



**Seventh ATS Coordination Meeting of Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea  
and Indian Ocean Region (BOBASIO/7)  
New Delhi, India, 18 - 19 September 2017**

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**AGENDA ITEM 6: ATM Coordination (Airspace Restructuring, AIDC Implementation, AIS, ATM Contingency Plan- Level 1 and Level 2 and SAR Agreements)**

**INDIAN AVIATION SAR SYSTEM**

(Presented by India)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents an overview of the Aviation Search and Rescue System in India.

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Airports Authority of India is the Air Navigation Service Provider for the Republic of India and is responsible for the coordination of aviation SAR service and provision of other air navigation services (ANS) for over an airspace 2.8 million sq. NM, which includes 1.04 million sq. NM continental airspace and 1.76 million sq. NM oceanic airspace.

1.2 India is the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic. The latest IATA and Tourism Economics' forecast expect passenger numbers to, from and within each country to grow by just over 6% each year over the next 20 years. If realized, this will see each of the air transport markets more than treble in size by 2036.

1.3 Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for SAR policy in India for Civil Aviation.

1.4 SAR services are provided:

- i. over land areas by the National Aeronautical Search and Rescue Co-ordination Committee (NASARCC) with Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation as its Chairman, and
- ii. over oceanic areas by the National Maritime SAR Board (NMSARB) with Director General, Indian Coast Guard as its Chairman.

1.5 Airports Authority of India is responsible for establishment and provision of search and rescue services in coordination with Ministry of Defence and other agencies to ensure that assistance is rendered to persons in distress. SAR services are provided on a 24- hour basis irrespective of Nationality and State of Registry of aircraft and occupants.

1.6 The Standards and Recommended Practices contained in the Annex to the convention on International Civil Aviation are followed in India, subject to differences that may be filed from time to time. The existing differences are listed in GEN 1.7 of AIP India.

**2. DISCUSSION**

Area of Responsibility

2.1 The boundary of Indian Aeronautical SRR coincides with Indian FIR boundary, excluding the portion of FIR over the sovereign territory of Kingdom of Bhutan. The Indian SRR comprises Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai FIRs. FIR boundary co-ordinates are published in ENR 2.1 of eAIP India.

2.2 Search and rescue services are provided within the entire Indian Search and Rescue Regions. There are four Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC) established in India; one RCC each at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata airports; and one Sub-RCC at Guwahati Airport.

#### SAR Organization System

2.3 To coordinate national SAR objectives in accordance to the provisions of the international conventions, the National Aeronautical Search and Rescue Co-ordination Committee has been constituted.

2.4 National SAR Response Committee, headed by Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation, works as the working committee to National Aeronautical Search and Rescue Co-ordination Committee and is activated, as required, on receipt of information of SAR incident from RCC.

2.5 National SAR Response Committee is responsible to implement the National Aeronautical Search and Rescue Plan approved by National Aeronautical SARCC and implement policies/procedures as decided by NASARCC.

#### SAR Resources/Facilities

2.6 India has the large number of SAR specialized aircraft and vessels/ships/boats available with Indian Air Force, India Army, India Navy and Indian Coast Guard.

#### Letters of Agreement

2.7 India has an existing Letter of Arrangement with the Royal Government of Bhutan. India has been making efforts and necessary coordination with other SAR neighbours to expedite and achieve the Letters of Agreement with its SAR neighbours. There has been an appreciable progress with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh wherein the proposal for Agreement on Search and Rescue has been forwarded by the Government of India to the Government of Sri Lanka and the proposal for SAR Agreement with Bangladesh is in the advanced stage of being forwarded by India to the Government of Bangladesh. The initial draft LoA forwarded by AAI to Nepal is being processed by MOCTCA, Nepal.

#### Availability of SAR trained Manpower in RCC/RSC

2.8 The requirements for suitably trained manpower in Indian RCC/RSC has been assessed and accordingly now adequate manpower having fluency in the use of English language, are available in all the four RCC and one RSC.

#### Training & Audit

2.9 The training centre of Airports Authority of India conducts the specialized Search & Rescue Course. The Air Traffic Control Officers are sent for the SAR Course at the training Centre and after successful completion their services are also utilized in Indian RCC and other SAR matters.

2.10 DGCA audit has been conducted for all the four regions and observations made are being addressed.

#### Mutual Exchange Programmes between Aviation and Maritime Authorities

2.11 Each year two joint refresher courses are conducted, alternately by Airports Authority of India and Indian Coast Guard, with participants from Indian RCC and MRCC along with participants from training centres. Indian National Mission Control Centre is also associated to share their subject expertise.

#### Search and Rescue Exercises and Seminars

2.12 Para 4.4 of Annex 12 (Search & Rescue) requires ... *To achieve and maintain maximum efficiency in search and rescue, Contracting States shall provide for regular training of their search and rescue personnel and arrange appropriate search and rescue exercises.* India follows a well-

established programme for the conduct of search and rescue exercises – full scale, communication and coordination.

SAR Exercise Schedule until 2020

Quarter Year	Q1 (APR-JUN)	Q2 (JUL-SEP)	Q3 (OCT-DEC)	Q4 (JAN-MAR)	RCC
2017-18	COMM	COMM	COMM	<b>FULL</b>	Chennai
	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	COMM	COMM	Delhi
	COMM	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	COMM	Mumbai
	COMM	COMM	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	Kolkata
2018-19	COMM	COMM	COMM	<b>FULL</b>	Delhi
	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	COMM	COMM	Mumbai
	COMM	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	COMM	Kolkata
	COMM	COMM	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	Chennai
2019-20	COMM	COMM	COMM	<b>FULL</b>	Mumbai
	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	COMM	COMM	Kolkata
	COMM	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	COMM	Chennai
	COMM	COMM	<b>COORD</b>	COMM	Delhi
...	...	...	...	...	...
FULL - Full Scale Exercise COORD - Coordination Exercise					

2.13 The report of each exercise is prepared by the exercise conducting RCC along with the lesson learnt and is forwarded to the SAR Headquarters of AAI at New Delhi where the reports are analysed and further required action is taken. The annual full-scale exercise is preceded with a national SAR seminar on a suitable theme. Different SAR agencies like AAI, Indian Air Force, Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, INMCC, the local administration/authorities, police, health services, fire services, media, etc. participate in the exercise/seminar.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate and
- c) urge States to expeditiously sign LOAs on SAR Cooperation.

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