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## **USTDA DIRECTOR CONGRATULATES INDIAN PARTNERS ON IMPROVED AVIATION SAFETY RATING**

NEW DELHI, India – Today, U.S. Trade and Development Agency Director Leocadia I. Zak joined U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx in commending Indian aviation officials on being granted a Category 1 rating under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program. This <u>announcement</u> follows India's successful compliance with international safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

"I am delighted to echo the Secretary's congratulations in India's re-attainment of Category 1 status," said Director Zak during a meeting with Secretary Foxx and India's Minister of Civil Aviation, Ashok Gajapathi Raju. "Over the past year, I have been impressed with the tremendous commitment from the Ministry, as well as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, to achieving progress on this important effort. I believe that the Government of India's progress in strengthening its safety oversight framework will support further growth in India's rapidly expanding aviation market and deepen economic ties between our countries."

During her time in New Delhi, Director Zak reaffirmed the Agency's long-standing relationship with India's civil aviation sector, which has been bolstered by the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP). The ACP helps connect U.S. expertise and technologies to priority aviation projects in India, which is expected to become one of the top three worldwide aviation markets by 2020.

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions while creating sustainable infrastructure and economic growth in partner countries.