CORSIA Deadline and Sustainable Aviation Fuel Targets

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance| Environment*

Why in News?

India is set to enter the mandatory second phase of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) on January 1, 2027, running through 2035.

This framework enforces carbon-offsetting rules and introduces phased Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blending mandates for international routes.

CORSIA 2027 Obligations & Financial Impact

- **Timeline–** After opting out of the voluntary pilot (2021–2023) and first phase (2024–2026), India joins mandatory compliance from **2027 to 2035**.
- **Compliance Mechanism–** Airlines must monitor and verify CO_2 emissions on international flights, offsetting any excess over the baseline (85% of 2019 levels) using ICAO-approved credits or certified SAF.
- **Estimated Costs–** Projections indicate Indian carriers could face **31.8 million tonnes** of CO_2 offsetting requirements between 2027 and 2035, translating to an estimated **US$781 million to US$2.6 billion** in costs, potentially representing about **10%** of global CORSIA obligations.

India's SAF Blending Targets & Rollout

- **Blending Roadmap–** The national trajectory mandates international SAF blends of **1% in 2027**, **2% in 2028**, and **5% by 2030**, with long-term aspirations of **10% by 2035** and **20% by 2040**.
- **Production & Supply–** Following ISCC CORSIA certification, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is gearing up to supply roughly **35,000 tonnes per year** of SAF derived from used cooking oil at its **Panipat refinery**.
- IOC is also collaborating with LanzaJet on alcohol-to-jet technology, while Air India and Airbus launched a feasibility study for a corporate SAF programme in late 2026.
- **Challenges–** Wider adoption faces hurdles including high production costs relative to conventional fuel, fragmented feedstock supply chains, and scaling infrastructure

Reference

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