**Ministry of Civil Aviation**

**Drone Certification Scheme**

**Relevant to M&M – FES**

**Context**

The Union government on 26th January has notified the Drone Certification Scheme in order to develop an ecosystem that will enable simpler, faster, and transparent type-certification of drones. Earlier, the government had already notified the airspace map, the PLI scheme and the single window Digital Sky platform, which will help the drone manufacturing industry grow in India.

**Objectives**

* To provide the minimum requirements for airworthiness -- safety and security requirements -- for [drones](https://www.business-standard.com/topic/drones)and enable their evaluation for certification.
* To make India the drone hub of the world by 2030.

**Key Points**

* The drone certification scheme was notified under Rule 7 of the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021. The scheme will help in simpler, faster and transparent type-certification of drones.
* It will help in growth of drone manufacturing industry in India, along with the liberalised drone rules, production-linked incentive scheme, airspace map, and single window Digital Sky Platform.
* The certification criteria mention in the drone certification scheme (DCS) will be applicable to indigenous drone manufacturers, assemblers as well as importers.
* A multi-stakeholder steering committee (MSC) chaired by a known professional, who is respected by government and industry alike, will oversee the scheme, along with a QCI (Quality Control of India) secretariat. This MSC will also be supported by a technical committee (TC) and a certification committee (CC) that will be constituted by the QCI.
* The manufacturer, while applying for certification of a drone, will have to submit various data and test results on topics such as weight, type of launch and recovery mechanism installed, speed, range, endurance, battery performance, type of material used in construction.

**Conclusion**

By notifying the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021, which has been issued by the Ministry of civil aviation, the government's target is to make India the drone hub of the world by 2030. This along with the airspace map, the PLI scheme and the single window Digital Sky platform would be helpful in developing a robust Drone ecosystem in India.