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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.**

BANGALORE FLIES TO A NEW HIGH

The long wait is finally over. Bangalore's flagship project and symbol of its emergence as a global destination, the Devanahalli-based Bengaluru International Airport (BIA), is now commercially operational. Signalling its entry into the high list of world-class international aerodromes, an Air India flight (IC 957) took off to Singapore at 12:05 am on 24 May. "It is a very happy moment. It's a really lovely evening for all of us who have been working for many years to create this world class airport," declared a visibly relieved Mr Albert Brunner, CEO of the Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL).

Source: Deccan Herald

ISRO, DRDO sign MoU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an MoU with Snow and Avalanche study Establishment (SASE) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), for the installation of two doppler Weather Radars in the Himalayan region for climate studies. ISRO indigenously developed the technology of Doppler weather Radar and transferred it to Bharat Electronics Ltd for production. Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) operates in S band and is capable of monitoring clouds, precipitation systems and winds over large areas of more than 400 km from the radar location.

Source: Indian Express

Lakshya test flown successfully

Lakshya, India's indigenously developed micro-light and pilotless target aircraft, was successfully test flown from the integrated test range (ITR) at Chandipur, about 15 km from Balasore, reports PTI from Orissa.

Source: Deccan Herald

Airlines will be disabled-friendly

The aviation ministry has approved the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) new rules allowing guiding humans with disability and/or reduced mobility to fly. As a result, the new Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) that will be effective from this week has done a U-turn on the issue. While it says airlines and airports must provide wheelchairs or other assistive devices free of cost, "airline may levy any charge for human assistance, if required."

Giving reason for this softening of stance, the official said: "Airlines said they can make available assistive devices free of cost but would need to recover the cost of employing people for offering assistance to the physically challenged."

Source: Times of India

HAL may be entrusted with civilian aircraft production

While the proposal is still in the conceptual stage, the defence and civil aviation ministries have been given the task of working out the preliminary logistics in putting a project together in association with HAL. In this connection, Civil Aviation Secretary Mr Ashok Chawla and Defence Production Secretary Mr Pradeep Kumar visited HAL, Bangalore on Friday and held discussions with HAL Chairman Mr. Ashok Baweja. Informed government sources told Deccan Herald here on Sunday that the team of senior officials discussed the various parameters of passenger aircraft production. They felt that although the civil aviation sector in India has taken off, it still has to depend on foreign manufacturers for its commercial aircraft needs. The thinking in the government is that India too should go for indigenously production of planes to serve its domestic needs. The government, if the proposal fructifies, will go in for a joint venture in this regard.

Source: Deccan Herald

ISRO team gets a pat from PM

Face-to-face with the Prime Minister, an elated band of ISRO scientists spotted his residence, 7 Race Course Road, on the first batch of images sent by Cartosat-2A, launched exactly a week back, and Dr Manmohan Singh immediately lauded their work. "The pictures are very dear," he told the team led by ISRO chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair. The scientists also briefed the PM about the missions to follow, including Chandrayaan-1 (India's first moon mission spacecraft) and Manned Spaceflight Programme. The 690-kg Cartosat-2A was launched aboard PSLV-C9, along with the 83-kg Indian Mini Satellite (IMS-1) and eight nanosatellites into a 637-km polar sun synchronous orbit. In all, ISRO, for the first time, had lobbed 10 satellites in one go.

Source: Times of India

No civilian flights at HAL

The new international airport at Bangalore will commence operations by the end of this month. The Government announced as questions remained whether the old HAL Airport will be closed for commercial flights. A meeting convened by the Civil Aviation Ministry in which the top officials of the Bangalore International Airport (BIAL) as well as those from the Karnataka Government participated took the decision for the launch. An operator's licence is to be issued to BIAL in the next two to three days.

Source: Indian Express

Manmohan lauds DRDO for enhancing defence preparedness

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh complimented the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on enhancing the country's defence preparedness, but advised it to ensure timely delivery of equipment and coordinate more intensively with the armed forces. Speaking at a DRDO awards function, Dr. Singh took note of the "extraordinary range" of infrastructure and technologies produced by the organisation. He said the country was "truly proud" of its achievements. His acknowledgement of DRDO's role came against the backdrop of severe criticism of its functioning by a Parliamentary committee and the setting up of a committee to take stock of its functioning.

Source: The Hindu

Rising from dust to touch the stars

An insolent society would not permit him and his ancestors basic human contact, keeping him in a ghetto outside his village in Kolhapur

district for centuries. Fortunately, celestial wonders are devoid of such bias, allowing Dalit boy Shridhar Kamble to have his head in the stars, literally. Impressed with 17-year-old Shridhar's theory of galaxy evolution, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has invited the farm labourer's son into their fold as a junior scientist. "It's a proud moment for all of us. We feel like touching the stars ourselves," say people from the Dalit basti in the dusty Tiravade village as people from neighbouring villages make a beeline for Shridhar's tiny mud house. Shridhar, who has appeared for the HSC exams, took part in a research competition where he submitted a summary paper on galaxy evolution called 'Huge black holes stifle star formation'. This won him a \$10,000 scholarship. Colorado University has also offered Shridhar its Bachelor of Science (Astronomy) course, which the boy plans to join in August.

Source: Times of India

Probe Sends Mars Pictures

This image shows a polygonal pattern in the ground near NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander, similar in appearance to icy ground in the arctic regions of Earth. Phoenix touched down on the Red Planet at 7:53 p.m. Eastern Time USA, May 25, 2008, in an arctic region called Vastitas Borealis, at 68 degrees north latitude, 234 degrees east longitude. This is an approximate-color image taken shortly after landing by the spacecraft's Surface Stereo Imager, inferred from two color filters, a violet, 450-nanometer filter and an infrared, 750-nanometer filter.

Source: Image Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona

Flexibility in use of airspace likely

The Ministries of Civil Aviation and Defence are currently working out a system to introduce more flexibility in the use of airspace around the country. The first-of-its-kind arrangement, which will be introduced for the first time in Chennai on a trial basis, will allow commercial aircraft to chalk out routes through so far restricted zones and is expected to significantly ease air traffic congestion around India's crowded metro airports. A co-ordinating centre will be set up in Chennai that will be in constant communication with defence bases in Tambaram, Sulur near Coimbatore, Hakimpet

in Andhra Pradesh and Yelahanka in Karnataka to work out more flexible arrangements for sharing airspace based on the short-term requirements of both civil and defence operations.

Source: The Hindu

Satellite cameras send images

The multi-spectral cameras on board the Indian Mini-Satellite-1 (IMS-1), which the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C9) successfully launched along with eight nanosatellites. The camera gave high quality imagery covering Allahabad to

Rameswaram. The hyper spectral imaging (HYSI) camera on board IMS-1 and panchromatic camera on board Cartosat-2A were switched on, an ISRO statement said.

Source: Indian Express

Eurojet Turbo pitches for its engine for Tejas

A nine-member delegation from Eurojet Turbo, leading European military aero-engine consortium, concluded a three-day "workshop" for the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), on the feasibility of their engine being used to power the underpowered Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA). The workshop could be a precursor to the ADA - designers of the LCA - deciding on a new engine for the Tejas. Eurojet, which is responsible for development, production, support, maintenance and sales of the new generation EJ200 engine, explained to officials from the ADA and the Air Force and Navy's LCA project teams, how its engine could be adapted for the Tejas.

Source: The Hindu

Cargo facilities to be made mandatory for new airports

Airport developers such as GMR, GVK and BIAL would now have to provide comprehensive cargo facilities at all new greenfield airports. The government is planning to make this condition mandatory in the proposed air cargo policy which is to be finalised within three months. Developers of greenfield airports like Hyderabad are building cargo facilities since they see business potential in this segment. However, they are not bound to do so. The situation will change with the new policy stipulating building of cargo facilities with specified capacities. The proposed policy will also stipulate earmarking dedicated cargo area at all existing airports including those being developed by private operators. A consultant is expected to be brought on board making inclusion of cargo facilities mandatory in the new policy.

Source: Economic Times

Army likely to induct Agni-III ballistic missile by next year

The Agni-III ballistic missile system may be inducted into the Army by next year.

With its consistent performance for the second time, the path has been cleared for its induction into the Army, according to Mr Avinash Chander, Programme Director, Agni-III. The missile's flight trajectory was as per design and all the systems performed to expectations, validating the pre-launch modelling and simulation. The missile was made more robust to withstand severe vibrations and other disturbances. A special system, called ring-laser gyro-based inertial navigation system, was flown on board for higher accuracy of the flight. The circular error probable was in single digit, indicating the high accuracy of the system, Mr. Chander said.

Source: The Hindu

DRDO developing hypersonic missile

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing a hypersonic missile that could double up as a long-range cruise missile. Besides, it could be used for launching satellites at low cost, according to Dr V.K. Saraswat, Chief Controller, R and D (Missiles and Strategic Systems), DRDO. "This is a niche technology being pursued by the DRDO today," he said. Missiles that fly at Mach 3 to 4 (three to four times the speed of sound) belong to high supersonic class. In the case of a hypersonic missile, it can fly at more than Mach 5.

Source: The Hindu

Hypersonic version of BrahMos undergoes successful lab test

India's showpiece supersonic cruise missile, the BrahMos, has now been successfully tested in a hypersonic version, though under laboratory conditions, according to BrahMos Aerospace chief executive officer, Dr A Sivathanu Pillai. "We have achieved a speed of Mach 5.26 in our laboratory tests of the hypersonic version of the BrahMos. However, it will take some 15-20 tests under controlled conditions before the missile can be actually test-launched," Dr Pillai said. The test was conducted at the Hyderabad-based Advanced Systems Laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which has developed the missile through a joint venture with Russia's NPO organisation.

Source: domain-b.com

Air fare war in offing?

Though airlines are flying through rough financial weather, they could be forced to start a fresh round of price war. Low cost carrier (LCC) GoAir announced a zero basic fare on some routes. Taking into account taxes, surcharge between Rs 2,325 and Rs 2,725 (depending on route distance) and Other charges, a zero basic fare will make tickets available at below Rs 3,000 level, which is good news for passengers amid the current high travel cost scenario. A CEO of an LCC said: "An airline with a limited inventory can afford to do so. Other LCCs may be forced to offer basic fares of Rs 99 on the routes where GoAir has a zero basic fare. Almost all airlines are deep in red and such low fares would do nothing to improve bottomlines."

Source: *Times of India*

BAE seeks nod for 49% in JV

UK-based BAE Systems, the world's third-largest defence company, has sought government approval to hold 49% stake in a JV with Mahindra & Mahindra(M&M). There is a 26% FDI cap on defence sector. Hence, if BAE is granted approval, it could set a precedent for other such ventures. According to sources, Mahindra Defence Systems and BAES have applied to the FIPB for a 51:49 JV. This venture will initially have an equity capital of Rs 100 crore, reports Mr Samrat Chakrabarti from New Delhi. The proposed JV will design, develop and produce land defence systems, including artillery and armoured vehicles. To begin with, the equity partners will provide the technology to the JV company. For instance, M&M will bring in its existing Defence Land Systems business, including light bullet proof vehicles and light armoured vehicles.

Source: *Economic Times*

Domestic air traffic up 8.6% in April

The domestic airline industry recorded a growth of 8.6 per cent during April compared with the previous year. The latest data released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation shows that 38.92 lakh passengers flew by the scheduled domestic airlines during April up from

35.82 lakh passengers the previous year. In April, Jet Airways continued to be the market leader carrying 8.39 lakh passengers, while its 100 per cent subsidiary, JetLite carried 3.11 lakh passengers. Kingfisher Airlines along with Deccan carried 1.08 million passengers with Kingfisher Airlines alone carrying 5.58 lakh passengers marginally higher than the 5.30-lakh passengers carried by Air Deccan.

Source: *Business Line*

Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, AAI in pact

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and Airports Authority of India signed an agreement to promote mutual cooperation in the civil aviation sector. The agreement will see both the agencies share knowledge in areas of airport management and operations, apart from exchanging information on civil aviation programmes and projects. The agreement also paves the way for coordination in training, research and development programmes. The memorandum of cooperation was signed by the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, CAAS, Mr Lim Kim Choon and the AAI Chairman, Mr K. Ramalingam.

Source: *Business Line*

Indian airports gear up for 24-hour operations

Airports at major metros are becoming operational 24 hours with more daylight flights being introduced by global carriers following the government's insistence to this effect. The efforts by the civil aviation ministry in this direction have now started bearing fruit as most of the global airlines operating to the country are adding new daytime services, official sources said. Earlier, most of the international flights used to operate at night. India, a member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), had moved a paper in the UN body almost two years ago suggesting that the night curfew at many European and US airports should be done away with.

Source: *Economic Times*

IISc to celebrate centenary

Two prestigious institutions which helped the city find a place in global map will complete 100 years of public service this month. The Mythic Society and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), will start their 12-month-long centenary celebrations on May 27. Marking the centenary year, the IISc will be setting up five state-of-the-art laboratories and a modern international visitors' hostel besides organising several international seminars, a special IISc centenary conference, lecture series, and screening of documentary films to capture the history and achievement of the IISc.

Source: Asian Age

Aerospace club started at school

An inaugural ceremony of the Aerospace Club was held at the St Vivekanand Millennium School, Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) Township, Pinjore. The Aeronautical Society of India had launched Aerospace clubs all over the country last year and St Vivekanand School is the latest member. The aim of the club is to create awareness among students regarding the exciting and expanding field of aviation. Programme director of the Aerospace Club, Wing Commander (Retd.) D P Sabbarwal, threw light on the modus operandi of the club. He said students of arts and commerce streams could also look for opportunities in this field. He also threw light on the various competitions and activities that would be organised during the year.

Source: ExpressIndia.com

DATA BASE OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS

Export of professional services is one of the identified key areas for economic development in the eleventh Five Year Plan of the country. Accordingly, a nodal agency on professional services, Consultancy Development Centre (CDC) under the Deptt of Science & Technology(GOI), has invited under mentioned details in soft copy in respect of Consultants/Engineers/Technologists/Scientists/Academicians etc.

- a) Name with contact details (e mail id)
- b) Educational and professional qualifications
- c) Area of specialization
- d) Nature of projects/activities

CDC would be disseminating the information to various client organizations and other users of consultancy services, as well as information on consultancy opportunities would be collected and disseminated among the members enlisted in the data base. The Society Members desirous of getting their names included in the data base may forward the stated details to the AeSI HO on priority.

e-news is bringing out an exclusive slot for individuals to advertise for career opportunities. Industries and Institutions can promote advertise at very nominal charges product ranges as well as airline operators to present route and tariff offers.

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