



E - NEWS

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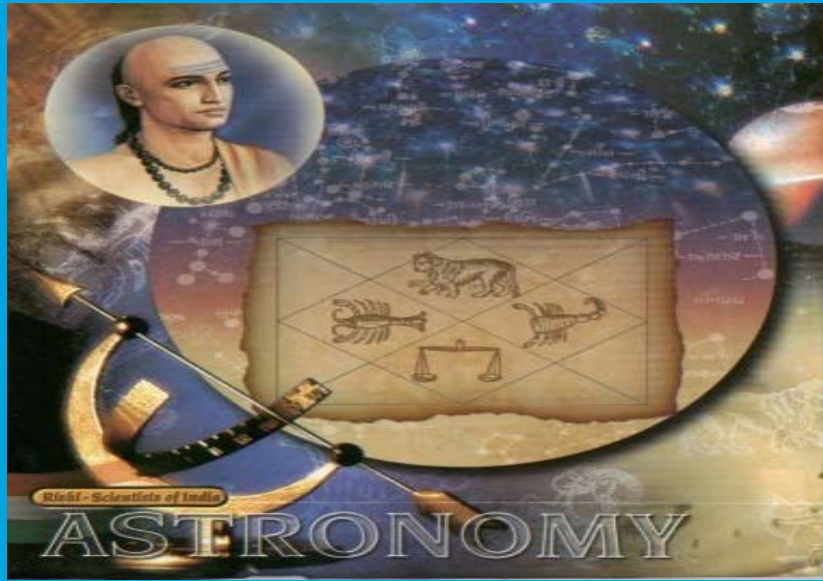
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VARAHAMIHIR (499-587 CE)

EMINENT ASTROLOGER AND ASTRONOMER

renowned astrologer and astronomer who was honored with a special decoration and status as one of the nine gems in the court of King Vikramaditya in Avanti (Ujjain). Varahamihir's book "panchsiddhant" holds a prominent place in the realm of astronomy. He notes that the moon and planets are lustrous not because of their own light but due to sunlight. In the " Bruhad Samhita " and " Bruhad Jatak ," he has revealed his discoveries in the domains of geography, constellation, science, botany and animal science. In his treatise on botanical science, Varamihir presents cures for various diseases afflicting plants and trees. The rishi-scientist survives through his unique contributions to the science of astrology and astronomy..

READER'S RESPONSE

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

Air Works developing capabilities for heavy maintenance

Leading Indian aviation company Air Works, which has been a major player in the maintenance of business jets, said it was significantly developing its capabilities for heavy maintenance of small jets and other aircraft in the country. Air Works is India's only Maintenance, Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) Company which is certified by European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to carry out maintenance of aircraft like turbo-prop ATR42/72s, Airbus A-320s and Boeing B-737s. "We will now look towards significantly developing heavy maintenance work in general aviation as Air Works has the capability to undertake substantial heavy maintenance services," the company's new Vice President (Business and General Aviation) Mr Nick White told.

Source: MSN

Air India will fly under a single code - AI

Air India announced it will migrate to the new Passenger Service System (PSS) from February 27 and operate under a single code - AI. The flight and IATA ticket codes of erstwhile Air India - 098 - and erstwhile Indian Airlines - 058 - will be merged and all Air India domestic and international flights will operate as a single airline with AI - 098 ticket codes, effective Feb 28, 2011. "Passengers taking flights out of Mumbai, for instance, will now find new flight numbers - the 8 a.m. flight IC 809 to Delhi/Ranchi will now become AI 809, the IC 675 leaving at 6.10 a.m. to Kolkata will become AI 675, the evening flight IC 107 to Bangalore will be AI 107, IC 173 to Chennai will be AI 173 and so on," said an Air India spokesperson.

Source: Hindu Business Line

RAAF celebrates 90th birthday at air show

A place where suitors with smart, new aeroplanes and sleek missiles seek serious relationships with well-heeled buyers. It is also a spectacle that, by the time it finishes night, will have attracted around 200,000 aficionados and fanatics along with a collection of the world's top military brass and senior government officials from a dozen nations. The Australian International Air show is one of the world's largest and most important aviation and aerospace forums, ranking alongside similar events in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. This year's air show, which began at Avalon south of Melbourne on Tuesday, also commemorates the 90th anniversary of the RAAF, the world's second oldest air force, and the centenary of commercial passenger flight in Australia.

Source: ninemsn

India poised for growth in GA sector

As India celebrated the centenary year of commercial aviation last month, the nation's business aviation sector is poised for exponential growth fuelled by the nation's expanding economy. Last month's Aero India event in Bengaluru signalled the takeoff of the general aviation segment, with Western manufacturers announcing sales and Indian firms planning new indigenous designs. In addition, there were announcements of infrastructure improvements, with

agreements signed for the development of sales and maintenance service centres in the country. Mahindra Aerospace introduced the NM5, a 300-hp five-seat piston aircraft jointly developed with National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) reminiscent of the Cirrus SR22. Two prototypes are being built - one in India and another (for international certification) in Australia. Government-owned NAL still aims to jump-start the civil aircraft industry in India. In addition to its work on the design of the NM5 with Mahindra Aerospace, it is conducting feasibility studies on a 50/70/90-seat regional transport.

Source: AINonline

787 completes 1,000th flight

The 787 Dream liner has marked another milestone in its flight test program. There are now seven aircraft participating in flight testing. The landing of 787 flight test airplane ZA004, at Yuma International Airport in Arizona, counted as the official 1,000th flight. The program is near its 3,000th hour of flying and 787s have flown a total of more than one million miles. "The team is making great progress," said Scott Fancher, vice president and general manager of the 787 program. "We are getting through the test conditions needed to certify this airplane with nearly 80 percent of the conditions for the first model, with Rolls-Royce engines, already complete. And, we're more than 60% of the way through the test conditions for the 787s with General Electric engines."

Source: Aerospace Testing International

Airbus' latest aviation innovation - Phoenix cabin concept

Airbus, one of the biggest aviation manufacturers in the world, has revealed a new cabin concept called Phoenix, which is specifically aimed at Asian corporate jet customers. Featuring a colour-scheme and layout designed to appeal to Asian tastes, the concept coincides with the Asian Aerospace Expo and Congress taking place in Hong Kong from 8-10 March 2011. The main cabin features seating for up to six people around a large circular table, which facilitates work-related discussions and dining, cornerstones of Asian life and culture. Airbus claims that its jets are capable of accommodating these features due to having the widest and tallest cabins of any business jet. The circular table can also fold into a rectangular shape when needed in case any passengers want to play Asian related games such as Mr Mah Jong. Mr Karaoke, another archetypal Asian pastime, is possible as the Phoenix cabin concept also offers an area for this activity.

Source: Manufacturing Digital

Army to induct fighter choppers into its fleet

The Army wants its air arm to get fire power to move beyond air-lifting jobs as it steps on one of the biggest

expansion project, driven by more than Rs 2,000 crore fund. As it goes about revamping the wings, the Army has outlined the requirement for the attack helicopters, which at the moment, are used only by the Indian Air Force (IAF). "We do need these helicopters of our own as the IAF fleet is not sufficient," said a senior Army officer. The IAF has two squadrons of Russian Mi-25/35 attack helicopters at Pathankot near Jammu, but is in the process of replacing them with US-made Apache, Italian Mangusta or probably an improved new version of the ones already in service. Attack helicopters are extremely handy in low flying operations to destroy ground targets. The Army's aviation wing relies on ageing Cheetah and Chetak light helicopters that are used extensively in Siachen and other areas in Jammu and Kashmir and outside essentially for air-lift operations.

Source: Indian Express

Missile interceptor successfully test-fired

India successfully test-fired indigenously developed interceptor missile, capable of destroying any incoming hostile ballistic missile, from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Wheeler Island off Orissa coast. "Aimed at developing a fully fledged multi-layer Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system, the trial was carried out from two launch sites of ITR off Orissa coast," defence sources said. Describing the trial as successful, they said the whole exercise is to achieve "desired result with precision". The 'hostile' target ballistic missile, a modified surface-to-surface 'Prithvi', was first lifted off from a mobile launcher around 0933 hours from the launch complex-3 of ITR at Chandipur-on-Sea, 15 km from here. Within four minutes, the interceptor, Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missile positioned at Wheeler Island, about 70 km across sea from Chandipur received signals from long ranging tracking radars installed along the coastlines, and then travelled through the sky at a speed of 4.5 Mach to a definite altitude over the Bay to destroy it, sources said.

Source: Deccan Herald

Capability to neutralise enemy satellites proved

The fresh success of the interceptor missile mission has demonstrated the country's capability to neutralise adversarial satellites in space, according to Dr V.K. Saraswat, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister. India has "all the technologies and building blocks which can be used for anti-satellite missions" in the low-earth and polar orbits. However, "India's policy is that it will not weaponise space, and we are committed to the peaceful uses of outer space," he said. Out of the six interceptor missions conducted so far by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), five have been successful. Dr. Saraswat, who is also the DRDO Director-General, called mission "a fantastic success." The interceptor boasted new technologies such as directional warhead, fibre-optic gyroscopes and a radio-frequency seeker that guided the interceptor to attack the incoming "enemy missile" at an altitude of 16 km above the Bay of Bengal.

Source: Hindu

Civil Aviation Authority in the offing

The process of setting up an autonomous Civil Aviation Authority to regulate all aviation safety issues in India is in the final stages with a cabinet note on it likely to be finalised soon. The proposed CAA, which would have administrative and financial autonomy, is also likely to keep a tab on the entire range of activities —from proper provision of air traffic services and licensing to financial fitness of airlines. "A cabinet note is being prepared. We have sent all the facts. The (Civil Aviation) Ministry will have to forward it to the government," Director General of Civil Aviation Mr E K Bharat Bhushan told PTI here. Government plans to bring in legislation to establish the CAA. Mr Bhushan said the CAA would have a "lot of financial, administrative and procedural independence. We will be able to recruit (professionals) directly" instead of routing it through the Union Public Service Commission. A feasibility study to set up the Authority was commissioned in October 2009 in technical cooperation with the UN body International Civil Aviation Organisation to improve financial and administrative autonomy for discharge of safety oversight functions more effectively. The ICAO feasibility study was reviewed by the DGCA and the Civil Aviation Ministry last year. The proposal was also endorsed by the US Federal Aviation Administration which said the proposed body would be in line with ICAO policy. Civil Aviation Minister Mr Vayalar Ravi recently said that the process to set up the CAA was currently on. The CAA structure of an aviation regulatory body exists in several countries including the UK and Singapore, giving it powers to regulate all safety issues, advising the government on all civil aviation matters, managing national airspace so as to meet the needs of all users, keeping in mind national security, economic and environmental factors. To questions on the flight duties of pilots and the time limit to be maintained for their duty, Mr Bhushan said a committee headed by Civil Aviation Secretary Mr Nasim Zaidi has already submitted its report to the Ministry. "The report on FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitation) has to be formalised and sent to the government for approval", he said. The FDTL issue had acquired prominence after the crash of an Air India Express aircraft in Mangalore in May last year, which claimed 158 lives. Asked about the newly-created Tariff Analysis Unit set up in the DGCA to monitor abrupt hikes in air fares,

Source: Moneycontrol

New airport Ground Handling Policy from 1 April: report

The civil aviation ministry has announced implementation of the Ground Handling Policy from April 1, according to a report. The report stated that with this, there will be only three ground handlers at each of the six metro airports in the country. The Delhi high court had earlier rejected a plea by airlines to stay implementation of the policy, says report.. There are reports that the policy was to be implemented from January 1, but various airlines got a stay from the HC. State-owned Air India (AI) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) would be major beneficiaries of the new policy, adds report

Source: India Infoline

Discovery leaves earth one last time

US space shuttle Discovery has lifted off on its own final scheduled flight from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida to deliver a storage room to the International Space Station (ISS). According to NASA TV, the shuttle blasted off at 4.53 p.m. (2153 GMT) on Feb 24, 2011. "Good to be here", Discovery Commander Mr Steve Lindsey radioed soon after the three main engines shut off and the external fuel tank was jettisoned. After eight-and-a-half-minutes, Discovery reached orbit and was on its way to the station, Xinhua reported. Discovery will deliver to the station the Permanent Multipurpose Module, a spare module that will provide additional storage for the station crew. The mission will feature two spacewalks to do maintenance work and install new components. The Robonaut 2 (or R2), the first human-like robot in space after flying on Discovery, will become a permanent resident of the station.

Source: Deccan Herald

DRDO official sees good export potential for Tejas

Mr W. Selvamurthy, Chief Controller, Life Sciences, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), said there could be a good export market for Tejas, the country's first indigenously built supersonic fighter aircraft, if the Centre okayed it. Speaking to The Hindu recently, he said the DRDO had already received enquiries for Tejas from various countries. The plane was given Initial Operating Clearance (IOC) only recently by Defence Minister Mr A. K. Antony. The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was the star attraction at the recently conducted Aero India air show in Bangalore, in which 45 countries took part. Saying India was among very few countries in the world capable of producing fighter planes; Mr. Selvamurthy said that third world countries, developing countries and even some of the developed countries were markets for Tejas.

Source: Hindu

PSLV to be launched around April 10

After a two-month delay, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C16) will be launched around April 10 to put Resourcesat-2 and two other satellites into orbit. The PSLV-C16 was to have lifted off from Sriharikota in the first week of February, but the failure of the Geo-stationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F06) on December 25, 2010, and the S-band spectrum scam that hit the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) this year have cast a long shadow over it. Though the four stages of the PSLV-C16 were fully integrated more than two weeks ago, the ISRO wants to play it safe after the GSLV-16 failure. Asked about the reason for the delay, an ISRO official said: "People are busy dealing with the fallout of the S-band scam and analysing the GSLV failure. The ISRO does not want another failure."

Source: Hindu

BrahMos missile to be deployed on fighter planes

India is planning to deploy its 290km range supersonic BrahMos cruise missile on the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) being developed with Russia. "If we are able to reduce the weight of the missile below two tonnes, we can deploy it on the FGFA and we are looking to do that in future," BrahMos

Aerospace chief Mr A Sivathanu Pillai said. FGFA is joint venture aircraft development programme between India and Russia under which India will induct 250-300 of these advanced planes. The missile is already being developed for deployment on Su-30MKIs of the Indian Air Force. Asked if the missile could be put on other aircraft such as the LCA or the proposed Medium-Multirole Combat Aircraft (M-MRCA), Mr Pillai said it would not be possible for the LCA as it was a small aircraft.

Source: Indian Express

Lockheed in talks with BDL to produce missiles

US-aerospace major Lockheed Martin, which has already formed a joint venture with the Tata group for making aerospace components in India, is exploring further tie-ups with both private and government-owned defence organisations. Lockheed Martin India Private Limited managing director Mr Jagmohan Singh said the company was looking forward to potential partnerships, including with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). Initially, it would go for production of anti-tank guided missiles, provided it gets clearances from the governments of the US and India. Singh was speaking on the sidelines of a defence and aerospace exhibition being organised by the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises.

Source: Business Standard

Airports Authority of India IPO next year

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will come out with its initial public offering (IPO) sometime next year, said its Chairman Mr V. P. Agrawal. Speaking on the sidelines of a two-day GMR Aviation Security Summit, he said consultant KPMG had valued its assets at Rs.20,000 crore, while the authority per se estimated that the valuation should be a minimum of Rs.80,000 crore. The mismatch, while being unacceptable, did not apparently take the business plans of the AAI to add value for its assets, he said. Only when the right evaluation came through could they go ahead with having a strong business plan in place, ahead of the IPO. For AAI to be made a company, the AAI Act had to be amended in Parliament, he said, adding that they would go through the government and obtain the required permission after getting the business plan in place. "The listing process may take about a year," he said. The IPO proposal comes at a time when revenues from airports are dipping due to the decline in air passengers and aircraft movement. Its proceeds could help AAI to part-fund development of the two major airports at Chennai and Kolkata, apart from 35 other non-metro airports, each of which needed Rs.400 crore, he said. Of the 35 other airports in Tier-II cities being developed as part of the XI Plan, he said 22 were completed and the remaining were in various stages of commissioning. "We will complete

them in a year and the expansion will be six to eight times bigger than the airports' original size," he said. The corporatisation will give AAI access to funds, formulate strategies and enable it to function as an entity accountable to a board of directors, he said. Asked about radio-active screening at airports, Mr. Agrawal said the Central Government had decided to get it done through the Electronics Corporation of India and that it was for the Home Ministry to put it through. As for the Begumpet airport, it is likely to be used as a training facility and will house flying institutes. He said whatever was decided it had to be related to flying only and added that maintenance and repair organisations (MRO) could come up. He said an aircraft manufacturer had already come up with a proposal for setting up an MRO.

Source: *The Hindu*

Boeing Seeks to Develop Indian Fighter Jets, Equip Manned Space Missions

Boeing Co., the second-biggest U.S. defence contractor, is seeking to help India develop a medium-fighter jet to boost sales in a defence market it expects to be worth \$31 billion over the next 10 years. The plane maker is also interested in cooperating with India's Defence Research and Development Organisation on aero-structures, avionics and materials, Vivek Lall, the head of its Indian defence and space operations, said in a Feb. 25 interview in New Delhi. The Chicago-based company is in talks to sell equipment for manned space missions, he said. Boeing has separately bid to sell India 126 multi-role fighters in an \$11 billion deal and military helicopters, taking advantage of improving U.S.-India ties. Lockheed Martin Corp., European Aeronautic Defence & Space Co. and BAE Systems Plc. are also seeking sales in India and other emerging markets as western nations pare military spending as part of wider budget cuts.

Source: *Bloomberg*

Sikorsky to make helicopters in India for local, overseas markets

US-based Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. plans to design and manufacture civilian and military helicopters in India for the local and Asia-Pacific market in four years; the first time a foreign aircraft company will use the country's aerospace know-how to make choppers for the overseas market. "We are looking at manufacturing an indigenous helicopter by 2015-16. We already have the helicopters that are suitable for the Indian climate," said Mr Arvind Jeet Singh Walia, managing director (India and South Asia) at Sikorsky Aircraft. "We intend developing further technologies to cater to defence requirements for high-altitude and high-performance machines." He did not give details of the investment involved in the proposed manufacturing plan.

Source: *livemint.com*

IAF to induct 300 more choppers into its fleet

The Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter fleet is all set to get a boost during the next nine years with plans for inducting 300 attack, transport and observation choppers in advanced stages of implementation in deals worth \$5.5 billion. Among the new choppers to be inducted will be 12 VVIP transports, 22 attack, 15 heavy-lift, 130 medium-lift and 120 light utility helicopters of varying types, sizes and capabilities. The deals for most of these helicopters are expected to be signed during fiscal 2011-12, with the acquisitions being completed before 2020, a senior IAF officer, who preferred

anonymity, said. Among the first procurements would be the 12 VVIP transport helicopters for the Palam-based Communication Squadron. India had signed

Source: *Indian Express*

Dynamatic to invest US \$110 mn in new Aerospace Manufacturing Facility

Dynamatic Technologies Limited plans to invest US\$110 mn (approx Rs. 495.49 crore) over a period of six years to establish its new aerospace manufacturing facility in Bangalore. In the first phase of the project, which is expected to commence soon, a Modern Sheet Metal Shop, a Center of Excellence for Complex Machining and Surface Treatment Facility for large assemblies will be set up. Nearly 25 percent of the US\$110 mn will be invested during the first 12 months of project implementation. With this facility, Dynamatic Technologies Ltd will build capabilities in large aero-structure assemblies, composites and complex engineering. The company aims to emerge as a preferred strategic supplier to global aerospace Tier-Ones & Primes.

Source: *Machinist*

Single-aisle aircraft demand from India to drive growth for Airbus

European aircraft maker Airbus said that airlines in India will play an important role for growth in sales of single-aisle aircraft in the Asia-Pacific region. The demand for single-aisle aircraft is expected to accelerate with the growth of low-cost carriers and their plans of adding secondary short-haul routes, said Airbus in a statement. IndiGo, the New Delhi-based low-cost carrier, reached a preliminary agreement in January to buy 180 A320s from Airbus in the industry's largest order of new planes. The order, along with Air Asia's plans to purchase 175 Airbus A320s, is expected to be a significant contributor to Airbus' single-aisle aircraft sales. Air Asia and Airbus are currently in negotiations over the purchase. Airbus expects an overall requirement for some 5,200 new aircraft in the smaller single-aisle 100-210 seat category from the region.

Source: *Hindu Business Line*

Maharashtra Government Signs Contract to Acquire Sikorsky S-76 Helicopter

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. announced the signing of a contract to sell an S-76C++ helicopter to the Maharashtra Government in India for VIP transport. The aircraft will join a growing fleet of Sikorsky helicopters operating in India or on order by Indian customers, including other S-76® family aircraft and lightweight S-300 and S-330SP helicopters. Sikorsky, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. announced the sale at the Heli-Expo industry show in

Orlando. "We are honoured that the Maharashtra Government has chosen the S-76C++ helicopter after an extremely transparent, open and rigorous competition," said Air Vice Marshal (retired) Arvind Walia, Sikorsky Managing Director for South Asia.

Source: Planenews.com

Combat aircraft vendors still wait for setting up of price negotiation panel

Vendors vying to win one of the biggest defence deals of \$10.4 billion for 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) are yet to get any indication from the Ministry Of Defence (MoD) for the price negotiations. "Ahead of the price negotiations, a price negotiation committee has to be set up, which is a complex process," an industry sources told FE. "So far, neither has the committee been set up, nor the qualifying vendors been informed. Therefore, there is no possibility of the negotiations starting by the month-end." Last week, Air Chief Marshal PV Naik, the Indian Air Force chief, had announced that the price negotiation for the deal would begin later this month. But according to the person cited earlier, "Those who have been shortlisted have to be given enough time to get ready for the talks and even those who have failed to make the cut would get point-wise explanations from the MoD for not qualifying."

Source: Financial Express

GE to set up manufacturing unit in India

US-based General Electric said it would set up a multi-facility infrastructure manufacturing unit in India, employing at least 3,000 people. "Initially, we would invest \$50 million (Rs 250 crore). Total investment will be \$200 million and the company will take a call in the next three to six months," Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Immelt told journalists. The facility would focus on equipment for the energy sector, besides aviation and health areas. "Within the next quarter or 90 days, we would announce the facility and the construction work would start in the second quarter (July-September)," he said. The company did not give details of possible locations but said it had shortlisted places.

Source: Business Standard

DGCA's blueprint soon with powers to regulate air fares

The civil aviation ministry will soon come out with a blueprint seeking to arm the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) with powers to regulate air fares which hit the roof during the last festival season. The blueprint, which will be ready in a month, mainly looks at transforming DGCA into a powerful regulatory body called Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). "The blueprint for the CAA should be ready in a month's time and we are planning to include regulation of airfares in it. We also plan to have an environment regulation and one for passenger grievances, for which an ombudsman may be brought in," a senior official from the civil aviation ministry said.

Source: Economic Times

Aerospace industry targets contracts in China, India

Canada's aerospace industry is jockeying for global contracts as China and India expand their commercial aviation sectors and governments move to replace their aging military aircraft. "There will be lots of opportunities over the next 20 years for Canadian companies," said Mr Claude Lajeunesse, president of the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada. Canada ranks fifth among the world's largest aerospace manufacturing and services suppliers, trailing the United States, France, Britain and Germany, according to an association-commissioned report by Deloitte & Touche LLP. Besides expanding their civil aviation markets, "China and India are competing for regional influence and are determined to dominate the region in terms of defence spending," the report notes. "Research and development spending by the aerospace sector also plays a critical role in the Canadian economy," notably investments by aircraft maker Bombardier Inc., engine and parts supplier Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. and flight-simulator maker CAE Inc. An estimated 78 per cent of Canadian aerospace products are exported. Montreal-based CAE said it has secured new military deals in more than 10 countries in contracts totalling \$100-million, including work for the U.S. Navy. CAE chief executive officer Marc Parent, who previously served as the aerospace association's chairman, said in a recent speech that "research and development is in our industry's DNA. Our ability to innovate has placed us among the best in the world." CAE, which also trains pilots, signed recent contracts to sell four full-flight simulators to airlines in Asia and Europe. "As global airlines add new aircraft and routes to meet growing demand for air travel, particularly in the emerging regions, they look to advanced simulation-based training to meet regulatory requirements and enhance safety and efficiency," CAE group president Jeff Roberts said in a statement. Mr. Lajeunesse welcomed Ottawa's support for the aerospace sector budget, saying he is optimistic the backing will be in place after the next federal election, especially plans to review programs that affect Canada's competitiveness and maintain stable funding for the Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative. Canada's aerospace industry generated \$22-billion in revenue and employed 79,000 people in 2009, with a corresponding payroll of \$4.6-billion, according to the Deloitte & Touché study. The report cautions that Canada must continue to innovate because of rising global competition, where customers such as China and India increasingly become rivals for contracts. "It is anticipated that many of these developing nations will be heavily supported by their governments in the hopes of creating a strong domestic aerospace industry. These countries are Brazil, China, India and Russia," the study says.

Source: CTV News

B'lore AeSI bags honour

The Bangalore branch of Aeronautical Society of India has been adjudged the best branch among nearly 16 aero societies across India based on various performance parameters evaluated by an expert committee. Mr T Mohan Rao, director of GTRE, Bangalore and president of the Bangalore chapter of AeSI, received the award from Vijay Mallya, national president of AeSI, at a function held in Mumbai recently.

Source: Deccan Herald

BIAL earns praises from airline

Chickballapur: Dragonair has honoured Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) in recognition of its "excellent support" rendered to Dragonair's Bengaluru Airport team, thereby enabling the airport team to win the Best Airport Performance Award 2010. The Airport Performance Awards is a prestigious event for Dragonair and are decided on passenger feedback on the airline's service and operations, from the time a passenger checks-in until the flight departs. Among 33 airports in the Dragonair network, Bengaluru Airport team won the Best Airport Performance Award 2010, Dragonair said in a release. "BIAL have been extremely supportive in our endeavour to provide outstanding products and services. This award is an indication of Dragonair's commitment to continuous improvement," said Tom Wright, General Manager, (India, Middle East, Africa and Pakistan). Mr G.V. Sanjay Reddy, Managing Director, BIAL, said it has been two years since Dragonair has been flying to the BIA. This route has thrown open opportunities for people travelling between India's Information Technology capital and Hong Kong, and onwards to the west coast of the United States. "It has been a pleasure to transact with a world-class airline such as Dragonair, which has set high standards of operational excellence at our airport," he added.

Source: Deccan Herald

Young Scientist Award for 11

Eleven scientists, including two from the Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have been given the prestigious NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award for 2010. Besides Mr Debnath Pal and Mr P.S. Anil Kumar of the IISc the other winners are: Mr Rajeev K. Varshney of the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad; Mr S. Venkata Mohan of the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad; Mr R. Ramachandran of the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow; Mr M. Venkat Ratnam of the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Tirupati; Souvik Maiti of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Delhi; Naval Mr K. Vikram of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi; Mrs Priya Mahadevan of the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata; Mr Parag R. Gogate of the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai; and Mr Bikramjit Basu of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. The annual award was instituted five years ago by the National Academy of Sciences, India, (NASI) and Scopus, the abstract and citation database of the peer-reviewed scientific literature of Elsevier, the Amsterdam-based publisher of scientific, technical and medical information products and services. The applicants were evaluated in two stages based on criteria such as publication output, citations and other metrics based on Scopus data as well as research quality and impact by 48 panellists. The award presentation function was held here earlier this week. Mr T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, presented the awards and appreciated the effort of NASI and Scopus to spot and encourage scientific talent in the country. Each award carries a trophy, a citation and a cash prize of Rs.50,000.

Source: The Hindu

SAROD - 2011

5th Symposium on Applied Aerodynamics and Design of Aerospace Vehicle

Date: 16-18 November 2011

Venue: Eagleton Resorts, Bangalore, India

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INDIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

The Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), founded in 1987, comprises India's most distinguished engineers, engineer-scientists and technologists covering the entire spectrum of engineering disciplines. INAE functions as an apex body and promotes the practice of engineering & technology and the related sciences for their application to solving problems of utmost national importance. Activities of the Academy include programmes on issues of technology and technology policy, research studies/projects, issues relating to technical education, fellowships, awards etc.

The Academy is looking for a suitable person to fill position of Deputy Executive Secretary in the Pay Scale of Rs 37400-67000 with Grade Pay Rs 8700/- in PB-4.

The Deputy Executive Secretary will provide a supporting role to the Executive Secretary in his duties that include interaction with the Governing Council and the Fellowship of the Academy, overseeing and coordinating the day-to-day activities, administration and the publications of the Academy.

Qualifications and Experience: An engineer with a degree in Engineering or Technology, below 55 years of age who has at least 15-20 years experience in general management in an engineering, technical or Government organization. Post Graduate degree in Engineering/Technology or Management would be preferred. It is essential that the applicant has engineering and technological accomplishments of a high order; has adequate computer knowledge & internet literacy and also have excellent human relations & communication skills. Should also have good knowledge of overall scientific & technological community and activities in the country. Experience in management of financial resources would be an added qualification.

The above position will be Delhi based. Candidates may send their applications with complete bio-data along with latest photograph, and attested copies of Degree Certificates to the Executive Secretary, Indian National Academy of Engineering, 6th Floor Vishwakarma Bhawan, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi 110 016. **Last date of receipt of application is ---- May 15, 2011**