

# AVI-NEWS

January-March, 2024 INDIA

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Can Indian Aviation Sector becomes Financially Viable?



Dear Friends,

India's aviation sector is experiencing a meteoric rise, fuelled by soaring demand and the government's unwavering commitment to its growth through supportive policies. The industry has undergone a remarkable transformation, shedding its previous limitations and evolving into a vibrant and competitive sector. This dynamic shift has propelled India to the forefront of the global aviation ecosystem, becoming the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world, after the USA and China.

With a fleet size nearly quadrupling since 2019. According to the Boeing Commercial Market Outlook 2023, South Asia is about to welcome over 2,700 new airplanes in the next two decades, with 90 percent destined for

India. This growth projection also demands approximately 37,000 pilots and 38,000 mechanics in the region, largely led by India.

Passenger traffic has regained momentum and is currently surpassing 90 percent of pre-pandemic levels, indicating a strong rebound in air travel. This resurgence is attributed to people's eagerness to reconnect, explore, and engage in business activities, signaling a renewed confidence in the safety and convenience of air transportation.

The Indian government is also placing a strong emphasis on sustainability. This is evident in the recent achievements of Delhi and Mumbai airports, both of which have been awarded the prestigious Level 4+ Carbon Accreditation. This recognition highlights their commitment to reducing their carbon footprint and promoting responsible aviation practices.

Given inside is year end review of India and the world aviation industry of the closing year 2023..

Happy travels!

Sanjiv Aggarwal

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# 2023-The year that was for international aviation

With most countries now welcoming overseas visitors once again without requiring Covid testing or quarantine, passenger demand has continued to accelerate, providing airlines with the unexpected challenge of having to scramble to return sufficient capacity to service in order to meet the demand. Most, if not all, will have noticed how much more expensive air fares have become – 23% higher on average compared to 2021, according to IATA.

With regards to air cargo which was at its peak in 2021, volumes and revenues were tracking above pre-pandemic levels. Economic uncertainties and government measures to tame inflation have taken their toll. With global trade falling, air cargo volumes slipped below 2019 levels. Nonetheless, revenues have stayed strong. Air cargo's contribution to airline revenues in 2022 was 17% of total revenues, considerably higher than the 12% in 2019. After a cumulative loss of over \$180 billion over the 2020-2022 period, the airline industry is on track to post a collective profit in 2023.

Aviation face many challenges. In the short term, we have a variety of economic challenges, especially the global inflationary pressures. Geopolitical crises continue to affect the world, destabilizing globalization and threatening global supply chains. The airline industry is having to fix balance sheets carrying debts of \$650 billion, requiring strategic measures to stabilize and strengthen financial positions.

Asia-Pacific has become a significant hub for the aviation industry over the years. The emerging economies in the region, like India and China, are experiencing a massive surge in their respective civil aviation markets due to an increased demand for air travel. Hence, the revenues from Asia-Pacific are projected to witness a high growth rate during the forecast period.

China is leading the recovery of global commercial aviation due to great domestic demand, helping the airlines witness financial recovery. It has become a major hub for the aviation industry over the years



due to high demand from civilian and military customers. Commercial aviation has been a key contributor to China's aviation industry over the years. China is the largest market in aviation due to an increase in domestic air passenger traffic, which has surpassed the North American region and is expected to grow rapidly at a rate of 4.4% by 2040, according to Boeing. An increase in the number of airports in the region would also help in the growth of the market. In March 2022, the Indian aviation ministry approved the construction of 21 greenfield airports in the country. New airlines in the region have also helped to improve the market.

Global passenger volume in 2023 reached almost 9 billion passengers, which is 99% of the 2019 level.

The year 2024 is expected to be a milestone for global passenger traffic recovery as it reaches 9.4 billion passengers, surpassing the year 2019 that welcomed 9.2 billion passengers (102.5% of the 2019 level). The gap between the Business as Usual forecast from 2019 and the current recovery projections reveal that the percentage of lost traffic continues to decrease on a quarterly basis, from -23% in Q1 2023 to -13% in Q4 2023.

The Latin America-Caribbean region is the first region to surpass its 2019 level. While the Asia-Pacific region had a substantial jump in passenger traffic in 2023 along with the ongoing opening of the Chinese market. The region is expected to reach approximately 3.4 billion passengers in 2024, or 99.5% of the 2019 level.

Airline industry operating profits are expected to reach \$49.3 billion in 2024 from \$40.7 billion in 2023. Total revenues in 2024 are expected to

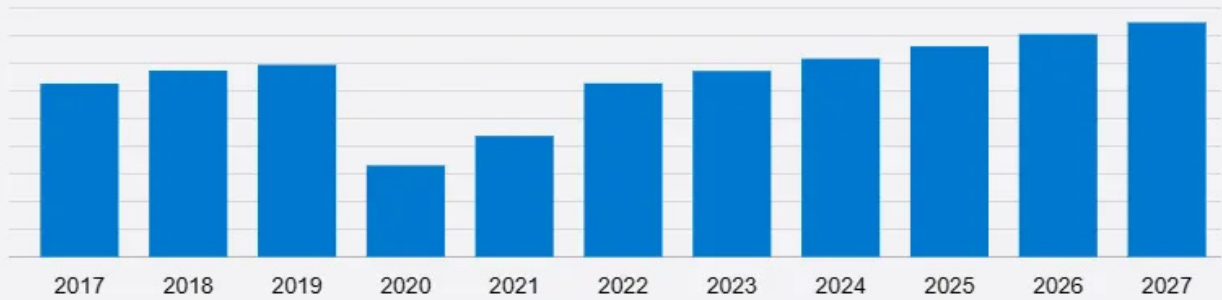


grow 7.6% year over year to a record \$964 billion. Expense growth is expected to be slightly lower at 6.9% for a total of \$914 billion.

Some 4.7 billion people are expected to travel in 2024, an historic high that exceeds the pre-pandemic level of 4.5 billion recorded in 2019. Cargo volumes



Market Size Outlook (USD Billion)



2017 : USD 1,248.45

**7.12%**  
Year-over-Year growth rate of 2023

**6.2%**  
CAGR (2022-2027)

**DECCELERATING**  
Growth Momentum

**USD 438.72 Bn**  
Market size growth  
2022 vs 2027

**MINT GRAPHITI**

**Growth expectations**

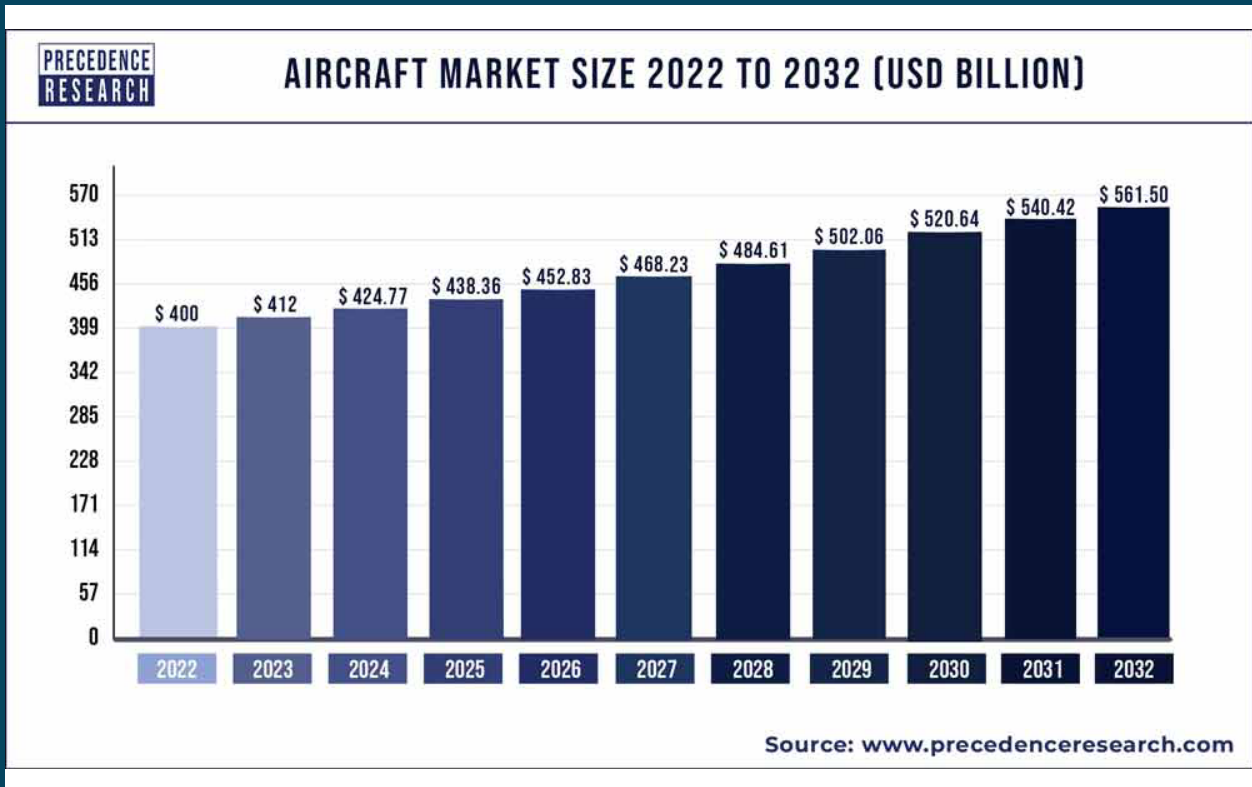
Total passengers to, from and within India (in million)

■ Domestic ■ International ● Total



Source: Ficci and KPMG





are expected to be 58 and 61 million tonnes in 2023 and 2024, respectively

Cargo revenues however are expected to fall to \$111 billion in 2024. That is down sharply from an extraordinary peak of \$210 billion in 2021, but it is above 2019 revenues which were \$101 billion. Yields will continue to be negatively impacted by the continued growth of belly capacity (related to strong growth on the passenger side of the business) while international trade stagnates. Yields are expected to further correct towards pre-pandemic levels with a -32.2% decline in 2023 followed by a -20.9% decline expected in 2024. They will remain high by historical standards, however. Note that yield progression has been extraordinary in these last years (-8.2% in 2019, +54.7% in 2020, +25.9% in 2021, +7% in 2022, -32.2% in 2023).

Easing inflation, low unemployment rates, and strong demand for travel are all positive developments. Nonetheless, economic strains could arise. In China, for example, slow growth, high youth unemployment and disarray in property markets if not managed properly, could impact global business

cycles. Similarly, should tolerance of high interest rates weaken, and unemployment rise significantly, the strong consumer demand that has supported the recovery could weaken.

The operational impacts of the Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas war have been largely limited to re-routings due to airspace closures. On the cost side, the conflicts have pushed up oil prices which is impacting airlines globally. An unexpected peace in either or both cases would bring benefits to the industry, but any escalation could produce a radically different global economic scenario to which aviation would not be immune.

Supply chain issues continue to impact global trade and business. Airlines have been directly impacted by unforeseen maintenance issues on some aircraft/engine types as well as delays in the delivery of aircraft parts and of aircraft, limiting capacity expansion and fleet renewal.

On the regulatory front, airlines could face rising costs of compliance, and additional costs pertaining





to passenger rights regimes, regional environment initiatives, and accessibility requirements.

Airline profitability for 2023 performed better than expected in IATA's June outlook. Revenues for 2023 are now expected to reach \$896 billion (\$93 billion higher than expected). Expenses also grew to \$855 billion (\$74 billion higher than the previous forecast). That translated into a \$23.3 billion industry wide net profit. While that is significantly above the \$9.8 billion forecast in June, the additional \$13.5 billion profit is equal to just 1.4% of revenue. The net profit margin is just 2.6% meaning that airlines will have earned on average \$5.44 per passenger carried in 2023.

The improvement was entirely driven by the passenger business which saw revenues increase compared to the previous forecast by \$96 billion, to \$642 billion. Cargo revenues in 2023 were \$134.7 billion, which underperformed the \$142.3 billion expected in June.

#### The Traveler's Viewpoint

Air travel continues to deliver value to consumers. A recent public opinion poll (14 countries, 6,500 respondents who have taken at least one trip in the last year) revealed that 97% of travellers expressed satisfaction with their travel. Moreover, 88% agreed that air travel makes their lives better and 80% agreed that air travel is good value for money.

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# Year End Review 2023 for INDIAN Civil Aviation

Civil Aviation in INDIA attained several milestones in the year 2023 as the sector attained new wings and expanded at a high speed. On November 19 last year, airlines in India flew 4,56,910 domestic passengers. This was highest single-day air traffic since the pandemic hit, marking a remarkable 7.4% surge above pre-COVID averages-a clear sign of recovery and resilience in the skies.

## International connectivity

India operates a wide-ranging network of international flights and currently has Air Services Agreements with 116 countries. In terms of consistent efforts, India presently provides direct connectivity to more than 52 countries, whereas, connecting more than 100 countries through indirect routes. It has been ensured that connectivity is sustained from foreign countries by facilitating designation of foreign carriers as per the provisions of the bilateral ASA's. Since 2014, India has signed Memorandum of Understanding with 57 countries, wherein, in the year 2023 itself, India has signed/revised MoUs with Russia, Vietnam, Indonesia and New Zealand.

In addition to regular grant of permissions for charter operations from different countries, India has permitted carriage of passengers and cargo through

non-scheduled charter operations from Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds.

## Open Sky Arrangements with Foreign Countries

As per the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, Open Sky Arrangement allows unlimited flights over and above the existing bilateral rights directly to/from 6 Indian Metro Airports (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru). In 2022, India entered open sky arrangements with Maldives and Canada, and with New Zealand in 2023. As of October 2023, India has open sky arrangements with 24 countries.

## Expansion Plan of Indian Carriers

IndiGo has placed an order of 500 Airbus A320 family aircraft on June 19th at the Paris Air show 2023. Air India has formalized deal for 470 Airbus and Boeing Aircraft on June 20th at the Paris Air Show 2023. New destinations connected in 2023: Nairobi, Jakarta, Tiblisiss, Baku, Kualanamu, Vienna, Copenhagen, Milan, Amsterdam, Gatwick, Mauritius, Minsk and Entebbe.





**India's contribution in CORSIA/LTAG resolution by ICAO**

From the very beginning, India has been concerned about the implications of Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) on the developing States. With active support for like-minded countries, India has strongly advocated and has been able to lower the CORSIA baseline to 85% of 2019 emission to benefit Indian carriers along with reduction in 'Individual Growth Factor' for compliance cycles.

For ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goals, India's consistent efforts have successfully resulted in Resolutions being passed by the ICAO General Assembly for allowing national time frames, to not include any mandatory targets that could lead to punitive measures; and to incorporate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in LTAG.

CAAF/3 (Third Conference on Alternative Aviation Fuel) was held from 21st to 24th November 2023 in Dubai. In order to decide on the possible outcomes of CAAF/3, pre-CAAF/3 consultations were held on 25-26th September 2023 in ICAO HQ in Montreal, Canada. An Indian delegation headed by DG, DGCA attended the pre CAAF/3 negotiations.

During Pre CAAF/3, India in association with other like-minded countries opposed the potential quantified vision for SAF in the upcoming CAAF/3. Various sideline meetings were held with European Union, China, United Kingdom, and Ethiopia wherein the general stand by India was clearly explained and stated on the subject matter.

CAAF/3 was attended by an Indian delegation headed by Secretary, CA. After the days of intense deliberations with all countries during ICAO CAAF/3 at Dubai, ICAO

released revised global framework of ICAO which included a para on quantified goals, which was proposed by India. After a series of negotiations, the final accepted global framework of ICAO indicates a non-binding global vision of use of SAF by 5% by the year 2030. The CAAF/3 framework addressed the interventions/concerns raised by India, including decentralization of fuel production across all the States, low-cost financing and funding across all states in a transparent and effective manner, accelerate the development and approval of new Sustainability Certification schemes etc.

**Greenfield Airports**

Government of India has formulated a Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008 which provides guidelines, procedure and conditions for establishment of new Greenfield Airports in the country. Government of India has so far accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country.

Out of these, 12 Greenfield airports, namely Durgapur, Shirdi, Sindhudurg, Pakyong, Kannur, Kalaburagi, Oravakal, Kushinagar, Itanagar, Mopa, Shivammogga and Rajkot have been operationalized. During 2023, three Greenfield airports, namely, Mopa, Shivammogga and Rajkot have been operationalized.

**Airports run on 100% Green Energy**

Use of conventional sources of energy is the prime source of carbon emission at airports and thus replacing with green energy helps in reducing the carbon footprint of the airport. Therefore, MoCA has advised all the operational airports with scheduled operations and developers of the upcoming Greenfield Airports to work towards achieving Carbon Neutrality & Net Zero which inter-alia includes use of green energy. Presently,







66 airports across the country are running with 100% Green Energy.

## Expansion work completed at PPP Airports during 2023

- Commissioning of 4th runway and Eastern Cross Taxiway at Delhi Airport.
- Commissioning of new T2 terminal with domestic and international operations at Bangalore airport.
- Expanded terminal building at Hyderabad airport.
- Restructuring of the Pre- embarkation security check area in Mumbai airport

## CAPEX Plan

Under National Infrastructure Pipeline, CAPEX of more than Rs. 91,000 crore is likely to be incurred during the period FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25, where AAI would be incurring approx. Rs. 25,000 crore and remaining expenditure shall be borne by airport developers under PPP mode. An expenditure of approx. Rs. 65,000 crores have been already incurred up to November 2023, which includes expenditure of approx. Rs. 11,000 crores till November 2023 for FY 2023-24.

## Air Services Agreement/MoUs

- A MoU dated 27.01.2023 was signed with Vietnam which formalized granting of Bengaluru and Hyderabad as points of call to designated carriers of Vietnam in lieu of Kolkata and Chennai.
- A Protocol was signed with Russia on 17.02.2023 vide which points of call for domestic codeshare were shared, capacity entitlement was increased and route-wise restrictions for Russian carriers were removed.

- An Air Services Agreement was signed with Guyana on 22.04.2023.

- A MoU dated 31.05.2023 was signed with Republic of Korea vide which non-scheduled all-cargo operations by Korean carriers on the agreed route with 3rd, 4th and 5th freedom rights with no restriction on the number of services were agreed up to June 2024.

- Issues related to ASA, 3rd and 4th freedom passenger services; all cargo services were discussed with UK in bilateral meeting held on 25.05.2023. A draft MoU was shared by the United Kingdom side for review/ comments by the aeronautical authorities of India. The draft MoU has been examined and certain modifications have been suggested to the UK side.

- A MoU with New Zealand was signed on 29.08.2023 wherein the route schedule replaced with the new one which increases the points of call to 6 cities for each side from existing one for each side and increases intermediate points. Decisions on enhancement in traffic rights and capacity entitlements; confirmation of cargo open sky were finalized.

- MoU between DGCA and European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) was signed in Brussels for technical cooperation in Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility.

## RCS-UDAN

RCS-UDAN was launched in 2016 to enable air operations on unserved/underserved routes connecting different regions, promote balanced regional growth and make flying affordable for masses. RCS-UDAN is a self- financing scheme, with a nominal levy for each



departure on main (trunk) routes to cross subsidize the operations of UDAN flights.

- 60 New RCS routes commenced w.e.f 01 January 2023 to 21 December 2023.
- 06 Airports Rourkela, Hollongi, Jamshedpur, Cooch Behar, Utkela & Shivamogga operationalized.
- 12 new RCS routes commenced in Northeastern States in the country.
- 154 New RCS Routes awarded.

## Digi Yatra

- Digi yatra is a project conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers at Airports based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). The project basically envisages that any traveller may pass through various check points at the airport through paperless and contactless processing using facial features to establish the identity. Passenger can enrol on the platform from the comfort of their home. So far, over 35 lakh users have downloaded the Digi Yatra app.
- Since its launch, more than 91 lakh passengers have availed the facility of Digi Yatra to travel through the airports. Eventually, all the airports will be covered with Digi Yatra in a phased manner.

## Addressing shortage of ATCOs

The country was facing acute shortage of ATCOs. The Ministry, with concurrence of DPE, approved creation of 456 more posts of ATCOs in April, 2023.

## Flying Training Organisations (FTO)

1. There are 34 DGCA-approved FTOs operating at 55 bases in the country as on 30th November 2023. Of these, IGRUA at Amethi (UP) is under the Central Government, eight are under State Governments and 25 are owned by the private sector.
2. IGRUA, established in 1986, is India's largest FTO, located at Amethi (UP). It is an autonomous body under the control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation,

Government of India. IGRUA completed a total of 18,216 flying hours in the year 202 In the year 2023 (till 18.12.2023), IGRUA has completed 6683 Flying Hours.

3. In 2020, Airports Authority of India (AAI) came up with a liberalised FTO policy wherein airport royalty payments (revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) were abolished and land rentals were significantly rationalised.
4. In 2021, after a competitive bidding process, AAI awarded nine FTO slots at five airports at Belagavi (Karnataka), Jalgaon (Maharashtra), Kalaburagi (Karnataka), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) and Lilabari (Assam). Currently, seven of these FTO slots are operational: one each at Belagavi, Khajuraho, Lilabari, and two each at Kalaburagi and Jalgaon. Of these six FTOs that are currently operational, one slot each at Belagavi, Jalgaon and Khajuraho became operational in 2023.
5. In June 2022, after a competitive bidding process, six more FTO slots were awarded by AAI at five airports namely: Bhavnagar (Gujarat), Hubballi (Karnataka), Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh), Kishangarh (Rajasthan) and Salem (Tamil Nadu). Of these, one FTO slot at Salem became operational in 2023.

## Flight Crew Licensing

The functions of the Directorate of Training and Licensing include initial issue / conversion of CPL/ATPL/CHPL/PPL/FATA licenses and work related to renewal / endorsement of Flight Crew Licenses. DGCA issued 1562 CPLs in 2023 (as on 18th December 2023), an all-time high.

## Congestion at Airports

The issue of Congestion at major airports was witnessed during last year festive season/ Winter 2022, which became a cause of concern, as it took longer waiting time for passenger processing at various touch points.



Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken painstaking efforts in collaboration with all the stakeholders including airport operators, BCAS, MHA, CISF, Bol etc. in identifying the bottlenecks for necessary augmentation of infrastructure at airports. In the first phase, Metro Airport operators of Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Chennai airports were directed to identify bottlenecks in passenger processing and augment their capacities to meet the growing passenger demands. Subsequently, 10 more airports viz. Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Goa, Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum and Cochin were identified in September '23, where the Airport operators were sensitized to take proactive measures to avoid congestion by augmenting capacities, wherever required.

With the above efforts, additional space has been created at airports by restructuring the available terminal infrastructure to release more space and augment capacity at several passenger touch points for airport operators to be in readiness to handle more passengers comfortably, thereby reducing congestion.

## AAI Airports

Following are the accomplishments of Airports Authority of India:

- New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) (Phase-1) of Chennai International Airport, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu constructed in an area of 1,36,295 sqm. at a cost of Rs.1260 Crores that shall enhance the passenger handling capacity of Airport to 30 million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) from 23 MPPA. The NITB was inaugurated on 08th April 2023.
- New Civil Enclave at Kanpur Airport has been developed in Uttar Pradesh over an area of 6243 sqm. at a project cost of Rs. 150 Crores and is equipped to handle 400 passengers during peak hour. The newly developed apron is suitable for parking three A-321/ B-737 types of aircraft along with a new link Taxi Track of 713m x 23m. The New Civil Enclave at Kanpur Airport was inaugurated on 26th May 2023.
- New Integrated Terminal Building of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair has been constructed in an area of 40,837 sqm at a cost of Rs. 710 Crores with a capacity to serve 1200 passengers during peak hours and 50 lakh passengers annually. The NITB was inaugurated on 18th July, 2023.
- New infrastructure at Tezu Airport, Arunachal Pradesh that includes an extension of the runway (1500m x 30m), the construction of a new apron for 02 nos. ATR 72 type aircraft, construction of a new terminal building, and a fire station cum ATC Tower, has

been developed at a cost of Rs. 170 Cr. The newly developed infrastructure was inaugurated on 24th September, 2023.

- Union Cabinet approved declaration of Surat Airport as an International Airport on 15.12.2023. The existing Surat Airport in Gujarat has been expanded at a total cost of Rs.353 Crores. As part of this expansion, the existing Terminal building has been extended to an additional area of 17046 sqm to make the total area of the Terminal building 25520 sqm. The NITB will be able to cater to 1800 passengers during peak hours with an annual handling capacity of 35 lakh passengers. The building has provision for further increasing the peak hour capacity to 3000 passengers during peak hours with annual handling capacity to 55 lakh passengers. The NITB of Surat Airport has been inaugurated on 17th December, 2023.

## Amendments to Height Rules

Existing Height Rules governing height of the buildings around airports amended to ensure that infrastructure created at the airports may be utilized to the maximum extent without compromising the safety of aircraft operations.

## Flexible Use of Airspace

In the past, about 40% of the airspace was unavailable for civilian use. This resulted in aircraft adopting circuitous routes to reach their destinations – leading to inefficient use of fuel and time along with avoidable extra expenditure. IAF controls 30% of national airspace out of which 30% has been released as upper airspace under Flexible Use of Airspace. As part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', IAF has agreed to release these portions of airspace for civilian use. Till date 129 Conditional Routes (CDRs) have been promulgated. This will lead to significant savings in flight time, fuel usage and reduction in carbon emission. The potential savings to the airlines will be to the tune of Rs.1000 crores per annum. Total savings so far from August 2020- Rs.640.7 crore and total CO2 reduction is 1.37 lakh tons.

## Drones

- Drone certification scheme has been notified on 26th January 2022, making it easier to obtain type certificate by drone manufacturers.
- Drone import policy has been notified on 9th February 2022, banning import of foreign drones and freeing up import of drone components





- Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 have been notified on 11th February 2022, abolishing the requirement of a drone pilot licence. Now a remote pilot certificate is issued by a DGCA-authorized Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) which is adequate for the remote pilot to operate drones.
- An amount of Rs 29.43 crores (approx). has been disbursed to the beneficiaries during FY 2022-23 under PLI Scheme for Drones and Drone Components.
- Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2023 have been notified on 27th September 2023, providing an alternative arrangement in case of non-availability of Indian Passport with the applicant, for issuance of Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC). Now, government issued proof of identity and government issued proof of address such as Voter's ID card, Ration card or driving license shall be adequate for issuance of RPC.
- There are 76 DGCA approved Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) in the country. 8680 RPCs have been issued till 18.12.2023 through Digital Sky Platform.

FBO in Aviation Sector: FBO (Fixed Based Operator) is a new entity created which will provide MRO and GHA facility at the Airports to ensure the growth of general aviation in the country.

## Aircraft Leasing and Financing

To promote Aircraft leasing and financing from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), the Government of India has provided a competitive regime for Aircraft leasing entities in IFSCA, Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT

City) in Gandhinagar. Nineteen Aircraft leasing entities are registered with IFSCA as on 30 November 2023. Additionally, six other applicants have been granted in-principal approval. 137 Aviation Assets including 18 aircraft, 63 aircraft engines and 56 ground support equipment have been leased by aircraft leasing entities registered from GIFT IFSC as of 31st October 2023.

## Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO)

On 9th June 2023, AAI has issued Land Management Circular through which allotment of land/ space for setting up MROs (for self/3rd party) at AAI Airports to willing agencies on card rate basis for a period of 25 years. No royalty/ concession fee shall be payable/ applicable for self and 3rd party MRO services.

## Krishi Udan

Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021 enhancing the existing provisions, mainly focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North-Eastern States and tribal areas. The Scheme covers 58 airports in the country, primarily focusing on 25 airports focusing on Northeastern, Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/areas. In order to facilitate and incentivise movement of Agri-produce by air transportation, the scheme envisages waiver of Landing charges, Parking charges, etc. provided for Indian freighters by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Ministry of Defence at selected airports under the scheme.

