



# E - NEWS

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**Navy floats out indigenous aircraft carrier - Details under Current Affairs**



**Slimmer Saras to fly by year - end - Details under Current Affairs**

## READER'S RESPONSE

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

## Navy floats out first indigenous aircraft carrier

The first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) of the Navy was floated out at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), at a low-key event attended by senior shipping and naval officers. Among those present were Union Shipping Secretary Mr K. Mohandas; Rear Admiral Mr K.N. Vaidyanathan, Director General, Naval Design; and Commodore Mr K. Subramaniam, Chairman and Managing Director of CSL. The floating ceremony was followed by a meeting to review the progress in the work being done on the aircraft carrier, a 40,000-tonne fleet air defence platform of the Navy, which will be named after the legendary INS Vikrant. The Union Shipping Secretary told The Hindu that the work on the carrier was progressing, albeit not as per schedule, as so many variables were being factored into the extremely complex construction process.

Source: *Hindu*

## DRDO working on new defence equipment against radiation

DRDO chief controller Dr W Selvamurthy said NBC defence inventory held by armed forces include 64 products for detection, protection, medical management and decontamination, both at individual and collective levels. With early detection being of critical importance, well-equipped rapid response teams need to be stationed in all major centres to handle NBC threats. DRDO has collaborated with the home ministry to formulate and upgrade standard operating protocols (SOPS) to deal with "all NBC eventualities".

Source: *Times of India*

## Air defence for NCR ready; Bangalore next?

Indian version of Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) is ready. Under Phase-1 deployment, the National Capital Region (NCR) will come under the safe shield of programme Air Defence (AD). Sources in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirm to express that the entire gamut of operations will be linked to the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) in Delhi. "India's network-centric warfare capabilities will come to the party with AD cover for NCR first. Once, this module is operational, we can replicate the same to other Indian cities. We have submitted a detailed programme to the government in this regard," sources said. In Phase-II deployment, cities like Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata could find a place, though the specifics have not been yet finalised. "Missile launchers, radars, interceptors and network systems have all being readied for NCR. India will now be among the league of nations with BMD capabilities," sources said.

Source: *Indian Express*

## President inaugurates new SHAR Mission Control Centre

President Mrs Pratibha Patil visited the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR) at Sriharikota and dedicated the new Mission Control Centre to the nation. She also witnessed a simulation of the launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) at the Mission Control Centre and various exhibits of the advances in space science and technology. The new centre has been developed with state-of-the-art facilities to meet the requirements for the launch of the Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III and future missions of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Later, she visited

the First Launch Pad, where the integration of the soon-to-be-launched of PSLV-C19 was in progress. In her address to ISRO scientists, the President said the entire country was looking forward to the successful flight-testing by the ISRO of the indigenous cryogenic stage on-board GSLV-1. "I understand that our next generation heavy-lift launch vehicle, GSLV Mark III, is also in an advanced stage of development."

Source: *Hindu*

## Six-satellite system for weather forecast proposed

India may have a constellation of six micro-satellites circling the Earth in a low-earth orbit to collect accurate climatic data for better weather forecasting in the future, if the Union Government approves the proposal of a former ISRO official. Conceptualised in the line of the six-year old US-Taiwan COSMIC (Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere, and Climate) system, the Indian constellation of six microsatellites, each weighing 50 kg, would collect vertical profile on temperature, pressure and humidity, which can be fed into forecasting models. "The proposal is to have half-a-dozen satellites in low-earth orbit (about 700 km) altitude, each of which will have 30 observations in a day, resulting in close to 200 daily observations. The entire project cost should be around Rs 50 crore," Mr D Narayana Rao, former director of IndianSpace Research Organisation's National Atmospheric Research Laboratory in Tirupathi told on the sidelines of 99th session of the Indian Science Congress.

Deccan Herald

## Slimmer Saras to fly by year-end

India's first multi-role light transport aircraft programme Saras, which suffered a major setback following the crash of an aircraft prototype in 2010, is back on track. The Saras Production Standard Aircraft (PSA), which is the third prototype of the Saras programme, is under assembly at the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and is expected to fly in the last quarter of 2012. The Saras PSA, whose all-up weight was reduced by 500 kg using advanced composite components such as wings, empennage, pressure bulkhead, fuselage top skin and weight-optimised fuselage structure, is under fabrication at NAL, said the Bangalore-based Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) governed laboratory in its annual report. This apart, the carbon composite wing is being fabricated using, for the first time, a fully in-house developed technology called Verity (Vacuum Enhanced Resin Infusion Technology).

Source: *DNA*

## Aero show: Sukhoi set for city

Short-range passenger aircraft Sukhoi SuperJet 100 (SSJ 100), a corporate jet from France and a host of other aircraft, choppers and beechcraft will enthrall

people at the third edition of India Aviation-2012 to be held at the Begumpet airport between March 14 and 18, 2012. The last two days of the expo would be open for public. However, this time there would be no aerobatics in the wake of the accident that killed two Navy pilots in 2010. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (Ficci), Delhi, is organising the exhibition and aviation companies from across the world would display their flying machines during the five-day exhibition. "The United Aircraft Corporation has agreed to put Sukhoi SuperJet-100, designed to carry 98 passengers, on display at the expo. The SuperJet will land on March 17 and will fly out the next day," Ficci assistant secretary general (exhibition & trades) Mr Vinay Shanka Mathur told.

Source: *Times of India*

## Bidar may get HAL's proposed chopper project

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Navaratna defence PSU and a top-ranked global defence aerospace company, which is looking for a location to house a production facility for its Advanced Utility Helicopter (AUH) project, could get land in Bidar for the project. Bidar Lok Sabha member and former chief minister Mr N Dharam Singh told Express that Union Defence Minister Mr A K Antony had shown keen interest in establishing the unit at Bidar, where the Indian Air Force also has its base. "Let us secure land for the proposed AUH programme and the Defence Ministry will give a green signal to HAL to locate its production facility in Bidar," Mr Singh said. He also said Karnataka Chief Minister Mr D V Sadananda Gowda, with whom he had taken up the matter on Saturday, readily agreed to release land for the project.

Source: *Indian Express*

## NAL's Drishti to help pilots in fog

Pilots at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi, often engaged in fog-fight during take-offs and landings, will have some respite now. Drishti - a visibility measuring system - developed by a small group of scientists of Bangalore-based National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), a premier institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), have gone live at the IGI Airport from December 14. Dr Shyam Shetty, acting director, NAL, confirmed to Express that two such systems have been installed at the IGI Airport. "Drishti is a 30-m baseline system, first of its kind installed at any airport in the country. It meets International Civil Aviation Organisation and World Meteorological Organisation stipulations. It is suitable for all airports (CAT I, II and III), including CAT III B, where the pilots will have to land with low-visibility of 50 m," Dr Shyam said.

Source: *Indian Express*

## Honeywell Aerospace developing software to help pilots land planes in low visibility

Weather plays a role in roughly 40 percent of flight delays, a federal statistic that a new technology aims to change. The Enhanced Visual System/Synthetic Vision System technology is intended to give pilots the information needed to land despite low visibility.

The "augmented reality vision" software developed by Honeywell Aerospace can save airlines pricey fuel and save passengers precious time. The EVS/SVS technology uses 3-D images from a GPS database blended with infrared images from a sensor found in most planes' noses. Honeywell Aerospace has developed the software as an enhancement of its SVS technology that airlines have used for decades, technology that has detailed terrain images and automatic warnings of obstacles.

Source: *Denver post*

## India takes delivery of Russian N-submarine

India will operate a nuclear-powered submarine in the new year, having taken delivery of INS Chakra or the

rechristened Akula-II class nuclear-powered submarine 'K-152 Nerpa' from Russia on a 10-year lease. Over 50 Indian officers as well as scores of sailors have undergone extensive training on INS Chakra, followed by testing and acceptance trials of the submarine spread over several weeks. The handing over of the submarine to India comes soon after PM Dr Manmohan Singh visited Moscow from December 15 to 17, 2011. INS Chakra is likely to set sail for Indian shores towards January-end, making India the sixth operator of nuclear submarines in the world.

Source: *Times of India*

## HALs simulator cockpit for Eurocopter gets 'D' certification

The Helicopter Academy to Train by Simulation of Flying (Hatsoff), a Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and CAE joint venture, has announced that its simulator cockpit for the Eurocopter AS365 N3 Dauphin helicopter has been certified to Level D, the highest qualification for flight simulators, by the Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) as well as the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). Hatsoff has also announced that its three simulator cockpits - a Bell 412, a HAL civil/conventional Druv, and the Eurocopter AS365 N3 Dauphin - have been certified as Level 2 (JAR)/Level 6 (FAA) flight training devices (FTDs) when used as fixed-base, non-motion simulators in the docking station installed at Hatsoff. Commenting on the development, Wing Commander (Retd) Mr Chandra Datt Upadhyay, Chief Executive Officer of Hatsoff, said "We are very proud of the progress we are making at Hatsoff, and achieving Level D certification for the Eurocopter Dauphin helicopter simulator at our facility is yet another example."

Source: *Hindu*

## First full-fledged test of space launchers soon

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a major breakthrough to calibrate and test its launchers, those meant to help escape the earth's

atmosphere and those which help re-enter it. This would mean India does not have to depend on Russia for the launchers like it did all these years, thereby reducing loss of time considerably. ISRO sources said the first (cold) test, with the wind at room temperature, was conducted about three months ago and the system's performance was alright. The hot test, with temperatures going all the way up to 1,000 degree Celsius, they said, was pending. "It should be conducted in the next four-six months," a source said.

*Source: Deccan Herald*

## ISRO gearing up for next GSLV test flight

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for the next developmental test flight of the GSLV-Mark II, which is slated to be held soon after the indigenous cryogenic test stages are ready by June-July this year. ISRO Chairman Dr K. Radhakrishnan told presspersons on the sidelines of the seminar on 'Geospatial solutions for conservation and management' that "a series of ground tests of the cryogenic stages are going on at this moment." "Once these are ready by June or July...they will be followed by the first flight, later this year," he said. In 2010, two successive GSLV test flights failed. The success of GSLV is key to several important launches, most prominently the Chandrayaan-II.

### RISAT -1

In March, Dr. Radhakrishnan said, ISRO would launch RISAT-1, India's first microwave remote sensing satellite. "This is

scheduled anytime after March 15. We are also planning the first regional navigational satellite system this year," he said.

*Source: Hindu*

## As Agni 5 takes aim, India eyes ICBM

India's big bang missile Agni-5 is moving towards the strike-zone carrying new technologies as a stepping stone for futuristic killer-missions. But silently, yet another story is being scripted for Agni-6, India's club-class Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). Range: in excess of 6,000 km. Notwithstanding what happens with the A-5 launch, sources say missile scientists are already looking at newer possibilities in making future strikes meaningful and menacing. "There are many more areas in long-range missiles where future work can happen. Multiple Independently-targeted Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV), Manoeuvring Re-entry Vehicles (MaRV) which are considerably lighter using all-composite structure and intelligent counter measures against BMD (ballistic missile defences) are some of them," sources said.

*Source: Indian Express*

## CCS nod for missile deal for mirages

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the \$1.2 billion deal for the new weapon compliment for the Mirage 2000 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) that will give the aircraft a superior firepower capability to hit the enemy beyond its visual range. Along with the earlier contract signed with French firms valuing \$2.4 billion, it is the second largest defence deal signed with France after the project to construct six Scorpene submarines at the Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) costing \$5.23 billion. The deal was the main highlight of the visit of French President Mr Nicholas Sarkozy to India, but could not be finalised owing to price issues. Under the contract, the IAF will be procuring about 500 air-to-air missiles from French armament firm MBDA. While MBDA will be the weapon provider, French company Thales will be the weapon integrator.

*Source: Indian Express*

## Bigger Outlay for Aviatin in 12th Plan

The Working Group of the Planning Commission proposed a projected total outlay for the sector at over Rs. 54,743 crore for the Five-Year Plan period from 2012-17, including Rs.32,963.67 crore for Air India and Rs.17,500 crore for the Airports Authority of India. The committee suggested that the airline industry which may suffer a setback of \$20 billion in 2011-12, such an amount needed to be kept aside for a boost to the cash-strapped sector that can affect other related areas as well. The working group headed by Civil Aviation

Secretary Nasim Zaidi also recommended rationalisation of taxes on jet fuel and investment by foreign airlines in Indian carriers. Noting that half of the "huge debt burden" of \$ 20 billion in 2011-12 was aircraft-related and the rest for working capital loans and payments to airport operators and fuel companies, the working group said the existing FDI policy "does not permit foreign airlines investment, thereby denying access to potential sources of capital and expertise".

*Indian Express*

## CCS to Consider Proposal for 75 Trainer Aircraft

The Cabinet Committee on security (CCS) will consider a proposal worth over Rs.1,850 crore for procuring 75 Pilatus trainer aircraft from Switzerland in its meeting scheduled. The aircraft are being procured by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to provide training to IAF's rookie pilots and replace the HPT-32 trainer aircraft which have been grounded for over two years after a fatal accident during training in 2009. The CCS will take up the proposal for procuring 75 Pilatus-7 basic trainer aircraft from Switzerland in its next meeting scheduled on Thursday, top IAF sources said here. They said the deal was critical for IAF's training requirements as in the next two years,

there would be a shortage of Kiran Mk II trainer aircraft, which were being used to impart flying lessons to the rookie cadets.

*Source: Indian Express*

## **Jet Airways confirms buy order for 17 Boeing 737s**

Jet Airways has converted its options to buy Boeing 737 mid-range from the U.S. aircraft manufacturer into a purchase agreement. "Jet Airways of India has placed order for 17 Boeing 737 aircraft," a spokesman of Boeing told PTI here. The spokesman, however, did not give any further detail, saying that it was up to Jet Airways to make the announcement. Indian aviation industry sources said the premier private carrier could have converted its options to acquire ten of these planes into purchase agreements. The airline, which had given firm orders almost four years ago for 11 Boeing 737-800s with options to buy ten more, had received the first of these planes in September last year. As per list prices, the deal is likely to be around \$1.4 billion. However, airlines generally negotiate for major concessions from the makers. Jet Airways spokespersons were not available for comments.

*Source: Hindu*

## **India may pick winner of fighter jet contract in 2 weeks**

India may decide in the next two weeks whether the Eurofighter consortium or France's Dassault has won a contract for fighter jets, Mr N A K Browne, chief of the Indian Air Force said, in a deal potentially worth about \$10 billion. India plans to spend \$50 billion over the next five years to upgrade its military, which largely consists of Soviet-era gear, to counter the rising might of China and threats from Pakistan. The Eurofighter, a four-nation consortium, and Dassault are left in the race to sell India 126 fighter jets and help revamp the country's defence industry in line with its rising global clout. American, Russian and Swedish bids were rejected in April, Reuters reports. "I am hopeful that in another two weeks' time we will be able to shortlist the name," Browne told Reuters on the sidelines of an event. He declined to comment on who could be the winner of the contract.

*Source: Defence Web*

## **Foreign Airlines to be allowed 49 p.c stake in Indian carriers**

As the debt-laden civil aviation industry battles hard to stay afloat, the government said that it would kick start the process to allow foreign airlines 49 per cent stake in Indian carriers, signalling a major shift in the UPA

government's policy. The decision was taken at a meeting here between Finance Minister Mr Pranab Mukherjee and Civil Aviation Minister Mr Ajit Singh. The meeting also decided to immediately release Rs.150 crore for the payment of a portion of pending salaries and allowances of Air India employees, including pilots. "We will bring a note for the Union Cabinet now," Mr. Singh told reporters after the meeting. On the FDI cap on foreign airlines, the Minister said: "As of now, 49 per cent FDI is already there. The question was on allowing [international] airlines to participate in the FDI. The CoS [Committee of Secretaries] has also recommended that FDI limit should be raised to 49 per cent."

*Source: Hindu*

## **Plan panel to allocate Rs 5K crore to develop civilian plane**

NEW DELHI: CSIR's ambitious plans to develop a 90-seater passenger aircraft are set to get a boost with the Planning Commission expected to allocate Rs 5,000 crore for the project in the 12th Five Year Plan. "The Planning Commission is expected to sanction Rs 5,000 crore for the design and development phase of the project in the 12th Plan," officials said. The civilian RTA project was proposed by a 15-member High Powered Committee (HPC) for National Civil Aircraft Development (NCAD), set up by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in May 2010 under the aegis of former ISRO Chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair. The HPC had recommended that the government should fund the development phase of the aircraft and suggested a joint venture with a private partner for the production phase. However, the Planning Commission suggested creation of a joint venture (JV) with private equity participation for both the development phase as well as for the production phase. Acting on the plan panel's suggestion, the CSIR had set up a committee chaired by former Finance Secretary Mr Vijay Kelkar to identify industry partner for the joint venture and suggest equity structure for it. The joint venture will have to be structured in such a way that it ensures that linkages are maintained between both the phases, the officials said. The Mr Kelkar Committee is expected to float Expression of Interest inviting private participation in the design and development phase of a 90-seater Regional Transport Aircraft. The officials said a consortium of aerospace industry companies, on the line of the Europe's Airbus Industries, would be a desirable option. "A total of seven prototypes are proposed to be developed by CSIR-NAL to prove the design and demonstrate compliance with respect to airworthiness requirements and certification," said a 12th Plan working group report for CSIR. The aircraft will be tailored to suit Indian requirements and is expected to have attractive operating economics. As per aviation market projections, the country will require about 500-600 regional aircraft, while the global market is estimated to be about 5,000-6,000 aircraft. A technical committee, chaired by aerospace engineer Prof Roddam Narasimha, is examining the NCAD programme and guiding CSIR-NAL to create a detailed document for its implementation and identifying the work modules.

*Source: The Economic Times*

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