



Narasimham D.L.
ATA/Tariff/PBA/1/

Secretary
18th Aug. 2025

To,

The Chairperson,
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority
(AFRA)
Udan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi

Subject: Opposition to Tariffs for Air Travellers at Port Blair
Airport and other RCS Airports

Dear Chairperson,

We, the Air Travellers Association, are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed tariff for air travellers at Port Blair Airport and RCS airports. While we appreciate AERA's efforts to regulate airport tariffs, we believe that imposing additional tariffs on air travellers at these airports would be counterproductive to the government's objectives of promoting air travel in India in general and more specific through the RCS and UDAN Scheme.

As you are aware, the government has been actively promoting air travel in India through various initiatives, including the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). Under this scheme, the government provides subsidies to airlines to operate on new routes, making air travel more affordable for passengers. However, imposing additional tariffs on air travellers at RCS airports would negate the benefits of these subsidies and potentially hinder the growth of air travel in these regions.

We would like to highlight the policy paradox that exists in this situation. On one hand, the government is spending money to promote aviation activities and make air travel more affordable for passengers. On the other hand, imposing additional tariffs on air travellers would increase the cost of air travel, making it less affordable for passengers. This paradox highlights the need for a more cohesive and aligned policy approach to support the aviation industry's development.

Considering this paradox, we request that AERA reconsider its decision to impose tariffs on air travellers at Port Blair Airport and RCS airports. Instead, we propose that these airports be exempted from tariff regulations for a specified period, say five to seven years; allowing them to focus on promoting air travel and supporting the growth of the aviation industry in these regions. There are clear examples of such tax holidays for many States for establishing industrial and trade centers in their catchment areas.

ATA requests AERA to reconsider its decision to impose tariffs on air travellers at Port Blair airport in particular, and the RCS airports in general. Sir, the proposed levy needs to be evaluated in the context that Air connectivity to Port Blair is a very basic necessity for the entire inhabitants of the island.

We believe that this approach would be consistent with the government's objectives of promoting air travel in India and would support the sustainable growth of the aviation industry.

Thank you for considering our representation. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Secretary, Air Travellers Association
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