

## VAYU on-the-spot report

### Wings India 2024, Hyderabad Indian civil aviation aims higher



Roughly a year after the massive air fest of Aero India, the country hosted another carnival for aviation enthusiasts with Wings India 2024. The 4 day airshow, backed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, saw the big leagues of aviation sector touching down at Begumpet International Airport in Hyderabad. Approximately 200 companies had arrived to promote their products, proudly displayed their inventory, launched landmark programmes and aircraft and signed milestone deals and agreements.

#### Dynamic aircraft showcase

This year's Wings India event was special as this one happened just after India's two biggest record breaking civil aviation deals. As we know Air India purchased 470 aircraft for their fleet which has a combination of both Airbus and Boeing aircraft, as well as Indigo also purchased 500 narrowbody aircraft from Airbus, which was the most aircraft ever bought by a single airline.



#### B777X and A350: The showstoppers

Boeing 777X is Boeing's latest long-range, wide body twin engine jetliner which has new composite wings (longer than previous versions), General Electric's GE9X engines (more fuel efficient version of GE90), bigger cabin width, more seating capacity than previous Boeing 777s, and a folding wingtip (automatic, as well as it can be controlled from the cockpit also) which ensures that this aircraft can be parked in most of the commercial runways around the globe. The aircraft was launched in November 2013 and can carry a maximum of 426 passengers for a range of 13,500 Km. The aircraft borrows technologies from the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, and the cockpit layout is almost the same as that of a Dreamliner. The Boeing 777X-9 first flew in 2020, and the deliveries are expected from 2025.

The other star of the show was Air India's newly inducted Airbus A350-900. It was Air India's first Airbus A350-900 with a new livery as well as a new crew uniform. The aircraft is in direct competition with Boeing's 777, and they are already flying since 2010, with almost 585 aircraft delivered in various configurations.

Both aircraft were purchased by Air India, but only the A350-900 belonged to Air India and it was India's first A350 aircraft, whereas Boeing bought their experimental Boeing 777X-9, on which they performed different tests before the aircraft was ready to be inducted into service. For reference, Air India ordered 34 A350-1000, 6 A350-900 and 10 Boeing 777X.

Akasa Air showcased its Boeing 737 Max-8 aircraft. This showcase was interesting as, Akasa Air signed an aircraft order of 150 Boeing 737 Max aircraft at this very Wings India event, taking their total order book to 226 aircraft. Air India Express also showcased their Boeing 737 Max-8 aircraft, but the special thing about this 737, was