

REPORT: AIRLINES: SOUTH ASIA

What you need to know

September 2021

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to airlines in South Asia over the last month.

Major airlines

Air India

Bids received

According to the Indian government's investment department, financial bids have been received for Air India. [Tata Sons](#) has confirmed that it has submitted a bid, although other bidders have not been identified. Unconfirmed media reports suggest [SpiceJet](#) founder Ajay Singh may also have launched a bid for Air India.

IndiGo

New alliance with American

IndiGo, India's largest airline, has agreed a codeshare with American Airlines, which the two airlines hope regulators will approve in time for American's [October 31](#) start of New York JFK-Delhi services. The U.S. airline will also launch Seattle-Bangalore services from [January 2022](#).

The new codeshare would give American's customers access to [29](#) IndiGo domestic routes served from Delhi and Bangalore.

SpiceJet

Debt/equity swap proposed

Indian low-cost carrier SpiceJet is believed to have asked some aircraft lessors to consider swapping lease payment arrears for equity in its cargo venture SpiceXpress. SpiceJet is spinning off its cargo and logistics services into SpiceExpress, to create a separate freight business.

Sri Lankan Airlines

Hyderabad return

Sri Lankan Airlines resumed flights from Colombo to Hyderabad in India on [September 3](#). The airline is serving the route [twice-weekly](#).

Other airlines

Jet Airways

Restart planned for 2022

India's Jet Airways could restart services in [2022](#), three years after suspending all operations. Initially, it would fly domestic services, starting with Mumbai-Delhi. Short-haul international operations would follow in the [second half](#) of 2022. Jet's new owners have ambitious plans for a 50-aircraft fleet within three years.

Star Air

New entrant with ambitious plans

Indian regional carrier Star Air launched new services linking Hyderabad to Jamnagar in Gujarat from the [end of August](#). The [thrice-weekly](#) service was launched under the Indian government's UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme, which aims to improve regional connectivity within the country.

Vistara

Paris service planned

Full-service Indian airline Vistara will launch special flights between Delhi and Paris from [November 7](#). Under a bilateral transport bubble agreement between India and France, the airline will operate the flights [twice-weekly](#).

Startups

Fly Jinnah

Low-cost airline planned for Pakistan

Air Arabia Group and Pakistan-based business conglomerate Lakson Group have formed a joint venture to launch a new low-cost carrier, Fly Jinnah. Initially based in Karachi, Fly Jinnah will establish a domestic network before launching international services.

Work has started on securing an air operator's certificate, with more details on launch date, fleet and network to follow in due course.

Note

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at September 29, 2021. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

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