

Ministry of Civil Aviation

Drone Rules, 2021

Relevant to MLL and Agri Business

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Introduction

‘Drone’ rules to unleash new age animal spirits, generate employment, give economic benefits. Liberalised ‘Drone Rules, 2021’ will not only allow a smooth take-off of unmanned aircraft systems but also generate employment, accumulate economic benefits and unleash new services across the country.

Salient Features

New tech reform for New India:

- The Centre replaced the UAS Rules with the liberalised ‘Drone Rules, which are envisioned on a premise of trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring.
- It has abolished the need to obtain several approvals from the Centre.
- Besides, the new rules have reduced the number of application forms to 5 from 25.
- It has also brought down the fee requirements.
- New services to be unleashed, sector to be created
- The new policy will enable the usage of drones in multiple sectors.
- In fact, newer sectors like aerial taxis, drone delivery and many more might come up as a result of the new rules.
- Inbuilt safety, security to feature in future.
- Several safety, security measures will be implemented in a phased manner.
- These may include 'No Permission - No Takeoff' system, real-time flight tracking beacon and geo-fencing capabilities.
- A lead time of six months will be provided to operators to follow these norms.
- Furthermore, an interactive 'Air Space Map' demarcating 'flying zones' will be made operational by 30 days.

Manufacturing too to get a boost:

- The rules enable to tap the massive drone manufacturing capacity in the country.
- India is expected to become a global drone hub by 2030 due to its traditional strengths in innovation, information technology, frugal engineering and huge domestic demand.
- Additionally, drone software research and development is expected to another area of high-end employment generation in the country.
- In addition, only DGFT will have the power to provide approvals for drone imports.

MoCA initiative:

"The new policy will promote research and development, manufacturing and service delivery in the country," Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said.

"There are already 200 startups in the country even before the announcement of this policy. We expect generation of thousands of jobs via this policy."