October 26, 2026

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026 replace the Aircraft Rules, 1937

G.S.R. 957(E) makes the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, in force January 1, 2027, repealing the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and Part IX of the Aircraft Rules, 1920.

THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL Aviation issued notification G.S.R. 957(E), dated October 26, 2026, making the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026. It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 856, dated October 29, 2026. The Central Government made the rules under sections 10, 11, 17, 19, 20, 25(4), 30, 32 and 33 of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 (16 of 2024), after publishing a draft, the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2025, by G.S.R. 466(E) of July 11, 2025, made available to the public on July 14, 2025, and considering the objections and suggestions received. The rules come into force on January 1, 2027. Priyanka Das, Joint Secretary, signed the notification under F. No. AV-11012/3/2025-D G. The 220 rules sit in eight chapters, followed by six Schedules and Forms A and B; the table lists them. Rules 68, 120, 133, 154 and 200, each headed "Fee" or "Fees", set the fees for the certificates, licences, permits and approvals of their chapters; offenses and compounding are in the Fifth Schedule and penalties in the Sixth, with Form A for compounding and Form B for appeals.

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Rule 220 repeals Part IX of the Aircraft Rules, 1920, the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and the Radio Telephone Operator (Restricted) Certificate and Licence Rules, 2025, "except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such repeal including any notification, inspection or order made or issued; or any licence, certificate, approval, permission or exemption granted; or any document or instrument executed; or any direction issued; or any proceedings taken or any penalty, punishment, forfeiture or fine imposed under these rules so repealed shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act." As printed, the clause does not finish its sentence: it does not say whether such a licence, certificate, approval or permission continues, for how long, or whether it counts as granted under the new rules.

Rule 219 deals with radio telephone operator certificates and licences issued by the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of the Department of Telecommunications under the Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Commercial Radio Operator's Certificate of Proficiency and Licence to operate Wireless Telegraphy) Rules, 1954, or by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation under the 2025 rules. They stay valid up to their existing validity period unless suspended or cancelled, and a holder may apply to renew no earlier than one year before expiry. For a licence issued by the Wing, the Director General then issues a corresponding certificate and licence under the new rules, valid until the holder turns eighty unless suspended or cancelled. No holder has to sit the examination under rule 107 again for the renewal. Rule 109(2) also keeps an existing Radio Telephone Operator (Restricted) Certificate and Licence valid till its expiry, and says its holder may be granted one under the new rules on passing the practical examination under rule 107. The second proviso to rule 149(1) lets a person already permitted and operating a communication, navigation, surveillance or air traffic management facility at an aeronautical telecommunication station before the rules start continue until it gets the Director General's certificate, by a date the Central Government will notify. The proviso to rule 124(1) does the same for a person already permitted and operating scheduled air transport services to an aerodrome before November 2,

2004, until the aerodrome operator gets its licence. No other rule speaks to pilot, engineer or air traffic controller licences, registrations or airworthiness certificates granted under the repealed rules.

Under rule 1(3), the rules apply to aircraft registered in India, and persons on them, wherever they are, and to aircraft registered outside India while in or over India. For a foreign-registered aircraft, its own State's regulations on registration, licence of personnel, airworthiness and log books apply if they meet at least the minimum standards under the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed at Chicago on December 7, 1944. For an aircraft registered in one contracting State and operated under a lease, charter, interchange or similar arrangement by an operator based in another contracting State other than India, that other State's regulations on the same four matters apply instead, where the two governments have an agreement under Article 83 bis of the Convention that has been notified to the Government of India or the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the rules then apply as that agreement provides. Where such an agreement involves India, the rules apply to a foreign-registered aircraft leased, chartered or interchanged to an operator based in India, and do not apply to an Indian-registered aircraft operated by an operator based in another contracting State, in each case to the extent of that agreement. For rules 11, 55, 59, 62, 63, 65, 72, 83, 86, 103, 114, 168, 175 and 179, the first is treated as registered in India and the second as not. Rule 179 bars an aircraft registered in or belonging to a foreign State from flying into, over, across or within India without the Director General's prior permission, except as rules 183, 191 and 211 provide, and lets the Director General exempt any aircraft or class of aircraft by general or special order.

Rule 187, "Import or local acquisition of aircraft other than an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone)", reads: "(1) No person shall import or locally acquire an aircraft except with a permission from Director General in accordance with the requirements specified by him. (2) The aircraft so imported or locally acquired shall not be used for the purposes other than it is permitted for." The Director General is the Director General of Civil Aviation (rule 2(54)). The rule does not list the requirements or set a time limit. Rule 200(1)(D) sets the fee for the permission: ₹1,00,000 per aircraft of up to 10,000 kg all-up weight and ₹2,00,000 above that, for aircraft used for scheduled or non-scheduled air transport service, private use or aerial work, and ₹20,000 per aircraft for flying training organizations, microlight aircraft, powered hang gliders and hot air balloons. Table 1 of the Fifth Schedule lists a breach of rule 187(1) among offenses punishable with imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of up to one crore rupees, or both. The Sixth Schedule also lists it as a level 6 contravention for a penalty, and a breach of rule 187(2) as level 5. Rule 40(2) asks for a Bill of Entry from Customs showing duty paid when an imported aircraft is registered, rule 41 allows a temporary certificate of registration to bring an aircraft in by air, and rule 49(3) lets the Director General validate the certificate of airworthiness of an aircraft to be imported.

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Document	Notification G.S.R. 957(E), the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026

Dated	October 26, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 856, October 29, 2026
Takes effect	January 1, 2027
Made under	Sections 10, 11, 17, 19, 20, 25(4), 30, 32 and 33 of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 (16 of 2024)
Draft	Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2025, G.S.R. 466(E), July 11, 2025
Repeals	Part IX of the Aircraft Rules, 1920; the Aircraft Rules, 1937; the Radio Telephone Operator (Restricted) Certificate and Licence Rules, 2025 (rule 220)
Applies to	Aircraft registered in India, and persons on them, wherever they are; aircraft registered outside India while in or over India (rule 1(3))
Size	220 rules in eight chapters, six Schedules, Forms A and B
Import or local acquisition of an aircraft, other than a drone	Permission from the Director General of Civil Aviation, under the requirements he specifies (rule 187)
Fee for that permission (rule 200(1)(D))	₹1,00,000 per aircraft of up to 10,000 kg all-up weight, ₹2,00,000 above that (air transport service, private use or aerial work); ₹20,000 per aircraft for flying training organizations, microlight aircraft, powered hang gliders and hot air balloons
Breach of rule 187(1)	Fifth Schedule, Table 1: imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of up to one crore rupees, or both; Sixth Schedule: a level 6 contravention for a penalty
Foreign aircraft flying into or over India	Prior permission of the Director General, except as rules 183, 191 and 211 provide (rule 179)
Registration categories	Category A and Category B, by who owns the aircraft (rule 39(4)); a Category B aircraft may not be used for aerial work or public transport unless the Central Government permits it (rule 186)
Deregistration on an IDERA Holder's application	For an aircraft registered in India to which the Cape Town Convention and Cape Town Protocol apply, the Central Government cancels the certificate of registration within five working days, without seeking consent or any document from the operator or any other person, if the IDERA Holder applies with the IDERA (irrevocable deregistration and export request authorization) recorded with the Director General, a priority search report from the International Registry and its certificate on prior-ranking interests (rule 44(2))

Existing radio telephone operator certificates	Valid up to their existing validity period, unless suspended or cancelled (rule 219)
Signed by	Priyanka Das, Joint Secretary
File number	F. No. AV-11012/3/2025-D G

The chapters and Schedules of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026

Chapter or Schedule	Rules	Title	Parts and main subjects
Chapter I	1 to 2	Preliminary	Short title, application and commencement; definitions
Chapter II	3 to 26	General	Use and operation of aircraft, registration marks, documents carried, arms and explosives, aerodromes, prohibited areas, photography, rules of the air, conduct on board, fueling, dropping articles, sonic boom
Chapter III	27 to 68	Aircraft	A (27 to 38): design and manufacture of aeronautical products; B (39 to 65): airworthiness, including registration, airworthiness and noise certificates, maintenance, defects and log books; C (66 to 67): approved organizations, Indian and foreign; D (68): fees
Chapter IV	69 to 120	Personnel	A (69 to 111): licensing of personnel: pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers, radio telephone operators; B (112 to 116): personnel of aircraft, including age limits, crew and cabin crew, flight dispatchers; C (117 to 119): approved training organizations and simulator qualification; D (120): fees
Chapter V	121 to 139	Aerodrome	Lights, licensing of aerodromes, tariffs, passenger service and user development fees, entry, ground handling, air traffic services at aerodromes
Chapter VI	140 to 167	Air Navigation Services	A (140 to 148): air traffic management; B (149 to 161): communications, navigation and surveillance; C (162 to 163): meteorological services; D (164 to 165): instrument flight procedure design; E (166 to 167): search and rescue
Chapter VII	168 to 200	Aircraft Operations	A (168 to 182): general, including foreign aircraft, aviation security fees and the regional air connectivity fund and levy; B (183 to 196): air transport services and aerial work, including import of aircraft and foreign airlines; C (197 to 199): engineering, inspection and manuals for owners and operators; D (200): fees

Chapter VIII	201 to 220	Regulatory, Surveillance and Enforcement	Standards and directions, safety management and reporting, inspection, foreign military aircraft (211), suspension and cancellation, offenses and compounding (214), penalties (215), appeals (216), delegation, exemption, transition (219), repeal and savings (220)
First and Second Schedules		Aircraft Personnel; Air Traffic Services Personnel	Licence requirements under Chapter IV
Third Schedule		Aeronautical Telecommunication	Requirements under Chapter VI
Fourth Schedule		Grant of air operator certificate to operate scheduled air transport services	Rule 183 and Chapter VII
Fifth and Sixth Schedules		"Punishment and Compounding of Offences"; "Penalties"	Rules 214 and 215, with Form A (compounding) and Form B (appeals)

The notification (PDF, 8.5 MB)

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