

"A man is  
great by  
deeds, not by  
birth"

-Chanakya

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOZHIKODE



Case Study

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**Are Sustainable Innovations Key to Smooth Flying During Turbulence?**

**A Case Study of the Cochin International Airport Limited**

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## **Are Sustainable Innovations Key to Smooth Flying During Turbulence? A Case Study of the Cochin International Airport Limited**

### **Abstract:**

One of the factors that contribute to the success in today's dynamic business environment is how sustainability and innovation is integrated into Business strategy. Aviation being a cyclical Industry, the challenges are much more. Right from its start, the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has integrated innovation and sustainability into their business strategy. The CIAL was the first in India to build an airport using the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with inclusive growth and with Non-Resident Indian (NRI) investment. The CIAL became the first airport in the world operating with 100% percent Solar Power. For additional revenue they have set up of a cargo centre, inbuilt hydrant fuel system for refuelling business, Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for aircraft repair. Because of these sustainable innovations they are very successful in their Business operations. These innovative initiatives have helped them in increasing their non-aviation and non-aero revenues. They have been making profits from 2002-03 till 2021-22 (except for 2020-21 due to Covid-19) and paid dividend year after year even when several airports including big airports were running at losses. They have won the Champions of Earth award in 2018 which is UN's highest environment award. Recently in 2022 CIAL won the Airport Service Quality award in 2022 of Air Council International in 5 – 15 million passenger categories in Asia Pacific. This award is one of the highest honors in global aviation sector.

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