

AV-29011/44/2019-DT
Government of India
Ministry of Civil Aviation

‘B’ Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan,
New Delhi, dated December 23, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub.: Record of discussions during Video Conferencing held on 24.10.2019 at 1030 hours by Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation with the State Governments / UTs on Civil Aviation related issues.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith the record of discussions held on 24th October, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation in the Conference Hall to review Civil Aviation related issues in States and UTs, for information and necessary action.



(U K Bhardwaj)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele. 24610359

Encl.: As above (1)

To,

1. The Chief Secretaries and Administrators of the State Governments and Union Territories as per the list attached
2. The Director General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation
3. The Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
4. The Chairman, Airports Authority of India
5. The Chairman and Managing Director, M/s Air India Limited
6. The Executive Director (OM & Tech), M/s Pawan Hans Limited

Copy to:

- i. PS to HMoS(IC)CA
- ii. Sr. PPS to Secy (CA)
- iii. PS to EA
- iv. PS to JS (U)
- v. PS to JS (RA)
- vi. PS to JS(AR)
- vii. PS to JS(AD)
- viii. PS to Dir (GS)

SO (DT)

- ix. DEO to US(UK)
- x. RCS Consultant, MoCA

List of Chief Secretaries and Administrators of State Governments and Union Territories

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Goa
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh
5. The Chief Secretary, Administration of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
6. The Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra
7. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab
8. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan
9. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand

Record of Discussions during Video Conferencing held on 24.10.2019 at 1030 Hours by Hon'ble Minister of State, Civil Aviation (HMoSCA) with Northern & Western State Governments on Civil Aviation related issues.

A Video Conferencing (VC) was held on 24.10.2019 at 1030 Hours by Hon'ble Minister of State, Civil Aviation (HMoSCA) with Northern & Western State Governments on Civil Aviation related issues.

List of Senior Officials of MoCA, BCAS, DGCA, State Governments, AAI and Air India who attended the meeting is given at **Annexure - 1**.

At the outset, HMoSCA welcomed all the participants present during the VC and stated that the Video Conference is being held to seek suggestions, information and challenges faced by various State Governments on Civil Aviation related issues to enhance air connectivity to various parts of the country.

Record of discussions during VC with the representatives of State Governments and decisions taken there on are as under:

Common Points of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for discussion with State Governments:

1. GST / VAT:

HMoSCA informed the Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Secretary/ Director, Civil Aviation of all the Northern and Western States that only six State Governments of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand have issued Gazette Notification and reduced VAT to 1% on ATF for RCS-UDAN flights. However, the other 3 States, i.e. Goa (18%), Haryana (20%) and J & K (26%) have not reduced VAT to 1% on ATF for RCS-UDAN flights.

HMoSCA advised these three State Governments to issue the Gazette Notification and reduce the VAT to 1% on ATF for RCS-UDAN flights at the earliest, preferably within a week.

2. HMoSCA also intimated the Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Secretary/ Director, Civil Aviation of all the Northern and Western States that even though few State Governments have reduced the VAT to 1% on ATF for RCS-UDAN flights, these States are still charging VAT between 18% to 30% on ATF for Commercial Flights operating from State Capitals/ Major Cities of their States. HMoSCA advised the representatives of all the State Governments to issue necessary Gazette Notifications and reduce VAT/ Sales Tax on ATF between 1% to 4% with immediate effect so that Domestic Airlines can sustain their commercial operations.
3. HMoSCA also reminded the Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Secretary/ Director, Civil Aviation of all the Northern and Western States that Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has been requesting GST council to consider ATF to be brought within the ambit of GST. For this, D.O. letters have been sent to State Governments to support the proposal. State Governments are again requested to extend their support so that ATF could be brought within the ambit of GST to improve financial health of Domestic Airlines.

After discussion on Common Points, Secretary, Civil Aviation requested HMoSCA to proceed one by one with the Northern & Western State Governments.

GOVERNMENT OF GOA:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated the representative of Goa Govt. that Goa Government has not reduced VAT to 1% on ATF for commercial operations and it is being charged at the rate of 18% which is very high. HMoSCA advised that Goa Government should reduce the VAT on ATF for commercial operations to below 4% so that financial health of airlines is sustainable. Since, New Green Field Airport is being built at Mopa, this will also help to operate additional flights at Goa Airport which will give additional incentive to the Goa Government.
2. **Alignment of proposed expressway connecting NH-66 to the Mopa Airport:** The representative of Goa Government intimated that State Govt. has requested MoCA for approval of alignment by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for the proposed expressway connecting NH-66 to the Mopa Airport. Construction work is halted due to Order by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Decision: Secretary, Civil Aviation informed the representative of Goa Govt. that we will follow it up with the concerned authorities.

Decision: HMoSCA informed the representative of Goa Govt. that MoCA will follow it up with Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and also take it up with the Hon'ble Supreme Court for early solution.

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated Capt. Ajay Chauhan, Director, Civil Aviation, the representative of Gujarat Govt. that Gujarat Government has not reduced VAT to 1% on ATF for commercial operations and it is being charged at very high rate. HMoSCA advised that Gujarat Government should reduce the VAT on ATF for commercial operations to below 4% so that financial health of airlines is sustainable. This will also help to operate additional flights at various airports of Gujarat which will give additional incentive to the State Government.

Inputs received from State Government:

The matter is under purview of Finance Department, Gujarat Government. Civil Aviation Department of the State will take up the matter once again and update MoCA at an early date.

2. **Operations from Mithapur Airport:** HMoSCA intimated the representative of Gujarat Govt. that Gujarat Government has not made necessary arrangements with M/s Tata Chemicals regarding flight operations from Mithapur Airport. HMoSCA advised that the same should be done on top priority basis.

Inputs received from State Government:

MoU Agreement for Mithapur Airport is under process for cabinet approval. Update will be communicated to MoCA.

3. **Development of Water Aerodromes:** The representative of Gujarat Govt. intimated that development of Water Aerodromes at various locations in Gujarat has not been started by AAI till date.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed that the work has already been awarded to Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to carry out the survey for Water Aerodromes and submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

Inputs received from State Government:

Land for development of Water Aerodrome at Kevadia is available. Process of development may be initiated.

4. **Handing over Deesa Airport to State Govt.**

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed that the matter will be examined by AAI and reply will be sent to Gujarat Govt.

Inputs received from State Government:

AAI is requested to expedite the process.

5. **Finalization of Agreement for Gujsail Complex & Gujarat Govt. Hangar.**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

Inputs received from State Government:

To expedite the matter of finalization of agreement for Gujsail Hangar as per GTO charges and for Rs. 1/- per sqmt. for Govt. of Gujarat Hangar (old).

6. **Additional Land for Gujsail Hanger.**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

Inputs received from State Government:

To expedite the matter of finalization of agreement for Gujsail Hangar.

7. **To Commence New Flight from Rajkot-Mumbai-Rajkot & Rajkot-Delhi-Rajkot.**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

Inputs received from State Government:

It is requested to commence the new flight from Rajkot-Mumbai-Rajkot & Rajkot-Delhi-Rajkot or to provide an alternative arrangement in the interest of citizens at large.

8. **Issuance of Air Operator Permit (AOP).**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

Inputs received from State Government:

DGCA is requested to expedite the process for issuance of AOP to Govt. of Gujarat.

9. **Rationalization of RCS Charges.**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

10. **Operationalization of the Keshod Airport under RCS operation.**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

Inputs received from State Government:

Expedite the matter for issuance of License to Keshod Airport.

11. **Allocation of CISF Manpower of Gujsail Complex.**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

Inputs received from State Government:

Reduce the CISF personnel 3.5 person instead of 24 persons at Gujsail Hanger and accordingly, BCAS may accord approval for deployment of Security Personnel.

12. **Operations & Maintenance of Water Aerodrome.**

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated Shri Devender Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, representative of Haryana Govt. that even though Haryana Government has reduced VAT to 1% for RCS flights, however, for commercial operations, VAT on ATF is being charged at the rate of 21% which is very high. HMoSCA advised that Haryana Government should reduce the VAT on ATF for commercial operations to below 4% so that financial health of airlines is sustainable.

2. **Pinjore Airport as Base Station for Helicopters:** Shri Devender Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, representative of Haryana Govt. intimated that Pinjore Airport may be made Base Station for Helicopters to operate air services to Himachal Pradesh/ Uttarakhand and UP.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA intimated the representative of Haryana Govt. that Helicopter Services to Himachal Pradesh are being provided from Chandigarh. As such, the above proposal is not feasible.

3. **Construction of Terminal Building at Ambala Airport:** The representative of Haryana Govt. intimated that construction of Terminal Building at Ambala Airport (Air Force Base)

has not been finalized by AAI and status of flights under RCS-UDAN-3.0 may be updated to Haryana Government for acquisition of land by Haryana Government.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI intimated that study has already been conducted for joint use of Ambala Airport and the report has been received by AAI. IAF has suggested that Kingfisher Tourist Complex near Ambala Air Force Base can be utilized for construction of Terminal Building. However, as per the observation of AAI, 2.1 Acres of land is available at Kingfisher Tourist Complex which is not sufficient for Terminal Building. Accordingly, Haryana Govt. should acquire land adjacent to the Kingfisher Tourist Complex and inform AAI so that the work would be started at the earliest.

Decision: Secretary, Civil Aviation informed the representative of Haryana Govt. to acquire sufficient land and inform AAI so that work could be started at the earliest.

4. **Operation of RCS-UDAN flights from Hisar:** The representative of Haryana Govt. intimated that operation of RCS-UDAN flights from Hisar to Chandigarh and back has already started, however, necessary approval in this regard has not been received from DGCA, New Delhi. The representative of Haryana Govt. also requested that for operation of RCS-UDAN flights from Hisar to Chandigarh and back, VGF should be provided by MoCA from back date.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA informed the representative of Haryana Govt. that operation of RCS-UDAN flights from Hisar to Chandigarh and back is being carried out under NSOP operations by M/s SpiceJet with smaller aircraft with MTOM of less than 5700 kg. As per DGCA regulations, M/s SpiceJet is Scheduled Operator and the operator does not have NSOP Permit for smaller aircraft of MTOM less than 5700 kg approved by DGCA. As such, DGCA, being a regulator, cannot be pressurized by MoCA to grant permission for such operations.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA also informed the representative of Haryana Govt. that operation of RCS-UDAN flights from Hisar to Chandigarh and back is being carried out as per RCS-UDAN Scheme of Haryana Government with separate Tendering Process. As such, VGF cannot be provided by MoCA since the operations are being carried out by State Government.

Decision: Secretary, Civil Aviation informed the representative of Haryana Govt. that MoCA cannot compromise with the safety of aircraft operations. In case, the safety issues are sorted out by Haryana Govt., MoCA will solve the issue.

5. **Non-availability of ATCOs at Hisar Airport for operation of RCS-UDAN flights:** The representative of Haryana Govt. intimated that Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) from AAI at Hisar Airport are not available for operation of RCS-UDAN flights from Hisar to Chandigarh and back. This is compromising with the safety of aircraft operations.

Decision: HMoSCA intimated that MoCA cannot take any chance with regard to safety of aircraft operations and directed AAI to post Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) at Hisar Airport at the earliest.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH:

1. **Upgrading the heliports at Anadale (Shimla), Manali, Mandi, Nathpa-Jhakri & Rampur:** HMoSCA advised the Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh that the State Government should start upgrading the heliports at Anadale (Shimla), Manali, Mandi, Nathpa-Jhakri & Rampur so that Helicopter Operations could be started.

Decisions: MoCA agreed to reimburse the total cost of construction/ operationalization of six Heliports/ Helipads, as above, under RCS-UDAN. Further, as per the suggestion of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, MoCA has agreed to drop the Nathpa-Jhakri Heliport as the distance between Nathpa-Jhakri and Rampur heliport is very less and State Govt. shall be recommending the name of a new site for the Heliport.

2. **Expansion of Shimla Airport:** Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh intimated that runway of Shimla Airport is short and suitable for 48 seater aircraft with load penalty. So, RCS seats are reduced and airfares are higher. As per DPR by M/s RITES, the cost of runway extension comes to Rs. 425.59 Cr., excluding cost of additional land to be borne by State Govt. Hon'ble CM, HP had written a D.O. letter to the Hon'ble PM to provide special assistance of Rs. 500.00 Cr. Chief Secretary, HP requested HMoSCA to support the case of State Government.

Decisions: HMoSCA informed Secretary, Civil Aviation and Chairman, AAI to work out the details for extension of runway at Shimla Airport for approval by MoCA and also agreed to consider funds required for the project of expansion of Shimla Airport for which land will be provided by the State Govt. HMoSCA intimated Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh that Alliance Air Flight between Delhi to Shimla and back will continue further operations considering connectivity to State Capital.

3. **Expansion of Kullu Airport:** Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh intimated that Bhunter Airport at Kullu is very small and suitable for small aircraft with load penalty. So, airfares are high, which adversely affects tourist inflow. As per IIT Roorkee report,* runway extension by diverting river Beas will cost Rs. 81.34 Cr. with 3-4 years time. Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh intimated that 27.77 Hect. of Land has to be acquired by the State Govt. so that AAI could proceed with runway extension. State Govt. has requested MoCA to take up matter for special assistance of Rs. 500.00 Cr.

Decisions: HMoSCA advised the Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh that the State Government should acquire the land required for expansion of Kullu Airport so that AAI could proceed with runway extension work. However, it was also agreed to conduct survey as soon as possible as proposed by the State Govt. for tilting airstrip 4% at Kullu Airport and to find out the scope of its expansion. If the scope is possible, the same will be expanded.

4. **Expansion of Kangra Airport:** Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh intimated that Dharamshala is connected through Gaggal Airport with limited runway length for small aircraft with load penalty. AAI is planning to extend runway and 153 Acres of land has to be acquired by State Govt. D.O. letter Dated 16.10.2018 was written to Secretary, 15th Finance Commission for grant of Rs. 348.50 Cr. for land acquisition. MoCA is requested to support the case and pursue the matter with Ministry of Defence to develop the airport.

Decisions: HMoSCA informed Secretary, Civil Aviation and Chairman, AAI to work out the details for extension of runway at Kangra Airport for approval by MoCA. HMoSCA also informed the Chief Secretary, HP that during his visit to Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, he has already raised the issues so that necessary grant could be released and the airport could be developed.

5. **Construction of Greenfield Airport at Mandi:** Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh intimated that AAI had conducted OLS Survey of site and OLS report is awaited. Hon'ble CM, HP had sent D.O. letter on 18.12.2018 to Hon'ble PM to consider Mandi airport as Defence Airport and provide special assistance. MoCA is requested to pursue the case with Govt. of India.

Decision: State Govt. agreed in principle for approval regarding construction of Mandi Airport and constitution of JVA with Airport Authority of India.

6. **RCS UDAN-II - Selected Heliports:** Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh intimated that Rs. 28 Cr. has been sought for development of Heliports and procurement of equipment for Heliports. State Govt. has also requested M/s Alliance Air to replace their old ATR-42 with new ATR-42, increase UDAN seats & capping the fare for other seats, exemption from the cost sharing for Security Cover, Fire Services & VGF. HMoSCA is requested to support the case of State Govt.

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

7. **Financial Support:** Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh intimated that State Govt. is heavily dependent on Central Govt. for funds for development. State resources are limited since there is no scope to levy additional taxes. So, entire cost of VGF i.e. 100% should be borne by RACFT or in the ratio of 90:10 similar to North-Eastern States as per RCS guidelines. MoCA is requested to consider Himachal Pradesh for this benefit.

This issue could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated Shri S. Katoch, Commissioner, Civil Aviation, the representative of J & K Govt. that even though J&K Government has reduced VAT to 1% for RCS flights, however, for commercial operations from Srinagar, Jammu etc., VAT on ATF is being charged at 29% which is highest amongst the other States/UTs. HMoSCA advised that the State Government should reduce the VAT on ATF for commercial operations to below 4% so that financial health of airlines is sustainable. HMoSCA quoted the example of Kerala Government which has reduced the VAT to 1% on ATF for commercial operations of airlines from all the airports of their State.
2. **Land at Thoise Airport:** HMoSCA also intimated to the representative of J & K Govt. that land for construction of Civil Enclave for Terminal Building, Car Parking etc. at Thoise Airport has not been provided for operation of RCS flights. The State Government is requested to expedite action in this regard.
3. **RCS Routes:** The representative of J & K Government requested MoCA to expedite operation of RCS flights to Kargil from Srinagar & Jammu which were awarded earlier, but flights have not started.

Decisions: JS (UP), MoCA intimated that M/s Meharair, SAO, who was awarded the route, has not acquired their aircraft till date and the operator is unable to obtain Schedule Commuter Operator (SCO) Permit from DGCA till date. Accordingly, the matter will be reviewed during RCS Approval Committee meeting for suitable action in this regard.

4. **Thoise airport:** The representative of J & K Government requested MoCA to develop Thoise airport under RCS including construction of Terminal Building followed by bidding of the routes for Thoise with Chandigarh and Delhi on priority.

Decisions: HMoSCA intimated that as discussed earlier, the J&K Government has not provided land to AAI for construction of Civil Enclave at Thoise till date. As such, urgent action is required to be taken by J&K Government in this regard.

5. **Kargil Airport:** Shri S. Katoch, Commissioner, Civil Aviation, the representative of J & K Govt. requested that Consultant from any reputed organization dealing with development and operation of large aircraft may be engaged by AAI for VFR (Visual Flight Rule) airport at Kargil.

Decisions: Secretary, Civil Aviation advised AAI to appoint the consultant at the earliest as requested by J&K Government so that at least airbus A-320 type of aircraft could land at Kargil. Secretary, CA also advised the representative of J&K Government to write a letter to Chairman, AAI in this regard at the earliest.

6. **Land availability at Jammu Airport:** Secretary, Civil Aviation advised representative of J&K Government to expedite availability of land at Jammu Airport for New Terminal Building and extension of existing runway. Secretary, CA informed the representative of J&K Government that 120 Acres of land is available at Jammu, which should be looked into and acquired at the earliest.

Decisions: The representative of J&K Government assured that the matter will be looked into by J&K Govt. at the earliest.

7. **International Flight from Srinagar:** The representative of J&K Government intimated that Air India Express flight had started earlier from Srinagar to Dubai after declaring Srinagar as International airport. But, the said flight discontinued as it was financially not feasible. At present, there is no international flight from Srinagar.

Decisions: Secretary, CA intimated the representative of J&K Government that MoCA has called for a meeting of the Airlines and the matter regarding International Flight from Srinagar will be looked into.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated Mrs. Valsa Nair Singh, Principal Secretary, Civil Aviation, the representative of Maharashtra Govt. that VAT on ATF is very high and the same needs to be reduced to 1% for commercial operations from Mumbai, Pune and other busy airports of Maharashtra.

Decisions: Mrs. Valsa Nair Singh, Principal Secretary, Civil Aviation, Govt. of Maharashtra intimated that the matter has already been taken up with Chief Secretary of the State Government and it is awaiting approval of the Cabinet Meeting. The process should be completed at the earliest after formation of New Government in Maharashtra.

2. **Removal of Chimney at Solapur:** HMoSCA intimated the representative of Maharashtra Govt. that obstacle (Chimney) at Sholapur airport has not been removed till date.

Decision: Mrs. Valsa Nair Singh, Principal Secretary, Civil Aviation, Govt. of Maharashtra informed that the obstacle (Chimney) at Sholapur will be removed at the earliest and necessary intimation will be sent to MoCA.

3. **Up-gradation of Amravati, Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri airports:** HMoSCA also intimated the representative of Maharashtra Govt. that State Govt. has not taken suitable action to up-grade Amravati, Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri airports for operation of RCS flights.
4. **Amravati Airport:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. intimated that operation of flights from Amravati has been awarded by RCS Cell, AAI under UDAN-3.0 and development work at Amravati Airport for operation of ATR-72 aircraft is in progress by Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd. (MADC) and it is likely to be completed by August, 2020. Till then, it is not possible to start flight operations from Amravati Airport. MADC has approached AAI for funds for revival of airport vide letter dated 26.04.19. The same may be expedited for timely completion of project.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI intimated the representative of Maharashtra Govt. that the matter will be examined and suitable action will be taken by AAI.

5. **Sindhudurg Airport:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. intimated that Sindhudurg Airport has been leased out by MADC to India Road Builders (IRB) and the Airport Operator has successfully conducted trial run. Development of the airport is at very advanced stage and PDC is 31.12.2019. Installation of Security Equipment and other infrastructure is in progress. Utility Services Infrastructure (Power, Water, Access Road Widening and Network Connectivity) is in progress. MHA Security Clearance has been received. Filing of Application for Aerodrome License is in progress. Routes to Mumbai have been awarded during RCS-3.1 bidding round. An early clearance from DGCA is solicited for licensing of Sindhudurg Airport.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA intimated that DGCA will be requested to take suitable action after receipt of duly completed application for issue of Aerodrome Licence for Sindhudurg Airport from Govt. of Maharashtra.

6. **Ratnagiri airports:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. intimated that Ratnagiri Airport is under Indian Coast Guard and development of necessary infrastructure is under progress. Maharashtra Govt. has requested Indian Coast Guard to grant permission for construction of Civil Enclave consisting of Terminal Building etc. Maharashtra Govt. has also identified land for construction of Terminal Building. Necessary details will be sent to MoCA in due course.
7. **Akola Airport:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. intimated that Akola (Shivani) Airport has runway length of 1400 mtrs. with small Terminal Building for 20 passengers. PAPI & NDB are installed with code 3C and it is under operational control of AAI. Maharashtra Govt. has requested AAI to handover this airport to MADC for Operation and Maintenance. The decision from AAI is awaited.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI intimated that Akola Airport is owned and operated by AAI and all necessary installations have been carried out by AAI. As such, it is not possible to handover Akola Airport to MADC for operation and maintenance at this stage.

Decision: HMoSCA advised that the statement made by Member (Ops.), AAI may be recorded and the minutes of the meeting may be put on MoCA's / AAI's website so that the decision remains in public domain for information of all concerned.

8. **New Airport at Mumbai:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. intimated that the work relating to new airport at Mumbai is being reviewed by the Chief Secretary, Maharashtra Govt. and the target date is end of 2021 by which time, the flight operations should begin from new airport at Mumbai.

9. **Lease Agreement with AAI for Nagpur Airport:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. intimated that MIHAN India Ltd, a JV of AAI & MADC is supervising the operations of Nagpur Airport. A comprehensive Lease Agreement has to be signed between both the parties on the assets owned by AAI. Lease Agreement, finalized by both parties may be expedited for the signature, independent of the status of the PPP proposal.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI intimated that both the issues, i.e. comprehensive Lease Agreement and PPP proposal have to be examined together, not one by one, in view of assets owned by AAI.

Decision: Secretary, Civil Aviation intimated that the observations made by AAI should be taken on record and Maharashtra Govt. should proceed accordingly.

10. **UDAN for LTC of Maharashtra Govt. Employees:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. requested MoCA for necessary approvals so that flights under UDAN could be used for LTC purposes by Maharashtra Govt. Employees.

Decision: Secretary, Civil Aviation intimated that it is up to the Maharashtra State Govt. to issue necessary notification for LTC purposes since it is State subject.

11. **Permission for Maharashtra Government Employees to fly under UDAN Scheme:** The representative of Maharashtra Govt. requested for necessary permission of MoCA so that flights under UDAN could be used by Maharashtra Govt. Employees.

Decision: Secretary, Civil Aviation intimated that many State Governments have already permitted their employees to fly through UDAN flights. So, it is up to the Maharashtra Govt. to issue necessary notification in this regard since it is State subject.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated Shri Tejveer Singh, Secretary, Civil Aviation, the representative of Punjab Govt. that even though Punjab Government has reduced VAT to 1% for RCS flights, however, for commercial operations from major airports like Amritsar, Chandigarh etc., VAT on ATF is being charged at 20% which is higher. HMoSCA advised that Punjab Government should reduce the VAT on ATF for commercial operations to below 4% so that financial health of airlines is sustainable. HMoSCA quoted the example of Kerala Government which has reduced the VAT to 1% on ATF for commercial operations of airlines from all the airports of the State.

2. **Removal of obstacles at Ludhiana Airport:** HMoSCA intimated the representative of Punjab Govt. that Punjab Govt. has not removed obstacles at Ludhiana airport and the same should be removed within next 30 days.

Decision: The representative of Punjab Govt. assured HMoSCA that the obstacles at Ludhiana airport will be removed at the earliest.

3. **Notification for Chandigarh under Open Sky Policy for ASEAN countries:** The representative of Punjab Govt. intimated that Chandigarh airport should be brought under open sky policy for ASEAN countries. This issue was raised by CM of Punjab with HMoSCA vide DO letter dated 26.02.2019. Total of 18 cities have been notified by MoCA including Amritsar - enabling airlines such as SCOOT Air & Air Asia for International

Flights. HMoSCA reply to CM has stated that this may not be possible at present. Punjab Govt. has requested that Chandigarh should be included in the list of cities covered under Open Sky Policy of ASEAN countries. This issue is also going on through a PIL on Chandigarh Airport.

Decision: HMoSCA informed the representative of Punjab Govt. that it is not possible at present and the reply in this regard has already been sent to Chief Minister of Punjab.

4. **Enhancement of traffic rights to hub-states i.e. Dubai, Sharjah, Qatar etc. to provide additional points of call:** The representative of Punjab Govt. intimated that certain overseas airlines operating short-haul flights from other airports to Gulf Countries may be allowed to shift one flight to Chandigarh from another airport through internal adjustment to enhance traffic rights to Dubai, Sharjah, Qatar etc.

Decision: Secretary, Civil Aviation informed the representative of Punjab Govt. that the matter is under consideration of MoCA.

5. **CAT III-B ILS at Chandigarh International Airport:** The representative of Punjab Govt. intimated that installation of CAT III-B ILS at Chandigarh International Airport is part of ongoing PIL and in-principle decision has already been taken by CHIAL and AAI. The mitigation of existing obstructions as per the Simulation Study done by AAI has to be jointly undertaken by AAI and IAF. Installation of CAT IIIB ILS is critical for landing during winter & for international airlines to commence long-haul flights to Chandigarh.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed the representative of Punjab Govt. that the matter is under consideration of AAI.

6. **Development of Cargo facilities at Chandigarh:** The representative of Punjab Govt. intimated that cargo facilities at Chandigarh and Amritsar are urgently required to tap huge potential. Agreement has been signed between CHIAL and AAICLAS for the establishment of Integrated Cargo and Perishable Cargo Centre at Chandigarh. The work has to be executed in a time-bound manner. This is also reviewed in the ongoing PIL.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed that necessary infrastructure related work to establish Integrated Cargo and Perishable Cargo Centre at Chandigarh is in progress and it should be ready by December, 2020.

7. **Development of Cargo facilities at Amritsar:** The representative of Punjab Govt. intimated that cargo complex was established at Amritsar by Punjab State Agro Export Corporation, but it is non-operational for many years with financial demands and dues. MoU was signed between Punjab State Agro Export Corporation and AAICLAS. This may be done in a time-bound manner.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed the representative of Punjab Govt. that Cargo is not allowed through Passenger Terminal due to security reasons. Separate Cargo Complex is required to be built at Amritsar.

Decision: HMoSCA informed the representative of Punjab Govt. that the matter will be discussed with AAI and MoCA to find a solution to this.

8. **Naming of Airports after Cities:** The representative of Punjab Govt. intimated that Civil Enclaves at Defence Airports should be named with City/ District e.g. Jalandhar, instead of Adampur since Adampur is not recognized easily for booking of flights even within India. A request for renaming Adampur as Jalandhar Airport has already been forwarded to MoCA for early decision.

Decision: HMoSCA informed the representative of Punjab Govt. that as per the Legislative Procedure, for naming of airports, the resolution has to be first passed by the State Government Assembly before approaching MoCA. Accordingly, Government of Punjab should pass a resolution in their Assembly in this regard and send the same to MoCA for suitable action in the matter.

9. **Starting special flights from Amritsar to destinations with Punjabi Diaspora on the occasion of 550th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji:** The representative of Punjab Govt. intimated that on the occasion of 550th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, special flights from Amritsar to destinations with Punjabi Diaspora are required so that people can visit Amritsar. CM of Punjab has already written DO letter to HMoSCA in this regard.

Decision: HMoSCA informed the representative of Punjab Govt. that additional flights are being arranged by MoCA w.e.f. 30.10.2019 so that Punjabi Diaspora can visit Amritsar.

The representative of M/s Air India intimated that Transit Facility for International Passengers to Domestic and vice-versa is not available at Amritsar airport. As such, it becomes difficult to transfer passengers from International to Domestic and vice-versa.

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated Director, Civil Aviation, the representative of Rajasthan Govt. that even though, Rajasthan Government has reduced VAT to 1% on ATF for RCS operations vide Notification dated 18.04.2017, VAT to 1% on ATF has not been reduced for commercial operations and it is being charged at very high rate. HMoSCA advised that Rajasthan Government should reduce the VAT on ATF for commercial operations to below 4% so that financial health of airlines is sustainable. This will also help to operate additional flights at various airports of Rajasthan which will give additional incentives to the State Government.

2. **Commencement of flight operations from Sri Ganganagar Airport:** The representative of Rajasthan Govt. requested that flight operations on Delhi - Sri Ganganagar - Delhi, Jaipur - Sri Ganganagar - Jaipur and Amritsar - Sri Ganganagar - Amritsar routes may be included in UDAN-4.0 bidding process. A letter from State Government has already been sent on 14.10.2019 to the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation in this regard.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA intimated to the representative of Rajasthan Govt. that flight operations on Delhi - Sri Ganganagar - Delhi, Jaipur - Sri Ganganagar - Jaipur and Amritsar - Sri Ganganagar - Amritsar are not feasible at present. Accordingly, these routes will not be considered for bidding in UDAN-4.0 round.

3. **Development of Sri Ganganagar Airport:** The representative of Rajasthan Government intimated that Rajasthan Govt. is willing to develop Sri Ganganagar airstrip and extend its existing runway from 1300 meters to 1850 meters and convert this airstrip into a full-fledged airport for regular flight operations. AAI has been requested twice to carry out site and OLS Survey and provide its report. Directions need to be issued to AAI in this regard for an early action in the matter.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed that the matter is being examined to carry out OLS Survey for development of Sri Ganganagar Airport. Suitable action will be taken by AAI after receipt of OLS Survey report.

4. **Development of Greenfield airport at Kota:** The representative of Rajasthan Government intimated that runway length of Existing Kota Airport is only 4000 ft., which restricts flight operations under RCS. A new Greenfield Airport is to be constructed in Kota. State Government has earmarked required land for this purpose. State Government has provided Meteorological Information of past 10 years and AAI has carried out pre-feasibility survey & provided its report to the State Government. Further, AAI has been requested twice to carry out Site and OLS Survey and to provide further course of action to be taken by the State Government, which is awaited. Directions need to be issued to AAI for early completion of the same. For development of Greenfield airport at Kota, 1800 Acres of land has to be acquired by the State Government and handed over to AAI for development of New Greenfield Airport.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed that letter from Rajasthan Govt. has been received by AAI and the matter is being examined to carry out OLS Survey for development of Kota Airport. Suitable action will be taken by AAI within a week and intimation will be sent to Rajasthan Govt.

5. **Up-gradation of Utterlai airport:** HMoSCA intimated Director, Civil Aviation, the representative of Rajasthan Govt. that Rajasthan Government is required to hand over 3 Acres of land to AAI for development of Civil Enclave at Utterlai Airport.

The representative of Rajasthan Government intimated that 3 Acres of land for development of Civil Enclave at Utterlai Airport has been acquired by the State Govt. and necessary intimation in this regard will be sent to MoCA and AAI within one week.

GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND:

1. **Reduction of VAT on ATF:** HMoSCA intimated the representative of Uttarakhand Govt. that even though, Uttarakhand Government has reduced VAT to 1% on ATF for RCS operations, VAT to 1% on ATF has not been reduced for commercial operations and it is being charged at very high rate. HMoSCA advised that Uttarakhand Government should reduce the VAT on ATF for commercial operations to below 4% so that financial health of airlines is sustainable. This will also help to operate additional flights at various airports of Uttarakhand which will give additional incentives to the State Government.
2. **Up-gradation of heliports at Almora, Dharchula, Haldwani, Haridwar, Joshimath, Mussoorie, Nainital, New Tehri, Pithoragarh, Ramnagar, Sahastradhara & Srinagar:** HMoSCA intimated the representative of Uttarakhand Govt. that Uttarakhand Govt. is yet to up-grade heliports at Almora, Dharchula, Haldwani, Haridwar, Joshimath, Mussoorie, Nainital, New Tehri, Pithoragarh, Ramnagar, Sahastradhara & Srinagar for operation of helicopters. HMoSCA advised for suitable action by the State Govt. in this regard at the earliest.

Decision: The representative of Uttarakhand Govt. intimated that development of heliports at 8 locations in Uttarakhand is in progress and it is expected that these heliports will be ready by March, 2020 for helicopter operations.

3. **Operation of Helipads under NSOP for RCS-UDAN flights:** The representative of Uttarakhand Govt. requested that the Helipads in Uttarakhand were developed to meet the essential and emergency services. As such, they don't meet the requirement of operations under Schedule Operators Permit (SOP) or Schedule Commuter Operations (SCOs). State Govt. has requested to grant permission for Helicopters flights under NSOP for RCS-UDAN.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA intimated to the representative of Uttarakhand Govt. that flight operations of helicopters under NSOP for RCS-UDAN is already under consideration with MoCA and necessary clearance in this regard will be sent to the State Governments very shortly.

4. **Procurement of Fire & Security Equipment by Central Govt.:** The representative of Uttarakhand Govt. intimated that State Govt. has requested for procurement of Fire & Security Equipments for Airports, Heliports and Waterdromes by the Central Govt. due to lack of resources and expertise with State Govt.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA intimated to the representative of Uttarakhand Govt. that the matter relating to procurement of Fire & Security Equipments for Airports, Heliports and Waterdromes of the State Government is under active consideration of MoCA and suitable instructions in this regard will be issued by MoCA in due course.

5. **Operation of Pithoragarh airport under RCS-UDAN:** The representative of Uttarakhand Govt. intimated that flights have started between Dehradun-Pithoragarh, Pithoragarh-Pantnagar and Pantnagar-Hindan airports under RCS-UDAN Scheme. However, there are disruptions in the flights from time to time. It is requested that the continuity of above services should be maintained. Since the passenger load is good, it is requested that higher capacity airplane should be deployed on above sectors.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA intimated to the representative of Uttarakhand Govt. that the said matter is being examined by MoCA to provide sufficient connectivity to the State Government.

6. **Expansion of Dehradun airport:** The representative of Uttarakhand Govt. intimated that State Govt. has decided in-principle to develop Jolly Grant Airport at Dehradun of International Standards. Accordingly, in-principle decision has been taken to acquire land for expansion of airport. Central Govt. is requested to nominate Financial Expert/ Technical Expert to plan and execute development of Jolly Grant airport to make it commercially viable as per International Standards.

Decision: HMoSCA informed the representative of Uttarakhand Govt. that AAI in consultation with MoCA will examine the matter and Technical Expert to develop Jolly Grant Airport to International Standards as requested by State Government will be appointed in due course of time.

7. **Operation of flights on Dehradun - Allahabad - Dehradun, Pant Nagar - Chandigarh - Pant Nagar, Pant Nagar - Kanpur - Pant Nagar:** The representative of Uttarakhand Govt. intimated that operation of flights on Dehradun - Allahabad - Dehradun, Pant Nagar - Chandigarh - Pant Nagar, Pant Nagar - Kanpur - Pant Nagar, which were awarded earlier, has not started till date.

Decision: JS (UP), MoCA intimated that flights for above sectors will be started during Winter Schedule of 2019-20 as per the intimation received from SAOs.

8. **Transfer of Pithoragarh Airport:** The representative of Uttarakhand Govt. intimated that due to limited resources of the State Govt., it is requested that Pithoragarh airport may be transferred to AAI under the control of Central Govt.

Decision: Member (Plg.), AAI informed that the matter is being examined by AAI and suitable decision will be conveyed to State Government shortly.

The VC ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair and all the participants.

Members who attended Video Conferencing held on 24.10.2019 at 1030 Hours by HMOS (IC), CA with Northern & Western State Governments on Civil Aviation related issues.

S N	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANIZATION
1.	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson	Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation	Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)
2.	Shri P S Kharola	Secretary	MoCA
3.	Ms. Vandana Aggarwal	Economic Advisor	MoCA
4.	Smt. Usha Padhee	Joint Secretary	MoCA
		CMD	PHL
5.	Mrs. Rubina Ali	Joint Secretary	MoCA
6.	Shri Angshumali Rastogi	Joint Secretary	MoCA
7.	Shri Amber Dubey	Joint Secretary	MoCA
8.	Shri Ajay Yadav	Director and PS to HMoS(I/C)CA	MoCA
9.	Smt. K. L. Sharma	Director	MoCA
10.	Shri U. K. Bhardwaj	Under Secretary	MoCA
11.	Shri Deepak Sajwan	Under Secretary	MoCA
12.	Shri S. N. Dwivedi	Consultant, RCS Cell	MoCA
13.	Shri D.C. Sharma	Deputy Director General	DGCA
14.	Shri Anuj Aggarwal	Chairman and Member (HR)	AAI
15.	Shri A. K. Pathak	Member (Planning)	AAI
16.	Shri V. K. Gulati	Member (ANS)	AAI
17.	Shri G. D. Gupta	ED (Planning)	AAI
18.	Shri Anil Gupta	ED (Land Mgmt.)	AAI
19.	Capt. Raj K. Mallik	ED, RCS	AAI
20.	Shri Pradeep Kumar	GM (RCS Cell)	AAI
21.	Smt. Sangeeta Mahay	GM (Arch.)	AAI
22.	Shri Debashish Khan	GM (Arch.)	AAI
23.	Shri Amit Kumar Jha	Section Officer	MoCA
24.	Shri Avinav Tiwari	Assistant Section Officer	MoCA
25.	Shri Rambabu Ch.	General Manager	Air India
26.	Shri Sanjay Chugh	Manager	Air India
