

## AIR INDIA GROUP TO SET UP AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE TRAINING INSTITUTE IN BENGALURU TO DEVELOP A POOL OF MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS, SUPPORT PROGRESSIVE FLEET EXPANSION

- Institute to offer integrated 2+2 year Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) program, certified by DGCA
- To go live by mid-2026 to cater to the in-house requirement of aircraft maintenance engineers, making Air India group self-reliant

**GURUGRAM, 22 November 2024:** Air India, India's leading global airline group, is setting up a Basic Maintenance Training Organization (BMTO), which will offer an integrated 2+2 year Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) program certified by the Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The Air India BMTO is a step towards building a robust, future-ready aviation ecosystem in India. It will serve the ambitions of the airline as it moves ahead in its transformation journey, strengthening the availability of aircraft maintenance engineers as Air India expands its fleet, making it self-reliant.

Air India has signed an agreement with Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL), a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), to develop a build-to-suit facility for the AME program that will feature modern classrooms, well-equipped laboratories for practical training and a team of qualified trainers. The purpose-built campus, spread over 86,000 square feet at Bengaluru Airport City, is expected to be operational by mid-2026.

The BMTO will be housed close to Air India's new 12-bay Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bengaluru that will be operational in early 2026. The program at the BMTO will include two years of in-classroom academic coursework followed by two years of practical on-job training at the MRO.

The aim of the BMTO is to foster a workforce of skilled professionals for aircraft maintenance and engineering operations where students will receive hands-on experience and training, adhering to industry standards and Air India's specific requirements.

Till the new BMTO facility commences operations, Air India will implement a Cadet AME program with other reputable institutions across Bengaluru and Hyderabad to ensure continuity in its commitment towards AME education and workforce development as well as to support its requirements for aircraft maintenance engineers.

*"The Basic Maintenance Training Organization will establish a pipeline of skilled engineers trained to Air India standards from the outset. This facility and program, combined with proximity to Kempegowda International Airport, will enable our AME cadets to gain hands-on, real-world experience as part of their training, supporting their future as industry-ready professionals aligned with Air India's ongoing fleet expansion needs,"* said **Sunil Bhaskaran, Director, Aviation Academy, Air India.**

The program is designed to meet Air India's growing fleet maintenance requirements and provides specialised career paths for its AME graduates. Students will also be encouraged to pursue a simultaneous bachelor's degree through university partnerships, which will enhance their academic and career opportunities.

*"Air India's commitment to establishing a state-of-the-art training facility symbolises a bold step forward in enhancing India's aviation capabilities. Education and skill development are vital to sustaining the growth of Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru. The Air India BMTO reinforces our vision of developing a*

*thriving ecosystem that drives innovation and collaboration,”* said **Rao Munukutla, Executive Director & CEO, BAACL.**

Air India has embarked on a five-year transformation journey, Vihaan.AI, that has seen commitment to more than 500 new aircraft, delivery of which is well underway, and the commencement of a USD 400 million interior retrofit program for legacy aircraft. Air India has also begun in-housing of line maintenance operations across group airlines that will strengthen its self-reliance. In September 2024, Air India Group announced the commencement of construction of a mega MRO facility coming up in Bengaluru, reiterating its commitment to building a strong self-reliant aviation ecosystem for India.

#### **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.

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