

Strategy Page, 1 January 2007

China is offering to upgrade Pakistan's antiquated air-defense system.

China, in cooperation with European partners, is offering to upgrade Pakistan's antiquated air-defense system. India has warplanes, like the Su-30, that can fly higher (over 75,000 feet) than any current Pakistani anti-aircraft weapons can reach. While Pakistan has some F-16s that can intercept, this situation leaves Pakistani targets vulnerable to air-delivered Indian nuclear bombs.

The Hindu, 3 January 2007

US aerospace industry seeks Indian partnerships

London, Jan. 3 (PTI): More than 86 per cent of US civil and military aerospace contractors including Boeing and Lockheed Martin are planning to form joint ventures with Indian aerospace companies this year, according to a survey. The survey conducted by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), the main lobby group for the US aerospace industry comes just a week after AIA officials completed their first-ever trade mission to India between Dec 3-7, accompanied by executives from 13 US aerospace suppliers and several prime contractors including United Technologies corporation, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Pratt and Whitney. Quoting AIA officials, The Jane's Defence Weekly said the purpose of the mission was to help facilitate US defence sales and continue building the US commercial market in India - as part of a broader effort to improve the trading relationship and the overall strategic relationship between the two countries. AIA officials said the US ability to gain entry into the Indian aerospace market will largely depend on the ability of US companies to follow through on their plans to form partnerships with small Indian businesses.

Strategy Page, 4 January 2007

The Indian Air Force Gets Some Respect

January 3, 2007: The Indian Air Force has not lost a single MiG-21 in an accident in the last twelve months. This is a surprise, given that Indian Air Force MiG-21s have had a very high rate of accidents in the past. The current lack of losses is no fluke, though. India has reduced its accident rate by 75 percent over the last 30 years. How is this possible? The answer lies partially in the evolution of the Indian Air Force into one of the premier air fleets in the world today.

Asian times, 4 January 2007

India's voracious appetite for arms

NEW DELHI - News reports this week that India was Israel's biggest arms purchaser in 2006 have once again brought into focus the South Asian country's growing defense requirements. According to observers, India is expected to make purchases of more than US\$10 billion every year over the next decade. Indian Defense Ministry estimates for the 11th Plan show that the country will spend more than \$30 billion importing weapons during 2007-12. "India was Israel's biggest customer, with purchases reaching US\$1.5 billion" in 2006, Major-General Yossi Ben-Hanan, the head of Sibat, the Foreign Defense Assistance and Defense Export Department, has been quoted telling reporters in Jerusalem this week. Israel sold \$1 billion worth of defense equipment to the US in the same period. New Delhi has also concluded a \$220 million deal with Israel for the supply

of 50 Heron drones to the army. Indian Air Force personnel are being trained to operate the Air Early Warning and Control (AWAC) aircraft, of which three are to be delivered soon.

Zee News, 5 January 2007

India eyes first US military aircraft purchase: Air Force

Washington, Dec 16: India has sought information on buying what would be its first US military aircraft, six Lockheed Martin C-130J "Super Hercules" cargo planes, US Air Force officials and others said Friday. A request for details of a possible purchase from the Indian defense ministry was delivered to the US 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 reporters. Two other people familiar with the matter said India had asked about buying six C-130Js in a letter received by US officials Thursday. The four-engine turboprop C-130, built by Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp., is the US Air Force's workhorse cargo and personnel transport aircraft. The "J" is its latest model.

Islamic Republic News Agency, 7 January 2007

IAF Chief says Close watch needed on "intentions" of neighbors

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Marshal, S P Tyagi while emphasizing that economic growth of a country is linked to peace and security, said, a close watch had to be maintained on the "intentions" of neighbors for strategic reasons. "Economic growth is not possible without peace and stability... Nowhere in the world it has been heard historically that there can be economic growth without the presence of military which provides peace and stability," he said at a function here organized for release of the book 'South Asia Defence and Strategic Year Book' by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Underlining that the job of military is prevention of war, he said defence forces can actually be utilized to provide peace and stability that is needed for economic growth.

Business Standard, 11 January 2007

Russia in fray for IAF's \$4bn 126-fighter tender

Russia will contest for the Indian tender for the acquisition of 126 fighters for the Indian Air Force by offering next-generation MiG jets, a top defence official here said. "India will soon announce a tender for a large batch of light fighters. Russia and the MiG Corporation will proactively participate in the tender," Russia's deputy prime minister and defence minister Sergei Ivanov was quoted as saying by state-run Radio Mayak. In the Indian tender, Russia's MiG-35 will compete with US, Swedish and French jet fighters for a \$4 billion deal.

China Daily, 11 January 2007

India launches 4 satellites on 1 rocket

India launched four satellites on a single rocket for the first time yesterday, including one that will be brought back to earth to set the stage for the country to send an astronaut into space. A PSLV-C7 rocket takes off from an Indian Space Research Organisation base in

eastern India Wednesday. The successful launch was also the first after the state-run space agency's plan to put one of its heaviest satellites into space failed last July as the rocket went into a tailspin and disintegrated soon after lift-off. Yesterday, the PSLV-C7 rocket took off from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launchpad in Sriharikota on the southeast coast, carrying two small Indian satellites and one each from Indonesia and Argentina.

The Statesman, 12 January 2007

Air Force help offered to flush out Ulfa

BHUBANESWAR, Jan. 11: Minister of state for defence Mr MM Pallam Raju today asserted that Army and para-military operations against Ulfa would continue and if the forces required assistance from the Air Force, it shall be provided. Talking to reporters at the Sainik School here, Mr Raju said that Ulfa activists were hiding and operating from the soil of Bangladesh. He, however, skirted a question on whether the Bangladesh government was cooperating with India to flush out Ulfa from there. Mr Raju went on to note that Bhutan was very helpful and positive in dealing with the problem. On producing the light combat aircraft, he said the trial was expected to be carried out by 2008 and production by 2009. He also declared that two Sainik Schools would be set up in Mizoram and Nagaland soon.

Indian Express, 13 January 2007

IAF working towards venturing into space: Air Chief Marshal

Chandigarh, January 12: THE Indian Air Force is preparing itself for future space assignments and is learning from the experience of other countries in the field. Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S P Tyagi was here to attend a day-long seminar of Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) on the Air Power in the Himalayan region. He said a core group of officers from different ranks have been formed which is totally devoted to the study of aerospace. The group comprising 10 officers is learning new techniques and systems required for the IAF's future role in space. The officers have also travelled to countries like USA and Russia to get first-hand experience of the developments in these countries in this field. The group is also keeping a tab on the new literature coming on the topic.

The Times of India, 13 January 2007

IAF aircraft, Jet plane almost collide

MUMBAI: Barely three months after a near-miss incident over Rajkot involving an Indian Air Force (IAF) jet and a civilian aircraft, another near-miss occurred last week when a Jet Airways ATR 72-500 came within about two nautical miles "around five seconds away" of a Jaguar strike aircraft. According to sources, on January 4, the Jet Airways' Rajkot-Mumbai flight (9W 3410), which was carrying about 50 passengers, was about 102 nautical miles from Mumbai when the Traffic Collision and Avoidance System (TCAS) in its cockpit set off an alarm

The Hindu, 15 January 2007

Another test of Agni-III in offing: DRDO chief

New Delhi, Jan. 14 (PTI): Indicating that another test of the country's most advanced

nuclear-capable Agni-III missile is in the offing, top defence scientist M Natarajan today said the DRDO was close to developing a supersonic fighter trainer. "Along with undertaking full development of the air force and naval versions of the LCA, we have developed the capability of making in the shortest time of next 10 years a supersonic fighter trainer," Natarajan said during an appearance in the show "In Conversation" on Doordarshan. The second test of the Agni-III was in the offing, he said. The first launch of the missile last year was a failure. The chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation said a multi-mode radar had been mounted on the LCA for the first time. "The LCA will give India a platform to develop a medium combat aircraft of 20 tonnes soon," he said.

Indian Express, 15 January 2007

Lohegaon resurfacing to begin by July

Pune, January 14: The much-needed runway resurfacing of the Lohegaon airport is on track with the Indian Air Force (IAF) confident of finishing work within six months after it starts by July this year. There will be disruption of civil traffic with only a limited number of daily operations continuing till the resurfacing is over. 'We want to complete work in six months or less. Limited number of operations on a daily basis is planned. People will face difficulties, but there is no choice,' Air Officer Commanding in Chief, South Western Air Command, Air Marshal P K Mehra told reporters on the sidelines of an air show at the Lohegaon airport on Sunday morning

Yonhap News, S.Korea, 17 January 2007

India's top military officer due in S. Korea

SEOUL, Jan. 17 (Yonhap) -- India's air force chief plans to visit South Korea Thursday to discuss ways of promoting military ties between the two nations, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said Wednesday. During his four-day stay, Marshal Shashindra Pal Tyagi will meet with Defense Minister Kim Jang-soo, Gen. Kim Kwan-jin, chairman of the JCS, and other senior military officials, it added. Tyagi, the highest-ranking Indian military official to ever visit South Korea, will discuss ways of boosting military cooperation with Kim, the JCS said in a press release. The geopolitical situation on the Korean Peninsula will be also on agenda, it added.

Economic Times, 17 January 2007

Roadmap for civil nuke cooperation on Putin's agenda

NEW DELHI: Russia and India could come up with a roadmap for future civil nuclear cooperation during Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to India later this month. Mr Putin, who is coming as the guest for Republic Day celebrations, will arrive here on January 24. He will be travelling with a business delegation. The head of the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency, Sergei Kiriyenko, is among the officials travelling with him, sources said. Official-level discussions are likely to be held on January 25 with the focus being on civil nuclear cooperation and increasing defence ties. "There will be a roadmap for peaceful expansion of civil nuclear energy which could include expansion of Koodamkulam and some other areas where India is planning to get atomic reactors," Russian ambassador Vyacheslav Ivanovich said on the sidelines of a CII function.

Pakistan Times, 19 January 2007

Indian Air Force Jet Crash; Pilot Killed

JODHPUR: A pilot was killed in an Indian Air Force Jaguar bomber jet crash Thursday in the northern desert state of Rajasthan, officials and witnesses said. The British-built aircraft took off from a military airbase in Bikaner district and reportedly caught fire in midair and exploded on impact with the ground in a village in the tourism town of Jaisalmer, eyewitnesses said, adding the pilot had died. Air force officials said the deep penetration bomber aircraft was on a "live firing exercise" in the desert state. There were no casualties on the ground. Thursday's crash is the second since November last year, when a Russian-built MiG-23 crashed in the western Indian state of Gujarat. The Indian Air Force's ageing fleet has been plagued by crashes, particularly involving the Russian-made MiGs.

New Indian Express, 20 January 2007

PSLV-C7 majestic launch, ISRO phoenix success

Dispersing the clouds of gloom after the failure of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle six months back, the ISRO emerged as a phoenix with the successful launch of PSLV-C7, the tenth flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, writes Kriti Attri. Scaling the new height, on 10th January, the PSLV launched India's most advanced earth-observation satellite, along with two small satellites for foreign customers. At 0923 hrs, PSLV-C7, the tenth flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, situated in Sriharikota.

the Tribune, 20 January 2007

Dhruv makes foray into J&K

Chandigarh, January 19. The indigenously developed Dhruv Advance Light Helicopter is exploring new heights in the mountains of Jammu and Kashmir. The fleet was grounded last year due to manufacturing defects in its rotor. 'We have just re-inducted Dhruv to fly to and from Jammu and Kashmir and are in the process of testing its capability and ability,' Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command Air Marshal A.K. Singh told TNS during his recent visit here. Dhruv is yet to begin regular operations in the Siachen sector though it did fly to the glacier during trials. Manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the twin-engined Dhruv is also getting a new, more powerful engine and a weapons pack to give it more teeth and make it multi-mission capable. Christened Shakti, the new engine developed in collaboration with France, would be about 12-15 per cent more powerful than the existing TM-333 engine. It would increase the helicopter's performance in high altitudes and increase its payload capability by around 300 kg.

Zee News, 21 January 2007

India close to inking deal for US military transport planes

New Delhi, Jan 21: India is close to concluding a contract with the US for acquiring six C-130J super Hercules Transport Planes, the first deal between the two countries for military aircraft, defence sources said. A "request for details" for the deal was submitted to the US Embassy here last month, and this was forwarded to the pentagon so that the

deal could be notified to the US Congress, the sources said here. The deal, once approved by the US Congress and New Delhi, will be a one-off contract between the governments of the two countries under Washington's foreign military sales programme. There will also be an option for six additional Hercules Aircraft manufactured by aviation major Lockheed Martin, the sources said.

The New Nation, 22 January 2007

Myanmar : Next target area for India's counter insurgency moves

The Indian security personnel may step up military crack down against the armed cadres of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and the operation in eastern Assam (now known as Asom) and Arunachal Pradesh bordering Myanmar (also known as Burma) might yield preliminary result, but the absolute outcome, New Delhi believes, can be expected only after the bases of ULFA militants in northern Myanmar are destroyed.

Dawn, 22 January 2007

India to buy six US planes for special forces

NEW DELHI, Jan 21: India was set to finalise a contract with the US for acquiring six C-130J Super Hercules transport planes, the first deal between the two countries for military aircraft, defence sources said. A "request for details" for the deal had been submitted to the US embassy here last month, and this had been forwarded to the Pentagon so that the deal could be notified to the US Congress, the sources said. The deal, once approved by the US Congress and New Delhi, would be a one-off contract between the governments of the two countries under Washington's Foreign Military Sales programme. There would also be an option for six additional Hercules aircraft manufactured by aviation major Lockheed Martin, the sources said. The sale was expected to be finalised in the next few months, they added.

Dawn, 23 January 2007

India to buy six US planes for special forces

NEW DELHI, Jan 21: India was set to finalise a contract with the US for acquiring six C-130J Super Hercules transport planes, the first deal between the two countries for military aircraft, defence sources said. A 'request for details' for the deal had been submitted to the US embassy here last month, and this had been forwarded to the Pentagon so that the deal could be notified to the US Congress, the sources said. The deal, once approved by the US Congress and New Delhi, would be a one-off contract between the governments of the two countries under Washington's Foreign Military Sales programme. There would also be an option for six additional Hercules aircraft manufactured by aviation major Lockheed Martin, the sources said. The sale was expected to be finalised in the next few months, they added.

The Times of India, 24 January 2007

India, Russia may export 1,000 BrahMos

NEW DELHI: The US used almost 800 cruise missiles for its attack on Iraq in 2003. Much cheaper and easier to operate than ballistic missiles, cruise missiles are rapidly becoming the preferred option to wage a war. So much so that there are around 80,000 cruise missiles in the inventories of 75 countries at this moment.

RIA Novosti, Russia, 25 January 2007

Russia to help India test supersonic cruise missile

NEW DELHI, January 24 (RIA Novosti) - The Sukhoi Design Bureau will assist India in testing an air-to-ground version of the Brahmos cruise missile, a RIA Novosti correspondent said Wednesday. Russia and India established in 1998 a joint venture, BrahMos Aerospace, to design, develop, produce and market a supersonic cruise missile. Sea-based and land-based versions of the missile have been successfully tested and put into service with the Indian Army and Navy. The company is currently working on the development of an airborne version of the missile, which could be installed on the Sukhoi-30MKI air-superiority fighters of the Indian Air Force. The Brahmos missile, named after India's Brahmaputra River and Russia's Moscow River, has a range of 180 miles and can carry a conventional warhead of up to 660 pounds. It can hit ground targets flying at an altitude as low as 10 meters (30 feet) and at a speed of Mach 2.8.

The Telegraph, 25 January 2007

Fighter jet for future on Delhi radar

New Delhi, Jan. 24: India has agreed to participate in jointly developing a futuristic fighter aircraft "known in the jargon of aviators as a "fifth generation plane" "with Russia, the Russian deputy Prime Minister and defence minister, Sergei Borisovich Ivanov, said here today. The Russian defence minister's announcement came with a renewal of lobbying by Moscow to sell MiG-35 fighters to India. The MiG-35 is in stiff competition with American and European aviation companies for the Indian Air Force's multi-role combat aircraft deal that could be worth as much as \$9 billion. The global tender for the multi-role combat aircraft is expected to be issued by March, after a year's delay. The contenders - Lockheed Martin with its F-16 Fighting Falcon, Boeing's F/A 18 Superhornet, Saab's JAS 39 Grpen, the French Rafael and the Eurofighter Typhoon , will display the aircraft at next month's air show in Bangalore.

The Tribune, 25 January 2007

Fifth Gen combat aircraft in Putin's sales bag

New Delhi, January 24: Russia's efforts to remain a major defence partner with India came to the fore today with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov announcing here that India was favourably inclined to develop and manufacture a fifth generation strike aircraft with Russia and the two countries would also develop and manufacture a medium multi-role transport aircraft. The two countries will hold talks here tomorrow and both leaders are likely to dwell on a possible agreement on the fifth generation aircraft and make an announcement.

Hindustan Times, 26 January 2007

Mirage fighter crashes in Morena

A MIRAGE-2000 fighter aircraft of Indian Air Force crashed near Baragaon in the Nirar area of Morena district around 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday. The aircraft crashed after it took off from the Maharajpura airbase on the outskirts of Gwalior. Confirming the accident, IG (Chambal range) Vijay Yadav said the a police search team was trying to locate the pilot on board. The debris of plane was scattered but it was difficult to find other details

by the search team due to bad light, Yadav said. There was no loss of life or property on the ground as the plane crashed in an agriculture field outside the village.

RIA Novosti, Russia, 27 January 2007

India buys cutting-edge Russian warplanes

MOSCOW. (RIA Novosti military commentator Viktor Litovkin) - On January 22, Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov arrived in Bangalore on his seventh visit to India. That same day, high-level managers from the MiG Russian Aircraft Corporation demonstrated the multi-purpose Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-29KUB Fulcrum carrier-based fighter to Indian military experts at the Gromov Flight Research Institute in the town of Zhukovsky, outside Moscow. This warplane, now undergoing flight tests, was developed especially for the Indian navy's aircraft carrier "Vikramaditya," formerly called the "Admiral Gorshkov," which was sold to India several years ago and is currently being upgraded at the Sevmash machine-building plant in Severodvinsk.

The Hindu, 28 January 2007

Air Force Chiefs of 37 nations to meet in Delhi

New Delhi, Jan. 28 (PTI): Air Force Chiefs of 37 countries, including major powers like the US, UK, China and Israel, would converge here next month for the first time to discuss the emerging trends in aerospace power. The Air Chiefs would be here to attend a two-day seminar from February 4 hosted by the Indian Air Force on the theme 'Aerospace Power in Tomorrow's World'. The topics they would take up would include transformation of airpower technology into doctrine, strategy and application, emerging geopolitical context of aerospace power, joint operations, integrating aerospace power and surface forces.

BBC News, 29 January 2007

India in aerospace defence plan

India says it is to build an aerospace defence command aimed at preventing possible attacks from space. The head of India's air force outlined the plans saying it would protect both Indian territory and assets. Air Chief Marshal Shashi Tyagi said India was an aerospace power with "trans-oceanic reach" and it was vital it should be able to exploit space. It comes two weeks after China carried out a test in which it used a missile to destroy an old satellite in orbit.

Financial Express, 30 January 2007

Boeing gets India call for field trials of aircraft

US aircraft manufacturer Boeing has been invited by the Indian Navy for field trials of the \$133-million P-8I multi-mission maritime reconnaissance aircraft. The trials of the P-8I aircraft, to be taken place in Goa and Vizag soon, are expected to replace the navy's 8-10 TU-142 Bear aircraft that are being phased out after negotiations with Russia and Israel to retrofit them were called off. Successful procurement of these aircraft will certainly contribute to India's capabilities, as its naval responsibilities undergo rapid growth. Boeing has been urging India to broaden rules of its offset policy relating to the deal to allow companies to look across the nation's aviation business, including its

defence and commercial aircraft activities.

The Times of India, 31 January 2007

Major formally named next air force chief

NEW DELHI: It's official now. Confirming Monday's TOI report, the government has formally announced the name of Air Marshal Fali Homi Major as the next IAF chief. When Air Marshal Major takes over the IAF reins on March 31 after Air Chief Marshal S P Tyagi's superannuation, he will become the first-ever helicopter pilot to command the force. The post has strictly been the preserve of fighter pilots for the last 75 years. "I am absolutely thrilled...it feels just great," Air Marshal Major told TOI from Shillong, where he heads the Eastern Air Command at present. As the 21st chief of IAF, he will serve till May 2009.

Hindustan Times, 31 January 2007

Third Indo-French air exercise to begin on Feb 7

For the first time in 75 years since the inception of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the skies above Bengal will be set ablaze by the spectacular display of fiery Mirage 2000-05, considered one of the best multi-role combat jets in the world, as the French Air Force (FAF) tangos with its Indian counterparts at Kalaikunda air base next week. Ex-Garuda 2007 - the third in the series of joint Indo-French air exercises - will begin on February 7 and continue for a week, as part of the ongoing International Defence Cooperation.