



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Puri Airport Project Gets Stage-I Forest Clearance

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The proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in Odisha has received Stage-I (in-principle) forest clearance from the Government of India, marking a major milestone for the project.

## Key Highlights

Clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Approval allows diversion of about 27.886 hectares of forest land for the airport project.

It is a Stage-I (in-principle) approval, not final clearance.

Construction can begin only after obtaining Stage-II (final) clearance.

Considered a major step forward for the greenfield airport project.

## Conditions for Final Approval

Compensatory afforestation to offset forest loss

Payment of forest diversion charges

Measures for wildlife and ecosystem protection

Compliance with environmental norms before Stage-II clearance

## Kamaraj IAS Academy

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## **Legal & Policy Framework**

Approval granted under:

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (now Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam)

Forest clearance in India follows a two-stage process:

Stage I: In-principle approval

Stage II: Final approval after compliance

## **Project Details**

Location: Puri district, Odisha

Type: Greenfield International Airport

Estimated cost: ~₹5,600+ crore

Development mode: Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Proposed runway length: ~3,700 meters

## **Background**

Proposed to improve connectivity to Puri, a major religious destination.

Puri is famous for:

Jagannath Temple

Annual Rath Yatra

The project had earlier faced delays due to:

Environmental concerns

Impact on coastal ecosystem and wildlife

## **Greenfield Airports in India**

Developed under Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008

Requires:

Site clearance

Environmental & forest clearances

Defence clearance

Aviation Sector (India)

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India is among the fastest-growing aviation markets globally

Focus on regional connectivity under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme

Environmental Governance

**MoEFCC is responsible for:**

Environmental clearance (EC)

Forest clearance (FC)

Wildlife protection

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