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Welcome to e-news

e-news

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READER'S RESPONSE

The editorial team invites your views, suggestions, to the News about Members Column and contributions to the e-news.

Agni-I test-fired successfully

Nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile Agni-I was successfully test-fired from the Wheeler Island, off Damra village, on the coast of Orissa. A significant aspect of the test-firing was that it was totally executed by the Army, user of the missile. This is the second time the Army is test-firing the missile on its own. The missile soared majestically at 10.15 a.m. from a road-mobile launcher, a huge truck, on the Integrated Test Range on the island. It cut a parabolic path across the sky, climbed into space and dived into the Bay of Bengal, reaching a distance of 700 km. Its re-entry system worked flawlessly. This is the fifth successful launch of Agni-I, a product of the Defence Research and Development Organisation

Source: The Hindu

Flight tests of indigenous combat jet on schedule

The flight test programme of the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) "is progressing as per schedule" and it has flown 829 missions since it first took to the skies eight years ago, parliament was informed. "Efforts are being made to accelerate the flight tests," Defence Minister A.K. Antony said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, adding: "Presently, no need is felt for a strategic partner" for the further development of the jet. "Regular review meetings are being conducted involving Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Air Force (IAF) and other concerned agencies to take collective decisions and coordination," the minister said.

Source: Indian Muslims

Domestic carriers may relook at short haul flights from Bangalore

Domestic airlines may look at pruning some of their feeder routes from Bangalore such as Kochi, Coimbatore and even Chennai, as the Bengaluru International Airport inches closer to the launch of commercial operations. The argument is that passengers of some of these short-haul routes (30-40 minutes flying time) would opt for road or rail given the connectivity problems to the new airport. While some airlines are adopting a wait and watch policy, having submitted their summer schedules, others like SpiceJet, do not plan to add any new southern destination to their operations from Bangalore in the near future.

Source: Economic Times

Maiden test flights begin at BIA today

The countdown for the Bengaluru International Airport has begun. The first trial flights will hit the tarmac . Exactly three weeks before the airport starts commercial operations of two fights will land and take-off from the country's first greenfield airport in Devanahalli. According to Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the promoters of the Airport, two flights - one each of Kingfisher and Air Deccan - will land at the airport. As part of the Public Trial Day, which indicates the final stage of trials, a Kingfisher flight will arrive at the Bengaluru International Airport at 10.00 am from Mumbai. This will be followed by the arrival of a Air Deccan flight from the existing HAL Airport at 10.30 am.

Source: Deccan Herald

ISRO, IAF in joint effort to pick space pilot

One of the pilots who make it to the Air Force in the coming three to five years will become the first to travel into space on an Indian vehicle. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will work closely with the Air Force from this year to shortlist prospective space travellers at the recruitment stage itself, even as the agency accelerates towards its ambitious dream of an indigenous manned space vehicle. With the Centre giving its nod to the project, it will soon be on the drawing board.

Source: Indian Express

BrahMos to be fired from submarine soon

BrahMos, the supersonic cruise missile and its attendant systems, will be installed in a vertical launch mode on board the Indian Naval vessel 'Ranvir," according to informed sources. The missile system would also be installed on 15-Alpha type destroyers and Talwar class frigates. BrahMos already been inducted into the Navy and the Army. Very soon, the missile will be fired from a submarine after the platform is identified by the Navy; the sources said. BrahMos was launched from

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the Naval -ship "Rajput" towards a target on an uninhabited island in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago. A Sivathanu Pillai, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited, said "the launch was precisely executed and the mission was a 100 per cent success."

Source: The Hindu

India plans increase on MAV spending

India is planning an expansion of its micro air vehicle research after a decade that saw spending of $500,000. The work to date has produced prototype fixed, rotor and flapping-wing MAVs with further work needed on a range of enabling technologies including navigation, power supply and launch and recovery. Related government-funded research that could be applied to MAVs includes India's National Aerospace Laboratories work on DC micromotors, lithium ion batteries, fuel cells and microwave energy sources. It is also working on microturbines that could be used for MAVs as small as 150mm (5.9in) across. Research on fluid flow through micro channels at the Indian Space Research Organisation was also identified as having MAV applications.

Source: Flightglobal.com

Air Deccan gets in-principle nod to fly abroad

After Jet Airways, Air Deccan will be the second private airline from India to fly abroad. The Government has given Air Deccan an in-principle approval to start its international operations from August this year. Meanwhile, in case the merger process between Air Deccan and Kingfisher Airlines formally goes through, the rights to fly abroad would immediately be eligible for transfer to Kingfisher. Official sources told Business Line that with the approval letter, Air Deccan would now be able to approach various airports abroad and seek slots for starting flights from India.

Source: Business Line

Cartosat-2A is ready for launch

Preparations are on at Sriharikota and other ISRO centres for the launch of a powerful mapping satellite, Cartosat-2A, next month. After receiving the M M Chugani Award of the Indian Physics Association, ISRO Chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair said the satellite was ready and was similar to its predecessor, Cartosat-2 which was launched on January 10, last year. He said two satellites of the same type would help scientists map a wider area. "As of now everything seems okay with this mission and soon we will finalise the date of the launch. Most probably it will be in April-end," he told TOI.

Source: Times of India

Raghu Menon to take over as CMD, Air India

Mr Raghu Menon will assume charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of National Aviation Company of India Limited., in the rank and pay of Secretary to Government of India, on April 1, 2008. Mr Menon will succeed Mr V.Thulasidas, whose tenure ends on March 31, 2008

Source: Air India

TECHNOLOGY

Air India begins work on maintenance centre

National Aviation Company of India Ltd (NACIL), which runs Air India, plans to develop Thiruvananthapuram as an operational base for its domestic flights. Once Thiruvananthapuram becomes an operational base for domestic fights, aircraft and crew will be stationed in the city and flights will originate from and terminate in the city. The airline is surveying employees, for the posts of pilots and cabin crew, who are ready to be based in Thiruvananthapuram, said Mr V. Thulasidas, Chairman and Managing Director. He pointed out that the city has been an operational base for Air India Express, the company's low-fare carrier, from February 18 this year.

Source: Business Line

Dome simulator to hone combat skills of LCA pilots

The Dome-based LCA Mission Simulator (DBLMS), inaugurated on Saturday by Deputy Chief of Air Staff Marshal NAK Browne, is set to be the platform for simulated air-to-air combat, air-to-surface/ship missile firing, besides honing the flying skills of rookie fighter pilots,

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for the IAF and Naval versions of the LCA. Mr P S Krishnan, Director, Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), which developed the Rs 4 crore DBLMS, told the New Indian Express on the sidelines of the inauguration function that the simulator can change roles, catering to the type of aircraft by loading the required software to provide role-specific training to pilots.

Source:Indian Express

India in path-breaking project for space routes

The Soviet Union has disintegrated. But a pending deep space project, its brainchild, to pioneer laying a 'space route' for future outer space-bound astronauts would finally be realised when it is launched in October 2008. And India is playing a crucial role to fulfil a commitment made 21 years ago in 1987 to its now-defunct ally. The delay was forced due to Soviet Union's break-up and the subsequent political and economic crisis faced by Russia, which is now spearheading this project. Now the revolutionary multi-national mission, named RadioAstron, would get its chance to realise its goals of accurately mapping the heavens using a space radio telescope (SRT) onboard a deep space satellite.

Source: Indian Express

Future flying machine in a suitcase

On a stretch of land that the Indian Air Force calls the Drop Zone, an array of futuristic flying vehicles waited this morning for strong winds to calm so they could display their mettle in a mock hostage rescue mission. But the winds persisted and Lt Col Eric Stierna from the US Army, the operations officer for the first American-Asian demonstration of micro aerial vehicles (MAV) and unmanned ground vehicles, took a call that the flights would begin tomorrow. MAVs are flying machines, which are battery-powered and small enough to go inside a suitcase. The MAV demonstration — organised by the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment and the US Army International Technology Centre — is part of an effort to identify the most promising prototypes and to understand the challenges in this technology.

Source: Telegraph

A two-seater rocket to space

California aerospace company plans to enter the space tourism industry with a two-seat rocket ship capable of suborbital flights to altitudes more than 59.5 kilometres above the Earth. The Lynx, about the size of a small private plane, is expected to begin flying in 2010, according to developer Xcor Aerospace, which planned to release details of the design at a news conference on Wednesday. The company also said that, pending the outcome of negotiations, the Air Force Research Laboratory has awarded it a research contract to develop and test features of the Lynx.

Source: Times of India

Israel to equip passenger aircraft with flares to deflect missiles

Israel is to begin fitting some of its passenger aircraft with flares to counter potential missile attacks, defence officials said.The missile protection system was first proposed in 2002, but was delayed by disagreements over funding between government ministries, reports said.Within weeks a system of flares will be installed on some aircraft, particularly those flying to countries regarded as more dangerous, including in Africa and Asia.The system is similar to one installed on military aircraft. For protection against heat-seeking missiles flares can be dropped to draw off the weapon.

Source: The Hindu

Singapore Highlights

The 2008 Singapore Airshow was staged at an impressive new purpose-built site, and business aviation had a strong presence both on the static display and on the Singapore news agenda. Some 35,000 trade visitors were expected to stream through the gates to visit more than 800 exhibitors located in an impressive 430,000-sq-ft hall. Crowds benefited from fantastic views from waterfront chalets overlooking the static display on one side and the flight line on the other. New business jet operator BJets launched its charter, fractional and aircraft management services at Singapore, with a $600 million order for 20 Cessna Citation CJ2+s and 20 Hawker 850XPs and 900XPs, to be delivered over the next five years. Another 10 Hawkers are on option. BJets will operate in India and Southeast Asia.

Source: AINonline

INCAT-HAL Aerostructures Limited Launched

INCAT, a global leader in engineering services outsourcing (ESO) and product development IT services and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Asia's premier aero structures manufacturer today announced a joint venture creating INCAT-HAL Aerostructures Limited. The new organization is immediately positioned to establish itself as a global leader in the engineering and design of aero structures. "The global aerospace industry is realizing the value of adopting an outsourcing-based business model, not simply to achieve cost reductions, but to speed time to market while maintaining quality," said INCAT CEO Warren Harris.

Source: Business Wire India

IAI in talks on $1.5b deal

Sources inform "Globes" that Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. (IAI) is in talks on a $1.5 billion deal with India's Ministry of Defense to set up a defense system using innovative long-range missiles with a range of more than 100 kilometers. The deal also includes radar systems made by IAI subsidiary Elta Systems Ltd., Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), and possibly IAI-built satellites as well. A few months ago, India's Supreme Procurement Council approved the deal, and IAI CEO Yitzhak Nissan is now in negotiations over the details. IAI has longstanding collaborations with various Indian companies and agencies. Last month, IAI launched its TechSAR all-weather, high-resolution radar satellite using an Indian launcher in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation. IAI's orders backlog totaled $7.3 billion at the end of 2007. If this new deal is signed, it will be a substantial boost for the company.

Source: Globes

Manned space mission gets a Rs 125-cr boost

India's ambitious plan to launch manned space missions received a boost with the government sanctioning more than Rs 100 crore for the initiative. With the budgetary allocation jumping from Rs 4 crore to Rs 125 crore this year, the Rs 10,000-crore space programme now seems to be steadily moving from the drawing boards to the launchpad at Sriharikota. Tentatively, the lift-off is slated for 2014. Speaking to TOI, ISRO spokesperson Mr S Satish said the massive hike meant that the pre-project activities related to the manned flight would be initiated this year. This will essentially mean preparing the infrastructure for the flight, he said, adding that GSLV Mk3 three-stage rocket, now under development, would be used for the mission.

Source: Times of India

Do not miss out on the nanotech revolution

In less than a decade, the industry for the use of materials developed with nano technology will be trillion-dollar big. Is India paying enough attention to this huge opportunity? No, says Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai, Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller, R&D, DRDO. 'We missed the industrial revolution, perhaps because we were under foreign rule. But we must not miss the nanotech revolution," Dr Pillai said, at Nanotechnology Conclave 2008, a two-day conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and Nomura Research Institute, Japan. Only last year, did the Government allot Rs 1,000 crore to be invested over the next five years in nano technology.

Source: Business Line

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Commercial operation at new airport from May 11

Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) has now decided to commence operation of flights at the new airport in Devanahalli on May 11 instead of the original schedule of March 30. BIAL's decision follows a communication earlier in the day from the Union Civil Aviation Ministry directing it to open the new airport any day after May 10. Sources in the Ministry told The Hindu that the delay in setting up Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility had been cited as the main reason by the Ministry to defer the opening of the new airport. The ministry felt that there was a need for more time for ATC to operate as the traffic controllers had to be given training after setting up the ATC. "Delays in the construction of ATC facilities, including the Control Tower, Technical Block, office accommodation of AAI personnel and issues like house-keeping and air-conditioning at the ATC facilities were the reasons for this delay (related to commencement of operations)," the Ministry communication said.

Source: The Hindu

EVENTS

National Seminar On Aerospace Technologies

DATE: Saturday 5th April 2008

Venue:

HAL Management Academy (HMA)
Next to HAL Hospital
Suranjandas Road,
Bangalore 560 017

Address for Communciation:

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ICAS CONGRESS

The Aeronautical Society of India has now revived its membership of International council of the Aeronautical Sciences, ICAS. This year is the 50th year of ICAS and its annual congress is scheduled on 14-18 Sep08 in Anchorge, Alska, USA. The grand event is being co-hosted with AIAA and accordingly its 8th AIAA Aviation, Technolgy, Integration and Operations (AITO) Conference shall be fully integrated.

The ICAS Congress provides opportunities for scientist and engineers, researchers and designers, manufactures and managers, and university faculty and students from all over the world to share ideas and technical information.

Preliminary programme details of the event are available with AeSI HO also. Members interested contact Gp Capt (Retd) HC Bhatia, Secretary(adm), ph no +11 23370058, +9818844341.

AWARDS

CSIA wins Aeronautical Excellence Airport of the Year award

The Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) in Mumbai was conferred the 2008 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific Aerospace & Defense Award, "Aeronautical Excellence Airport of the Year" for its exemplary efforts in developing the aeronautical segment of the airport from amongst a host of other airports in the APAC region. Received in Singapore at a well-attended ceremony by the creme de la crème of the aviation industry, the award consolidates the status of CSIA as the leading airport in India along with its competitive ranking in the Asia Pacific region. While lauding CSIA's modernization efforts to meet the challenge of achieving excellence in the airport aeronautical segment, be it increase in aeronautical revenue generation and the upgrade of aeronautical related facilities to cater to increased passenger traffic, the award also recognizes its ability to perform exceedingly well and surpass all expectations.

Source: Moneycontrol

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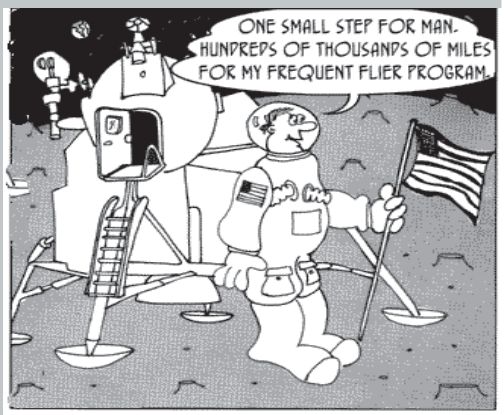
LIGHTER VEIN

"I'm a frequent flier, so it's really quite cheap."



Unrecorded Comments from the Moon.