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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 Shailaja Menon
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

Welcome to e-news

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The Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI) and the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) signed a protocol that will usher in higher degree of co-operation between the Professional Bodies.

➤ Journals

The two societies will exchange their respective journals and magazines and encourage their members to publish research and technical papers in each other's publications.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr David Marshal, President of Royal Aeronautical Society said that RAeS would open an office in Bangalore, the first of its kind in the country around March 2008.

READER'S RESPONSE

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

Tejas will get clearance by 2008 : ADA Programme director

The much delayed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas programme will be put on fast track and the aircraft will receive initial operational clearance on time, by the year 2008. Delivering a lecture on Recent Aeronautical R&D Programmes on Saturday, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Programme Director, P S Subramanyam said that six LCA aircraft together have logged 392.45 flying hours in 742 flights. "The LCA would take to the skies in September with drop tank attachment and efforts would be made to ensure that the clearance would be received on time in the year 2008," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald

India begins concept work on supersonic trainer

India has commenced concept work on a Supersonic Lead-In Fighter Trainer (SLIFT) which is being hailed as the future-generation trainer across the world. Mr P S Subramanyam, Programme Director, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) making a presentation on the LCA at the Aeronautical Society of India said, work on the new trainer is at a concept stage. "We have begun to explore the idea as we believe that supersonic trainers will be the trainers of the future. The technologies that we have now - developed as part of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) - are adequate to commence work on such a trainer."

Source: Times of India

India to be world's largest civil aviation market by 2025: Society of Indian Aerospace Technologies and Industries

India will overtake North America and China as the world's single largest passenger and freight aviation market by 2025, Society of Indian Aerospace Technologies and Industries (SIATI) President Dr C G Krishnadas Nair told the Asian Aerospace Congress delegates in Hong Kong September. He said India would account for 10 percent of the world aerospace industry by 2020, owing to international joint ventures created through combination of an Indian government offsets requirement for aviation purchases, market liberalisation and economic growth.

Source: domain-B

Royal Aeronautical Society to open office in Bangalore

The Royal Aeronautical Society, U.K., will set up its first Indian branch in Bangalore, according to a top official of the Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI). After signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AeSI and the Royal Aeronautical Society. AeSI president and National Aviation Company of India Chairman and Managing Director Mr V. Thulasidas said the Royal Aeronautical Society branch office would come up soon and AeSI would extend it all support. Mr. Thulasidas said the society planned to open branches throughout India.

Source: The Hindu

HAL delivers Dhruv to Jharkhand

The safe landing of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL's) Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv at Ranchi, the Jharkhand capital, on last Thursday marks the first delivery of the 5.5 tonne class helicopter to any State government. For HAL, the safe delivery of the multi utility Dhruv comes as a huge relief since it was during a similar ferrying exercise in November 2005 the helicopter ran into technical difficulties with its tail rotor and crashed near Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh. The incident caused resulted in the HAL replacing the tail rotors of the entire ALH fleet.

Source: The Hindu

Insat-4CR placed in orbit

Amidst high drama and one whole year of anxiety the GSLV-F04 carrying the 2130 kg communication satellite Insat-4CR lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre and taking a precession path injected the satellite into the Geo synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Once commissioned the Insat-4CR, the largest domestic communication satellite system in the Asia-Pacific region, will further augment the Insat system capacity. "I am happy to announce the complete success of the mission," said a relieved ISRO Chairman G Madhavan Nair, talking to the media after ensuring the satellite was successfully injected into the orbit.

Source: Times of India

IAF ready to induct Saras into fold

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is keen on inducting indigenously built light transport aircraft Saras, and it has promised to support it once the flying machine procures certification. Patting the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) for its contribution to national security, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal F H Major said, "We are waiting for Saras to pass the certifying tests prior to their induction into IAF." While delivering the NAL 21st Foundation Day lecture on 'Strategic aerospace power: technological and maintenance challenges.' Major said the country needed to concentrate in building indigenously products for military and civil aviation.

Source: Times of India

LCA test-flight successful

The indigenously designed and developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Prototype Vehicle (PV-1) on Friday achieved a milestone as it made a successful first flight with two 800-ltr drop tanks slung under the wing stations. This flight is considered significant in the LCA programme on several fronts as this is the first time Tejas carried any stores other than the air-to-air missiles which are part of its operational clean configuration.

Source: Deccan Herald

IAF quietly tests its war-readiness

Even as all eyes were on the five-nation Malabar war games in the Bay of Bengal over the weekend, the Indian Air Force has quietly conducted a massive 'realistic war games' exercise along the entire western front which focused on launching a simultaneous blitzkrieg offensive on multiple high-value enemy targets. The exercise, Abhyas, which was much more operationally relevant than Malabar, was launched with scores of fighter jets, attack helicopters, mid-air refuellers, transport aircraft and UAVs. (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) taking to the skies. If Malabar war games were all about building "interoperability" with US forces, Abhyas war games in the Thar desert earlier this year, the Abhyas exercise clearly indicates that the armed forces are now testing their "pro-active war" strategies.

Source: Times of India

Honeywell develops system reducing runway accidents

In August 2006 in Lexington, Ky., a Comair regional jet crashed after pilots failed to pick up on clues that they were taking off from the wrong runway, killing 49 of the 50 people on board. The short mileage on the ground can be even more dangerous than the miles flown in the air. Phoenix-based Honeywell Aerospace, which has helped develop flight-safety products that now are standard across the industry, has teamed with Sensis Corp. to develop a system aimed at reducing airport runway accidents. The system combines Sensis' ground radar system with Honeywell's midair collision avoidance technology to simultaneously alert the airport control tower and affected pilots of a potential runway collision.

Source: Arizona Republic

Now, Japan's 'princess' shoots for the Moon

Japan launched its first lunar probe on Friday, nicknamed Kaguya after a fairy-tale princess, in the latest move in a new race with China, India and the United States to explore the Moon. The rocket carrying the three-metric ton orbiter took off into blue skies, leaving a huge trail of vapor over the tiny island of Tanegashima, about 1,000 km south of Tokyo, at 10.31 am as it headed out over the Pacific Ocean. The long-delayed lunar explorer separated from the rocket in skies near Chile about 45 minutes after lift off.

Source: Times of India

Solar plane sets longest unmanned flight record

A lightweight, solar-powered plane built by British defence and security technology company QinetiQ has broken a world record for unmanned flight by staying aloft for 54 hours, the firm said Monday. The Zephyr, which has an 18-metre wingspan and weighs just 30kg, smashed the previous best of 30 hours and 24 minutes by nearly a whole day, flying to a maximum height of 58,355 feet. It then flew a second time, again beating the previous benchmark set by

a jet-powered US Air Force plane six years ago, with a time of 33 hours and 43 minutes, flying to a height of 52,247 feet. But the company, whose flight trials in New Mexico were funded by Britain's defence ministry, may not see the times stand as a world record as there was no official observer.

Source: Bangalore Mirror

DRDO clears cheaper aviation fuel

A new aviation fuel made out of natural gas instead of crude oil is set to run civil and military aircraft in India thanks to DRDO. The defence agency after conducting extensive tests of the fuel has just given its go ahead for its use in aircraft in India. The agency is the first in the world to certify aviation fuel from natural gas. The fuel is produced by ONGC, the first refinery to do so in the country ONGC hit upon the idea of converting natural gas into aviation fuel assessing that India's fairly sizeable reserves of the gas in the Bombay

High region could be used to ensure availability of cheaper aviation fuel in the country and lower fuel and crude oil import bills.

Source: Times of India

IAF choppers may be used for anti-insurgency operations

After equipping its helicopter squadrons in the east with night vision devices, the IAF is shifting its focus to units in the western region where such aircraft could be used for casualty evacuation and also come to the aid of troops in militancy hit areas like Jammu and Kashmir. The helicopters of the Indian Air Force, which have won laurels over casualty evacuation missions during the day in the militancy-hit state, could now be used during the night as well for transporting injured soldiers, a move that is expected to give a fillip to the morale of troops engaged in countering insurgents, official sources said.

Source: The Hindu

Multi-billion dollar aircraft engine business has lot at stake

The meteoric rise of the Indian and Chinese aviation industry has brought about intense competition between two of the world's largest commercial aircraft makers- Boeing and Airbus, and their respective engine suppliers GE, Pratt & Whitney (P&W) and Rolls Royce (RR). Even though aviation (as we know it) revolves around its aircraft makers and airlines, the untold story is undoubtedly that of the engines! The spurt in demand for commercial aircrafts has also lead to a surge in demand for aircraft engines. According to market reports, the aircraft engine industry is to be worth \$200 billion by 2027. In a document Rolls Royce estimates that even the executive jet engine market will inch close to a massive \$61 billion over the next two decades.

Source: Indian Express

Boeing eyes India captive

The \$65-billion aerospace and defence behemoth Boeing is evaluating a captive center and defence sub-assembly line in India apart from capturing business across the aerospace spectrum including

manufacturing, engineering, BPO, KPO, maintenance and raw material sourcing. Boeing could take the JV route to set up its captive centre or could establish it independently. If that happens, Boeing will join a host of multinationals who entered India through partnerships before setting up their captive centres. Boeing has partnerships with several Indian technology majors such as Infosys, TCS, Infotech, HCL and research bodies like NAL and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in India.

Source: Economic Times

DRDO eyes private power for high-tech aircraft

India's defence sector is likely to see a lot of action in the coming months. It has been reliably learnt that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is planning to develop Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) — Lakshya and Nishant — through joint ventures with private companies — Tata Power and Larsen and Toubro. The state agency has initiated talks with both the companies for the design and development project, estimated to cost around Rs 1,000 crore, said company officials. DRDO is looking for private participation in the maintenance



of the airborne early warning and control system projects.

Source: Economic Times

HAL sets up JV for aero engine designs

India's state-run defence aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has set up a new 50:50 joint venture (JV) with Hyderabad-based Infotech Enterprises Ltd (IEL), which will focus on offering design and validation services for aero engines. Infotech HAL Ltd, the new JV will have an initial equity of Rs 28 crore and will have delivery centres in Bangalore and Hyderabad. The JV company expects global aircraft engine makers such as Rolls Royce and CFM International, jointly owned by General Electric Co. of the US and Snecma of France, to outsource work on improving design and thrust of aircraft engines, and also conversion of aircraft engines to marine and industrial gas turbines.

Source: livemint

For a safe and comfortable flight

The magic of multiplier effect is now working for the aviation ancillary industry. Reaping the benefits of the aviation boom is not only maintenance, repairs & overhaul (MRO) operations but also the insurance sector. In fact, the spiralling growth in the aviation sector has given an upshot to the insurance segment. As per an airline risk management survey — commissioned by international magazine Airline Business and global airline insurance broker Aon — airlines are spending no less than \$8.36 bn a year on risk management, with around 70%, or \$5.86 bn, spent on insurance premiums. Aviation premiums are, on an average, growing by 15.5% post-9/11, the survey reports. It further states that while the industry's loss record has been respectable in the last four years, traffic and passenger numbers have risen significantly, increasing the exposure to risk.

Source: Economic Times



Asia's largest airshow takes off in Hong Kong

The world's largest passenger jet will fly past Hong Kong's mass of skyscrapers and the city's famed Victoria Harbour to raise the curtain for Asia's largest airshow. The double-decker Airbus A380 may fly as low as 300 metres — just off the territory's tallest landmark, the 1,400-foot International Finance Centre (IFC). The spectacle will mark the beginning of the four-day show despite an accident in Bangkok that damaged the tip of the jumbo jet's left wing, forcing it to delay its takeoff on an Asian tour.

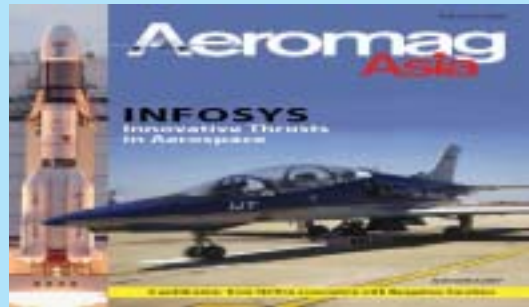
Source: Hindustan Times



Von Karman award for Kasturirangan

Dr K Kasturirangan, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and former Chairman of ISRO, has been awarded the prestigious Theodore Von Karman Award of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), Paris, for the year 2007. The award will be presented to Dr Kasturirangan at the Academy Day Dinner on September 2007, at Hyderabad, during the 58th International Astronautical Congress organised jointly by International Astronautical Federation, International Academy of Astronautics and International Institute of Space Law.

Source: Deccan Herald



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"There will be a temporary delay while the captain tries to locate the keys for the plane"



"I don't care how expensive fuel is - This is a Dumb idea"