

• FLYING HIGH

NAL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

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"NAL should take a look at itself and see how it can be relevant in the future," said Professor Samir K Brahmachari, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Aerospace Laboratories on Friday. Talking about the development of the Light Combat Aircraft, S R Valluri, former NAL director, said: "HAL, Aeronautical Development Establishment and NAL had put up a joint proposal to the government to develop 'Fly By Wire' control systems. It was not approved and we had to obtain it from the US. Errors at this level do not come cheap. A professionally ignorant person's objection cost the nation a five-year delay and Rs 750 crore." NAL was founded in June 1959 and was shifted to Bangalore in March 1960. In recent years, NAL is into development of civil aircraft and has been involved in the development of SARAS, a 14-seater multi-role light transport aircraft and the all-composite trainer aircraft HANSA.