

FICCI to organize 'Indian Aviation 2008' at Hyderabad

VW Bureau



FICCI will organize for the first time, a meet dedicated to the Indian Civil Aviation Industry, 'INDIA AVIATION 2008'. The exhibition and Conference is being organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India jointly with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry from October 15-18, 2008 at Hyderabad.

The Venue shall be the Begumpet Airport, which has now made way to the new Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.

The Conference on Civil Aviation sector with focus on policy issues & business aspects will be held concurrent to the exhibition. Eminent speakers, policy makers & experts will address the conference. A CEOs Forum is also being organised during the event where leading CEOs of Aviation Sector will be invited for an interactive session with the Minister for Civil Aviation, thus ensuring participation of the leaders in Indian Civil Aviation sector.

In a release, FICCI gave an overview of the Indian Civil Aviation Industry. It said that Civil Aviation forms a very important

infrastructure segment in boosting trade and commerce, as well as, in enhancing overall international competitiveness. In value terms, nearly 30% of India's foreign trade is handled by the airports. Until recently only two private airlines - Jet Airways and Air Sahara offered competition to the national carriers, but in the last few years, a large number of private airlines such as Air Deccan, SpiceJet, Kingfisher Airlines, Go Air, Paramount, Indigo etc. have entered the domestic market.

With air travel becoming a popular and cheaper option, the civil aviation sector is experiencing fast growth. During 2006-07, total passenger traffic grew at 27.2% while the cargo traffic grew by 11.2%. The aircraft movement increased by 27.5% during the year. The domestic air traffic is expected to grow upto 180 million and international traffic to 50 million passengers by 2020. Considering the increase in Air traffic and entrance of new airlines, the Government of India is taking steps for re-structuring and modernization of airports and for setting up new Greenfield airports. The first phase of the modernization of Delhi & Mumbai airports, likely to cost USD 1.2 billion, is expected to be completed by 2009. While modernization of these two airports is progressing, two new international airports are being developed through public-private partnership at Bangalore and Hyderabad. An investment of about US \$ 1.2 billion is planned by Airports Authority

of India to modernize 35 non-metro airports. In total, about 80 airports will be upgraded with better infrastructure facilities.

The growth in the domestic & international cargo traffic is also estimated to increase by 4.5% & 12% respectively, over a period of next 10 years. MRO business is also set to gain momentum, considering the low cost & highly skilled manpower in India coupled with cost sensitive customers and growing fleet size, thus posing a significant investment opportunity with a potential to service a fleet of 1000 commercial & 500 general aviation aircraft.

India at present has only 250 aircraft but CAPA estimates that there is a market for 500 general aviation aircraft by 2020 & may reach 1000, including replacement of current fleet, presenting a business opportunity of US\$ 80 billion. Most players in Indian Aviation Industry indicate an aggressive fleet acquisition plan to expand their fleet by nearly 250 additional aircraft.

The event is a must for those in the business of Aircraft Manufacture, Aircraft Machinery & Equipment, Aircraft Maintenance & Repair, Airline Service, Infrastructure Development & Designing etc.