



## NIA and Civil Aviation Security

**For Prelims:** NIA and Civil Aviation Security, [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)](#), [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\)](#) and the [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Act](#), Terrorism, Insurgency, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

**For Mains:** NIA and Civil Aviation Security, Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)](#) has registered a case against a **Khalistani Terrorist** and Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) founder over the Air India threat.

- India banned the SFJ as an "unlawful association" in 2019, citing that it was involved in "anti-national and subversive" activities.
- The NIA invoked provisions of the [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\)](#) and the [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Act](#) against SFJ.

### What is the National Investigation Agency (NIA)?

- **About:**
  - The NIA is a federal agency of the Indian government responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes **related to** [Terrorism](#), [Insurgency](#), and other national security matters.
    - Federal agencies in a country typically have jurisdiction over matters that affect the country as a whole, rather than just individual states or provinces.
  - It was established in 2009 following the [Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008](#), under the **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008**, operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
    - The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019 was passed in July 2019, amending the NIA Act, 2008.
- **Function:**
  - The NIA has the power **to take over investigations of terrorism-related cases from state police forces and other agencies**. It also has the authority to investigate cases across state boundaries without obtaining prior permission from state governments.
  - It coordinates with other law enforcement agencies, both within India and internationally, in matters related to terrorism and national security.
- **Probe:**
  - The State government can refer cases related to scheduled offences to the Central government for NIA investigation under Section 6 of the NIA Act 2008.
  - The Central government can also direct the NIA to investigate a scheduled offence, either within or outside India, on its own accord.

- For prosecuting the accused under the UAPA and certain other scheduled offences, the NIA seeks the sanction of the Central government.
- There is a special cell to deal with **LWE (Left Wing Extremism)** cases related to terror financing. During the investigation of a scheduled offence, the NIA can also investigate any other offence connected to it. Finally, after investigation, the cases are presented before the NIA Special Court.

## What is Aviation Security and How is it Regulated in India?

### ▪ About:

- Civil aviation security **refers to the measures and protocols implemented to safeguard civil aviation** against unlawful interference, such as terrorist attacks, hijackings, sabotage, and other threats.
- These security measures aim to ensure the safety of passengers, crew, aircraft, and airport facilities.

### ▪ Regulating Bodies:

- The **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** is the national regulator for civil aviation security in India. It was established in 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee.

- The BCAS was initially set up as a Cell in the DGCA in January 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee. The BCAS was reorganized into an independent department under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** in 1987.

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** regulates air transport services to, from, and within India. It also enforces civil air regulations, air safety, and airworthiness standards.

### ▪ Rules:

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced **the Aircraft (Security) Rules, 2023** to enhance civil aviation security in line with international conventions.

### ▪ Convention on International Civil Aviation:

- It is commonly known as the **Chicago Convention**, established in 1944 under the auspices of the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- The Chicago Convention serves as the foundational treaty for international civil aviation. It outlines principles and standards for the **safe and orderly development of international civil aviation** and includes provisions related to aviation security.