

Wings India 2020



Ashmita Sethi, at the centre, with Embraer E195-E2, powered by the PW1900G engines

Wings India 2020, the biennial civil aviation and aerospace event from 12-14 March, had 100 plus exhibitors, over 20 states and 500+ delegates participating. Day 1 of the event bore positive response with many companies showing interest in collaboration and business acquisitions. Speaking on the first day at 'Wings India 2020', organised by FICCI, jointly with Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India, Mr. Anand Stanley, Chairman, FICCI, Civil Aviation Committee and Managing Director, Airbus India while addressing a press conference, emphasised India's requirement of nearly 1,900 new passenger and cargo aircraft in the next 20 years. These new additions would "help propel India's domestic traffic growth, which is one of the world's highest at this time".

The aerobatic displays included the Extra 300L Mark Jeffery's team and ALH Dhruv helicopters of the Indian Air Forces' Sarang Team. On static display were the Embraer E195, Honda Jet HA420, Diamond DA42, Cessna 182T, Cessna 206, Bell 505 and Dornier 228.

First day of the event initiated discussions and conversations from airlines, exhibitors and companies' "to recognise

and celebrate the excellence, triumphs and innovations of key stakeholders within the aviation industry."

K T Rama Rao, Minister for Industries & Commerce, IT, Electronics & Communications and Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Government of Telangana, Malladi Krishna Rao, Health and Tourism Minister, Government of Puducherry, Arvind Singh, Chairman, Airports Authority of India, Smt. Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt of India, Dr Sangita Reddy, President, FICCI and Joint MD of Apollo Hospitals Group and Anand Stanley, Chairman FICCI, Civil Aviation Committee and Managing Director, Airbus India, inaugurated 'Wings India 2020' on the theme of 'Flying For All' with the support from state government, industry partners and companies.

Speaking at the inaugural session, K T Rama Rao, stated, "The Indian aviation and defence ecosystem has witnessed a significant growth trajectory in the past few years. Telangana is the first state in India to take the union government's advice to slash VAT on aviation turbine fuel from 16% to 1%, which has given significant boost to the regional airline industry prompting leading

operators to expand their operational base in Hyderabad. In line with the theme of 'Wings India 2020', we are now planning to reactivate old airports and airstrips, create three greenfield and three brownfield airports, and also establish a chain of heliports to connect the remotest parts of our state."

Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India stated, "India is poised to become the epicentre of growth for this sector. Civil aviation is extremely important for any developing economy, it is not only a beneficiary for good economy but also an enabler for growth of the economy. Every entity in the civil aviation ecosystem has to work in tandem, almost in perfect coordination to make sure air traffic is safe and secure. *Wings India 2020* is a platform for us to come together to work towards ensuring the growth of the sector."

"The rapid expansion in India's airport and air navigation structure will definitely fuel the huge business and tourism opportunities in our great country. Indian aviation will be the epicenter of the growth trajectory and will present a whole range of opportunities and challenges and such industry initiatives like "*Wings India 2020* are path breaking," stated Arvind Singh, Chairman, Airports Authority of India.