



**Embassy of India
Abu Dhabi**

Press Release – Standard Operating Procedures(SOPs) for Chartered Flights

The Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General of India, Dubai have worked assiduously to repatriate Indians stranded in the UAE due to Covid-19 situation under Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) since May 7, 2020. By June 20, 2020 more than 60,000 people had been repatriated in these flights through Air India and chartered flights of other airlines. For the past three weeks chartered flights have been carrying Indian passengers from the UAE to India and more than 200 chartered flights have been facilitated by the Embassy and the Consulate under the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Government of India.

2. For flights from June 25, 2020 onwards a new SOP has been put in place by the Government of India for chartered flights from the UAE and some other countries. Under the new SOP the following steps will be required to be followed for chartering a flight from the UAE to India for repatriation:
 - a. Chartering entities should identify an Air Transport Operator (ATO) on their own.
 - b. ATOs should send to the receiving State (where the destination airport is located) their flight plans, State clearance forms and passenger manifests directly, with a copy to the Embassy/Consulate. While the Embassy/Consulate will vet the passenger manifest, the ATO simultaneously should directly proceed to get State Clearance for the flight in writing.
 - c. Once the state clearance is in hand, the ATO should take a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the manifest from the Embassy/Consulate.
 - d. With the state clearance and NOC from the Embassy/Consulate, the ATO should approach the DGCA for flight clearance.
 - e. States and ATOs should manage the flight schedule, frequency etc. with regard to all arriving passengers. They should also coordinate with each other where chartered flights have mixed domicile passengers.
 - f. Where required, chartering entities should finalize quarantine arrangements with the States directly.

The contact list of State Coordinators who will be the points of contact for ATOs (both Indian and foreign) has been shared with the ATOs who, now onwards, can work out the schedule of their chartered flights with them. Proposals which have already been submitted and processed are being conveyed to the ATOs. The charterers may check with ATOs, if their proposals have been processed. New requests need not be placed for those flights which have already been processed.

The Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General of India, Dubai will provide full assistance in this transition phase for operating chartered flights under Covid-19 situation.

The Embassy of India and the Consulate would like to thank the UAE authorities for their continuing wholehearted support in this process of repatriation of Indian nationals.
