

The Hindu, 11 July 2004

**Defence Minister greets Air Force team**

NEW DELHI, JULY 10. The Defence Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, has sent his best wishes to a large contingent that will take part in the Indian Air Force's (IAF) first-ever international exercise outside the Indian sub-continent beginning next week. The month-long interaction with foreign forces at Alaska in the United States was the first approval of this nature by the new Government. The IAF contingent comprising 200 personnel, six Jaguar fighter jets, two IL-76 transport planes and two new IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft has already arrived at the U.S. Air Force's sprawling training base at Alaska. The contingent reached Alaska after passing through four continents — West Asia, North Africa, Europe and Canada — covering 19,000 kms. The morale of the IAF team on the eve of "Exercise Cooperative Cope Thunder 04-01" is upbeat after the home team bested the U.S. Air Force side during mock battles at Gwalior earlier this year. According to the international military journals, the U.S. F-15 C fighters turn in a "poor showing" during "dissimilar air combat training" with IAF's Sukhoi-30 MK. The exercise is intended to make pilots combat worthy

Newindpress.com, 16 July 2004

**192 killed in MiG-21 crashes since 1971 (IANS)**

NEW DELHI: A total of 157 Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots and 35 civilians had been killed in crashes involving Russian-made MiG-21 jets since 1971, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here on Wednesday. These crashes had resulted in losses amounting to Rs.17.68 billion (\$384.93 million) for the IAF, he said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. Mukherjee said there had "been a definite decline in the number of MiG aircraft accidents in the recent past".

The Times of India, 17 July 2004

**MiG jets to be phased out by 2017 (IANS)**

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force (IAF) would phase out its Russian-made MiG-

series of jets between 2006 and 2017, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Thursday. "The IAF is in the process of phasing out the MiG-21, MiG-23 and MiG-25 fighter aircraft depending on the calendar life/total technical life of the aircraft," he said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. "These aircraft will be phased out from service between 2006 and 2017." Mukherjee did not say when the IAF's MiG-27s and MiG-29s would be phased out.

The Hindu, 17 July 2004

### **US plans sale of aircraft self-protection system to India**

Washington, July 16. (PTI): India is likely to get a USD 40 million aircraft protection system from the United States for use in the protection of the Head of State. The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency yesterday notified Congress of a possible sale to India of aircraft self-protection systems as well as associated equipment. The total value, if all options are exercised, could be as high as 40 mn dollars, the agency said in a statement here. "India will install the self-protection systems on three new Boeing 737 aircraft. They will use the system for the movement and protection of their Head of State," it said.

India will have no difficulty absorbing these systems into its armed forces, it said adding the proposed sale will not affect the basic military balance in the region. The agency said India had requested three aircraft self-protection systems consisting of three components: AN/AAQ-24 Large Aircraft Infrared Counter-measures System, AN/ALE-47H Counter-measure Dispensing System and AN/ALQ-211 Early Warning Suite Controller and Radar Warning. Also included are associated support equipment, spare and repair parts, publications, training personnel and training equipment besides technical assistance.

The Tribune, 21 July 2004

### **India working on hypersonic plane (Girja Shankar Kaura)**

HAVING tasted success in the field of developing aircraft, with Light Combat Aircraft Tejas already a success in trials and the light helicopters already achieving success in the market, India is now looking at developing a hypersonic plane, which would put the country in the elite league. Although India is already in the league of a handful of countries which have the capability to develop, test and then manufacture aircraft, this having been achieved after the success of Tejas, the success in the hypersonic field would be an achievement matched only by a few. Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee recently disclosed that Indian defence scientists were involved in the development of a hypersonic aircraft.

The Tribune, 21 July 2004

### **Jaguar crashed due to engine fault; One more found defective (Girja Shankar Kaura)**

New Delhi, July 20: The experts here have found fault in engines of the just two Jaguar aircraft among the entire fleet, which had been brought to ground recently for check-up at the Ambala air base. IAF officials here said the experts called in specially, from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and British Aerospace (BAE) along with the air force engineers, carried out intensive checks on the entire fleet stationed at Ambala base and found defect in just one aircraft besides the one which had crashed leading to the aircraft being brought to the ground for inspection.

The Tribune, 21 July 2004

### **Jaguars face problems (Girja Shankar Kaura)**

Ten per cent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) deep penetration strike aircraft, Jaguars, are facing problems of low thrust. making take-offs risky. According to reports, the low thrust and low power has been reported in the Jaguar's Adour engines. The snags reported in multi-role fighters have led to a

series of crashes recently. The problem has been detected following a court of inquiry blaming the low thrust in engines for some of the crashes. The government had ordered a study in September 2002 to suggest corrective measures. The study team comprising experts from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the Directorate General of Quality Assurance and Rolls Royce, the manufacturers of the Adour engines, had come up with some measures to upgrade the engines.

Newindpress.com, 23 July 2004

**MiG aircraft safety strengthened: Air Marshal Patkar**

COIMBATORE: Air crashes involving MiG aircraft have come down in recent times following the rectification of technical snags in them, said Air Marshal Vijay Patkar, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command, Nagpur. "The Indian Air Force has identified the technical snags and succeeded in rectifying the same", he said adding that the engines of the aircraft would be upgraded in the next few years to extend their technical life.

The Telegraph, 25 July 2004

**India in US wargame doctorate sight (Sujan Datta)**

New Delhi, July 24: The US defence establishment is working to involve the Indian Air Force with its most modern aircraft, the Sukhoi 30MKI, in high-level wargames called the Red Flag Exercises. The Red Flag Exercises are reckoned by air forces as the doctorate of wargames. The Red Flag exercises held at ranges in Nevada are based in Nellis Air Force base. Its purpose is to train pilots from the US and Nato countries for real combat. A contingent of six Jaguars, two refuellers and transporters is currently in the US participating in Exercise Cope Thunder. This is the first time the Indian Air Force has sent fighters to the US. But before the IAF and the USAF get cracking the Red Flag Exercises, the India-US executive steering group one of the bodies under the Defence Policy Group that oversees and

determines military relations between the two countries will be holding its next meeting in Hawaii.

The Cope India exercise, in which IAF and USAF fighters participated for the first time in 40 years, is likely to be followed up in 2005 with even bigger wargames that could involve a full squadron of fighters and AWACs apart from mid-air refuellers. The possible inclusion of an IAF contingent in the Red Flag exercises would also mark a shift in the military-to-military ties between India and the US. While it is mostly with the US Pacific Command that the Indian military engages, the Red Flag exercises are conducted by the USAF Air Combat Command.

The Hindu, 26 July 2004

**India, Japan engage in defence dialogue (PS Suryanarayana)**

SINGAPORE, JULY 25. India and Japan "are getting to know each other, in a macro sense", through an intensive dialogue in the defence sector. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy, told The Hindu in Singapore today that the ongoing process, undertaken to "break the ice" in interactions in the sensitive air-defence field, was related entirely to "professional issues". The IAF chief called on the Director-General of the Japanese Defence Agency, Shigeru Ishiba, who is the Defence Minister, besides holding talks with the Chief of Staff of the Japan Air Self-Defence Force, Yoshimitsu Tsumagari.

The Tribune, 27 July 2004

**MiG-21s very capable, says air chief**

New Delhi, July 26: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy today defended the MiG-21 aircraft in the IAF fleet, several of which have crashed over the years, saying though modernisation was required, these war-planes were very capable. Pointing to the US Air Force report on the recent joint exercises at Gwalior, he said it was testament to plane's and the force's capabilities. He said the American forces had acknowledged that the MiG-21s

and their operational capabilities, as they had witnessed during the exercise, were equivalent to the US F-15 fighters.

The Times of India, 28 July 2004

**Indian Top Guns blaze US skies (IANS)**

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE (Alaska): An Indian Air Force (IAF) Jaguar fighter jet roared into the cold clear skies, simulating combat manoeuvres along with fighter aircraft from the US and several other countries as part of joint air exercise taking place in frozen Alaska. Two hundred IAF personnel are participating in the fortnight-long annual exercise that imitates a near realistic scenario. Cooperative Cope Thunder 04-01, which kicked off Monday, is a multination combat operation exercise that allows allied forces to familiarise themselves with the other country's combat tactics and capabilities. Embassy sources said the exercise would "help us validate our concepts and operational philosophy. It would also provide a good opportunity for professional interaction with the other air forces".

The Times of India, 30 July 2004

**IAF's poor joke: Sukhoi**

PUNE: A day after a Sukhoi-30MkI made an emergency landing at the Lohegaon air base, the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday said it was nothing but an emergency drill carried out in the normal flying process. While local IAF officials said the emergency landing was done as a precautionary measure, the IAF spokesman in the ministry of defence, Squadron Leader Mahesh Upasani, told TNN such simulated emergencies are being carried out to train pilots for any eventualities during flying.

The Telegraph, 31 July 2004

**Reform gong goes: call for joint forces (Sujan Datta)**

New Delhi, July 30: The senior-most armed forces commander today sounded the bell for reforms in the Indian military that seek to mould the army, navy and the air force into a free-flowing integrated fighting machine. Admiral Madhvendra Singh

retired today as chairman, chiefs of staff committee, with an appeal to break down the compartments in which India's land, water and aviation forces have traditionally operated in. He said the armed forces should now evolve a joint operational doctrine stressing on unified air, land, sea and special operations throughout the theatre of war. Admiral Singh's vision of a force fit for future wars shakes the Indian military from its traditional British moorings and draws heavily on the concept of jointness developed and practised by the Americans in successive operations. The establishment of the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff in the Indian military should set the armed forces on the road to jointness.

Admiral Singh today passed the baton as chairman, chiefs of staff committee, to successor Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy with a reminder that he had just overseen the beginning of a reform process and it was up to the next commanders to take that to fruition. Admiral Singh, among whose achievements is the formulation of a maritime doctrine that was circulated in the last month of his tenure, favoured the laying down of principles of jointness for all the three armed forces.