

Air India launches USD 400m fleet refit for 67 legacy aircraft

- A Monitor Report

Date: 01 October, 2024



Gurugram : Air India announced the commencement of its over USD 400m refit programme for a phased revamp of 67 legacy aircraft in its fleet.

This refit will lead to a refresh of the product to the new Air India experience-with modern three-cabin configuration, new seats, new carpets, curtains and upholstery. The refit program will start with the 27 narrowbody Airbus A320neo aircraft, followed by the 40 widebody Boeing aircraft.

On the development, Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Air India, said, "The commencement of interior refit of the narrowbody fleet is an important step in our journey of enhancing the flying experience of our customers. Over time, all the legacy widebody aircraft will also be refitted. This comprehensive upgradation

of Air India's physical product is an important component of Air India transforming into a world-class airline."

The first narrowbody aircraft to commence the refit programme is VT-EXN, a single-aisle A320neo that went into the hangar on September 16. After prototyping and necessary regulatory approvals, VT-EXN is expected to re-enter commercial service in December 2024, joining the eight recently delivered and operational Air India A320neo aircraft that already feature upgraded cabin interiors and configuration.

Following VT-EXN, between three and four aircraft per month will undergo retrofit, with upgradation of the full narrowbody fleet expected by the middle of 2025. The refitted A320neo aircraft will feature eight luxurious seats in Business, 24 extra legroom seats in Premium Economy and 132 comfortable seats in Economy, offering wider choice to its guests.

The Business cabins will offer 40-inch ergonomic seats with seven-inch recline. The Premium Economy cabins provide larger seats with superior upholstery. Economy seats are ergonomically designed, 28-29-inch seat pitch, four-inch recline and legroom with amenities.