



Capturing the scene at Farnborough 2018, RAF Hawk comes into land as Airbus A350-1000 prepares to take off (image courtesy : Airbus)

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27 Riddle of the RFI



The Indian Air Force reportedly received responses to its Request For Information (RFI) for 110 fighters by 6 July 2018. In his incisive review of the RFI document itself, Professor Prodyut Das is unsparing in his analysis that the 73-page long document seems to be “an amalgam of pilot’s notes, vague questions and a lack of connectedness”. He feels that this document could well reflect “the malaise in the organisation of our overall defence planning”, but readers can make their own judgment.

36 Navantia’s ‘Juan Carlos I’: an on-the-spot report



Vayu’s Nitin Konde went on board the Spanish Navy warship L-61 *Juan Carlos I* at Mumbai harbour, this special visit reflecting the Spanish Company’s endeavour to offer the Indian Navy similar ships to meet its requirements for LPDs. As per *Indian Maritime Military Strategy*, the IN requires a number of LPDs to augment its ‘out-of-area’ or expeditionary capabilities.

41 The S-400 for formidable air defence



This strategic air defence system has been subject of prolonged negotiations between the Governments of India and Russia, but formalisation of contract delayed as this has remained under

shadow of the United States CAATS Act. However, Sayan Majumdar feels that India could well opt for integration of the S-400 system with the Israeli-origin Green Pine radar systems.

44 “The Game Changer”



In another article, Sayan Majumdar considers MBDA’s Meteor BVRAAM as the ‘Game Changer’, this beyond visual range air-to-air missile being vital armament not for only the IAF’s new Rafales but possibly for the present fleet of Su-30MKIs and Tejas LCAs.

47 Farnborough Air Show 2018



Vayu’s Editorial team covered the Farnborough International Air Show 2018 at the hallowed site in Hampshire, ‘Footloose at Farnborough’, somewhat rambling is Indian-oriented, including expression of some despair at the manner of promoting Indian-built aircraft and helicopters to the world market.

Several headlines are highlighted, including those massive orders for airliners, from both Airbus and Boeing stables, these mega companies having recently taken Bombardier and Embraer regional jets under their respective wings. On the Show’s opening day, the British unveiled their ‘future fighter concept’, naming this as the Tempest and predictably, there were reactions from the Airbus Group.

51 Conversation with President of Boeing International



In this Vayu exclusive, the Managing Editor spent time with Bertrand-Marc Allen, President of Boeing International who freely discussed various topics, highlights of which are shared with readers. Boeing International’s President was candid about the Company’s commercial market outlook, its 80% stake in Embraer, the tariff threats and was enthusiastic about India, which country today not only flies hundreds of Boeing-built airliners, but its armed forces are increasingly operating Boeing aircraft and helicopter types.

Stop Press : Included are first images of Apaches and Chinooks making their maiden-flights in Indian colours, most timely indeed !

57 The Expanding World of Airbus



This mega company has forecast a \$ 4.6 trillion worldwide market over the next 20 years, but not only are its range of airliners being continuously ordered by the world’s carriers but its helicopters, military aircraft and special purpose vehicles are notching many successes.

Technology developments; Second MC-21-300 in flight; ‘When Tigers Gather’; Dassault’s Mirage 2000N retired; APROC 2018; Exercise Iniochos 2018

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