During the FY 2017-18, there were in all four major accidents to civil registered helicopters. Of these two were fatal and two were non-fatal accidents. In the last fatal accident involving PHL Dauphin AS365 N3 Helicopter VT-PWA on 13.01.2018 over Bombay High, seven precious lives, including those of two crew members, were lost. While it is true that these accidents have been investigated by the competent authorities, there is a growing feeling among professionals that many contributory factors causing these accidents may not see the light of day, due to various factors. It is unfortunate that the three accidents, Bell 206-VT-DDA at Chintaguffa on 26 Apr 17, Sikorsky-76 -VT-CMM at Latur on 25 May 17 and AW-119 -VT-NRK at Badrinath on 10 Jun 17 were all due to pilot error. The accidents to Sikorsky-76 and AW-119 were due to over loading.

An area in which accident is waiting to occur is Pre-Election flying. On numerous occasions, the Rotary Wing Society of India has drawn the attention of authorities concerned to the problems being faced by the operators in this area. Since majority of the problems involve political parties using the helicopter services for pre-election campaign, enforcement of the strict safety guidelines published by the Regulator (DGCA) has not been possible. Over loading of helicopter is a major cause for concern. With Parliamentary Elections around the corner in April 2019, hundreds of sorties are likely to be flown in hot temperatures where helicopters would be operating at the limit of their performance. So, all those involved in handling the Election Flying for helicopters be aware of the implications of overloading the helicopter.

Election flying is a highly demanding exercise in terms of skill levels, professionalism and tact. Long flying hours, large number of takeoff and landings, weather changes, lack of proper rest and recuperation arrangements, hurriedly prepared helipads, frequent changes in itinerary, time management, highly stretched security arrangements, crowd control, congested airspace, lack of adequate communication and airspace management. Commercial interests and language barrier are some of the challenges of election flying.

RWSI, being the nodal agency for matters related to civil helicopter operations in the country, is concerned about the safe and efficient conduct of the election flying. Although commercial interests must be taken care of, yet safety of the operations is of paramount importance.

We have highly qualified and competent aviation professionals for the management of operations in the field. The Regulator may like to insist on the Agencies (such as political parties) hiring the helicopter to ensure that over loading the helicopter be strictly avoided.

Watch out for Over Loading the Helicopters during Election Flying

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Disinvestment Process of Pawan Hans Ltd in final stage, Bidders to Get Final Pact Soon

It is learnt that the centre is in the final stage of selling off the Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) – the helicopter service provider of Government of India. The final share purchase agreement to the shortlisted bidders will be shared soon for the selling of PHL stakes that have been held by the central government and Oil and Natural Gas Limited (ONGC).

A meeting of the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, head of the Alternative Mechanism on strategic disinvestment, and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu is scheduled to be called soon to get the clearance for the final Share Purchase Agreement (SPA). At present, central government has 51 per cent stake and the state-run ONGC too holds 49 per cent stake in the PHL which has a fleet of 46 choppers. The centre aims to complete the strategic sale of PHL by the end of the current financial year.

Dr. B. P. Sharma re-employed as Pawan Hans CMD

Dr. B. P. Sharma has been re-employed as the chief of the state-run helicopter manufacturer Pawan Hans, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved re-employment of Dr. B. P. Sharma as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of Pawan Hans Limited for a period of five months, it said.

Sharma, who superannuated last month-end, has served as CMD since March 2015.

Pawan Hans Signed Letter of Award with HAL for Dry Leasing of Civil ALH

Pawan Hans Limited a Govt. of India Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation signed a letter of Award with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on 20th February 2019 for Dry-leasing of Civil ALH. The event was held at Aero India 2019 in the august presence of Secretary, Civil Aviation, GOI Sh. Pradeep Singh Kharola and Senior Officials from HAL & PHL. PHL with Support of HAL is keen to provide helicopter services to the common people of India as envisaged in the RCS UDAN Scheme.

RWSI Gets Involved in Safety Training of OIMs of ONGC

We would like to share that ONGC had approached RWSI to develop course content and depute suitable faculty to conduct training sessions for its Offshore Installation Managers (OIMs) on helicopter safety, communication and related emergencies along with required actions by OIMs and their teams. Wg Cdr VP Mathur, who has over 14,000 hrs. of helicopter flying experience including 11,000 hrs. of offshore flying, has been conducting the training of ONGC personnel over the past two months. He has already successfully conducted 5 training sessions of one day each which have been attended by 40 ONGC personnel till date. The Senior ONGC officers who participated in the classes highly appreciated the coverage of helicopter operation, safety in the offshore environment and efforts of Wg Cdr VP Mathur.
Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 12th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition and declared the Aero India 2019 open on 20 Feb 19 amidst a lot of fanfare at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru.

During her address, Raksha Mantri hailed several policy initiatives of the Government under the ‘Make in India’ viz. 100% FDI in Defence Manufacturing, Defence Offset Policy 2016, Delicensing of Defence items, iDEX and the Defence Investor’s cell. She quoted S 92 Helicopter cabin, Advanced Aircraft Cockpit, Glass Cockpit for Dornier and CH-47 Pylon for Boeing as some recent successes displayed at the Indian Pavilion. She also hailed Indian PSUs for manufacturing more than 4000 aircraft including LCA, LCH, ALH, C295 etc.

She applauded the 10,000 MSMEs which made 80% of components, aggregates and assemblies of complex weapon systems and aircrafts. She also informed that more than 424 companies had obtained the licence for Defence production which was almost double the number in last four years. Raksha Mantri mentioned the ‘Defence Investor cell’ which was set up in Jan 2018, to enhance the ‘Ease of doing Business’ and informed that over 350 industries had been facilitated till date. She also mentioned that 275 Ordnance Factory items had been de-notified and also that testing facilities of DPSUs and OFs had been opened up for private industry.

She told that 34 projects relating to Army, Navy and Air Force had already been accorded ‘Approval in Principle’ under the ‘Make-II’ category. The Raksha Mantri mentioned that the FDI policy had been revised and now foreign investments upto 49% were allowed through the automatic route and above 49% under Government route. She also mentioned that in last four years, six companies in Defence and Aerospace sectors had obtained government approval for FDI of Rs 237 Cr while FDI of over Rs 200 Cr had been received through the automatic route.

She also informed the audience about the iDEX scheme which was launched on 12th April 2018, to create a network of Defence Innovation hubs throughout the country and to resolve Defence and Aerospace related issues. She mentioned that the first innovation hub had already started at Coimbatore. Two defence corridors one in Uttar Pradesh and another in Tamil Nadu at Tiruchirappalli is being set up wherein investments of more than Rs 3200 Cr were committed by the MOD. She also mentioned the ‘Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti’, launched by the MOD, to create greater capacity development and encourage greater filing of patents in defence and aerospace sectors.

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman further stated that the government was committed to create an enabling environment for a domestic ecosystem of defence manufacturing, the results of which were already visible. She said, “With the policy initiatives and the procedural reforms, I am confident that India will emerge as a key player in the global defence arena. We will create an ecosystem in which there would be enhanced technological collaborations of the public as well as private sectors with the foreign Defence OEMs. Strategic partnerships will be forged with increased integration of skills, systems, technologies and manufacturing capabilities.”

The inaugural address was followed by three Mi-17 V-5 helicopters flying past the dais in ‘Vic’ formation carrying the Indian tricolour, the Air Force ensign and the Aero India flag. The air display commenced with a solitary vintage Dakota flying by the stands. Thereafter a host of indigenously manufactured helicopters including the LUH, ALH Mk III and IV and LCH filled the skies with their jet wash. This followed by three ALH Mk IV (Rudra) in a ‘Vic’ formation. Following the fly past by the indigenous Dornier 228 flanked by the Hawk-i and HTT-40, came the Sukhoi flanked by LCA Tejas and Jaguar in the Missing man Formation as a homage to Wg Cdr Sahil Gandhi who lost his life in a fatal air collision on 19 Feb 19 during a practice sortie of the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team. This was followed by the fighters thundering over the grandstand through the skies displaying a host of aerobatic manoeuvres – the Su 30 MKI followed by indigenous Tejas LCA, the American F-16 Falcon and the French Rafale. A host of helicopters including the LUH, LCH, ALH-MK-IV and the Sarang helicopter display team enthralled the spectators with their performance. The finale started with an air display by Airbus 330 Neo followed by a grand flyby by the majestic B-52 Bombers of 1950 vintage. A total of 61 aircraft participated in the event.

Curtains came down on the Aero India – 2019 on 24 Feb 19. The 12th edition of the event drew large crowd that bear testimony to the premier Air Show of Asia having come of age.
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over first three ALHs as part of the 22 ALH MK III contract to the Indian Army in the on-going Aero India 2019, on 22 February 2019.

HAL had entered into a contract with the Indian Army for 40 ALH (22 ALH Mk III and 18 Mk IV Rudra) in August 2017. Of the 22 helicopters, 19 helicopters have already been produced and will be progressively delivered.

The documents were handed over to Director General Army Aviation Lt Gen Kanwal Kumar by Chief Executive Officer, Helicopter Division Shri GVS Bhaskar in the presence of Chairman and Managing Director, HAL Shri R Madhavan. Officials from the Army, HAL, DGAQA and RCMA were also present on the occasion.

The Advanced Light Helicopter (Dhruv) is a multi-role, new generation helicopter in the 5.5-ton weight class, indigenously designed and developed by HAL. Powered by two Shakti engines, it provides superlative performance throughout its flight envelope. It is suited for a high-speed cruise for rapid deployment and to maximize the area of operations. The basic helicopter is produced in skid version and wheeled version. In the wheeled version, options for fixed and retractable undercarriages are available.

On 22 Feb 19, at Aero India 2019, HAL facilitated release of Rotor India Special Issue amidst a large gathering of rotary wing aviation professionals. It included Shri R Madhavan. Chairman and Managing Director. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and many members of Board of Directors of HAL.

The Publication showcased the evolution of Indian Military helicopters including the contemporary developments that have taken place in second generation helicopters in India. The publication has also taken care to highlight the success story of HAL’s indigenously designed and developed Dhruv and its various versions.

Most interestingly, there is an article by Wg Cdr CD Upadhyay Vr C Ex Chief Test Pilot HAL on, “The Success Story of the First Indigenous Design & Development of Dhruv Helicopter by HAL”.

Special Issue of Rotor India Released at Aero India 2019
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) showcased its Dhruv Mk III Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) with folding tail boom and main rotor blades, designated Naval Utility Helicopter (NUH).

The helicopter which is designed to meet the requirements of the Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy for enhanced shipborne operations, was showcased at the Aero India 2019. The helicopter will perform a range of mainly maritime missions, including search and rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (medevac), anti-piracy and anti-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, surveillance, and targeting.

The helicopter is in the final stages of development and is expected to take flight this year. The overall integration is being carried out in accordance with the Naval Project Office to suit the stowage, take-off, and landing requirements of ship-based operations.

Navratna Defence PSU, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Hughes India have entered into a Teaming Agreement for design, development, supply, installation, integration and commissioning of Satellite Communication solutions for helicopters under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India at Aero India 2019, Bengaluru.

Director (Marketing), BEL, Ms Anandi Ramalingam and President, Hughes India Shri Partho Banerjee signed the MoU in the presence of Director (Other Units), BEL, Shri Nataraj Krishnappa, on February 20, 2019. The Teaming Agreement will enable MoD’s strategic users to get enabled with helicopter-based Satellite Communication links for real-time and assured communications using ISRO’s Ku band satellites. Through this agreement, BEL and Hughes India are collaborating using their respective state-of-the-art technologies and capabilities in developing these integrated and sophisticated helicopter solutions.

RWSI Ground Training Efforts in Feb19

RWSI Steps up its Ground Training Efforts in February 19. The demand for ground training requirements in February 2019 hit an all time low. A total of just 25 candidates went thru Safety related Training Courses at RWSI in February 2019.

a) CRM = 4 Pilots at New Delhi and 4 Pilots at Noida by Wg Cdr VP Mathur
b) SGT = 12 Pilots at Mumbai by Gp Capt RN Joshi, 1 Pilot at New Delhi and 4 Pilots at Noida by Wg Cdr VP Mathur.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>1st March (Fri)</td>
<td>CRM + SGT (Two courses)</td>
<td>Rs 5,000+ GST@ 18% EACH</td>
<td>RWSI Trng Complex, Sector-62, Noida</td>
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<td>20th March (Wed)</td>
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SGT training at GVHL on 25th Feb 2019.

Quarterly Journal

ROTOR INDIA

ROTOR INDIA is the only helicopter journal published in India for news, views and activities in the Indian Helicopter scene. It is being published by Rotary Wing Society of India (RWSI) since March 1999. The objective of the journal is to promote and diffusion of knowledge of Rotary Wing Aviation.

The magazine is circulated in India to Members, Regulators, Operators, Govt. Officials, Defence Service Officials, Subscribers & CEOs of corporate houses owning Helicopters & Special Subscribers in Army, Navy, Air Force & Para Military Organizations. The magazine is also sent to USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Nepal, France, Singapore and Malaysia. The readership of Rotor India is over 80,000.

Technical Specifications:
Final size of magazine: (finished size) : 210mm x 280mm ; Non-bleed ad size : 185mm x 255mm - Bleed size (3mm bleed on all sides)

AD RATES

| COVER PAGE | ₹ 39000 for FPC | US$625 |
| BACK OUTER COVER | ₹ 33000 for FPC | US$535 |
| FRONT INNER COVER | ₹ 26500 for FPC | US$430 |
| BACK INNER COVER | ₹ 26500 for FPC | US$430 |
| OTHER PAGES | ₹ 20000 for FPC | US$320 |
| CENTRE SPREAD | ₹ 50000 for FPC | US$710 |

Helicopters Save Lives