



HIMACHAL PRADESH DRONE POLICY - 2022

Department of Information Technology
Government of Himachal Pradesh



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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Excerpts of Hon'ble Prime Minister

**During his interaction with Healthcare Workers &
COVID Vaccination Beneficiaries in Himachal Pradesh**

“..... Himachal is going to benefit more due to modern and digital technology in the near future. Big changes are going to happen especially in the field of education and health. With this, even remote schools and health centres can virtually connect with teachers in big schools and doctors from big hospitals respectively.

Recently, the country has made another decision, which I especially want to tell the people of Himachal Pradesh. This relates to the change in the Rules regarding Drone Technology. Now its rules have been simplified. As a result, new possibilities will emerge in Himachal in many sectors like health and agriculture. Drones can now also be used in home delivery of medicines, can also be used in gardens and it is already being used in land surveys. I think proper use of Drone Technology can change the life of the people of our mountainous areas. Drone Technology can also be of great use in Himachal for the protection and conservation of forests. It is the constant endeavour of the Central Government that there should be maximum use of modern technology in government services as well.....”





Shri Jai Ram Thakur
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh

Message

प्रदेश में ड्रोन्स के व्यापक उपयोग के लिए हमारी सरकार प्रोजेक्ट गरुड़ पर काम कर रही है जिसमें सभी विभागों की कार्यप्रणाली को ड्रोन्स के माध्यम से सुदृढ़ किया जायेगा। गरुड़ अर्थात (Governance And Reforms Using Drone) के अंतर्गत कृषि, बागवानी, स्वास्थ्य, आपदा प्रबंधन, निगरानी के क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन्स को उपयोग किया जायेगा। इसी कड़ी में प्रदेश का प्रथम ड्रोन फ्लाईंग स्कूल राजकीय आईटीआई शाहपुर, काँगड़ा में स्थापित किया गया है। स्कूल के माध्यम से अभी तक प्रदेश सरकार के 15 अधिकारी ट्रेनिंग प्राप्त कर चुके हैं। आने वाले समय में प्रदेश के स्कूलों में ड्रोन फ्लाईंग कोर्सेज प्रारम्भ किये जायेंगे। युवाओं के लिए रोज़गार के अवसर उत्पन्न होंगे।





Dr. Ram Lal Markanda
Hon'ble Information Technology Minister
Himachal Pradesh

Message

ड्रोन पॉलिसी के माध्यम से हम माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के विज़न को साकार करने जा रहे हैं। ड्रोन के इस्तेमाल से हम प्रदेश के दुर्गम स्थानों में सरकारी सुविधा प्रदान की सकती है। इससे समय की भी बचत होगी। प्रदेश के छात्रों को भी ड्रोन टेक्नॉलजी में पारंगत किया जाएगा जिससे वह इस नवीन सेक्टर में सम्भावनाएँ तलाश सकते हैं। ड्रोन का हम आपदा के समय में अच्छा इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं। मुझे उम्मीद है की सभी सरकारी विभाग ड्रोन टेक्नॉलजी का इस्तेमाल नागरिकों को बेहतर सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए करेंगे।





Shri Ram Subhag Singh, IAS
Chief Secretary
Himachal Pradesh

Message

Himachal Pradesh is striving hard to achieve the goals set by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the State during the address on 6th of September, 2021. Drone technology is being promoted in the State in a big way, particularly in revenue, health, education and other sectors.

Keeping with the vision shared by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the Government of Himachal Pradesh is pleased to provide an enabling policy ecosystem for the Drone Industry in our State through the HP Drone Policy. It is envisaged that the use of drones in our hilly State will bring immense benefits to the people, specially those living in remote and inaccessible areas.





Dr. Rajneesh, IAS
Principal Secretary (IT)
Himachal Pradesh

Message

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that as a part of strategy for promotion of Drone and Drone-enabled Technology ecosystem in the State, a Drone Policy for the State with package of incentives to facilitate investments and drone-usage in Himachal Pradesh has been prepared. The policy mainly focuses upon the creation of Drone and Drone-enabled technology ecosystem industries, creation of licensed manpower pool through establishment of Flying schools and skill development through various Drone related courses, which are also being finalized by Government of India under National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP) and National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). The Department of Information Technology proposes to harness Digital Sky opportunities through institutional linkages with NEP, HP Industrial Investment Policy, HP Start-up/ Innovation Scheme, NSQF for ensuring future readiness of students and empowering them to access the job opportunities embedded in Drone sector.



1. Introduction

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, are aircrafts that operate autonomously or are operated remotely without a pilot on board. The disruptive benefits of the drone-usage in various sectors has been recognized by the Government of India which has simplified the regulatory mechanism through notification of the Drone Rules, 2021 in supersession of the Unmanned Aircraft System Rules, 2021 for creating a regime of regulation based on trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring, to empower the sector to fully realize its potential. Drones offer immense benefits to all sectors of the economy like agriculture, healthcare, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, disaster relief, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, forest and law enforcement, etc. Drones are fast emerging as significant generators of employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas. The Drone manufacturing is expected to grow up to INR 900 crore by 2023-24 and the Drone Services Sector is expected to reach annual turnover of INR 30,000 crore by 2023-24 in India. The sector is expected to grow at Cumulative Annual Growth Rate of 15% or more till 2026. This growth is expected to unlock over a million job opportunities over the next five years.

Himachal Pradesh being a mountainous State with dispersed settlements is well suited to benefit from the Drone revolution. In coming years, use of Drones will revolutionize government service delivery mechanisms, project planning, execution and monitoring by overcoming the challenges posed in terms of access and difficult terrain. This Drone Policy aims to empower the State to fully harness the opportunities offered by the rise of Drone sector, by creating a conducive environment for growth of the sector in Himachal Pradesh, train its youth and students empowering them to fully access the opportunities offered in the sector. The Drone Policy also seeks to enable the government to utilize the cutting edge technologies for improving service delivery for societal benefit. Accordingly, this Drone Policy seeks to incentivize Drone and Drone enabled Technology, Design, Services and Manufacturing Industry.

Himachal Pradesh is one of the leading States in e-Governance and Information Technology and has developed basic ICT infrastructure viz. State Data Centre, State Wide Area Network (HIMSWAN) etc. Similarly, the State seeks to create and provide opportunities for the growth of the Drone sector and to gain a first-mover advantage towards setting up of drone and drone-enabled technology and services industry.

1.1 Competitive Advantages of Drone Sector in Himachal Pradesh

► Congenial Industry Relations

The State has been recognized as the most industry-friendly State in India by PHD Chamber of Commerce and has never witnessed any major loss of productivity / work hours due to the State Government's constant emphasis on maintaining excellent industrial relations.

► Reliable and Affordable Power

The State is known as Power Surplus State and provides round the clock power at reasonable rates to the industry.

► Availability of Skilled Manpower

Himachal Pradesh is home to premier educational and technical institutions providing high-quality education in various disciplines. There are several prominent technical institutes in the State for providing support to the industry such as NIT Hamirpur, IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh University, Sardar Patel University, HP Agriculture University, University of Horticulture and Forestry, HPTU, CIPET Baddi, IIIT Una, JUIT and the upcoming Mini Tool Room in Baddi. There are 165 ITIs in the State for providing a continuous flow of Skilled Human Capital for the manufacturing sector. The State has one of the highest numbers of technical persons per lakh.

► Salubrious Environment

The Government has taken several steps to ensure a clean and pollution-free environment and the State is home to a variety of natural flora and fauna with favorable climatic conditions. The State is known as a peaceful State with law-abiding citizens.

1.2 e-Governance in Himachal Pradesh

In the recent years, the State has been awarded various National e-Governance Awards, Web Ratna Awards and many other accolades. Major e-Governance initiatives in Himachal Pradesh are:

► HP State Data Centre

State-of-the-art reliable and secure infrastructure for hosting and managing e-Governance applications of State and its constituent departments on the cloud. The HPSPDC infrastructure is being enhanced as per the growing needs of the State Government departments. Currently more than 180 applications of 65 Departments are hosted in the HPSPDC. The HPSPDC is being expanded to meet the growing digitization needs of the State with a plan to add an additional

1360 processor cores, 8 TB of RAM and 1024 TB of storage to cater to the requirements for the next five years.

▶ **Integrated Enterprise Architecture**

Creation of a master database of the State citizens by providing a personal digital ID to each individual and a Data Exchange Layer termed as “Integrated Enterprise Architecture” to share data among various online applications in a secured manner, irrespective of the technology or platform they are using. Advantages would be:

- ✓ smooth flow of information between G2C and G2G
- ✓ reduction in footfall in the Government offices
- ✓ enhance efficiency by reducing manual interventions in systems
- ✓ better planning and forecasting of schemes and allocations

▶ **HIMSWAN**

State Wide Area Network is a reliable and secure backbone to address the information communication requirements and associated services of the State Government and its Departments. Currently 2314 Government Offices are connected on HIMSWAN, the connectivity has been upgraded to minimum 8 Mbps over MPLS.

▶ **MyGov Portal**

To bring government closer to the common man, MyGov portal has been set up for creating an interface for the healthy exchange of ideas and views involving the common citizen and experts to contribute to the social and economic transformation of Himachal Pradesh.

▶ **Lok Mitra Kendras**

LMKs are the front-end delivery points for Government, Private and Social Sector services to rural citizens at their doorsteps, in an integrated manner using Information and Communication Tools and have been set up at GP level. More than 68 G2C services are being provided through 4839 active Lok Mitra Kendras in the state.

▶ **Command and Control Centre**

To improve the safety of the citizens, a State-level hi-tech Command and Control Centre is being established to capture high-quality videos, surveillance, vehicle tracking, crowd management, traffic management, crime detection & control activities, disaster management etc.

▶ **Setting up of IT Park**

To provide an enabling environment for the development of the IT & ITeS sector in the State, state-of-the-art IT Parks are being set up at Gaggal & Waknaghat.

▶ **Security Operation Centre**

To implement cyber security measures, a Security Operations Centre (SOC) would be set up to secure the applications as well as data hosted in the State Data Centre.

▶ **Aadhaar**

The Aadhaar coverage in the State is one of the highest in India. Aadhaar seeding in various Government schemes and thereafter onboarding of the schemes on the Direct Benefit Transfer platform shall be a continuing activity.

▶ **CM Helpline**

A call centre to act as a single point of contact for grievances redressal, submission of demands and suggestions to the Hon'ble Chief Minister. All grievances received through various means can be captured and marked to concerned department/ field functionaries for redressal of the same. Currently 89 Departments are registered on the portal and nearly 8000 Officials are mapped in the helpline.

The State Government is committed to provide a graft-free, hassle-free and enabling environment to Drone Manufacturing and Drone enabled Technology enterprises to set up, sustain, function and grow their operations in the State.

1.3 Drone Use Cases in Government

Drones offer immense benefits across the different sectors of economy and have the potential to drastically improve the functioning of government departments in the State. Some of the use cases for Drones across various domains in government are as under:

▶ **SVAMITVA Scheme**

- To create accurate land records for rural planning and reduce property related disputes.
- Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
- To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps

▶ **Safety/Security & Law Enforcement**

- Monitoring of activities at State and National borders
- Crowded area monitoring and interventions
- Surveillance on a need basis



- Real-time traffic monitoring and congestion based interventions

▶ **Disaster Management**

- Real-time monitoring during the disaster
- Mapping of impacted / potential zones
- Delivery of essential items in case of blockade of means of transportation

▶ **Power and Utilities**

- Project Preparation and Planning through Surveying and Mapping of utility pathways.
- Management of remote assets, check pilferage, damages.
- Execution of dangerous inspections

▶ **Agriculture & Horticulture**

- To gather farm and crop-specific data to assess farm productivity
- Assessment of crop damage
- Precision agriculture - to reduce misapplication of limited resources like water, fertilisers and chemicals
- Spray of fertilisers on crops and vegetation management

▶ **Mining**

- Monitoring of extraction activities
- Boundary / utilization monitoring
- Stockpile volume and movement monitoring
- Checking of illegal mining

▶ **Forests & Wildlife**

- To monitor wildlife and prevent illegal activities like tree cutting, encroachment and road construction
- Forest protection through thermal mapping and prediction of Forest Fires.
- Plantation monitoring including slope stabilization by slurry and seed spray
- Monitoring of tourists to ensure minimal disturbance to wildlife
- Monitoring public assets and ensuring the cleanliness of heritage sites and sites of prime importance

▶ **Healthcare**

- Delivery of medicines, vaccines, etc. in remote and cut-off regions
- Sample collection, blood supplies through a network of hub-spoke model.

- Monitoring and inspection of health facilities and work monitoring.

▶ **Telecom**

- Routine inspections
- Preservation of structures
- Asset monitoring

▶ **Public Works**

- Road surface condition monitoring
- Building & Roads project progress monitoring

▶ **Pollution Management**

- River Basin monitoring
- Sewerage and effluent monitoring

▶ **Tourism**

- A high resolution 360 degree view of tourist locations
- Assessment of tourist movements through time-lapse videos can assist in managing tourist traffic effectively
- Audio-Visual content creation for tourism promotion.

▶ **Education**

- Creation of future ready students with inclusive course curriculum on drones reflecting the industry demand
- Drone Flying Courses, Drone Instrumentation, repair and maintenance courses for improving employability
- Project Planning and Monitoring

2. Definitions

- i. **“Appointed Date”** means the date on which this Policy is notified by the Government and comes into force.
- ii. **“Bonafide Himachali”** means a resident of the State of Himachal Pradesh as certified by the competent authority from time to time.
- iii. **“Chief Minister’s Start-up / Innovation Projects / New Industries Scheme”** means the scheme as notified by the State vide notification No. Ind-II (F) 12-3/2015 dated 15th November 2016, as amended from time to time.

- iv. **“Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production”** means the date on which the Drone enterprise Commences Commercial Operations / Production as certified by the concerned department.
- v. **“Consultant”** means any consultancy organization of State or Central Government engaged in providing consultancy services or any service enterprise with a minimum of 5 years of experience in providing consultancy services and taken on record by the Department or Chartered Accountant or Chartered Engineer (Civil or Mechanical).
- vi. **“Department”** means Department of Information Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- vii. **“Drone”** means an Unmanned Aircraft System, implying an aircraft that can operate autonomously or can be operated remotely without a pilot on board.
- viii. **“Drone Rules, 2021”** means the rules as notified by the Government of India vide notification no. AV-29017/37/2021-SDIT-MoCA dated 25th August, 2021, as amended from time to time.
- ix. **“Drone System Design and Manufacturing (DSDM) Enterprises”** means the Designing, Testing, Manufacturing of Drones or Drone Components and Assemblies for OEMs of Drones. It will also include drone hardware, drone communication devices, electronic manufacturing services for drones, embedded software of these systems and associated components.
- x. **“Drone Enabled Technology and Services (DeTS) Enterprises”** means the use of Drone Technology to provide services, drone related training, repair and any other Drone enabled service which results from the use of drone system for realizing value addition.
- xi. **“Electricity Duty”** means the electricity duty levied by the Government from time to time.
- xii. **“Eligible Enterprise”** means an enterprise fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per the provisions made under Para 5 of this Policy.
- xiii. **“Existing Enterprise”** means DSDM/DeTS enterprise engaged in providing services / manufacturing and registered / acknowledged / taken on record by the Department and has Commenced Commercial Operations / Production before the Appointed Date.
- xiv. **“Fixed Capital Investment (FCI)”**

- a. For New Enterprise, FCI means the actual investment made in Technical Civil Works, Plant and Machinery by an enterprise as on date of Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.
 - b. For Existing Enterprise, FCI means additional investment made in Technical Civil Works, Plant and Machinery by an enterprise for undertaking Substantial Expansion after the Appointed Date.
- xv. **“Government”** means the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- xvi. **“Himachali Bonafide”** means a resident of the State of Himachal Pradesh as certified by the competent authority from time to time.
- xvii. **“Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy, 2019”** means the Policy notified by the Government of Himachal Pradesh vide notification no. Ind-A(F)2-2/2019-I dated 16th August, 2019, as amended from time to time.
- xviii. **“HP Start Up Scheme”** means the Chief Minister’s Start-up / Innovation Projects / New Industries Scheme.
- xix. **“Investment in Plant and Machinery”**
- a. **For DeTS:** Investment in Plant and Machinery will include the cost of construction of building and all other durable physical assets basic to the running of that particular service industry but exclude cost of land and consumables, disposables or any other item charged to revenue as specified by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) under notification No. F.No.2 (2)/2018-SPS dated 23rd April 2018.
 - b. **For DSDM:** Investment in Plant and Machinery will include the cost of construction of building and all other durable physical assets basic to the running of that particular service industry but exclude cost of land and consumables, disposables or any other item charged to revenue as specified by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) under notification No. F.No.2 (2)/2018-SPS dated 23rd April 2018.
- xx. **“IT, ITeS and ESDM Policy”** means the policy as notified by State Government vide notification no. IT-F(1)1/2019 dated 04-11-2019, as amended from time to time.
- xxi. **“Net SGST Reimbursement”** means HPSGST paid to the State Government after having adjusted ITC on input and input services by the Eligible Enterprises.

- xxii. **“New Enterprise”** means a DSDM/DeTS enterprise located within the State, Commences Commercial Operations / Production on or after the Appointed Date and registered/ acknowledged/ taken on record by the Department.
- xxiii. **“Policy”** means the Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy – 2022.
- xxiv. **“Power Tariff”** means only the basic rate of electricity per unit charged for the consumption of power and shall not include electricity duty, surcharge, and peak load exemption charge, winter charge, fuel adjustment charge, service charge, GST or any other charge under any name in the Tariff Schedule.
- xxv. **“Substantial Expansion”** means an increase by not less than 25% in the value of Plant and Machinery / Equipment by Existing Enterprise for expansion of capacity or modernization or diversification and taken on record by the Department.
- xxvi. **“Technical Civil Works”** means expenditure incurred on account of civil works for setting up of an enterprise which are related to production, processing, storage and rendering of service in case of Service Enterprise except expenditure incurred on (i) Compound wall (ii) Approach Road (iii) Administrative Office Building (iv) Toilets (v) Labour Rest Room and quarters for workers. (vi) Sanitation Room (vii) Security/ Guard Room or enclosure as certified by a Chartered Engineer (Civil).

The words and expressions used herein but not defined, and defined in the Drone Rules, 2021 or the HP Industrial Investment Policy 2019 or the HP IT, ITeS and ESDM Policy, 2019 or the Chief Minister’s Start Up/Innovation Projects/New Industrial Scheme shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the said Rules or Policies or Schemes.

3. Vision

The Himachal Pradesh Government recognizes the potential of the Drone Sector and foresees the need to act as a catalyst and enabler in establishing the ecosystem that would allow Drone companies to thrive in the State. This Policy seeks to foster the State’s Drone Ecosystem for overall socio-economic development of the State with focus on sustainable growth based on innovation and knowledge for generate employment and promote entrepreneurship.

The State envisions:

- To create a holistic Drone ecosystem built upon the foundations of Governance and Reform using Drones (GARUD) – an initiative for enabling policy, robust infrastructure, research & development, and market access.
- To harness Digital Sky opportunities through institutional linkages with the National Education Policy, 2020, HP Industrial Investment Policy, HP Start-up/ Innovation Scheme, National Skill Qualification Framework for ensuring future readiness of students and empowering them to access the job opportunities embedded in Drone sector.
- To propagate the use of Drones and Drone enabled Technology for creation of employment opportunities and economic prosperity in the State.
- To extend incentives to boost investment in the State in Drone system, design, services and manufacturing.

4. Objectives of the Policy

The goal of this Policy is to strike a balance between creation of a conducive environment for promoting drone usage and regulations that ultimately result in the increase of economic activity due to usage of Drones in Himachal Pradesh. The following key objectives are envisaged to be achieved through the Policy:

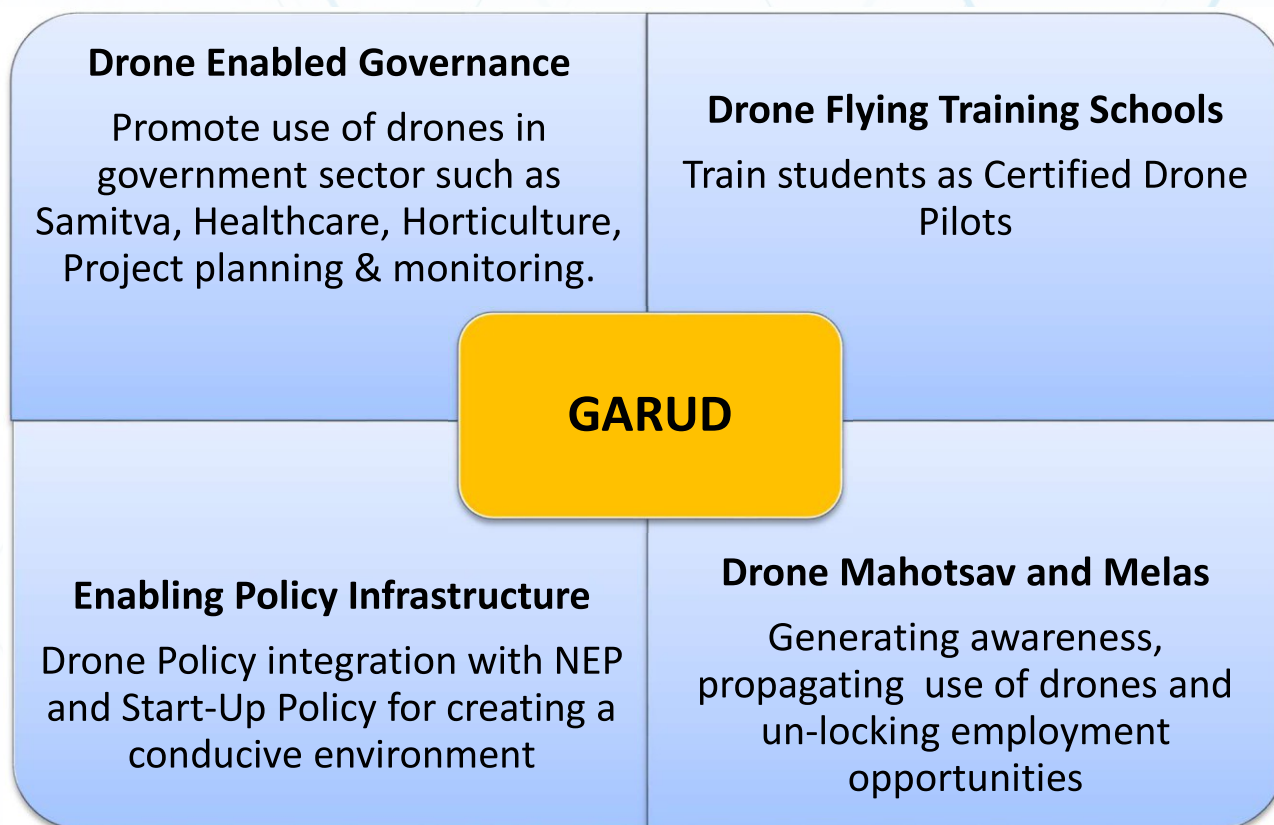
- i. To incentivise and facilitate the establishment of Drone design, manufacturing and services based Industry in the State.
- ii. To improve ease-of-doing Business for the Drone Industry
- iii. To encourage industry-led R&D and innovation in Drone Sector
- iv. To promote Start-ups through the eco-system established by HP Start Up Policy in Drones Design, Manufacturing, Services etc., and their applications in areas such as agriculture, horticulture, health, smart cities and automation, with special focus on solving real-life problems.
- v. To promote use of drones for simplifying governance and improving the service delivery mechanisms, especially in far-off remote regions.
- vi. To create capability within administration to effectively utilise the enormous benefits of the use of drones in governance.

- vii. To promote and create industry-government partnerships for use of drones in different areas of governance.
- viii. To create future ready students with effective linkages with National Education Policy (NEP) and National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) in education institutions.
- ix. To foster industry-academia linkages for creation of relevant drone bases courses for students, empowering them to access the job opportunities in the Drone Sector.
- x. To introduce drone based courses in institutions of higher education, engineering, technical, agriculture, horticulture, forestry and medical sciences with Multiple Entry-Multiple Exit option as envisaged under NEP.
- xi. To enhance capacity of academia and industry in harnessing opportunities offered by big data and analytics.

5. Key Pillar of the HP Drone Policy – GARUD (Governance and Reforms Using Drones)

The Department of Information Technology has initiated the project GARUD, for promoting Governance And Reforms Using Drones, in Himachal Pradesh. GARUD is the foundation of the Drone Policy aimed at promoting Drone and Drone enabled Technology ecosystem in the State and harnessing the Opportunities in Drone sector through seamless integration with National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), HP Industrial Investment Policy, HP Start-up Scheme and National Skill Qualification Framework. The collaborative potential of these programs is aimed at providing a comprehensive framework for the Drone Policy to effectively address the needs of the industry and propel the State to the forefront of the booming Drone Revolution.

The presence of a Drone friendly Policy and a secure environment, supported by a pool of technical resources will lead to the establishment of drone/ anti-drone manufacturing companies. This Policy is the first step towards that endeavour and is based around following key pillars:



5.1. Drone-enabled Governance

Aimed at exploring and increasing use of Drones in Governance and functioning of various Departments:

- PM Swamitva Yojana and land surveys
- Drone surveillance for maintenance of law and order, illegal mining, illegal tree felling, etc.
- Agricultural and Horticultural activities
- Healthcare deliveries in far flung areas, disaster management.
- Project planning, monitoring and execution for various departments like PWD, HPSEBL, JSV, UD, Education etc.

5.2. Enabling Policy for promoting drones

Aimed at promoting the establishment and participation of Private Sector in DSDM and DeTS.

- Forging linkages with existing policies for entrepreneurship and industry promotion of IT department and Industries department
- Fostering Start-ups and innovation, especially with technical institutions.

5.3. Drone Flying Training Schools

Aimed at creating a network of Drone Flying Training Schools, to make Himachal the leading State in exploiting the job opportunities expected in the sector:

- Creation of DGCA licensed pilots resource pool
- Unlocking new employment opportunities for youth.

5.4. Drone Mahotsav and Melas

Aimed at generating awareness and creating enthusiasm for use of Drones by Departments and in Private Sector:

- Creating awareness amongst students, youth, farmers and other stakeholders.
- Synergy between Industry-Educational Institutions-Stakeholders to accelerate drone usage
- To promote industry-government partnerships for identifying areas of effective intervention.

6. Digital Sky through National Education Policy

The Government of Himachal Pradesh intends to seize the opportunity provided by the Digital Sky by using the flexibility provided in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and integrating it with the Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD) initiative to create 21st century-ready students and a conducive education eco-system.

Himachal Pradesh is integrating its Drone Policy with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) with the following three key objectives – first, to harness digital sky opportunities; second, institutionalize Drone-based learning in education eco-system in Himachal; third, creating a pool of future ready students who can contribute towards nation building. Accordingly, harnessing the Digital Sky Opportunities using National Education Policy 2020 and NSQF has been done based upon the following pillars:

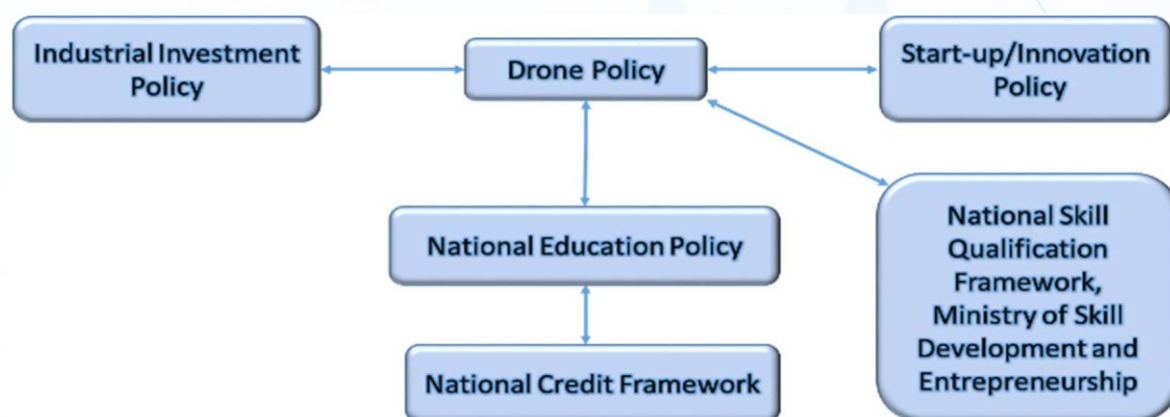


Fig: Domain and Interlinkages of Drone Policy

6.1. Drone Flying Training School (DFTS)

An endeavour shall be made to establish Drone Flying Training Schools in Himachal Pradesh by fostering enabling linkages with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) and hand-holding the stakeholders. Himachal Pradesh has established its first drone flying training school at ITI Shahpur, Kangra in association with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), an autonomous body under Ministry of Civil Aviation. The DFTS offers courses on drone flying and certifies Drone Pilots, enabling students to acquire an edge and harness the job opportunities available in the drone flying sector. The Department of Information Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh shall make efforts to establish other new Drone Flying Training Schools in Himachal Pradesh and these courses shall be made part of the formal education system under the Choice Based Credit System.

6.2. Institutional linkages with Education Institutions using NEP

The students in higher education institutions in HP shall be encouraged to take up Drone Pilot Certification and other courses in Drone Flying Training Schools. These courses shall provide new employment opportunities to University, College, ITI and Polytechnic students and shall be integrated in the formal choice based credit system of the Universities and Colleges in the State, through MOUs between Himachal Pradesh University, Sardar Patel University, HP Agriculture University, University of Horticulture and Forestry and Government Degree Colleges, IGRUA and other stakeholders towards this effect.

In the spirit of academic freedom envisaged under the NEP, Courses with ME-ME (Multiple Entry – Multiple Exit) system shall be designed for students. The students will have flexibility in entering and exiting the courses and will receive certificate (after 1 year course work), Diploma (after 2 year course work) and Degree (after 3 year course work). Further the Government plans to:

- ✓ Encourage the development of specific domain-led programs for specific requirements like aerial photography, surveillance, remote sensing etc. These domain-led programs will help develop a freelancing ecosystem. Government will provide incentives to the drone academies to create these specific modules.
- ✓ Collaborate with the leading technological institutes to create specialized courses on drone engineering so that the drone manufacturers can scout drone design engineers directly from colleges.

6.3. Drone Instrumentation and Repair courses

Instrumentation and repair of drones is fast emerging as industry requirement. An endeavour shall be made to introduce six-month course on Drone Technician and three-month Drone Service Technician (NSQF Level 4 – 400 hours) in the Industrial Training Institutes and Polytechnic Colleges of the State to harness the opportunities presented by the booming drone sector. Industry linkages for ensuring the job readiness of the students shall be integral part of this ecosystem. This shall be institutionalized through linkages with National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Further courses on Drone enabled technologies for promotion of Drone entrepreneurs shall be initiated in technical institutions.

6.4. Data Analytics and Big Data

The Government shall facilitate introduction of structured courses in data analytics, software and big data in institutions of higher learning with multiple entry and multiple exit options (ME-ME). Student doing course work for one, two and three years shall get Certificate, Diploma and Degree respectively, providing them with flexibility in making academic choices under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).

6.5. Facilitate Industry-Academia linkage

Creation of a conducive environment for fostering Start-Ups in drone related technology, incubation centres at Technical Institutions to provide suitable ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs to grow and ensuring linkages with the National Education Policy and Industrial/Start-up Policy constitute an important component of the Drone Policy.

7. Eligibility for DSDM/DeTS Enterprises

7.1 New Enterprises setting up its operations in Himachal Pradesh during the operative period of this Policy will be eligible for availing incentives, concessions and facilities under this Policy subject to:

- i. fulfilment of such requirements as specified under this Policy.
- ii. adherence to procedures as specified by the concerned department from time to time for availing the incentives, concessions and facilities under this Policy.
- iii. employment of minimum 80% Himachali Bonafide, at levels where requisite education qualification is bachelors or below, in case it employs 5 persons directly on regular, contractual,

daily basis etc. or through contractor or outsourcing agencies at the time of Commencement of Commercial Operation / Production as well as for the time-period it remains in Commercial Operation / Production in the State.

- iv. The condition that incentive provided under this Policy will be admissible from the date of Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production or from the date on which respective administrative department issues enabling notification under the relevant statute / law to operationalize incentives notified under this Policy, whichever is later. The period of eligibility of incentives will be counted from the date of Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.
- v. clearance of outstanding dues of the Department.
- vi. The condition that Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum / Entrepreneur Memorandum Part-II / Commencement of Commercial Production Certificate stands acknowledged / taken on record by the Department of Information Technology or Department of Industries.

7.2 Existing Enterprises undertaking Substantial Expansion by not less than 25% of their FCI will be eligible for availing incentives, concessions and facilities under this Policy subject to:

- i. fulfilment of such requirements as specified under Para 7.1 (i, ii, iv, v & vi).
- ii. The condition that the incentive provided under this Policy will be admissible from the date of undertaking Substantial Expansion taken on record by the Department or from the date on which respective administrative department issues enabling notification under the relevant statute / law to operationalize incentives announced under this Policy, whichever is later.
- iii. The condition that in case of employment is generated due to Substantial Expansion, it will employ 80% Bonafide Himachali at levels where requisite education qualification is bachelors or below, directly on a regular, contractual, daily basis etc. or through contractor or outsourcing agencies. Other conditions of Para 7.1 (iii) will also be applicable.

7.3 Incentives that are not mentioned in this Policy but are part of either Himachal Pradesh IT, ITeS and ESDM Policy - 2019 or Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy – 2019 or HP Start Up Scheme will be applicable for all Eligible Enterprises depending upon the eligibility as mentioned in the Himachal Pradesh IT, ITeS and ESDM Policy - 2019 or Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy – 2019.

Provided further, Eligible Enterprises that have availed / availing incentives under any State / Central Policy / Scheme of State / Central Government will not be eligible to avail similar incentives provided under this Policy.

8. Validity of Policy

The Policy shall remain in force for five years from the appointed date.

9. Incentives for DSDM/DeTS

Realising the disruptive potential of Drones to offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy, the Government of India has taken a number of steps to liberalise the regulatory framework and promote industry establishment in the country. Ministry of Civil Aviation published the liberalised Drone Rules in August 2021 and the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems in January, 2022 to simplify the process of registration of Drones for Drone manufactures and Service Providers. In order to catalyse super-normal growth in the upcoming drone sector and as a follow-through of the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021, the Central Government notified Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and drone components on September 30, 2021 and the import policy notified on 9th February 2022, banning import of foreign drones and freeing up import of drone components.

The new rules and the PLI scheme of Government of India will give a push to the drones and drone components manufacturing industry. To ensure that the State benefits from the initiatives of the Central Government and to further accentuate and build upon these initiatives, the policy proposes an attractive package of incentives and facilities to various DSDM/DeTS enterprises for making the State their preferred destination.

9.1. Subsidy towards Cost of Preparation of Detailed Project Report

Eligible Enterprises will be reimbursed 50% of the expenditure incurred towards the cost paid to the Consultant for preparation of DPR; Certification / Valuation of Technical Civil Works or Investment in Plant and Machinery, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 1 lakh after the Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.

9.2. Lease Rental Subsidy

For DeTS Enterprises

Eligible Enterprises taking space on lease for their operations in IT/ Multi-purpose SEZs/ IT Parks/ Designated Technology Parks (DTP) will be provided lease rental subsidy @ 75% for the first year, @ 50% for the second year and @ 25% for the third, fourth and fifth year from the date of Commencement of Commercial Operations/ Production, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 15 lakhs for first year, INR 10 lakhs for second year and INR 5 lakhs for third, fourth and fifth year.

For DSDM Enterprises

Eligible Enterprises taking space on lease for their operations in IT/ Multi-purpose SEZs/ IT Parks/ Designated Technology Parks (DTP) will be provided lease rental subsidy @ 85% for the first year, @ 60% for the second year and @ 35% for the third, fourth and fifth year from the date of Commencement of Commercial Operations, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 20 lakhs for first year, INR 15 lakhs for second year and INR 10 lakhs for third, fourth and fifth year.

9.3. Capital Subsidy

For DeTS Enterprises

Eligible Enterprises will be provided capital subsidy @ 25% of Fixed Capital Investment, excluding the cost of land, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 1 crores after the Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.

For DSDM Enterprises

Eligible Enterprises will be provided capital subsidy @ 50% of Fixed Capital Investment, excluding the cost of land, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 2 crores after the Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.

9.4. Exemption from Payment of Stamp Duty & Registration Fee Paid

Eligible Enterprises will be exempted from payment of the Stamp Duty & Registration Fee paid on an instrument of conveyance deed or lease deed after the Commencement of Commercial Operations/ Production.

9.5. Exemption from Payment of Change in Land Use Fee

Eligible Enterprises will be exempted from payment of Change in Land Use fee levied under the provisions of H.P. Town and Country Planning Act – 1977.

9.6. Interest Subvention

For DeTS Enterprises

Eligible Enterprises will be given interest subvention @ 5% on term loan with a maximum ceiling of INR 25 lakhs per annum for 5 years.

For DSDM Enterprises

Eligible Enterprises will be given interest subvention @ 5% on term loan with a maximum ceiling of INR 30 lakhs per annum for 5 years.

Interest subvention is subject to the following conditions:

- a) Time-period of Interest Subvention would be counted from the date of disbursement of the first instalment of term loan.
- b) Interest Subvention would be calculated on a simple rate of interest.
- c) Interest Subvention will be paid directly to the Financial Institution.
- d) The claim would be considered on a half-yearly basis after the Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.
- e) Interest Subvention shall be admissible to the enterprise for the period for which it has not defaulted its loan repayment and the period of default would be included in the admissible time-period.

9.7. Net SGST Reimbursement

Eligible Enterprises will be reimbursed 100% of Net SGST paid to the State Government under H.P. GST Act 2017 for 7 years, up to a maximum limit of 100% of the Fixed Capital Investment from the Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.

9.8. Assistance for Patent Filing

- A. Domestic Patents:** All enterprises will be reimbursed INR 5 lakhs or 75% of actual expenditure incurred/ charges paid to patent attorney, patent service centre and patent filling agency for obtaining a patent, whichever is lower, subject to maximum assistance for 5 domestic patents.
- B. International Patents:** All enterprises will be reimbursed INR 10 lakhs or 100% of actual expenditure incurred/ charges paid to patent attorney, patent service centre and patent filling agency for obtaining a patent, whichever is lower, subject to maximum assistance for 5 international patents.

9.9. Assistance for Environment Protection

Eligible Enterprises will be reimbursed

- A.** 25% of the expenditure incurred for the purchase of Plant & Machinery / equipment for setting up of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), rainwater harvesting system excluding expenditure incurred on construction, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 3 lakhs per enterprise after the Commencement of Commercial Operations / Production.
- B.** 50% of Power Tariff paid for the running of ETP for 4 years, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 1 lakhs per annum. This incentive would be disbursed subject to the installation of separate electricity meter/ sub-meter exclusively for the running of ETP.

9.10. Assistance for Quality Certification

All enterprises will be reimbursed 50% of expenses incurred for obtaining ISO – 9000, ISO – 14000 certifications or any other similar certifications, as decided by the Department, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 7 lakhs per enterprise.

9.11. Market Development Support

Eligible Enterprises will be provided market development support in terms of reimbursement of 50% of expenditure incurred towards (i) total rent of stall or rent of space and amount paid to organizer towards creation of stall and on rented space (ii) product literature/ catalogue and (iii) display material, for participation in the International Trade Fairs outside India, subject to maximum ceiling of INR 5 lakhs per enterprise twice during the operative period of this Policy.

9.12. Setting up of incubators for DeTS and DSDM

The Government will facilitate setting up of incubators in the private sector to accelerate the success and growth of startups in addition to existing incubators set up in the State. For this a Request for Proposal would be invited from professional of repute in this sector and by providing financial support as notified under the “Chief Minister Startup / Innovation Projects / New Industrial Scheme” on 15th November 2016.

9.13. Assistance for Transportation of Plant and Machinery

Only for DSDM Enterprises

Eligible Enterprises will be reimbursed 50% of the cost incurred in inland carriage and inland transit insurance of Plant and Machinery, subject to a maximum ceiling of INR 7 lakhs per enterprise after the Commencement of Commercial Operations/ Production.

10. Repeal & Saving

From the Appointed Date of this Policy, all other similar schemes / policy of the Department of Information Technology shall stand repealed. However, enterprises availing various incentives and facilities under the existing schemes / policy will continue to avail the same for the remaining period of their eligibility.

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