



सीमाशुल्ककेआयुक्तकाकार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

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Pune, 18-09-2022

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR FACILITATION OF AIRCARGO AT PUNE
AIRPORT HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2022 AT 15:00 HRS.**

As discussed in the 75th PTFC meeting held on 30th December 2021, a committee is constituted in order to discuss the development of facilities & traffic for cargo movement at Pune International Airport. The said Meeting was held on 07.04.2022 at 15:00 hrs at Customs Conference Hall (along with Video Conferencing option) under the Chairmanship of Shri Yashodhan Wange, Commissioner of Customs, Pune.

2. The following members from the Trade and Industry attended the meeting: -

| S.No. | Name of the Member | Representing | |
|-------|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Shri Santosh Dhoke, Airport Director | Airport Authority of India | |
| 2 | Shri. Sanjay Dulare, JGM(Ops) | Airport Authority of India | |
| 3 | Shri. Simant Sumon, AM(Cargo) | Airport Authority of India | |
| 4 | Shri R. K. Senapati, AD | BCAS | Joined virtually |
| 5 | Shri H P shrivastava, Vice Chairman | DCCIA | Joined virtually |
| 6 | Shri. R.D. Bhargava | MCCIA | |
| 7 | Shri.Pradeep Kale | PCHAA | |
| 8 | Shri.Vinod Sharma | PCHAA | |
| 9 | Shri.Bhagwan Singh | PCHAA | |
| 10 | Shri. Jalinder Thite | Dynamic Lo | |
| 11 | Shri. J S Bhurbhura Dy. Mgr | Air India | |
| 12 | Shri. Sachin Nalawade, International Cargo Manager | Spice Jet | |
| 13 | Shri. Fursos, International Cargo Executive | Spice Jet | |
| 14 | Shri Mohit Shrivastava | Vistara Airlines | Joined virtually |
| 15 | Shri. Ajay Keer | DHL | |
| 16 | Shri. Rohan D'souza | DHL | |
| 17 | Shri. Abhishek Dhavale | Indigo Airlines | Joined virtually |

3. Following Officers from the Department attended the meeting:

| S. No. | Name of the Officer | Designation/ Formation |
|--------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | Shri. Dhruva Seshadri | Joint Commissioner |
| 2 | Shri. Dhananjay B. Kadam | Deputy Commissioner, Pune International Airport |
| 3 | Smt. Himani Dhamija | Deputy Commissioner, Preventive |
| 4 | Smt. Sumangla Sharma | Deputy Commissioner, Technical |
| 5 | Smt. Savani Kulkarni | Superintendent Technical-III(TPSC) |

4. After self-introduction of all the participants, the meeting started. Shri Dhruva Seshadri, JC informed the members that the meeting was convened due to the need expressed (during

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75th PTFC meeting) for better facilities at Pune Airport/Air Cargo, and in the context of the latest developments ie. in-principle approval of setting up of new Air Cargo Complex and handing over of land from Ministry of Defence to Airport Authority Of India which is in process. The purpose was also to understand the roadmap for expansion, the various timelines, stages, expectations from trade and commerce, and expectations of the airlines, and to facilitate co-operation of different agencies.

5. **Briefing by Airports Authority:** Shri Santosh Dhoke, Airport Director, Airports Authority of India, briefly explained the position with regards to following: -

- They have expansion plan in two directions: -
 1. New Terminal Building, which is almost 65-70% complete and may be by December 2022 Civil & Electrical work will be over. After checking the operational issues, the commissioning will be over by February/March 2023. And all the 5 boarding bridges at the passenger side will be PBB (ie. aerobridge) equipped.
 2. Requirement of Land: He informed that the initial projected requirement was of 13 acres, which has got in-principle approval in exchange for land at Trivandrum and Chandigarh, with Ministry of Defence. However for the time being, the proposal was to get 2.5 acres land in hand, for which work can be completed within 4-6 months. He also informed that simultaneously AAI was approaching the Municipal Authorities/State government for handing over 10 acres private land for cargo truck movement. As regards expansion of the runway, he informed that hardly 200-300 meters may be possible which would also depend on permission from PMC for change in the road at Lohegaon side, and on IAF requirements as their activities should not be affected due to passenger/cargo traffic.

6. **Views of Customs Brokers:**

i. Shri Pradeep Kale, PCHAA expressed that with Pune and surrounding area being Automobile, Engineering and agricultural hub, cargo volume could easily be generated as the existing setup already had all permissions including the Customs Notification, but joint efforts were required to develop facilities at Lohegaon Airport itself. He also requested for Airline support as well as support from the various chambers of commerce/trade bodies to increase volume as well as development of current infrastructure at Pune Airport. He summarised the problems being faced viz. non-availability of parking space & cargo vehicle access road for in & out, equipment, labour and office space. He further added that the Members/Customs brokers are getting 2T of cargo for the only available Spice Jet flight currently to Dubai but there is potential to make use of more capacity if more international flights were started. He expressed the need for a cold storage facility for perishable cargo, and augmentation of scanner capacity which would scan larger items such as engineering goods. He further suggested that if domestic flights carry cargo to major International Airports, then also, they can clear cargo from Pune till that Airport for further onward movement. Apart from export if there is increase in imports then it will be more helpful for the Trade.

ii. Shri Raj Deepak Bhargava from MCCI further added that there was a potential of a large volume of cargo, to the tune of approximately 300 T of cargo every month, depending on the infrastructure provided by the AAI, whereas present cargo capacity of narrow-bodied aircraft capable of landing at Pune Airport was approx. 2.5 tonne depending upon passenger capacity.

iii. In response to the above issues, Shri Santosh Dhoke, Director AAI replied that Cold storage, scanner, car parking etc will be as per international norms for Cargo Complex. However, for the time being, mainly due to land constraints, only makeshift arrangements with

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available land were possible for the time being. He also informed that the volume of cargo would depend on Aircraft capacity.

iv. Shri Vinod Sharma, Best Agency, requested for support from Customs to export cargo from ICD Dighi through Pune Air Cargo as per the earlier practice, for which the officers informed that all possible assistance /guidance would be extended as per law.

v. Shri Vinod Sharma also sought a clarification regarding Regulatory Agent certification from BCAS, for which the Airport Director, AAI informed that their sister concern AAI-CLAS (Airports Authority of India - Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company) has applied to BCAS for RA and may receive approval shortly. Further the Airport Director, after presenting their plan/drawings, explained that even in 2.5 acres, the currently vacant hanger will be used mainly for domestic cargo operation as most of the load is domestic. Currently there are 3 screening machines and one more machine will be received. They further highlighted the area which will be used for export cargo and also proposed import cargo area when will receive import approval. He informed that when they will shift to new building, routing of cargo, parking, all operations will be from Lohegaon road side, with segregation of import and export areas. He informed that they are planning 20 cabins for shipments held up for want of paperwork/technical reasons.

7. i. **Views of DHL:** Shri Rohan D'Souza (DHL) informed that DHL handles about 60% load for the region, and that their top 20 customers of India are from Pune, majority being for electronic components being manufacturing hub of the region. He added that presently their export is through ICD Dighi via Mumbai Air Cargo, as they don't have an option for movement from Pune to Delhi or Bangalore where their international Freight planes land. He also suggested in terms of infrastructure a small room in case shipment needs further checking by Customs and a big X-ray machine for NCY which is a big screener required for massive of volume of 200 KG. Currently they are trying with GoAir for upliftment from Goa to Dubai. To a query by Commissioner Sir, Shri D'Souza also informed that DHL did not have narrow body aircraft for Asia-pacific region. But he mentioned that if current infrastructure, forklift, stacker, manpower is improved, they could split some of the load from Pune for export through base airports such as Delhi or Bengaluru, considering the faster transit time and warehousing space available. He also expressed the apprehension that there would be a shortage of space for storage of any offloaded cargo in Pune. He also informed that DHL does not handle perishable cargo.

ii. In response, the AAI officers informed that for the time being, only sectors like Middle-east, Singapore, Bangkok, Colombo can be covered as only narrow body flights can operate from the airport. They also confirmed that, under present circumstances, space shortage for offloaded cargo would arise, both on air side and city side, as the prime focus would be on passenger facilitation.

8. Preparedness of airlines:

i. To a query from Commissioner Sir, the officials from Spicejet replied that presently they are operating only one flight daily to Dubai with approximately 1.5T perishable cargo and no additional flight will be operated by them.

ii. As regards Air India Flight, Shri Dulare informed that AAI have DGCA approval for thrice-a-week slot, but has not yet started operation in the summer schedule. He also informed that AAI is allotted 204 slots and presently they are handling 70 to 75 arrivals and departures slots and they have 20 to 25 slots still open, and that if IAF allows then they can increase the slot operation upto 300 flights. He also informed that at present, the entire air side is being utilised, and once the proposed 13 acres are made available, then aircraft can also be parked.

iii. To a specific query regarding their preparedness for international operations, the Air India representative replied that they have approval for alternate day operation but had not yet started such operations after the pandemic.

iv. Shri Abhishek from Indigo Airlines informed that they are planning connectivity to Doha, which was pending DGCA approval, and that approximately 1T per flight (mainly

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perishable cargo) can be sent.

9. **ICD Dighi:** Regarding ICD Dighi, the Joint Commissioner informed that from Customs point of view the ICD Dighi has its own independent location code INDIG-6 and transfer is already happening to Mumbai Air Cargo complex with different ICES site code and the same would also be possible through Pune Airport subject to necessary compliance.

10. **Views from Trade:**

i. Shri H. P. Shrivastava, Vice President, BCCI expressed his satisfaction that additional land would be acquired by AAI so that the Airport can be developed into a reasonably sized Airport handling Air cargo.

11. **Conclusion:** Concluding the meeting, the Commissioner of Customs summarised that there is significant potential of cargo from Pune, especially with the prospect of additional space being acquired by AAI, but its success depends on effective co-ordination among various agencies. He reiterated the commitment of the Customs department to facilitate the cargo movement from Pune. He also requested airlines and other stakeholders to keep updating the forum with regard to their future plans, in order to be able to anticipate and address potential operational challenges. He also proposed that the forum could meet every two months, and requested the participating organisations to also suggest any other agencies to be added/invited for future meetings.

13. Dr. Dhananjay Kadam, DC, Pune International Airport/Air Cargo proposed the vote of thanks.

14. This issues with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs, Pune.

(Pratul Tiwary)

Additional Commissioner (Tech)
Customs, Pune

Copy to:

1. The Chief Commissioner, Customs and CGST, Pune Zone.
2. All Members of the Airport Cargo Complex Committee.
3. Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune.
4. Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune.
5. Deputy Commissioner of Customs, ICD-Dighi.
6. Deputy / Asstt. Commissioner of Customs, Pune Airport / Air Cargo Complex.
7. Notice Board / Website / EDI Section, Customs, Pune.