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The Department of Civil Aviation welcomes the first ever scheduled Indian Airlines flight to Dubai

The Department of Civil Aviation welcomed the first ever scheduled Indian Airlines flight to Dubai International Airport. IC 951 from Hyderabad was welcomed by Mr Khalifa Al Zaffin, Director Engineering, DCA and other high ranking officials from the Department of Civil Aviation. Mr V.P. Arora, Deputy Managing Director of Indian Airlines, leading a delegation of around 37 people, was on board the inaugural flight. The delegation included media personnel and officials from Indian Airlines.

Indian Airlines will begin their Dubai operations with three flights a week to Hyderabad. So far Indian Airlines has four flights out of Dubai in joint venture with Air India and operates under AI flight numbers.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Department of Civil Aviation and Chairman of Emirates, commented: "The Department of Civil Aviation welcomes the

inaugural Indian Airlines flight. We look forward to them adding more destinations from Dubai to India.

"With the opening of the state-of-the-art Sheikh Rashid Terminal, passenger movement has shown phenomenal growth. As a result, today Dubai is the aviation hub of the region. Since we actively pursue an open skies policy more airlines are beginning flying in to Dubai. We expect 14 million passengers in 2001 and this figure is expected to go up to 30 million by 2010. By then we will have Terminal 3 and Concourse 2 and we aim to provide an even higher quality of service and facility."

Currently 95 airlines operate out of Dubai International Airport, linking to over 137 destinations. More new airlines are expected to come in soon.