

■ **Air India to Acquire 250 Aircraft from French Aerospace Giant Airbus**

Air India has signed an agreement to acquire 250 aircraft from Airbus of France, which has been hailed as a historic deal by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. During a virtual meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, PM Modi expressed confidence in India's potential to emerge as the third-largest global market in the aviation sector in the coming years. He also highlighted the country's vision of 'Make in India and Make for the World,' which he believes will create new opportunities in the aerospace manufacturing sector, making India Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul (MRO) hub for the aviation sector. The Indian aviation sector is expected to require more than 2,000 aircraft in the next 15 years, and this deal is seen as instrumental in fulfilling the growing demands for aircraft. The French President congratulated India for offering an opportunity for strategic partnership in the aerospace sector, and highlighted that France's companies are fully dedicated to developing new areas of cooperation. He also praised the successful partnerships between the two countries in various sectors, including space, cyber, defence, and energy transition.