

IAF plane takes to the air on blended biofuel

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IAF plane takes to the air on blended bio-fuel-India among countries which have developed, tested and certified the process

- For the first time, an An-32 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) flew with blended bio-jet fuel produced from Jatropha oil, unlocking the possibility of gradually expanding it to the entire service at some point.
- This has the dual benefit of reducing the carbon footprint as well as usage of fossil fuels.
- India had thus joined a league of select nations to have "developed, tested and certified" a single step Hydro-processed Renewable Jet (HRJ) process to convert non-edible oil into biofuel for use on military aircraft.
- This bio-jet fuel technology was developed by the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2009 and tested between 2011 and 2013.
- After evaluation, including performance runs on the aero-engine since 2018, the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) cleared the trial flight last week.

