

News

India's IndiGo again eyes UK using A321neo(XLR)s



Illustration of IndiGo Airlines Airbus A321-200NXL

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06.09.2022 - 00:14 UTC

IndiGo Airlines (6E, Delhi Int'l) is mulling broadening its international horizons and operating flights to the UK using the A321-200NY(XLR). The Indian low-cost carrier is due to take the **first of the planes in mid-2024**. With a range of 4,700 nautical miles (8,700 kilometers), the jet offers IndiGo the chance to significantly expand its international network.

"The XLR is a couple of years down the road. We are working out what is happening with the network. But it is too early to say," AirInsight reports an IndiGo official saying. Asked about **longstanding plans for London Heathrow** flights, the official said it was too far out to give a firm answer, adding the airline would need to make a decision about one year out in order to apply for slots there.

IndiGo has a 50% plus domestic market share. However, its **international network** is now limited to Asia (as far east as **Guangzhou, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Singapore Changi**), the Gulf region, and as far west as **Istanbul New**. During a recent earnings call, CEO Rono Dutta also mentioned **IATATILV, Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta, and even Milan Malpensa** as other potential destinations currently on IndiGo's radar.

According to the **ch-aviation fleets advanced** module, IndiGo has a fleet of 273 aircraft including twenty-eight A320-200s, one hundred and forty-five A320-200Ns, sixty-five A321-200Xs, and thirty-five ATR72-600s. The airline also has a further 518 narrowbody jets on order from Airbus (AIB, **Toulouse Blagnac**) across the A320neo and A321neo families including sixty-nine A321neo(XLR)s and 252 A321neo.

Meanwhile, as an interim step before potentially launching its own flights to the UK, IndiGo announced a new codeshare agreement with **Virgin Atlantic** (VS, **London Heathrow**) last week that will see carrier funnel passengers on and off Virgin Atlantic's multiple daily flights into India (2x daily to **Delhi Int'l** and daily to **Mumbai Int'l**).

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About IndiGo Airlines

Type	Scheduled Carrier
Base	Delhi Int'l
Aircraft	273
Destinations	99
Routes	576
Daily Flights	1522

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Tata Sons to raise \$4bn for Air India revamp - report

07.09.2022 - 00:57 UTC

Tata Sons plans to raise USD4 billion in an effort to inject fresh capital into **Air India** (AI, **Mumbai Int'l**) and refinance its costly debt, two anonymous sources close to the matter have told the Indian financial daily Mint.

They claimed that the conglomerate aims to drum up the funds by using hybrid financing to help revamp the airline, which it acquired for USD2.4 billion and **assumed control** of in January.

"Tata Group will soon start the process of hiring investment advisers, although informal discussions with a few foreign lenders and some private equity funds are already underway," according to one insider.

The second informer added: "The debt refinancing part will be relatively easier as lenders within Tata's existing banking relationships will step in. The equity component of the transaction may take a bit longer, given that globally the number of private equity funds that invest in airline businesses are relatively few."

The first claimed: "The fund infusion is crucial for Air India's operational efficiency to regain market share. The funds will..."

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28.07.2022 - 08:09 UTC

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India's Akasa Air outlines initial network due from mid-3Q22

27.07.2022 - 08:32 UTC

Akasa Air (QP, **Mumbai Int'l**) will launch its first flight from **Mumbai Int'l** to **Ahmedabad** on August 7, to be operated 28x weekly, followed by a route linking **Bangalore Int'l** and **Kochi Int'l** on August 13, also 28x weekly, the start-up revealed in a statement.

It will deploy the first of its sixty-seven **B737 MAX** jets, **B737-8 VT-YAA** (msn 62871), which **was delivered last month** and is one of five Akasa has sold and leased back from **Griffin Global Asset Management**. The delivery of a second **Boeing** aircraft is due to take place in the coming days.

"Akasa Air's network strategy is focused on establishing a strong pan-India presence and providing linkages from metro to tier 2 and tier 3 cities across the country," Praveen Iyer, co-founder and chief commercial officer, outlined in the statement dated July 22. "We will adopt a phased approach to support our network expansion plans, progressively connecting more cities as we add two aircraft to our fleet each month in our..."

India grounds Go First aircraft amid sector safety concerns

25.07.2022 - 02:27 UTC

Go First (G8, **Mumbai Int'l**) aircraft have experienced a number of incidents in recent days enough to warrant inspections from India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), local media reported. The authority currently has its hands full investigating engine problems and safety lapses at many of the country's airlines.

Engine problems affected two of the budget carrier's **A320-200Ns** in separate incidents on the same day, July 19. One of them, flying from **Mumbai Int'l** to **Leh Kushok Bakula Rimpochee**, was diverted to **Delhi Int'l** due to a fault in the engine interface unit, and the second involved a Delhi-bound flight forced to turn back to **Srinagar**, Business Standard reported.

"We are investigating the incidents. Both aircraft will be grounded and will fly only after clearance from the DGCA," an unnamed executive at the airline told the newspaper.

Go First's **Airbus A320neo** are powered by **Pratt & Whitney PW1000** geared turbofan engines, according to the **ch-aviation fleets advanced** module. The airline operates an all-leased fleet of fifty-two...

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