

## Jet, Kingfisher staff scout for work

Approach Low-Cost Carriers SpiceJet & GoAir, Which Plan New Flights

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WITH Jet Airways and Kingfisher Airlines struggling to combat the rising costs, employees of both airlines have begun scouting for jobs in competing, low-cost airlines such as SpiceJet and GoAir.

"We have started sending our resumes to the low cost carriers as our take-home salaries will be almost at par with low cost carriers once Jet's plan to shift a major portion of our fixed income to the variable component comes into effect in November," said a ground handling staff member of Jet Airways. Full-fledged airlines currently pay higher salaries compared to the low-cost carriers.

Both Jet and Kingfisher are planning route rationalisation, which in turn will entail lesser manpower requirement.

SpiceJet and GoAir are planning new flights and will therefore need more people, according to company officials. "We have no plans to lay off employees. The company has a proper procedure to hire people, unlike others who hire in advance for future route expansion," said SpiceJet Vice-President, HR, Surajit Banerjee.

"We will hire more people as SpiceJet is increasing routes in the domestic space," said SpiceJet director Kishore Gupta. The Gurgaon based airline operates 94 flights to 16 cities daily.

GoAir senior general manager-business development, Indranil Roy, agreed. "As our routes would increase, we will hire more people. Our costs are under control and there will be no fir-



ing." GoAir operates 832 flights across 9 destinations and plans to increase its capacity to over 900 flights in the winter schedule. The latest statistics from the Director General of Civil Aviation reveals that almost all big airlines lost passengers in the September quarter. Kingfisher carried 13.07 lakh passengers and Jet Airways flew 20.48 lakh passengers in the September quarter, lower by 21% and 18.5% respectively compared to the June quarter. Air-India ferried 15.61 lakh passengers during the same period, suffering a loss of 12%.

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### Jet, JetLite ink pact

**New Delhi:** Jet Airways on Tuesday announced that it has entered into a code-share arrangement with its low-cost airline JetLite. Jet Airways will place its marketing code-9W on a number of routes operated by JetLite, enabling both carriers to offer their passengers better connections. — PTI