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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
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Member of Standing Committee on Finance
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

7th September, 2018

Dear

Suresh Prabhuji

Sub: Celebration of National Aviation Day

The colossal growth, modernization, technology-intensification and commitment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) over the past several years has been praiseworthy. Keeping pace with the demands of contemporary advancements, the IAF continues to modernize in a phased manner and today, it stands as a credible air power and is counted amongst the foremost professional services in the world.

Being an aviation buff, I have a keen interest in the developments that have consistently refined the Aviation Sector. I am writing to you to propose to your Hon'ble Ministry, to allocate a specific day for the Celebration of National Aviation Day. As you may be aware, April 15th marks the birthday of the Padma Vibhushan awardee, IAF Marshal Arjan Singh, DFC. For his distinguished service in commanding the IAF during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan and in 1966 became the first IAF officer to be promoted to air chief marshal. In 2002, he became the first and only officer of the Indian Air Force to be promoted to five-star rank as Marshal of the Indian Air Force. This day becomes a popular and a suitable choice for celebrating and commemorating the heritage and success of the Indian Aviation Industry in the form of National Aviation Day.

The first contemporary record of aviation in India is the first balloon ascent from Lal Bagh gardens in Mumbai on 24th September 1877. Ever since its first tryst with the airplane in 1910, India has taken grand strides in military aviation, air reconnaissance and even the world's first aerial post. From those humble beginnings to just over a century ago, India is now poised to become the third largest aviation market in the world. Whilst the civil aviation industry in India has emerged as one of the fastest growing industries in the country during the last three years, the industry is still largely untapped.



National Aviation Day would be India's celebration of excellence in aviation; an occasion to recognize our air prowess and its stature in the global aviation industry. It would also be an occasion to celebrate the countless men and women who work round the clock to ensure the safety, strength and success of the Indian Aviation Industry. It would also honor the pioneers who opened the skies as a way to connect people and move goods safely and quickly within our large nation and around the world.

Offering Indians an opportunity to witness and engage with the vibrant industry, the National Aviation Day would also encourage our youth to pursue careers in Indian Aviation and its allied industries. UN has earmarked December 7 as the International Civil Aviation Day to raise awareness of the importance of international civil aviation. Many countries like the USA, Spain, Israel, Korea, Norway, Germany are few such countries that celebrate National Aviation Day to celebrate the history and development of aviation in their respective countries.

Given the significant contributions of aviation in India, we must promote the growth, accessibility and contributions of this sector. I, therefore, urge you to designate April 15th as Indian National Aviation Day, to celebrate the meaningful engagement of the aviation industry in India with millions of Indian Citizens and commemorate the heritage and celebrate the success of the Indian Aviation Industry.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Sh. Suresh Prabhu

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Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Defence Minister, New Delhi