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Date: 26th Feb, 2023

To,
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot
Honourable Governor of Karnataka
Raj Bhavan Rd, opp. DRDO,
Ambedkar Veedhi,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001

Sub: Regarding the airline services from Belagavi

Respected Sir,

Sir, as you are aware, the city of Belagavi has rightfully gained prominence as the 2nd capital of Karnataka with the establishment of the Survarna Soudha which hosts the winter session of the Legislative Assembly every year. The city is home to top industrial entities especially in the foundry, hydraulics and aerospace sector and is the second highest foreign exchange earner in Karnataka. Belagavi has 3 universities namely Visvesvarayya Technological University, Rani Chennamma University and KLE University and has emerged as a hub for quality education. The healthcare setups in the region also attract a significant number of people from across the country. Efficient airline connectivity would do a world of good both for the development of the region and the transit of people at large.

I would like to draw your attention to the issues faced by people on account of the reduction in the number of flights to and from IXG- Belagavi Airport, Sambra.

Sir, the Belagavi Airport built in 1942 by the Royal Airforce, is the 3rd oldest in Karnataka. It has been functional off and on since independence despite the constant demand for consistent air connectivity with other cities. The airport significantly benefitted from the UDAN Scheme in Phase III when it was allotted 13 routes. At its peak, it saw as many as 32 flights a day (16 arrivals and 16 departures) and this sometimes even touched 40 flights. It stood second to the state after Bengaluru in terms on the number of flights with all major airlines including Spicejet, Alliance Air, Truejet, Indigo and Star Air providing services. The total movements for the recent years are as follows:

Year	Aircraft Movement	Passenger Movement
2019-2020	5738	2,76,308
2020-2021	5980	2,52,551
2021-2022	6468	2,80,242
2022-2023 (Upto Dec 2022)	4522	2,46,573

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As soon as the term for the UDAAN scheme ended, a majority of the airlines withdrew their services despite that fact that all flights continued to garner a healthy occupancy. The major routes that have closed down include New Delhi, Mumbai and Pune; routes which have always been in demand from the local population and industry and which had a consistent occupancy all through since their inception.

At present INDIGO is the only consistent operator for Belagavi Airport. Star Air also continues to run a few flights including two to Bengaluru. Presently, the total number of flights at Sambra Airport is around 14 to 16 which is a significant decline and an issue that merits urgent attention.

I request you to kindly take up the matter with the Ministry of Civil Aviation in an attempt to restore the connectivity to and from Belagavi Airport.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Prabhakar B. Kore)

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