

AIR INDIA TO SET UP SOUTH ASIA'S LARGEST FLYING TRAINING ORGANISATION AT AMRAVATI, MAHARASHTRA, GRADUATE 180 COMMERCIAL PILOTS EVERY YEAR

- Pilot training facility at Amravati in Maharashtra will be operational in Q1 FY26
- Will have 31 single-engine and three twin-engine aircraft for training

GURUGRAM, 01 July, 2024: Air India, India's leading global airline, is setting up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati in Maharashtra as part of an initiative by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC). This FTO will service the ambitions of the airline as it moves ahead in its transformation journey and strengthen the available pilot training capacity in India.

The DGCA-licensed FTO at Amravati's Belora airport will be operational by Q1 FY26 and will target to graduate 180 commercial pilots every year.

The Air India FTO, the first by any Indian airline in the country, will have 31 single-engine aircraft and 3 twin-engine aircraft for training.

Air India has been awarded a tender by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) to establish and operate this DGCA-licensed FTO in Amravati for a period of 30 years.

Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO, Air India, said: "The FTO at Amravati will be a significant step towards making Indian aviation more self-reliant and offering more opportunities to the youth in India to fulfill their ambitions of flying as pilots. The young pilots coming out of this FTO will fuel Air India's ambition of becoming a world-class airline, as it moves ahead in its transformation journey."

"The FTO will be operational by Q1 FY26 and offer aspiring pilots an opportunity to undergo training with world-class curricula at par with best-in-class global schools. We are delighted to be playing a part in building the aviation infrastructure India needs as one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets and to support the government's vision for an Atmanirbhar Bharat," said **Sunil Bhaskaran, Director, Aviation Academy, Air India.**

"This collaborative initiative between MADC and Air India will not only boost the economy of Maharashtra by focusing on over 3,000 new employment opportunities within the aviation sector, but also create employment in multifarious allied activities in skilling, technical and small entrepreneurial ventures culminating in an impressive contribution of over Rs 1,000 crore to the state's GDP over the next decade. The establishment of South Asia's largest FTO will certainly encourage students in Maharashtra to pursue careers in aviation which would further instill a deep

sense of inspiration and pride for the state of Maharashtra and the Indian citizenry,” said **Swati Pandey, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Maharashtra Airport Development Company.**

At the FTO in Amravati, Air India will develop a state-of-the-art training institute over 10 acres, with digitally enabled classrooms, hostels at par with global academies, a digitized operations center, and its own maintenance facility to elevate operational efficiency. The FTO is curated to deliver the highest safety standards and best-in-class training.

As part of its commitment to invest in aviation training, Air India earlier this year announced its new Training Academy, spread over 600,000 sq ft, the largest in South Asia, in Gurugram. This new FTO in Amravati will complement Air India’s commitment to power India’s aviation ecosystem in the coming years.

Air India

Founded by the legendary JRD Tata, Air India pioneered India’s aviation sector. Since its first flight on October 15, 1932, Air India has built an extensive network with non-stop flights to cities around the world, across the USA, Canada, UK, Europe, Far-East, South-East Asia, Australia, and the Gulf. After 69 years as a government-owned enterprise, Air India and Air India Express were welcomed back into the Tata group in January 2022.

Air India is navigating through a major five-year transformation roadmap under the aegis of *Vihaan.AI*, with an ambition to become a world class airline with an Indian heart. The first phase of this transformation, the taxi phase was recently concluded, and focused on fixing the basics. These included bringing back to service many long grounded aircraft, addition of talent across flying and ground functions, rapid upgradation of technology and strengthening of customer care initiatives amongst others. A member of Star Alliance, the largest global airline consortium of leading international airlines, Air India offers seamless connectivity and facilities to passengers all over the world.

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