



THE AIR CARGO AGENTS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

COUNTRY REPORT

FOR THE

47TH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

OF

**THE FEDERATION OF ASIA PACIFIC AIR CARGO
ASSOCIATIONS
(FAPAA)**

On

29th June 2021



THE AIR CARGO AGENTS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT	:	MR. SUNIL ARORA
VICE PRESIDENT	:	MR. AFZAL MALBARWALA
HON. SECRETARY GENERAL	:	MR. C.K. GOVIL
HON. TREASURER	:	MR. ANIL VAZIRANI

MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**MR. SAMIR SHAH
MR. MAHESH TRIKHA
MR. RONALD GOVEAS
MR. JAIDEEP RAHA
MR. SIDDHARTH JAIRAJ
MR. SHASHI KANCHAN
MR. ASHISH ASAF
MR. PRAVEEN MENON**

HEAD OFFICE

**The Air Cargo Agents Association of India
28-B, 2nd Floor, Nariman Bhavan,
Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021
Tel: 91-22-22021923 / 22025584
Fax: 91-22-22824029
Email: headoffice@acaai.in
Website: www.acaai.in**



THE AIR CARGO AGENTS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (ACAII)

PROFILE:

The Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAII), which was found in 1970, is the premier national Association of the IATA accredited air cargo agents in India. Currently, our Association has a pan India strength of 550 members, consisting primarily of air cargo agents

Active Members: 280

Associate Members: 235

Allied Airline Members: 13

Allied GSA Members: 13

Commercial Members: 09

The primary objectives of ACAII are to promote the growth of the air cargo industry in India, facilitate the ease of doing business, and safeguard the interests of its members. In this context, ACAII has extensive liaison and interaction in India with Ministries, Government Departments, Regulatory Authorities. ACAII also deals with global international aviation organizations such as International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), Federation of Asia Pacific Agents Associations (FAPAA), etc. ACAII is also a member of several large Chambers of Commerce in India, such as Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), PHD Chambers of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2020-2021

ACAII is a permanent invitee to the following Committees of Government of India:

- 1). Air Cargo Logistics Promotion Board (ACLPB) under Ministry of Civil Aviation



2). Standing Committee on Promotion of Exports by Air (SCOPE AIR) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

ACAAI regularly participates in the meetings of these Committees and provides inputs and suggestions about many relevant issues pertaining to the air freight industry.

ACAAI continues to work closely with other trade bodies and Associations such as Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI), Federation of Indian Exports Organizations (FIEO), Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India (AMTOI), Consolidators Association of India (CAI), Brihanmumbai Custom Brokers' Association (BCBA), etc. in areas and issues of common interest. ACAAI also works very closely with various Ministries and Government Departments like Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for resolution of industry issues which are of great concern to ACAAI members.

GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ISSUES

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating consequences on the economies of all countries globally and India with no exception to this potential scenario. Manufacturing, trade as well as import and export activities have been adversely affected because of this pandemic.

COVID-19 has severely disrupted the logistics chain, import and export activities and airfreight industry in India. This pandemic is "Force Majeure" and it has caused circumstances which have made "business as usual" impossible.

Manufacturing activities, export houses, exporters and importers have been compelled to keep their normal activities on hold on account of this pandemic and the lengthy lockdown which have been ordered by the Government Authorities in India, suspension of airline operations to and from India has resulted in complete lack of any outlet by air for import and export goods.

As Logistics falls under "essential services", the members of ACAAI and their employees have been working continuously and tirelessly so as to ensure that our EXIM industry's function remains unhindered even in this global pandemic crisis. Facilitation from our fraternity has been upfront from the very beginning. The logistic workers handling cargo at various Terminals have braved to handle and



deliver medicines and other perishable items successfully in a timely manner in spite of the various state-wise stringent rules and regulations during the lockdown period. Nevertheless, the EXIM industry has also lost many workers due to COVID while discharging their duties for the nation.

The Government of India and various Ministries have contributed in many ways to the EXIM industry during the prevailing pandemic.

The "Lifeline Udan" initiatives of Ministry of Civil Aviation for movement of medical and essential supplies across the country and beyond, the logistic workers ensured that our country's Doctors, Paramedics and frontline COVID warriors receive their necessary protective gears to serve the nation in this most challenging times. Moreover, the cargo sector is now handling vaccines through various airports.

The "Krishi Udan" is a special initiative for the movement of perishable fruits and vegetables i.e. Agri and Agro products was taken to coordinate with the various agencies like Terminal and Airport Operators and Customs in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation. A special team was formed where ACAAI played a crucial role to facilitate the farmers to export their fresh produce overseas and also within India.

Ministry of Finance, CBDT, CBIC has provided flexibility to airfreight agents in the terms and dates for the payment of various taxes and levies during the next 6 months in all GST, Income Tax, Customs jurisdiction pan India.

CONCLUSION

Logistics will be a sunrise industry globally during the next decade. Airfreight has a key role to play in the logistics industry. The need for speedy delivery of goods across the globe has become a necessity. This is particularly true in the case of pharmaceuticals, garments, perishable goods, valuable cargo, etc. Despite the lockdown and various restrictions prevailing for more than a year now, ACAAI conducted various webinars and online programmes on various subjects wherein, the Managing Committee members of ACAAI have participated as Speakers in these industry forums and online meetings.

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