

AIR INDIA & AIRBUS SET UP ADVANCED PILOT TRAINING HUB AT THE AIR INDIA TRAINING ACADEMY IN GURUGRAM

- New facility will train more than 5,000 new pilots over the next decade to support the exponential growth of commercial aviation in India
- The facility is designed to train pilots for the Airbus A320 and A350 aircraft families; courses are approved by DGCA and EASA

GURUGRAM, 30 September 2025: Air India and Airbus have inaugurated an advanced pilot training center at the Air India Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram, Haryana. This state-of-the-art facility will train more than 5,000 new pilots over the next decade to support the exponential growth of commercial aviation in India.

The 50:50 joint venture facility was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu in the presence of Christian Scherer, Chief Executive Officer, Commercial Aircraft, Airbus, Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO, Air India and other dignitaries from Tata Group, Air India and Airbus.

The new 12,000 sq metre center will be equipped with 10 Full Flight Simulators (FFSs), along with advanced classrooms and briefing rooms. The facility is designed to train pilots for the Airbus A320 and A350 aircraft families and its courses are approved by both the DGCA and EASA, ensuring that India's pilot training meets the highest global standards. The facility is currently equipped with two Full Flight Simulators for Airbus A320 family aircraft. The remaining six A320 simulators and two A350 simulators will be installed progressively.

Jürgen Westermeier, President & Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia, said: *"We are very proud to partner with Air India and the Tata Group on this critical infrastructure project. The inauguration of the training center is a testament to our shared vision for the future of Indian aviation. This is more than a joint venture; it is a strategic investment in the future of the Indian aerospace industry itself. India is a strategic powerhouse for Airbus, and this state-of-the-art facility is a testament to our belief in its immense potential."*

Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO, Air India, said: *"Air India is in an expansion mode with 570 new aircraft on order and the new pilot training centre at our Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram, a part of which is being executed with Airbus, will help train and upskill pilots who will fuel Air India's ambition of becoming a world-class airline. This facility is a major step forward in our transformation journey and in making Air India and the Indian aviation industry more self-reliant. With our partners Airbus, we are playing our part in building the aviation infrastructure that India needs as one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets."*

With this training center, Air India is consolidating its pilot training infrastructure from across the country into the Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram.

The Air India Aviation Training Academy is South Asia's biggest aviation training academy. It was set up in 2024 and is currently training over 2,000 aviation professionals every day. The academy is expected to train over 50,000 aviation professionals including pilots, cabin crew, ground handling, engineering, and security staff, over the next few years. With world-class equipment and the latest technology, the training academy currently provides immersive industry-best training with safety as a core focus.

The aviation academy has best-in-class equipment for immersive training on Safety and Emergency Procedures (SEP) along with service training, grooming, voice, and accent training for cabin crew. Training for ground and security staff covers key functions such as departure control, customer service, airport security, and refreshers.

In addition, Air India is also in the process of setting up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati in Maharashtra. The DGCA-licensed FTO at Amravati's Belora airport will target to graduate 180 commercial pilots every year, helping fulfil demand for pilots as Air India expands its fleet.

A new Basic Maintenance Training Organization (BMTO) is also coming up near Air India's new Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bengaluru that will be operational in FY27. The BMTO will offer a two-year integrated Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) program certified by DGCA followed by two years of practical on-job training at the MRO.

About Air India group

The Air India group – comprising of full-service global airline Air India and low-cost regional carrier Air India Express – is spearheading a new era of Indian aviation. The Air India story began in 1932 when JRD Tata piloted the airline's inaugural flight and opened the skies for aviation in India. Today, Air India group employs more than 30,000 people, operates over 300 aircraft and carries customers to 55 domestic and 45 international destinations across five continents.

Returning to the Tata Sons in 2022 following 70 years under Government ownership, Air India group is in the midst of a five-year transformation program, Vihaan.AI. As part of the transformation, Air India has placed an order for 570 new aircraft. In 2024, sister airlines Air Asia India and Vistara were successfully merged into Air India Express and Air India, respectively, and the Airline opened South Asia's largest aviation training academy. A new flying school is scheduled to open in 2025, and construction of a greenfield maintenance base, to be operational in 2026, is underway. In addition to receiving new aircraft, all existing aircraft are progressively undergoing a full interior refit.

With transformation underway across all facets of the business and India's rich legacy of hospitality, Air India is committed to being a world class global airline with an Indian heart.

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