

# 2<sup>nd</sup> India Civil Aviation Week Airport & Airline 2008 Expo starts amidst great expectations & promise

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- One of the largest exhibitions on Civil Aviation
- Plays host to first ever CEO Roundtable conference on civil aviation
- APAI Excellence Awards ceremony during exhibition
- Three days of conferences featuring various aspects of aviation industry
- 146 exhibitors from 18 countries
- Launch of Hyderabad International Airport during Exhibition

**New Delhi 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Aviation Week Airport and Airline 2008 Expo started today with the inauguration by the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Praful Patel. The 3-day exhibition and conference comes at an important time in the Indian Aviation industry that is expected to enjoy a compounded growth of about 25 % per annum for the next 10 years.

The inauguration ceremony saw the presence of many delegates and dignitaries from the aviation industry including the Chairman of AAI Dr. K. Ramalingam, Shri Rajeev Shukla, Hon'ble MP and Minister Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Civil Aviation, HE Mr Rupert Holborow, High Commissioner of New Zealand to India, Mr David I Hudson MBE, Regional President, G4S, and Mr. Prem Behl, Chairman Exhibitions India Group.

Dr. K. Ramalingam, Chairman, Airports Authority of India said "Civil Aviation traffic in India has been growing over the past 4-5 years. The AAI has taken up the development of 35 non-metro airports in the country in addition to the development and modernisation of other airports." He further added "I am sure that Airport & Airline 2008 Expo, being organised in Delhi will provide a good opportunity to all concerned with civil aviation to develop the way forwards for the Indian civil aviation industry."

Added Mr. Prem Behl, Chairman Exhibitions India Group, "The purpose of planning this exhibition is to provide a platform that enables international as well as domestic brands to showcase their latest products, services and technologies aimed at improving the quality and ease of air travel in India."

The inaugural day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> India Civil Aviation Week 2008 Airport & Airline 2008 Expo, also saw the presentation of **APAI (Air Passengers Association of India) Excellence Award Ceremony**. The awards were given to recognise the leaders in the aviation industry across various fields:

- Best Full Service Airline: JET Airways
- Best Low Budget Carrier India: Indigo
- Best International Airline: British Airways
- Best Airport in Public Private Partnership: Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport
- Best Airline Cabin Crew – Domestic : Kingfisher Airlines
- APAI's Aviation Personality of the year – Vijay Mallya

With 146 exhibitors from 18 countries the AA 2008 Expo is undoubtedly one of the biggest expos in the country for this fast growing dynamic industry. The participants list includes Airport Authority of India, Air Works India, Bharat Petroleum, Blue Dart Aviation, Club One Air, Deccan Aviation, Delhi International Airport Limited, GATI, GE commercial Finance, Frankfinn Institute of Aviation , Hindustan Petroleum, Hyderabad International Airport Limited, Indian Oil Kingfisher Airlines, Punj Loyd, Safexpress, Siemens Ltd, TATA Motors Winnipeg Aviation, and Winnipeg Airports Authority amongst others.

**For the first time, New Zealand has come as a Partner Country, and, in conjunction with the New Zealand Trade & Enterprise and Aviation New Zealand, will show case its aviation training expertise and seek collaborations with the Indian aviation sector.**

The exhibition will host the first ever **CEO Roundtable Conference on Aviation** featuring CEOs of the aviation sector. The Roundtable will be chaired by **Shri Ashok Chawla, Hon'ble Secretary Ministry of Civil Aviation**. Other panellists include: **Mr BS Shantharaju, CEO Delhi International Airport; Mr. Thomas Donahue, Vice President, Distribution Sector (Asia Pacific) IBM Global Services; Mr Kapil Kaul, CEO – Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation; Mr Manav Singh, MD & CEO – Club One Air; Mr Elyes M'Rad, Regional Vice President (South Asia & India) – SITA; Mr Raj Shekhar Agarwal, Director – Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Ltd; Mr Kuljit Singh, (TAS) – Ernst & Young.**

The session is being moderated jointly by Ernst and Young and NDTV.

The conference will be held concurrent to the exhibition for all three days and will cover various topics of the aviation industry including Airport Management, Air Space Management, general aviation in India, corporate jet and Helicopters, Aviation training and manpower needs, and air cargo developmental challenges in India.