



Pakistan Violating Freedom of Air

Why in News

Recently, India has launched a direct flight between **Srinagar and Sharjah (UAE)** operated by budget airline **GoFirst (formerly known as GoAir)**. The flight was to operate through Pakistani airspace.

- However, the flight was **denied permission to enter Pakistan** and the flight had to take a longer route to reach the destination.
- This has raised the concern of **Pakistan violating the first freedom of the air**.

Key Points

▪ Freedom of Air:

- The freedom of air means a country grants airlines of a particular country the **privilege to use and/or land in another country's airspace**.
- Freedom of air rule emanates from the **Chicago Convention** in 1944.
- The signatories to the convention decided to set rules that would act as fundamental building blocks to **international commercial aviation**.
- The convention provides **Nine freedoms of air**, but only the **first five freedoms** have been officially recognized by the [International Civil Aviation Organisation \(ICAO\)](#).

- **First Freedom Right:** It is granted by one State to another State or States to fly across its territory without landing.

- In the case of the GoFirst flight (Indian carrier) was using the airspace of Pakistan (the second country) and was landing in the UAE (the third country).

- **Second Freedom Right:** The right or privilege, in respect of scheduled international air services, granted by one State to another State or States to land in its territory for non-traffic purposes.

- This means an **Air India flight from New Delhi to New York can land at a British airport to get refuelled** without embarking or disembarking passengers.

- **Third Freedom Right:** To put down, in the territory of the first State, traffic coming from the home State of the carrier.

- **Fourth Freedom Right:** To take on, in the territory of the first State, traffic destined for the home State of the carrier.

- **Fifth Freedom Right:** To put down and to take on, in the territory of the first State, traffic coming from or destined to a third State.

▪ India's Options:

- Pakistan's denial of airspace is arbitrary and against the principles laid down by the Chicago convention.

- Earlier also, there are several such instances where Pakistan has denied access to

- its airspace.
- India can take up this issue with the **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)**.

International Civil Aviation Organisation

- It is a **United Nations (UN)** specialized agency, **established in 1944**, which laid the foundation for the **standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation**.
 - The **Convention on International Civil Aviation** was signed on 7th December 1944 in Chicago.
 - It **established the core principles permitting international transport by air**, and also led to the creation of the ICAO.
- One of its **objectives is to foster the planning and development of international air** transport so as to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world.
 - **India is among its 193 members.**
- It is **headquartered in Montreal, Canada.**

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