

DBO, Fulcrum of the Karakoram



Operationalising the world's highest airfield

On 23 July 1962, well over half a century back, an Indian Air Force Fairchild C-119G Packet piloted by Squadron Leader (later Air Marshal) CKS Raje and fitted with an auxiliary jet engine fitted on its dorsal fuselage, made a historic landing at Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), the highest airstrip in the world. Located at an altitude of nearly 16,800 feet, DBO is at base of the Karamoram Pass and a mere 8 km south and 9 km west of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) being of great strategic importance.

Not that the general populace of India was then really aware of this place or was really interested in matters military. Such indifference and elected representatives of India was soon enough to result in a military drubbing at the hands of an expansionist Chinese Army in 1962. 68 years later DBO

