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New airline Zoom to take off on February 15

By ET Bureau | Updated: Feb 13, 2017, 12.34 PM IST

NEW DELHI: The government's regional connectivity push seems to have finally struck the right note, with Zoom Air, India's newest airline, launching its inaugural flight on the Delhi-Durgapur route on Sunday morning.

The move makes Zoom Air the tenth national carrier in the country.

The airline, which will start daily scheduled operations on the Delhi-Kolkata-Durgapur sector from February 15, is marketing itself as a premium commuter airline with on-board snacks and beverage service. The airline has started operations with a Bombardier CRJ 200 aircraft and will get the second aircraft on February 26.

"As of now, we do not plan to exceed the five aircraft number. We are also not planning to compete with established players by connecting tier 1cities. Even if we connect two tier 1 cities like Delhi and Mumbai, it will be via Surat," Koustav M Dhar, chief executive officer of Zoom Air, told ET. "We are going to be India's first national carrier with a regional fleet," he said.

He added that the second and third aircraft will be used to connect destinations such as Amritsar, Surat and Mumbai and Jabalpur, Kolkata, Shillong and Aizwal.

Dhar also stated that they are in talks with airlines for code share flights.

"A codeshare arrangement gives us surety of passengers. We are in talks with four international and two domestic airline operators to operate code share flights for them. I cannot name them now because I am not allowed to," Dhar said.

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