

Draft Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2025

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Why in news?

Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation released the Draft Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2025, and invited feedback from stakeholders and citizens until September 30.

- **Aim** - The new bill aims to promote and regulate the **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)** in India.
- The draft bill seeks to replace the **Drone Rules, 2021**, lays down a tougher regime for unmanned aircraft systems.
- **Enforcement Agency**- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** is responsible for carrying out the **safety oversight and regulatory functions**.
- **Key Provisions**
- **Mandatory registration** - All drones must have a **Unique Identification Number (UIN)** issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- **Type certification** - Manufacturers need DGCA certification before selling or operating drones in India.
- **Compulsory third-party insurance** - All drone operators must have insurance coverage, which will be compulsory unless specifically exempted.
- **Digital Sky zones** - The existing "Digital Sky" platform will continue to classify airspace into three zones:
 - **Green zone** - Free flying is permitted.
 - **Yellow zone** - Requires air traffic control clearance.
 - **Red zone** - Operation is prohibited without prior permission from the central government.
- **Pilot certification** - Remote pilots must undergo training and obtain a valid Remote Pilot Certificate from a DGCA-authorized organization.
- **Mandatory safety features** - Drones must incorporate anti-tampering,

traceability, and airworthiness features.

- **Enhanced penalties** - Violations of drone rules and misuse of drones as weapons or for carrying dangerous goods are considered serious offenses, punishable with fines and imprisonment.
 - Imprisonment for a period of **up to 3 years or fine up to Rs. 1 lakh or both** for violation of the bill.
- **Willful disobedience** - Whoever willfully disobeys any provisions be punishable with a fine up to Rs. 50,000 or an imprisonment which may extend to 3 months or both, and
 - Any **second or subsequent offence** with a fine up to Rs. 1 lakh or an imprisonment which may extend to six months or both.
- **Exemption** - The bill exempts the UAS of the **naval, military, air force or any of the armed forces of the Centre** or the UAS **weighing above 500 kilograms**.
- **Confiscating Authority** - The **Director General or any other officer authorized in this behalf** may seize and confiscate the UAS devices or things which may be useful for, or relevant to, the investigation of offence.
- **Cognizable & Non-compoundable Offence**- Any offence involving carriage of dangerous goods by a civil UAS or use of a civil UAS as a weapon, shall be **cognizable and non-compoundable offence**.
- **Compensation for victims** - The bill proposes a compensation mechanism for victims of drone accidents, with specific amounts set for death and grievous injury.

References

1. [Hindustan Times | Civil Drone \(Promotion and Regulation\) Bill, 2025](#)
2. [Ministry of Civil Aviation | Civil Drone \(Promotion and Regulation\) Bill, 2025](#)