

Air India plans to lease 3 Boeing 777-300ERs from Singapore Airlines

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 23 July, 2023



Singapore : Tata-owned Air India plans to expand its widebody aircraft fleet by leasing three Boeing 777-300ER from Singapore Airlines, according to a report. The news comes as the airline is in the process of replacing older Boeing 777-200 widebody jets.

The latter aircraft have drawn passenger fury over the years due to outdated cabins, including crumbling seats, broken lavatories, and malfunctioning seat-back entertainment screens. Air India has officially announced the sale of these older aircraft to address these concerns.

The 3 Boeing 777-300 ER planes, which were retired by Singapore Airlines in 2021 as part of post-COVID-19 fleet adjustments, are well-maintained and boast four-class cabins. This includes first class and premium economy sections, said the report.

This feature is particularly noteworthy as it aligns with Air India's goal to enhance passenger experience during ultra-long flights.

Aviation A2Z sources say these planes are parked at Singapore Changi Airport (SIN). Further, they have the registration 9V-SVK, 9V-SVM and 9V-SVN.

A source within the industry commented on the decision. He stated, "The 777-200 models are fuel guzzlers, accommodating only 238 passengers. Refurbishing them would be impractical."

“On the other hand, these 777-300 aircraft are impeccably maintained and equipped with premium economy seating. Further allowing for a higher yield with 264 seats. This upgrade will provide passengers with a more premium and comfortable journey on the extended flights,” continued source.

The introduction of premium economy seating by Air India comes at a time when traditional airlines are facing fierce competition from emerging low-cost and Gulf-based carriers.

Many companies have tightened travel budgets in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Further leading to a decline in business-class travel.

By offering a premium economy option, Air India seeks to accommodate the needs of budget-conscious travellers. While also boosting overall fares and profitability.

With these three new additions to its fleet, Air India is on track to enhance its operational efficiency. Subsequently, improve passenger satisfaction, and adapt to the evolving travel landscape.

-B