



e-news

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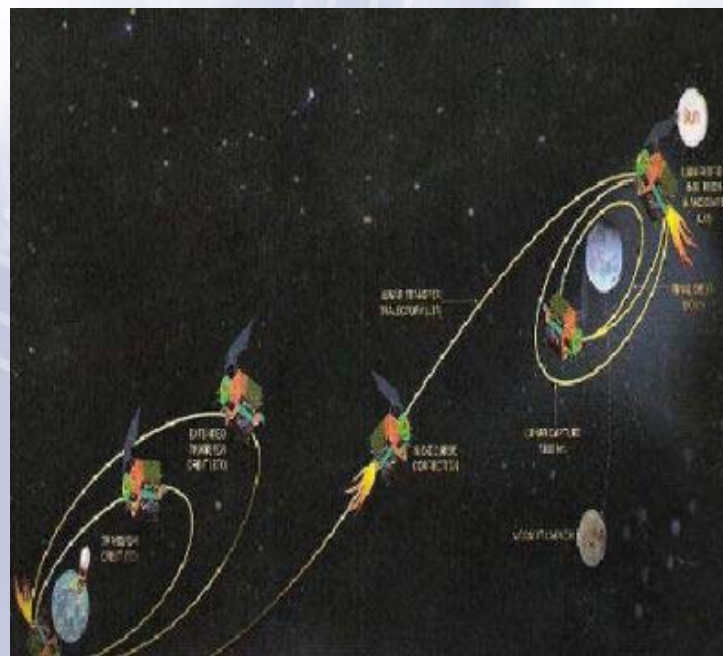
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Preparations on for moon mission - Details under Technology

READER'S RESPONSE

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

Aeronautics commission likely to take off soon

The long-standing demand of the aviation sector, research establishments and the defence forces for the setting up of an Aeronautics Commission is likely to see the light of the day. The proposal to have a commission was driven by the idea of promoting and integrating various organisations related to aviation and aeronautics sectors that are working under different ministries. The commission, which will have representatives from the government, industry and research organisations, is expected to bring various scientific institutes and the industry involved in aeronautics sector under one umbrella. Apart from formulating policies for management of airspace, the commission will also help in optimising resources in aviation sector.

Source: Business Standard

Chitradurga to have UAV testing range

Preliminary works for the establishment of India's first flight test range for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) is on the fast track in Chitradurga. The Rs. 850-crore project, which comes under the Defence Ministry, is aimed at strengthening the Army, Navy and the Air Force. Chitradurga was selected for the prestigious project by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bangalore. The district administration has identified some 4,000 acres of land at Voru Kaval area of Challakere taluk for it. The DRDO has obtained clearances from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the project. The sources said that the centre would produce and test small UAV, micro-UAV, flapping wing UAV and the long range UAV.

Source: The Hindu

Kochi, Palakkad on HAL radar

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has been given the take-off signal to set up an electronics and avionics plant in Kasargod. HAL's board of directors stamped its approval last week on a feasibility report prepared by a technical committee that visited Kerala in April. The good news reached Kerala with a bonus informing the State about HAL's plan to set up two more facilities in this investment starved land.

"They want 100 acres of land in Kochi and about 200 acres in Palakkad. We've not been given the exact details. But HAL is serious about expanding operations," a top official of the Industries Department said while confirming that the foundation stone will be laid "by Onam time".

Source: Indian Express

Programmes in aviation launched

Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology (SNIST), Hyderabad in association with Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, New York, announced the launch of a Bachelor of Science (BS) programme in Airline Management, Airport Management and Electronic Engineering Technology (Avionics) on Monday. The courses are approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Students from the stream of arts, commerce and science are eligible to apply for Airline and Airport Management programmes.

Source: Indian Express

Indian students bag 2nd prize at NASA contest

Their interest in aerospace led Anusha R and Srinath S, students of mechanical engineering and geoinformatics at the College of Engineering, Guindy, to participate in a competition held by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) earlier this year. Little did they expect to come second among the international winners. "We had to submit a conceptual design for an aircraft that could be used in 2058. It had to fit certain specifications. For instance, the payload had to be around 30,000 pounds, the runway length shortened to less than 3,000 feet and so on. They also stressed the use of noise reduction technology and fuel efficiency since this will be very important in the future," Anusha said. Under the guidance of faculty advisor E Natarajan, the students decided to adopt the design of a blended wing body aircraft in place of the tubular fuselage to which wings are attached as in the aircraft being used today.

Source: Times of India

BIA told to build 'mirror terminal'

Just over a month of opening, the operators of the Bengaluru International Airport (BIA) have been asked by the Centre to increase

terminal capacity due to concerns over congestion. In an interaction with journalists in New Delhi, Union civil aviation minister Praful Patel said he told BIAL to "double terminal capacity in the next three years" by constructing a "mirror terminal". The minister also asked BIAL to increase capacity within the next eight months as an interim measure before the additional terminal buildings are up and running. According to BIAL, the airport in its present form, can handle over 11 million passengers, which could even go up to 14 million. Bangalore reported annual passenger traffic of close to 11 million passengers for the financial year 2007-08. "The airport should be bigger.

Source: Times of India

New DARE Director

Mr U K Revankar has taken charge as the Director of Defence Avionics Research Establishment (DARE) at DRDO, Bangalore. He has significant contributions in development of radar systems and has three patents to his credit.

Source: Times of India

Centre okays 8 new IITs

Union Cabinet approved the setting up of eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) during the current academic session. The new IITs would come up in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs 6,080 crore (Rs 760 crore per IIT), Finance Minister Mr P Chidambaram said after a meeting here. With the creation of the new IITs, high quality technical education will become accessible to bright students, as only two per cent of about three lakh students appearing at the Joint Entrance Examination manage to get admissions in the existing ones, he said. The Cabinet also approved creation of 30 faculty posts per year during the first three years of the establishment of each of the new IITs, besides approving the posts of a director and a registrar.

Source: Deccan Herald

Preparations on for moon mission

Preparations have begun for the launch of Chandrayaan-1, India's moon mission, with the stacking of the stages of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C11) under way at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh from July 21. Simultaneously, the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, with its 11 payloads from India and abroad, has been assembled fully at the ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC), Bangalore. A 32-metre-diameter dish antenna is ready at Byalalu village near Bangalore to track the spacecraft during its 3,84,400 km journey to the moon. If the campaign goes as planned, the PSLV-C11, which is a more powerful version and is called PSLV-XL, will put Chandrayaan-1 in orbit on September 19. Top officials of the Indian Space Research Organisation said: "We have started stacking the PSLV at Sriharikota for the Chandrayaan-1 mission. We are now building the first stage. The launch campaign has begun. We are moving the various stages from the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram and the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu to Sriharikota."

Source: The Hindu

DRDO inks pact with Embraer

A few months before the arrival of the FALCON airborne warning and control system (AWACS) from Israel, a similar indigenous system has moved one step closer to realisation. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Thursday inked an agreement with Brazil's Embraer to fix an indigenous air borne early warning and control system atop one of the Indian Air Force's Embraer jets, which are used for VIP flights. After the integration - to be carried out at the company's workshop in Brazil - the first modified Embraer-145 is expected to reach India by 2011. The integrated system will be flight-tested by the IAF and DRDO in 2012.

Source: Deccan Herald

Air connectivity to get boost

In a country that boasts of 449 airports and airstrips, only 65 are currently being utilised by airline operators. The reason is that the majority of these airports and

airstrips are dogged by infrastructure constraints, making it impossible for flight landings and take-offs, leaving a vast market of civil aviation sector untapped. However, this perception will change a great deal if the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) designed Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA-70) rolls out on time by the year 2014, thus enhancing connectivity between cities and towns. Designed at a cost of Rs 2,500 crore, the 80-seater aircraft, former president Abdul Kalam's dream aircraft can pave the way for air connectivity between cities and towns that remain unconnected due to infrastructure constraints and the cost of operations.

Source: Indian Express

DARE wants BEL, IAF to fund EW suite for MiG-29s

The Defence Avionics Research Establishment (DARE), which has the wherewithal to develop an electronic warfare (EW) suite that could be installed on MiG-29s, has asked Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Indian Air Force to put up a substantial portion of the around Rs.170 crore required for developing the equipment. The MiG-29s are being upgraded in Russia. This is in keeping with the new line of thinking of its parent body, Defence Research and Development Organisation, namely to incorporate industry and the user into a project right from the start by getting industry to financially commit itself to the project. For its part, DRDO will ensure that the industrial partner will secure the production order for the equipment.

Source: The Hindu

Nag missile in the last lap after 18 years

Eighteen years after it was first tested, the meandering saga of the indigenous Nag anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) is finally entering the climax phase after an expenditure of over Rs 300 crore. Or so it seems, with Defence Research and Development Organisation planning the "final developmental flight trials" of Nag at Pokhran on July 27-28, which will be followed by the "user-trials" in mid-September, say sources. Having placed an order for 443 Nag missiles and 13 Namicas (Nag missile tracked carriers) for induction over three years, the Army is keeping its fingers firmly crossed. The urgent need for

ATGMs can be gauged from the fact that after ordering 4,000 Konkurs-M missiles, the Army is now looking for 4,100 "advanced" ATGMs with tandem warheads for "better kill probability" of enemy tanks.

Source: Times of India

Sharp hike needed in R&D spending

If science students need to have a bright and secure future and renew their faith in science, the research and development (R&D) prospects in the metros have to dramatically improve. One indicator of the current condition is that spending for R&D in India has gone up by just 0.09% over 10 years. Scientists from across the country in a working group, including IISc, NAL and JNCASR, after a study of science R&D spending by government and laboratories over a decade told the Department of Science & Technology in a report that India's R&D spending as part of world R&D share has moved from 0.61% to just 0.7%. The group indicated that India is way behind the US and China in R&D and contributes far lesser to the world output. This, even though the national education budget on an average, is about 2-2.5% of the country's GDP.

Source: Times of India

Hunt for powerful engine may delay project

Engine power limitations in the presently used GE-404 engines for the light combat aircraft (LCA) are set to delay the project further after the first batch of 40 aircraft is released to the IAF. Post the first 40 LCAs fitted with GE-404 engines, IAF is looking for more powerful engines to enable it to carry heavier weapon load on the aircraft. The preferred engine is the GE-414, but it would mean modifying the aircraft to accommodate it as it is much larger, forcing delays up to three years. "Modifying the aircraft will take about 18 months followed by testing and procedures taking about the same time to further delay the project," a senior IAF officer, who has been part of the LCA programme, told The New Indian Express.

Source: Indian Express

Higher ATF prices will not affect airlines

A recent report by KPMG, a global consulting company, discounts fears that the sharp and sustained increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) will run the Indian aviation industry aground. The study, "Indian aviation: flying through turbulence," points out that ATF costs account for just 30 per cent of the "direct" operating costs in the aviation industry. The study observes that the financial performance of entities in the industry depends on how efficient they are, in particular how they adopt "an intuitive approach to route planning in order to maximise revenues." Mark Martin, Senior Advisor, KPMG, told The Hindu that other aspects of costs were of far greater significance when compared to the cost of ATF.

Source: *The Hindu*

Russia to take 2 Indians to space

India and Russia will revive the joint manned mission project, Russia says it is ready to fly two Indians on a Soyuz spacecraft by 2011. The invite, coming 24 years after Rakesh Sharma's ride to the Salyut 7 space station, will boost India's efforts to launch a manned mission aimed at putting a two-member crew in space for a week. Both countries have formed a joint working committee to work out details. The panel is headed by Dr P S Sastry, director of the Advanced Technology Office and Launch Vehicle Programmes of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Top ISRO sources told Express that a high-level scientific team will soon meet in Bangalore to prepare a blueprint for the crew selection.

Source: *Indian Express*

Rs 8,000-crore aerospace facility for Hyderabad

The Andhra Pradesh government's plans to project Hyderabad as an aviation hub received a major boost with the Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) promising huge investments in the aerospace sector. TASL has decided to set up its first facility in aerospace engineering at Adibatla in Ranga Reddy district, where

the government recently notified a 250-acre Special Economic Zone dealing with the aerospace and precision engineering industry. TASL sought a 50-acre plot exclusively for setting up a manufacturing facility with an investment of \$ 2 billion (about Rs. 8,000 crore).

Source: *The Hindu*

HAL finalises partner to set up MRO business

The public sector Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which had a sales turnover of more than \$2 billion in 2007-08, will soon sign up with a partner for the setting up of its long-awaited, full-fledged commercial aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) business. This could happen in "a month or two," according to the HAL sources. The sources said that an American company, a worldwide leader in the commercial aviation MRO business, had agreed to partner the HAL in the \$75-million venture. Said an official: "Final talks on sewing up the partnership are going on, we shall make an announcement soon." The HAL is likely to contribute 45 per cent of the required capital with the American company putting up the rest.

Source: *The Hindu*

HAL in talks with S. America to export Dhruv helicopters

Riding high on the success of bagging a contract for seven 'Dhruv' helicopters from Ecuador late last month, India's aviation major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd is now in talks with other South American countries for further export orders. 'We are in negotiations with a couple of South American nations for 'supplying Dhruv choppers. We hope to finalise the deals with these countries in a month. Two or three countries will be part of our export orders soon,' the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) Chairman, Mr Ashok K Baweja, said here today. HAL, is negotiating with Bolivia for delivery of five Dhruvs and with Venezuela for seven of the choppers in transport roles, and in Europe, it was discussing a deal with Turkey for supply of 17 of the Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) in medical assistance roles, PTI has learnt.

Source: *Business Line*

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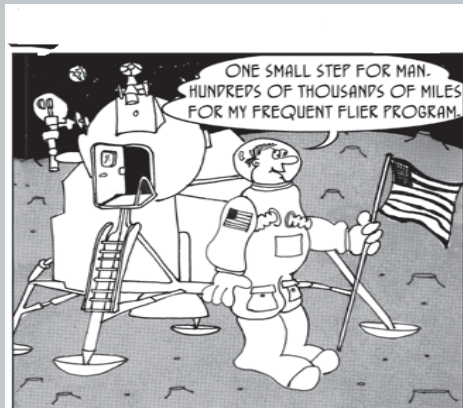
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Unrecorded Comments from the Moon.



Gen-Xers in their retirement years.