

The Asian Age, 1 May 2008

Hawk 132 crashes at Bidar base

New Delhi: A brand new Hawk 132 Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed at the Bidar Air Force Station in Karnataka shortly after noon on Tuesday but the pilots escaped unhurt in the incident. The IAF has ordered an enquiry. The aircraft crashed on the tarmac at about 12.40 pm on Tuesday after it made an abortive bid to takeoff, IAF official sources said...

The Indian Express, 3 May 2008

Hawk fleet remains grounded as investigations enter fifth day

New Delhi: The latest aircraft in the Indian Air Force (IAF) inventory remained on the ground for the fourth consecutive day as investigators tried to figure out the reason behind Tuesday's downing of a Hawk fighter trainer seconds after it took off at the Bidar airbase. IAF confirmed that the entire fleet of 10 Hawks remains on the ground, pending clearance from the air safety directorate that is investigating the crash...

The Indian Express, 7 May 2008

IAF clears Hawk trainers to fly again

New Delhi: India's newly-acquired fleet of Hawk trainers, which had been grounded after a crash at the Bidar airbase last week, have been cleared to fly again, even as the Indian Air Force (IAF) is yet to determine the cause of the accident. Officials confirmed that the trainers resumed flying operations on Tuesday, indicating that no major technical fault has been identified in the British origin aircraft. However, the investigation has not yet determined whether it was a human error or a technical fault that brought down a trainer on April 29, while it was taking off on a routine sortie...

The Indian Express, 13 May 2008

Woman IAF flying cadet killed in trainer crash

New Delhi: In yet another crash involving a trainer aircraft, a woman flying cadet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) was killed when her HPT 32 aircraft crashed during a routine training flight near Hyderabad on Monday afternoon. IAF officials said Flying Cadet Deepika Sharma was conducting a solo flight during the first stage flying training when her aircraft plunged to the ground minutes after take-off...

The Indian Express, 13 May 2008

UK sends supplies for Hawks

New Delhi: With 12 tonnes of vital supplies and spares for the Hawk trainers arriving from UK on Monday, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said the newly-acquired fleet is operational and its fighter training program on the new trainers would begin as scheduled. Indicating that the tussle over spare parts with the original manufacturers, which has led to a low 40 per cent operational rate of the trainers, has been resolved, the IAF said large quantities of spares have arrived at Bidar on Monday along with two new trainers...

The Asian Age, 14 May 2008

Flight training on Hawks resumes

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force announced that flight training has been resumed on its

just acquired Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers, declared operational after safety inspections. "Hawks have resumed training operations," an IAF spokesman said as the force received two more jets, taking its number in the IAF's armoury to 12. The trainers were grounded "temporarily" to carry out checks following the crash of one of the newly acquired Hawks on April 29...

The Indian Express, 18 May 2008

A little turbulence in the Air Force over the love story of an officer and an air man

Chandigarh: The Indian Air Force is in a bit of turbulence after a woman Air Force officer, a Flight Lieutenant, has said that she wants to marry a junior, a Sergeant, a non-commissioned officer. In the IAF's strict hierarchy, that's a problem and tradition seems to be standing in the way. So Air Headquarters, Delhi, has thought it best to conduct a "survey among lady officers" in each air force station across the country. Objective: find out whether such a marriage should be allowed...

The Times of India, 18 May 2008

Pak, China threat: IAF to deploy Sukhois

New Delhi: With Pakistan getting new F-16s from US and JF-17 "Thunder" jets from China, IAF now has plans to progressively deploy its most potent Sukhoi-30MKI fighters on the western front. This comes after IAF identified Tezpur and other bases in the North-East to also base the multi-role Sukhoi-30MKIs as a safeguard on the eastern front against China, which has gone in for a massive upgrade of airbases in Tibet and other areas near the Line of Actual Control...

The Indian Express, 21 May 2008

Op-Ed: IAF, know yourself

Sometimes seemingly innocuous events can trigger major changes - burglars breaking into the Watergate hotel, Swedish radio breaking the news about kickbacks in the Bofors deal, among others. A relationship between a woman officer and a male sergeant in the Indian Air Force should not, ordinarily, fall into that category. But it yet might - and that should be welcomed. This episode could force the armed forces to reform its archaic manpower policies. It also throws up questions about the conflict between democratic aspirations, societal change and organisational imperatives, that need to be debated and addressed - not just by senior military officials but also by the wider civil society...

Tribune, 25 May 2008

IAF's Sarang ready for Berlin, UK air shows

New Delhi, May 24: The IAF's helicopter aerobatics display team 'Sarang' will be performing at the Berlin air show and also at four other air shows in the UK in the coming weeks. The first display starts on May 27 at Berlin where India is a partner country at the show. The 'Sarang' team of 14 officers and 32 airmen, led by the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Shashank Misra, is slated to perform at Berlin. Subsequently, the team will participate in various displays in England starting with the Biggin Hill air show at Biggin Hill, an airfield just south of London, on June 7

Hindu, 31 May 2008

IAF copters take part in Berlin air show

BERLIN: HAL Dhruv helicopters belonging to the IAF took part in the International Aerospace Exhibition at the Schoenefeld airport, near Berlin, on Friday. The biannual show, with India as guest of honour, the third biggest in Europe after those in Britain and France, is expected to draw more than 1,100 exhibitors from 37 countries