

VVIP Plane Boeing 777-300s

August 8, 2020

The two Boeing 777-300s, which were bought by Air India, will be the first-ever meant for exclusive use by India's VVIPs, i.e. the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister. **As of now, Air India lends its Boeing 747 aircraft for VVIP foreign trips by withdrawing them from commercial flights.**

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The Boeing 777-300 planes were **inducted into Air India's fleet in 2018, but sent to Boeing's facility at Dallas- Fort Worth within months for retrofitment worthy of India's top dignitaries.** Once these planes arrive in India, they will be **de-registered by Air India and handed over to the Indian Air Force. These planes will then be entered into the IAF's registry and get a K-series registration number given to military aircraft.**

The revamped aircraft will include a press conference room, a conference room for VVIPs, a suite comprising a bedroom and a bathroom. To protect the country's topmost dignitaries from aerial attacks, the aircraft will be **equipped with missile warning sensors and countermeasures dispensing defence system, which are a part of the large aircraft infrared countermeasures (LAIRCM), self-protection suites (SPS)** provided by the U.S. government for \$190 million. The government has paid Air India Rs 4,632 crore towards the cost of these planes.

The plane packs two GE90-115BL engines (made by General Electric), which are the **world's most powerful jet engines**, offering maximum thrust of 1,15,300 lbs. Essentially, this plane will cater to the non-stop travelling demands of the Prime Minister or the President. With a long-haul plane, they can **travel longer distances with more fuel on board, thus**

making fewer stops. All modes of communication will be facilitated, with mobile and satellite phones to be specially customised to connect with on-ground airline officials. The plane will also have an on-board medical staff, available 24x7, and fitted with an operation theater as well.