

Mig-21

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Mig-21 Latest News

The Indian Air Force is set to retire Russian-made MiG-21 Bison fighter jets by September, marking an end of an era for one of its longest-serving aircraft.

About Mig-21

- It is a **supersonic jet fighter aircraft**.
- It was designed by the Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau (OKB) of the erstwhile **Soviet Union**.
- First **inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1963**, the MiG-21 is **India's first-ever supersonic jet**.
- India's **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** built **657 MiG-21s** under a license that was granted by Russia.
- It is the **second most produced jet aircraft in the world**.
- Its **NATO reporting name is 'Fishbed'**. Other **nicknames include 'Balalaika'** because its planform resembles the stringed musical instrument of the same name; **'Ołówek'** (Polish for 'pencil'), due to the shape of its fuselage; and **'Ăn Bạc'**, meaning 'silver swallow' in Vietnamese.

- The MiG-21 has **seen more conflicts than any other fighter** in history.
- The MiG-21 **participated in nearly every war or conflict India has faced since 1963**, the **1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan wars**, the **1999 Kargil War**, the **Balakot airstrikes in 2019**, and most recently, **Operation Sindoor**.

Source: N18

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