

The Hindu, 5 December 2008

Ready to counter aerial attacks: Air Chief

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force on Thursday asserted that it was prepared to ward off attempts of aerial attacks by terrorists. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal F. H. Major, told journalists that the report of such possible attacks was based on a warning received by the government. "We are prepared as usual," he told newsmen after laying a wreath along with the other Service chiefs at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate on the occasion of Navy Day...

The Hindu, 5 December 2008

IAF insists on changes to Tejas

Bangalore: The Indian Air Force has categorically ruled out placing further orders for the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas, with its current configuration. In 2005, the IAF placed an order with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for 16 fighters and four trainers. The then Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said a decision on an additional 20 aircraft was under consideration...

The Indian Express, 6 December 2008

India signs Rs 5,800-cr deal to buy 80 copters from Russia

New Delhi: In the biggest defence deal with Russia in recent times, India will spend a whopping Rs 5,841 crore to procure 80 Mi 17 V 5 medium lift helicopters to boost the existing chopper fleet of the Air Force. The deal, which includes spare parts and armaments for the helicopters, also includes offset obligations worth US\$400 million. Under the contract, the Russian Rosoboronexport organisation will manufacture and export 80 helicopters to India. They will be delivered between 2010 and 2014...

The Times of India, 7 December 2008

Gorshkov to be delivered as per India's requirements: Russia

New Delhi: Russia on Saturday said the price and time of delivery of the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov will depend on India's requirement for the warship. "It depends upon the conclusion of the group which decides now about the requirements or limits of requirements of India to decide upon the time and price," Russian Ambassador Vyacheslav Trubnikov told reporters here...

The Asian Age, 12 December 2008

Armed forces ready for eventuality: IAF Chief

Hyderabad: The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major said the armed forces were prepared for any eventuality in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks. Talking to mediapersons here, the IAF chief did not rule out the military option against the "opponent" but added that the final decision had to come from the government. He was in the city to inaugurate the national seminar on "Transformational Initiatives to Achieve Regional Power Status By 2025" at the College of Defence Management (CDM) on Thursday...

The Asian Age, 15 December 2008

IAF: No intrusion into Pak airspace

New Delhi/Islamabad: The Indian Air Force on Sunday categorically denied Pakistan's assertion that there had been a "technical incursion" by IAF aircraft into Pakistani airspace on Saturday. The staunch IAF denial came as Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari said in Islamabad on Sunday there had only been a "technical incursion (by IAF aircraft) and no incursion as such". Pakistan also went on to downplay the matter, stressing that the "incursion" by the IAF had been "inadvertent"...

The Times of India, 15 December 2008

18 MiGs lost since 2005, says Antony

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force has lost 18 MiG aircraft from its fighter fleet in the last three years. "A total 18 MiG series fighter aircraft have crashed in the past two years and the current financial year till December 5," Defence Minister A K Antony told the Lok Sabha. On the reasons behind the mishaps, he said "the major causes of these crashes are human error, technical defects and bird hits"...

The Asian Age, 18 December 2008

3 MiG-29s at Hindon for defence of Delhi

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force has deployed three MiG-29 fighter aircraft at its Hindon airbase in western UP (near Delhi) for the defence of Delhi, sources have confirmed. The move comes in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks and deterioration of ties with Pakistan. Sources said that the need to station fighter aircraft at Hindon was felt since aircraft would have to be, otherwise, scrambled from Ambala or Bareilly in case of any threat....

The Times of India, 20 December 2008

IAF plan to link civilian, defence radars takes off

New Delhi: After an excruciating 10-year delay, the critical requirement for the country to have a fully-automated network to integrate the wide array of military radars with each other as well as with civilian radars is finally making some progress now. The first of the five nodes of IACCS (integrated air command and control system) will be operational in the western sector facing Pakistan by early-2009, said defence ministry sources on Friday...

The Hindu, 21 December 2008

No airspace violations by India: Fali Major

Hyderabad: Chief of Air Staff of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major on Saturday denied Indian incursions into Pakistan's airspace. He also ruled out any attacks on terrorist training camps in that country. Air Chief Marshal Major was responding to a spate of questions after reviewing the combined graduation parade at the Air Force Academy...

The Asian Age, 21 December 2008

'IAF ready for challenges'

Hyderabad: The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal F.H. Major, on Saturday said that national security can never ever be taken for granted in the backdrop of recent terror strikes in Mumbai. He was speaking after awarding commission to 97 flight cadets during the combined graduation parade held at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal...