

# Sakthi, Diamond form JV to manufacture trainer aircraft

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Sakthi Aircraft Industry, a joint venture between Coimbatore-based Sakthi Group and Austria's Diamond Aircraft Industries, is set to manufacture 150 trainer aircraft in Hisar, Haryana.

Sakthi Aircraft Industry signed an MoU with the Aero Club of India (ACI) to supply 200 DA40 NG trainer aircraft to Flying Training Organisations (FTOs), in New Delhi. ACI will serve as the central aggregator, consolidating demand, managing aircraft allocation, and facilitating handovers to FTOs.

As part of this arrangement, Sakthi will manufacture 200 aircraft exclusively for ACI. Under its joint venture, at least 150 of these will be produced at its facility in Hisar, while the remaining units will be manufactured at Diamond's facility in Austria. Vaibhav D, chief executive officer, Sakthi Aircraft Industry,

## 'India will need 30K pilots in 15-20 years'

India will need 30,000 pilots in the next 15-20 years as domestic airlines have more than 1,700 planes on order as they expand their network, Civil Aviation Minister K



Rammohan Naidu said on Tuesday. He also said that officials are verifying various aspects of 38 Flying Training Organisations and these organisations will be rated. **PTI**

told *Business Standard*: "We are currently investing ₹500 crore in the project. Over the next 2 to 3 years, as the facility expands, our total investment is expected to reach ₹1,500 to 2,000 crore."