

IAF workhorse MiG-21 makes final sorties at Nal

■ By Ashish Gaur
BIKANER, Aug 25 (PTI)

THE Indian Air Force's MiG-21 fighter jets, the backbone of its combat fleet for over 6 decades, made their last operational flights at the Nal Air Force Station in Bikaner, a month ahead of the formal retirement ceremony to be held in Chandigarh on September 26.

As part of the symbolic farewell, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh flew solo sorties of the MiG-21 from Nal on August



Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, flies a MiG-21 ahead of its official retirement, at Nal Air Base in Bikaner. (ANI)

18-19, marking an emotional moment for the force and for generations of pilots trained on the Russian-origin fighter jet that served the force for 62 years.

"The MiG-21 has been the workhorse of the IAF since its induction in the 1960s and we are still continuing with it. It is one of the most mass-produced supersonic fighter jets in history, with over 11,000 aircraft operated by more than 60 countries," Air Chief Marshal Singh told PTI. "My first experience with MiG-21

was in 1985, when I flew the Type-77 variant at Tezpur. It was a revelation -- agile, highly maneuverable, and simple in design, though it required some initial training. It's an amazing aircraft to fly. It will be missed by all who flew it."

Noting the jet's impressive performance as an interceptor, the IAF chief said, "At maximum reheat, it could climb more than 250 metres per second. It was made to intercept, and in that role, it served India remarkably well.

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India, Fiji resolve to boost defence ties

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (PTI)

INDIA and Fiji on Monday firmed up a broad action plan to ramp up defence ties and vowed to work jointly for a peaceful Indo-Pacific following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Fijian counterpart Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka.

The two sides inked seven

pacts providing for enhancing cooperation in a range of areas.

India and Fiji may be oceans apart, but our aspirations sail in the same boat, Modi said with the Fijian leader by his side.

Rabuka arrived in Delhi on Sunday on a three-day trip. It is his first visit to India in his capacity as the Prime Minister of the South Pacific nation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Fijian counterpart Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka during a meeting at the Hyderabad House, in New Delhi, on Monday. (PTI)

Canadian PM announces new military aid for Ukraine

OTTAWA, Aug 25 (IANS)

VISITING Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv new military assistance for Ukraine, according to a news release issued by the Prime Minister's Office. The funding of 2 billion Canadian dollars (\$1.45 billion) was committed at the June G7 Summit held in Canada's Kananaskis.

About 835 million Canadian dollars (\$603 million) of the total are planned to procure a range of critical equipment for Ukraine, including armored vehicles, medical equipment, additional drone capabilities and other urgently needed equipment and supplies for Ukraine, the release said. About 680 mn Canadian dollars (\$491 mn) are for the purchase of military equipment sourced from the US to strengthen Ukraine's air defence capabilities and provide other urgently needed military assistance, the release said.

US F-35 fighter jets deployed to South Korea to join drills

SEOUL, Aug 25 (IANS)

US F-35 fighter jets have been deployed to the Korean Peninsula to join the ongoing summertime combined exercise between South Korea and the US, an official at US Forces Korea (USFK) said on Monday. The deployment of reportedly some 10 F-35



variants comes as the allies' annual Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) exercise is under way for an 11-day run that will conclude Thursday. Both the F-35A and F-35B, respec-

tively assigned to the US Air Force and the US Marine Corps, have been deployed to Kunsan Air Base under the temporary deployment, according to the USFK official. During their deployment, the US fighter jets were set to train with South Korean counterparts, with a focus on defensive counterair maneuvers and strengthening integrity, to enhance their combined readiness and deter potential threats in the region.



Youngsters take part in the Children's Day Parade, part of the Notting Hill Carnival celebration in London. (AP/PTI)

Tri-Service seminar on war, warfare to begin today

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (PTI)

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND tri-Service seminar on war and warfare for military officers to share first-hand operational insights and reflections from modern battlefields is all set to kick off on Tuesday.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan will address the two-

day seminar on the opening day of 'Ran Samwad', and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will deliver the plenary address on the final day, the defence ministry said. The seminar at Army War College, Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Madhya Pradesh brings serving military professionals to the forefront of dialogue on strategy. "Through meaningful dialogue,

it will explore themes ranging from information warfare and grey zone threats to integrated operations and future combat technologies," it said. A few joint doctrines and the "Technology Perspective & Capability Roadmap (TPCR)" will also be released during the event.

"The seminar aspires to evolve into a prominent forum

for addressing global security challenges while reinforcing India's security priorities. It reflects a growing recognition of the need for strategic autonomy, inter-service synergy and credible military discourse that speaks not only about Indian realities, but also of the broader international security environment," it said.

India, Japan strengthen energy cooperation via Ministerial dialogue

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (PTI)

INDIA and Japan have agreed to expand cooperation on carbon capture, utilization, and storage green chemicals, biofuels, and advanced technologies in the energy sector.

A Ministerial-level India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held on Monday through video conferencing, co-chaired by Manohar Lal, Minister of Power and Muto Yoji, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.

The two nations have been deepening their partnership in the energy sector under the Japan-India Clean Energy Partnership, with a focus on energy security, clean energy transition, and addressing climate change, a Power Ministry statement said. Both sides have institutionalized this cooperation



through the India-Japan Energy Dialogue and sectoral Joint Working Groups (JWGs). Ministries of power, new & renewable energy, oil and coal made detailed presentations on the progress achieved under their respective JWGs and outlined future cooperation pathways.

The Ministers from India and Japan reaffirmed commitment to energy security and inclusive growth. They welcomed progress in areas like energy efficiency clean

hydrogen, ammonia, renewable energy.

They also agreed to expand cooperation on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage green chemicals, biofuels, and advanced technologies in the energy sector. The Ministers also emphasized that the India-Japan partnership will continue to play a pivotal role in advancing secure, resilient, and sustainable energy systems in the Indo-Pacific region.