

# Minister urges Airbus to make commercial aircraft in India

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Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu on Thursday exhorted European aircraft maker Airbus to start manufacturing commercial planes and train helicopter pilots in India.

He inaugurated Airbus' new headquarters in Delhi, which has four A320 aircraft simulators and is for India and South Asia. Minister Naidu praised the new facility for its capacity to train 800 pilots and 200 technicians per year.

"We want to manufacture aircraft in India that can serve the civil travel needs of India. That has been a dream under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister. We feel that Airbus has a very big role to play," he said after inaugurating the facility. "They (Airbus) are already doing their bit. They are expanding their footprint when it comes to manufacturing the components of



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**K RAMMOHAN NAIDU**  
Civil aviation minister

aircraft...We want to design, manufacture, and maintain the aircraft in India. That is a very big change in the mindset," he said.

IndiGo placed the world's largest

aircraft order for 500 A320 narrow-body family planes with Airbus in June last year. The airline again placed an order for 30 A350 wide-body planes in July this year. Air India in February last year also placed an order for 250 Airbus planes. While Airbus has formed entities to manufacture C295 military transport planes and H125 civil helicopters in India, it does not plan to set up any facility in the country to manufacture civilian aircraft.

"I also want to see the growth of civil helicopter operations in the country. We want to train pilots for these helicopters. A thought has to be put into training more such pilots. This bottleneck has to be dealt with. There is only one institute in India. Airbus has a role to play in that," Naidu said.

He said Indian carriers currently had 800 planes in their fleet.

"About 1,500 planes are going to come. In the next 20 years, we might need 4,000 planes for the Indian aviation sector," he noted