

GoAir Kochi flight an Onam gift

Archana Dahiwal

For over four lakh Malayalees residing in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, it is perhaps the best Onam gift that GoAir has given them this year. The budget carrier is starting passenger flights from October 2 this year that could connect Pune to Kochi.

While GoAir's flight from Ahmedabad would touch Pune and Bangalore before reaching Kochi in the morning, another flight from Kochi would touch Bangalore and Pune before reaching Ahmedabad.

"It's the best Onam gift that we have got this year from GoAir. It used to take lot of time travelling to Kerala from Pune and vice versa," Pune Malayalee Federation president, Rajan Nair remarked.

Nair's family stays in Kochi and he has to travel twice a month to meet them.

For most of those travelling to Kerala from Pune, they had to either proceed to Mumbai and then board a flight, or take a Kerala-bound train from Pune railway station. Still others used to fly to Bangalore or Chennai, then board another flight to reach Kochi.

"It was very difficult for us to reach our native place in emergencies. Travelling by train took us more than 24 hours," said Nair.

The editor of a Malayalee magazine, *Pravasi Shabdham*, K Harinarayan, said, "It will also help tourists who want to visit Kerala."