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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.**

Main causes of air accidents exposed

Recent statistics released by the Aviation Safety Council (ASC) showed that pilots veering off runways accounted for a majority of aviation accidents in the last decade. Those were followed by accidents resulting from abnormal contact with the runway upon landing or takeoff. ASC statistics showed that a total of 29 major flight accidents had occurred from 1997 through last year. Eight accidents occurred when pilots drove off the runways while four resulted from abnormal contact with the runway. While analyzing the factors leading to these accidents, it was found that 89 percent of accidents were the result of man-made errors.

Source: Taipei Times

Pact for Mirage 2000 upgrade

With the Indian government set to ask for proposals to upgrade its fleet of Mirage 2000 fighters, French defence and aerospace company Thales will soon enter into a pact with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to jointly bid for the project, top officials said here. Thales has also committed itself to a 30 percent offsets clause for the upgrade, unlike some purchases in the past like Russia's Sukhoi-30s and MI-17 choppers in which upgrades were taken as part of the original deal, the officials added. "I think, things are finally moving forward," said Jean-Paul Perrier, executive vice president for the \$17- billion French giant, referring to the government's intention since two years ago to upgrade its fleet of 51 Mirage 2000 fighters.

Source: Times of India

Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) to fly on August 1

With ground tests and endurance runs well on their way to being successfully completed, Dhruv, the first Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) powered by 'Shakti,' is scheduled to take to the skies on August 1. The Shakti engine, co-developed by public sector enterprise Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Turbomeca, a SAFRAN group company, under an industrial partnership contract signed in February 2003, is around 20 per cent more powerful than the ALH's present power plant, the Turbomeca TM 333-2B2.

Source: The Hindu

ISRO to send Israeli spy satellite up

India will launch a foreign satellite with a 'top-secret' payload in September. Though ISRO officials are tight-lipped about the nature of the mission, though information obtained from other sources by TOI suggests ISRO's proven four-stage Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle will carry an Israeli spy satellite called TechSar, weighing about 260 kg. The lift-off will be from Sriharikota space centre. The launch will mark a crucial milestone in growing Indo-Israeli military ties, and there's a likelihood that some of the secret images taken by TechSar will be made available to India.

Source: Times of India

Jet Airways open for alliance with Air India

Outlining an ambitious route expansion agenda for Jet Airways, its chief Naresh Goyal said his airline was open for an alliance with Air India to enhance the market share of Indian carriers from the present 20 to 50 per cent in the next few years. Noting that cooperative arrangements were needed to increase the market share of Indian carriers in terms of traffic in and out of the country, he told reporters that his company favoured such cooperation with Air India. We have agreed that the post merger Air India and Jet Airways must cooperate; not just go for alliances. Why can't we have an alliance within India," Mr. Goyal posed, adding that all sides would benefit from such an arrangement.

Source: The Hindu

Pranab to head GoM on aviation

External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee will be heading a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted for wider consultations on Civil Aviation Policy, including addressing concerns expressed by various ministries. The 10-member ministerial group comprises Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, Railway Minister Lalu Prasad, Home Minister Shivraj Patil, Defence Minister A K Antony, Law Minister H R Bharadwaj and Finance Minister P Chidambaram. Other members of the GoM include Urban Development Minister Jaipal Reddy, Shipping and Transport Minister T R Baalu, Tourism Minister Ambika Soni, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Praful Patel and



Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia, an official spokesperson said here.

Source: Economic Times

ISRO toying with 'desi' Cape Canaveral

Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh or an Andaman island would become home to the Indian equivalent of Cape Canaveral where a desi reusable satellite launch vehicle (RSLV) would land like an aircraft after injecting its payload into the orbit in circa 2020. Readying its space

programme for the next stage, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is toying with the idea of laying a landing strip for the RSLV either near its launch facility in Sriharikota or somewhere in Andamans; latter possibility for the sole reason that the archipelago lies in the flight path of all ISRO launches. The idea of a "space port" was necessitated after ISRO crossed a crucial milestone in the development of RSLV.

Source: Indian Express

AI plans European hub: Thulasidas

State-run carrier Air India, which is being merged with another national airline Indian, is looking to create a hub in Europe and rationalize its route structure by providing more direct services. Following the footsteps of its private competitor Jet Airways, which has established an operational hub at Brussels, Air India is holding discussions with aviation authorities in some major cities of Europe. "Discussions are going on. Let us come to some final conclusion and then we will let you know," Air India CMD V Thulasidas said.

Source: Times of India

Sukhoi plans to roll out first SuperJet-100s in 2008 – official

Sukhoi Civil Aircraft, a subsidiary of the state-owned Sukhoi holding, said Monday it would build the first nine SuperJet-100 regional aircraft in 2008. The SuperJet-100 project is a family of medium-range passenger aircraft developed by the Sukhoi Design Bureau in cooperation with major American and European aviation corporations, including Boeing, Snecma, Thales, Messier Dowty, Liebherr Aerospace, and Honeywell. "We are planning to build nine aircraft in 2008, 30 planes in 2009, 60 planes in 2010, and starting in 2011 to roll out 70 jets annually," said Sergei Shkryabun, the company's regional director.

Source: RIA Novosti

LCH to fly in October 2008

Production work on the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), the indigenous gunship being developed by Hindustan Aeronautics

Limited (HAL) for the IAF, is in full flow. The aircraft is expected to fly in October 2008. It will be a combat variant of the ALH, one of the lightest helicopters in the world. Components common to ALH and LCH are being produced, and design and tooling work is under way on other components. The components are largely made of lightweight composites to enable the aircraft to fly at altitudes of over 5,000 metres. The airframe will be kept light, experts told TOI, saying it will not weigh more than 5.5 tonnes. While the external configuration of the aircraft is ready, the internal design is nearly complete and minor modifications to the original design are being incorporated.

Source: Times of India

LCA radar set for March 2008 flight test

A state-of-the-art radar being developed for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas will be integrated onto the fighter aircraft by March 2008. The radar known as the multi mode radar is being co-developed by India's Electronic Research Development Establishment (LRDE) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Israel's Elta Systems. ADA Programme Director P S Subramanyam told TOI that more than 90% of work on the radar was over and that it would be ready for fitting onto the LCA within the first quarter of 2008. "We have planned flight tests for the radar from March 2008 itself. The tests will be conducted over a period of four months following which will be validation and commencement of production."

Source: Times of India

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US \$ 600-m chopper deal put on hold

Four months after the Ministry of Defence shortlisted Europe's Eurocopter to supply 197 light helicopters to the Indian Army, the \$600-million deal is now under scrutiny amid questions being raised by Washington over the disqualification of the only other contender, the US-based Bell. In May, Bell and US officials are said to have met Indian Ambassador in Washington Ronen Sen to express their reservations. In March this year, Defence Minister A.K.Antony told Parliament that his Ministry had accepted trial evaluation reports of Eurocopter's AS-550 (popularly called Fennec) and Bell-407 (called Shen) choppers to replace its fleet of 1960s vintage Chetak-Cheetah helicopters.

Source: Indian Express

BrahMos to develop first hypersonic cruise missile in 5 years

Dr. Sivatanu Pillai, CEO & MD of BrahMos, a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia, gave interview to the correspondent of Pravda.Ru at IMDS-2007. The missile is named after two rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Moskva. Pravda.Ru: Dr. Pillai, how do you assess the 3rd Naval Salon in St. Petersburg and what are the objectives of BrahMos here? Dr. Pillai: Russian naval salon is very important for BrahMos. The exhibition gathers all major companies of the naval shipbuilding and we are determined to emphasize our presence among the world's leaders.

Source: Pravda.Ru

India, US to sign deal on military logistics

The Left may protest all it wants, but the UPA government is steadily stepping up India's already robust defence and strategic relationship with the US. The latest on the bilateral radar is the American Acquisition and Cross-Serving Agreement (ACSA), couched more palatably for Indian political sensitivities as a "logistics support agreement". Under this military agreement, the Indian and American armed forces will provide each other with logistic support, refuelling and berthing facilities, supplies and other services on a reimbursable or equal-value exchange basis - for warships, aircraft and the like.

Source: Times of India

Air India in talks to join Star Alliance

In what could be a precursor to Air India joining the Star Alliance, a 17-airline global alliance, the Indian carrier is to make a presentation to the Alliance working group to hold a meeting with the chief executive officers of the Alliance partners on December 13. Official sources told Business Line that the Alliance would consider several issues including the network and operational synergies, size of the Air India network and the airline's corporate

structure before taking a final decision on whether to include it in the global alliance.

Source: Business Line

India-Israel Rs 10,000-cr JV for missile production

In an attempt to spruce up India's missile capability, the UPA Government on thursday approved a Rs 10,000-crore joint venture with Israel to produce sophisticated surface-to-air missiles. One of the largest deals ever in India's defence history, it is expected to provoke angry reactions from Left allies who had strongly approved of defence cooperation with Israel. The setting up of a joint venture to produce the missiles was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Source: Indian Express

Air Force to buy all 126 MRCA from one vendor

Putting aside rumours of multi-vendor acquisition, the Indian Air Force (IAF) says it will acquire its 126 multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA) from a single manufacturer. Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal F.H.Major said in an interview to a defence magazine: "The world's single



biggest fighter Jet order jet will go to one supplier. It doesn't make any sense to go to two or three sellers just to keep different countries happy." He said there was no proposal at the moment to increase the order to 200 aircraft but 'a review after induction, based on cost-benefit analysis, is of course possible in future.

Source: Indian Express

IAF to get 44 more Hawks

Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal F H Major on monday said plans were afoot to

induct an additional 44 Hawk AJTs above the contracted number. The IAF had signed an MoU with the British Aerospace Systems for 66 Hawks to be used for advanced training for its pilots. They will be based at the Bidar Air Force Station, which is getting ready for their induction. While 24 will be flown in from UK in fly-away condition, the rest will be produced under licence by Bangalore-based defence Public Sector Undertaking, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Source: Indian Express

Paris Air Show push takes Dubai 2007 to near sell out

Dubai 2007, the 10th international aerospace exhibition being held this November, is nearing sell-out following an influx of companies signing up for the event at the recent Le Bourget Paris Air Show. Over 98% of space at this year's Dubai Air Show, which runs at the Airport Expo Dubai from November 11-15, is now sold with organisers, Fairs & Exhibitions (F&E), reporting that all the on-site chalets are sold out with a waiting list now in place. "Response has been tremendous and we have lots of enquiries still coming in," said Alison Weller, Aerospace Director, F&E. "There is no doubt that the international aerospace community, both civil and defence, is now convinced of the potential of the wider Middle East and that the region is now accurately perceived as one of the world's fastest growing aviation markets."

Source: Travel Daily News

Sunita Williams likely to attend astronomical congress in AP

Indian American astronaut Sunita Williams is likely to participate in the 58th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) to be held here in September. She may also interact with Indian scientists on the advances in space exploration during a special plenary session of the world's largest and most authoritative forum of the global space community. The meet is scheduled to be held from September 24 to 28.

Source: Deccan Herald

India to host international space meet

India is going to host the 58th International Astronautical Congress (IAC-2007) from September 24-28 at Hyderabad. More than 2,500 delegates including leaders, professionals and industrialists engaged in space science, technology and applications from all over the world will be participating at the international astronautical congress. IAC is organised every year jointly by the International Astronautical Federation, International Academy of Astronautics and International Institute of Space Law. Astronautical Society of India (ASI) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be organising the event in India. ISRO and ASI are members of IAE Over the years, ISRO/ASI scientists have played a significant role in the activities of IAF, IAA and IISc.

Source: Deccan Herald

Space technology beckons IIT-JEE students

Students who may not have made it to the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) despite clearing the entrance exam can now look forward to careers in space technology. Such students can now directly apply to various courses in the new Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), which was launched in Thiruvananthapuram this academic year. IIST will offer undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes in space technology and space science "The institute is being established with the objective of meeting the high technology requirements of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)," an advisor to IIST said.

Source: Indian Express

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