

# Top aviation honchos for expo in city

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**Hyderabad:** Come October 15, head honchos of top global aviation companies and ministerial level delegations from 17 countries will descend on Hyderabad, which is hosting India Aviation 2008, an international exhibition and conference on civil aviation.

And that is expected to set the ball rolling for many global partnerships and alliances for the Indian aviation sector in the future.

Of the 35 heads of local and global companies to touch down on the city include Dinesh Keskar, president of Boeing Aircraft Trading; Kiran Rao, executive vice president (marketing and contracts, customer affairs) of Airbus; Tony Fernandes, CEO of Air Asia, Kingfisher Airlines chairman Vijay Mallya, Jet Airways chairman Naresh Goyal and Marion Blakey, president and CEO of Aerospace Industries Association of the US.

"Having US as a partner country for the event, we have



Madhavan Nambiar, secretary, ministry of civil aviation

been able to bring in large aviation companies for this event. It will set room for bilateral dis-

cussions - both at the official as well as business level," said M Madhavan Nambiar, secretary, Union civil aviation ministry.

Speaking to the media at the Begumpet Airport, which is the venue for the event, he said among the major things under discussion with the visiting ministerial delegations would be investment opportunities in infrastructure, issues related to air cargo, airlines and airports and liberalisation of air services. The US delegation is led by Marion Blakey, administrator

of Federal Aviation Administration, the most influential government-run aviation agency in the world, which regulates all aspects of civil aviation in the US.

Around 150 companies from 18 countries, including Boeing, Airbus, Cessna, Bell Helicopter, Hindustan Aeronautics, ATR and Bombardier are participating in the event.

It would have 36 aircraft ranging from Airbus 380, largest passenger aircraft in the world to Pushpak (smallest aircraft)

on flying display. Also showcased would be Boeing 777, Learjet, Challenger, Hawker-beechcrafts. The exhibition would be open to public on October 18.

The event will also showcase Hyderabad as a city that can be a hub for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), said Narender Surana, president, AP Council, FICCI, which is jointly organising the event with the Union ministry of civil aviation with an investment of Rs 10 crore.