

The Asian Age, 3 October 2008

### **IAF light copters at leh for troops**

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is likely to deploy a squadron of Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) soon at Leh in Ladakh, which will help swift movement of troops in the border area. The ALHs have been designed and developed by the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL). Sources said that the likely stationing of ALHs in Ladakh would boost swift movement of troops in any eventuality and also help other functions such as casualty evacuation and operation of air-ambulances...

The Asian age, 4 October 2008

### **IAF to get radar to plug gaps**

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force is acquiring a large number of radars, both of high-power and low intensity, to plug "gaps" in the country's airspace, including in southern India. Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major said that the IAF had "filled gaps (in the airspace) in the southern peninsula". He said the IAF had already started integrating its radars with the civil aviation traffic as well and the IAF and civil aviation authorities had started the process of managing "civil and military air traffic jointly"...

The Hindu, 6 October 2008

### **IAF airbases to get a facelift**

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has embarked on a plan to modernise its major air bases, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Homi Major said here on Friday. The IAF had also installed surveillance devices to make air bases more secure in the wake of terrorist incidents and the creeping urbanisation around their peripheries. The IAF had floated a global tender to modernise 39 airfields to a standard that would take every type of aircraft...

The Asian Age, 6 October 2008

### **IAF not ready for woman fighter pilots**

Shillong: With the ethos of the armed forces being overly male, it will take some more time till Indian women don the uniform and the gear of a fighter pilot and fly the combat aircraft for the country's defence. "There is no denying that the woman staff has expressed desire to fly fighter jets, but the Indian Air Force is not ready as of now," Air Chief Marshal F.H. Major, who was recently in Shillong, told reporters here...

The Asian Age, 8 October 2008

### **Windmills get painted for IAF security**

New Delhi: Windmills along the Gujarat coast are being painted a bright fluorescent orange in order to prevent any danger to Indian Air Force fighter aircraft that land and take-off from the Bhuj, Naliya and Jamnagar airbases in Gujarat, sources have said. Scores of windmills, which extend up to a height of 100 to 150 feet, are situated along the coastline of Gujarat and were earlier white in colour...

The Asian Age, 9 October 2008

### **Fighters to be back at Hindon**

New Delhi: Fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force will once again operate from the Hindon airbase in western UP (near Delhi) after more than a decade due to decreased bird activity, sources confirmed on Wednesday. The Hindon airbase will once again become a base from where fighter aircraft will ensure the defence of New Delhi. Sources said that fighter aircraft used to operate from the Hindon airbase till the mid-1990s when the high level of bird activity prompted the IAF to discontinue

fighter aircraft operations from Hindon...

The Times of India, 15 October 2008

**US cos quit IAF's attack helicopter bids**

New Delhi: Two US chopper manufacturers, Bell and Boeing, have opted out of the Indian Air Force's tenders for attack helicopters, giving a severe blow to India's effort to get six global companies to participate in the bids. "The US companies have refused to submit their bids for two very different reasons and have already explained their decision to the Indian defence top brass," a Defence Ministry official said here today...

The Asian Age, 25 October 2008

**Not enough radar with IAF: CAG**

New Delhi: The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, in its report, has stated that the Indian Air Force "holds less than adequate number of surveillance radar needed for providing efficient and reliable detection capabilities for ensuring a credible air defence." Criticising the ministry of defence (MoD) for not ensuring timely acquisition of the three additional high-power static radar to provide effective air surveillance," the CAG report revealed that "the shortage of medium-power radar needed for ground control and intercept was as high as 53 per cent of the projected requirement"...

The Indian Express, 26 October 2008

**Antony: gaps in air surveillance network a serious problem'**

Bangalore: Defence Minister AK Antony has admitted that there are glaring gaps in India's air surveillance network due to a severe shortage of equipment, a day after a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report revealed that the IAF is facing a 47 per cent shortage of radars. Terming the shortage a 'serious problem', the minister said the Air Force had been lagging behind on equipment since 1991 due to a 'variety of reasons' but steps were being taken to boost force levels...

The Indian Express, 26 October 2008

**'LCA here to stay, IAF to induct 140 fighters'**

Bangalore, October 25 : It had been grounded even before it took flight after the Air Force questioned its fighting capabilities but the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) seems to have got a new lease of life. Declaring that the project would not be abandoned, Defence Minister A K Antony announced on Saturday that the country would purchase a total of 140 aircraft to form seven fighter squadrons of the IAF...

The Asian Age, 28 October 2008

**Nod to new runway**

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force has given the green signal now for construction of a second runway at the new Bengaluru Greenfield airport after raising initial objections, sources have confirmed. A meeting was held at the Cabinet Secretariat on Monday in New Delhi to discuss plans to build a second runway at the swanky new Bengaluru airport. Sources said that the new second runway is likely to be built to the south of the current runway...

The Times of India, 28 October 2008

**CAG punches holes in IAF training of pilots**

New Delhi: IAF pilots who become "top-guns" do so despite the system, grappling as they have to with obsolete trainers and simulators, outdated training methodologies and plans. It, in fact, is a marvel that IAF pilots can hold their own against American,

French and British pilots, as recent air combat exercises have shown, given all this. Even as training of the first batch of rookie fighter pilots on the newly-inducted Hawk AJTs (advanced jet trainers) is currently underway at the Bidar airbase, the Comptroller and Auditor General has blasted the entire training process in the force...