Research about the regulations for using drones for business purposes in India

* Owning & Operating Business Drones:
  1. Registration:
     + Any unmanned aircraft system must be first registered with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) via the Digital Sky Platform, which is an online single-window platform for drone registrations & approvals related to drone applications. The DGCA will issue a drone identification number and will maintain records for the same.
     + The flight control module or the remote pilot station of the drone shall not be changed after registering with the DGCA without first updating it on the Digital Sky Platform & within a period of seven days from the date of such replacement or before operating such unmanned aircraft system, whichever is earlier.
  2. Deregistration:
     + When a drone registered to a pilot’s name is either permanently lost or permanently damaged, deregistration of the unmanned aircraft system must be applied on the Digital Sky Platform.
  3. Operation:
     + Before commencing an unmanned aircraft system operation, a remote pilot shall mandatorily verify the digital sky platform for any notification or restriction applicable to unmanned aircraft system operations in the intended area of operation.
     + **Requirement of prior permission:** 
       - No person shall operate an unmanned aircraft system in a red zone or yellow zone without prior permission.
       - No prior permission shall be required for operating an unmanned aircraft system in a green zone.

**Temporary Red Zone:** If there is an urgent need to temporarily prohibit unmanned aircraft system flights in any specified area, the concerned State Government or the Union Territory Administration or a law enforcement agency may declare a temporary red zone over such specified area, for a period not exceeding ninety-six hours at a time, by notifying it through the digital sky platform and highlighting it on the airspace map.

**Safe Operation:** No person shall operate an unmanned aircraft system in a manner, either directly or indirectly, as to endanger the safety and security of any person or property.

**Carriage of dangerous goods:** No person shall carry in any unmanned aircraft to, from, within or over India, any arms, ammunitions, munitions of war, implements of war, explosives and military stores.

**Mandatory Report of Accident:** No later than forty-eight hours after an accident involving an unmanned aircraft system takes place, the remote pilot of such unmanned aircraft system shall report the accident to the Director General through the digital sky platform.

Remote Pilot License:

1. Eligibility:
   * For an individual to be eligible to obtain a remote pilot license, he must be:
     1. Between the ages of 18 to 65 years
     2. Passed 10th examination or equivalent from a recognized Board
     3. has successfully completed such training as may be specified by the Director General, from any authorised remote pilot training organisation.
2. Procedure for obtaining pilot license:
   * To obtain a license for piloting an unmanned aircraft system, a remote pilot license is required which will be provided after completion of the training program specified by the Director General, and passing a written exam, conducted by an authorised remote pilot training organisation.
   * A remote pilot certificate will be issued through the Digital Sky System once the training organisation applies for the same, filling the details of the applicant, within 7 days of successful completion of the training program.
   * The Director General shall, within fifteen days from the date of issue of the remote pilot certificate, issue the remote pilot licence to such individual through the Digital Sky Platform.
3. Validity of the License:
   * A remote pilot license shall:
     1. be valid only if it is enlisted on the digital sky platform.
     2. unless suspended or cancelled, remain valid for a period of ten years.
     3. be renewed by the Director General on payment of a specified fee.

* Insurance:
  1. The provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 include third party insurance of unmanned aircraft system and compensation in case of damage to life or property caused by such an unmanned aircraft system, provided that a nano unmanned aircraft system may operate without third party insurance.
  2. A person operating an unmanned aircraft system may use an insurance product specially designed for such operations, as and when such insurance product is approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
* References:
  1. <https://www.civilaviation.gov.in/index.php/ministry-documents/rules>
  2. <https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2021/229221.pdf> (Pg 29, Part IV onwards)
  3. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=21919d28-8dec-421c-a722-a4259be77991>
  4. <https://www.orfonline.org/research/drones-guidelines-regulations-and-policy-gaps-in-india>