

GMR Aero Academy Kochi Conducts Aviation Training for Transgender Candidates under Project Pride Kochi

Kochi, 12th August 2025: In a pioneering move to promote workplace inclusion in aviation, **GMR Aero Academy Kochi**, the operating partner of the **Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)**, **Government of Kerala**, has commenced professional training for **transgender beneficiaries under 'Project Pride'** - a collaborative initiative supported by the **Kerala State Social Justice Department** and the **Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM)**. The formal inauguration of Project Pride on August 4 was attended by the Hon'ble **Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, Dr. R. Bindu**

Under this initiative, the first batch of students are undergoing a **90-day offline Certification in Airport Operations**, delivered by GMR Aero Academy at its Kochi centre. The program is designed to impart domain-specific knowledge and practical skills that enhance employability in the airport and aviation services ecosystem. The project is fully funded by the Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala.

The selection process was conducted via in-person screening, with participation from the Social Justice Department, KKEM, ASAP, and GMR Aero Academy. Simultaneously, support is being extended to help beneficiaries update their identity documents, ensuring dignified access to employment pathways.

To raise awareness, GMR Aero Academy hosted a **state-wide webinar on January 27, 2025**, drawing engagement from across Kerala.

Commenting on the initiative, **Mr. Andrew Acquaaah Harrison**, CEO – Airport Strategic Initiatives, GMR Group, said: *"Project Pride is more than a training program - it is a platform for empowerment, dignity, and social inclusion. At GMR, we believe in building opportunities for all, and this collaboration with the Government of Kerala is a testament to what can be achieved when industry and public institutions work together to foster equity. We are proud to be part of this transformative initiative."*

This initiative is designed to empower the transgender community through structured skill development and pathways to meaningful employment.

About GMR Airports Limited (Formerly GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited)

GMR Airports Limited (GAL) is a leading global airport platform company with over two decades of experience in designing, constructing, and operating world-class sustainable airports. Under the brand

name “**GMR AERO**”, it offers pioneering aviation solutions in retail, aero services, and real estate. Groupe ADP joined the journey in 2020 as a strategic partner and is now a co-promoter in GAL.

As a platform business, GAL also provides a range of aero services including Duty Free, Retail, F&B, Cargo, Car Parking, O&M, and PMC services. Through its innovative Aerotropolis concept, it develops cutting-edge airport cities giving shape to best-in-class real estate developments in South Asia. GAL operates India's largest third-party Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility through its subsidiary, GMR Air Cargo and Aerospace Engineering Limited ensuring operational excellence across the Asia Pacific region.

GMR Innovex, a GMR Group entity, is developing and introducing a range of digital solutions to enhance the passenger journey and airport experience. Through GMR Aero Academy and GMR School of Aviation, the company is creating the talent pool necessary to drive the growth of the aviation sector in India (the third largest in the world).

As the largest private airport operator in Asia and the second-largest globally, GAL served over 120 million passengers in FY25 with a steadfast commitment to excellence in airport management as reflected in its consistent rankings for services by ACI and Skytrax. With a robust presence in India and Southeast Asia, the company operates key gateways such as Delhi, Hyderabad, Goa, and Medan airports, while extending its technical services to Mactan Cebu International Airport in the Philippines. GAL is also developing transformative projects like the greenfield airports in Bhogapuram (Visakhapatnam), India, and Crete, Greece.

As the pioneer of the Aerotropolis concept in India, GMR Airport Land Development is developing vibrant airport cities around Delhi, Hyderabad, and Goa airports, with GMR Aerocity Delhi and GMR Aerocity Hyderabad emerging as landmark business and leisure districts.

GMR Group, the promoter of GAL has a significant presence in Energy, Transportation, Urban Infrastructure, and Sports. Through its CSR arm, GMR Varalakshmi Foundation, GMR supports local communities, reflecting its commitment to improving quality of life by enhancing skills, providing education, and developing healthcare infrastructure and services.

Groupe ADP develops and manages airports, including Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly, and Paris-Le Bourget. In 2024, the group handled through its brand Paris Aéroport 103.4 million passengers at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Orly, and nearly 363.7 million passengers in airports in France and abroad. Boasting an exceptional geographic location and a major catchment area, the Group is pursuing its strategy of adapting and modernizing its terminal facilities and upgrading the quality of services; the group also intends to develop its retail and real estate businesses. In 2024, group revenue stood at €6,158 million and net income at €342 million.