

The Asian Age, 4 November 2008

India, China may take part in joint air drill

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force and Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) may conduct joint air exercises in the near future, sources have indicated. The subject of joint air exercises is believed to have come up during the on-going visit of IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major to China that began on Sunday. Air Chief Marshal Major met Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) chief Gen. Xu Qiliang in Beijing and "discussed bilateral issues". He will also be meeting Chinese defence minister Gen...

The Times of India, 4 November 2008

India, China aim to hold regular joint exercises

New Delhi: Despite differences, the Elephant and the Dragon are getting all set for a full-fledged military tango now. India and China are stepping up the pace of their bilateral confidence building measures, with joint exercises and regular exchanges on the anvil. On Monday, even as Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta hosted his Chinese counterpart Admiral Wu Shengli here, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal F H Major was in Beijing holding talks with his People's Liberation Army air force chief General Xu Qiliang to promote bilateral defence cooperation...

The Times of India, 7 November 2008

IAF proposes setting up of National Aeronautical Commission

New Delhi: Indian Air Force (IAF) has mooted a proposal to set up a National Aeronautical Commission (NAC) for developing indigenous capabilities in the field of aviation. "IAF has proposed setting up of a National Aeronautical Commission, an umbrella organisation, to oversee development of capabilities and niche technology in aviation," IAF Vice Chief Air Marshal P V Naik said while addressing third International Conference on Energising Indian Aero Space Industry here on Friday...

The Indian Express, 11 November 2008

'Sukhoi 30 outshone in US aerial exercise'

New Delhi: In what could prove to be a major embarrassment for the Indian establishment, an assessment by a US Air Force (USAF) pilot who participated in the Red Flag joint exercise in Nevada in August claims that the SU 30 MKI, India's most modern aircraft, performed poorly in comparison with its US counterparts. The Su 30 MKI was outshone by US Air Force pilots and lost in one on one aerial combat with the older generation F 15 fighters, the review which was put up on a video sharing website last week, claims...

The Indian Express, 13 November 2008

Trainer MiG crashes in Assam, pilots safe

Guwahati: A trainer MiG aircraft crashed in Sivasagar district of Upper Assam on Wednesday morning, but the two pilots managed to bail out and land safely with the help of parachutes, official sources said. The crash occurred at around 10.25 am and the aircraft was later located near Erenga-Goriapathar village under Mathurapur police station...

The Hindu, 15 November 2008

IAF officer killed in naxalite attack on copter

Raipur: A non-commissioned officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) was killed and a Squadron Leader injured when suspected naxalites attacked their helicopter as soon as it took off from Bijapur in South Bastar. The helicopter was airlifting electronic voting machines and polling staff when it was attacked. Sergeant Mustafa Ali

received a bullet in the head and died on the spot while the pilot, Squadron Leader T.K. Chaudhury also received bullet injuries when the helicopter was fired upon from the rear with light machine guns...

The Indian Express, 18 November 2008

Exercise with China in 2 yrs: Air Chief

Nagpur: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major on Monday said that following his fruitful visit to China recently the possibility of a joint exercise with the Chinese Air Force has become stronger. "We are hoping to have them within two years," he said. The Air Chief was in the city to attend the commanders' meet at Headquarters, Air Force Maintenance Command. "The visit will lead to more Air Force to Air Force exchanges between the two countries," he added...

The Indian Express, 18 November 2008

MiG-23 crashes in north Bengal, pilots safe

Siliguri/New Delhi: A MiG-23 trainer fighter aircraft from the Hashimara airbase of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday crashed near Alipurduar in north Bengal, but the two pilots bailed out to safety. This is the seventh IAF aircraft crash this year and the third MiG to crash in the Dooars region of north Bengal. The two pilots - Wing Commander Sisodia and Flight Lieutenant Karthik - were on a training sortie on the MiG-23 twin-seater jet when they took off from Hashimara in Jalpaiguri district at 12.20 pm...

The Indian Express, 19 November 2008

Red Flag: US Air Force says sorry for pilot's comments

New Delhi: Distancing itself from the comments of one of its pilots that India performed poorly at the Red Flag joint exercise in Nevada this August, the United States Air Force has sent a letter to Air HQ saying that they were personal views and are not shared by it. The letter, addressed to the team coordinator of the Indian contingent to the premier exercise, was sent by the USAF after a leaked video showed one of its pilots telling a group of retired officers that India's latest SU 30 MKI fighters were outshone by US Air Force pilots and lost in one-on-one aerial combat with the older generation F15 fighters...

The Times of India, 25 November 2008

IAF devises new test for aspiring pilots

New Delhi: Youngsters keen on becoming IAF pilots will now have to undergo a new PABT (pilot aptitude battery test) from 2009 onwards, which will test their "cognitive processing abilities" as well as psychomotor coordination skills. "Till now, the PABT tested only psychomotor abilities or hand-eye coordination. But with induction of very high performance aircraft like Sukhoi-30MKIs or even Mirage-2000s, we have devised a new PABT," DRDO chief controller Dr W Selvamurthy said on Monday...