of over 50 degrees Celsius during flying hours...

The Times of India, 25 August 2008

US wants IAF to be part of wargames on regular basis

New Delhi: Impressed with the combat skills of IAF top-gun pilots flying Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, IL-78 mid-air refuellers and IL-76 heavy-lift aircraft, the US would like IAF to take part in the "Red Flag" wargames on a regular basis. "IAF is a world-class air force, with great aircraft and great leadership. It's a great training opportunity for USAF and IAF to integrate our assets in a training environment. We would like to have IAF here as a regular participant," said Captain Marcus 'Spike' Wilson, leader of American F-15s and F-16s, during the ongoing exercise at Nellis US Air Force base in Nevada...

The Asian Age, 27 August 2008

IAF switched off radar during drill

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) switched off the main weapon and scanner radars of their frontline Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft during the just-concluded Exercise Red Flag with the United States, the IAF official sources have confirmed. IAF sources added that this is done during every air exercise with foreign countries. "This is done so that foreign countries do not know the radar 'signature' or encryption code of our fighter aircraft during the exercises. Another radar is used instead," IAF sources said...

The Indian Express, 28 August 2008

IAF chief objects to Pay panel

New Delhi: Adding another note to the controversy over the pay commission for the armed forces, Air Chief Marshal FH Major has shot off a letter protesting an "anomaly" that puts officers of the rank of Lt Col in a pay band that is lower than their civilian counterparts. The letter, which is bound to create controversy as it comes after the pay scales were finalised by the Cabinet on August 14, was sent to Admiral Sureesh Mehta, the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee on Monday...