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Summary Notes

03 JANUARY 2025



Year End Review 2024: Achievement of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

1. Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024

- **Key Features:**
 - **Modernization:** Replaces the outdated Aircraft Act of 1934, aligning with contemporary needs and global standards.
 - **Ease of Doing Business:** Aims to simplify regulations and procedures within the aviation sector.
 - **Indigenous Manufacturing:** Promotes domestic aircraft manufacturing in line with "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives.
 - **Safety Enhancement:** Prioritizes aviation safety through updated regulations and oversight mechanisms.
 - **Global Alignment:** Ensures compliance with international conventions like the Chicago Convention and regulations set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - **Increased Efficiency:** Streamlined processes will improve operational efficiency within the aviation sector.
 - **Attracting Investment:** A more conducive regulatory environment will attract greater investment in India's aviation industry.
 - **Job Creation:** Growth in the sector will lead to increased employment opportunities.
 - **Enhanced Passenger Experience:** Improved safety and service quality will benefit passengers.

2. Infrastructure Expansion

- **New Airports:**
 - **Inauguration:** Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Moradabad, and Shravasti airports in Uttar Pradesh significantly expanded air connectivity within the state.
 - **Foundation Laying:** New terminals at key locations like Varanasi, Agra, Darbhanga, and Bagdogra will enhance passenger handling capacity and improve airport infrastructure.
- **Greenfield Airports:**
 - **Operationalized:** 12 greenfield airports have become operational, expanding air connectivity to previously underserved regions.
 - **Under Development:** Major projects like Noida International Airport (Jewar) and Navi Mumbai International Airport are nearing completion, expected to significantly boost air traffic in the coming years.
 - **Planned Development:** Site clearance has been granted for 9 more greenfield airports, indicating further expansion of air travel infrastructure across the country.

3. Passenger Traffic Growth

- **Domestic Routes:** A significant increase in domestic passenger traffic was observed in 2024, reflecting growing demand for air travel within India.
- **International Routes:** International passenger traffic also witnessed substantial growth, indicating increasing connectivity with global destinations.

4. Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN)

- **Objective:** To enhance air connectivity to underserved and unserved regions, making air travel more affordable for the masses.
- **Achievements:**
 - 619 routes and 88 airports operationalized since its launch.
 - 102 new routes commenced in 2024, including 20 in the North-Eastern states.
 - 12 new aerodromes, including 4 heliports, were made operational.

5. Digi Yatra

- **Seamless Travel:** A digital platform that enables passengers to travel seamlessly through airports with minimal physical contact.
- **Expansion:** Expanded to 24 airports across India, enhancing passenger experience and efficiency.
- **User Adoption:** Over 80 lakh users have downloaded the app, and more than 4 crore journeys have been completed using Digi Yatra.

6. Seaplane Operations

- **Guidelines:** The government launched guidelines for seaplane operations, prioritizing safety and security while facilitating the development of this mode of transportation.
- **UDAN 5.5:** This round of the UDAN scheme specifically invites bids for seaplane operations on more than 50 water bodies across the country.

7. MRO Sector Development

- **Reduced GST Rate:** The government reduced the GST rate on imported aircraft components to 5%, simplifying the tax structure and boosting the domestic MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) industry.
- **Extended Timelines:** Extended timelines for export and re-import of goods for repairs, further supporting the growth of the MRO sector.

8. Green Energy Adoption

- **Reduced Carbon Footprint:** 80 airports have transitioned to 100% green energy usage, reducing the environmental impact of airport operations.
- **Carbon Accreditation:** Several major airports, including Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad, have achieved high levels of carbon accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI), demonstrating their commitment to sustainability.

9. National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)

- **Significant Investment:** A substantial allocation of over ₹91,000 crore has been earmarked for airport infrastructure development under the NIP.
- **Progress:** A significant portion of the allocated funds has already been utilized for infrastructure development projects.

These initiatives collectively aim to transform India's aviation sector into a modern, efficient, and globally competitive industry while ensuring safety, sustainability, and accessibility for all.

Rani Velu Nachiyar

Background:

- Queen of the Sivaganga kingdom in Tamil Nadu.
- One of the earliest Indian rulers to actively resist British colonial rule, predating the 1857 Revolt.
- Born in Ramanathapuram, received rigorous training in martial arts (Valari, Silambam), horse riding, archery, and warfare tactics.

Key Events:

- **War Against the British (1780):**
 - After her husband's death, she sought refuge with Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore.
 - Formed an alliance with Hyder Ali and launched a guerrilla war against the East India Company.
 - Successfully reclaimed the Sivaganga kingdom, becoming the first Indian queen to defeat British forces in battle.
- **Kuyili: A Symbol of Courage:**
 - Her army included Kuyili, a brave warrior who is considered India's first female suicide bomber.
 - Kuyili sacrificed herself by setting fire to British ammunition depots, playing a crucial role in the victory.

Reign and Legacy:

- Ruled the Sivaganga kingdom for over 16 years, ensuring stability and prosperity.
- Promoted women's empowerment by appointing women warriors in her army and encouraging women's education.
- A symbol of courage, women's empowerment, and anti-colonial resistance in Indian history.

Modern-Day Relevance:

- **Inspiration for Women:** Serves as a powerful role model for women, demonstrating that they can excel in leadership roles and contribute significantly to society.
- **Symbol of Anti-Colonial Struggle:** Her story highlights the early resistance movements against British colonialism, enriching our understanding of India's freedom struggle.
- **Cultural Icon:** Celebrated in Tamil Nadu through memorials, statues, and cultural depictions (folk songs, literature, films).