



## e-news

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Bangalore 560 075  
Karnataka, INDIA  
Telefax: +91 80 25273851  
e-mail: [editoraesi@dataone.in](mailto:editoraesi@dataone.in)  
[editoraesi@yahoo.com](mailto:editoraesi@yahoo.com)

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### Publication Team

Dr R Balasubramaniam  
Dr S Kishore Kumar  
Dr P Raghothama Rao  
Ms Harpreet A De Singh  
Dr Satish Chandra  
Mrs Chandrika R Krishnan  
Mr Hemanth Kumar R

### Head Quarters

The Aeronautical Society of  
India  
13-B, Indraprastha Estate  
New Delhi 110 002, India  
Tel: ++91 11 23370516  
Fax: ++91 11 23370768  
e-mail: [aerosoc@bol.net.in](mailto:aerosoc@bol.net.in)

## Welcome to e-news

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The Hawk is ready to soar - Details under Current affairs

### READER'S RESPONSE

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

### Boeing delaying consultancy for Tejas programme

The Bush administration seems to be dragging its feet over giving the go-ahead to Boeing providing consultancy for the light combat aircraft, Tejas, programme. The consultancy, offered to the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), which is designing and developing the Tejas, will run for 42 months. It envisages Boeing, which has sufficient experience on flight test programmes like its F-18 Hornet, providing the ADA with crucial inputs on flight tests that would help in avoiding unnecessary flights, saving costs and shortening of the design and development phases. Though U.S. laws concerning sale/consultancy in areas of defence have to necessarily be cleared by the U.S. Department of State, ADA officials are surprised that the consultancy has run aground. They say it is only in the form of assistance and no equipment is being sought for the Tejas.

Source: *Hindu*

### Air India may reassess manpower position

Air India is planning to carry out a total assessment of its manpower situation with a view to identifying the actual requirements and prune staff costs. The assessment will include outsourced manpower in India and abroad. This is among the various cost-control measures that the airline is looking to implement to reduce costs and work on a turnaround strategy for Air India. The airline will also review contractual employment after superannuation and look at the option of returning leased aircraft so as to make better use of owned capacity in the fleet. Other cost-cutting steps include doing away with festival advances, subsidised loans and advances and reimbursement towards educational scholarship merit awards immediately.

Source: *Business Line*

### Sarang flies back with glowing accolades

Only on the days the team was scheduled to showcase its manoeuvres to the world would it rain. Not a downpour, just the light persistent London drizzle, but still a challenge, say pilots of Sarang, the helicopter display team of the Indian Air Force (IAF). Their practice routine included

walking in the same positions as they would fly their Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH). The team of 14 officers and 32 technicians is back after a 63-day detachment from its 151 Helicopter Unit based at the Air Force Station Yelahanka. The stint took them to five air shows in Europe, the first time the team perform there. The helicopters are remarkably striking, painted red, blue and yellow. Towards the tail are motifs of peacock feathers; after all, Sarang is the Sanskrit name for India's national bird.

Source: *Times of India*

### BEL hands over Rohini radar to IAF

Bharath Electronics Limited (BEL), a defence public sector undertaking, handed over the first of the three-dimensional radar 'Rohini' to the Indian Air Force here on Wednesday. BEL Chairman and Managing Director Mr V R Sastry, handed over a ceremonial key to Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major at a function held at the Ghaziabad campus of the company, marking its induction into the IAF. The state-of-the-art multifunction medium range surveillance radar has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Electronics and Radar Development Establishment, Bangalore, and engineered and produced by BEL.

Source: *Deccan Herald*

### Chandrayaan launch delayed

The launch of Chandrayaan, India's moon mission project, will be delayed past the scheduled date of September 18 to mid-October, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr G. Madavan Nair said here. He said that the systems had already been fully integrated and that thermo-vacuum tests would be conducted soon was the key to a successful launch along with climate conditions. Only about three days each month would provide favorable alignments, he said.

Source: *Hindu*

### A Space Odyssey

America's space agency turned 50 last week. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA, as it is commonly known, was born in the midst of the Cold War on July 29, 1958 when US President



Dwight Eisenhower signed a Bill creating it. Just a few months earlier, the Soviet Union had stunned the world by launching Sputnik, the first artificial satellite. Formed as a response to the perceived Soviet threat, NASA began operations on October 1, 1958, less than a year after Sputnik was launched into orbit. With its creation, the space race officially began, as the two superpowers vied for bragging rights in space exploration. In the decade after Sputnik 1, space age progress was driven by the competition between America and the Soviet Union. In 1961, the Soviets sent Yuri Gagarin into orbit. Having lost primacy in launching the first satellite as well as the first human into space, the US under President John F Kennedy took on the challenge to be first to get to the moon. Money flowed into NASA; at its peak, NASA was getting almost 1 per cent of America's GDP. The race to set foot on the moon became a symbol not only of technological prowess, but getting there first meant winning the hearts and minds of the world.

*Source: Times of India*

### **The Hawk is ready to soar**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited will be handing over the first HAL built HAWK Mk-132 aircraft to Air Chief Marshall F H Major on Aug 14. Hawk is a transonic tandem-seat ground attack/ trainer, powered by a single Rolls Royce Adour MK871 turbo fan engine. The aircraft has a one piece moderately swept wing mounted low on the fuselage, with double-slotted flaps and advanced aerofoil section. The fin and rudder are located in front of the tailplane, ensuring that the rudder is never completely obstructed, thus contributing to the aircraft's consistent and positive spin recovery characteristics, according to a release.

*Source: Bangalore Mirror*

### **Cabinet panel to discuss aviation woes**

An eight-member committee chaired by Cabinet Secretary Mr K M Chandrasekar will hold its first meeting on Thursday to examine and assess the financial difficulties being faced by the airline operators in India and recommend measures for sustained growth and health of the aviation industry. Civil Aviation Minister Mr Praful Patel said this on Monday while addressing the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament attached to his ministry. Other members of the committee constituted by the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh last month include secretaries from the Ministries of

Finance, Civil Aviation, Department of Revenue, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Planning Commission.

*Source: Indian Express*

### **HAL airport may reopen to take burden off BIA**

The probability of the old HAL airport being reopened for commercial operations is rising. The ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) is now pushing this idea. Top civil aviation ministry officials told TOI that the MoCA has held a series of discussions to reopen HAL airport, given that the new Bengaluru International Airport (BIA) is saturated. "If needed, we, together with the other promoters of BIA, will relook at the concessions agreement," said the official who requested anonymity. The MoCA, he said, has endorsed the Airports Authority of India (AAI) report on BIA, which states that the airport had reached full capacity the moment it opened. MoCA is also pushing BIA for an immediate capacity expansion. In June, MoCA had designated a 4-member team from AAI to study the capacity issues at BIA.

*Source: Times of India*

### **4,430-metre runway opens for trial runs at Delhi International airport**

With the landing of an Air India Boeing 777-300 (extended range), the third runway, 4,430 metres long, of the Indira Gandhi International Airport here — among the longest in Asia — opened for trial runs on Thursday morning. The aircraft, with the pilot and cabin crew on board the inaugural flight, first performed a low flypast without landing and returned 10 minutes later. The runway has been built by the Delhi International Airport Limited, a GMR group-led joint venture consortium mandated to operate and modernise the airport. The aircraft was given the traditional water cannon salute by fire tenders of the airport fire service.

*Source: Hindu*

### GTRE may go with Snecma to help develop the Kaveri engine

Unconfirmed reports suggest that India's aerospace research laboratory, the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), may have finally zeroed in on a foreign partner to take its struggling Kaveri jet engine project past the qualifying mark. According to reports, the GTRE will partner French engine maker Snecma SA to build engines for the Tejas, the country's indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft. According to the report, Snecma could not immediately confirm the development. Snecma, a division of the Safran Group, will take at least four years to build and certify the engine, reports said. The technology would eventually be transferred to India for local manufacture. "We don't have the time now for the Kaveri to fully mature. In the co-development with Snecma, our R&D (work) also goes in," said Mr T Mohana Rao, director, GTRE was quoted as saying. "It would have taken another five to six years or more (for Kaveri) to achieve (the full performance)," said Mr Rao. "We firmed the partner, so IAF need not wait longer."

Source: domain-b.com

### ISRO to hit the century mark

Buoyed by its success in placing eight nano-satellites in prescribed orbits, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is hoping to stage another feat by launching 100 nano-sats at one go. Scientists at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, are preparing elaborate drawings to make this event happen some two years from now. The ISRO has already intimated universities world wide about the project and has extended an open invite to any varsity to take part in the historic venture. Within the country, the IITs in Kanpur and Mumbai were among the first to express interest along with ISRO's Indian Institute of Space Science at Thiruvananthapuram. The Madurai Kamaraj University is already in the process of fabricating its satellite.

Source: Indian Express

### HAL to manufacture NAL-designed, 14-seater passenger aircraft, Saras

Indian aerospace and defence manufacturing giant, the State-run

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), will produce India's first passenger aircraft to be designed and manufactured in the country. HAL has received the unique privilege after it was chosen by launch customer, the Indian Air Force (IAF), over Indian private sector companies, such as Mahindra Aerospace and Larsen and Toubro Ltd (L&T). The 14-seater, multi-role aircraft, Saras, will be the first passenger plane to be designed and manufactured in the country. Saras is a product of the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), a state-run laboratory for civil aircraft design. So far, all aircraft design and manufacturing activity in the country has been conducted by HAL or the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and have been intended for military use.

Source: domain-b.com

### Guided flight trials of Astra BVRAAM in September

India still has a way to go before it can test fire the indigenously designed and developed Astra beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) from the Air Force's most lethal airborne platform, the Su-30MKI long-range multi-role fighter. Dismissing newspaper reports that the first full test flight of the Astra with the missile being fired from the Su-30MKI would be undertaken anytime soon as "rubbish," Astra Project Director Dr S. Gollakota told The Hindu that it would not be until "sometime in 2009" that the test could be performed. "We are working towards that date." Dr. Gollakota, however, disclosed that the ground or guided flight trials of the futuristic missile that will intercept targets at Mach 1.2 to 1.4 will be conducted in September or October. "The complete missile will be tested on a moving target at the Chandipur (Orissa) Interim Test Range (ITR) to prove its guidance system."

Source: Hindu

### Defence procurements to go on fast track

Putting the process of acquisition of advance weapons systems on the fast track, ensuring total transparency in purchases, easing the licensing conditions for private sector players and allowing foreign players to bank offsets on contracts are the highlights of the new Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) unveiled by Defence Minister Mr A.K. Antony here on Friday. The policy, which will come into effect from September, promises the vendors advance information on procurements before floating tenders and seeks to enhance the financial powers of the Army, Navy and Air Force headquarters and also that of the Defence Secretary. The policy comes close on the heels of the government preparing a shopping list that is likely to touch a whopping \$30-50 billion over the next five years. Releasing the DPP-2008, Mr. Antony said the provision to bank offsets was introduced to secure greater engagement of global industries in promoting the Indian defence industry.

*Source: Hindu*

### Boeing, EADS, four others offer to invest in Indian defence

Six global defence majors, including US giants Lockheed Martin and Boeing and European consortium EADS, today offered to invest an estimated USD 2-3 billion to revitalise India's defence and aerospace industry. Under the proposals, which came days after New Delhi unveiled a new investment-friendly weapons procurement policy, the companies offered to pump in more investments, create defence exports and set up weapon-related joint ventures. Six leading military jets manufacturing firms forwarded proposals for comprehensive industrial participation in the Indian defence industry as part of obligations to meet their defence offsets clause in the estimated USD 10 billion Indian contract to buy 126 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA).

*Source: Hindu*

### HAL gets order for Dhruvs from Turkey

Good times for India's indigenous Advanced Flight Helicopter (ALH) 2Dhruv have begun with the bluechip Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) beating competition to strike a deal with Turkey to supply three of the helicopters by this year end. India won the contract in Turkey to first lease out two ALHs for years and later supply one more five of the aircraft but all before December this year, top HAL officials said on Monday. Representatives from HAL won the bid late last week beating challenges from US helicopter manufacturer Bell and European major Eurocopter, which were among the top contenders.

*Source: Indian Express*

### IAF to add teeth with Israeli missile system

The long-delayed IAF plans to plug gaps in its air defence capabilities are finally making some headway now, with the government giving the go-ahead for the procurement of SpyDer low-level quick-reaction missile systems from Israel. Sources said the deal for the 18 SpyDer systems, at a cost over Rs 1,800 crore, should be "inked within a few weeks" after being approved by the Defence Acquisitions Council. The deal has been hanging fire for quite some time now, with one of the main reasons being the naming of Israeli Aerospace Industries and Rafael in the Rs 1,160 crore Barak-I deal kickbacks case by the CBI.

*Source; Times of India*

### Indian Army places \$2 billion order for BrahMos missiles: Dr Sivathanu Pillai

The Indian Army has placed a \$2 billion order for supersonic cruise missiles from the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos Aerospace according to a report from the Interfax news agency. The agency quoted firm chief executive, Dr Sivathanu Pillai, as saying, "The order by the Indian armed forces comes to \$2 billion." BrahMos Aerospace is a joint Indo-Russian venture established in 1998 to design, develop, produce and market a unique supersonic



cruise missile. Sivathanu Pillai, speaking in Moscow, also said the total order book for the supersonic cruise missile, including supplies to other countries, could eventually reach \$10 billion. A senior Indian defence official in New Delhi was quoted as saying that the deal was part of a long-term agreement between BrahMos Aerospace and the Indian armed forces. The BrahMos has a range of up to 290 km and can travel at speeds of up to 2.8 times the speed of sound.

Source: domain-b.com

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### **Kuala Lumpur Air Show Debuts in 2009**

Beginning 2009, the federal capital and Petaling Jaya will reverberate with the sounds of all kinds of jet and propeller aircraft for five days a year. The first Kuala Lumpur Air Show (KLAS) will be held from July 15- 19 at the Subang Skypark next year, and the organisers have big plans for the annual show. Endorsed by the Tourism Ministry, KLAS aims to capture 36 per cent of the aviation market growth in Asia Pacific by 2026. Organised by World Aerospace Sdn Bhd, KLAS 2009 will focus solely on showcasing the latest in commercial aerospace, like new business / regional jet models, airport technology and fuel-efficient systems for commercial aircraft. This effort is to ensure Malaysia's growth in aerospace and aviation sectors.

Source: redOrbit

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### **Promoted: Dr K P Singh**

Dr K P Singh, Project Director, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has been promoted as 'Outstanding Scientist'. He is a post graduate in aeronautical engineering from IIT-Kanpur and obtained his doctorate in Aeronautics from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He joined ADA in 1988 and has contributed significantly to the LCA programme in the area of computational fluid dynamics and store separation studies.

Source: Deccan Herald

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For details contact :

Dr R Balasubramaniam  
Editor - e-news Editorial Team  
The Aeronautical Society of India  
Suranjandas Road  
New Thippasandra Post  
Bangalore - 560 075  
Telefax : 080 25273851  
Email : [editoraesi@dataone.in](mailto:editoraesi@dataone.in)  
[editoraesi@yahoo.com](mailto:editoraesi@yahoo.com)

