

India aviation week in Hyderabad may see A-380 display

More than 30 aircraft variety on display

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From the world's largest commercial jetliner, the 550-seater Airbus A-380 to small private jets that can seat 4-10 passengers, visitors to Begumpet airport in Hyderabad between October 15 and 18 will be able to feast their eyes on these and at least 30 other variety of aircraft.

Apart from static display of commercial aircraft and business jets manufactured by global players including Boeing, Embraer and Hawker among others, the Indian Air Force is also planning a 20-minute fly past on the first and last days of the event during which not only the Sukhoi jets but also the indigenously developed helicopter will be seen in the Hyderabad skies.

All this and more will form part of the four-day India Aviation 2008 being jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

"The number of aircraft on static display is still adding up but we hope to have anything between 30 and 35 air-



A file photo shows the world's largest passenger aircraft the double-decker Airbus A-380, which may be showcased at the aviation expo.

craft," said Mr R.K. Kohli, Advisor, FICCI.

The organisers are also hoping that some of the international jet manufacturers will offer customer demonstration flights over the city to showcase their products.

Official sources told *Business Line* that all attempts are being made to ensure that the Airbus A-380 makes its maiden visit to Hyderabad during the air show.

The aircraft entered global commercial service with Singapore Airlines on Octo-

ber 25 last year with a flight between Singapore and Sydney.

But irrespective of whether the A-380 comes or not, Air India will use the event to not only display a Boeing-777 aircraft in the airline's new colours, but also welcome a brand new Airbus A-319 which will fly directly from Hamburg to Hyderabad.

There is also the possibility that a private airline will induct a new aircraft into its fleet during the event, sources said.