

AAI gears up for brighter future

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the mainstay organisation of the Indian Civil Aviation sector. AAI has been working towards building a brighter future for air cargo and under the guidance and vision of **V P AGRAWAL, Chairman, AAI**, it is poised to reach greater heights. Agrawal speaks to **FARHANA NUMAN** about AAI's new plans and projects.

structure to facilitate the common man in India. Government of India has plans for development of over 100 airports in the country connecting tier-II and tier-III cities. AAI teams are already doing the feasibility studies for the projects to be taken up over a period of time. Development of civil aviation infrastructure is not only capital intensive but its gestation period is also quite long. Therefore, the public participation would be welcome. I once again, reiterate that AAI is committed to development of civil aviation infrastructure in India to minimise the travel distances between every nook and corner of the country.

ment of cargo facilities at its airports are: -

Automation in cargo handling:

AAI has been taking pro-active actions in view of the growth of cargo and creating infrastructure ahead of the requirement for smooth and speedy clearance of cargo thereby ensuring usage of air cargo terminal as a transit facility and not a warehouse. In order to enhance annual handling capacity of the existing cargo terminals, vertical space utilisation is being made use of by installing automated storage and retrieval system (AS&RS) for import cargo and elevated transfer vehicle (ETV) for export cargo.



You have been awarded the “Excellence in Development of Airport Infrastructure in India” recently at Today’s Traveler Awards. How do you feel about it? What are your new plans as far as infrastructure is concerned?

The award establishes that the organisation has served the Nation in right spirit. I, as head of such a prestigious organisation, feel pride and am humbled to serve further the cause of development of Civil Aviation in the country.

India, being a vast country, has large potential for growth of civil aviation infra-

With the situation looking up, how is AAI gearing up? What are your specific plans to improve the cargo facilities at Indian airports?

The air cargo segment of the aviation industry is one of the most important links in the country's economic growth which is growing at a moderate pace. AAI is already in the process of creating excellent cargo handling facilities at its airports across the country. AAI has already increased the capacity of its airports by simplifying the processes and implementation of EDI, which has eased the paper work and has speed up transactions.

Major plans of AAI in respect of improve-

Augmentation of handling capacity:

The annual handling capacity of Chennai Airport has been increased to 1102373 MTs per annum with the creation of Phase III of New International Cargo Terminal. As regards other AAI managed airports, the available annual capacity is underutilised. Keeping in view the slow rate of growth of cargo, the existing capacities are adequate to cater to the handling requirement till 2020.

Air cargo community system for single window cargo clearance:

AAI has already implemented EDI system for clearance of air cargo in export

and import at Chennai and Kolkata Airports. MOCA and Ministry of Commerce & Industries has mandated AAI to install air cargo community system for single window cargo clearance. There has been demand to have air cargo community system to link all community partners i.e. airlines, banks, cargo custodians, CHAs and break bulk agents etc.

Development of cargo freight city:

With the globalisation and present trend of international marketing vis-à-vis boom in the IT Industry, it is expected that international cargo traffic would increase tremendously in India, especially at metro airports. The quantum of cargo increased may not cater to accommodate the tonnage of cargo growing rapidly in years to come at the scarce airport land alone. Off Airport facilities like air cargo village/air freight stations facilities in the smooth cargo handling at cargo terminal(s), which acts as transit facility since the cargo is unutilised/X-rayed and brought under Customs escort for upliftment at the air cargo complex thereby avoiding undue strain at the airport land. Such facilities have witnessed boost to the level of economic activity with the trade as being the focal point. The concept of known shipper and regulated agents has been successfully managed at cargo village/AFS. It may be pertinent to mention that air freight station (AFS) and inland container depot (ICD) have already been operationalised at Chennai in 2011.

Setting up a Custom free zone:

FTZs benefit the trade, particularly trans-shipment and re-exporting operations. Such a concept can be employed to promote an airport as a logistics center, allowing for services to be provide for such trans-shipment/re-export cargo, while providing for free movement of goods within the free zone.

Cargo hub development:

A cargo hub is a concept which means the setting up of a centralised transit point in a selected airport in the region to act as a distribution center for collection, sorting and onward delivery of air trans-shipment cargo. An approach towards airport cargo hub is meant to deliver significant boost to the trade and economy through:

- Opening up of new markets through increased connectivity
 - Employment generation opportunities
 - Improvements in logistics and distribution infrastructure
- Taking advantage of the geographical

location, AAI proposes to create cargo hubs in the country. A committee has been formed to work out the modalities for expeditious establishment of the cargo hub.

Development of common user domestic cargo terminal:

Since metro airports have congestion due to paucity of the area, it is required to develop common user domestic cargo terminals. Presently, AAI has provided space to individual airlines to handle their domestic cargo operations. These facilities do not have airside connectivity and do not meet the security requirement of BCAS guidelines. Further, redundant old passenger terminal buildings are lying unused. This infrastructure can be converted into common user domestic cargo terminals by having minor modifications. In all, 24 airports have been identified by AAI for undertaking domestic cargo operations.

How would the ongoing modernisation work at airports help enhance cargo carrying capacity?

The international cargo, as per statistics available with AAI, will grow at an average growth rate of 13.7 per cent till 2019-20. Accordingly, based on these projections, the amount of cargo being handled at Chennai Airport will be 927502 MTs per annum in 2020. With the recent commissioning of phase III of New International Cargo Terminal, the annual handling capacity of international cargo at Chennai Airport has gone up to 1102723 MTs per annum which is sufficient till 2020. Similarly, cargo terminal at Kolkata Airport, as against available capacity of 303293 MTs per annum, utilisation of handling capacity is 43980 MTs per annum which, as per the projections will be sufficient till 2020 when the cargo is likely to grow 102507 MTs per annum.

What are your air cargo targets for 2014-15, domestic as well as international?

The airports across the country handled 2190.55 thousand metric tonnes (International-1406.33 and Domestic – 784.22) of air cargo during the year 2012-13. The air cargo is projected to grow at five per cent for international as well as domestic sector, and expected to be 1550.48 and 864.60 thousand metric tonnes respectively for the year 2014-15.

Please specify projects completed and projects in progress

Over a period of time, AAI has developed about 60 airports with new terminal buildings and modern passenger amenities. Some of the recently completed projects are:-

- i) Integrated Terminal Building at NSCBI Airport, Kolkata.
- ii) New International & Domestic Terminals and up-gradation of air-side facilities at Chennai Airport.
- iii) New Integrated Term. Building at Raipur Airport.
- iv) Construction of New Term. Building at Puducherry Airport.
- v) New Integrated Term. Building at Lucknow Airport.
- vi) Development of Jalgaon Airport.
- vii) Construction of Term. Building for New Civil Enclave at Bhatinda Airport.
- viii) Construction of New Term. Building for New Civil Enclave at Jaisalmer Airport.
- ix) Construction of New Control Tower and Doppler Radar Building at Agartalla Airport.
- x) Construction of New Term. Building at Bhuvanewar Airport.

Projects in progress:

- i) Construction Of New Term. Building at Dabolin Airport.
- ii) Construction of New Term. Building at Tirupati Airport.
- iii) Construction of New Term. Building Tezu Airport.
- iv) Construction of New Term. Building at Vadodara Airport.
- v) Construction of New Term. Building at Chandigarh Airport.
- vi) Construction Of New Term. Building at Pakyong Airport.
- vii) Construction of New Term. Building at Kadappa Airport.
- viii) Construction of New Term. Building at Khajurao Airport.
- ix) Development of Hubli Airport to cater Code-C type of aircraft operations.
- x) Development of Belgaum Airport to cater Code-D type of aircraft operations.
- xi) Construction of New Term. Building at Vijaywada Airport.
- xii) Construction of New Term. Building at Agartala Airport.
- xiii) Construction of New Domestic Term. Building at Guwahati Airport.
- xiv) Construction of New Domestic Term. Building at Jorhat Airport.
- xv) Construction of New Term. Building at Itanagar Airport.
- xvi) Construction of New Term. Building at Jharsuguda Airport. [CC](#)

AAI pioneers cargo-friendly airports

- Safe and secure cargo at cargo terminals
- First in paperless transaction for cargo operation through web-based EDI mode



- Automation / Mechanisation of cargo handling activities at AAI managed airports.
- Augmentation of Infrastructure at Chennai & Kolkata airport with state-of-the-art handling equipment.
- Appointment of Ground Handling Agency to improve service levels.
- Commencement of cargo operations at Port Blair & Trichy airport.
- Implementation of EDI under Customs ICES 1.5 version at Chennai & Kolkata Air Cargo Terminals.
- Steps initiated towards e-Banking /e-payment facility.
- Plan to introduce Air Cargo Community System.
- Domestic air cargo terminals, proposed and under active consideration of AAI for operationalisation at Aurangabad, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Chennai, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Mangalore, Madurai, Pune, Ranchi, Raipur, Srinagar, Trivandrum, Varanasi & Vizag.
- Benchmarking parameters for Cargo operation vide Citizen Charter of AAI.



Airports Authority of India

Committed to develop and manage Hi-Tech Air Cargo Terminals in India

Customer satisfaction is the core of our business

www.airportsindia.org.in | www.aai.aero

CARGO CONNECT

Connecting Cargo Professionals

info@surecommedia.in

VOL IV ISSUE XII NOVEMBER 2013 ₹ 20



Moving Modes:
Growth of intermodal
transportation

Pharma growth drives
investment in cargo facility

Gateway to India:
A look at airport development

Towards development:
The next chapter in air cargo

Silk route to India: Growing trade with international airlines