

AV-29012/2/2023-SDIT-MOCA

**Government of India
Ministry of Civil Aviation**

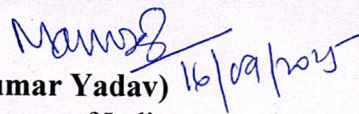
Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, New Delhi
16th September, 2025

CIRCULAR

Subject: Inviting comments/suggestions on the “Draft Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2025”.

The Draft Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2025 is being uploaded on the website of Ministry of Civil Aviation for Public Consultation.

2. It is to inform that general public, industry and other stakeholders may send their comments/suggestions/objections, if any, on the draft bill **latest by 30th September, 2025**.
3. The comments/suggestions/objections may be shared to this Ministry through email to ‘us.sdit-moca@gov.in’ and ‘sdit.div-moca@gov.in’ with the subject line “Draft Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2025”.


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The Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2025

A Bill to provide for the promotion and regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Chapter I:	Preliminary
Short Title and commencement	<p>1. (1) This Bill may be called the Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2025.</p> <p>(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.</p>
Application	<p>2. (1) This Act shall apply to —</p> <p>(a) A Citizen of India;</p> <p>(b) A Citizen of any other country;</p> <p>(c) any person owning or possessing, or engaged in exporting, importing, designing, developing, manufacturing, trading, leasing, operating, training, transferring, or maintaining an unmanned aircraft system in India;</p> <p>(d) unmanned aircraft systems that are being operated for the time being, in or over India; and</p> <p>(e) unmanned aircraft systems registered in India and wherever they may be owned/ operated.</p> <p>(2) This Act shall not apply to the unmanned aircraft systems of naval, military, air force, central armed police forces or any other armed forces of the Union of India;</p> <p>Provided that Unmanned Aircraft systems used by these agencies may be registered in a manner prescribed by their respective administrative Ministries.</p> <p>(3) The provisions of this Act shall not apply on the Unmanned Aircraft Systems having all up weight above 500kgs. Such Unmanned Aircraft Systems shall be governed by the provisions of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 and the rules made thereunder.</p>

<p>Definition</p>	<p>3. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. “aerodrome” means any definite or limited ground or water area intended to be used, either wholly or in part, for the landing or departure of industry UAS, and includes all buildings, sheds, vessels, piers and other structures thereon or appertaining thereto; b. “accident” means any accident associated with the operation of an unmanned aircraft system in which a person is fatally or seriously injured, where any damage is caused to any property, or where the Unmanned Aircraft System sustains significant damage or goes missing or is completely inaccessible; c. “aircraft” means any machine which can derive support in the atmosphere from reactions of the air, other than reactions of the air against the earth’s surface; <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Note: When the word aircraft is used, it includes unmanned aircraft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. "Airworthy" means the status of an aircraft, remote pilot station, engine, propeller or part when it conforms to its approved design and is in a condition for safe operation. e. “authorised organisation” means an organisation authorised by the Director General in a manner, as may be specified by the Central Government for the purpose of this Act; f. “Contracting State” means any country which is, for the time being, is a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation concluded at Chicago on 7th December 1944; g. “Director General" means the Director General of Civil Aviation appointed under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 as applicable from time to time; h. “Drone” means an unmanned aircraft; i. "export" means taking out of India; j. “government” means the Central Government unless otherwise specified; k. “green zone” means the airspace of defined dimensions above the land areas or territorial waters of India, as prescribed by the Central Government from time to time; l. "import" means bringing into India;
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">m. “Mandatory safety features” shall mean the features specified as such by the Central Government from time to time by way of notification in Official gazette and shall include the device, technical parameters, programme, software, design, configuration which will enable safe operation of an unmanned aircraft;n. “Mandatory security features” shall mean the features specified as such by the Central government from time to time by way of notification in Official gazette and shall include the device, technical parameters, programme, software, design, configuration which will enable conspicuity and ensure authorized manipulation of an unmanned aircraft;o.) “manufacture” means the performance of tasks that involve assembly or production of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, in conformity with its applicable type design including prototype;p. “person” means any individual, association of persons, body of individuals, firm, body corporate, local authority, or agency of the State or Central Government;q. “prescribed” means prescribed in rules made under this Act;r. “Prototype unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned aircraft system developed for the purpose of research and development, design, testing or obtaining a type certificate;s. “red zone” means the airspace of defined dimensions, above the land areas or territorial waters of India, or any installation or notified port limits specified by the Central Government beyond the territorial waters of India, within which unmanned aircraft system operations shall not be permitted save with the express permission of the Central Government;t. “remote pilot” means an individual who operates an unmanned aircraft system;u. “remote pilot certificate” means the certificate issued to a remote pilot by an authorized organization for this purpose;v. “remote pilot station” means the flight controls and other equipment used to pilot an unmanned aircraft system;w. “remotely piloted aircraft” means an unmanned aircraft that is piloted from a remote pilot station;x. “remotely piloted aircraft system” means a remotely piloted aircraft, its associated remote pilot stations, the |
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	<p>required command and control links and any other components as specified in the type design;</p> <p>y. “type certificate” means the certificate issued under and in accordance with section 25;</p> <p>z. “UIN” means the Unique Identification Number issued to each unmanned aircraft system registered in India;</p> <p>aa. "unmanned aircraft" for the purpose of this Act means any aircraft with a maximum all-up-weight of less than 500 kilograms that can operate autonomously or can be operated remotely without any pilot, passenger on board.</p> <p>bb. "unmanned aircraft system" means unmanned aircraft and its associated remote pilot stations, the required command and control links and any other components as specified in the type design associated with it;</p> <p>cc. “Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management System” means a system that provides traffic management for safe and expeditious flow of unmanned aircraft traffic and avoids collision between manned and unmanned aircraft through the collaborative integration of persons, information, technology, facilities and services;</p> <p>dd. “yellow zone” means the airspace of defined dimensions, above the land areas or territorial waters of India, or any installation or notified port limits specified by the Central Government beyond the territorial waters of India, within which unmanned aircraft system operations shall not be permitted save with the express permission of the Central Government</p> <p>(2) The words and expressions used herein but not defined, and defined in the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 or in the Aircraft Rules, 2025 shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the said Act or the rules.</p>
Chapter II:	Regulation
Authorities responsible for enforcement of Act	<p>4. (1) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation constituted under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, and headed by an officer designated as the Director General of Civil Aviation, appointed in this behalf by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, shall be the regulatory authority for the purpose of this Act;</p> <p>(2) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation shall be responsible for carrying out the safety oversight and regulatory functions in respect of matters specified in this Act or the rules</p>

	<p>made thereunder;</p> <p>(3) The Director General of Civil Aviation or any other officer specially empowered in this behalf by the Central Government shall be responsible for:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Enforcement of the obligations contained in this Chapter; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) Supervision of standards developed under this Act or rules made thereunder, including of any organisation or authority relating to the same, including periodical assessment and enforcement in cases of non-compliance.</p> <p>(4) The Central Government may, by an order published in the Official Gazette, direct that any power exercisable by the Director General of Civil Aviation may also be exercisable by any other officer or authority specially empowered in this behalf by the Central Government;</p> <p>(5) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules regulating the subjects contained in sub-sections (1), (2) and (3).</p>
Classification and categorization of Unmanned Aircraft and operations undertaken by Unmanned Aircraft	<p>5. The Central Government may by notification, in official gazette, make rules for classification, categorization of the Unmanned Aircraft and nature of operations undertaken by the Unmanned Aircraft.</p>
Registration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems	<p>6. (1) No person shall own or operate an unmanned aircraft system unless it has been registered and issued with an UIN in a manner specified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation;</p> <p>(2) No Unmanned Aircraft System shall be sold or purchased or transferred, whether in offline mode or through online mode, unless it is registered and has been issued with an UIN; and</p> <p>(3) The procedure for transfer including transfer by way of sale and de-registration of unmanned aircraft systems shall be as</p>

	prescribed by the Central Government.
Manufacturing and Sale	7. (1) No person shall manufacture or assemble, offer for sale whether offline or online, or otherwise transfer or cause to transfer any unmanned aircraft system unless it has a type certificate issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation or is exempted from the requirement of having type certificate issued under this Act.
Mandatory Safety and Security Features	8. (1) No person shall manufacture or assemble, offer for sale, transfer or cause to transfer, operate or cause to operate any unmanned aircraft system that does not incorporate the mandatory safety and security features as prescribed by the Central government or unless the Unmanned Aircraft System is exempted from such requirement; (2) No person shall modify, tamper with, or impair any functionality of mandatory safety and security features that have been incorporated in the type certificate of such unmanned aircraft system.
Insurance	9. No person shall operate an unmanned aircraft system, unless it is covered by a Third-Party insurance policy that meets the requirements specified in this regard by the Central Government. Provided that Central Government may by notification in the official gazette make rules for exempting any UAS from the requirement of insurance.
Settlement by insurance company and procedure therefor.	10.(1) The insurance company shall, upon receiving information of the accident, either from claimant or through accident information report or otherwise, designate an officer to settle the claims relating to such accident. (2) An officer designated by the insurance company for processing the settlement of claim of compensation may make an offer to the claimant for settlement before the Claims Tribunal under Section 12 giving such details, within thirty days and after following such procedure as may be prescribed by the Central Government. (3) If, the claimant to whom the offer is made under sub-section

	<p>(2),—</p> <p>(a) accepts such offer,—</p> <p>(i) the Claims Tribunal shall make a record of such settlement, and such claim shall be deemed to be settled by consent; and</p> <p>(ii) the payment shall be made by the insurance company within a maximum period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such record of settlement;</p> <p>(b) rejects such offer, a date of hearing shall be fixed by the Claims Tribunal to adjudicate such claim on merits.</p>
Payment of compensation in case of death or grievous hurt, etc.	<p>11 (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force or instrument having the force of law, the owner of the Unmanned Aircraft System or the authorized insurer shall be liable to pay in the case of death or grievous hurt due to any accident arising out of the use of Unmanned Aircraft System, a compensation, of a sum of two and a half lakh rupees in case of death or One lakh rupees in case of grievous hurt to the legal heirs or the victim, as the case may be.</p> <p>(2) In any claim for compensation under sub-section (1), the claimant shall not be required to plead or establish that the death or grievous hurt in respect of which the claim has been made was due to any wrongful act or neglect or default of the owner of the Unmanned Aircraft System or of the Unmanned Aircraft System concerned or of any other person.</p> <p>(3) Where, in respect of death or grievous hurt due to an accident arising out of the use of Unmanned Aircraft System, compensation has been paid under any other law for the time being in force, such amount of compensation shall be reduced from the amount of compensation payable under this section.</p>
Claim Tribunal.	<p>12. The Motor Accident Claim Tribunals constituted under section 165 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 shall on the commencement of this Act be the claim tribunal for the purpose of adjudicating upon claims for compensation in respect of accidents involving the death of, or bodily injury to, persons arising out of the use of Unmanned Aircraft System, loss or</p>

	damages to any property of a third party so arising, or both.
Application for compensation	<p>13. (1) An application for compensation arising out of an accident of the nature specified in section 12 may be made—</p> <p>(a) by the person who has sustained the injury; or</p> <p>(b) by the owner of the property; or</p> <p>(c) where death has resulted from the accident, by all or any of the legal representatives of the deceased; or</p> <p>(d) by any agent duly authorized by the person injured or all or any of the legal representatives of the deceased, as the case may be: Provided that where all the legal representatives of the deceased have not joined in any such application for compensation, the application shall be made on behalf of or for the benefit of all the legal representatives of the deceased and the legal representatives who have not so joined, shall be impleaded as respondents to the application.</p> <p>Provided further that where a person accepts compensation under section 11 in accordance with the procedure provided under section 10, his claims petition before the Claims Tribunal shall lapse.</p> <p>(2) Every application under sub-section (1) shall be made, at the option of the claimant, either to the Claims Tribunal having jurisdiction over the area in which the accident occurred or to the Claims Tribunal within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the claimant resides or carries on business or within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the defendant resides, and shall be in such form and contain such particulars as may be prescribed:</p> <p>(3) No application for compensation shall be entertained unless it is made within six months of the occurrence of the accident.</p> <p>(4) Notwithstanding anything in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the right of a person to claim compensation for injury in an accident shall, upon the death of the person injured, survive to his legal representatives, irrespective of whether the cause of death is relatable to or had any nexus with the injury or not.</p>
Award of the Claims Tribunal	<p>14.(1) On receipt of an application for compensation made under section 13, the Claims Tribunal shall, after giving notice of the application to the insurer and after giving the parties (including the insurer) an opportunity of being heard, hold an</p>

	<p>inquiry into the claim or, as the case may be, each of the claims, may make an award determining the amount of compensation which appears to it to be just and specifying the person or persons to whom compensation shall be paid and in making the award the Claims Tribunal shall specify the amount which shall be paid by the insurer or owner or operator of the Unmanned Aircraft System involved in the accident or by all or any of them, as the case may be:</p> <p>(2) The Claims Tribunal shall arrange to deliver copies of the award to the parties concerned expeditiously and in any case within a period of fifteen days from the date of the award.</p> <p>(3) When an award is made under this section, the person who is required to pay any amount in terms of such award shall, within thirty days of the date of announcing the award by the Claims Tribunal, deposit the entire amount awarded in such manner as the Claims Tribunal may direct.</p>
Procedure and powers of Claims Tribunals	<p>15. (1) In holding any inquiry under section 14, the Claims Tribunal may, subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, follow such summary procedure as it thinks fit.</p> <p>(2) The Claims Tribunal shall have all the powers of a Civil Court for the purpose of taking evidence on oath and of enforcing the attendance of witnesses and of compelling the discovery and production of documents and material objects and for such other purposes as may be prescribed; and the Claims Tribunal shall be deemed to be a Civil Court for all the purposes of section 215 of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act 46 of 2023);</p> <p>(3) Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, the Claims Tribunal may, for the purpose of adjudicating upon any claim for compensation, choose one or more persons possessing special knowledge of any matter relevant to the inquiry to assist it in holding the inquiry.</p> <p>(4) For the purpose of enforcement of its award, the Claims Tribunal shall also have all the powers of a Civil Court in the execution of a decree under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, as if the award were a decree for the payment of money passed by such court in a civil suit.</p>
Impleadin	16. Where in the course of any inquiry, the Claims Tribunal is

<p>g insurer in certain cases</p>	<p>satisfied that—</p> <p>(a) there is collusion between the person making the claim and the person against whom the claim is made, or</p> <p>(b) the person against whom the claim is made has failed to contest the claim, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, direct that the insurer who may be liable in respect of such claim, shall be impleaded as a party to the proceeding and the insurer so impleaded shall thereupon have, the right to contest the claim on all or any of the grounds that are available to the person against whom the claim has been made.</p>
<p>Award of interest where any claim is allowed</p>	<p>17. Where any Claims Tribunal allows a claim for compensation made under this Act, such Tribunal may direct that in addition to the amount of compensation simple interest shall also be paid at such rate and from such date not earlier than the date of making the claim as it may specify in this behalf.</p>
<p>Award of compensatory costs in certain cases</p>	<p>18.(1) Any Claims Tribunal adjudicating upon any claim for compensation under this Act, may in any case where it is satisfied for reasons to be recorded by it in writing that—</p> <p>(a) the policy of insurance is void on the ground that it was obtained by representation of fact which was false in any material particular, or</p> <p>(b) any party or insurer has put forward a false or vexatious claim or defence, such Tribunal may make an order for the payment, by the party who is guilty of mis-representation or by whom such claim or defence has been put forward of special costs by way of compensation to the insurer or, as the case may be, to the party against whom such claim or defence has been put forward.</p> <p>(2) No Claims Tribunal shall pass an order for special costs under sub-section (1) for any amount exceeding one thousand rupees.</p> <p>(3) No person or insurer against whom an order has been made under this section shall, by reason thereof be exempted from any criminal liability in respect of such mis-representation, claim or defence as is referred to in sub-section (1).</p> <p>(4) Any amount awarded by way of compensation under this section in respect of any mis-representation, claim or defence, shall be taken into account in any subsequent suit for damages for compensation in respect of such mis-representation, claim or</p>

	defence.
Appeals against the award of claim tribunal	<p>19. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), any person aggrieved by an award of a Claims Tribunal may, within ninety days from the date of the award, prefer an appeal to the High Court:</p> <p>Provided that no appeal by the person who is required to pay any amount in terms of such award shall be entertained by the High Court unless he has deposited with it twenty-five thousand rupees or fifty per cent. of the amount so awarded, whichever is less, in the manner directed by the High Court;</p> <p>Provided further that the High Court may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of ninety days, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.</p> <p>(2) No appeal shall lie against any award of a Claims Tribunal if the amount in dispute in the appeal is less than 1 [one lakh] rupees.</p>
Recovery of money from insurer as arrear of land revenue	<p>20. Where any amount is due from any person under an award, the Claims Tribunal may, on an application made to it by the person entitled to the amount, issue a certificate for the amount to the Collector and the Collector shall proceed to recover the same in the same manner as an arrear of land revenue.</p>
Bar on jurisdiction of Civil Courts	<p>21. Where any Claims Tribunal has been constituted for any area, no Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any question relating to any claim for compensation which may be adjudicated upon by the Claims Tribunal for that area, and no injunction in respect of any action taken or to be taken by or before the Claims Tribunal in respect of the claim for compensation shall be granted by the Civil Court.</p>
Power of State Government to make rules.	<p>22. A State Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of sections 12 to 21, and in particular, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—</p> <p>(a) the form of application for claims for compensation and the particulars it may contain, and the fees, if any, to be paid in respect of such applications;</p> <p>(b) the procedure to be followed by a Claims Tribunal in</p>

	<p>holding an inquiry under this Chapter;</p> <p>(c) the powers vested in a Civil Court which may be exercised by a Claims Tribunal;</p> <p>(d) the form and the manner in which and the fees (if any) on payment of which an appeal may be preferred against an award of a Claims Tribunal; and</p> <p>(e) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed.</p>
Remote Pilot Certificate	<p>23. (1) No individual shall operate an unmanned aircraft system without a valid remote pilot certificate issued by Director General of Civil Aviation or any officer specifically empowered in this behalf, in a manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.</p>
Remote Pilot Training	<p>24. (1) No person other than an authorised organisation to impart remote pilot training shall impart such training; and</p> <p>(2) The training required to be imparted by the authorised organization shall be specified by the Director General or any other officer specially empowered in this behalf by the Central Government.</p>
Type Certification	<p>25. (1) No person shall operate an unmanned aircraft system in India unless such unmanned aircraft system either conforms to a type certification or has been exempted from the requirement for such type certification;</p> <p>(2) The Director General or any entity authorised by the Director General in this regard, may, on the recommendation of any authorised testing entity, issue a type certificate for any particular type of unmanned aircraft system.</p> <p>Provided that no Type Certificate shall be issued if the Unmanned Aircraft System is not fitted with Mandatory safety and security features as specified by the Central Government.</p>
Import	<p>26. (1) The import of unmanned aircraft systems shall be regulated by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade or any other entity authorised by the Central Government in this regard.</p> <p>(2) The Central Government may, by order, prohibit the import</p>

	or export of any unmanned aircraft system, or any class thereof, where such restriction is found to be necessary.
Airspace Restrictions	<p>27. (1) Central Government, State Government or the agency authorized by Central or State Government, through an order may create a “Red Zone”, in a manner as specified in that order.</p> <p>(2) No person shall operate an unmanned aircraft system in a red zone without prior permission from the Central Government and the red zone creating agencies;</p> <p>Provided that the permission for operation of Unmanned Aircraft System in a Red Zone shall be granted in accordance with the manner specified by the Central Government.</p> <p>(3) No person shall operate an unmanned aircraft system in a yellow zone without prior permission from the concerned air traffic control authority;</p> <p>(4) If the airspace falls under both yellow and red zones, then the prior permission of Central Government as well as concerned Air Traffic Control authority shall be mandatory;</p> <p>(6) Every operator of unmanned aircraft system, before commencing operations, shall verify whether any restrictions have been notified in their intended area of operation; and</p> <p>(7) The Central Government may, at its discretion, change the status of an area from one zone to another and such change shall come into effect in the manner specified.</p> <p>(8) Notwithstanding anything contained in Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, violation of sub-section (2), (3) and (4) shall be cognizable and non-compoundable offence, and shall be punishable with an imprisonment of which may extend upto three years or fine which may extend upto 1 lakh or with both.</p>
Airspace Map	<p>28. (1) The Central Government shall publish on a specified Online Platform, an airspace map for unmanned aircraft system operations, segregating the entire airspace of India into red zone, yellow zone and green zone, with a horizontal resolution equal to or finer than 10 meters.</p> <p>(2) The airspace map for unmanned aircraft system operations</p>

	<p>shall be accessible in a manner prescribed by the Central Government.</p> <p>(3) If there is an urgent need to temporarily prohibit unmanned aircraft system operations in any particular area, the Central Government or the concerned State Government or the Union Territory Administration or a law enforcement agency may declare a temporary red zone over such area, for such period and in such manner as specified by the Central Govt.</p>
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management	<p>29. (1) The Airports Authority of India or any other authority designated by the Central Government in official gazette, shall develop airspace traffic management systems for unmanned aircraft systems within any category of airspace.</p> <p>(2) Such authority may specify requirements, procedures, restrictions or prohibitions with respect to time, location and other relevant parameters within which such airspace traffic management systems shall operate.</p> <p>(3) Such authority may, from time to time, impose such temporary restrictions or prohibitions within such territorial and temporal limitations as may be specified by the Central Government.</p>
Record Maintenance	<p>30. (1) All records and logs relating to the manufacturing, transfer, ownership, operation, or maintenance of an unmanned aircraft system shall be maintained in a manner and for such period as may be specified by the Central Government or by any authority, agency or person authorized by it in this behalf by notification in official gazette.</p> <p>(2) Records and logs shall be produced, on demand, to the Director General or any other officer authorised by him in this behalf, to any competent law enforcement agency or any government agency, as may be specified by the Government through official gazette.</p>

Chapter III:	Prohibitions and Prevention of Misuse
Prohibited Carriage and use	<p>31. (1) No person shall carry or cause or permit to be carried in any unmanned aircraft to, from, within or over India:</p> <p>(a) any arms, ammunitions, munitions of war, implements of war, explosives and military stores, except with the written permission of the Central Government or any other person authorised by the Central Government in this behalf and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission;</p> <p>(b) goods, carriage of which is prohibited by the Central Government or State Government or any other law enforcement agency; and</p> <p>(c) dangerous goods unless such operation is in compliance with the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder.</p> <p>(2) No person shall use the Unmanned Aircraft System as a weapon to commit any criminal offence or aid or assist in commission of any criminal offence.</p> <p>(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, violation of sub-section (1) and (2), shall be cognizable and non-compoundable offence, and shall be punishable with an imprisonment of which may extend upto three years or fine which may extend upto 1 lakh or with both.</p>
Power to Issue Directions:	<p>32. (1) Central Government or any authority designated by it or authority as specified in section 4 or authority as specified under section 29 of this Act, may, from time to time, by order, issue directions, consistent with the provisions of this Act and any rules made thereunder, with respect to any of the matters specified, in this Act, to any person or persons operating an Unmanned Aircraft System, in any case where such authority is satisfied that in the interests of the security of India or for securing the safety of aircraft operations, it is necessary so to do.</p> <p>(2) Every direction issued under sub-section (1) shall be complied with by the person or persons to whom such direction is issued.</p> <p>(3) Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the ability of the officer empowered under sub-section (1) to issue directions in</p>

	respect of any class of Unmanned Aircraft System.
Emergency Powers to issue Orders in Certain Circumstances	<p>33. If the Central Government is of opinion that, in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, the security of the State, and public order, the issue of all or any of the following orders is expedient, it may:</p> <p>(a) cancel or suspend, either absolutely or subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order, any certificate, or authorisation issued under this Act;</p> <p>(b) prohibit, either absolutely or subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order, the operation of any unmanned aircraft systems or class thereof over the whole or any portion of India;</p> <p>(c) direct that any unmanned aircraft systems or class of systems shall be delivered to such authority and in such manner as it may specify in the order, to be at the disposal of Government for the public service.</p>
Chapter IV:	Other Offences and Penalties
Disobedience of orders, causing obstruction and refusal of information.	<p>34.(1) Whoever wilfully disobeys any direction lawfully given by any person or authority empowered under this Act to give such direction, or obstructs any person or authority in the discharge of their functions which such person or authority is required or empowered under this Act to discharge, shall, if no other penalty is provided for such offence, be punishable with a fine up to Rs. 50,000/- or an imprisonment which may extend to three months or both, and for any second or subsequent offence with a fine up to Rs. 1,00,000/- or an imprisonment which may extend to six months or both.</p> <p>(2) Whoever, being required by or under this Act to supply any information, wilfully withholds such information or gives information which he knows to be false or which he does not believe to be true, shall be liable for imposition of penalty which may extend upto Rupees 1 Lakh.</p>
Non-cognizable and compoundable Offences	<p>35. (1) Any person who commits violation of provisions of Section 6, 7, 8, 23, 24, 25, 34 shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a period upto one year or fine which may extend upto one lakh rupees or with both.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bharatiya Nagrik</p>

Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the violations of Section 6, 7, 8, 23, 24, 25, 34 shall be non-cognizable and compoundable. -

(3) Whenever the Director General, or any person authorised by him or an Officer In-charge of police station receives any complaint or has reasons to believe that any Unmanned Aircraft System has violated any of the provisions of Section 6, 7, 8, 23, 24, 25, 34 and is liable for confiscation or any documents, electronic devices or records or things which in his opinion shall be useful for or relevant to any other proceeding under this Act, then he may detain such Unmanned Aircraft System, documents, electronic devices, records or things, as the case may be;

Provided that where it is not practicable to detain any Unmanned Aircraft System, documents, records, electronic devices or things, the authorized officer or the Officer In-charge of police station may serve the Owner or Operator or Custodian of Unmanned Aircraft System, record, document, electronic device or thing, an order, that he shall not remove, part with or otherwise deal with Unmanned Aircraft System except with the previous permission of the such officer; and

Provided further, that the reason to believe that such violation has been committed shall be recorded in writing and shall be submitted to the Director General or to the concerned Deputy Superintendent of the Police during further proceedings.

(4) The Unmanned Aircraft System, record, electronic device, or thing so detained may be detained for a period upto 3 days for their examination, inquiry or proceedings under this Act;

Provided that the Unmanned Aircraft System, record, document, electronic device or thing may be detained for a period upto 7 days with the approval of Director General or Deputy Superintendent of Police, as the case may be;

Provided also that such Unmanned Aircraft System, record, document, electronic device or thing shall be released on a provisional basis, upon execution of bond and furnishing of a security, in such a manner and of such quantum respectively, as may be prescribed by the Central Government;

Provided further that detention of Unmanned Aircraft System, record, document, electronic device or thing, beyond a period of 7 days shall be as per the direction of the court having jurisdiction as per the applicable provisions of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023; and

Provided also that such Unmanned Aircraft System,

	<p>record, document, electronic device or thing shall be released on a provisional basis, upon execution of bond and furnishing of a security, in such a manner and of such quantum respectively, as may be prescribed by the Central Government.</p> <p>(5) Except for the purpose of detention as provided above from sub-section (3) and sub-section (4) the provisions of compounding of offence as provided in Section 39 of this Act, the other proceedings in respect of these violations shall be governed as per the applicable provisions of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.</p>
Financial Penalty and its Adjudication	<p>36. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 27, 31, 34 and 35 the Central Government may in making any Rule under this Act provide for imposition of financial penalty not exceeding Rupees One Lakh for contravention of any provision of this Act or Rules made under this Act;</p> <p>(2) The Central Government may, by an order published in the Official Gazette, appoint such number of officers not below the rank of Under Secretary to the Government of India or equivalent, as it considers necessary, to be designated officers for adjudging penalty under sub-section (1), in such manner as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules;</p> <p>(3) The Central Government may, while appointing designated officers under sub-section (2), also specify their jurisdiction in that order;</p> <p>(4) Where the designated officer is satisfied that any contravention of the provisions of the rules has been committed by any person, he may, by an order in writing, impose penalty on such person stating the nature of contravention, the provision of rules which has been contravened and the reasons for imposing such penalty;</p> <p>Provided that the designated officer shall, before imposing any penalty, give a reasonable opportunity of being heard to such person; and</p> <p>Provided further that the designated officer shall not proceed for imposition of penalty under sub-section (4), if an action under this Act other than the imposition of such penalty has been initiated for contravention of same provision on the same cause</p>

	of action.
Power to restrict, suspend or cancel the certificate or approval	<p>37. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, if any person contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made or the direction issued thereunder, the Central Government or any officer authorised in this behalf, may impose any restriction or suspend or cancel the certificate or approval issued to such person under this Act, as per the provisions of rules made by the Central Government in this behalf under Section 45 of this Act.</p> <p>(2) On being satisfied that there has been contravention of the provisions of the Act or rules or directions by any person, the Central Government or any officer authorised under sub-section (1) may, by an order in writing;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) suspend or cancel the certificate or approval; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) impose conditions or restrictions on the certificate or approval, issued to such person stating the nature of contravention, the provisions of Act, rule or the direction which has been contravened and the reasons for such suspension or cancellation or imposition of condition or restriction.</p> <p>(3) The Central Government or the officer authorised under sub-section (1) shall, before passing an order under sub-section (2), give an opportunity of being heard to the person concerned.</p> <p>(4) The Central Government may, in the rules made under section 45, specify the grounds on which the certificate or approval may be suspended or the circumstances under which such conditions or restrictions may be imposed with immediate effect.</p>
Appeal against the orders passed under Section 36 and 37.	<p>38. (1) Any person aggrieved by any order made under sub-section (4) of section 36 or under sub-section (2) of section 37 may prefer an appeal to the First Appellate Officer having jurisdiction in the matter who is next higher in rank to such officer who has passed the order.</p> <p>(2) The First Appellate Officer may, after giving an opportunity of being heard to the parties, pass such order, as he thinks fit, confirming, modifying or setting aside the order appealed against.</p>

	<p>(3) Any person aggrieved by any order passed by the First Appellate Officer, may prefer an appeal to the Second Appellate Officer having jurisdiction in the matter who is next higher in rank to the First Appellate Officer.</p> <p>(4) The Second Appellate Officer may, after giving an opportunity of being heard to the parties, pass such order as he thinks fit, confirming, modifying or setting aside the order passed by the First Appellate Officer.</p> <p>(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing sub-sections, the appeal under sub-section (1) or under sub-section (3) against an order passed by the Director General of Civil Aviation or the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security shall lie with the Central Government.</p> <p>(6) Where any order under sub-section (2) is passed by the Central Government, no further appeal shall lie against such order.</p> <p>(7) Every appeal under this section shall be filed within thirty days from the date of receipt of the copy of the order passed, and such form and manner and accompanied with such documents and fee, as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules.</p>
Compounding of Offences.	<p>39. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, any violation of Section 6, 7, 8, 23, 24, 25, 34 may be compounded, by an officer authorized by the DGCA or an Executive Magistrate not below the rank of Sub- Divisional Magistrate in such manner, as the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette prescribe.</p> <p>(2) Every officer referred to in sub-section (1) shall exercise the powers to compound an offence, in a manner prescribed by the Central Government.</p> <p>(3) Every application for the compounding of an offence shall be made in such manner as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules.</p> <p>(4) Any offence arising out of violation of Section 6, 7, 8, 23, 24, 25, 34 may be compounded within one hundred and eighty days from the date of receipt of application by the Compounding</p>

	<p>Officer in such manner as may be prescribed.</p> <p>(5) The Compounding Officer shall, after giving the person a reasonable opportunity for making representation in the matter, and if, on such inquiry, he is satisfied that the person has committed the contravention of provisions under Section 6, 7, 8, 23, 24, 25, 34 may compound such offence subject to payment of such amount of compounding as prescribed by the Central Government in the rules.</p> <p>(6) Where any offence is compounded before the institution of any prosecution, no prosecution shall be instituted in relation to such offence by an officer referred to in sub-section (1) against the offender in relation to whom the offence is so compounded.</p> <p>(7) Where the compounding of any offence is made after the institution of any prosecution, such compounding shall be brought to the notice of the court in which the prosecution is pending, in writing, by the officer referred to in sub-section (1), and on such notice of the compounding of the offence being given, the person against whom the offence is so compounded shall be discharged.</p> <p>(8) The compounding of an offence under this section shall have the effect of an acquittal of the accused with whom the offence has been compounded.</p> <p>(9) No offence specified in sub-section (1) shall be compounded except as provided in this section.</p> <p>(10) Any appeal against the order of the compounding office shall lie before the concerned court of the place where the offence has taken place.</p>
Penalty for abetment and attempt	40. Whoever abets the commission of any offence under various provisions of this Act or attempts to commit such offence, and in such attempt does any act towards the commission of the offence, shall be liable for the same punishment provided for the offence.
Chapter V:	Miscellaneous

<p>Central Government to notify Examiner of Evidence relating to Unmanned Aircraft Systems</p>	<p>41. The Central Government may, for the purpose of providing expert opinion on evidence relating to unmanned aircraft systems before any court or other authority, may by notification in the Official Gazette, designate any expert agency as an Examiner of Evidence relating to Unmanned Aircraft Systems.</p> <p>Explanation. -For the purposes of this section, "evidence relating to unmanned aircraft systems" means any information of probative value that pertains to an unmanned aircraft system including any information stored or transmitted in electronic form and includes information relating to the system, any modifications thereto, and its conformity with any relevant standard or certificate.</p>
<p>Consistency with other laws.</p>	<p>42. (1) The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not to be construed in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.</p> <p>(2) Nothing contained within this Act shall be construed to restrict the application of any special or general law currently in force with respect to offences involving unmanned aircraft systems.-</p> <p>(3) If any offence covered under the provision of Official Secrets Act, 1923, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, or both, is committed using Unmanned Aircraft System then, it shall be deemed to have been committed by the person who used, caused to use, aided in using or caused to aid in using the Unmanned Aircraft System for commission of such offence, and shall be dealt according to the relevant provisions of Official Secrets Act, 1923, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, or both, as the case may be.</p>
<p>Forfeiture upon Conviction</p>	<p>43. (1) When any person is convicted under this Act of any offence committed by him in respect of any Unmanned Aircraft System, it shall be in the discretion of the convicting court further to direct that the whole or any portion of such Unmanned Aircraft System and any vessel, vehicle or other means of conveyance and any receptacle or thing containing, or used to conceal, the Unmanned Aircraft System shall be forfeited to the Government.</p> <p>(2) An order of forfeiture may also be made by the appellate</p>

	court or by the High Court when exercising its powers of revision.
Saving for acts done in good faith.	<p>44. (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.</p> <p>(2) No, suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any officer of the Central or State Government, or any person authorised by such officer, for anything done or any damage caused in good faith to protect persons or property from any actual or reasonably apparent threat from any unmanned aircraft system.</p>
Rules	<p>45. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make Rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, regulating the manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import or export of any Unmanned Aircraft System or class of Unmanned Aircraft System and for securing the safety of Unmanned Aircraft System operations.</p> <p>(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the authorities by which any of the powers conferred by or under this Act are to be exercised; b. the minimum standards for design, manufacturing and airworthiness including mandatory safety & security features required to be met by an unmanned aircraft system to qualify for a type certification and the conditions under which an unmanned aircraft system can be exempt from the requirement for a type certification; c. the minimum standards for design, manufacturing and airworthiness including mandatory safety and security features that need to be met to qualify and the conditions under which type certification may be issued based on an approval granted to such unmanned aircraft systems by other Contracting States; d. the procedure for the application for type certification; e. the procedure for the registration & marking of an unmanned aircraft system and the issuance of a UIN; f. the procedure for the transfer and de-registration of unmanned aircraft system; g. the conditions under which Unmanned Aircraft Systems may be owned, stored, and safeguards that may be implemented in connection with their storage and

	<p>maintenance;</p> <p>h. the conditions under which Unmanned Aircraft System may be flown, or may carry mails or goods or may be used for industrial purposes and the certificates or documents to be carried on Unmanned Aircraft System;</p> <p>i. the procedure, condition & validity for authorization of organization;</p> <p>j. the procedure, condition & validity of remote pilot certification;</p> <p>k. Requirement, procedure relating to Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management;</p> <p>l. details of any temporary territorial and temporal limitations, restrictions or prohibitions on the operation of unmanned aircraft systems;</p> <p>m. the prohibition and regulation of the carriage in Unmanned Aircraft System of any specified article or substance;</p> <p>n. mandatory security features that need to be incorporated into unmanned aircraft system;</p> <p>o. mandatory safety features that need to be incorporated into unmanned aircraft system;</p> <p>p. the manner and conditions of the issue or renewal of any certificate under the Act or the rules, the examinations and tests to be undergone in connection therewith, the form, custody, production, endorsement, cancellation, suspension or surrender of such certificate, or of any log-book;</p> <p>q. the fees to be charged in connection with any inspection, examination, test, certificate, authorization, approvals made, issued or renewed under this Act;</p> <p>r. the minimum requirements that need to be met by any policy of insurance that covers the operation of an unmanned aircraft system;</p> <p>s. the issue and maintenance of logs and records including duration relating to design, manufacturing, ownership, operation, and maintenance;</p> <p>t. policies and procedures relating to the detection and countering of rogue unmanned aircraft system;</p> <p>u. Insurance, claim, settlement of claim, procedure;</p> <p>v. Classification of Unmanned Aircraft;</p> <p>w. Categorization of Unmanned Aircraft;</p> <p>x. Manner, conditions of compounding;</p> <p>y. Visual Line of Sight Operation;</p> <p>z. Beyond Visual Line of Sight Operation;</p>
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	<p>aa. Economic regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Sector including fare, fee, tariff, charge ;</p> <p>bb. Determination of amount of monetary penalty;</p> <p>cc. Determination of amount for compounding of offence;</p> <p>dd. the areas and manner in which the Director General of Civil Aviation may issue directions for carrying out safety oversight and regulatory functions and grant exemption from compliance with such directions;</p> <p>ee. the fees to be charged in connection with any inspection, examination, test, certificate or approval, made, issued or renewed under this Act;</p> <p>ff. the manner and conditions of the renewal of any certificate or approval or authorization under this Act or the rules made thereunder, the examinations and tests to be undergone in connection therewith, the form, custody, production, endorsement, cancellation, suspension or surrender of such certificate or approval, or of any log-book;</p> <p>gg. any matter subsidiary or incidental to the matters referred to in this subsection;</p>
Rules to be made after publication.	46. Any power to make rules conferred by this Act is subject to the condition of the rules being made after previous publication. Provided that the Central Government may, in the public interest, by order in writing, dispense with the condition of previous publication in any case.
Laying of rules before Parliament	47. Every Rule made under the provisions of this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form, or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.
Power of Central Government to exempt certain	48. The Central Government may, by general or special order, exempt from all or any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, any UAS or class of UAS and any person or class of persons, or may direct that such provisions shall apply to such UAS or persons subject to such modifications as may be specified in the notification.

UAS	
Power of Central Government to delegate	49. The Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, direct that the powers (except the power to make rules under this Act) exercisable by it under this Act may also be exercisable by Director General of Civil Aviation or any other officer or authority specifically empowered in this behalf by the Central Government.
Power to remove difficulty	<p>50.(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty: Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of the Act.</p> <p>(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.</p>
Repeal and savings	<p>51. (1) The Drone Rules, 2021, Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 and Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2023 framed under the provisions of Aircraft Act, 1934 shall stand repealed after promulgation of appropriate rules under this act.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the rules as referred to in sub-section (1), anything done or any action taken or purported to have been done or taken, including any regulation, notification, inspection or order made or issued; or any licence, certificate, approval, permission or exemption granted; or any document or instrument executed; or any direction issued; or any proceedings taken or any penalty, punishment, forfeiture or fine imposed under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 or the rules made thereunder, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.</p> <p>(3) The mention of particular matters in sub-section (2) shall not be held to prejudice or affect the general application of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, with regard to the effect of repeal.</p>