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News: Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak (BVV) Bill, 2024

- Recently, the Parliament passed the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak (BVV) Bill, 2024, which seeks to replace the Aircraft Act, 1934 (last amended in 2020), and bring major reforms to the aviation sector.

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- **Aircraft Act 1934:** The Bill retains the provisions from the Aircraft Act, 1934, which established the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security), and AAIB (Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau).
- These bodies will continue to oversee safety, security, and accident investigations, respectively.
- The Bill provides a mechanism for appeals against the orders of DGCA or BCAS to the central government, which will be the final authority.
- **Single Window Clearance:** The BVV Bill, 2024, moves the responsibility for managing Radio Telephone Operator Restricted (RTR) certifications from the Department of Telecom (DoT) to the DGCA.

- This change aims to streamline the licensing process for aviation personnel and address corruption in the DoT's RTR exams, ensuring more transparency under the DGCA's oversight.
- RTR certification, or RTR (A) for aeronautical purposes, is a license certifying a person's qualification to use radio communication equipment on an aircraft, primarily for air traffic control communication. It is mandatory for pilots in India.
- **Regulation of Aircraft Design:** The Bill empowers the DGCA to regulate not only the manufacture, repair, and maintenance of aircraft but also the design and locations where aircraft are being designed.
- With these new powers, the DGCA can ensure more comprehensive and efficient oversight of the aviation sector in India.
- **Arbitrator Appointment:** The Bill allows the Central government to unilaterally appoint an arbitrator (a person who is or has been qualified for appointment as a Judge of a High Court) to resolve compensation disputes related to land acquisition near airports.

