

# IAF TO FLY AN-32 ON BLENDED BIODIESEL FOR 200 HOURS

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Going green: An IAF AN-32 took flight on blended biodiesel for the first time in December 2018. Special Arrangement

As part of efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking to fly an AN-32 transport aircraft modified to operate on 10% blended biodiesel for 200 flight hours in the next six months, Air Vice Marshal S. K. Jain, Assistant Chief of the Air Force (Maintenance Plans), said on Friday.

The aircraft took flight on biodiesel blended with aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for the first time in December 2018. "So far, an AN-32 has flown 65 hours with a 10% blend of biofuel and the performance has been very satisfactory," he said at a seminar on sustainable aviation biofuels organised by the Aeronautical Society of India.

A second aircraft, a Dornier, was now undergoing ground tests after it had been cleared by the original manufacturer of the engine, Honeywell, for use of 50% biofuel, he said.

The global aviation industry is one of the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases that cause global warming. The fuel consumption of the IAF for 2021-22 was 6.2 lakh kilo litres, which contributed 15 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide.

On the civil aviation front, an official from aircraft manufacturer Airbus said it had plans to offer 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) compatibility on its commercial aircraft latest by 2030. "We plan to be the first major aircraft manufacturer to offer a climate neutral commercial aircraft by 2035," said Julien Manhes, project leader SAF of Airbus.

The biofuel was extracted from Jatropha plant seeds using a technology patented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun.

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