



Hopes, doubts soar as DGCA issues new drone laws

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Highlights

- Licence fee worries hobbyists; expert says rules gloss over privacy issues
- There is hope, expectations and a few doubts as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has finally notified laws to permit the flying of remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) from December 1 in the 37-page document lays out ground rules for drone users.
- Now, drone owners can register to acquire a Unique Identification Number (UIN) and for advanced users Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP).
- The users will also need to get insurance for their devices, and before flying their vehicle, a police permission and on 'Digital Sky Platform'.
- These are a pretty comprehensive set of rules but they have missed out on the privacy issue.
- The European Union has laid great emphasis on privacy while the DGCA move shifts the onus on the drone flyer opinioned Owais Farooqui, who specialises in laws for drones, and teaches at Jamia Hamdard.

Boom time

- Businessmen are delighted with the new regulations.
- Once these regulations come into force, people will buy and use them without worrying about police action.

Related Info

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the Indian governmental regulatory body for civil aviation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- This directorate investigates aviation accidents and incidents.

Vision

Endeavour to promote safe and efficient Air Transportation through regulation and proactive safety oversight system.

Civil Aviation Authority

- The CAA has been envisaged as an autonomous regulatory body which will replace the DGCA and will meet standards set by the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- The CAA will have separate departments to deal with safety, economic regulation and grievance resolution, as well as a full-fledged environment department.
- It will also have an independent accident investigation bureau.
- The Authority will also have the autonomy to recruit staff.
- The CAA will have administrative and financial powers similar to those of the American FAA.
- These powers will redefine the regulator's role and better equip it to face the challenges of the growing Aviation sector in the country.

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