e-news

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Welcome to 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.

e-news

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Scientists bang on in big test

International scientists celebrated the successful start of a huge particle-smashing machine aiming to recreate the conditions of the "Big Bang" that created the universe. Experiments using the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the biggest and most complex machine ever made, could revamp modern physics and unlock secrets about the universe and its origins. The project has had to work hard to deny suggestions by some critics that the experiment could create tiny black holes of intense gravity that could suck in the whole planet. Such fears, fanned by doomsday writers, have spurred huge interest in particle physics before the machine's start-up. Leading scientists have dismissed such concerns as "nonsense".

Source: Deccan Herald

CNR Rao invited to head Vision Group on S&T

After Vision Group on IT, BT and Nanotechnology, the State government will constitute a high-power panel on science and technology. Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa has invited Mr C N R Rao, scientific advisor to the Prime Minister, to head the vision group on science and technology and also prepare a vision document on science for the state. Last October, Rao was appointed chairman of the vision group on nanotechnology. "I am yet to discuss the issue with the CM and the science and technology minister. As a Kannadiga I am willing to extend all help to the state government," Rao told The Express.

Source: Indian Express

Science satellite launch delayed

The launch of a satellite to monitor Earth's gravitational field, scheduled from a base in northern Russia, has been postponed to October 5 because of technical problems, the European Space Agency (ESA) announced. Launch preparations at the Plesetsk cosmodrome 800 kilometres (500 miles) north of Moscow were stopped "due to an anomaly in one of the units of the guidance and navigation subsystem of the launcher's upper stage," ESA said. Fixing the problem will mean separating the rocket's components to replace the unit, it said in a press release. The launch has been rescheduled to October 5 at 1421 GMT, ESA said, adding, "The satellite and its mission will not be affected by this launch delay." The one-tonne satellite is called the Gravity field and state-steady Ocean Circulation Explorer, or GOCE.

Source: Hindu

US aerospace sector eyes India for engineers, scientists

The American aerospace industry is eyeing India for getting its work done here. "I believe this development is going to be good for both US and India," says Mr John Douglass, former President and Chief Executive Officer of Aerospace Industries Association of America. The average age of an American aerospace worker is around 50. There are around 7 lakh workers and a majority of them will retire within the next decade. Schools in the US are not producing engineers and scientists quick enough to fill up this gap, he said in his address at Connect2008, the annual ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) event of Tamil Nadu organised by Confederation of Indian Industry in association with the State Government.

Source: Business Line

Indian AWACS deal falters

The delivery of three Israeli Phalcon AWACS to the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been delayed until at least 2009. The airborne warning and control systems, purchased in 2004 for $1.1-billion, were originally slated for integration into the IAF by November 2007. An anonymous official attributed the delay to "technical hitches in the integration work" and emphasized that New Delhi was pressuring IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries) to deliver the first AWAC before the end of 2008. The faltering deal has also been plagued by allegations of mismanaged negotiations and overpayment. Indeed, as the IT Examiner previously reported, the AWAC sale was heavily criticised by Maj Gen (Retd) Mrinal Suman. According to the Major General, the Indian government "failed to negotiate ful-proof agreements with clearly defined provisions...In almost all contracts, imprecise and flawed provisions led to multiple interpretations during the implementation stage".

Source: IT Examiner

Intermediate Jet Trainer certification by 2010

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Two teams from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are leaving for Russia in a bid to fast track the custom-made Russian engine AL-55I ('I' for Indian) that will power the indigenous, but delayed Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT). While a team will be tasked with the acceptance of three fly-worthy AL-551 engines, the other headed by HAL's chief test pilot (Fixed Wing) Mr Baldev Singh will view firsthand the flight operations of an AL-55I engine that is being flight-tested on a MiG-AT. A recent in-house review meeting of the project decided to adhere to the schedule of securing certification for the IJT by June 2010. Though HAL has been buoyed because the AL-55I, which is being developed by NPO Saturn, has at long last been brought on the "critical path," the June 2010 schedule appears difficult.

Source: Hindu

Pakistan to get 100 fighter jets

Pakistan will acquire over 100 fighter jets from China and the United States as well, as airborne warning and air-to-air refuelling aircraft to maintain numerical parity with the Indian Air Force which enjoys a "qualitative advantage", the country's air force chief has said. Air Chief Marshal Tanvir Mahmood Ahmed said the Pakistan Air Force was "very close" to signing a contract with China for serial production of 42 JF-17 fighter jets. It would also acquire two squadrons or 36 of the FC-20 multi-role fighters from China and 18 new F-16s from the United States, he said.

Source: Deccan Herald

TECHNOLOGY

IAI's Heron TP UAV sets new technological and operational records

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has announced that the Heron TP, it's largest and most advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), recently set a new technological and operational record flying at an altitude of 40,000 ft, for a substantial period of time. According to IAI the Heron reached this altitude in less than one hour of flight. The Heron TP, also dubbed the Heron 2 or ''Eitan'', by its Israeli Air Force (IAF) designation - is designed to fly at high altitude on missions spanning over several days. Powered by a powerful 1,200 hp turbo-prop engine, the 4.6 ton UAV can operate at 45,000 feet, that is, above commercial air traffic, with a one-ton payload. This enables it to carry sensors that can provide a detailed view of the ground, even from that great height.

Source: domain-b.com

India played a part in Big Bang experiment

As the first particle beam traveled a 27-km long tunnel, a motley group of scientists in far away cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Indore were getting the thrills. This motley group, with active support from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), had played a key role in realising the world's biggest scientific experiment to unravel some of the mysteries behind the world of the "very small" and "very big". Over the last 12 years, a consortium of institutes and universities developed 28 instruments — 14 of them are of prime importance — for the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) accelerator managed by the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN). The 27-km long accelerator — a giant machine that smashes two high velocity beams of sub-atomic particles moving in opposite directions — is literally sitting on 7080 Precision Magnet Positioning System (PMPS) jacks made in India, Mr V C Sahni, director of the Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology at Indore told Deccan Herald.

Source: Deccan Herald

Chandrayaan launch by October end: ISRO

Chandrayaan, the country's first Moon mission project, will be launched at the end of October, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair said. Speaking to reporters after being conferred an honorary doctorate in science along with ace shooter Mr Abhinav Bindra, who was awarded an honorary doctorate in literature, at the fourth convocation of SRM University, the space scientist said, "Everything is going well. It will be coming out of thermo-vacuum tests soon. We are looking at a launch towards the end of October. Any uncertainties that will come our way will be from the weather. Space research in the country has progressed to such an extent that India is now in a position to provide technology that is comparable to developed nations, he said.

Source: Times of India

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Tech to put new spring on Indian missiles

Indian scientists have developed path-breaking technology, which has the potential to increase the range of missiles and satellite launch vehicles by at least 40%, a member of the team which achieved the technological breakthrough said. India's longest-range missile, the Agni III, is capable of hitting targets 3,500 km away and the new technology could boost its range to 4,900 km. The enhanced range is made possible by adding a special-purpose coating of chromium metal to the blunt nose cone of missiles and launch vehicles, Mr G Jagadeesh, an assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Science(IISc) said. IISc, which is celebrating its centenary this year, has applied for an international patent for the technology. "Objects such as missiles fly at hypersonic velocities, which are more than five times the speed of sound and encounter atmospheric drag because of friction. The chromium coating works by adding temporary heat and pushing the stagnating gas away to create an easier path, "Mr Jagadeesh said.

Source: Economic Times

DRDO official cautions on chemical warfare

Given the possibility of chemical and biological warfare - which would be much cheaper, easy to engineer and tough to detect, but physically and psychologically more damaging - the country would have to have a pre-determined role and responsibility, and methodology, to defend itself against such a scenario, said Mr K. Sekhar, Chief Controller (Research and Development), who is incharge of implementation at the Defence Research and Development Organisation. "There is hardly any regulatory mechanism in place to monitor the situation. Besides, the country has of late seen outbreak of so many diseases achieving pandemic proportions that one doesn't know for sure whether they were engineered or natural," he said pointing at the conjecture as to whether or not the outbreak of plague in Surat in 1994 was an attempt at biological warfare agent.

Source; Hindu

Air-to-air missile Astra test-fired successfully

An important milestone in the pre-operational phase of Beyond-Visual-Range air-to-air missile, Astra was achieved with the successful test-firing of the weapon system at Chandipur-on-sea, off the Orissa coast. Astra project director S.Gollakota told The Hindu from Chandipur that the ground launch of the advanced tactical missile, having the capability to intercept fast-moving targets at supersonic speeds (1.2 to 1.4 Mach), was carried out just afternoon. The missile, launched from a specially-built ground launcher hit two simulated targets within 40 seconds and met all the "mission objectives."

Source: Hindu

Russian water detector on U.S. lunar orbiter

A Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector (LEND) readied at the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences has been sent to the U.S. to be installed on the American Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), scheduled for launch in 2009. The aim of the mission is to map the Moon's surface. The task of the Russian device is to look for hydrogen and hydrogen-bearing compounds, above all frozen water, in the lunar subsurface. A companion event will be the "impacting" of the Moon to produce fresh information on the Earth's natural satellite, and seek water resources, presumably of cometary origin. The launch vehicle and the instrument container will impact the Moon. A similar technique was used in 2005 when scientists made a study of the Tempel-1 comet, into which a copper impactor weighing 369 kg was manoeuvred. Crashing into the comet at a speed of 170 metres a second, it gouged a crater the size of a football field and several dozen meters deep.

Source: Hindu

BUSINESS

Civil Aviation Min approves Maha airport project

A proposal to set up a greenfield airport in Sindhudurg in Maharashtra was accorded 'in-principle' approval by the Civil Aviation Ministry today. India plans to have 500 airports by 2020. The Maharashtra government had proposed to set up the new airport through the public-private-partnership route at an estimated cost of Rs 492 crore, with the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation as the nodal agency. Govt puts off decision on raising FDI cap in civil aviation. A newly-created Steering Committee, comprising officials of several concerned ministries, gave clearance to the Sindhudurg airport proposal, a Ministry spokesperson said.

Source: Sify.com

ISRO arm's revenue up at Rs 940-cr on satellite launches

Two commercial satellite launches made from Sriharikota during 2007-08 have driven up the revenue of ISRO's commercial arm Antrix Corporation to Rs 940 crore for that year. Antrix's pre-audit revenue grew nearly 42 per cent year on year — up from Rs 664 crore — due to the launch of Israeli defence satellite TecSAR in January 2008 and Italy's Agile in April 2007. A part of it spilled over from the previous year. The mainstay of business, however, remains the leasing of transponder capacity on ISRO satellites to broadcasters, VSATs and public sector users, according to Antrix's Executive Director, Mr K.R. Sridhara Murthi. The space services and systems provider of the Department of Space is now a 'mini ratna' – which gives it relatively more autonomy to take faster decisions on some of its projects and collaborations. Antrix also saw its provisional profit after tax touching Rs 169 crore, or 60 per cent growth over Rs 105 crore it gained in fiscal 2007. Two years back, in 2005-06, Antrix's sales were Rs 414 crore.

Source: Business Line

Reed Exhibitions Acquires Airport Show

Reed Exhibitions, the world's largest events organizer, today announced its acquisition of the Airport Show from Streamline Marketing Group. The Airport Show is the region's leading procurement event for the aviation and airports sector and is held annually in Dubai, UAE. The acquisition is expected to boost the event's profile and popularity, even as preparations are underway for the show's next edition in May 2009. Launched in 2001, the Airport Show is held annually at the Airport Expo, Dubai and has emerged as one of the world's largest airport construction, operations, technology and services shows. Its 2008 edition held under the patronage of His Highness Mr Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA), Chairman, Dubai Airports, drew over 515 exhibitors occupying more than 18,300 sqm of exhibition space.

Source: MiddleEastEvents.com

Satyam and MSC. Software Extend Partnership to Provide Enterprise Simulation Services

Satyam Computer Services Ltd. , a leading global consulting and information technology services provider, announced today that it has extended its strategic alliance with MSC.Software Corporation , a leading global provider of enterprise simulation solutions, including simulation software and services. The extended agreement calls for Satyam to provide specific service offerings in support of the company's SimEnterprise solutions, including MD Nastran, SimManager and SimXpert to global discrete manufacturing customers. These MSC solutions allow aerospace and industrial manufacturing companies to achieve improved product development efficiencies, accelerate new product introductions and reduce time-consuming redesign cycle periods from weeks to just days.

Source: IT News Online

India's TCS in aeronautical design JV with Saab

Tata Consultancy Services, India's top software services exporter, it will partner with Swedish defence and aerospace group Saab for an aeronautical design and development centre. The centre in India will offer defence and civil aeronautical services, including systems for new platforms, performance studies, virtual prototyping and aircraft sustenance engineering, TCS said in a statement. Financial details were not disclosed. "This

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partnership has a blend of Saab's technology solutions and TCS's global engineering model to address the growing opportunities in the aerospace and defence sector," said S. Ramadorai, chief executive officer of TCS. Indian software services firms are increasingly tapping sectors such as aviation, retail and defence as they seek to cut reliance on banks and financial services firms, which have been battered by the U.S. subprime crisis.

Source: Reuters

Israeli firms set to get another defence deal

In an unusual development, the Central Vigilance Commission has given the go-ahead for a massive joint venture with two Israeli defence firms that are under investigation for kickbacks in the Barak missile scandal. The JV that involves Israel Aerospace Industries and Rafael teaming up with India's Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Indian Air Force to build medium range surface-to-air missiles (MRSAMs) could be kickstarted very soon, sources said. The deal, worth Rs 10,400 crore, would be India's biggest defence JV with a foreign country.

Source: DNA

The United States on Wednesday announced the sale of two dozen

Harpoon II anti-ship missiles to India. The deal, worth over $170 million, was made public as Defence Minister Mr A.K. Antony began a high-level visit to the U.S. This would be the first sale of American missiles to India. The Pentagon has notified Congress of a possible sale to India of the Harpoon Block II missiles, which would arm squadrons of the 'maritime-role version of Jaguar warplanes of the Indian Air Force. The Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency said India had sought 20 AGM-84L Harpoon missiles, which are fired from fixed-wing aircraft, and four ATM-84L Harpoon Block II Exercise missiles, containers,training devices, spare and repair parts.

Source: Hindu

India aviation week in Hyderabad may see A-380 display

From the world's largest commercial jetliner, the 550-seater Airbus A-380 to small private jets that can seat 4-10 passengers, visitors to Begumpet airport in Hyderabad between October 15 and 18 will be able to feast their eyes on these and at least 30 other variety of aircraft. Apart from static display of commercial aircraft and business jets manufactured by global players including Boeing, Embraer and Hawker among others, the Indian Air Force is also planning a 20-minute fly-past on the first and last days of the event during which not only the Sukhoi jets but also the indigenously developed helicopter will be seen in the Hyderabad skies.

Source: Business Line

EVENTS

AERO TECH 2008

National Seminar on
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E-NEWS

CAREER

Chimes Aviation Academy launches pilot training academy

Chimes Aviation Academy (CAA), a division of Chimes Aviation Private Ltd and a part of Chimes Group formally launched its First India's Largest, fully integrated Pilot Training Academy in Dhana (Dist Sagar) Madhya Pradesh today. Aimed at creating a"World-Class, Global Scale Pilot Training ", CAA is driving a culture of excellence in all facets of the academy. Armed with the latest fleet, comprehensive curriculum and renowned faculty consisting of aviation specialist with global exposure, CAA offers comprehensive training for professional pilots in India. CAA plans to train over 120 pilots annually and is currently offering DGCA approved courses like CPL (Commercial Pilot License), PPL (Private Pilot License). In addition to license and type rating endorsements.CAA would soon be seeking FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) & JAA (Joint Aviation Authorities) certifications to enable training on multiple global licenses and would also be moving up the Value Chain by offering Advanced Simulator Training.

Source: Moneycontrol

One-lakh jobs in Chennai Aero Park

Around 4,000 acres of developed infrastructure (final phase) will be required to develop the Chennai Aero Park, a proposal mooted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and under consideration of the Tamil Nadu Government. The park in Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad will collectively be the largest integrated aerospace facility in the world, according to a concept paper prepared by CII. The Chennai Aero Park can create direct and indirect employment to the tune of one lakh for highly-skilled resources in the area of aerospace and avionics. An aerospace supply chain with technology development, process development/ enhancement, workforce development and infrastructure should be part of an ecosystem, says the proposal presented at Connect2008, the two-day annual ICT (information, communication and technology) event of Tamil Nadu organised by CII in association with the State Government.

Source: Sify

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nambiar is new civil aviation secretary

Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer of 1974 batch, Mr M Madhavan Nambiar, will be the new civil aviation secretary, replacing Mr Ashok Chawla, who has been appointed as secretary, department of economic affairs (DEA) in the finance ministry. Mr Nambiar was special secretary in the department of information technology and the post has been reverted to its earlier level of additional secretary. Mr Chawla belongs to the 1973 batch of the Gujarat cadre. Mr Rahul Sarin of the 1974 batch Jharkhand cadre has been appointed the new secretary to the department of personnel and training (DoPT) but will continue to hold his earlier charge of secretary, food processing industries, as additional charge.

Source: Times of India

Kalam made IIST Chancellor

The former President and India's rocket-missile technologist, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, has been appointed Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology(IIST), Thiruvananthapuram. Mr. Kalam was the project director of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first two SLV-3 (Satellite Launch Vehicles) fights in 1979 and 1980 from Sriharikota. The SLV-3 flight in 1980 was a big success, with the rocket putting the Rohini satellite in orbit. He was also the architect of India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme under which Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Trishul and Nag missiles were developed.

Source: Hindu