



Airspace Map of India

Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched an **airspace map of India for drone operations**, which shows **red, yellow and green zones** across the country.

- It will **allow civilian drone operators to check the demarcated no-fly zones** or where they need to undergo certain formalities before flying one.
- Earlier, the '[Liberalised Drone Rules, 2021](#)' based on "trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring" was unveiled and also the [Production-Linked Incentive \(PLI\) scheme](#) for the drone industry was announced.

Key Points

▪ About:

Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It is the airspace up to 400 feet that has not been designated as a red or yellow zone, and up to 200 feet above the area located between 8-12 km from the perimeter of an operational airport.▪ No permission is required for operating drones with an all-up weight of up to 500 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It is the airspace above 400 feet in a designated green zone, and above 200 feet in the area located between 8-12 km from the perimeter of an airport, and above ground in the area located between 5-8 km from the perimeter of an airport.▪ Require permission from the concerned air traffic control authorities - which could be either the Airports Authority of India, the Indian Air Force, the Indian Navy, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, etc as the case may be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It is the 'no-drone zone' within which drones can be operated only after a permission from the Central government.

▪ The Drone Rules, 2021:

- The aim of the Rules is to **create a 'digital sky platform' ("the Platform")** which is a business-friendly single-window online system, with minimum human interference, where most of the permissions will be self-generated.
- The Rules have **reduced the red-tape** involved in the process of seeking compliance:
 - Quantum of fee has been **reduced to nominal levels** and delinked with size of the drone.
 - Easier process is **specified for transfer and deregistration of drones** through the digital sky platform.
 - **Nano and model drones** (made for research or recreation purposes) are exempt from type certification.
- **Coverage of drones** under Drone Rules, 2021 has been **increased from 300 kg to 500 kg**. This will **cover drone taxis also**.
- **Type Certificate is required only when a drone is to be operated in India**. Importing and manufacturing drones purely for exports are exempt from type certification and unique identification number.
- **Drone corridors** will be developed for cargo deliveries.

Drones

▪ About:

- Drone is a layman terminology for **Unmanned Aircraft (UA)**. There are **three subsets** of UA- **Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Autonomous Aircraft and Model Aircraft**.
 - Remotely Piloted Aircraft consists of remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links and any other components, as specified in the type design.
- **Remotely piloted aircraft** have been divided into **five categories** based on their weight (existing rules)
 - Nano : Less than or equal to 250 grams.
 - Micro : From 250 grams to 2kg.
 - Small : From 2 kg to 25kg.
 - Medium : From 25kg to 150kg.
 - Large : Greater than 150kg.

▪ Importance:

- Drones **offer tremendous benefits** to almost all sectors of the economy.
- These include – agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, **geo-spatial** mapping, defence, and law enforcement to name a few.
- Drones can be **significant creators of employment and economic growth** due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas.
 - Recently, the **Telangana government** has selected 16 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) for pilot testing the ambitious **'Medicine from the sky'**, the first-of- its-kind project. The project involves **delivery of medicines through multiple drones**.

[Source: IE](#)