



## 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.**

### Central govt seized of airport connectivity

The hue and cry raised over the connectivity of the new Bangalore and Hyderabad airports, appears set to have positive spin-offs for 10 major airports across the country including those of the two silicon cities. Following the uproar, the Centre has got into the act to ensure proper road and rail-based connectivity to the new and existing airports at the four metros, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Coimbatore and Pune. Speaking to Deccan Herald on the sidelines of a conference on airports organised by the Indo-US Aviation Co-operation, civil aviation ministry joint secretary Mr K N Shrivastava said a committee headed by Planning Commission member Mr Anwarul Huda has been set up in this regard and it may submit its report shortly.

*Source: Deccan Herald*

### Carl Zeiss technology center inaugurated at Bangalore

German measuring technology major Carl Zeiss inaugurated its first Technology center in the country today at Bangalore. The inauguration was preceded by an interactive seminar on "Trends in Metrology" which was attended by representatives from leading automotive, aerospace and component manufacturers. Dr. Rainer Ohnheiser, President and CEO of Carl Zeiss Industrielle Messtechnik GmbH and Mr. Ven Raman, Managing Director - Carl Zeiss Group (India and South East Asia) along with a team of delegates formally inaugurated the Tech Center with a ribbon cutting and unveiling ceremony and a traditional pooja.

*Source: Machinist*

### Nanotech has not attracted enough students

While everyone else enjoyed the various hues of a peacock feather, it was a German scientist who wondered about the variety of hues- blue to violet. A 20-year study revealed that the peacock feather had several grooves and its texture varies according to its thickness. It was also found that refraction was responsible for the several shades. This formed the basis for nano crystals. Again, it was a German scientist who discovered a biomimicry after studying a butterfly. He found that its wings changed colours when it met a friend. There was no change in colour when it met someone not so friendly.

*Source: Asian Age*

### Ministry proposes greenfield airport policy

The civil aviation ministry has proposed a Greenfield Airports Policy wherein prior mandatory approval of the central government for setting up of greenfield airports in some cases will be done away with. The policy is yet to be cleared by the Union Cabinet. It has been proposed, for instance, that a greenfield airport to be set up by the state-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) or a private-led-airport company (that is in compliance with guidelines) and is beyond 150 km of an existing civilian airport would not require prior approval of the Central government. But if the distance is within 150km of an existing civilian airport it would require prior approval of the Central government.

*Source: Asian Age*

### India seeks to shift global aerospace manufacturing activity to home shores

India may be consciously seeking to court Western aerospace companies to locate manufacturing facilities here rather than in China. The Indian push comes as European aerospace and defence manufacturers desperately seek ways and means to counter the negative effect of the depreciation of the dollar and the appreciation of the euro, which is impacting their bottom line negatively. While American aerospace and defence giant Boeing has already been scouting for partners within Indian shores for long and has struck up relations with local companies, European giants like EADS are yet to strike roots. Sources say that the government may provide these companies a conducive business environment, both regulatory as well as manufacturing, in an attempt to make them shift their manufacturing bases to India.

*Source: domain-b.com*

### Tejas: ADA looks to Boeing to provide help

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), the defence laboratory behind the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), could soon be turning to global aerospace major Boeing to help them with the aircraft's flight testing programme. Officials from Boeing met with designers from the ADA on Saturday for what could be the final round of discussions on aspects and scope of the consultancy, and on contractual negotiations. It is hoped that



the consultancy from Boeing will help expedite the number of sorties that are to be flown in each phase of flight testing as the ADA attempts to obtain initial operational clearance (IOC) for the Tejas.

*Source: The Hindu*

### 'It's vibrancy that brings our boards here'

Over the past 12 months, India and Rolls-Royce have celebrated two significant anniversaries. The Indian Air Force has served the Indian nation for 75 years, with Rolls-Royce powering the front line aircraft throughout that period. It is also 75 years since the dawn of India's civil aviation sector when again it was a Rolls-Royce engine which powered the first aircraft. It first drew attention to these milestones last September when a group of our most senior managers held their annual conference in Bangalore. This month, we have gone one step further by bringing the Rolls-Royce main board to India for the first time, as well as our international advisory board, a group of highly distinguished international advisors. This has not, however, been a time for looking back.

*Source: Times of India*

### DRDO in for a major shakeup

The Defence Research and Development Organisation is in for a major shakeup as a committee appointed by the government to scrutinise its functioning has suggested setting up of a 'defence technology commission' to play a role in the purchase of weapons and supervise the ongoing projects. The committee, headed by former Department of Science and Technology Secretary Prof P Rama Rao, has suggested establishing a services interaction group and technical directorates in the Army and Air Force for addressing coordination issues. The report was submitted to Defence Minister

Mr A K Antony recently and the Government will soon take a call on its implementation.

*Source: Indian Express*

### Kalam says India must join nuclear club

He is considered a great champion of indigenization. But, during a visit to the US last week, former president APJ Abdul Kalam expressed his support for the controversial Indo-US nuke deal and literally flagged off a campaign backing it. He has urged all Indian nationals to support the agreement, and said that it should be implemented at the earliest. The platform that Kalam, a key player in the nuclear weaponization programme, chose to back the nuke deal was a meeting of the Indian National Overseas Congress which he addressed in New York.

*Source: Times of India*

### 43 years later, IAF will reopen Ladakh airstrip

Forty-three years after the last Aircraft landed there India plans to reactivate Daulat beg Oldi airstrip in Ladakh, which overlooks the strategic Karakoram Pass and is just a few kilometers away from the China occupied Aksai Chin area. "Yes, we have plans to land our AN-32 transport Aircraft at DBO. It's part of the our efforts to improve air maintenance of the far-flung posts," Western Air Command chief Air Marshal P K Barbora said. The airstrip's reactivation will send a message to China, whose troops undertake incursions across the Line of Actual Control to flex their muscles.

*Source: Times of India*



### First plane on hydrogen battery takes off

US aircraft maker Boeing flew a plane that was powered by a hydrogen battery at the start of 2008 for the first time in aviation history, senior company officials said in Spain. "For the first time in the history of aviation, Boeing has flown a manned airplane that was powered by a hydrogen battery," Boeing chief technology officer Mr John Tracy told a news conference at the firm's research centre in the central Spanish town of Ocana. The plane, which used propellers, flew at a speed of 100 km an hour

for about 20 minutes at an altitude of about 1,000 metres using only the hydrogen battery for power, Boeing said in a statement.

*Source: Deccan Herald*

### 'India, Israel developing unmanned helicopter'

India and Israel have begun joint development of an unmanned helicopter capable of operating in severe weather conditions, local media has reported. The

chopper will have an automated takeoff and landing systems for use on unprepared fields on land and from aircraft carriers at sea. Being developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Israel Aerospace Industries' unmanned air vehicle division, Malat, the helicopter will also have a dual automated sophisticated operating systems for enhanced safety, business daily Globes reported. The helicopter was unveiled at an air show in India last month, it said. The unmanned helicopter meant primarily for use by the navy will carry payloads such as day-and-night-imaging systems and various radar systems. Its main advantage over unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) is its ability to takeoff from and land anywhere, including from ships, the report added.

*Source: Times of India*

### **Aerospace lab to design, build 90-seat aeroplane**

India's largest public research agency, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, or CSIR, has approved Rs 300 crore (\$75 million) for its Bangalore aerospace lab to design an aeroplane that can carry 90 passengers on short flights, and compete with planes of Franco-Italian aircraft maker ATR in Indian skies. National Aerospace Laboratories, or NAL, the CSIR lab focused on civil aircraft development, is building the regional transport aircraft, or RTA 70, as the project is called. It would use the money to design a digital concept plane in around two years. The money will also be used to improve infrastructure at the lab.

*Source: livemint*

### **IAF to acquire 3 more AWACS**

As India prepares to receive the first of its Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) Phalcon, the Indian Air Force has cleared proposals to acquire three more such platforms. The proposals have been forwarded to the Defence Ministry to enable placing of a follow-on order estimated to be worth \$2 billion for Phalcon IL-76TD, top IAF official said. With this, the IAF now proposes to field six such platforms with delivery expected to be completed between 2009-2012. These Airborne Warning and Control System will bolster India's air surveillance capability multi-fold giving it an eye-in-the-air to detect distant enemy planes and missiles.

*Source: Indian Express*

### **70 missions for next five years: ISRO**

ISRO will undertake 70 space missions in the next five years. said ISRO chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Karnataka Telemedicine Project Operational Phase II launch on Friday, Mr Nair said that the missions will be part of the 11th Plan. "The 11th Plan would include a good mix of INSAT class satellites and remote sensing ones," he said. The proposed missions aim to meet requirements in the area of communication transponders and work in the fields of microwave remote sensing, hyper spectral and other new technologies of the future." The future developments will be towards the manned space mission and reusable satellites and Ka-band satellites." he said.

*Source: Deccan Herald*

### **2015 our space odyssey**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) wants to send not one but two persons on its first manned mission, in a completely indigenous space capsule. The mission will cost Rs 10,000 crore, and ISRO wants it done by 2015. Why? "China and USA are planning to land a man on the Moon by 2018," a top ISRO source told Express. "We can't afford to lag behind." ISRO gave the government its report on the mission last week, and it has been accessed exclusively by the Express. ISRO proposes to build a space capsule to sustain a crew for a week. The first mission, however, will spend 36 hours in orbit. Three capsules will be fabricated for the manned-mission, two of which will be on standby, and will be used on future missions.

*Source: Express*

### **Mayday! ATC shortage spells turbulence**

It's boom time for India's aviation sector, but that's hardly cause for cheer if you're an air traffic controller (ATC). Their shortage has been pegged at 600 and it's only set to get worse with the explosion in air traffic. This, in a profession where one wrong move, one momentary lapse can send numerous lives downward a spiral of death. The country has 1,500 ATCs, the requirement is for 2,100. The Roy Paul Committee, which looked into air traffic management in 2005, reported over 200 ATC vacancies. Three years later, the gap has widened three times.

*Source: Times of India*

## Lockheed gets \$596 mn contract for India-bound military planes

The US Defence Department has awarded aerospace giant Lockheed Martin a \$596 million Air Force contract for work on six Super Hercules C-130J military transport planes that India is buying, its first major military purchase from the US for over 40 years. New Delhi also has options on another six C-130Js, which will be used to support operations involving its special forces personnel and be equipped with missile and radar warning systems. This is the first major military contract between India and US for more than 40 years. Russia has supplied 70 percent of India's arms, but New Delhi has been seeking diverse sources in recent years as it modernises its armed forces.

*Source: Thaindian News*

## HAL, Russia tie up for transport plane project

Defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd has just began work at Bangalore on the \$600-million (Rs 2,400-crore) medium multi-role transport aircraft with Russia's Ilyushin Design Bureau. The work on the 60-tonne, 70 to 90-seater plane for military, convertible later into passenger plane, has just taken off as an equal venture with a team of 30 people from HAL, its Chairman, Mr Ashok K. Baweja, told a news conference. The approvals and the funding have come in and the product may take seven to eight years. The plane is meant to replace the aged Russian-made Antonov-32s for both the countries. "We want to grow in the large transport aircraft arena. We are also addressing the steps for making civil aircraft such as the Embraer ERJ jets," Mr Baweja said.

*Source: Business Line*

## HAL touches \$2 billion, gets good orders

HAL's aerospace programmes are in for a major boost. HAL has received an order for supply of 159 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) from the Indian armed forces in what is its biggest order after the ALH programme

was initiated. HAL chairman Mr A K Baweja told reporters on Thursday that the ALH programme was vibrant and doing well and had gained confidence as its customers - the armed forces - had shown faith in the machine. "More versions of the aircraft are coming. We'll deliver to the army and air force the Mark-III version equipped with Shakti engine," Baweja said.

*Source: Times of India*

## Indian airlines face \$1bn loss

India's airline sector is expected to report losses of \$1bn for the year ended last month - double that of a year earlier, according to the head of one of the country's biggest airlines. Mr Naresh Goyal, founder and chairman of Jet Airways, said he expected high costs and fierce price wars to prompt more consolidation in the industry and Jet was ready to seize the opportunity to acquire rivals in India and overseas. International retailers target India. "If we find other airlines that make financial sense and if it's good for shareholders, we will keep our mind open," Mr Goyal said in Hong Kong, which became Jet's 16th international destination following the launch of direct services between the territory and Mumbai.

*Source: Rediff*

## Missile maturity

The government's decision to export missiles designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which was revealed recently, is a major milestone. Considering that India has always had inhibitions about armament exports on ethical grounds, this policy decision signals a shift in national security and foreign policy India is the second largest arms importer in the world after China, and it has been felt that there is a strong need to balance this with arms exports. Today Indian missileery has matured adequately and this decision may have encouraged the government to consider the possibility of export.

*Source: Deccan Herald*

**ISAMPE National Conference on Composites: INCCOM-7****DATE:** December 4 – 5, 2008**Venue:**National Aerospace Laboratories  
Bangalore-17**Organised by:**Indian Society for Advancement of  
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6401**Fax:** 91-080-25267325**E-Mail :** [inccom@css.nal.res.in](mailto:inccom@css.nal.res.in)**Royal Aeronautical Society – Conference and Events****Calculating the Effects of Uncertainty in Advanced Structures**

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London W1J 7BQ**Register** - online at [www.aerosociety.com/conference](http://www.aerosociety.com/conference) or to request a registration form please contact Kristie at [conference@raes.org.uk](mailto:conference@raes.org.uk)**Pramod Kale bags Aryabhata award U R Rao to be feted**

Director of the Pune-based firm Integrated Circuit and Information Technology Pvt Ltd, Dr Pramod P Kale has won the prestigious Aryabhata Award, instituted by Astronautical Society of India, ASI, for development of astronautics in the country: The award is for the year 2006. ASI had instituted the award in 1990 to recognise talented Indian individuals who have made significant contributions to astronautics. ISRO scientists won as many as seven of the other ASI awards for 2006, including the "Woman Scientist Award."

*Source: Deccan Herald*

Prof U R Rao, noted space scientist and former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been awarded the prestigious 'A V Rama Rao Technology Award' for 2007. This award, given to an eminent scientist/technologist who has contributed immensely to the national goal, has been instituted by the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) in collaboration with Avra Laboratories Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, an ISRO release said. Earlier recipients of this award are: Prof M S Swaminathan (2004), Prof M M Sharma (2005) and Dr Sam Pitroda (2006).

*Source: Indian Express*

### Aptech launches aviation academy in Kolkata

The aviation training wing of Aptech Ltd has launched its training institute in the city to cater to the growing needs of cabin crew, ground staff and other professionals in the aviation sector. The academy Avalon Aviation Academy, would begin its academic session from next month with one year and six months diploma courses in cabin crew and ground staff services against a fee ranging from Rs 80,000 to Rs 1.5 Lakh and Rs 38,000 to 50,000 respectively. The academy, the company's 51st centre in the country and first in the eastern India, would also offer diploma courses in fares and ticketing and certificate course in customer service to meet the requirement of various domestic and international airlines.

Source: *Economic Times*

### Safer Skies launches aviation courses in Jammu

Safer Skies International Air Hostess Institute in affiliation with London College of Excellence (UK) has launched various courses in aviation industry in Jammu. The institute is offering 100 percent job placement assistance. Addressing a press conference here today Managing Director SSIAHI Mr Vishal Mahajan said the institution had introduced various courses including international certification in professional cabin crew services, certificate courses in customer care, travel and tourism, diploma in professional ground staff services, personality development and grooming courses and foreign languages courses like French, German. "For the first time international certification from London will be given to students in aviation or tour and travel by Safer Skies," he said.

Source: *Greater Kashmir*

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