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News: Aviation Ministry notifies draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022

Aircraft Security Rules, 2022

- The draft Aircraft Security Rules 2022, enable the aviation security regulator, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), to impose penalties up to ₹1 crore on airports and airlines for violation of security measures.
- The BCAS can impose a fine of ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore on airports and airlines if they fail to prepare and implement a security programme, or if they commence operations without seeking a security clearance.
- Large airports can also face a penalty of ₹1 crore if they fail to plan the design and layout of the airport in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Programme.
- Individuals will also face penalties ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹25 lakh depending on the nature of the offence.
- According to the proposed rules, the BCAS will also be able to suspend or cancel an entity's airport security clearance and security programme.

- Once the Aircraft Security Rules 2022 are finalised, they will go a long way in ensuring an effective aviation security apparatus in the country. These are also as per ICAO norms.

International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

- International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is a **specialized agency under United Nations ECOSOC, 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 of ICAO 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.** Every UN recognized nation except Lichtenstein is a member (lacking an international airport), along with Cook Islands. Despite Liechtenstein not being a direct party to ICAO, its government

has delegated Switzerland to enter into the treaty on its behalf, and the treaty applies in the territory of Liechtenstein.

- It is headquartered in **Montreal, Canada (Montreal Convention)**.
- The ICAO **standards never supersede the primacy of national regulatory requirements**. It is always the local, national regulations which are enforced in, and by, sovereign states, and which must be legally adhered to by air operators making use of applicable airspace and airports.
- Recently, India has launched a direct flight between Srinagar and Sharjah (UAE) operated by budget airline GoFirst (formerly known as GoAir). The flight was to operate through Pakistani airspace.