

— | 450 airports to be developed | —

Tier-II towns to boost aviation

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Oct. 2: Despite its current slump, the aviation industry is expected to witness a fresh boom with the creation of infrastructure in Tier-II cities.

The Union civil aviation ministry is all set to develop the 450 existing airports and airstrips as passenger traffic in both domestic and international sectors touches the 100-million mark.

Airlines and airport developers hope that the government would come out with a new policy to help the sector on the eve of India Aviation-2008 exhibition to be held at Begumpet airport from October 15.

Chief executive officers (CEOs) of 35 major aviation companies are expected to participate in the exhibition, which is being organised by the ministry of civil aviation and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

An open house between the Union civil aviation minister, Mr Praful Patel, and the CEOs is scheduled to take place on October 15.

An international conference on civil aviation, with panel discussions by eminent aviation experts and industry leaders from more

than 20 countries is scheduled for 16th October 2008.

The conference aims to bring focus on cutting-edge issues in the aviation sector and to help prepare a road-map for future development of aviation in the country.

Dr Dinesh A. Keskar, the senior vice-president of Boeing Commercial Airplanes says: "Today's Indian commercial aviation industry is both dynamic and exciting. The last few years have marked significant growth and progress for India. There are triple the number of aircraft operating for Indian carriers today than just three years ago. With continued market liberalisation, the country's current annual passenger traffic growth of more than 25 per cent will likely continue and remain among the worlds highest," he added.

Airbus, Boeing, EADS, HAL, BEL, Rolls Royce, Engine Alliance, Cessna Aircraft Company, Bell Helicopter Textron, ATR and Bombardier will put up a mega show during the exhibition.

Major airlines such as Air India, Kingfisher, Jet Airways and Spicejet will demonstrate their profile and services which will also be one of the main attractions in the exhibition.

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