



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

A42-WP/283

EX/122

29/7/25

Revision No.1

29/8/25

ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 18: Capacity Development and Implementation Support – Policy and Activities

INDIA'S PERSPECTIVE ON AVIATION COURSES FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

(Presented by India)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents India's strategic perspective and national initiatives on aviation skill development and capacity building, with a focus on structured aviation education and training programs. India emphasizes the growing demand for aviation professionals across all disciplines, driven by exponential air traffic growth, and advocates for regional and global collaboration to scale up quality aviation training under ICAO initiative of 'No Country Left Behind.'

India proposes to:

- encourage global cooperation on harmonized aviation curricula for aviation/non-aviation professionals;
- support ICAO in developing frameworks for regional centers of excellence;
- facilitate Member State investment in aviation training and scholarship programs; and
- promote innovation in aviation skill delivery through digital and hybrid platforms.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- support digital aviation education infrastructure globally;
- expand TRAINAIR PLUS membership and capacity for developing nations;
- standardize the Curriculum for Aviation Courses Globally;
- bridging the gap between Course Curriculum and Job Opportunity;
- facilitate credit portability frameworks across ICAO States;
- mobilize funding and scholarship schemes for skill development; and
- data-sharing: Member States should maintain a national digital annexure of aviation training entities to ease candidate mobility and quality oversight.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to all Strategic Goals.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	

<i>References:</i>	ICAO's Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) strategy TRAINAIR PLUS programme Assembly resolution A39-29 on NGAP Doc 9082, <i>ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services</i> Doc 9562, <i>Airport Economics Manual</i> Doc 9161, <i>Manual on Air Navigation Services Economics</i>
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 India is experiencing one of the fastest rates of growth in civil aviation globally, with a projected requirement for over 1 million aviation professionals (pilots, engineers, ATCOs, ground handlers, etc.) over the next two decades. In response, India has developed a diverse and growing ecosystem of aviation training institutions and academic programs.

1.2 In alignment with ICAO's Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) strategy and TRAINAIR PLUS principles, India has launched multiple national initiatives, while also encouraging public-private partnerships, international collaborations, and adoption of new technologies for effective learning.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Structured Approach to Aviation Education in India:

- a) **Diverse Academic Pathways:** India offers a wide range of aviation-related degree, diploma, certification, and licensing programs, covering operational, technical, management, and safety domains. These include undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in aviation and aerospace management, aircraft maintenance, and pilot training (CPL/ATPL);
- b) **National Skill Framework Alignment:** Aviation skill programs are aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), ensuring consistency in competency development across levels; and
- c) **Innovative Training Delivery:** India encourages blended learning, simulation-based training, and digital courses, including emerging fields like drone operations, AI in aviation, and cyber-security.

2.2 Key Institutions and Infrastructure: India's aviation education is supported by:

- a) **Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University** – India's first dedicated civil aviation university;
- b) **Indira Gandhi Institute of Aviation Technology** – a center for pilot and AME training;
- c) **Indira Gandhi Institute of Aviation Technology** – a center for pilot and AME training;
- d) **Flying Training Organizations (FTOs)** – over 35 DGCA-approved institutions; and
- e) **Private universities and aviation academies** offering IATA/ICAO-aligned programs.

2.3 National Capacity-Building Programs: India's initiatives for aviation workforce development include:

- a) **Skill India Mission and NSDC Collaboration:** Supports standardized curriculum, certification, and industry partnerships;
- b) **Drone Pilot and UAS Training Programs:** Conducted through certified RPTOs, contributing to new-age skills and compliance with ICAO UTM/UAS policies; and
- c) **Air Logistics and Cargo Programs:** Developed in collaboration with IIMs and logistics bodies to address supply chain and cargo management.

2.4 **Despite robust growth, India notes challenges such as:**

- a) Training affordability for students from remote or underserved areas;
- b) Need for harmonization of licensing and credit recognition globally; and
- c) Expanding training access in non-metro and regional areas.

3. **CONCLUSION**

3.1 India reiterates its commitment to investing in aviation human capital and invites ICAO and Member States to collaborate in building a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready aviation workforce.

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