

“The Beauty(s) and the Beast(s)”

SARAS and HANSA went through ‘rigorous air drills’ before they moved onto the Yelahanka Air Base to be in fine shape for Aero India 2007. This year’s Air show was professional in all aspects in view of the efforts of Min.of.Defence, FICCI and Farnborough International Ltd. to host this event.

This year’s air show threw open a plethora of opportunities for one and all. It became the ideal platform for the various aviation giants to stake their claims and showcase their products in order to try making their entries into the Indian market.

Our own ‘two Flying Machines’ looked rather dazzling on the Yelahanka tarmac with their fresh coats of paint and their ‘heart-warming Indian tri-colour stickers’ prominently catching our eyes.

Speaking to Mr Shijo K Francis (HANSA flight operations in-charge), I learnt that HANSA had two fruitful flights on each day of the Air Show. One around 11 in the morning and the second around 4:30 in the evening. It was brilliantly maneuvered by AVM A S Lamba (Retd.) with excellent ‘wingovers’, ‘steep turns’ and ‘steep climbs’, ably justifying its sport, hobby flying and two-seater trainer aircraft capabilities. HANSA evoked a lot of enthusiastic response right through the show and we are definitely in for pleasant surprises!



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SARAS was piloted by Wg.Cdr. R S Makker, the chief test pilot of ASTE and his crew. Speaking to him, I learnt that SARAS had sorties on all the days of the show. However, on the first day it made three sorties. To keep the audience enthralled it flew as low as 500 ft and the well-noticeable ‘banking’ angles were about 60-65°. Most importantly, it flew with max.all up weights and to the delight of every Indian completed its 100th test flight during the course of this air show. The 100th milestone was aptly rejoiced through prominent announcements made on the public broadcasting system and a pastry distribution ceremony in the NAL stall. SARAS ground operations were ably handled by Mr. Radhakrishnan.

As the Aero Exhibition finally culminated into a grand finale on the 11th, our own ‘two little flying birds’ touched the hearts of many proud Indians.

In a way, the ‘Beauty(s)’ had truly overcome the ‘Beast(s)’ with their own ‘poise’ ‘grace’ and ‘maneuvering elegance’.

R Guruprasad with Suju Thomas



‘The Beauty(s) and the Beast(s)’

'My Capabilities on display at Aero 2007'

Activities Week of 1 to 16 Feb.2007

*SARAS Through the Lens
Guruprasad, Suju Thomas,
Freddy, Gopalakrishna and Vijay*



'I'm tiny but the darling of the masses...'



HANSA and SARAS flying at Aero 2007