



Jaguar Aircraft

Why in News?

During a routine training mission, a **Jaguar trainer aircraft** of the [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#) crashed in **Rajasthan's Churu district**.

Key Points

▪ Jaguar Aircraft:

◦ Background:

- Jaguar is a **British-French fighter aircraft** that was originally deployed in the British Royal Air Force and the French Air Force.
- The Jaguar jets were inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1979.
- [Hindustan Aeronautics Limited \(HAL\)](#) started producing **licensed variants in 1981 and continued till 2008**.
- India has inducted over 160 Jaguars in various configurations:
 - Jaguar IS (single-seat strike fighter)
 - Jaguar IB (two-seat trainer)
 - Jaguar IM (naval variant)

◦ Combat History and Global Operators:

- The Jaguar has seen active deployment in Mauritania, Chad, Iraq, Bosnia, Pakistan, and more recently, during India's [Operation Sindoor](#).
- It served as a nuclear delivery platform for the UK, France, and India.
- Over the years, countries such as France, the UK, Oman, Ecuador, Nigeria, and India operated the aircraft.

▪ Similar IAF Crashes:

- Between November 2024 and April 2025, the IAF reported four aircraft crashes during training missions across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, and Gujarat.
- **Technical malfunctions** led to the **crashes of [MiG-29](#), [Mirage 2000](#), and Jaguar jets**.

▪ Growing Concerns Over Aircraft Safety:

- The recent string of IAF crashes indicates recurring technical issues in operational aircraft.
- Many of the **crashes** involved older platforms like the MiG-29 and Jaguar, raising **concerns over fleet modernisation and maintenance protocols**.
- The IAF has launched inquiries in each case, but the frequency of such incidents points to the need for deeper systemic evaluation.