

Regarding Need to expedite acquisition of land for expansion of Coimbatore Airport in Tamil Nadu- Laid

DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P. (COIMBATORE): The Coimbatore Airport, which is the second busiest one in Tamil Nadu, is ranked 22nd in the country. The Coimbatore-Tiruppur region is ranked as the 10th richest metropolitan area in India by GDP, highlighting the region's strong economic influence and potential for greater air traffic. The cargo throughput has also surged with 12,139 tonnes handled in 2024-25, marking a 36% year-on-year increase. Currently, the Coimbatore Airport handles 3.25 million passengers annually and with an occupancy rate of 89.53%. The existing terminal that has the capacity of 3.63 million passengers per annum could reach saturation by 2025-26. AAI (Airport Authority of India) has projected an increase of 51 million passengers per annum by 2027-28 and projected Coimbatore Airport's passenger handling potential to 15 million per annum by 2031-32. The completion of the new integrated terminal building is anticipated by 2031-32. A section of stakeholders have urged authorities to consider establishing an interim facility at Coimbatore International Airport to meet the region's rapidly increasing air traffic demand, ahead of the construction of the new airport and to expand Coimbatore Airport's passenger capacity to 10 million per annum. Hence, I urge upon the Union Govt to expedite to acquire land for construction of the new airport, carry out the expansion work, which includes increase the length of runway to 3.810 meters from 2,990 meters, construction of a new passenger terminal, cargo terminal, an air traffic control-cum-technical building and increase the passengers' additional facilities like a dedicated bus stand, multilevel car parking lot, a new approach road, two mid-scale hotels and an upscale hotel. Further, a temporary terminal may be constructed till the expansion work of Coimbatore Airport is completed.