



Draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022

Why in News?

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified the Draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022.

What is the Background?

- The Draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022 will supersede **Aircraft Security Rules, 2011** and were necessary after Parliament passed Aircraft Amendment Act, 2020 in September 2020, giving statutory powers to BCAS along with the **Director General of Civil Aviation** and **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau**.
- These allow them to impose penalties which could only be imposed by courts earlier. The Act also raised the maximum penalty from RS 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore
- The **amendment in Parliament was required** after the [United Nation's aviation watchdog, International Civil Aviation Organisation \(ICAO\)](#), raised questions about the three regulators functioning without statutory powers.

What are the Rules?

- **Penalty and Suspension:**
 - These rules will enable the [Bureau of Civil Aviation Security \(BCAS\)](#) to impose a fine of RS 50 lakh to RS 1 crore (depending on the size of the company) on airports and airlines if they **fail to prepare and implement a security programme**, or if they commence operations without seeking a security clearance.
 - The BCAS is an attached office of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (India)**. It is the regulatory authority for civil aviation security in India.
 - **Individuals will also face penalties** ranging from RS 1 lakh to Rs 25 lakh depending on the nature of offence.
 - The BCAS will also be able to **suspend or cancel an entity's airport security clearance and security programme**.
- **Cyber Security:**
 - In order to deal with [cyber security](#) threats, the rules also require **each entity to protect its information and communication technology systems** against unauthorized use and prohibit disclosure of sensitive aviation security information.
- **Private Security Agents:**
 - The draft rules now authorize airports to engage private security agents instead of **CISF (Central Industrial Security Force)** personnel at "non-core areas" and assign security duties as per the recommendation of the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.

What is the International Civil Aviation Organisation?

- ICAO is a **United Nations (UN) specialized agency**, established in 1944, which laid the foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.
 - The Convention on International Civil Aviation **was signed on 7th December 1944 in Chicago**.
 - It established the core principles permitting international transport by air, and also led to the creation of the ICAO.

- One of the **objectives is to foster the planning and development of international air transport** so as to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world.
- India is **among its 193 members.**
- It is **headquartered in Montreal, Canada.**

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