# Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026

***A Modern Rulebook for India's Skies***

***PIB Analysis***

## Introduction

- India is one of the fastest-growing civil aviation markets in the world. The number of operational airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 166 in October 2026, reflecting the rapid expansion of air connectivity.
- To modernise aviation regulation, the Government notified the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024.
- It replaces the Aircraft Rules, 1937, and will come into force on 1 January 2027.
- The new Rules aim to strengthen aviation safety, improve ease of doing business, protect passenger interests and support the growth of the aviation sector.

## Key Features

- Comprises 220 rules, organised into 8 chapters and 6 schedules.
- Covers aircraft registration, airworthiness, personnel licensing, aerodrome operations, air navigation and aircraft operations.
- Strengthens regulatory oversight, safety management and enforcement mechanisms.

## Major Provisions

### A. Aircraft Design and Manufacturing

- DGCA can issue or validate type certificates for aircraft, engines and propellers.
- Authorises the design and manufacture of aircraft components meeting prescribed standards.
- Strengthens India's position as a State of Design.
- Introduces provisions for aircraft inspection, maintenance and airworthiness certification.

### B. Aircraft Registration and Ownership

- Provides two categories of aircraft registration (A and B).
- Introduces a framework for fractional ownership, allowing multiple investors to jointly own an aircraft.
- IDERA holders can seek aircraft deregistration, with eligible applications to be processed within five working days.

- Facilitates aircraft leasing, deregistration and export.

### C. Personnel Licensing

- Recognises 23 categories of licences, ratings and certificates.
- Prescribes qualifications, medical fitness, training and competency requirements for:
  - Pilots and flight engineers.
  - Aircraft maintenance engineers.
  - Air traffic controllers.
  - Radio-telephone operators.
- Specifies a maximum age of 60 years for exercising certain air traffic controller licence privileges.

### D. Cabin Crew Safety

- Prescribes minimum cabin crew requirements based on aircraft seating capacity.
- Requires approved safety training and refresher courses.
- No cabin crew member can serve on more than three aircraft types.

### E. Aerodrome Safety and Infrastructure

- Provides licensing requirements for public and private aerodromes.
- Requires aerodrome manuals and regular safety inspections.
- Regulates aerodrome lighting, ground handling and access to restricted areas.
- Restricts activities attracting wildlife within 10 km of aerodromes.

### F. Air Navigation Services

- Strengthens air traffic management and airspace safety.
- Covers communication, navigation and surveillance systems.
- Regulates aviation meteorological services.
- Provides for coordinated search and rescue operations with neighbouring countries.

### G. Aircraft Operations and Passenger Protection

- Prescribes flight and duty-time limits and minimum crew rest periods to address fatigue.
- Prohibits crew consumption of alcohol or specified intoxicants within 12 hours before a flight or during flight duties.
- Requires digital publication of airfares and transparent disclosure of taxes, fees and other charges.
- Empowers the Central Government to issue proportionate, time-bound directions during extraordinary circumstances.
- Provides for a Regional Air Connectivity Fund to support viability gap funding.

## Regulatory Oversight and Enforcement

- DGCA will oversee an integrated State Safety Programme.
- Mandatory and voluntary safety reporting systems will be established.

- Voluntary reporting will be non-punitive and protect confidentiality.
- Draft Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) will ordinarily be published for 30 days for stakeholder consultation.
- Allows inspections, including unannounced inspections.

**Penalty Framework:**

- 21 punishable offences attracting imprisonment up to 2 years, a fine up to ₹1 crore, or both.
- 18 compoundable offences.
- Introduces a graded penalty structure with 10 severity levels.
- Monetary penalties range from ₹10,000 to ₹1 crore.
- Provides appeals, hearings and reasoned orders to ensure procedural fairness.

## Significance

1. **Aviation Safety**: Strengthens aircraft maintenance, crew fitness and safety management.
2. **Ease of Doing Business**: Simplifies aircraft leasing, registration and ownership arrangements.
3. **Passenger Protection**: Promotes transparency in airfares and associated charges.
4. **Indigenous Manufacturing**: Encourages domestic aircraft design and component manufacturing.
5. **Regional Connectivity**: Supports aviation infrastructure and regional air connectivity.
6. **Global Standards**: Aligns India's regulatory framework with international aviation standards under the Chicago Convention.

## Way Forward

- Strengthen DGCA's technical capacity and institutional autonomy.
- Improve coordination between DGCA, airport operators and airlines.
- Promote indigenous aircraft manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities.
- Ensure effective implementation of safety management systems.
- Strengthen passenger grievance redressal and transparent pricing.
- Expand connectivity to underserved and remote regions.

## Conclusion

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, marks an important transition from a colonial-era aviation rulebook to a modern regulatory framework.

By balancing safety, passenger protection, technological advancement and ease of doing business, it seeks to make India's aviation sector safer, more competitive and globally integrated.

## Reference

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