

## Civil Aviation Ministry might loosen drone rules



The Civil Aviation Ministry of India is working up to loosen drone operation rules in India to make the country, a leader in drone operation by authorising licensed operation of unmanned aircraft aka drones; and also developing special corridors for flying the drones.

Parallel to America's Federal Aviation Administration's considerations of loosening drone restrictions and allowing them to be flown over crowds, the Indian aviation ministry has also announced to make reforms in drones' policies. Previously, usage of drones is restricted in India and operation of the aircraft except by the armed forces for surveillance purposes in remote and inaccessible border areas was not permitted. However, the government introduced the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) 1.0, allowing licensed usage of drones for civilian purposes in late-2018, after which as many as 40,000 drones were legally registered for operation.

On Tuesday, the government announced that they are planning to launch the second edition of the drone policy that will allow operation of drones beyond line of sight - under the new CAR 2.0 policy. Besides this, the ministry also plans to establish special corridors called droneports, which will facilitate take-off, flying and landing of drones - but under a strict regulatory environment. This, the government believes, will make India one of the few countries having such policies, and also a leader in drone operation around the world.

Although the exact date or schedule of formal implementation of the new policy is undefined, the government has announced registration of drones. In coming days, India expects to add as many as 1 million drones within five years - which will bring employment for 500,000 drone pilots, 1,000 manufacturers and about 100,000 operators, hence strengthening the economy. Other than that, relaxing drone policies will also open up new use cases like surveillance of inaccessible accident sites, quick delivery of medical supplies - or, maybe even food delivery.