

Protocol of the 9th session of the Sub-Group on Cooperation in Civil Aviation of the Working Group on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation

The 9th session of the Sub-Group on Cooperation in Civil Aviation of the Working Group on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation of the India-Russia Inter- Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held on February 16-17, 2023.

The name lists of the Delegations are attached hereto as **APPENDIX I** and **APPENDIX II**.

The discussions were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere and both Delegations stressed their interest in expanding their bilateral relations in the field of civil aviation.

As a result of discussion, following understanding has been reached:

1. Code-sharing agreement

1.1 Both Sides discussed the Air Connectivity between the two nations. The Indian side noted that the Russian side vide NV dated 09.04.2019 had requested for grant of Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Pune, Visakhapatnam and Lucknow (8 points) as additional points of call to the designated airlines of Russia for exercising domestic code-share rights. The Indian side had agreed to the same subject to the condition that eight (8) additional points (over and above the existing points of call) in Russia are granted to the designated airlines of India for exercising domestic code-share rights. Accordingly, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Samara, Rostov, Ufa, Perm, Arkhangelsk and Sochi were nominated as the 8 additional points in Russia for exercising domestic code share rights vide NV dated 30.08.2019.

1.2 Subsequently, the Indian side had requested that "Kazan" may be replaced in the list of 8 cities proposed vide NV dated 30.08.2019 with "Vladivostok" as an additional point in Russia for the designated airlines of India to exercise domestic code share rights.

1.3 Both parties took note of the communications exchanged and decided that 8 additional points of call (Vladivostok, Yekaterinburg, Samara, Rostov, Ufa, Perm, Arkhangelsk and Sochi) over and above the existing points would be available to the designated airlines of India for exercising domestic code share rights. Reciprocally, 8 additional points of call (Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Pune, Visakhapatnam and Lucknow) would be available to the designated airlines of Russia for exercising domestic code share rights within India.

1.4 The Russian side proposed to modify point 2 of Appendix II of the Memorandum of understanding between the Aeronautical Authorities of the Russian Federation and the Republic of India dated 18th January 2019 as follows:

“The designated airlines of either Contracting Party may also enter into domestic code-share arrangements with the airline(s) of the other Contracting Party, between the points of call as well as between a point of call and any other point(s) in accordance with the partners’ airlines route network within the territory of the other Contracting Party, for the carriage of through international traffic, without exercising cabotage rights.”

The Indian side stated that such proposal is currently not as per existing policy of Indian Government and thus, the proposal can not be considered at present.

2. Capacity Entitlements

The Russian side proposed for increase in capacity entitlements and flexibility of operations particularly to/from Goa by removal of route restrictions. The Indian side has stated that the present operations between both of countries are about 20 per cent of the available entitlements under existing arrangements.

Both sides agreed for modification of paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Aeronautical Authorities of the Russian Federation and the Republic of India dated 18th January 2019 as follows:

“1.1 The designated airlines of Russia shall be entitled to operate sixty-four (64) frequencies per week in each direction with any type of aircraft of capacity equal or less than the capacity of a B747 aircraft, to/through the points of call in India

available to the Russian side, as follows:

Points in Russia	Points in India	Frequency (flights per week)
Any points in Russia	Delhi	17
Any points in Russia	Mumbai	18
Any points in Russia	Goa, Amritsar, Ahmedabad and Kolkata	29

1.2 The designated airlines of India shall be entitled to operate sixty-four (64) frequencies per week in each direction to/from any points in India with any type of aircraft of capacity equal or less than the capacity of a B747 aircraft, to/through the points of call in Russia available to the Indian side.

1.3 In case if the Russian airlines fully utilize the existing capacity entitlements, the Indian side will consider additional request for flights favorably.

3. Aviation Safety and Security

3.1 Both sides agreed to continue to co-operate in the field of aviation safety and continuously engage with each other in order to ensure that the operations continue to take place in a safe manner.

3.2 Both sides agreed that co-operation in the field of security needs to be continued and further strengthened. The sides also expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation between Indian and Russian security agencies so far. In view of the recent incidents of security threats on passenger flights both sides noted that it is necessary to make special efforts towards achievement of the goal of safe and secure flight operations.

4. Drone Manufacture and urban mobility

4.1 Indian side raised its interest in continuation of the discussion of issues of cooperation in Drone manufacture. The Indian side expressed interest in intensifying mutual relations between Russian companies and Indian companies in the field of drone manufacture.

4.2 Indian side raised its interest in supporting cooperation between Indian and Russian companies and expressed interest in attracting partners to implement joint projects in the field of urban mobility systems. The Indian side expressed its readiness to send a delegation in order to develop an understanding of the regulatory framework and technology available that can be used to attract partners.

4.3 The Russian side stated that this issue should be discussed between Indian side and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

5. MRO collaboration

5.1 Both sides expressed the need for setting up MRO facilities for airplanes, helicopters, and their components, engines in India.

5.2 Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) faces acute problem of delays due to local procedures in Russia related to export of aviation spares, tools or other ground equipment. As per procedures, suppliers in Russia have to obtain clearance from Ministry of Defence, Russia for export of spares each time. There are delays in re-export of repair overhaul items also as procedures applicable are same. PHL has also initiated correspondence with M/s RHC for setting up an authorized MRO centre for Russian helicopters in India. The Indian side expressed interest in intensifying mutual relations with Russian companies for continued timely support for Russian manufactured equipment.

The Russian side stated that this issue should be discussed between Indian side and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

5.3 Considering the large fleet of Russian-manufactured helicopters in the Republic of India, the Indian delegation emphasized the need for a mechanism to expedite the clearances for export of aviation spares, tools or other ground equipment. The Indian delegation also emphasized the need for an early agreement between the two companies so as to facilitate the MRO of Russian helicopters in India.

The Russian side stated that this issue should be discussed between Indian side and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

5.4 The Indian side also informed the Russian side about the ongoing strategic disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries. The strategic disinvestment of Air India has already been finalized. However the strategic disinvestment of its subsidiaries viz. AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL), an MRO company; AI Airports Services Limited (AIASL), a ground handling company; and Alliance Air, a regional domestic airline are also on the path of strategic disinvestment. The Indian side apprised in brief about the MRO related company, AIESL, about its ongoing process of strategic disinvestment, and invited the Russian side to appraise its companies for participating in acquiring such companies in India. The Russian side took note, and would inform Russian companies accordingly.

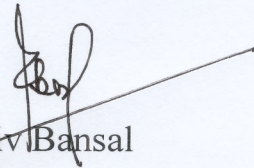
The Protocol is signed in English in two copies.

For the Russian side



Igor Chalik
Deputy Minister of Transport of the
Russian Federation

For the Indian side



Rajiv Bansal
Secretary
Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government of India

LIST
of participants of the Russian delegation for the meeting of the Sub-Group
on Cooperation in Civil Aviation under the Working Group on
Modernization and Industrial Cooperation

HEAD OF DELEGATION

MR. IGOR CHALIK
Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation

DELEGATES

MR. ALEXANDER NERADKO
Head of Federal Air Transport Agency

MR. EVGENY FIDCHUK
Aide to Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation

MS. ILLONA DEGTYARENKO
Deputy Director
Department of State Policy in Civil Aviation

MR. SERGEY VASILIEV
Deputy Head
Department of Transportation Regulation and International Cooperation
Federal Air Transport Agency

MS. KSENYA MARKACHEVA
First rank Specialist
Air Services Division
Department of State Policy in Civil Aviation
Ministry of Transport

LIST
of participants of the Indian delegation for the meeting of the Sub-Group on
Cooperation in Civil Aviation under the Working Group on Modernization
and Industrial Cooperation

S.No	Name	Designation
From the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India		
1.	Mr. Rajiv Bansal	Secretary Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation
2.	Mr. Zulfiqar Hasan	Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
3.	Mr. Satyendra Kumar Mishra	Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation
4.	Mr. Neeraj Kumar	Director (Regulations & Information), Directorate General of Civil Aviation
From the Embassy of the Republic of India to the Russian Federation		
5.	Mr. Pavan Kapoor	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Russian Federation
6.	Mrs. Gina Uika	Deputy Chief of Mission
7.	Mr. Ved Prakash Singh	First Secretary, Economic and Commercial Wing
8.	Mr. Kumar Narayanrao Ghadi	First Secretary, HAL
9.	Mr. Navodit Verma	Second Secretary, Economic and Commercial Wing
10.	Mr. Rajnish Patidar	Third Secretary, Economic and Commercial Wing