

# Air India appoints Tewolde Gebremariam as CEO and Managing Director



Tewolde Gebremariam, Incoming Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Air India

The Board of Directors of Air India has announced the appointment of Tewolde Gebremariam as the airline's Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, succeeding Campbell Wilson. This executive transition marks a pivotal juncture in [Air India](#)'s transformation journey.

The Board conducted a comprehensive search to identify the next leader for Air India, overseen by a dedicated Board committee, the press release said. The committee rigorously evaluated internal as well as highly accomplished external candidates from across the world.

The objective of the Board was to identify a leader with a proven record of managing mega-scale airline turnarounds, delivering operational excellence, fostering a strong culture of safety and service, and driving profitable expansion. Following an intensive evaluation process, the Board unanimously concluded that Gebremariam possesses the ideal combination of leadership, deep operational expertise, and strategic execution capability required for Air India's next phase of growth, the airline said.

During his decade-plus tenure as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, Gebremariam spearheaded a multi-billion-dollar expansion, transforming a regional carrier into Africa's largest, most profitable and decorated airline group—growing revenue by more than fourfold and fleet size nearly threefold.

His unique strength lies in managing complex operational landscapes, driving cultural transformation, building competitive global hubs and developing world-class MRO and aviation training infrastructure.

As Air India shifts from its foundational turnaround phase into a high growth & profitable execution phase, Air India said Gebremariam brings crucial capabilities required for next leg of the airline's journey. He has strong experience in expanding international long-haul networks and building world-class hub operations, an unrelenting commitment to safety standards, engineering quality and operational reliability. He also has a track record of driving sustained profitability, while navigating complex economic cycles and dynamic global markets together with a deep experience in workforce upskilling, talent development and embedding a high-performance, customer-first service culture.

N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons and Air India, said, "On behalf of the Board, I am delighted to welcome Tewolde to Air India. Having completed the initial phase of stabilization, integration, and fleet commitments under Campbell's guidance, Air India is now entering a critical execution and expansion era. Tewolde's track record in building one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups makes him uniquely suited to lead Air India. His operational expertise, commitment to safety, and vision for hub development will be instrumental as we establish Air India as a premier global carrier and a source of national pride."

Tewolde Gebremariam, Incoming CEO & Managing Director, said, "It is a profound honor to be entrusted with leading Air India at such a historic moment in its journey. Air India carries an incredible legacy, and the opportunity to build a world-class global airline that reflects India's extraordinary economic potential is uniquely exciting. I look forward to working closely with Chairman Chandrasekaran, the Board, our employees, and all government and industry partners to deliver

exceptional operational reliability, warm Indian hospitality, and sustained long-term growth."

This leadership transition reinforces Air India's alignment with national priorities and stakeholder expectations. Air India remains steadfastly committed to supporting India's civil aviation ambitions and national economic vision. Under Gebremariam's leadership, Air India will work closely with civil aviation authorities and regulators to strengthen India's position as a premier global aviation hub, enhance international connectivity and maintain the highest benchmarks of aviation safety and compliance, the press release stated.

Gebremariam's leadership philosophy places people at the center of organizational success. Employees across all divisions—flight crew, ground operations, engineering, and corporate—can look forward to a continued emphasis on training, exciting career pathways, and an empowering work environment built on merit, accountability and pride in our national carrier.

The Board also thanked Campbell Wilson for his leadership over the past phase of Air India's revitalization. He successfully oversaw complex merger and integration processes, initiated massive fleet modernization programs, established new corporate governance standards and laid the foundations that were necessary for the future.

With a solid foundation now in place, Air India enters its next era with clear strategic clarity, robust capital backing and experienced leadership at the helm. The Board is fully confident that under Gebremariam, Air India will realize its full potential as a premier global aviation power, the press release concluded.