

The Tribune, 1 December 2006

An Army-IAF affiliation

Belgaum, November 30 In one of the most important affiliations of the Army with Air Force, the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment, one of the oldest regiments of the Indian Army, today came together with the prestigious 20 Air Force Squadron consisting of some of the latest fighters in the Air Force.

The Tribune, 1 December 2006

Students on IAF radar

On a recruitment sortie, the IAF is landing in educational institutes. It has so far identified 13 cities, including Chandigarh, for carrying out fast-track selections (FTS) in these institutions. In Chandigarh, the IAF has set up a centre at Chandigarh Engineering College (CEC) in Landran, near Mohali, for the purpose of picking up engineers for recruitment as commissioned officers in the aeronautical engineering branch from professional colleges across Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. It will be holding a three-day FTS session in the college from December 3. If queries are an indicator, over 1,000 students from colleges across this region are expected to take part. Although the last date for submission of applications is over, those who could not apply will be allowed to appear.

DNA India, 10 December 2006

F16s to fly at Bangalore airshow

MUMBAI: United States defence contractor Lockheed Martin, pitching for a \$10 billion deal from the Indian Air Force, will for the first time let its advanced fighter jet F-16 participate in a flying display at the Indian air show. "Yes... we will be bring the F-16s for AeroIndia (2007) and of course, this time we are here for flying," Lockheed Martin Global Inc Managing Director Royce L Kaplinger said. The company hopes to impress the top Indian defence personnel at the airshow to win a fighter jet deal. The airshow will be held at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bangalore in the first week of February. During the last edition of the Indian aero exposition, Lockheed's rival Boeing flew its F-18 fighters, which is also in the race for the multi-billion dollar contract.

Indian Express, 11 December 2006

Pune's international airport dream hits air pocket

Pune, December 10: A year after flights to Dubai and Singapore took off from the Lohegaon airport, the city's dream of turning into an international destination seems to have hit an air pocket. With no private airlines coming forward to start new flights ' mainly due to commercial considerations ' even the government run Air India and Indian have ruled out flights to newer destinations in the near future. hile lack of commercial interest is a reason, restrictions on the number of civilian flights by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and paucity of infrastructure at the airport are major factors for airlines staying away from the city. 'The airport has reached the saturation level for day time operations with the Air Force not giving permissions for new flights due to their operational requirements. A blanket ban has been put in place for day operations and the only slots left free are from midnight onwards,' an airport official said.

India Press Release, 12 December 2006

Indian air force conducts target simulation exercise

Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter pilots Monday successfully targeted a tow body suspended from a pilotless aircraft in a target simulation exercise over the Bay of Bengal. As part of the exercise, the Pilotless Target Aircraft 'Lakhya' (PTA) was test flown from the launching complex - II of the Integrated Test Range of Chandipur in the coastal district of Balasore, 15 km from here, at about 11.15 a.m., defence sources said. Then two fighter air crafts - Mirage 2000 and Jaguar - flown from the Kalaikunda air force base in West Bengal targeted a tow body suspended from the PTA, one after another,' a scientist with the programme told IANS. The exercise was conducted to test target location and precision firing capability by pilots of Jaguar and Mirage 2000 fighter jets of the IAF. While the pilots of Jaguar targeted the tow body first, the Mirage hit it a while later. The exercise was tracked through radars, the scientist said on condition of anonymity.

India Defence, 13 December 2006

India, Russia Sign MiG-29 Baaz Upgradation Contract

According to newspaper reports, India and Russia have signed a contract for the upgradation of older versions of MiG-29 fighters that have served in the Indian Air Force for almost two decades. It is said to have been an US\$850 million deal. Moscow-based Russian aircraft corporation MiG will change the engines and avionics of 66 MiG-29 jets. This was first reported by the Russian AVN Military News Agency. The MiG 29 series were first inducted into the Indian Air Force in June 1985. Indian MiG-29s saw action during the Kargil War in Kashmir. They provided fighter escort for Mirage 2000s dropping laser-guided bombs on enemy targets and played a major role in maintaining the air superiority.

India Defence, 14 December 2006

First British Hawk Trainer for Air Force Successfully Test Flown

The first of the 66 Hawk advanced jet trainers for the Indian Air Force today took to the sky at a British Aerospace (BAE) Systems' facility in the UK. The Hawk trainer, designated HT001 and specially tailored to meet the IAF's requirements, was "successfully" flown by BAE Systems' chief test pilot Keith Dennison and instructor pilot Job Price at Warton, a BAE spokesperson said here. The spokesperson quoted Dennison as saying the "short flight went without a hitch. The aircraft performed very well with sparkling acceleration on the runway...It is a training platform that is closely matched to the demands of next generation aircraft." This is the first of 66 Hawk advanced jet trainers (AJTs) being built for the IAF. The first of 22 HT001 jets will be delivered to India in September next year and 42 more aircraft will be made under license in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The BAE spokesperson said the new jet was flown just a month after it was delivered into the final assembly.

Reuters, India, 15 December 2006

India eyes first US military aircraft

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - India has sought information on buying what would be its first U.S. military aircraft, six Lockheed Martin C-130J "Super Hercules" cargo planes, U.S. Air Force officials and others said Friday. A request for details of a possible

purchase from the Indian defense ministry was delivered to the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, which forwarded it to the Air Force's office of international affairs, said Dewey Mitchell, an Air Force spokesman. "Consideration begins upon receipt of the request," he said in a written reply to queries from Reuters. Two other people familiar with the matter said India had asked about buying six C-130Js in a letter received by U.S. officials Thursday. The four-engine turboprop C-130, built by Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp., is the U.S. Air Force's workhorse cargo and personnel transport aircraft. The "J" is its latest model. Lockheed Martin referred queries about the matter to U.S. officials. The State Department had no immediate comment.

Daily India, 16 December 2006

Transparency in defence deals does not mean delay: Antony

New Delhi, Dec 16 (ANI): Defence Minister A K Antony today said that the proposal for the 126 multi-role combat aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been cleared. There is no question of postponement. Our stand is very clear. We want to give the armed forces the most modern equipment, and as quickly as possible. A few days back, in a DAC meeting, we have cleared the proposal for the 126 multi-role combat aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF)," said Antony. In cases where the system configuration is complex, development lead time is relatively long and the technological risks are substantial, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approves the sharing for the development cost with the developing agency.

People's Daily, 20 December 2006

Singapore, Indian air forces conduct bilateral exercise

The Singapore and Indian air forces are conducting a bilateral exercise from Dec. 8 to 22, according to a statement by Singapore's Defense Ministry on Wednesday. The 15-day exercise, codenamed SINDEX, is conducted at Singapore's Paya Lebar Air Base, bringing together the Singapore air force's F-16 C/D Fighting Falcons and F-5E Tiger fighter aircraft and the Indian air force's Mirage and Jaguar aircraft. The statement said that the fourth drill in its series, which was conducted in Singapore for the first time, marked a key milestone in the growing defense cooperation between the two countries. "The exercise underscores the warm defense relationship between Singapore and India, which includes the regular exchange of visits and increasing professional interaction," the statement said.

Press Information Bureau, 21 December 2006

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE AND INDIAN AIR FORCE
CONDUCT BILATERAL EXERCISE IN SINGAPORE**

The Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) are conducting a bilateral exercise, codenamed SINDEX, at Paya Lebar Air Base in Singapore from 8 to 22 Dec 2006. The RSAF's F-16 C/D Fighting Falcons and F-5E Tiger fighter aircraft and the IAF's Mirage and Jaguar aircraft are participating in this exercise. Indian Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Shashindra Pal Tyagi visited the IAF detachment and observed the exercise on 11 Dec. Air Chief Marshal Tyagi also called on Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean during his visit to Singapore. Conducted in Singapore for the first time,

Exercise SINDEX 06 marks a key milestone in the growing defence cooperation between the two countries. It is the fourth exercise in the SINDEX series, the first three of which were conducted in India. Exercise SINDEX provides a valuable opportunity for the two air forces to interact and train together, to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability. The exercise underscores the warm defence relationship between Singapore and India, which includes the regular exchange of visits and increasing professional interaction.

The Hindu, 23 December 2006

India, Russia to intensify cooperation

NEW DELHI: India and Russia have decided to cooperate more closely in defence research and development with the identification of three cutting-edge areas in which the scientists will work together. A joint group of specialists has identified and finalised 12 projects in stealth, hypersonic and microwave technologies, according to highly placed sources. The decisions were taken at a meeting of the India-Russia Working Group on Military Technical Cooperation which ended here on Friday. Work on two projects on naval stealth technology has begun and is progressing "satisfactorily" while one more project in this area is under finalisation. This technology will make Indian naval vessels less prone to detection by hostile warships.

Daily Times, 24 December 2006

Indian group to study aerospace command

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force has appointed a core group, headed by an assistant chief of air staff, to study issues on using the 'medium of space' to achieve national security objectives. Delivering a lecture in Bangalore, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi on Saturday once again pitched for establishing an aerospace command. 'If you have to be networked, you have to exploit the medium of space,' he said. He said the group constituted by the Air Force would visit different countries, seeking to acquire necessary knowledge and expertise in the field. Though there is an agreement here on setting up such a command, the government has so far dithered to commit keeping in view the large investment and other strategic factors. He said that in future IAF would depart from just focusing on its borders with Pakistan and China. It would promote strategic interests in key regions of the world to address India's economic and energy requirements.

Press Information Bureau, 25 December 2006

2006 ' A LANDMARK YEAR FOR THE INDIAN AIR FORCE AS IT ENTERS ITS PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR

For the Indian Air Force, the year 2006 proved to be a year of stupendous achievements. This year on Oct 8th, the Indian Air Force entered the Platinum Jubilee year. The Indian Air Force continued to broaden its outlook with not only International exercises but also some international brainstorming at the International Flight Safety Seminar. The Nation looks upon Indian Air Force to be the source of succor and relief in crises. We proved it right once again. Here are some of landmark events that marked year 2006 for IAF.

Hindustan Times, 28 December 2006

Adopt BrahMos model for world-class products: Antony

Defence Minister AK Antony on Thursday favoured more interfaces of the type between an Indian-Russian joint venture and industry for building a cruise missile if the country was to develop world-class defence products. Speaking to scientists, industrialists and service personnel from Russia and India after his maiden visit to a facility in New Delhi where the BrahMos missile is being developed, Antony said the weapon had boosted the country's defence preparedness with its speed, precision and power.

India Defence, 31 December 2006

Air Force Woos Jodhpur Youth with Dazzling Air Show

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Sunday put up a dazzling air show here in a bid to woo the youth to join the force. The show, which was a part of the ongoing platinum jubilee celebrations of the IAF, included breath taking aerobatic and dare devil displays by helicopters of the 'Sarang' Aerobatics Display team and the 'Akashganga' Sky Diving team. The helicopters performed combination of sorties in the air, leaving the crowd, which included students and families of the air force officials, spellbound. Wing Commander Kamal Singh said that the main aim of the show was to motivate the youth to join the defence forces. "Whenever we give this type of demonstration we display the power of the Air Force and tell the people how adventurous it is. We motivate the youth to join us to become an air warrior and join the air force," said Wing Commander Singh. "The performance of the Air Force was wonderful and we are happy to see it," said Sita, a spectator. India has the world's fourth largest air force, with more than 700 combat and around 1550 non-combat aircraft operational in it. The once favoured Indian armed forces are reportedly not attracting the best talent now. The shortage is severe in the army with just around 11,000 officers in a force of 1.1 million-strong. The navy and air force are also facing a shortage, but not as severe as the army.