



Religare Voyages' Air Mantra to connect Amritsar and Chandigarh

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First Published: Mon, Jul 16 2012. 10 27 PM IST

Mumbai: Religare Voyages Ltd, promoted by Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh of Religare Enterprises Ltd, said on Monday that its new regional airline Air Mantra, will start operations on 23 July with daily flights connecting Amritsar and Chandigarh.

Air Mantra will be the first regional airline to be launched in India in five years. **MDLR Airlines Pvt. Ltd**, the only regional carrier that started operations, stopped flying on 1 October, 2009.

Air Mantra, which has two 17 seater Beechcraft 1900D aircraft, was started with the intent of serving northern India as a regional airline by Religare Voyages, which began five years ago with the launch of air charter services.

Air Mantra has a full-fledged fleet plan for buying turboprop jets including ATRs and Bombardier Q400s, said Sandeep Bhatt, chief executive officer, Religare Voyages.

“We were already operating non-scheduled operations with Beechcraft planes. We converted those planes to get a regional scheduled operation licence to test the market. We will upscale the operations gradually,” Bhatt said, without divulging investment details.