

## **AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**New Delhi, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016**

#### **Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation applauds Airports Authority of India for ranking of four of its airports amongst top five airports in the world in the Category of 2 to 5 million passengers per annum**

Airports Authority of India (AAI) tasked for providing state-of-the-art passenger facilities and air navigation services at all the airports in the country celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Day on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation was the Chief Guest and Shri RN Choubey, Secretary (Civil Aviation) was the Guest of Honour in the function.

Before the start of the cultural programme, the AAI achievers in their respective fields were felicitated for their commendable contribution, key awardees being Airport Director, Jaipur, Lucknow, Goa, Trivandrum and Srinagar for the best ASQ Rating by Airports Council International for their airports. The awards were given by the Hon'ble Minister in the presence of other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion of AAI's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Day celebrations, Hon'ble Minister of State Dr. Mahesh Sharma, asserted that seeing the phenomenal growth over the last two years, the Indian Aviation sector is set to improve its global ranking from No. 9 to No. 3 by 2020. He also congratulated the entire AAI family for the commendable achievements in the recent past in the field of development of airports infrastructure, air-navigation services, corporate social responsibilities, etc.

On this occasion, Secretary (CA) Shri RN Choubey, reaffirmed his confidence on the services provided by AAI towards the goal set by Government of India in the field of civil aviation. He congratulated the entire AAI family for AAI's achievements during the past one year and also acknowledged the august gathering that AAI's persistent efforts to improve the services and passenger facilities at its airports have placed AAI amongst the best service provider in the world.

Speaking on the occasion Chairman, AAI Shri Sudhir Raheja reeled out the number of achievements made and accolades earned by AAI during the year and also informed about the developments of Airport infrastructure in the country and stated that AAI takes pride to inform that under the aegis of Ministry of Civil Aviation two key airport development projects namely Chandigarh and Tirupati airport were dedicated to the nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. In addition airport development projects at Kadapa and Khajuraho were dedicated to the nation by Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju during the

year gone-bye. He further affirmed that AAI has also drawn a roadmap for generation of non-traffic revenue, marketing strategy, making available the airport infrastructure in every nook and corner of the country, training and re-training the human resources, making them capable to take up the challenges, undertaking the CSR responsibilities and above all promotion of Regional Connectivity scheme, a important feature of MoCA's Civil Aviation Policy 2015.

Annual Day programme concluded with fun-filled musical evening "Swar Sandya" presented by renowned artists Rekha Bhardwaj and Sugandha Mishra and the audience were spell bound with their presentation.

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Issued by Public Relations Department  
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No. 1 / 2016-17



Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation lighting the lamp on the occasion of 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Day Celebrations of Airports Authority of India in the presence of Shri RN Choubey, Secretary (Civil Aviation), Smt. M. Sathiyavathy, DGCA, Shri Sudhir Raheja, Chairman and other Board Members of AAI.