

## **AIR INDIA COMMENCES CONSTRUCTION OF MEGA MRO FACILITY IN BENGALURU, COMMITS TO BUILDING A STRONG SELF-RELIANT AVIATION ECOSYSTEM FOR INDIA**

- Strengthens Base and Line Maintenance facilities across the network to achieve self-reliance in fleet maintenance
- Will create job opportunities for skilled engineers across the country
- Setting up Basic Maintenance Training Organisation in Bengaluru to ensure inflow of trained personnel for aircraft maintenance and engineering activities

**GURUGRAM / BENGALURU, 04 September 2024:** Air India Group today announced the commencement of construction of a mega Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility, at a groundbreaking ceremony in Bengaluru, reiterating its commitment to building a strong self-reliant aviation ecosystem for India.

The upcoming MRO facility, being built on a 35-acre land parcel at the Bangalore International Airport will become an important hub for Air India group airlines' aircraft maintenance operations in the region, as the airline modernizes its fleet and expands its global operations.

The ground-breaking ceremony was attended by Ms Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka, Mr Hari Marar, Managing Director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), Mr Chin Yau Seng, CEO, SIA Engineering Company, along with a senior leadership team of India leadership.

Earlier this year, Air India had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka to establish MRO facilities in Bengaluru. Air India has also signed an agreement with SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) to be its strategic partner for the development of this MRO facility.

**Ms Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka,** said, "It is heartening to see the quick turnaround that Air India has made in starting work for the MRO. This is not only a milestone for Indian aviation, which is growing at a rapid pace, but also for the state of Karnataka, which is taking a lead in the aviation sector with Bengaluru set to emerge as an important global aviation hub in the coming years."

**Mr Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India**, said, "India's aviation sector is on a growth trajectory and Air India is playing a leading role in this. The Bengaluru MRO facility is coming up at an opportune time to help strengthen India's aviation ecosystem, while enhancing our in-house capabilities to maintain our fleet. This is a step ahead in our mission to make Air India a world-class airline."

**Mr. Hari Marar, Managing Director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)**, said, "We are pleased to welcome the establishment of Air India's MRO facility at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru. As we work towards developing the Airport into a major aviation hub, this marks an important step towards strengthening the fleet maintenance capabilities and infrastructure offering. This development will not only enhance regional connectivity and drive economic growth but also create valuable opportunities for local talent and businesses, reinforcing Bengaluru's position as an important player in the aviation ecosystem."

Once completed, the MRO is expected to generate over 1,200 new job opportunities for skilled aviation engineers in India, and support over 200 SMEs in Karnataka through an enhanced supply chain. These new ventures are projected to create further employment opportunities, strengthening the MRO ecosystem in the state. The MRO will also support Air India's plans to make Bengaluru as one of its key hubs, boosting direct connectivity to global destinations.

The upcoming MRO will feature a mega hangar to accommodate wide body and narrow body aircraft under a single roof for Base Maintenance. The facility's capacity will be further expanded to include additional hangars for servicing more aircraft, including paint hangar. Equipped with latest aircraft maintenance technology, including overhead tele platforms, cranes, universal docking systems, and the largest vertical lift hangar doors in the country, this MRO facility will be setting a new standard in aviation maintenance at par with any MRO in the world.

The Bengaluru MRO facility, expansion of in-housed Line Maintenance (routine maintenance of aircraft in operation) facilities across the network, and the recently refurbished wide body aircraft hangar in Mumbai, will make Air India more self-reliant in the maintenance of its entire fleet from 2025.

Air India also plans to build a new wide body hangar in Delhi to cater to Line Maintenance requirements. This will help develop a complete maintenance ecosystem at all major airports. Air India is also ensuring availability of trained type-rated personnel for maintenance function of different type of fleet by obtaining approval for CAR-147 for its training academy.

Besides, Air India plans to open a Basic Maintenance Training Organisation (BMTO) in 2025, in Bengaluru, to ensure continuous inflow of trained personnel for aircraft maintenance and engineering activities. This will create opportunities for engineering students to receive training to become type-rated engineer for certification.

Air India, in recent times, has strengthened its operational capabilities through strategic agreements, including the 12-year Inventory Technical Management (ITM) agreement with SIAEC to support its Airbus A320 family fleet, improving component reliability and support. The airline has entered into a multi-year agreement with Lufthansa Technik for Total Component Support (TCS) for its Boeing 777 fleet and secured a long-term agreement with Honeywell for Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) aftermarket support for both existing and new fleet. These partnerships will not only enhance its maintenance and operational efficiency but also ensure high reliability and availability of its operating aircraft.

**About Air India:** Founded by the legendary JRD Tata, Air India is a pioneer of Indian aviation. Since its first flight in 1932, Air India has built an extensive global network that spans 29 countries across five continents, connecting India with major destinations in USA, Canada, UK, Europe, Africa, Asia Pacific, Australia, and the Middle East.

After its homecoming in 2022, from the Government of India to the Tata group, Air India embarked on Vihaan.AI, a five-year transformation journey, with a vision to be a global airline with an Indian heart. The first two phases of this transformation, 'Taxi' and 'Take-off', were focused on fixing the basics and building foundations for growth. The airline has now entered the 'Climb' phase, which will focus on achieving excellence in operations and customer experience.

A member of Star Alliance, the largest global airline consortium of leading international airlines, Air India offers seamless connectivity to passengers as a full-service global airline, while its wholly owned subsidiary Air India Express operates as a low-cost airline flying within India and nearby countries.

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

<b>AIR INDIA</b>	<b>ADFACTORS</b>
<b>Sameek Bhattacharya</b> <a href="mailto:sameek.bhattacharya@airindia.com">sameek.bhattacharya@airindia.com</a>	<b>Stuti Singh/Apoorva Bansal</b> <a href="mailto:airindia@adfactorspr.com">airindia@adfactorspr.com</a> +91 97172 69625