

India aims to become \$4 bn MRO hub by 2030, says PM

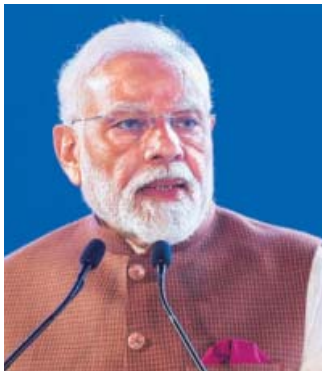
DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 2 June

India is aiming to become a global hub for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services worth \$4 billion by 2030, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told delegates at the International Air Transport Association's (IATA's) 81st annual general meeting in New Delhi on Monday.

The growth plan, he said, will be supported by an expansion in the number of MRO facilities, from 96 in 2014 to 154 now, 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI), reduced goods and services tax (GST), and regulatory reforms.

Most MRO services for Indian carriers are currently carried out overseas due to the limited number of domestic facilities equipped to service nacelles, engines, auxiliary power units, and landing gear, said industry sources.



**“DESIGN IN INDIA IS NEEDED
ALONG WITH MAKE IN INDIA”**

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister at IATA AGM

Welcoming global aviation leaders as the IATA event returned to India after four decades, Modi highlighted the sector's double-digit growth in the country.

Turn to Page 6 ▶

PHOTO: PTI

PAGE 2

A-I may help India become int'l transit hub

Air India is quietly implementing a strategy to grab a larger share by tweaking its international network to enable more I2I connections as it expands capacity, brings in more new widebody aircraft, upgrades its product offering and goes to more routes to grow this segment.

- Debate around bilateral rights 'silly': Etihad CEO
- Will set up unit if orders total at least 200: Embraer
- Making more noise does not make you right: IndiGo CEO

UDAN a 'golden chapter' in Indian civil aviation history: PM

"In India, 240 million passengers travel domestically and internationally per year. This number is expected to rise to 500 million passengers per year by 2030," Modi said.

The prime minister pointed to India's expanding infrastructure and said: "Until 2014, there were 74 operational airports. Now, this number has increased to 162... This is just the beginning. India's aviation sector has to grow long and wide. These are not just statistics. They are a sign of the potential of India's future."

He praised the regional connec-

tivity scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), calling it "a golden chapter in Indian civil aviation history". The plan, launched in 2016 to promote air travel in smaller towns, has helped "over 15 million passengers benefit from affordable air travel," the prime minister noted.

UDAN benefits passengers by offering lower fares on regional routes. Furthermore, airlines receive financial support through viability gap funding and concessions like reduced airport charges and tax breaks.

Modi also pointed to the use of digital innovation to streamline air travel. "I would request all delegates to try to understand the Digi Yatra app, which has been developed to ensure paperless travel from the entry to the end point in an airport," he said. "This is a smart and secure model that could be of use to the Global South."

Highlighting the emergence of the MRO industry as a sunrise sector, he said India is accelerating its efforts to become a global hub for aircraft maintenance.