



Development of Varanasi International Airport

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved a comprehensive development plan for [Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi](#), with a projected cost of **Rs 2869.65 crore**.

- The [Airports Authority of India \(AAI\)](#) will oversee the project, which aims to significantly **enhance the airport's passenger handling capacity**.

Key Points

- The project involves building a **fresh terminal, lengthening the runway, and enlarging the apron**.
 - The upcoming terminal will span **75,000 square meters**, catering to **6 million** passengers annually and handling up to **5,000 passengers** during peak hours.
 - This will showcase **Varanasi's cultural heritage**, providing travelers with a unique experience.
- The airport is on track to transform into an **eco-friendly airport** by prioritizing [environmental sustainability](#) through [energy efficiency](#), [recycling waste](#), [reducing carbon emissions](#), [harnessing solar power](#), and **maximizing natural light**.

Airports Authority of India (AAI)

- It was **constituted by an Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995** by merging erstwhile **National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India**.
- The merger brought into existence a single organisation entrusted with the responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure both on the ground and air space in the country.