

Interview with Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor

Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) Training Command (TC)



companies, encourages indigenous production, and highlights advancements in aerospace technology developed within India reinforcing Atmanirbharta in aerospace and defence.

The India Pavilion at the Aero India will showcase India's commitment to its Make-in-India initiative by showcasing indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities and cutting-edge technologies ready for the global stage, including the future prospects. Promotion of Indian start-ups is a focus area at Aero India 2025 and a wide spectrum of state-of-the-art technologies/products developed by them will

be showcased at an exclusive iDEX pavilion.

VAYU: *What kind of exhibits are you anticipating in this Aero India? Are AI-driven defence systems participating?*

Aero India continues to evolve with the latest trends in defence and aerospace. With global interest in automation and smart warfare capabilities, this Aero India is likely to feature a mix of emerging technologies and industry collaborations. While unmanned systems have played a significant role in past editions, this year's focus may extend to AI-powered solutions, automation and enhanced operational capabilities. As technology advances, events like these provide a great opportunity to explore innovations shaping the future of defence and security. As always, technological evolution remains a key theme, and we also look forward to seeing what's on display.

VAYU: *How does Aero India contribute to the AtmaNirbharta/Make in India initiative?*

Aero India plays a crucial role in supporting the 'Make in India' initiative by providing a global platform for Indian aerospace and defence manufacturers to showcase their capabilities and in that, it fosters collaborations between domestic and international

VAYU: *What are the major defence agreements expected to be signed during this event & how do global defence collaborations at Aero India benefit India's air power?*

Aero India has already carved a niche for itself globally as a premier aerospace exhibition with 14 successful editions organised since 1996 in Bengaluru. The last edition achieved remarkable milestones as it attracted over seven lakh visitors, dignitaries from 98 countries and 809 exhibitors including businesses, investors, start-ups & MSMEs. Over 250 partnerships, including 201 MoUs, major announcements, product launches and technology transfers worth more than Rs 75,000 crore, were witnessed. The 2025 edition aims to surpass these achievements, and promises to be even bigger in scope and grandeur.

The event will provide a platform for forging partnerships between foreign & Indian firms and the discovery of newer avenues in the global value chain to accelerate the indigenisation process. A number of bilateral meetings are planned at the levels of Raksha Mantri, Raksha Rajya Mantri, Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary among others on the sidelines of the event. The focus will be on bolstering the defence and aerospace ties with friendly countries by exploring newer avenues to take the partnership to the next level.

The CEOs' Round-Table is expected to provide a favourable platform to foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for manufacturing in India. Global CEOs, CMDs of domestic PSUs and premier private defence & aerospace manufacturing companies from India will be participating in the event.

