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SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING CARGO FORTNIGHTLY



Air Freight Stations to revolutionise cargo landscape



As volumes continue to grow and airport capacity comes under increasing pressure; Air Freight Stations (AFSs) are emerging as a potential solution to improve efficiency across the ecosystem. By bringing customs clearance, handling, documentation, and consolidation closer to cargo generating centres, AFSs can help reduce terminal congestion, cut dwell times, and improve predictability.

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'AFS one-stop solution for all cargo requirements'



Vipin Vohra, Chairman, Continental Carriers, said, "AFSs will prove to be a one-stop solution for all cargo needs and will boost cargo efficiency in India. They have the potential to be a game changer by creating a more integrated, efficient, and seamless handling environment. By bringing **READ MORE** ➤



‘Digital connectivity drives air cargo efficiency’



Amit Maheshwari, Founder and CEO, Softlink Global, said, “AFSs can become a major efficiency driver by bringing cargo handling, documentation, customs processes, consolidation, and value-added services closer to cargo-generating centres. By reducing congestion at airport [READ MORE](#)➤



‘Revolution in logistics is about moving times’



Balagopal Balachandran, National Head Air Freight, FEI Cargo, said, “For decades, the industry has focused on moving cargo faster. But perhaps the next revolution in logistics is not about moving cargo — it is about moving time. Every minute saved in handling can translate [READ MORE](#)➤

‘Answer to growing cargo terminal congestion’



Sunil Kohli, MD, Rahat Cargo, said, “To meet increasing volumes and to cope with the enhanced pace of e-commerce, perishables, and pharma traffic, AFSs have been introduced to reduce congestion at terminal premises by extending infrastructure and services to all exporters and [READ MORE](#)➤

‘Why off-airport facilities are a release valve’



Gautham Raju, Head, Air Freight, Indian Subcontinent, Flexport, said, “Anyone whose trucks are delayed for hours to offload cargo at Chennai or Mumbai knows the terminal, not the aircraft, is the real bottleneck. Its tightening further, with CSMIA pausing freighter ops this [READ MORE](#)➤

‘Next big game changer in air cargo landscape’



Nomita Kothari, CEO, New Globe Logistik LLP, said, “The air cargo story is entering an exciting new phase. As volumes grow and airports become capacity constrained, AFSs have the potential to become the next big game changer. An AFS is much more than an off-airport cargo [READ MORE](#)➤

‘Pathway to India’s 10 million tonne ambition’



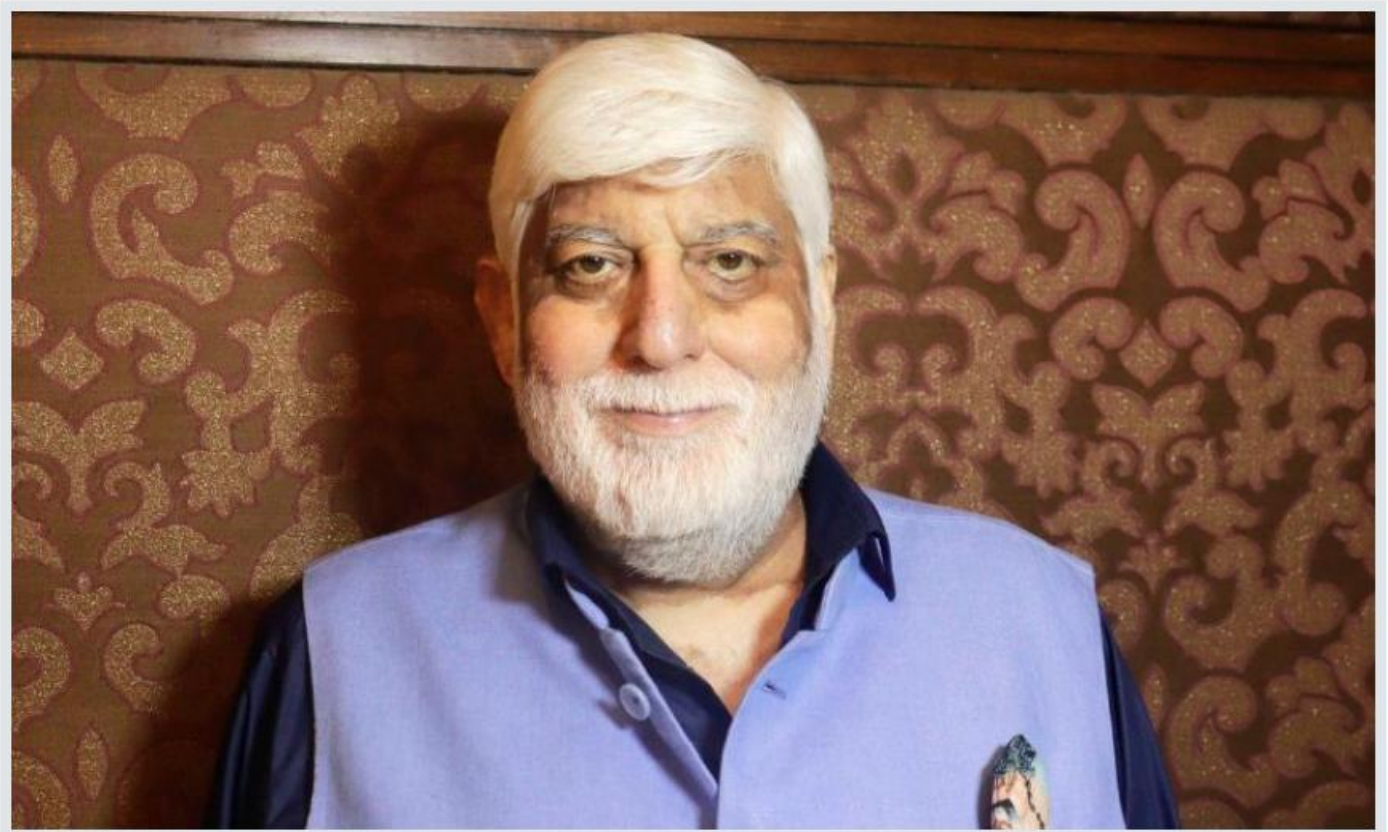
Priya Anil Thomas, Managing Director, Thomas Global, said, “AFSs could be a powerful enabler of the Ministry of Civil Aviation’s vision of building India into a 10 million tonne air cargo system. By creating an integrated ecosystem, AFSs can reduce congestion, improve turnaround times and [READ MORE](#)➤

‘Air Freight Stations will bridge shipper-airport gap’



C K Govil, CMD, Activair Airfreight said, “Air Freight Stations (AFS) are poised to emerge as a key enabler of India’s next phase of air cargo growth, offering a more integrated and efficient cargo ecosystem. By bringing together Customs, documentation, consolidation, examination [READ MORE](#)➤

‘AFS one-stop solution for all cargo requirements’



📅 August 27, 2026

Vipin Vohra, Chairman, Continental Carriers, said, “AFSs will prove to be a one-stop solution for all cargo needs and will boost cargo efficiency in India. They have the potential to be a game changer by creating a more integrated, efficient, and seamless handling environment. By bringing multiple cargo processes under one roof, an AFS can offer a true one-stop solution — from cargo acceptance and documentation to customs clearance, handling and onward movement. As air cargo volumes continue to grow, a robust network of AFS facilities can strengthen cargo efficiency, optimise airport capacity, and support the government’s vision of making India a globally competitive air logistics hub.”

‘Digital connectivity drives air cargo efficiency’



📅 August 27, 2026

Amit Maheshwari, Founder and CEO, Softlink Global, said, “AFSs can become a major efficiency driver by bringing cargo handling, documentation, customs processes, consolidation, and value-added services closer to cargo-generating centres. By reducing congestion at airport terminals and cutting dwell time, they can improve shipment predictability and lower logistics costs. If backed by strong digital connectivity with airlines, airports and Customs, AFSs can create a more distributed, scalable air cargo network for India.”

‘Revolution in logistics is about moving times’



📅 August 27, 2026

Balagopal Balachandran, National Head Air Freight, FEI Cargo, said, “For decades, the industry has focused on moving cargo faster. But perhaps the next revolution in logistics is not about moving cargo — it is about moving time. Every minute saved in handling can translate into lower logistics costs, faster inventory cycles, and competitiveness for Indian exporters. This is where the AFSs has the potential to become a true game changer. Imagine a scenario where cargo reaches the airport “ready for carriage” — processed, screened, documented, and prepared for seamless airline acceptance. AFSs can help reduce dwell time, handling touchpoints, and processing delays.”

'Answer to growing cargo terminal congestion'



📅 August 27, 2026

Sunil Kohli, MD, Rahat Cargo, said, "To meet increasing volumes and to cope with the enhanced pace of e-commerce, perishables, and pharma traffic, AFSs have been introduced to reduce congestion at terminal premises by extending infrastructure and services to all exporters and importers at any location, notified by customs. AFSs in India act as off-airport custom clearance and handling terminals that reduce congestion and streamline logistics. AFSs are a common user facility offering services for handling and temporary storage of import and export cargo. The purpose of AFSs are to offer a transfer facility to exporters and importers with custom clearance of cargo in bulk, loose or containers through bonded trucking operations. AFSs are an innovative solution to complement an air cargo terminal by contributing towards their higher throughput productivity."

‘Why off-airport facilities are a release valve’



📅 August 27, 2026

Gautham Raju, Head, Air Freight, Indian Subcontinent, Flexport, said, “Anyone whose trucks are delayed for hours to offload cargo at Chennai or Mumbai knows the terminal, not the aircraft, is the real bottleneck. Its tightening further, with CSMIA pausing freighter ops this month for apron work, pushing volumes to NMIA. AFSs solve this at the source: Customs clearance, security screening, documentation, and pallet build-up happen off-airport, so cargo leaves as one intact, sealed pallet straight to airside, skipping the queue, and cutting double handling. That is the one-stop-shop value: Customs, security, and build-up under one roof. With capacity this constrained, AFSs stop being a nice-to-have and becomes the release valve.”

'Next big game changer in air cargo landscape'



📅 August 27, 2026

Nomita Kothari, CEO, New Globe Logistik LLP, said, "The air cargo story is entering an exciting new phase. As volumes grow and airports become capacity constrained, AFSs have the potential to become the next big game changer. An AFS is much more than an off-airport cargo facility. It can become an extension of the airport bringing together cargo acceptance, customs clearance, screening, consolidation, deconsolidation, warehousing, ULD handling, documentation, and bonded transportation under one roof. The benefits are significant: Decongestion at airport cargo complexes, enhanced speed and efficiency, and cost optimisation. For exporters and importers, the value lies in simplicity, visibility, and an integrated point of service backing India's objective of improving EoDB. AFSs can take cargo processing closer to the hinterland, linking manufacturing and consumption centres efficiently with the global cargo gateways."

'Pathway to India's 10 million tonne ambition'



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Priya Anil Thomas, Managing Director, Thomas Global, said, "AFSSs could be a powerful enabler of the Ministry of Civil Aviation's vision of building India into a 10 million tonne air cargo system. By creating an integrated ecosystem, AFSs can reduce congestion, improve turnaround times and unlock greater efficiency and capacity. The real success will lie in seamless coordination between airports, airlines, handlers, customs and the trade. If implemented right, AFS can be a significant game changer in making India's air cargo ecosystem faster, more accessible and future-ready."

‘Air Freight Stations will bridge shipper-airport gap’



📅 August 27, 2026

C K Govil, CMD, Activair Airfreight said, “Air Freight Stations (AFS) are poised to emerge as a key enabler of India’s next phase of air cargo growth, offering a more integrated and efficient cargo ecosystem. By bringing together Customs, documentation, consolidation, examination and transportation closer to cargo origins, AFS can reduce unnecessary movement, congestion, dwell time and truck turnaround times. Their potential is particularly significant for MSMEs, exporters and businesses in Tier 2 and Tier 3 locations, providing easier access to international air cargo networks. With seamless digital integration, real-time visibility and strong coordination among airports, airlines, Customs and logistics stakeholders, AFS can transform India’s fragmented, airport-centric cargo movement into a faster, predictable and end-to-end supply chain.”