

Made-in-India Dornier Passenger Plane takes off for First Commercial Flight



Dornier 228, the first Made-in-India aircraft began its commercial operations on 12th April 2022 with a maiden flight from Dibrugarh in Assam and Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh. The aircraft, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) and being operated by Alliance Air, took off from Dibrugarh and landed at Pasighat with Union Civil Aviation Minister Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia and Union Law Minister Mr Kiren Rijiju, among other officials on board. The flight was started under the “Providing Air Connectivity and Aviation infrastructure in North Eastern Region (NER)” scheme of the ministry to promote air connectivity in the north-east and to develop infrastructure for air connectivity. "Overjoyed and proud to embark on the 17-seater Made-in-India Dornier 228 aircraft - in its first-ever maiden service to Arunachal Pradesh," Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted after landing at Pasighat. “Connectivity in NER is very essential and Under “Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)”, the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has identified NER as a priority area. This has helped in enhancing inter and intra connectivity for the NER. In this regard, new airports are getting developed and old airports are getting upgraded. Considering the hilly terrain, helicopter operations under UDAN scheme have been given focus for connectivity,” said a statement issued by the ministry. Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia said that the north-east had nine airports in 2014 when Mr Narendra Modi-led government came to power and it has now increased to 15. A total of 18 new airstrips and heliports worth Rs.180 crore will be built in northeast in the coming days, he said. Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia also inaugurated a Flying Training Organisation (FLO) at Lilabari in Lakhimpur, Assam to train manpower in the North-east for aviation. The ministry is planning to establish nine more FTOs in the North-east.

Dr P Raghothama Rao
Associate Editor

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