

Govt nudging Boeing, Airbus to set up assembly lines here

Cos May Get Orders For 2,000 Planes From Desi Carriers

Saurabh Sinha
& Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: The Modi government has sounded out aerospace majors Airbus and Boeing to set up final assembly lines in the country as these two are likely to get orders for nearly 2,000 aircraft from Indian airlines over the next decade or so.

In contemporary times, IndiGo was so far the only Indian carrier placing mega aircraft deals and inducting those planes — with its last 2019 firm order for 300 A320neo family aircraft taking the budget carrier's total number of A320 family aircraft orders to 730. In the next



A Boeing assembly line in Seattle. Having a final assembly line in India means having the entire supply chain ecosystem in the vicinity

few weeks, the Tata Group is going to place a big order for hundreds of narrow and wide body Boeing and Airbus for its in-the-works new Air India and low-cost

AI Express.

India is going to be among the top aviation markets globally thanks to a growing aspirational middle class for whom air travel is no

longer a luxury but a necessity. International travellers have been filling up neighbouring hubs of foreign airlines for decades. The acquisition of AI and AI Express by the Tatas and the pre-existing eminent position of IndiGo means India will have its own mega carriers that will place mega orders. Then there are several smaller airlines too. “We cannot be happy with the aircraft makers just buying components from India, whether with or without offset requirements. It is time Airbus, Boeing and engine majors set up final assembly lines here,” people in the know told **TOI**.