



AGRI & ALL TRADE CHAMBER

வேளாண்மை மற்றும் அனைத்து தொழில் வர்த்தக சங்கம்

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05.04.2025

To

Shri Narendra Modi ji,
Honourable Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Respected Prime Minister Modi ji,

Sub: Inclusion of Madurai as one of the additional point of tourism city along with 18 points already offered to ASEAN, enabling their Carriers to introduce direct flights to Madurai without BASA agreement - requested.

1. **BI-LATERAL AIRPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT (BASA) NOT NECESSARY FOR DIRECT FLIGHTS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES. PLEASE EXTEND THIS BENEFIT TO MADURAI AIRPORT.**

ASEAN Open Skies Policy, also known as the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM), came into force on 1st January, 2015. ASEAN - India Air Connectivity Report observed that Air Services could facilitate larger number of tourists between India and 10 ASEAN Countries Viz., **Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.** To promote tourism, ASAM called for new routes to facilitate operation of more flights particularly connecting Tier II or Tier III cities of India. **The new routes may be negotiated with ASEAN under the BASA or through the ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement without any restriction as to the frequency or aircrafts and without being subject to any commercial agreement. Please extend this benefit to Madurai Airport.**

2. **VERY MUCH SHOCKING.**

In response to ASAM call, India has offered 18 additional points of tourism in our country viz., Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Cochin, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Patna, Port Blair, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam. **In this list, it is very**

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much shocking that Madurai, the prominent tourism city of India, with world famous Sree Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and having connectivity to other pilgrimage and tourism centres like Rameswaram, Dhanushkodi, Kanyakumari, Courtallam, Kodaikanal Hills, etc, etc., was not included, whereas several less important tourism centres were included. Most of the cities included have absolutely no potential to have international connectivity with any of the ASEAN Countries. Further it is pertinent to note that Khajuraho has only a domestic Airport.

3. MADURAI AIRPORT HAS MISSED A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

The list of Points of Call as on 07.03.2023, released by Civil Aviation Department, copy enclosed, includes these 18 cities as Points of Calls with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam mostly without BASA agreement. **Had Madurai been included in the list of 18 tourism points, Madurai Airport would have direct flights from most of these Countries, by this time, operated by their own Carriers. We feel that Madurai Airport has missed a golden opportunity to be a Point of Call with all ASEAN Countries at one stroke without any BASA Agreement and South Tamilnadu has missed a great opportunity for industrialisation.**

4. CANCELLATION OF MADURAI - SINGAPORE FLIGHT (IX - 684) FROM SUMMER SCHEDULE IS ANOTHER SHOCKING NEWS.

Air India Express introduced Madurai - Singapore non-stop flights with much funfair on 11th September, 2017, as 3 X weekly flight and gradually increased the frequency to a daily flight due to excellent patronage. It was operated as a night flight, departing 23:30 hrs. from Madurai Airport, which was a much convenient timing.

After a long break due to Covid pandemic, Air India Express restarted this Madurai - Singapore flight in April, 2022, a 2 X weekly flight but in an odd day timing of 01:30 p.m. It managed to do better due to passengers support and the flight was gradually made a 4 X weekly and to a daily in 2024. **Now the shocking news is Air-India Express has cancelled this Madurai-Singapore flight service from summer schedule, for no valid reason, in order to direct this aircraft to some other route. If insufficient patronage was the real reason, they ought to have resumed the old night timing especially under the situation Madurai Airport is functioning 24 X 7 hours from 1st October, 2024. Madurai has been deprived of Singapore connectivity for no fault of the people of South Tamilnadu.**

5. **MADURAI AIRPORT IS BEING NEGLECTED WITH STEP MOTHERLY TREATMENT AND WE DOUBT A NEGATIVE FORCE BEHIND IT.**

It is pertinent to note that Madurai Airport is maintaining the top position among the 11 Customs Airports in India in handling International passengers. In the month of January, 2025 Madurai Airport handled 20,273 passengers with only 3 international destinations. With these statistics only we pleaded for upgradation of Madurai Airport as International Airport. Our demand will lose its force once the Madurai-Singapore flight is withdrawn. **By watching all these happenings, we bonafide feel that the development of Madurai Airport, which is very important for the economic and industrial growth of Southern Tamilnadu, is being neglected with a step-motherly treatment. We have got a strong doubt that some negative force is behind it.**

6. **WHY WE SHOULD SUFFER FOR WANT OF AIRCRAFTS? PLEASE OPEN UP INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN FLIGHT SERVICES ALSO.**

Including Air-India Express, all the airliners operating in our Country are in private sector. In the absence of international competition, with limited aircrafts, they are fixing exorbitant fares fleecing the passengers especially from south. Why Civil Aviation Ministry should adopt a protective policy for them from facing international competition, while all other trade and industrial sectors are handling the said challenge. The export of Agri products, processed value-added agro foods, precision medical equipments and auto parts from South Tamilnadu and ethnic, leisure, pilgrimage and medical tourism in this region are very much affected. **Why we should suffer for want of required aircrafts with our domestic airliners? Please open up the international competition in flight services also and let them look after their financial viability.**

7. **OUR REPRESENTATION TO OUR PRIME MINISTER.**

We humbly request you, Sir, to take Immediate steps to **add Madurai as an Additional Point of Tourism along with 18 points already offered to ASEAN**, enabling at least the ASEAN Countries to introduce direct flight to Madurai Airport immediately without waiting for BASA agreement. We humbly request our beloved Prime Minister Shri Modi ji.

With Regards,



(S.Rethinavelu)
President.

Encl.: List of Points of Call as on 07.03.2023.

✓ **Copy To:**

Shri Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu,
Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India.

DETAILS OF POINTS OF CALL (AS ON 07.03.2023)

	Country	Points of Call for foreign carriers	Points of Call for Indian carriers
1	Afghanistan	ATQ, DEL	Kabul, Kandahar
2	Algeria	BOM or DEL	Algiers
3	Armenia	DEL or CCU, ATQ	Yerevan or 1 pt
4	Australia	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	SYD, MEL, BNE, PER, 2 more pts* (* - ADL specified)
5	Austria	DEL, BOM, ATQ	Vienna, 1 addl pt of choice
6	Azerbaijan	Any 3 pts	Any 3 pts
7	Bahrain	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, TRV, COK, BLR, HYD, CCI, GOI	BAH
8	Bangladesh	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU, HYD, BLR + 18 pts*	DAC, Chittagong, Sylhet + any pt in Bangladesh from 18 pts
9	Barbados	BOM, DEL	Bridgetown, 1 pt
10	Belarus	Del or any other pt of choice	Minsk or any other pt of choice
11	Belgium	BOM, DEL, MAA, BLR	BRU, Any other pt
12	Bhutan	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU, HYD, BLR, IXB + 18 pts*	Any points
13	Bosnia & Herzegovina	To be agreed	To be agreed
14	Botswana	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU, HYD, BLR	Any pt.
15	Brazil	Any pt	Any Pt
16	Brunei	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU + 18 Pts*(+ BLR and HYD in ICAN 17)	Bandar Seri Begawan From 18 IND Pts :Any pt in Brunei
17	Bulgaria	CCU,BLR,BOM,MAA, DEL	Sofia
18	Cambodia	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR+ 18 pts*	any pts in Cambodia + any pt in Cambodia fm 18 pts
19	Canada	DEL, BOM, BLR, CCU, MAA, HYD	Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, Vancouver, 2 pts (Calgary, Ottawa)
20	Chile	Any pt	Any Pt
21	China	Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad Domestic code sharing allowed to these 6 points of call and an additional 3 points viz. AMD, GOI, COK	Shanghai, Guangzhou, Beijing, Kunming, Hangzhou, Qingdao Domestic code sharing allowed to these 6 points of call and an additional 3 points viz. Wenzhou, Shenyang, Guiyang
22	Croatia	DEL or BOM	Zagreb or Dubrovnik
23	Cyprus	1 pt	Pts to be specified
24	Czech Republic	Any 3 pts(Route1)+ BOM,DEL,CCU,MAA,BLR,HYD(Route 2)	Any pts
25	Denmark, Norway, Sweden	BOM, DEL, 1 pt out of CCU, MAA, HYD	In Denmark - Copenhagen In Norway - Oslo In Sweden - Stockholm
26	Djibouti	To be agreed	To be agreed
27	Egypt	BOM, DEL, 1 pt to be agreed	CAI, 1 pt of choice, 1 pt to be agreed
28	Ethiopia	BOM, DEL, BLR, MAA, HYD	ADD
29	Fiji	DEL, BOM, MAA	Any Pt
30	Finland	DEL, BOM or GOI(Route 1) + BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD (Route 2)	Helsinki, 1 pt to be specified (Route 1) + any pts (Route 2)
31	France	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, HYD, BLR	PAR, Lyon, Nice, Epinal
32	Georgia	DEL	Tbilisi
33	Germany	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD, GOI, COK, PNQ	Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Dusseldorf, Stuttgart, Hamburg + Nuremberg + Hannover
34	Ghana	BOM or CCU	Accra
35	Greece	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion and 3 pts. to be specified.
36	Guyana	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Any Points
37	Hong kong	DEL, BOM, CCU, BLR, MAA, HYD	HKG
38	Hungary	BOM	Budapest
39	Iceland	Any 2 pts	Any 2 pts
40	Indonesia	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU + 18 Pts*	Jakarta, Medan, Denpasar, Surabaya
41	Iran	BOM, DEL, COK, ATQ, AMD, HYD	Teheran, Bandar Abbas, Any 2 addl pts

42	Iraq	BOM, DEL, HYD, AMD	Baghdad, Basra, Al Najaf, any 1 pt
43	Ireland	Any 2 pts	Any 2 pts
44	Israel	Any Pts (because of entts, appear to be any 2 pts. Also, ops to 2nd pt only after ops of 7 freq to 1 pt)	Any point(s)
45	Italy	BOM, DEL, 2 pts (BLR, COK) Dom. Pt. for codeshare: Amritsar, Chennai, Kolkata, Udaipur	Rome, Milan, 2 pts (Venice, Bologna) Dom. Pt. for codeshare: Naples, Florence, Turin and Verona
46	Jamaica	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Any pts
47	Japan	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU, HYD, BLR + any 4 pts (codeshare)	Naha, Osaka, TYO, 5 pts
48	Jordan	BOM, DEL, CCU, ATQ	Amman, Aqaba
49	Kazakhstan	BOM, DEL, CCU, GOI	Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Shymkent
50	Kenya	BOM, DEL, AMD, HYD	NBO, 1 addlpt to be specified
51	Kuwait	BOM, DEL, TRV, MAA, COK, AMD, HYD, CCU, BLR	Kuwait
52	Kyrgyzstan	DEL, ATQ	Bishkek
53	Lao PDR	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA + 18 dest.	Any pts.
54	Latvia	DEL	Riga
55	Lebanon	BOM	Beirut
56	Lesotho	BOM	Maseru
57	Lithuania	DEL	Vilnius
58	Luxembourg	DEL	Luxembourg
59	Macau	1 pt	Macau
60	Madagascar	BOM	Antananarivo
61	Malaysia	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD + 18 pts*	KUL, PEN, Langkawi, Johor Bahru (Senai), Kota Kinabalu, Kuching + any pts in Malaysia from 18 pts in IND
62	Maldives	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU, HYD, BLR + 18 pts*	Any points
63	Malta	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Any pts.
64	Mauritius	BOM, DEL, MAA, BLR	MRU
65	Mexico	Any pt	Any Pt
66	Mongolia	DEL	Ulaanbaatar
67	Morocco	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Casablanca, Rabat, Marakech, Agadir, Tangier, Fez
68	Mozambique	To be agreed	To be agreed
69	Myanmar	CCU, DEL, MAA, BOM + 18 pts*	Yangon, Mandalay, Any 2 points of choice supporting intl ops + any point from 18 points in India
70	Nepal	DEL, BOM, MAA, CCU, HYD, BLR, Bagdogra, Dehradun and Gorakhpur + 18 pts.*	Kathmandu, Pokhara, Gautam Buddha (Bhairahawi), Biratnagar, Nepalganj, Janakpur, Dhangadhi + Any point in Nepal from 21 points
71	Netherlands	DEL, CCU, BOM, BLR, HYD, MAA	Any points
72	New Zealand	BOM	Auckland
73	Nigeria	BOM	LOS
74	Oman	BOM, DEL, MAA, HYD, COK, TRV, LKO, JAI, BLR, CCJ, GOI	MCT, SLL
75	Pakistan	BOM, DEL, MAA	Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad
76	Philippines	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA	Manila & 3 other pts to be selected by India
77	Poland	BOM, DEL, CCU	Warsaw, Gdansk
78	Portugal	BOM, GOI	Lisbon, Porto
79	Qatar	BOM, CCU, TRV, HYD, COK, DEL, MAA, AMD, NAG, CCJ, GOI, ATQ, BLR	Doha
80	Rep. of Korea	BOM, DEL, MAA, BLR	Seoul, Pusan
81	Romania	DEL, CCU (DEL available only if there are ops to CCU also)	Bucharest
82	Russia	DEL, BOM, CCU, GOI, ATQ, AMD	Moscow, St. Petersburg + 4 pts
83	Rwanda	BOM, DEL	Kigali, another pt to be specified
84	Saudi Arabia	BOM, DEL, MAA, COK, HYD, BLR, CCJ, LKO	JED, RUH, DMM, MED
85	Senegal	BOM, DEL	Dakar & a 2nd pt to be specified
86	Serbia	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Any pt.
87	Seychelles	BOM	Mahe
88	Singapore	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, TRV, COK, HYD, BLR, CJB + 18 pts*	SIN

89	Slovak Republic	DEL, CCU, ATQ	Bratislava, Kosice
90	Slovenia	New Delhi	Ljubljana
91	South Africa	BOM, DEL, TRV + 3 pts (which are MAA, BLR, HYD)	JNB, DUR, CPT + 3 pts to be specified
92	Spain	BOM, DEL, BLR (Route 1); BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD (Route 2)	Madrid, Barcelona (Route 1), Bilbao* and five points of choice (route 2) *Bilbao has been specified vide NV No.AC/202/11(65)/99 dated 14 th Sept 2017
93	Sri Lanka	DEL, BOM, MAA, CCU, HYD, BLR, CJB & IXM + 18 pts*	Any points
94	Switzerland	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, HYD, BLR, GOI	Any points
95	Syria	BOM, DEL	Damascus
96	Taiwan	BOM, DEL	Taipei, Kaohsiung
97	Tajikistan	DEL	Dushanbe
98	Tanzania	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro and three addl. Points to be specified later
99	Thailand	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, Guwahati, GAY, VNS, HYD + 18 pts*	Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket (+ Krabi, Samui and U-Tapao - in ICAN 17)
100	Trinidad and Tobago	Any 2 pts	Any 2 pts
101	Tunisia	BOM, DEL	Tunis & a 2nd pt to be specified
102	Turkey	BOM, DEL	Istanbul, Ankara
103	Turkmenistan	DEL, ATQ, AMD, COK	Ashgabat
104 (i)	UAE -Abu Dhabi	BOM, DEL, TRV, COK, MAA, CCJ, JAI, CCU, HYD, BLR, AMD	Abu Dhabi, Al-Ain
104 (ii)	UAE -Dubai	BOM, DEL, MAA, CCU, COK, HYD, TRV, BLR, AMD, CCJ, LKO, IXC, GOI, CJB	DXB
104(iii)	UAE -Ras-al-Khaimah	Any 1 pt out of COK, TRV, CCJ	RKT
104(iv)	UAE -Sharjah	BOM, NAG, COK, JAI, TRV, MAA, AMD, BLR, CJB, DEL, CCJ, HYD, GOI	SHJ
105	Uganda	BOM	Entebbe
106	Ukraine	DEL, ATQ (Can operate to ATQ after ops of 7 freq to DEL)	Kiev
107	United Kingdom	Any pts	Any pts
108	USA	Any pt	Any Pt
109	Uzbekistan	DEL, ATQ, GOI, BOM and MAA	Tashkent, Samarakand, Bukhara
110	Vietnam	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA + 18 pts*	Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, ThuaThien Hue, HaiPhong, Dien Bien, Lam Dong, Nhatrang, Can Tho, PhuQuoc
111	Yemen	BOM, COK	Aden, San'aa
112	Zambia	BOM, DEL, CCU, MAA, BLR, HYD	Lusaka, Livingstone, Ndola and three addl. Pts. to be designated later
113	Zimbabwe	BOM, DEL	Harare, Victoria Falls and Bulawayo

ASEAN Countries - Designated carriers of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos have access for unlimited operation to/from 18 tourist destination in India.

SAARC Countries (except Afghanistan and Pakistan) - Designated carriers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka have for unlimited operation to/from 18 tourist destination in India.

***18 destinations**

Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhubneshwar, Calicut, Cochin, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Patna, Port Blair, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchi, Varanasi, Vishakapatnam.