International Aviation Safety Assessment

Why in News?

The aviation safety regulator of the U.S. - the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has retained the **"Category 1" status for India's aviation safety** oversight following a review.

What is the International Aviation Safety Assessment?

- **About:**
    - The **FAA conducted** the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program over a one-year period, which included physical audits and a further review in 2022.
    - The program **focuses on** three broad areas:
        - **Personnel licensing**
        - **Operation of aircraft**
        - **Airworthiness of aircraft**
    - This assessment determines whether a country's aviation safety oversight standards comply with the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** safety standards.
- **Findings about India:**
    - The FAA has informed the **DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)** that India meets the international standards for aviation safety oversight of the **Chicago Convention** and its Annexes and continues to retain FAA IASA **Category 1 status** which was last assessed in July 2018.
        - The countries listed under **'Category-1' meet the ICAO standards for safety oversight of civil aviation.**
- **Significance of Findings for India:**
    - It reaffirms India's reputation **as a safe and reliable aviation market.**
    - It allows Indian airlines to **continue to operate flights to the U.S.** and enter into codeshare partnerships with U.S. carriers, which can **help to increase trade and investment.**
    - It demonstrates **India's commitment to complying with safety standards** established by the UN aviation watchdog, ICAO.

What is the International Civil Aviation Organisation?

- **ICAO is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency,** 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 (hence called **Chicago Convention 1944**).
    - It established the core principles permitting international transport by air, and also led to the creation of the ICAO.
    - It **covers** a wide range of issues, including the rights of aircraft in **international airspace, the registration of aircraft, safety standards, air traffic control, and environmental protection.**
- 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.

- It is **headquartered in Montreal, Canada.**

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/international-aviation-safety-assessment