

Voluntary declaration of non-compliant drones flying in India

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The Ministry of Civil Aviation released guidelines for the voluntary disclosure of noncompliant drones flying in India. In order to facilitate the identification of civil drones and drone operators, a one-time opportunity for voluntary disclosure of such drones and drone operators is now being provided by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

About the drone regulations

- The Ministry had released the regulations for the operation of civil drones in August 2018.
- These regulations provide the process for obtaining a unique identification number, unmanned aircraft operator permit, and other requirements including identification of civil drones.

Key highlights of the guidelines

- The persons in possession of drones are required to submit the information to the government, starting from 14th January 2020 by visiting the **Digital Sky portal**
- The latest guidelines provide that persons in possession of drones must submit the required information to the government by January 31, 2020
- Drones and Drones operators have to **obtain Unique Identification Number (UIN), Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP)** and other operational requirements as per the guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) which regulates the use of drones

in the Indian Airspace.

- On successful submission of voluntary disclosure of possessing drone, a **Drone Acknowledgement Number (DAN) and an Ownership Acknowledgement Number (OAN)** will be issued online which will **assist in validation of operations of drones in India**.
- However, the **DAN or OAN does not confer any right to operate a drone(s) in India, if it does not fulfill the provisions given in the CAR**.
- Further, ownership of drone(s) in India without a valid DAN or OAN shall invite penal action as per applicable laws.