



e-NEWS

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Welcome to e-news



First IAF AWACS lands at Jamnagar - 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.

Godrej Group showcases aerospace capabilities as part of strategic initiatives

The Godrej group has showcased its expertise in the Aerospace sector as part of its strategic initiative to expand the application of its technological knowledge across the group's portfolio of businesses. In order to enable the Aerospace team will work on specific innovation projects with other technology dependent businesses such as consumer appliances, advanced security systems and durables, a cross-category, cross functional mechanism has been set up within the organization. Mr Tanya Dubash, Executive Director and President (Marketing), Godrej; Mr Navroze Godrej, Manager, Projects, Godrej & Boyce; and Mr S. M. Vaidya, Vice President and Business Head, Precision Components & Systems Division unveil the new identity for Godrej's Aerospace capabilities. "When we defined a strategic framework for the Godrej vision, our Aerospace expertise that resides in Godrej and Boyce's Precision Component Systems business, was elected as a key capability given the implications it has for our other consumer facing businesses.

Source: *Machinist*

Indian Defense Industry Embraces New Majority

Defense projects that were in stuck in the pipeline are now expected to move with the return of a Congress party majority government following five years of coalition rule. "India has a firm and stable government. Now there will be no need for any repeat negotiations that we were fearing would happen if a government supported by the left-wing (Communist) party came in," one western vendor commented to Aerospace DAILY. Still, some analysts note that the government must ensure speedier clearances. "While one can expect stable consistent policies, India's processes need to be redefined," Air Commodore Jasjit Singh of the Center for Air Power Studies told the DAILY. Indeed, it is back to square one, adds another analyst. Delays in many decisions will remain including the flight trials for the 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft that were expected by September, will now possibly be pushed to next year. Major projects include the request for proposals for 197 light helicopters and a final decision over 99 engines for the Light Combat Aircraft, for which the contenders are EADS and GE Engines.

Source: *Aviation Week*

Sky is the limit for opportunities in aerospace engg

If you have a good aeronautical or aerospace mind, you may land a lucrative job. Aerospace careers in

India have a strong base and future. Even a basic BE degree in aerospace engineering may get you a job as an engineer in any of the several public and private aerospace labs. If you're a PhD, you're sure to be enlisted into critical projects in public and private companies as well as into R&D. Aerospace in India is led by public sector giants DRDO, Isro, NAL, HAL and BEL. DRDO has labs across the country dealing in missile R&D, avionics, aircraft construction and aircraft technologies, engine research, radar technology, unmanned air vehicles and more. Aerospace engineering graduates can get into any one of these labs, many in Bangalore, through written exams and interviews. DRDO's volume of projects, work and research is huge. Among various other projects, it is now working on two prestigious ones that are a matter of pride for the country — the development of an indigenous fighter aircraft, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), and the Agni Intermediate Range Ballistic missiles. There is a huge amount of research and work necessary to develop technologies around these projects and spending on these projects is high. DRDO has place for bright minds to help it in aircraft and missile development.

Source: *Times of India*

Saras crash probe yet to progress

It is now two months since the crash of the 'Saras' prototype aircraft of the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), near Bidadi here that killed three test pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF). But the investigation has not made any significant headway. The aircraft crashed on March 6, reportedly after a simulation experiment went awry in an experimental drill, when the pilots switched off one of the engines, according to sources. A three-member team from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), New Delhi that visited London with the Voice Cockpit Recorder (VCR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR) recovered from the wreckage of the aircraft, has since returned after its contents were decoded/analysed data from the black boxes. The NAL remains tight-lipped on the progress made in the probe. However, sources said the DGCA held a meeting in the national capital last week to discuss the progress achieved in the course of investigations that is yet to be completed.

Source: *Deccan Herald*

French bid to re-enter race for combat aircraft

Making a strong bid to push its fighter plane, Rafale, back in contention for the 126 Medium Multi-role Combat Aircraft India seeks to acquire, a high-level delegation from France will meet officials in the Defence Ministry on Friday. Led by Jacques Lajugi, Head of France's Air International Development, the delegation will call on Defence Secretary Vijay Singh

to explore the possibility of re-entering the race of five other manufacturers from the United States, Sweden, Russia and Europe, sources in the Ministry said. Among the six manufacturers that had responded to India's Request for Proposal, sources said that Rafale had been eliminated from the race as it failed in the technical evaluations. However, it is now understood that the report of the committee is yet to be perused by the Defence Procurement Board. The committee report making such a recommendation was based on the response of the French company Dassault, which makes Rafale. The sources said the questions largely related to equipment and other add-ons that the user wanted to have, but not provided by the manufacturer. The sources said that since the recommendation of the evaluation committee was made, the French manufacturer has provided necessary information that the Indian Air Force had sought.

Source: Hindu

Aviation: New Govt's priority will be ground handling policy

With the election process in its final stages, and the new Government to be formed soon after May 16, the emphasis has now shifted to what the agenda for the new ministries will be. When it comes to Civil Aviation, while senior officials in the Ministry maintain that it is for the next Minister to decide on what to take up on a priority basis, there are two issues that will need immediate attention of the new Minister. The first is the issue of ground handling. Senior officials maintain that either coming up with a new ground handling policy or allowing the current policy to continue for some more time is likely to be the first issue that the new Minister will have to tackle. The UPA Government had given a six-month extension for ground handling which ends on June 30. With groundhandling having security implications as it involves giving access to people to aircraft at airports, this is likely to be a top priority for the next Government.

Source: Hindu Business Line

More young minds required to invigorate the pure sciences

Teachers, especially those in high school and colleges, can serve as an important resource and they need to be empowered in identifying, nurturing and guiding talented students towards a career in science and academia. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted in 2005, under the chairmanship of Sam Pitroda, as a high-level advisory body to the prime minister. Its vision was articulated by Dr Manmohan Singh in the following words: "The time has come to create a second wave of institution building and of excellence in

the fields of education, research and capacity building." The commission's term ended on March 31. In the intervening period, over 300 recommendations on 27 subjects have been submitted. While some of the recommendations, notably those pertaining to higher education have drawn considerable attention and generated debates and discussions, many other areas have scarcely attracted public notice. The focus of this article is, 'More talented students in maths and science', and 'More quality PhDs.' It is a valid question as to why maths and science deserve special attention over other subjects. While it is not meant to underestimate the importance of other areas of study, it is nevertheless vital to recognise that innovative science and new technologies have the potential of enabling a quantum leap in the well-being of societies and a nation's economy.

Source: Deccan Herald

GMR arm to set up 250-acre aerospace park in Hyd

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) is planning to set up an aerospace park in Hyderabad, which would be spread over 250 acres, even though the aviation sector is going through turbulent times. The park, to be completed in 5-6 years, is coming up in the vicinity of the GHIAL's new airport in Shamsabad, Hyderabad, where the company already has more than 5,400 acres and is expected to employ 8,000-10,000 people. "The park would be set up in the next 5-6 years. It will be spread over 250 acres," a senior official of the company told PTI. He, however, declined to share the investment plans of the project. The land for the project has been designated as Special Economic Zone and will enjoy tax and other financial incentives. The park will offer services like aircraft maintenance and repair, manufacturing of components and sub-systems, and research and development for civil as well as military aircraft. It will also provide training for aviation industry personnel. Besides, it will offer warehousing services and support ancillary industries like tyre manufacturers. The park is expected to generate employment for 8,000-10,000 people.

Source: Business Standard

Jet starts another low-cost carrier

Realising that the economic slowdown has put low-cost carriers (LCC) at an advantage over full service ones, Naresh Goyal-owned Jet Airways has decided to expand its budget segment. The airline, which already runs Sahara-turned-JetLite as its LCC, is now introducing another all economy service — Jet Airways Konnect — that will be operated on aircraft from Friday. Low cost carriers currently enjoy nearly 40% of domestic market share, which is on the rise. This segment is led by IndiGo, followed by SpiceJet. JetLite and Deccan-turned-Kingfisher Red follow suit although the latter's individual market share is not available following its merger with Kingfisher. This has emerged as the most hotly contested aviation space and the big boys like Goyal and Mallya want to increase their hold on this segment. Jet's new brand, a nofrills, low-fare and where passengers will have to buy meals, will initially be operated with two Boeing 737 and six ATR. Initially, the sectors will be covered are — Chennai and Coimbatore, Madurai and Kochi; between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Udaipur and between Bangalore and Pune and Mangalore. The on ground and in flight service will be delivered by Jet Airways staff, the only difference will be that travellers will have to buy their meals on board. Jet's chief commercial officer Sudheer Raghavan said: "Consumer demands are changing rapidly in a dynamic global environment, we believe the Jet Airways Konnect service will give us the flexibility and speed to deploy capacity to meet these changing trends.

Source: Times of India

ISRO to send bacteria cells into space

In its first set of biological experiments, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will send bacteria cells into space — and bring them back — in the second Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-2) scheduled for launch this year-end. Two life science experiments, using E.coli and photosynthetic bacteria, will help us understand cell division, genomics (genetic changes) and proteomics (changes in proteins) in microgravity conditions, said Kamanio Chattopadhyay, national coordinator of the Indian Microgravity Programme, who is coordinating scientific experiments for the mission. In the first experiment, an E.coli cell would be grown in a bio-reactor and brought back to the earth to carry out genomic studies. "When the experiment is recovered, we will explore why microgravity alters the growth of cells." The experiment could be seen as a prelude to ISRO's manned space mission slated for 2015, he said. "We know that astronauts experience physiological changes when they go into space, the most common being bone loss. NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] has done experiments to prove that microgravity impacts genes. We need to understand this phenomenon better."

Source: Hindu

ISRO centre to take on two more missions

The picturesque Byalalu Isro tracking centre off Mysore Road, which is currently being used for the Moon Mission, is now being readied for two more critical missions for India - Astrosat (astronomy mission) and Megha-Tropiques, slated for launch next year. The Byalalu centre will effectively work on three missions simultaneously from next year. Isro's ISTRAC Director Mr S K Shivakumar told TOI: "We have begun work on augmenting infrastructure at the Byalalu Centre to take care of the Astrosat and Megha-Tropiques missions. We will have new servers, communication equipment and hardware to take care of the new missions. Both are set for 2010." Mr Shivakumar said engineers working at Byalalu and ISTRAC, Peenya, will be able to handle all the missions as they were good at basics — software, networking, communication linkages and hardware familiarity. The new infrastructure will be set up so as to permit interaction between servers being used for the moon mission and those that would be used for Astrosat and Megha-Tropiques. "Dedicated servers too can help for different missions. If for instance servers for the Moon mission have been designed to last two to three years, and after six months we launch Astrosat, there will be space for data reception and communication on the Moon-related servers in addition to the new ones. We will keep moving between these depending on the requirements of each mission."

Source: Times of India

ISRO sets its sights on Mars

With the moon mission Chandrayaan 1 accomplished, the next venture will be sending a space vehicle to Mars, ISRO Chairman Mr G. Madhavan Nair said here on Saturday. The plan is to make this possible by 2013 or a few years later. Speaking after being felicitated at the eight anniversary of the CII Institute of Quality, he said the cost factor had to be considered in planning space missions. Right now, per kg of payload costs \$15,000 to \$20,000 and we are trying to bring it down to \$ 1,000. Much of it can come from more indigenization and through being able to reuse the different stages of the rocket taking a vehicle to space Mr. Nair said. While ISRO would get Rs.30,000 crore from the Government during the 11th Plan, resources had to be used with care. More research and development for localisation was necessary, he said, adding that "90 per cent of our technology now is home-grown".

Source: Hindu

LCA induction into IAF likely by 2010

The induction of first squadron of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) to Indian Air Force (IAF) can take place by the end of 2010 or the beginning of 2011 with regular persuasion and monitoring of the LCA

programme, the Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major said. The Chief of Air Staff during his farewell visit to Aeronautical Development Agency recently said: "IAF is on the transformation stage in the matter of gaining overall capabilities, with the help of organisations such as DRDO, ADA, HAL and other partners." Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been a part of IAF's endeavour to attain indigenous status in getting what is required for the nation's security. An official release said that the Chief of Air Staff was affirmative that the ongoing LCA programme would further lead to LCA mark II, MCA and many other projects of self-reliance nature by sprinkling lot of patriotism around.

Source: Hindu

Agni-II test-fired

As part of the training exercise, the Army on Tuesday test-fired the nuclear-capable Agni-II Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile from Dhamra's Wheeler Island, off the Orissa Coast. DRDO sources told The Hindu that the complete operations, including the pre-launch exercise and the launch from a sophisticated computer, were carried out by an Army team. The missile, which was picked randomly from one of the production lots, was launched from a rail mobile system around 10.05 a.m and tracked by all the radars of the Integrated Test Range located along the coast at Balasore, Dhamra, Paradeep and Konark till its splashdown into the sea after a 10-minute flight. Data relating to various parameters of the mission's objectives was being analysed, the

sources added. A new technology — a state-of-the-art high accuracy navigation system — was for the first time used in Agni-II.

Source: Hindu

First IAF AWACS lands at Jamnagar

The first of the three Indian Air Force AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) platforms arrived in India from Israel today, landing at air force station Jamnagar at mid-day. The giant IL-76 was escorted by three Mig-29 and Jaguar aircraft each that took off from an advance fighter airbase of South Western Air Command (SWAC). The fighter formations caught up with the AWACS mid-air and escorted it as it entered the Indian FIR (Flight Information Region), till safe touchdown at the Jamnagar airbase, sometime in the afternoon today. Air officer commanding-in-chief, SWAC, Air Marshal KD Singh, Air Defence Commander, Air Vice Marshal P Singh and the AOC Jamnagar, Air Commodore C Hari Kumar welcomed the crew of the AWACS aircraft that included the commanding officer of the first AWACS squadron, group captain B Saju. "It was a great feeling to be escorted by our fighters and it feels really good to be back", said Group Captain B Saju upon arrival. Flown by a full complement of IAF pilots belonging to the newly formed squadron the aircraft was flown in from Ovda international airport in southern Israel. The aircraft undertook an eight-and-a-half hour flight, skirting around several countries, flying over the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea before landing at Jamnagar. The aircraft arrived at Palam airport for the induction. The AWACS are slated to operate from the Agra airbase under Central Air Command and preparations are afoot for its induction in the extended fleet of the IL-76 family of aircraft.

Source: Hindu

AI needs to tighten belt, says new CMD

Air India needs to tighten its belt during this period of recession to beat its peers, the newly-appointed CMD of the national carrier Mr Arvind Jadhav said. Mr Jadhav, who will takeover as the AI CMD on May 4, said he would focus on enhancing efficiencies and reducing costs in a bid to bring the airline back into black. "We have to tighten our belts," he said. Mr Jadhav, a Karnataka cadre IAS officer, said "even during this period of recession, not all companies are faring badly. There are quite a few which are doing well and Air India needs to emulate them." Jadhav said he would give utmost priority to boost employees' morale and strive to achieve a seamless integration between the two erstwhile carriers (Air India and Indian Airlines) into the National Aviation Company of India Ltd among other issues. "Nissan and Renault, despite having different work cultures and identities, have successfully achieved their integration. Air India has to follow that model while achieving a seamless integration," he said. Mr Jadhav succeeds Mr E K Bharatbhusan,

who was appointed as an interim arrangement following the departure of Mr Raghu Menon, the erstwhile CMD.

Source: Times of India

Indian Commercial Aviation Suppliers Market to Grow Exponentially Spurred by Low Labor and Manufacturing Costs, Says Frost & Sullivan

The commercial aviation suppliers market in India is set to grow exponentially at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.1 percent from 2007 to 2014. Low manufacturing and labor costs are expected to boost outsourcing to India. Labor costs in India are relatively lower when compared to the western countries. India also enjoys a geographical advantage over other countries that enables it to cater to the demands of countries in South Asia as well as the Middle East. The offset policy of the Government can help India attract significant investment in the sector. New analysis from Frost & Sullivan (<http://>

www.financialservices.frost.com), Indian Commercial Aviation Supplier Market Outlook reveals that this market earned revenues of US\$1,360.00 million in 2007 and is anticipated to reach US\$3,888.60 million in 2014. The three segments covered in this research are component suppliers, design suppliers, and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO). Component suppliers are projected to be the fastest-growing segment.

Source: PRNewswire

Kingfisher Red to operate some routes of Kingfisher

Kingfisher Airline is going the low-cost way, although senior management insists that it is only temporary. From May 15, the airlines will convert more than 20 flights from Kingfisher to Kingfisher Red, its low-cost cousin. The move comes as another full service airline, Jet Airways, started operations with an all economy class low-fare service called Jet Airways Konnect. Air India domestic is also said to be considering having a three-class configuration on its flights to attract more passengers. Kingfisher Airlines offers seating in first and economy, while Kingfisher Red offers seats only in economy. With this move, the mix of KF and KF Red seats will change in the latter's

favour, so that more low-cost seats will be on offer. The management recently started serving food on Kingfisher Red, which is served in a small box instead of the full tray service provided to passengers on Kingfisher Airlines. This makes it a halfway house between a proper low-cost airline and a proper full-service airline.

Source: Hindu Business Line

AAI plans to raise Rs 2,000 cr this fiscal

The State-owned airport developer, Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans to raise over Rs 2,000 crore during the current financial year, a senior official said on Friday. "During the current year the capex will be over Rs 3,000 crore, which means that we will have to borrow over Rs 2,000 crore. "The rest of the financial requirement, of around Rs 1,000 crore, will be met through internal accruals. We will raise the money as and when required," the official added. The funds will be required as AAI has been mandated to modernise a number of airports, including Chennai and Kolkata, officials said. The AAI was formed in April 1995 by merging the International Airports Authority of India and the National Airports Authority with a view to accelerate the integrated development, expansion and modernisation of the operational, terminal and cargo facilities at the airports in the country, conforming to international standards.

Source: Hindu Business Line

Air Vice-Marshall Gogoi promoted

Air Vice Marshal Anjan Kumar Gogoi, is promoted as Director General Air (Operations) at the Air Headquarters. He is the second Assamese to be elevated to a top IAF post after the government named Air Marshal P K Barbora as the new Vice-Chief of the Force. Air Vice Marshal Gogoi will take charge on 1st June 2009.

Source: Times of India

Air Marshal Barbora, New Vice Chief

Air Marshal P.K. Barbora, will be the new Vice Chief of Air Staff. Currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, he will assume charge as the Vice Chief from 1 June 2009. Air Marshal N.K. Browne, currently the Deputy Chief of Air Staff at Air Headquarters will take over as the new Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, a Defence Ministry said.

Source: Hindu

Corporate Partner Briefing & Discussion

Date: Tuesday 30 June 2009

Global Challenges: Diverse Engineering Solutions to Interrelated Problems

Venue : Royal Aeronautical Society, No.4 Hamilton Place, London W 1J 7BQ

To be given by

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