



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

AAI Connect

Quarterly e-Newsletter of Airports Authority of India

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Living up to the badge of 'front-line warriors', AAI's determination did not waiver during global unprecedented crisis of Covid-19. As an organization, we came out of this, stronger and resilient than ever. Now, when we are steadily moving towards normalcy, it fills my heart with immense satisfaction to state that AAI Family dutifully rose to the occasion and faced difficult time with equanimity.

With undeterred efforts, we have been successful in gaining trust of passengers in air travel again and domestic flight operations are running with 90-100% capacity. Passenger traffic has almost reached the pre-COVID levels and it is my firm belief that with your sincere hard work and perseverance, the Indian Civil Aviation Sector is going to soar even higher.

As this year concludes, I would like to recollect few significant accomplishments, that we made towards the progress of Indian Civil Aviation Sector. It is a matter of pride, that we have been able to complete the development work of Kushinagar International airport in record time, which was dedicated to the nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 20th October 2021. This airport will serve a population of more than two crore, bringing holistic growth to the region. In our firm resolve to provide world-class services to passengers, a new terminal building of Dehradun Airport in Uttarakhand was completed and inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation on 8th October, 2021.

Marching ahead towards becoming the third largest aviation market in the world, we are working towards developing more and more airports, helipads and water



SHRI SANJEEV KUMAR
Chairman, AAI

"Marching ahead towards becoming the third largest aviation market in the world, we are working towards developing more airports."

aerodromes. Currently, almost 27 airport development projects are underway. These are to be completed in the next year.

As one of the largest airspaces in the world, AAI is also making significant strides towards enhancing safety and efficiency in air navigation services. With an objective to provide an additional layer of surveillance to the Indian Airspace, Space-based ADS-B air traffic surveillance system was successfully deployed across Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata's oceanic airspaces. Efforts have also been undertaken to reduce the flying time by implementation of flexible use of airspace.

Contributing towards realizing the Hon'ble PM's vision of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat', AAI is in process of setting up of nine flying training organizations at five airports. To meet

the growing demand of commercial pilots in the country, these FTOs, that are geographically spread across length and breadth of India, will be operationalized soon.

Suitable policy interventions to create a congenial atmosphere for the development of Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) industry have been adopted by the Government in India, we are committed to ensure that AAI Airports take the lead in realizing India's dream of becoming the Global MRO Hub.

Working towards sustainable growth, AAI is committed to make all AAI airports powered with Renewable Energy by 2024. I am proud to inform that Currently; 14 AAI Airports are running fully on Green Energy.

Air travel has bolstered its position of being the safest means of travel during the pandemic. Amid the risk of Omicron variant of Coronavirus, AAI Airports are committed to ensure smooth screening of international travelers arriving in India. Elaborate steps like segregation of flights, setting up of separate Registration counters, testing facility, Sample Collection Counters, Help Desk and waiting area have been taken to facilitate hassle-free movement of the passengers.

A team can achieve far more than any individual working alone. I would like to compliment you all for the active participation and effective teamwork shown in the special cleanliness drive undertaken at Corporate Headquarters, all AAI airports and establishments. As we begin a new year, I hope we at AAI continue to dedicate our services to all our travelers ensuring their safety. I wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2022 and may we all achieve higher milestones in the coming year! Stay Safe. ■



अध्यक्ष महोदय का संदेश

प्रिय साथियों,

‘अग्रिम पंक्ति के योद्धा’ के रूप में मिली पहचान पर खरा उतरते हुए कोविड 19 के अभूतपूर्व वैश्विक संकट के दौरान भा.वि.प्रा. के दृढ़ संकल्प में कोई कमी नहीं आई। एक संगठन के रूप में हम पहले से कहीं अधिक सशक्त होकर और दृढ़ निश्चय के साथ इससे बाहर आए। अब जबकि हम तीव्र गति से सामान्य स्थिति की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं तो यह कहते हुए मुझे अत्यंत संतुष्टि हो रही है कि भा.वि.प्रा. परिवार ने इस स्थिति में कर्तव्यनिष्ठा के साथ स्वयं के सामर्थ्य को सिद्ध किया और कठिन समय का सामना धैर्य के साथ किया।

अपने दृढ़ प्रयासों से हम हवाई यात्रा में पुनः यात्रियों का विश्वास हासिल करने में सफल रहे हैं और घरेलू उड़ानों का प्रचालन 90 से 100% की क्षमता के साथ हो रहा है। यात्रियों की संख्या लगभग कोविड पूर्व स्तर पर पहुंच गई है और यह मेरा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि आपके परिश्रम तथा लगन से भारतीय नागर विमानन क्षेत्र और भी ऊंची उड़ान भरने जा रहा है।

इस वर्ष की समाप्ति के साथ, मैं उन कुछ महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धियों को याद करना चाहता हूँ जिन्हें हमने भारतीय नागर विमानन क्षेत्र की प्रगति की दिशा में अर्जित किया है। यह गर्व की बात है कि हम कुशीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के विकास कार्य को रिकॉर्ड समय में पूरा करने में सफल रहे, जिसे 20 अक्टूबर 2021 को माननीय प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा राष्ट्र को समर्पित किया गया। इस हवाई अड्डे से दो करोड़ से अधिक की जनसंख्या को सुविधाएं प्राप्त होंगी और क्षेत्र का समग्र रूप से विकास होगा। यात्रियों को विश्वस्तरीय सेवाएं प्रदान करने के अपने दृढ़ संकल्प के क्रम में उत्तराखंड के देहरादून हवाई अड्डे पर एक नए टर्मिनल भवन का निर्माण कार्य पूरा हुआ और इसका उद्घाटन 08 अक्टूबर, 2021 को माननीय नागर विमानन मंत्री द्वारा किया गया।

दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार बनने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ते हुए हम अधिक से अधिक हवाई अड्डों, हेलीपैडों और जल विमानक्षेत्रों को विकसित करने की दिशा में कार्य कर रहे हैं। वर्तमान में लगभग 27 हवाई



श्री संजीव कुमार
अध्यक्ष, भा.वि.प्रा.

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अड्डों को विकसित करने की परियोजनाएं चल रही हैं। इन्हें अगले वर्ष में पूरा किया जाना है।

विश्व के सबसे बड़े हवाई क्षेत्रों में से एक के रूप में भा.वि.प्रा विमान दिक्कालन सेवाओं में सुरक्षा और दक्षता बढ़ाने की दिशा में भी उल्लेखनीय प्रयास कर रहा है। भारतीय हवाई क्षेत्र में निगरानी की एक अतिरिक्त परत उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से अंतरिक्ष-आधारित एडीएस-बी विमान यातायात निगरानी प्रणाली को मुंबई, चेन्नई और कोलकाता के समुद्री हवाई क्षेत्रों में सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित किया गया है। हवाई क्षेत्र के स्थिति अनुरूप उपयोग को लागू करके उड़ान के समय को कम करने के भी प्रयास किए गए हैं।

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री के ‘आत्मनिर्भर भारत’ की परिकल्पना को साकार करने में योगदान देते हुए, भा.वि.प्रा पांच हवाई अड्डों पर नौ उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठन स्थापित करने की प्रक्रिया में है। देश में वाणिज्यिक पायलटों की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने के लिए भौगोलिक रूप से

पूरे भारत में फैले हुए इन संस्थानों का शीघ्र ही प्रचालन किया जाएगा।

अनुरक्षण, सुधार और जांच (एमआरओ) उद्योग के विकास हेतु अनुकूल वातावरण बनाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा भारत में उपयुक्त नीतिगत उपायों को अपनाया गया है। हम यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं कि भा.वि.प्रा के हवाई अड्डे भारत के ग्लोबल एमआरओ हब बनने के सपने को साकार करने में अग्रणी भूमिका का निर्वाह करेंगे।

सतत विकास की दिशा में कार्य करते हुए, भा.वि.प्रा इस बात के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है कि 2024 तक भा.वि.प्रा के सभी हवाई अड्डों को अक्षय ऊर्जा से संचालित किया जाए। मुझे यह बताते हुए गर्व हो रहा है कि वर्तमान में भा.वि.प्रा के 14 हवाई अड्डे पूरी तरह से हरित ऊर्जा पर चल रहे हैं।

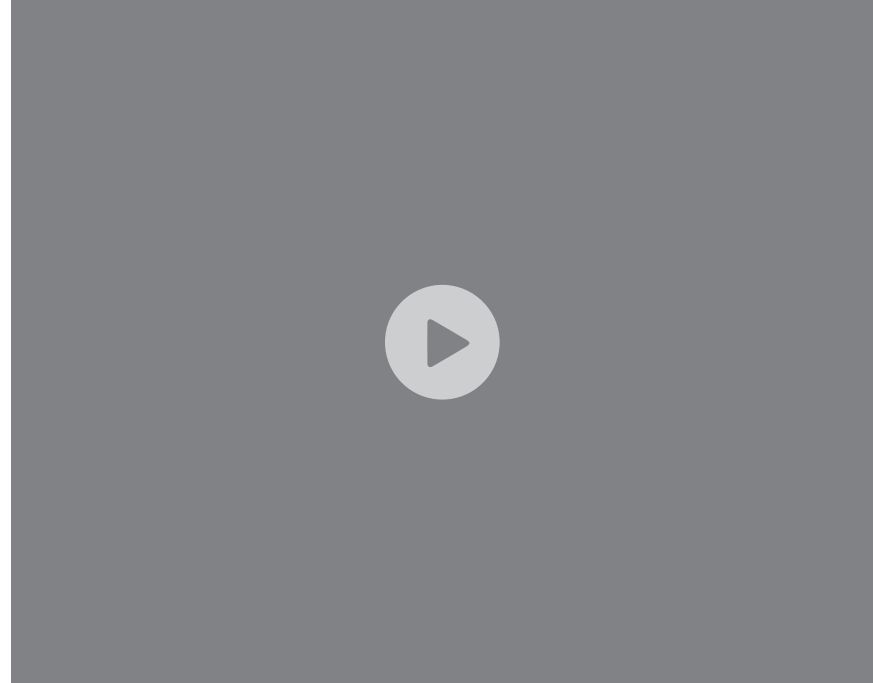
हवाई यात्रा ने महामारी के दौरान यात्रा का सबसे सुरक्षित साधन होने की अपनी स्थिति को और सुदृढ़ किया है। कोरोना वायरस के ओमीक्रोन वेरिएंट के संकट के बीच, भा.वि.प्रा के हवाई अड्डे भारत में आने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों की सुगम जांच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। यात्रियों के आवागमन को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए उड़ानों का पृथकीकरण, अलग पंजीकरण काउंटर, परीक्षण सुविधा, प्रतिरूप संग्रह काउंटर, सहायता डेस्क और प्रतीक्षा क्षेत्र स्थापित करने जैसे विस्तृत कदम उठाए गए हैं।

एक दल सदैव व्यक्ति विशेष से अधिक लक्ष्य अर्जित कर सकता है। इसलिए, मैं आप सभी को निगमित मुख्यालय सहित भा.वि.प्रा के सभी हवाई अड्डों और प्रतिष्ठानों में चलाए गए विशेष स्वच्छता अभियान में सक्रिय भागीदारी और प्रभावी सामूहिक कार्य निष्पादन के लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूँ।

जैसा कि हम नए वर्ष में प्रवेश करने जा रहे हैं, मुझे उम्मीद है कि भा.वि.प्रा में हम अपने सभी यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अपनी सेवाएं प्रदान करना जारी रखेंगे। मैं, सभी के सुखद और समृद्ध 2022 की कामना करता हूँ और आने वाले वर्ष में हम सभी उच्चतम लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करें! सुरक्षित रहें! ■

Hon'ble PM Inaugurates Kushinagar International Airport

Airports Authority of India's Kushinagar International Airport was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister on 20th October 2021 in the august presence of Smt. Anandiben Patel, Governor, Uttar Pradesh; Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh & Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation. Kushinagar is the centre point of the Buddhist circuit, consists of pilgrimage sites at Lumbini, Sarnath and Gaya. On this occasion, the first international flight arrived at the airport from Colombo, Sri Lanka carrying around 125 dignitaries & Buddhist monks. With the operationalisation of the international airport, pilgrims & tourists coming from all over the world will be able to travel easily to Kushinagar as well as to other Buddhist sites located in the region



like Lumbini, Bodh Gaya and Sarnath in a short time. Also, the tourism industry will get thrust, as well as the population of more than two crore of the surrounding districts will get an opportunity to connect with the

world and export local products in International Market.

As committed during the inauguration, the first scheduled domestic flight of Spice Jet landed at Kushinagar Airport on 26th November 2021. ■

उड़ान उत्सव

ओडिशा के झारसुगुडा एयरपोर्ट पर 23 नवम्बर, 2021 को उड़ान उत्सव मनाया गया। इस अवसर पर श्री ज्योतिरादित्य एम. सिंधिया, केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री ने कहा कि झारसुगुडा एयरपोर्ट, उड़ान योजना की एक बड़ी सफलता की कहानी बताता है। जहां पूरे देश के सभी हवाई अड्डों पर कोविड महामारी के दौरान उड़ान भरने वाले यात्रियों की संख्या में भारी गिरावट देखी जा रही थी, वहीं, इसी दौरान झारसुगुडा में यह गिरावट केवल 5 प्रतिशत हुई। कार्यक्रम के दौरान श्री सिंधिया ने हवाई अड्डे के निदेशकों/अधिकारियों और उड़ान के लाभार्थी यात्रियों से बातचीत की, जो वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों से जुड़े हुए थे। साथ ही, आरसीएस योजना के अंतर्गत शिलॉन्ग और दीमापुर के बीच नए हवाई मार्ग को हरी झंडी भी दिखाई। ■



SPOTLIGHT

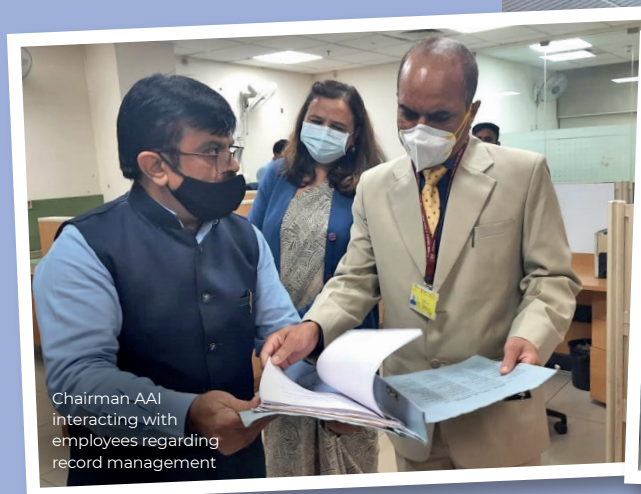
Special Campaign for Cleanliness at Airports Authority of India

With an objective to ensure cleanliness in the office premises and improve record management, AAI carried out the special Swachhata drive at the Corporate Headquarters and all airports in the month of October & November 2021.

As part of Swachhata Abhiyaan, AAI Employees actively took part in the special drive & ensured clean ambiance at work places. During the special campaign period, all efforts were made



Shri Rajeev Bansal, Secretary (MoCA) and Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, AAI inspecting the corridors on 'First Floor'. Also seen in the picture Ms. Rubina Ali, JS (MoCA)



Chairman AAI interacting with employees regarding record management



Smt. Usha Padhee inspecting the Maintenance of Compaactors at CC Dte

to dispose of the identified pending references in a meaningful manner. Files of temporary nature were identified and weeded out to reduce unnecessary paper work. Further, redundant scrap material and obsolete items were discarded during this campaign to improve cleanliness at work places.

During the drive, Shri. Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, MoCA; Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, AAI; Smt. Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, MoCA; Smt. Rubina Ali, Joint. Secretary, MoCA and Shri Sunil Dutt, ED (Admin) visited the workplace of all officials and checked the cleanliness thoroughly. Hon'ble Prime Minister has

emphasized the need to review existing rules and procedure on a continuing basis during his official address on Independence Day- 2021. The special cleanliness campaign was carried out to review the existing processes reducing compliance burden and unnecessary paper, wherever feasible. ■

NEWS BITS

Kolkata Airport Opens a Dedicated Air Courier Terminal

AAICLAS, NSCBIA, Kolkata Airport has opened an international courier terminal to facilitate express cargo clearance from the city itself. This will enable direct export and import of courier which had to be routed via Delhi or Mumbai till now and required additional days in transit.

The grand inauguration of International Courier Terminal took place on 11th October 2021.



Another Life Saved!

On 06th October 2021, Kolkata Airport successfully transported a live organ from Ahmedabad through Indigo to Fortis Hospital, Kolkata. The airport team made the necessary arrangements with Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate to ensure a speedy delivery of the organ via the Green Corridor.

कृषि उड़ान 2.0 योजना में पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों पर विशेष ज़ोर

माननीय नागर विमानन मंत्री द्वारा लॉन्च की गयी का उद्देश्य कृषि और विमानन को एक साथ लाभान्वित करना है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत, हवाई अड्डे, किसानों के लिए क्षेत्रीय घरेलू बाजारों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रवेश द्वार से जोड़ेंगे। पहले चरण में, कार्गो टर्मिनलों के लिए 2021-22 तक 13 स्थानों की पहचान की गई जिनमें, पूर्वोत्तर के कुछ प्रस्तावित स्थान अगरतला, डिब्रूगढ़, दीमापुर, इम्फाल, जोरहाट, लीलाबाड़ी, सिलचर हवाई अड्डा शामिल हैं। कृषि उड़ान 2.0 योजना को नागर विमानन मंत्रालय (MoCA) ने 27 अक्टूबर को लॉन्च किया।

New Flights Added in NER

Various new flights were launched in NER Sector recently. Shillong-Dibrugarh Direct flight was virtually launched Under UDAN scheme. It will operate on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday. On 05th Nov 2021, Guwahati-Lilabari direct flight services were also launched. Alliance Air started direct flights on Aizawl-Shillong route from 18th Sept 2021 & Guwahati-Shillong-Dimapur route from 22nd Oct 2021.



World Tourism Day Celebration at Shillong Airport

It was a special moment with Ambassadors of Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawai who were greeted by Ministry of Tourism and AAI. Passengers were also greeted with flowers and tourist kit. The occasion was jointly organised by Ministry of Tourism, State Govt and AAI.

HMCA, Visited Paper Recycle Unit

On 28th October 2021, Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, HMCA, visited AAI's Paper Recycle Unit (PRU). During his visit, Sh. D.K. Kamra, RED (NR) explained about the functioning of the paper recycle unit. He also informed about the process of paper recycling and the collection process of GROW (Government Recycle Office Waste) from other associated offices on barter system. HMCA visited the entire unit and appreciated AAI for this unique initiative for conservation of the environment.



देहरादून हवाई अड्डा को मिला नया टर्मिनल भवन

यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए देहरादून हवाई अड्डे के नए टर्मिनल भवन का निर्माण किया गया है। भवन का उद्घाटन श्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया, माननीय केन्द्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री एवं श्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी, माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखंड ने किया।

28,729 वर्गमीटर के क्षेत्र में फैला नया भवन व्यस्त समय के दौरान 1, 200 यात्रियों को संभालने में सक्षम होगा, जिससे हवाई अड्डे की क्षमता आठ गुना बढ़ जाएगी।



Kanpur Airport Now has a Fully Functional Solar Power Plant

Kanpur Airport now has a fully functional solar power plant. The electricity generated from this plant will be used for everyday operations. This 50 KW Roof top solar power plant will be able to produce solar power generation as per load requirement which is around 200 KWH per day.

Cycle Rally for Swacchata Drive

As a part of Swacchata Pakhwada, Cycle Rally was organised by AAI officials for creating awareness among the local public of the surrounding villages of Madurai Airport including the colony for ensuring cleanliness and hygiene.



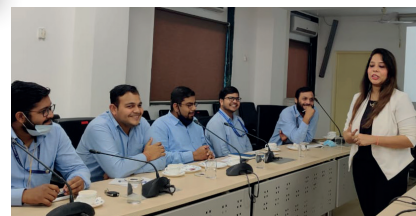
Bhoomi Poojan at Tuticorin Airport

Shri. R. Madhavan, RED (SR) along with Shri. N. Subramanian, APD performed the Bhoomi Puja on 20th October, 2021 to mark the preparatory initiatives for construction of 10800 sqm. new terminal building, Control Tower, and Fire section at Tuticorin Airport.



‘पैसेंजर बोर्डिंग एयरोब्रिज’ का लोकार्पण

‘आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव’ मनाते हुए 07th October 2021 को भोपाल हवाई अड्डे पर यात्री सुविधाओं में वृद्धि करते हुए तीसरे ‘पैसेंजर बोर्डिंग एयरोब्रिज’ का लोकार्पण किया गया। नए ‘पैसेंजर बोर्डिंग एयरोब्रिज’ के उद्घाटन से अब भोपाल एयरपोर्ट पर तीन पैसेंजर बोर्डिंग एयरोब्रिज प्रचालन में रहेंगे जिससे यात्रियों की सुविधा में वृद्धि होने के साथ साथ विमानों के प्रचालन समय में भी कमी आएगी।

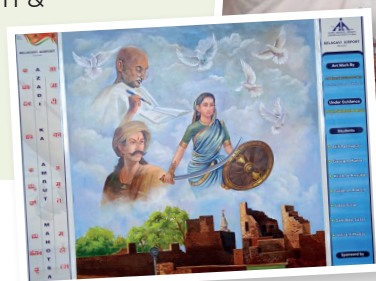


Training Session on Soft Skills

A soft skills Training session organised today for Officials of Operations Dept. The session focussed on behavioural aspects, etiquettes & service with smile attitude. Team Goa is committed towards AAI's Mission of providing the high-quality customer service.

Wall Painting Celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Arrival & Departure area at Belagavi airport are adorned with the wall paintings with the theme of AKAM wherein Great Freedom Fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Shahhed Bhagat Singh & others are beautifully portrayed by J.N. Bhandari School of Art, Shinoli. To promote the local arts and culture, Water colour paintings of Shri. Mahesh Honnule, Belagavi are also exhibited outside the terminal building, delighting passenger experience.



NEWS BITS



Safety First at Surat Airport

Demonstration of the various fire extinguishers kept in the terminal building is organized by Fire team for the awareness of the employees of all the stakeholders working at Surat Airport, well received by all with full enthusiasm.

पाक्योंग एवं बागडोगरा हवाईअड्डे का राजभाषा निरीक्षण

संसदीय राजभाषा समिति की दूसरी उप समिति द्वारा दिनांक 25 अक्टूबर, 2021 को पाक्योंग तथा 28 अक्टूबर, 2021 को बागडोगरा हवाईअड्डे का राजभाषा निरीक्षण किया गया।



दरभंगा हवाईअड्डा की पहली वर्षगांठ

दरभंगा हवाईअड्डा ने अपनी पहली वर्षगांठ 8 नवम्बर 2021 को हर्ष एवं उल्लास के साथ मनाई. हवाई अड्डे की टीम के अथक प्रयास से और केन्द्र सरकार, राज्य सरकार एवं भारतीय वायु सेना के सहयोग से दरभंगा हवाई अड्डा अपनी पहली वर्षगांठ तक सवा 5 लाख से ज्यादा यात्रियों को आवागमन हेतु सुविधा प्रदान करने में सक्षम हो पाया।

New Aerobridge at Bhubaneswar Airport

A New Aerobridge in Terminal-1, BP1 Airport, Bhubaneswar was inaugurated on 08th November 2021 which has been built at an outlay of ₹5.42 Crores. Opening of two new aerobridges will enhance operational convenience and faster departure reducing ground manoeuvring time.

Wildlife Sensitization Programme at Chennai Airport

In connection with Wildlife Week, celebrated every year between 2nd to 08th October 2021, a sensitization programme was organized for Chennai Airport officials. The programme had great significance as it envisages to fight illegal wildlife trade by air as it poses a serious threat to survival of species.



Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP) Facility Nearing Completion at Chennai Airport

The Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP) facility nearing completion at Chennai Airport, which is a significant step towards creating better infrastructure & convenience for flyers & stakeholders. The six-storey structure with commercial facilities has got colour coding at each level for user convenience and can park 2187 cars.



A GOOD SAMARITAN



Kolkata Airport Team Helps Rescue Runaway Cat

Team Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata helped a civilian reunite with her pet by tracking an 11-month-old cat that lives in a one-storey house in the Biman Vihar locality in Ganganagar next to the airport's wall and had crossed the wall on 28th October 2021. A team was appointed and circulated a photograph of the cat on WhatsApp groups. After some time, the garden maintenance team spotted Leo hiding in a bush and reunited the cat with the owner.



Jorhar Employees Extends Help to the Needy

On the occasion of Diwali, AAI employees of Jorhat airport visited neighbouring primary school and distributed study material and sweets amongst children. Shri Krishan Kumar, APD along with the staff interacted with the children and teachers the parents.



YOU MAKE US PROUD

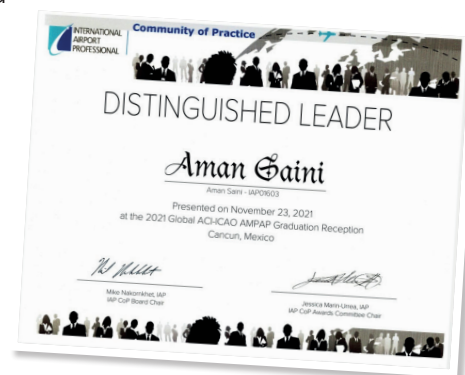


Mr. Sanjeev Chhabra, Sr. Supdt. (FS) represented Rajasthan State in Badminton Tournament

Mr. Sanjeev Chhabra, Senior Superintendent (Fire Services), posted at Jaipur Airport, represented Rajasthan State in the Open National Masters Badminton Tournament organized by Badminton Association of India from 19th Sep 2021 to 26th Sep 2021 at Goa. Mr. Sanjeev entered in the quarter finals in mixed double event in the age group of 40+ category. Apart from this, Mr. Sanjeev won the title of doubles in the age group of 40+ category in the District Level Winter Badminton Championship held under the aegis of Jaipur District Badminton Association in the month of April this year.

APD Surat Awarded as 'Distinguished Leader'

AAI congratulates Ms. Aman Saini, Airport Director of Surat who was awarded as the 'Distinguished Leader' at the first edition of the International Airport Professionals (IAP) Community of Practice (CoP) award program. The Distinguished Leader Award recognises aviation professionals for their role as a community leader and active participation in the growth and improvement of the aviation community. It is an organization providing training to airport professionals worldwide.





Diary of an Air Traffic Controller

PRASANNA PRADHAN

WSO and Air Traffic Controller
Delhi Air Traffic Services

I'm an Air Traffic Controller and have been working at AAI for 25 years. Currently I split my time between the Control unit, where I control aircraft, and the Watch supervision where I work as watch supervisor on supervising controllers at different unit at Delhi Air traffic services.

I kind of fell into the job and in fact before applying to AAI, I had no aviation background at all. I'd heard that AAI was a good Company to work for, so I looked into the opportunities there. I applied to train as an Air Traffic Controller and quickly caught the aviation bug!

The thing I like most about my job is that every day is different. It always has been ever since I started. There's

never a 'normal day, at the office' – there's different challenges every day. I like that – it keeps it interesting and keeps you developing as an Air Traffic Controller.

When I first started at Delhi Airport, controlling was very much a manual process and Controller driven. As technology has advanced over the years, that has reduced, and we've developed systems to support the Controller with their situation awareness and decision making. This all helps to create a safer operation and prepare for handling more aircraft as air traffic numbers grow in the future.

Teamwork is vital in Air Traffic Control. It's not just the Air Traffic Controller that helps deliver a safe operation – there are several people working together in different roles as one big team. And these people aren't just based in the Control Centres but those working in different areas such as Engineers, Safety Specialists, Analysts and Researchers all

pulling together to ensure we deliver a safe operation.

A good day's work is leaving the Control centre knowing that you have delivered the safest service that you can give to all the aircraft that you controlled. Safety has always been and always will be paramount. It is at the forefront of our minds as an Air Traffic Controller and we strive to be safe in everything we do.

When I was asked recently what I was most proud of in my career – I had a simple answer. I'm most proud of becoming a Controller. That sounds simple, but it was no mean feat. Validating was an amazing moment for me. Of course, there have been a number of other highlights over the years, but rewind 25 years, and nothing comes close to that. It was definitely my proudest moment.

Would I recommend becoming a Controller? Of course, I would. If you're looking for a career that's interesting, challenging and rewarding – then I'd recommend it 100%. It doesn't matter if you've never been interested in aviation before, as I say I wasn't. But you may find, once you look into it, like me, you get the bug! ■

