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Welcome to e-news



Tejas sets record - Details under technology

READER'S RESPONSE

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

Foreign airlines may own stakes in Indian carriers

The government is considering a proposal to allow foreign airlines such as Singapore Airlines, British Airways and Lufthansa to pick up equity stakes in domestic carriers, but with riders. It is preparing the ground for a major policy shift on foreign ownership in aviation. Government sources say foreign airlines may be allowed to own a 20-25% stake in local carriers, but their role on boards and in the management would be limited. The civil aviation ministry had, in the past, argued that allowing larger foreign airlines to own stakes in fledgling Indian carriers could cause harm to the domestic aviation sector. "Things have changed. Earlier, only one Indian airline operated internationally. But now, three domestic carriers fly to foreign destinations.

Source: *Economic Times*

Regional aircraft to take wings in 2015

If things go as planned, India's manned mission to the moon in 2015 will coincide with another significant achievement - the take-off of the country's first Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA). The National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL) hopes to kick off work on the 90-seater RTA next year. In this event the first aircraft can be rolled out by 2015, Dr Kota Harinarayana, Dr Raja Ramanna Fellow with NAL, Bangalore, told Express on the sidelines of a function here. "We have completed the concept study. Now we are on the look-out for funding and suitable partners. HAL is keen. The Government too has shown interest in funding. If things go as planned, we can start work in 2010," Harinarayana said. NAL is looking at both jet and turboprop options for the RTA. Various factors, including market demands, will decide which one is to be rolled out first. International partners too are welcome as it would bring easier acceptability for the aircraft outside India, he said.

Source: *Indian Express*

Israel delivers first AWACS to India

Israel has reportedly delivered the first of three Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The Russian Il-76 aircraft is currently based at Agra Air Force station, in close proximity to New Delhi. The system will allow the Indian military to execute tactical surveillance missions over a 400km radius while collecting data on Pakistani military movements. Indeed, an AWAC flying over Amritsar is capable of immediately detecting the launch of enemy F-16 fighters from Sargodha. The IAF has also confirmed plans for the deployment of an Israeli-made aerostat radar system to help protect New Delhi from low-flying hostile aircraft. An additional aerostat unit will

be installed in Agra to safeguard the Taj Mahal.

Source: *ITExaminer.com*

India may join mega telescope project

The three global projects under discussion are European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) with a 42 mt lens, the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) with 22 mt lens and the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) with a 30 mt lens. Indian astronomers have proposed to participate in a major global telescope building initiative, which will not only provide an opportunity to the star-gazers for cutting edge research but also attract youngsters to explore the wonders of the universe. "A detailed project report will be submitted to the department of science and technology (DST) in which we will be seeking Rs 300 crore from the government for the first ten years, followed by another Rs 300 crore," said Dr Thanu Padmanabhan, dean at Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). The three global projects under discussion are European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) with a 42 mt lens, the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) with 22 mt lens and the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) with a 30 mt lens.

Source: *Deccan Herald*

ISRO plans NextGen vehicle to reduce launch costs by 50%

After an eventful year capped by the mission to moon, ISRO scientists are now developing the next generation launch vehicle to cut by half the cost of putting satellites in orbit. The new year will see a series of tests in the development of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III, which is expected to take to the skies in 2010-11. The new rocket, which can put a four-tonne satellite in orbit, will help Antrix Corporation, ISRO's commercial arm, to offer cheapest space launches in the niche market. The regular GSLV can put 2.2 tonne satellites in orbit. "The new year will see solid booster testing for the Mark III, followed by the liquid stage after which we will test the cryogenic engine stage," Dr K Radhakrishnan, director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre said.

Source: *Economic Times*

Indo-US deal on missile defence on the cards

Even as India prepares to test its fledgling Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system for a third time in a month, New Delhi and Washington are moving towards signing a memorandum of understanding in the BMD arena. Sources told TOI talks on "possible collaboration on BMD or missile shield systems to enhance cooperative security and stability" have been

held between India and US in recent times. "Most of these discussions have taken place under the Joint Technical Group, a subgroup of the overall Indo-US Defence Policy Group architecture. The US is very keen to work with us in the missile defence arena. A formal MoU is on the cards," said a source. The MoU does not mean that India is signing up for a proposed American missile defence shield programme on the lines of Poland and the Czech Republic, which has led to a major diplomatic row between US and Russia. Instead, the plan is to seek some missile defence technical knowhow from the US. As part of this, Indian officials and scientists have witnessed some simulations and a couple of live tests of the US missile defence system. The US has offered to sell the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) system to India.

Source: Times of India

Centre may give another Rs 12000 cr for research

If the Centre's promise is realised, sources told Deccan Herald, the total R&D investment in 11-plan would be Rs 90,000 crore which is the biggest

investment in public funded research including space, atomic energy and defence research in the last 60 years. The government may invest an additional Rs 12,000 crore in the remaining three years of the current plan period if the already sanctioned Rs 78,000 crore is absorbed completely. If the Centre's promise is realised, sources told Deccan Herald, the total R&D investment in 11-plan would be Rs 90,000 crore which is the biggest investment in public funded research – including space, atomic energy and defence research – in the last 60 years. Fittingly this comes after the golden jubilee year of first Indian S&T policy document – Science and Technology Policy Resolution of 1957 – which charted the research roadmap for a young and independent India. A hint came from Dr Singh at the 96th session of the Indian Science Congress at the picturesque North Eastern Hill University here.

Source: Deccan Herald

Chandrayaan has proved our mettle: Kasturirangan

"Chandrayaan I was a necessary project, for India to demonstrate to the international community, that we are not far behind the other nations," former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Dr Kasturirangan said here. Speaking at tenth anniversary celebrations of the Adama Chetana organisation, the former ISRO chief said, "Even though the parts for the space programme were brought in from the entire nation and abroad, the Chandrayaan project owes its birth to Bangalore and Karnataka, as it was here that we developed and gave shape to the trip to moon." He reminded the gathering about the implications of the late blooming of the Nuclear programme for the country, which had virtually barred the nation from the club of elite nuclear powers.

Source: Deccan Herald

DARE completes MiG-27 avionics upgradation

Defence Avionics Research Establishment (DARE) attached to the Defence Research and Development Organisation has completed the avionics upgrade of MiG-27 aircraft. This pioneering effort was realised using entirely indigenous expertise at a fraction of cost. The project was initiated in the year 2002 through a tripartite MoU between DARE, HAL(Nasik) and Air Force. The Initial Operational

Clearance was accorded in June 2006 which led to the subsequent formation of operational squadrons. The avionics system is built around a modular mission computer termed Core Avionics Computer (CAC), developed by DARE. The CAC built on open system principles, houses functional modules using contemporary processors and devices. These functional modules are powering the mission computers on Jaguar and Su-30 MKI aircraft as well.

Source: Deccan Herald

Chandrayaan reveals a 2-km peak on Moon

You can't climb an Everest on the Moon, but there's something a little smaller. In its lunar orbit, Chandrayaan-1 revealed a peak about 2 km in height, and, like craters in Hawaii and Arizona, a crater within a crater. After revealing traces of iron through the American M3 mapper, Chandrayaan-1 is now throwing extensive light on the Moon's surface features through the on board TMC camera. An ISRO official told TOI: "Generally, it's believed that the Moon's surface is characterized by craters. But our TMC camera has revealed that peaks, alternating with craters, go up to about 2 km. The topography is varied and complex." The peaks are brown and rusty, much like the granite boulders on Earth though the mineral composition is very different. "Mt Everest is about 8 km. The peak we've seen is 2 km. It's an interesting finding."

Source: Times of India

ISRO gears up for manned space mission

The Centre has granted Rs 90 crore to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to begin scientific studies for the first Indian manned space flight, scheduled for launch by 2015. "A detailed proposal for the Rs 12,000 crore-project has been submitted to the government," ISRO Chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair said at the 96th session of the Indian Science Congress here. Sharing some details about the maiden manned space flight with scientists, Dr Nair said the ISRO envisaged designing two space modules — for carrying two and three astronauts respectively into space. In the first manned mission, two Indian astronauts will be sent for a seven-day stay in a low earth orbit — anywhere between 160 km to 2000 km — above the earth's surface using a GSLV rocket. The space agency achieved initial success in mastering the re-entry technology to bring back the astronauts successfully to earth. "The first two Indian astronauts in ISRO-manned mission will be adequately trained engineers," an ISRO official told Deccan Herald.

Source: Deccan Herald

Indian Air Force Sukhoi jets being retrofitted with cruise missile pods

Two Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi-30MKI combat jets have been sent to Russia for a retrofit that would enable them launch the aerial version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile that India and Russia have jointly developed, an official said. "The aerial version of the BrahMos missiles will be delivered from the Su-30MKI platform. We were in talks with Sukhoi and

the IAF for it. Finally two Su-30MKIs of the IAF have been sent to Russia for retrofitting," a senior official of BrahMos Aerospace that manufactures the missile, told IANS, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The aerial version of BrahMos is coming along very well. After being programmed, the missile will be released from the aircraft and will auto-launch towards its target when it reaches an altitude of 50 metres," the official explained.

Source: Economic Times

Tejas sets record

With a thundering roar the light grey Tejas prototype aircraft (serial no. KH 2012) took to the air, a sight which the residents of the Bangalore have got well used to now. But this sortie was different — a landmark in Indian aeronautical history, for, on this day the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Bangalore built Tejas crossed the 1,000 sorties mark. The first flight of the Tejas lasted for 18 minutes on January 4 in 2001. It was conceived as HAL's ambitious attempt to leapfrog nearly 40 years in Indian aeronautical design. A total of seven aircraft are currently part of the flight test programme. The Tejas is slated to enter operational service with the IAF by December 2010 in the Initial Operational Capability configuration. Speaking to members of 'Team Tejas', Capt J A Maolankar, chief test pilot at the National Flight Test Centre said, "Great challenges lie ahead, especially when we take this aircraft to sea in the form of the LCA (Navy)."

Source: Deccan Herald

Aero India 2009 international air show and seminar readying for take off

Nearly a hundred aircraft are likely to take part in a five-day international air show, Aero India 2009, hosted on a biennial basis at the Indian Air Force's Yelahanka Air Force Station, located on the outskirts of the city. The five-day (11-15 February) show is Asia's largest and most prestigious. The show will be preceded by a prestigious international seminar on aerospace technologies and applications (9-11 February), hosted by India's umbrella defence research set up, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The seminar has been gaining in prestige with every edition and experienced eager participation from aerospace and defence luminaries from around the world. These included chief executives of global aerospace and defence companies from Europe, Israel, USA and Russia. The seminar also saw a whole host of top-notch scientists in the sector presenting papers.

Source: Domain-b.com

Navy to get 8 aircraft from Boeing for \$2.1 b

Shaken by the audacity of the 26/11 terror attack on Mumbai, the Dr Manmohan Singh government has taken another step towards securing the country's rather long coastline by signing the \$2.1-billion deal with the US for the purchase of eight P-81 long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft. The deal, signed with the aerospace major Boeing on January 1, marks the largest defence pact with the US, signifying the growing ties between the two countries. The purchase of the eight air craft will strengthen the Navy's intelligence-gathering capabilities. The government had approved the deal in its last Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting after protracted negotiations. The deal with Boeing was through a direct commercial contract and issues such as enduser verification agreement between India and the US for these defence products were still pending, sources said.

Source: *Economic Times*

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