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65th Annual Conference of The Indian Society Of Aerospace Medicine

- Established in 1952, the **Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine** (ISAM) stands as the nation's sole registered aeromedical society. Dedicated to fostering the exchange of knowledge and pioneering research to resolve complex aeromedical challenges, the Society has convened its annual scientific conference since 1954.
- This year, ISAM will host its 65th Annual Conference from 26-27 November 2026 at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), Bengaluru.
- As the premier nodal hub for aeromedical activities in India, IAM plays a critical role in providing medical support for the design and development of indigenous aircraft and India's ambitious human spaceflight programme.
- The theme for this year, '**One Airspace - One Mission: Aeromedical Support from Runway to Orbit**', articulates a unified vision of Aerospace Medicine that seamlessly integrates military aviation, civil aviation and human spaceflight.
- The scientific programme will feature over 100 research papers presented through panels, symposia, podiums and poster sessions. Complementing the deliberations, a scientific exhibition will showcase state-of-the-art aeromedical equipment and biomedical devices.



IAF Set To Receive First TATA-Airbus Aircraft By December 2026

- India is on the verge of a significant aerospace manufacturing milestone, with the Indian Air Force (IAF) expected to receive its first domestically manufactured Airbus C295 military transport aircraft by 31 December 2026.
- The aircraft is currently undergoing final flight trials and certification, with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus aiming to complete delivery before the end of the year.
- The development will mark the first military aircraft manufactured in India by a private-sector company and is being viewed as an important step in strengthening the country's domestic aerospace and defence manufacturing capabilities.
- Once delivered, the aircraft is expected to be assigned to one of the IAF's existing C295 squadrons based at Agra or Vadodara. The service is also expected

to begin raising its third C295 squadron next year as the fleet continues to expand.

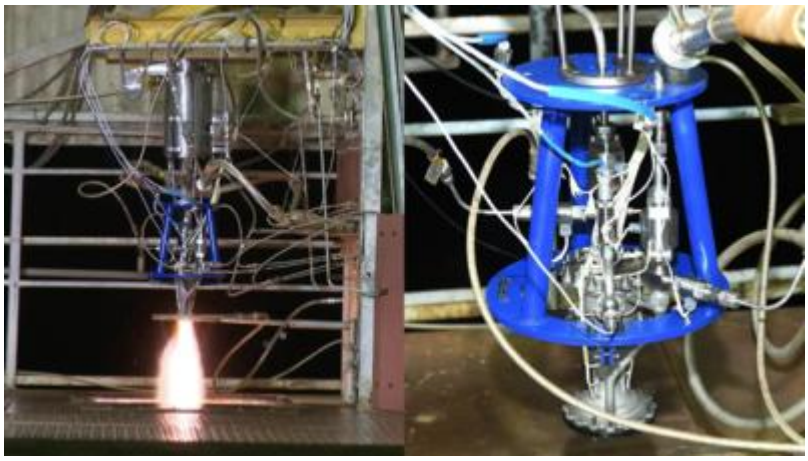
- The project originates from a ₹21,935-crore contract signed by the Ministry of Defence in September 2021 for the acquisition of 56 C295 transport aircraft.
- Under the agreement, Airbus was responsible for supplying 16 aircraft directly from its production facilities in Spain, while the remaining 40 aircraft were designated for manufacture and assembly in India through the Airbus-TASL partnership.
- The C295 is designed as a tactical transport aircraft capable of operating in demanding environments. It can carry up to nine tons of payload, 71 personnel or 45 paratroopers and is able to operate from short or unprepared airstrips, making it particularly suitable for logistics and transport missions in remote and challenging terrain.



Raman-2 Clears Key Milestone

- Skyroot Aerospace has successfully completed the acceptance test of its Raman-2 liquid-fuelled engine, marking another important step towards the second flight of the Vikram-1 launch vehicle. The achievement moves the company closer to preparing the rocket's upper stage for its next orbital mission.
- Following the successful test, the next phase will involve integrating the engine into the **Orbital Adjustment Module** (OAM) and carrying out the necessary electrical checks before flight readiness activities continue.

- Raman-2 serves as a critical component of Vikram-1's fourth stage, providing the final propulsion required to place satellites into their intended orbits. The engine is fully 3D-printed and employs regenerative cooling technology, in which propellant circulates through the engine to manage thermal loads during operation.
- A notable feature of **Raman-2** is its ability to restart multiple times in space. This capability allows **Vikram-1** to perform several orbital manoeuvres during a single mission and deploy satellites into different orbital locations, enhancing mission flexibility for commercial customers.
- The engine has undergone extensive testing during its development. Earlier evaluations demonstrated approximately 820 N of thrust at sea level and around 1,460 N in vacuum conditions. It operates using monomethyl hydrazine (MMH) and nitrogen tetroxide (NTO) propellants.
- Preparations for Vikram-1 Flight 2 are gathering pace. Skyroot is targeting a launch window around December 2026 or early January 2027, with hardware already reaching the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota** for further integration and testing activities.



TEJAS MK-1A Delivery Push Gains Momentum

- After nearly two years of delays, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has assured the IAF that it will deliver between 16 and 18 TEJAS MK-1A fighter jets by 31 March 2027, marking a significant step towards getting the indigenous fighter jet effort back on track.
- The commitment was conveyed during a high-level review meeting at Air Headquarters, where HAL provided an updated roadmap for deliveries and progress on outstanding technical issues.

- The IAF has indicated that it is prepared to induct a full squadron of TEJAS MK-1A fighters by the end of the current financial year, provided all required capabilities are fully met.
- The TEJAS MK-1A program has been running almost two years behind its original schedule. The first aircraft under the initial order had been expected in March 2024, but a combination of technical, certification and supply-chain challenges delayed induction.
- As part of the next phase, HAL is expected to complete the documentation process and secure the necessary airworthiness and quality clearances required before the fighters can formally enter service.
- The TEJAS MK-1A is a substantially upgraded variant of the original TEJAS fighter. It incorporates an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, enhanced electronic warfare systems, beyond-visual-range missile capability, improved avionics, greater maintainability and air-to-air refuelling capability, all aimed at improving combat effectiveness and mission flexibility.



India, New Zealand to Expand Defence Cooperation

- India and New Zealand are looking to expand defence cooperation, including military-to-military exchanges, training opportunities and maritime engagement, over the next 12 to 18 months, New Zealand Defence Adviser Commodore Andrew Dowling has said, underlining India's importance to Wellington's wider Indo-Pacific security outlook.

- Dowling said the two countries were exploring ways to strengthen defence ties through greater people-to-people engagement, adding that short-term exchanges and training opportunities would help build trust and improve familiarity between their armed forces.
- Dowling also highlighted the importance of the inaugural India-New Zealand Defence and Security Track 1.5 Dialogue, describing it as another layer in the momentum generated by growing defence and security engagement between the two countries over the past few years.
- He pointed to common military platforms operated by the two countries, including C-130J transport aircraft, MH-60R Romeo helicopters and P-8 maritime patrol aircraft, as areas that could facilitate further discussions and cooperation.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The 65th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) will be held at which location?

(A) DRDO Headquarters, New Delhi
(B) Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bengaluru
(C) HAL Airport, Bengaluru
(D) Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala

Correct Answer: (B)

2. The Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) was established in which year?

(A) 1947
(B) 1950
(C) 1952
(D) 1954

Correct Answer: (C)

3. Under the C295 aircraft programme, how many aircraft are to be manufactured in India through the Airbus–Tata partnership?

(A) 16
(B) 24
(C) 40
(D) 56

Correct Answer: (C)

4. Raman-2, recently developed by Skyroot Aerospace, is associated with which launch vehicle?

(A) PSLV
(B) Vikram-1
(C) GSLV Mk III
(D) SSLV

Correct Answer: (B)

5. Which technology is used in the Raman-2 engine to manage high temperatures during operation?

(A) Ablative cooling
(B) Regenerative cooling
(C) Cryogenic cooling
(D) Air cooling

Correct Answer: (B)

6. TEJAS MK-1A is equipped with which type of radar?

(A) Passive Electronically Scanned Array (PESA)
(B) Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA)
(C) Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) only
(D) Pulse Doppler Radar only

Correct Answer: (B)

7. Who is the New Zealand Defence Adviser mentioned in the India–New Zealand defence cooperation discussions?

(A) Commodore Andrew Dowling
(B) Admiral Tony Radakin
(C) Air Marshal Kevin Short
(D) General Angus Campbell

Correct Answer: (A)

8. Which of the following military platforms is commonly operated by both India and New Zealand?

(A) Rafale fighter aircraft
(B) C-130J transport aircraft
(C) Sukhoi Su-30MKI
(D) INS Vikrant aircraft carrier

Correct Answer: (B)

9. Major General Rank of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank of IAF Is
A. Commander
B. Squadron Leader
C. Group Captain
D. Air Vice Marshal
ANSWER: D

10. **The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) came into force in**
A. 2015
B. 2016
C. 2017
D. 2018
ANSWER: A

11. **Mitra Shakti Ex Held B/w India &**
A. Sri Lanka
B. USA
C. UK
D. Nepal
ANSWER: A

12. **__Himalayan pass is situated b/w India and China.**
A. Shenkota
B. Thalghat
C. Bhorghat
D. Shipki La
ANSWER: D

13. **AMCA Stands For**
A. Advanced Medium Cockpit Aircraft
B. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft
C. Advanced Motor Combat Aircraft
D. Advanced Machine Combat Aircraft
ANSWER: B

14. **Wartime Gallantry Award Is/Are**
A. Param Vir Chakra
B. Maha Vir Chakra
C. Ashok Chakra
D. Both a & b
ANSWER: D

15. **Military College of Telecommunication Engineering Is At**
A. Gopalpur
B. Mhow
C. Pune
D. Haridwar
ANSWER: B

16. "Bolo Hindustan Ki Jay" Is The War Cry Of
A. JKRIF
B. RR
C. MAHAR REGIMENT
D. JKLIR
ANSWER: C

17. **Quito Is The Capital Of**
A. Ecuador
B. Qatar

C. UAE
D. Ethiopia
ANSWER: A

18. **“The Earth spinner" Book Is Written By**
A. Brisha Jain
B. Sanjay Gubbi
C. Hew Strachan
D. Anuradha Roy
ANSWER: D

19. Joint Exercises B/w The India and Japan Is Called:

A. Shinyuu Maitri
B. SLINEX
C. Indra
D. Yudha Abhyas
ANSWER: A

20. Motto of Territorial Army Is
A. Rhino Charge
B. Duty Unto Death
C. Valour
D. Savdhani Va Shoorta
ANSWER: D