

Airports Authority of India

AAI sets a new benchmark in its commitment to reduce carbon footprint

Press Release

New Delhi, 08th January, 2020 : Airports Authority of India (AAI) being the sole Air Navigation Service (ANS) provider and operator of Airports across the country is consistently endeavouring with all required programmes and SOPs to meet the commitment for reduction of carbon emissions and sustainable development by implementing cost effective carbon mitigation action to conserve environment and reduce adverse impact on society, community and ecosystem, thus contributing to national sustainable development goals.

Airports Council International (ACI), a non-profit organization representing the world's airports has announced that four AAI airports – **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata; Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar; Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi and Trivandrum International Airport** have met all the necessary requirements to upgrade to Level 2: “REDUCTION” by constituting Carbon Management Plan and reducing the carbon emissions at airports as per the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Programme.

In line with national as well as global climate change initiatives, AAI has initiated carbon management program at four of these airports with an objective of ensuring sustainable development of aviation industry. Airport can participate at 04 progressively level of accreditation – Level 1: Mapping, Level 2: Reduction, Level 3: Optimisation, Level 3+: Neutrality. Carbon mapping occurs when the airport has policy commitment to emissions reduction and development of a Carbon Footprint for the airport's scope-1 & scope-2 emissions, which are under its control. Carbon reduction occurs when the airport shows the reduction in carbon emissions as compared to base year. AAI had achieved Level-1 accreditation during December, 2018 for these four airports and has upgraded now to next level of accreditation i.e. Level 2: Reduction.

Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme has been developed and launched by Airport Council International (ACI). It is the voluntary Global Carbon Management Standard for Airports. The aim of airport accreditation is to encourage and enable airports to implement best practices in carbon management, with the ultimate objective of becoming carbon neutral. Airport Carbon Accreditation is developed in line with GHG Protocol and ISO 14064 principles.

Achievement of accreditation for carbon reduction is indeed recognition of a great team work. With this achievement, AAI has set up new benchmark towards fulfilment of environment obligations by reducing carbon footprint. Going forward AAI is focusing on energy conservation and exploring alternative solutions for generating green energy.

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Note to Editor

Airport Council International (ACI)

Airports Council International (ACI) is the only global trade representative of the world's airports. Established in 1991, ACI represents airports interests with Governments and international organizations such as ICAO, develops standards, policies and recommended practices for airports, and provides information and training opportunities to raise standards around the world.

Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Programme

Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme has been developed and launched by Airport Council International (ACI), a non-profit organization representing the world's airports. ACA programme is the voluntary Global Carbon Management Standard for Airports. The aim of Airport Carbon Accreditation is to encourage and enable airports to implement best practices in carbon management, with the ultimate objective of becoming carbon neutral. Accreditation provides the opportunity for airports to gain public recognition for their achievements, promotes efficiency improvements, encourages knowledge transfer, raises an airport's profile & credibility, encourages standardisation, and increases awareness and specialization.

Airports can participate at four progressively stringent levels of accreditation: Level 1: Mapping; Level 2: Reduction; Level 3: Optimisation; and Level 3+: Neutrality. Accredited airports receive a certificate from ACI indicating the level they have achieved. The main requirements at each level of accreditation are presented below:

Level 1: Mapping

- Policy commitment to emissions reduction.
- Development of a carbon footprint for the airport's scope 1 and 2 emissions.



Level 2: Reduction

- Fulfillment of all level 1 accreditation requirements.
- Formulation of a carbon emissions reduction target.
- Development of a Carbon Management Plan to achieve the target.
- Demonstration of scope 1 and 2 emissions reductions.



Level 3: Optimisation

- Fulfillment of all level 2 accreditation requirements.
- Additional carbon footprint to include specific scope 3 emissions.
- Development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.



Level 3+: Neutrality

- Fulfillment of all level 3 accreditation requirements.
- Offset of residual emissions under the airport's control.



Implementation of ACA Programme at Airports Authority of India (AAI)
Airports

Airports Authority of India (AAI) being the sole Air Navigation Service (ANS) provider and operator of Airports across the country is consistently honouring Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and is committed for reduction of carbon emissions and sustainable development by implementing cost effective carbon mitigation action to conserve environment and reduce adverse impact on society, community and ecosystem, thus contributing to national sustainable development goals.

In line with national as well as global climate change initiatives, AAI has initiated Airport Carbon Accreditation programme at its 04 airports - Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Trivandrum and Varanasi Airport. AAI had achieved the Accreditation of Level 1: Mapping, by instituting an “Environment Policy” and Mapping of Carbon footprints at its 04 airports during December 2018.

The “Environment Policy” of AAI is a representation of AAI Top Management’s commitment to fulfill environment obligation by reducing carbon footprints and improvement in energy efficiency, maximizing the usages of green and renewable energy resources, implementing / adopting best air traffic management facilities, practices and procedures and also to sensitize all employees and stakeholders towards reduction of carbon emissions.

AAI has now achieved upgradation to next level of accreditation i.e. Level 2: Reduction by formulation of a carbon emissions reduction target, Development of a Carbon Management Plan to achieve the target and Demonstration of scope 1 and 2 emissions reductions.

AAI has set the target in reduction in direct GHG emission (Scope 1 & 2) @ 5% per PAX per year over base year 2015 benchmark value and 75% reduction in direct GHG emission by 2030 over the base year 2015. The target would be further reviewed during the renewal of Carbon Management Plan. The reduction achieved at these four airports is appended below: -

Kolkata Airport

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total GHG Emission (t CO ₂ e)	63,401	61,118	57,138	46,277
PAX	12170837	14875212	18882179	21663463
Emission per PAX (kgCO ₂ e/PAX)	5.20	4.10	3.02	2.10

Bhubaneswar Airport

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total GHG Emission (t CO ₂ e)	5,070	5,852	6,468	6,399
PAX	1768258	2183612	2951244	4215916
Emission per PAX (kgCO ₂ e/PAX)	2.90	2.70	2.20	1.50

Varanasi Airport

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total GHG Emission (t CO ₂ e)	4,366	4,913	4,273	4,004
PAX	1213824	1839508	1975589	2690846
Emission per PAX (kgCO ₂ e/PAX)	3.60	2.70	2.20	1.50

Trivandrum Airport

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total GHG Emission (t CO ₂ e)	11,609	11,784	11,812	11,603
PAX	3343563	3838320	4226118	4567121
Emission per PAX (kgCO ₂ e/PAX)	3.50	3.10	2.80	2.54