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READER'S RESPONSE

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

Indonesia for defence cooperation with India

Indonesia is exploring the possibility of accessing India's know-how in "network centric warfare" and also entering into joint production arrangements in the overall defence domain. Disclosing this, Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono has told The Hindu that Jakarta was keen that India, South Korea, China, and Japan "pitch in to provide the infrastructure of secure passage of trade through the Straits of Malacca." Prof. Juwono, who was in Singapore for the Asia Security Conference, said "we have a lot to learn from India" on matters relating to military "professionalism" and also "defence production capabilities."

Source: The Hindu

U. R. Rao to get ISRO lifetime award

Indian Space Research Organisation has selected former ISRO Chairman U.R.Rao for Lifetime achievement award which carries a purse of Rs 20 lakh and citation. President A.P.J.Abdul Kalam will distribute the award at the Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan, in Karnataka. ISRO's outstanding achievement award which has a purse of Rs 10 lakh each will be presented to the present Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Director B.N.Suresh, as well as S.C.Gupta, N.Pant, E.V.Chitnis and P.S.Goel. Performance excellence award of the ISRO worth Rs 5 lakh each will be presented to Mr R.V.Perumal, former Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr V.Adimurthy and Mr S. Ramakrishnan, Associate Directors, VSSC.

Source: Indian Express

NAL aircraft project gets the thumbs-up

The regional aviation scene is all set to get a boost. A proposal by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) to manufacture an indigenous regional passenger aircraft has received approval from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the highest scientific decision-making body in the country. The first report on the design has already been cleared. NAL has

approximated research and manufacture cost at Rs 2,000 crore. The aircraft will be a 70-seater, but the design will also be suitable for 50 and 90-seaters. Head of the Centre for Civil Aircraft and Design Development Dr Yegna Narayan said the aircraft will feature composite technology to keep the aircraft light.

Source: Times of India

Indian aviation at crossroads that could lead to more foreign control

Plagued by excess capacity, intense competition, low yields and massive airline losses, India's aviation industry is on its way to falling into the hands of foreign investors and private equity funds, according to several speakers at an aviation summit in Mumbai last week. Companies such as Rothschild, Citi, Istithmar, Goldman Sachs, Temasek and Indigo Partners, many of which already have stakes in existing airlines and are waiting for the consolidation now under way to gain momentum as bleeding airlines "rationalise" capacity through a series of mergers and acquisitions. Three years after the Delhi government instituted policy changes that fast-tracked aviation growth, it is clear that what was in the short-term interests of consumer travel and economic development is not necessarily good for the long-term survival of the airline companies.

Source: Bangkok Post

India, Russia Revise Aviation Pact

In an update to the 2006 aviation pact between India and Russia, last week's talks allow India unrestricted use of Russia's airspace for Indian flights to Europe, while Moscow will be permitted to increase the frequency of its flights to Indian cities. Talks that led to the June 14th agreement, reported by The Hindu newspaper, were called last month after a dispute over flight rights had both countries trading threats of banning airspace use for each other. "A mutually beneficial agreement was reached, under which the designated airlines of the two countries will continue to be permitted to over-fly the territory of the other country without restrictions," the Indian Embassy said Friday. "Capacity entitlements were increased from 46 to 52 weekly frequencies for both sides."

Source: Aero-News Network

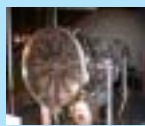
Army gets Brahmos



Surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile Brahmos was inducted into the Army, making it the first force in the world to possess such a sophisticated system, as President A P J Abdul Kalam asked scientists to work to develop next generation hypersonic version of the missile within the next decade. The missile, with a range of 290km, has been developed in cooperation with Russia and was inducted a year ahead of schedule after all its four test firings, including two conducted by army personnel, went flawless. The early induction of the land version of the Brahmos has apparently been timed to counter development of a longer range but subsonic cruise missile 'Babur' by Pakistan. With a launch trigger time of just two seconds, Brahmos is hard to detect because of its high Mach 2.8 speed, raising its efficiency to target enemy missile launching sites.

Source: *Bangalore Mirror*

Effort to develop Kaveri engine gets a boost



India's bid to produce a fighter aircraft engine just got a shot in the arm with the two contenders, who will join the Bangalore-based Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) in designing and developing the Kaveri Engine, submitting their revised technical and financial proposals. The long-delayed Kaveri is expected to power India's nascent Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, replacing the American built GE 404 engine. While the evaluation of the technical and financial proposals from Snecma Moteurs of France and NPO-Saturn of Russia are expected to be over within the next month and a half, GTRE is hoping to complete even the cost negotiations before the end of August.

Source: *The Hindu*

HAL to build advanced attack Copter (LCH)

The state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has started work on building with composite materials an advanced attack helicopter that can operate in the Himalayan heights of Jammu and Kashmir. According to HAL Chairman Ashok Baweja, there were some good American, Russian and European helicopters available in the market but they were made of sheet metal and not designed to operate at heights over 8,000 metres. HAL'S new helicopter will be made of sophisticated composite materials that can withstand humidity and harsh climates much better than machines made from metals.

Source: *Bangalore Mirror*

Space-based system to make flying safe

Eight satellites will work 'hand-in-hand' with similar number of ground stations to help Indian aviation say goodbye to one of the most important systems in aircraft handling: The Instrument Landing System (ILS). Once Gagan, the space-based augmentation system being jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Airports Authority of India (AAI), is installed, most airports now dependent on CAT-I ILS will be able to operate without it. The prototype is expected to be operational next year.

Source: *Indian Express*

IAF upping airpower, says ACM Major

It may be grappling with a reduction in the number of fighter squadrons, but the Indian Air Force remains fully confident of its ability to thwart any challenge and dominate any air operation. The IAF plans to retain combat edge by arresting the "draw-down" of fighter strength with new acquisitions and upgrades of existing fleets to enhance their "combat potential". Moreover, three Israeli Phalcon AWACS (airborne warning and control systems) will be inducted, with the first one slated to arrive by July 2008. Four more mid-air refueling aircraft will be added to the existing six IL78s.

Source: *Times of India*

Military satellite launch in August

India will launch its first dedicated military satellite in August to give itself the capability to monitor missile launches in its neighbourhood. The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch CARTOSAT 2A on a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle rocket in the first week of August, an official said. The reconnaissance satellite boasts of spatial resolution and will be loaded with cameras that can supply advanced imagery. It will cater to military and intelligence specifications better than any existing Indian satellite.

Source: *Deccan Herald*

7th Boeing 737-800 aircrafts into Air India Express fleet

The seventh Boeing 737-800 aircraft, owned by Air India Express, was formally inducted into its fleet in the esteemed presence of the Air India CMD, Mr. V.

Thulasidas . This development increases the fleet size of Air India Express to 14 aircraft, seven of which are on lease. The logo design on the tail is a unique feature of the Air India Express aircraft, and is a representative of India's rich cultural and artistic heritage. The newly inducted Boeing 737-800 aircraft continues with the tradition of innovative tail designs, with the recent one showcasing the famous landmarks of Delhi, the Kutab Minar and Jantar Mantar on its tail.

Source: *Air India Express*

Paramount may team up with Embraer for MRO

Close on the heels of ordering 40 Embraer aircraft for a list price of \$2 billion, Chennai based Paramount Airways is now looking at setting up maintenance, repairs, overhaul (MRO) and pilot training facilities in the country in association with Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer. According to Mr M Thiagarajan, Managing director, Paramount Airways, talks in this regard are on with the Brazilian company and a decision is expected over the next couple of months. After capturing a 26% market share in the south, Paramount is in the process of entering the Western market over the next one year. It has chalked out plans to enter markets in the north, east and north -east over the next couple of years.

Source: *Economic Times*

Global tender for 126 fighter craft

Within three months, the Indian Air Force may issue the long awaited global tender for procuring 126 multi-role fighter aircraft

in a mega defence deal, valued at close to \$9 billion (Rs 370 billion). Very soon it (issuing of request for proposal) is coming finally. The outer limit is two to three months, Defence Minister A K Antony told reporters after a function at Bharat Electronics Ltd in Bangalore. Dubbed as the mother of all defence deal, the mega purchase decision is hanging in balance for quite some time. According to the top Indian Air Force officials, there are no hitches left at the IAF headquarters level and the ball is now in the government's court.

Source: *Deccan Herald*

Kingfisher plans to buy 50 Airbus aircraft

Kingfisher Airlines plans to purchase 50 Airbus aircraft including 15 A350-800 Extrawide body (XWB) and ten Airbus A-330 aircraft. The book value of the deal is estimated at \$7 billion. Kingfisher Airlines and Airbus signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the purchase at the Paris Air Show. The airline also plans to acquire five Airbus A340-500 and 20

aircraft of the Airbus A320 to its family and that includes the Airbus A318, A319 and A321. "The airline strategy is to open new long haul routes and expand existing one. With the Airbus A340-500 and the A350 XWB, we will be able to offer direct routes between India and the US. Similarly, the A330 would allow US to expand services to Europe and the A320 would help us meet demand in our home region," the airline Chairman, Mr Vijay Mallya, said.

Source: Business Line

Air India to start budget airlines

After Kingfisher-Air Deccan and Jet Airways, India's International carrier Air India now plans to start its own budget service domestically, with its merger with Indian. "We are already successfully running our budget service. Air India Express, internationally, and this Air India Express will now run a domestic service as well after Air India's merger with Indian," Air India's chairman and managing director, V. Thulasidas, who will now be the chairman of the merged entity, said. Though budget airlines all over the world were not making profits, Air India Express has been running profitably with its fares

on an average being 25 per cent lower than normal ones, he said, adding that the national carrier may even consider operating a long distance international budget service if found viable.

Source: Asian Age

Israel defence firm set for foray

Elbit Systems, an Israel-based non-government defence company, is set to enter India. Elbit will partner Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Merlin Hawk Associates Pvt Ltd to make parts and accessories for aircraft. It will also focus on design, development, marketing and support of simulators and training systems. Elbit, which develops and manufactures advanced high-performance defence electronic systems, will pick up a 26 per cent stake in the joint venture. The company is targeting military and commercial customers. The joint venture will cater to the Indian Armed Forces and HAL aircraft development programmes.

Source: Telegraph

HAL's ALH to fly at Paris Air Show



Three Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) from the Helicopter Division of HAL here have flown into France to be showcased at the prestigious Paris Air Show. The show is from June 18 to 24. HAL Chief Test Pilot for helicopters C D Upadhyay told TOI from Paris that he and his team of pilots had flown into Paris from Turkey after participating in that country's air show last month. "We have a team of three pilots for the Paris show. We will be doing sorties that we have done at Turkey and earlier at Farnborough. It will be a hectic schedule." The ALH will feature both in the static and flying displays. In the flying display, a general sortie would last five minutes, while customer demonstration would last 30 to 45 minutes.

Source: Times of India

Insat-4B comes alive

In a symbolic click of a button which saw the direct relaying of images from the Insat 4B, President A P J Kalam dedicated to the nation the second satellite in the fourth series of the Insat, at Hassan. The event commemorated 25 years since inception of the Master Control Facility. The satellite was launched on March 12 this year by the Ariane launch vehicle in French Guyana. With this, the number of Indian communication satellites goes up to ten with a total of 200 transponders catering to the various television channels and other services.

Source: Deccan Herald

Hi-tech training centre for India

CFM International, a joint company of Snecma(Safran Group) and GE, will set up a new aircraft engine maintenance training centre in India in the second quarter of 2008. Paul Chavrin, senior CFM representative, told The Times of India from France that this facility will be the fourth such centre of CFM in the world. The centre could be the hub for engine maintenance training in South Asia, accessible to countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Source: Time of India

Towards Indo-US tie-up in engineering education

Leaders in engineering education and engineering business in India and the US are planning to have collaboration in engineering education in India. Leaders of engineering education and engineering businesses from the U.S. and India met at an Action Planning Forum for Indo-US collaboration in engineering education, hosted by Kris Gopalakrishnan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer-Designate of Infosys, in Mysore. Sandeep Sancheti, Director, National Institute of Technology-Karnataka at Surathkal was also present in the meeting.

Source: The Hindu

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Air-India Announces it's merger with IndianJet Announces it's takeover of Sahara.....Kingfisher announces it's acquisition of Air Deccan..... ("Remember the old days when all they'd announce was how delayed your flight was?")



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