Airports Authority of India (AAI) - UPSC Indian Polity Notes

Government bodies, their roles and functions are important for the IAS Exam. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is one such Statutory Body under the Government of India, which is frequently seen in the News. Read on to know more about AAI, its functions and relevance for the UPSC Exam.

Airports Authority of India (AAI)

Founded in 1995, the Airports Authority of India was created through the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Hence, it is a statutory body.

- The AAI manages the building, enhancing, servicing and management of the civil aviation infrastructure in India.
- The major function of the AAI is to provide Air Traffic Management (ATM) services over airspaces that belong to the Indian Territory and the neighbouring oceanic areas.
- It also provides CNS (Communication Navigation Surveillance).
- It is responsible for the creation, management, maintenance and upgradation of aviation infrastructure in the country. Management of international airports, domestic airports, customs airports and civil enclaves in the defence airfields is vested in the AAI.
- The headquarters of the Airports Authority of India is in New Delhi.

Achievements of AAI

Some of the achievements of AAI are listed below:

Sr. No	Projects	Description
1	Automatic Dependence Surveillance System/ADSS	• India was the first nation in South-East Asia to implement ADSS at Chennai & Kolkata Air Traffic Control Centres. • This enabled Air Traffic Control over oceanic areas using satellite mode of communication.
2	GAGAN Project	• GAGAN is implemented by AAI in alliance with ISRO. • To get the navigational requirement of the aircraft, navigation signals received from the Global Positioning System (GPS) would be augmented.
3	Performance-Based Navigation	• AAI has also implemented Performance Based Navigation Procedures at the airports in Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

UPSC Questions related to Airports Authority of India

How many airports does AAI Airports Authority of India manage?

There are 137 airports under the management of AAI (Airports Authority of India). They include up to 23 International Airports, 81 Domestic Airports, 23 Domestic Civil Enclaves and 10 Customs Airports.

Who is the head of Airports Authority of India?

Former IAS officer, Arvind Singh is the chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). He took up the position in November 2019.

Why was AAI formed?

AAI was formed with the responsibility of building, enhancing, managing and servicing the infrastructure for civil aviation in India. Providing Air Traffic Management services over airspaces is one of the main functions of AAI.