

Framework for traffic management of drones

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In news– Recently, the Civil Aviation has notified a traffic management policy framework for drones., i.e. National Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Traffic Management (UTM) policy framework.

Key highlights of the framework-

- This policy framework **defines the architecture and mechanism for traffic management of unmanned aircraft in Very Low Level (VLL) airspace up to 1000 feet above ground level.**
- This airspace shall be defined as UTM Airspace.
- The framework envisages private, third-party service providers for ensuring safe operations.
- **The Unmanned Traffic Management Service Providers (UTMSP) will extend automated, algorithm-driven software services** instead of voice communication as in the traditional Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems.
- They will **primarily be responsible for segregating and separating a drone** from other drones and manned aircraft in the airspace below 1,000 feet in the country.
- **The traffic management providers will be assisted by Supplementary Service Providers (SSPs), who will maintain data about terrain, weather, location** of manned aircraft and provide services such as insurance, data analytics and drone fleet management.
- The drone traffic management policy also **requires integration of UTM with ATM** so that flight plans and real-time location of manned aircraft can be recorded as well in order to continuously separate manned and unmanned aircraft from each other.
- **Law enforcement and security agencies will also have**

access to some information in the UTM ecosystem on a need-to-know basis.

- The **policy also allows UTMSPs to levy a service fee on users**, a small portion of which will also be **shared with the Airports Authority of India**.
- Following which an evaluation process will be undertaken and successful participants will be awarded regions for establishment of UTM services.
- UTMSPs will be deployed in small areas to begin with and their geographic presence may be increased subsequently.

The key stakeholders for this include:

- The central government.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- Airspace Management Agencies.
- Air Traffic Control (ATC) Authority.
- Air Defence Authority.
- UAS Traffic Management Service Providers (UTMSP).
- Supplementary Service Providers (SSP).
- Remote pilot, law enforcement and security agencies, and general public.