

Paramount plans overseas flights

Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI: Paramount Airways, which boasts a unique business model in having all business class domestic flights, is drawing ambitious plans to launch its international operations by 2012.

"We are in fairly advanced stage of negotiations with Boeing and Airbus for purchase of wide-bodied passenger jetliners for our international flights," Paramount Airways Managing Director M. Thiagarajan told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday.

New-generation aircraft

On the type of aircraft, which the carrier was looking for, Mr. Thiagarajan said the focus was on new-generation aircraft like A-350 from Airbus Industrie and B-787 Dreamliner from Boeing. While Boeing's 787 manufacturing plans have suffered a

long delay, Airbus is yet to test its A-350 aircraft.

"We have the option of leasing A-330 and Boeing-777 for the interim period till we get deliveries of A-350 and B-787 aircraft," the airline chief said.

The airline is also going ahead with inducting more of 80-seater Embraer modern jets and by 2010-end, it would have a fleet strength of 20 aircraft. "The growth should be slow and steady. We have not gone ballistic. First, we captured the southern region and bagged a market share of 27 per cent, then we launched flights to northern and eastern regions and we have elicited good response from travellers," he said.

The airline has a dynamic pricing system in which one can purchase tickets as low as Rs. 6,500 to as high as Rs. 35,000 for first class on the Delhi-Chennai sector. .