

Aero India 2001

Bangalore's fourth air show opened at the Yelahanka AF Base on 7 February 2001. In many ways Aero India 2001 has the same "look and feel" as Aero India 1998 (held in December 1998). The same difficulty in getting in, the same layouts for the three major exhibition halls, and practically the same arrangement to park the aircraft and view their flying displays.

But we have clear skies this time, and it gets quite warm in the afternoon (Aero India 1998 was cloudy and cool). The flying displays, one thought, were a shade better in 1998 when the Sukhoi 30, which was flying for the first time at a Bangalore air show, simply took your breath away. The Sukhoi continues to be the star again in 2001 but, since we've seen the fighter before, it doesn't have the same mesmerising effect. And, sadly, the Mirage 2000 isn't flying this time. Thankfully, the [Surya Kiran](#) aerobatic team is still around and its daredevil pilots continue to do some amazing formation flying.

One of the surprises at this year's flying display has been the agility and grace displayed by the small trainer and transport aircraft. The Falcon 200 is undeniably beautiful as it silently courses through the skies and performs flying manoeuvres which one doesn't normally associate with such aircraft. The Skytruck from Poland is quite a marvel too with its multi-role capability and its ability to take off practically as soon as it starts moving. The HANSA (VT-HNS) flew beautifully once again displaying its wonderful repertoire. It was flown by that magician in a pilot's uniform: Wg Cdr P Ashoka.

The exhibition halls are, as always, very crowded. There is a strong Russian and Israeli presence this time, but we have fewer stalls from USA and France. The NAL and C-CADD stalls are the best we have had so far. At the C-CADD stall one found a lot of interest and curiosity about the SARAS. The 3D model of the fullscale fatigue test facility at the NAL stall looks beautiful and the multimedia presentation on NAL, displayed on a big screen, is getting a fair share of attention as well.

After four air shows, one gets the impression that Bangalore has now "learned the ropes" of this business. The organisers must now try to do something different in 2003 so that the deja vu feeling is dispelled. Indeed one is already looking forward to 2003 -- we might see the LCA's prowess in full view (that would be a truly memorable moment) and we shall, of course, see C-CADD's SARAS take its rightful place in the Indian skies.



Sukhoi continues to be the star again in 2001



Surya Kiran pilots continue to do some amazing formation flying.



Falcon silently courses through the skies and performs flying manoeuvres

Srinivas Bhogle

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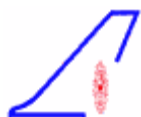
[NAL stall at Aero India 2005](#)

[Surya Kirans at Aero India 2005](#)



*The HANSA (VT-HNS) flew beautifully
once again displaying its wonderful repertoire.*

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Flight Displays at Aero India 2001

In clear blue skies, the flying machines create a tremendous impression



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Surya Kiran's take off



Skytruck lands, and almost immediately comes to a halt



Sukhoi all set to mesmerize visitors once again



Surya Kiran formation flying



The Tornado too was a great hit



Sukhoi lands after another captivating display



The Falcon flew silently and very gracefully



A closer view of the Tornado



The HANSA ready to land



The LCA finally appeared on Day 3 .. to everyone's enormous delight



The Akash Ganga paratroopers show off the Tricolour

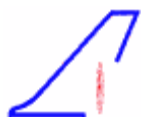


The MiG 29 naval version also made a deep impression



These photographs were shot by our colleague Mr N S Suresh Kumar of the Materials Science Division

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HANSA at Aero India 2001

A convincing performance by NAL's graceful bird



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The HANSA (VT-HNS), with Wg Cdr P Ashoka in the cockpit, flew on all the five days at Aero India 2001.

[More about HANSA](#)

HANSA at the Republic Day parade

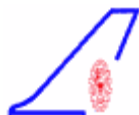
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Flight Displays at Aero India 2001

"It was sunny and clear -- and a great time to take photos"



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MiG 29 Naval Version



Skytruck flying



The VC-10, with its "in-air" refuelling capability, flew past



The Sukhoi soaring into the skies



HANSA took off effortlessly



Sukhoi climbing steeply



The amazing Surya Kirans ...



..show off the national colours



The Tornado was amazing



Photographs taken by our colleague Mr B S Bhagavan of Structures Division

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