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Following supplement is issued for information, guidance and necessary action.

**sd/-**  
**विपिन कुमार**  
**VIPIN KUMAR**  
**अध्यक्ष/CHAIRMAN**  
**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

**[EFFECTIVE DATE: 06 AUG 2026]**

### **GEN 3.6 - SEARCH AND RESCUE**

The contents of GEN 3.6 in eAIP India are updated and issued through this AIP Supplement.

The text of the amendment is arranged to show deleted text with a line through it and new text highlighted with grey shading, as shown below:

1.	<del>Text to be deleted is shown with a line through it.</del>	Text to be deleted
2.	New text to be inserted is highlighted with yellow shading.	New text to be inserted
3.	<del>Text to be deleted is shown with a line through it</del> Followed by the replacement text which is highlighted with yellow shading	New text to replace existing text

## **GEN 3.6 - SEARCH AND RESCUE**

### **1 Responsible Authority**

**1.1** The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, is responsible for SAR policy in India for Civil Aviation.

Ministry of Civil Aviation

Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan

Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi -110003.

Website: [www.civilaviation.gov.in](http://www.civilaviation.gov.in)

**1.2** SAR services are provided:

i) over land areas by the National Aeronautical Search and Rescue Coordination Committee (NASARCC) with the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation as its Chairman, and

ii) over oceanic areas by the National Maritime SAR Board (NMSARB) with the Director General, Indian Coast Guard as its Chairman.

**1.3** The Airports Authority of India is responsible for establishing and providing search and rescue services on a 24-hour basis, in coordination with the Ministry of Defence and other agencies, to ensure that assistance is rendered to persons in distress.

**1.4** Queries on SAR for civil aviation, including matters arising from this section of the AIP, should be addressed in the first instance to the following:

**The Chairman**

**Airports Authority of India**

**Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport**

**New Delhi -110003.**

**Tel: +91-11-24632930, +91-11-20818201**

**Fax: +91-11-20818210**

**AFS: VIDDYXAC**

**Email: [chairman@aai.aero](mailto:chairman@aai.aero)**

**Website: [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero)**

**1.5 Applicable Documents**

**1.5.1 DGCA Documents:**

**- CIVIL AVIATION REQUIREMENTS (CAR) SECTION 9 AIRSPACE AND AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERIES S, PART I.**

## **1.5.2 Other National SAR Documents:**

- **National Aeronautical Search and Rescue (NASAR) Manual.**

- **National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Manual.**

## **1.5.3 Applicable ICAO Documents:**

- Annex 12 – Search and Rescue.
- Annex 13 – Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation.
- DOC 7030 - Regional Supplementary Procedures for Alerting and Search and Rescue services applicable in the PAC Region.
- DOC 9731 (Vol I, II and III) - International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual.
- Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan.

The Standards and Recommended Practices contained in the Annexes 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 Area of Responsibility**

### **2.1 Indian Search and Rescue Region (SRR)**

The boundary of the Indian Aeronautical SRR coincides with the Indian FIR boundary, excluding the portion of the FIR over the sovereign territory of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The Indian SRR comprises Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai FIRs. FIR boundary coordinates are published in ENR 2.1 of eAIP India. Charts depicting the areas of responsibility are shown after GEN 3.6 Para 7.

## **3 Types of Service**

**3.1** Search and Rescue services are provided within the entire Indian Search and Rescue Region. There are four Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC) and one Rescue Subcentre (RSC) established in India as described below. RCCs and RSC are manned on a 24-hour basis by trained personnel.

### 3.1.1 Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) – Chennai

Name	Rescue Coordination Centre - Chennai
Postal Address	Rescue Coordination Centre, Office of the General Manager (ATM), Airports Authority of India, ATS Complex, Chennai Airport, Chennai, PIN-600027, INDIA.
Telephone	<b><u>RCC:</u></b> +91-44-22560700 +91-44-22561511 +91-44-22567105 (EPABX) +91-9884406729 (Mobile) +91-8991117569 (SATPHONE) <b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b> +91-44-22560894 +91-44-22567111 (EPABX) +91-9514074449 (Mobile) +91 8991117568 (SATPHONE)
FAX	<b><u>RCC:</u></b> +91-44-22560700 <b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b> +91-44-22561365
Email	<b><u>RCC:</u></b> rcc_chennai@aai.aero <b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b> vommm.wso@aai.aero
AFS	VOMMYCYX (RCC) VOMFZQZX (Watch Supervisory Officer)
Area of Responsibility <b>(SRR)</b>	Chennai FIR (VOMF)

### 3.1.2 Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) – Delhi

Name	Rescue Coordination Centre - Delhi
Postal Address	Rescue Coordination Centre, A-001, ACC Building, Ground Floor, DATS Complex, I.G.I Airport, New Delhi, PIN-110037, INDIA.

Telephone	<p><b><u>RCC:</u></b>  +91-11-25654061  +91-11-25653481  +91-11-28704210  +91-11-25653551 (EPABX), Extn. – 1013  +91-9582604196 (Mobile)  +91-8991117574 (SATCOM)</p> <p><b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b>  +91-11-25653283  +91-9873233050  +91-9968679958 (Mobile)  +91-11-25653551 (EPABX), Extn. – 1311</p>
FAX	+91-11-25653284 (Watch Supervisory Officer)
Email	<p><b><u>RCC:</u></b>  rccdelhi@aai.aero</p> <p><b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b>  wsoigidelhi@aai.aero</p>
AFS	VIDPYCYX (RCC) VIDFZQZX (Watch Supervisory Officer)
Area of Responsibility <b>(SRR)</b>	Delhi FIR (VIDF)

### 3.1.3 Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) – Mumbai

Name	Rescue Coordination Centre - Mumbai
Postal Address	Rescue Coordination Centre, Office of The General Manager (ATM), New ATS Complex, Room No. 111(B), CSMI Airport, Surat Pakadi Road, Andheri East, Mumbai, PIN-400099, INDIA.
Telephone	<p><b><u>RCC:</u></b>  +91-22-20889985  +91-22-26819421  +91-22-26828114  +91-22-26817400 (EPABX) Extn: -9526  +91-9443191984 (Mobile)  +91-8991117564 (SATPHONE)</p>

	<p><b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b>  +91 22 20888088  +91-22-26819332  +91-22-26817400 (EPABX) Extn: -9449  +91 9869062250 (Mobile)</p>
FAX	+91-22-20889985 (RCC) +91-22-26828066 (Watch Supervisory Officer)
Email	<p><b><u>RCC:</u></b>  rccmumbai@aai.aero</p> <p><b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b>  vabb.wso@aai.aero</p>
AFS	VABBYCYX (RCC) VABFZQZX (Watch Supervisory Officer)
Area of Responsibility <b>(SRR)</b>	Mumbai FIR (VABF)

### 3.1.4 **Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) – Kolkata**

Name	Rescue Coordination Centre - Kolkata
Postal Address	Rescue Coordination Centre, Office of the General Manager (ATM), Airports Authority of India, Room No: 603, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, ATS Building, NSCBI Airport, Kolkata, PIN-700052, INDIA.
Telephone	<p><b><u>RCC:</u></b>  +91-33-25113279  +91-33-25130218  +91-33-25119600 (EPABX), Extn. – 2565  +91-9433138544 (Mobile)  +91-8991117567 (SATPHONE)</p> <p><b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b>  +91-33-25119520  +91-33-25111445  +91-33- 25119600 (EPABX), Extn. - 2404  +91-9831479366 (Mobile)  +91-8991117566 (SATPHONE-ACC)</p>
FAX	+91-33-25130218 (RCC) +91-33-25130134 (Watch Supervisory Officer)

Email	<b><u>RCC:</u></b> rcckolkata@aai.aero <b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b> vecc.wso@aai.aero
AFS	VECCYCYX (RCC) VECFZQZX (Watch Supervisory Officer)
Area of Responsibility <b>(SRR)</b>	Kolkata FIR (VECF), excluding the portion of FIR over the sovereign territory of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

### 3.1.5 **Rescue Subcentre (RSC) – Guwahati**

Name	Rescue Subcentre - Guwahati
Parent RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre - Kolkata
Postal Address	Rescue Subcentre, Office of the ATS-In-Charge, <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Floor, ATS Complex, LGBI Airport, Guwahati, Assam, PIN-781015, INDIA.
Telephone	<b><u>RSC:</u></b> +91-361-2840010 +91-361-2840111 +91-361-2842254 +91-361- <b>2801120</b> (EPABX), Extn. 1189 <b>+91-8811092101 (Mobile)</b> +91-8991117559 (SATPHONE) <b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b> +91-361-2841146 +91-361- <b>2840085</b> +91-361- <b>2801120</b> (EPABX), Extn. <b>2727</b> +91-9435049601 (Mobile)
FAX	+91-361-2840110 (RCC) +91-361-2840188 (Watch Supervisory Officer)
Email	<b><u>RSC:</u></b> rsc.vegt@aai.aero <b><u>Watch Supervisory Officer:</u></b> vegt.wso@aai.aero
AFS	VEGTYCYX (RSC) VEGFZQZX (Watch Supervisory Officer)

Area of Responsibility <b>(SRR)</b>	Guwahati Sub-FIR (VEGF) excluding the portion over the sovereign territory of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
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### 3.2 Alerting Posts:

3.2.1 All controlled aerodromes in India have been designated as Alerting Posts. Information about the location, postal & telegraphic addresses and contact details of aerodromes is published in section AD 2 of the respective aerodrome in eAIP India.

3.2.2 Government departments such as Post and Telegraph offices, Railway Stations, Police Stations, Telephone Exchanges, Banks, etc., also act as Alerting Posts during accidents.

### 3.3 SAR Resource Agencies

3.3.1 SAR units and SAR assistance are provided primarily by the Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Indian Coast Guard provides maritime and aeronautical search and rescue services over oceanic areas and high seas.

3.3.2 Various departments of the Central and State Governments such as Police and District Collectors/Magistrates, Municipal and Local bodies, Railways, Post & Telegraph, Forest Department, All India Radio (Prasar Bharati), Private TV and Radio channels, Airline operators, Flying Clubs, Professional Pilots, Mercantile Marine and Port Trust, can provide assistance and resources for search and rescue operations when required.

### 3.4 Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue

3.4.1 India is a participating member in the SARSAT-COSPAS programme which is a satellite-based search and rescue (SAR) distress alert detection and information distribution system. It operates on 406 MHz frequency. The location accuracy is normally within 5 Km. The system will detect transmissions on this frequency throughout the Indian Search and Rescue Region (SRR) and also the SRR of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tanzania.

3.4.2 Under this programme, the Local User Terminals (LUT) have been established in Bengaluru and Lucknow. Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC) at Bengaluru is responsible for coordinating with Rescue Coordination Centres, Rescue Subcentres, and other International Mission Control Centres. INMCC at Bengaluru is connected with RCCs at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and RSC at Guwahati through the

Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS) network and any distress alert received for the areas covered is automatically transmitted to the concerned RCC.

#### **4 SAR Agreements**

- 4.1 India has a SAR Arrangement with the Royal Government of Bhutan.
- 4.2 India can seek SAR assistance from adjoining RCCs of other nations under the bilateral agreement.
- 4.3 For the purpose of SAR, the authorities of other States, who wish their SAR units to enter the territory of India, shall transmit a request, giving full details of the projected mission and the need for it, to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The postal address, fax number and e-mail address of DGCA are as follows:

**The Director General of Civil Aviation**

**Aurobindo Marg, Opp. Safdarjung Airport**

**New Delhi 110003, India**

**Telephone: 91-11-24627830**

**Fax: 91-11-24652760**

**AFS: VIDDYAYG**

**Email: at1.dgca@gov.in**

**Website: www.dgca.gov.in**

#### **5 Conditions of Availability:**

The SAR services are provided on an H24 basis irrespective of the state of registry of aircraft or nationality of occupants. SAR operations are coordinated by Airports Authority of India with Ministry of Defence and other resource agencies through RCCs and RSC, manned by trained SAR personnel.

#### **6 Procedures and signals used:**

##### **6.1 Procedures and signals used by aircraft:**

6.1.1 Procedures for pilot-in-command ~~observing an accident~~ intercepting a distress message are outlined in ~~ICAO Annex 12, Chapter 5,~~ **para 5.7 of DGCA CAR SECTION 9 AIRSPACE AND AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERIES S, PART I.**

6.1.2 ~~Ditching report requested by aircraft about to ditch, is given in accordance with the provision in ICAO DOC 7605 MET/526 (the procedures for Air Navigation Services and Meteorology).~~

## 6.2 Communications:

6.2.1 Transmission and reception of distress messages within the Indian search and rescue region are handled in accordance with ICAO Annex 10, Volume II, Chapter 5 **para 5 of CIVIL AVIATION REQUIREMENTS (CAR) SECTION 9 AIRSPACE AND AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERIES 'D', PART III.**

6.2.2 For communications during SAR operations, the codes and abbreviations published in the ICAO Code and Abbreviations (Doc 8400) are used.

6.2.3 Information about the position, call sign, frequencies and hours of operation of Indian aeronautical stations is published in section AD 2 of the respective aerodrome in eAIP India.

6.2.4 VHF emergency frequency 121.5 MHz is guarded continuously at all Area Control Centres (ACC) and Flight Information Centres (FIC) during their hours of operation. Other aeronautical stations equipped with 121.5 MHz will guard this frequency on request or when the situation demands.

6.2.4.1 VHF aeronautical on-scene frequency for SAR 123.1 MHz and HF on-scene frequencies for SAR 3023 KHz and 5680 KHz are guarded by Flight Information Centres (FIC) / RCCs on a 24-hour basis.

6.2.5 Rescue aircraft belonging to permanent SAR units use the call sign ZIGZAG. If more than one aircraft is engaged in SAR duties, a serial number is added to the basic call sign ZIGZAG.



## 6.3 SAR Signals:

6.3.1 The SAR signals to be used are those prescribed in Annex 12, Chapter 5, para 5.8 **para 5.8 of DGCA CAR SECTION 9 AIRSPACE AND AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERIES S, PART I.**

### 6.3.2 Ground-to-Air Visual Signal Codes for Use by Survivors:

No.	Message	Code Symbol
1	Require assistance	∨
2	Require medical assistance	×
3	No or Negative	N
4	Yes or Affirmative	Y
5	Proceeding in this direction	↑

### 6.3.3 Ground-to-Air Visual Signal Code for Use by Rescue Units:

No.	Message	Code Symbol
1	Operation completed	LLL
2	We have found all personnel	<u>LL</u>
3	We have found only some personnel	++
4	We are not able to continue. Returning to base	XX
5	Have divided into two groups. Each proceeding in direction indicated	
6.	Information received that the aircraft is in this direction.	
7.	Nothing found. Will continue to search.	NN

### 6.3.4 Instructions for Use:

1.	Symbols shall be at least 2.5 metres (8 feet) long and shall be made as conspicuous as possible.
2.	Symbols may be formed by any means such as strips of fabric, parachute material, pieces of wood, stones or such like material; marking the surface by tramping or staining with oil.
3.	Attention to the above signals may be attracted by other means such as radio, flares, smoke and reflected light.
4.	Take care to lay out signals as shown above.

### 6.3.5 Air to Ground Signals:

The following signals by aircraft mean that the ground signals have been understood:

- a) During the hours of daylight: by rocking the aircraft's wings
- b) During the hours of darkness: By flashing on and off the aircraft's landing lights TWICE or, if not so equipped, by switching on and off its navigational lights TWICE.

The lack of the above signals indicates that the ground signal is not understood.

## **7 Forced Landing:**

- 7.1 When an aircraft is reported or when it is known to have forced landed the RCC/RSC will immediately take action to notify all those who could usefully assist in the SAR operations and will coordinate their actions.
- 7.2 To enable the RCC to act promptly, it would require information as soon as an aircraft is in distress. While there may not be any difficulty in obtaining such information through the Air Traffic Services in respect of aircraft equipped with suitable two-way communication facilities, certain difficulties may arise in respect of aircraft not having such facilities. The RCC will then have to depend entirely on the information it may receive of the forced landing, either from the pilot or from other sources such as Army units, Police outposts, Railways or District authorities.
- 7.3 When the pilot, who made a forced landing, reports the occurrence or requests assistance, he should give precise information with regard to the position of the aircraft. This position should be reported as true bearing and distance from the nearest railway station/prominent landmark, with further reference to geographical coordinates or any other local points of reference. Reference to the name of the village may not be sufficient, since many villages are not marked on the 1: 1 million scale map.
- 7.4 Pilots are reminded that, after a forced landing away from an aerodrome, the aircraft will probably be surrounded by an inquisitive crowd, the majority of whom may have never seen an aeroplane at such close quarters. The pilot should therefore obtain assistance from the nearest police station for guarding the aircraft.
- 7.5 When the aircraft is to be flown out, every possible precaution must be taken to keep the path clear before taxing and when opening up for take-off. The direction in which the aircraft will move and the danger of obstruction in its path must be clearly explained to all the onlookers. A responsible person should be selected from the crowd to keep the people under control.

## **8 Ditching:**

- 8.1 Ditching assistance to an aircraft shall be provided as per the provisions of the NASAR manual and the NMSAR manual.