


MANIPUR GAZETTE
सत्यमेव जयते

E X T R A O R D I N A R Y
P U B L I S H E D B Y A U T H O R I T Y

No. 9

Imphal, Tuesday, April 4, 2023

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GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT : TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 3rd April, 2023

No. AWS-103/3/2022-T(MV)-TPT: In pursuance to the Cabinet decision under Agenda No. 51 dated, the 14th February, 2023, it is hereby notified for all concerned that **"Manipur Drone Policy, 2023"** which has received the consent of the State Cabinet shall come into force with effect from the date of publication of the policy in the Extraordinary Gazette.

2. This policy shall come into force with effect from the date of its notification and shall remain valid for a period of 5 (five) years or till the declaration of a new or revised policy, whichever is earlier.
3. The Policy notified shall be applicable within the State of Manipur.
4. This notification is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

MICHAEL ACHOM,
Secretary (Transport),
Government of Manipur.

INDEX

Sl. NO.	CONTENT	PAGE NO.
1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	POLICY PERIOD	1
3	VISION & MISSION OF THE POLICY	2
4	OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY	3-6
5	DRONE AIRSPACE MAP & DRONE REGULATION	6-7
6	INCENTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS IDENTIFIED FOR THE POLICY	7-8
7	STATE LEVEL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE	8-9
8	AMENDMENTSTO THE POLICY	9
9	CONCLUSION	9

MANIPUR DRONE POLICY–2023

1. Introduction:

“Drones”, the commonly known name of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), are aircrafts that can be operated autonomously or remotely without a pilot on board. Drone relies on a system of sensors and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) detectors to calculate their movement. It can fly at a controlled level of height and speed for a long period of time. The benefit of drone-usage in various fields has been recognized by the Government of India with the notification of the Drone Rules, 2021 for creating a regime of regulation based on trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring to empower the sector to fully realise its potential. To promote and facilitate the use of drones in various applications, “Drone Shakti” start-ups have been initiated by the Government of India. NITI Aayog is taking a major role to create a strategy to promote Drone-As-A-Service (DraaS) in the country and build model RFP documents for procurement of DraaS. Drone services/applications can be used in many sectors like agriculture, healthcare, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, disaster relief, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, forest and law enforcement, etc. Drone applications will generate employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in Manipur’s remote and inaccessible areas.

Manipur is a hilly state with difficult terrains and almost 90% of its area comes under Hilly region. The state will get maximum benefits from the use of drones in many services. The use of Drones will revolutionise government service delivery mechanisms, project planning, execution and monitoring by overcoming the challenges posed in terms of access to remote and difficult terrains in the state. This Drone Policy aims to empower the State to fully harness the opportunities offered by the rise of the Drone sector, by creating a conducive environment for growth, skill its youth and students empowering them to fully access the opportunities offered in the area. The state has a good number of educated youths and the drone policy will provide them opportunity to explore more in this field. Manipur Drone Policy, 2023 seeks to incentivize Drone and Drone enabled Technology, Design, Services and Manufacturing Industry.

2. Policy period:

This policy shall come into force with effect from the date of its notification and shall remain valid for a period of 5 (five) years or till the declaration of a new or revised policy, whichever is earlier.

3. **Vision:**

The Government of Manipur understands the impact of drones in our lives and realises that the Government has to promote the use of drones with the aim of creating new opportunities.

"To create a vibrant drone ecosystem promoting utilisation of drones in government as well as private sectors through proper regulation to accelerate economic growth, and strengthen effectiveness of the various services rendered for overall socio-economic development. The Policy also seek to act as a catalyst in establishing the ecosystem that would attract Drone companies to invest in the State with focus on sustainable growth to generate employment and promote entrepreneurship"

3.1 **Mission:**

Following mission statements have been identified for the policy:

- a) Promote the use of drone in services rendered by Government and private sectors
- b) Create an efficient and competitive ecosystem to facilitate growth of drone and drone enabled Technology for creation of employment opportunities and economic prosperity in the State companies in the State for higher economic growth.
- c) Harness Digital Sky opportunities through institutional linkages with the National Education Policy, 2020, Manipur Start-up/ Innovation Scheme, National Skill Qualification Framework for ensuring future readiness of students and empowering them to access the job opportunities in the Drone sector.
- d) Ensure availability of skilled manpower by opening drone School(s) in the State
- e) Reduce logistics costs and enhance efficiency in various sectors such as transport, agriculture & horticulture.
- f) To extend incentives to boost investment in the State in Drone system, design, services and manufacturing under the Manipur Industrial and Investment Policy and/or.

4. Objectives of the Policy:

The policy objective is promoting drone usages and regulation that result in increase in economic activity and generation of employment. The following key objectives are envisaged to be achieved through the Policy:

4.1 Start-up Manipur: The State government encourages start-ups to come up with varied applications for drones, including drones-as-a-service (DaaS). Manipur Start Up Policy may beckon to give special focus in Drone Start-up which has a huge potential for growth.

4.2 Building the drone ecosystem: Incentivize and facilitate the establishment of Drone design, manufacturing, assembly, and services-based Industry in the State. Drones Rules, 2021 has redefined red, yellow and green zones and ease permission requirements. Basically, which type of drone can fly where, at which height, and which are the flights that require prior permission has been made clear. There will be a Single Window clearance for drone related matters in a time bound manner in the State also.

4.3 Drone Schools- Creating future-ready jobs: Shortage of skilled manpower is a major challenge. Drone sector is set to rise with India edging closer to mass adoption of drones in few decades policy aims at creating a network of Drone Schools for conducting courses such as Drone pilots, Data Analyst for drone systems, Assembler, etc., through the existing ITI, Private/Public Sectors. This will make Manipur a leading State, North East India, in exploiting the job opportunities expected in this **sunshine sector which is witnessing fast growth.**

Moreover, to create future ready students with effective linkages with National Education Policy (NEP) and National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) in educational institutions. Introduction of 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.

4.3.1: Drone Pilot Training School (DPTS) will be established in Manipur in association with DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) approved Flying Training Organization (FTO) to impart Drone Pilot Trainings to the various Departments of the Government of Manipur, Paramilitary & Armed Forces, Students, Youth of the State, etc., to make use of various drone applications.

i) An employee per Department shall be subsidized of the training fee in the DPTS.

ii) Assistance in placement should be provided to qualified students in various DGCA approved organization or of similar stature by the DPTS.

4.3.2: Drone Assembling Unit: Government of Manipur will promote private entrepreneurs to set up Drone Assembling Unit at IT SEZ to facilitate assembling of drones and use of drone technology in various sectors.

4.3.3: Empowering Manipur Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Committee (MSDEC) to open drone courses in Govt. ITIs in Manipur to commensurate with new drone syllabus developed rapidly by NCEVT and Electronic Sector Skill Council of India.

4.4 Drone Entrepreneurs (Drone Preneurs): Promotion of drone entrepreneurs and small businesses to start adopting drones to take advantage of this growing market. These entrepreneurs will take the technology of drones to villages in the State and will help in the adoption of drones by masses. Policy aims to incentivise adoption of drones in rural areas.

4.4.1 Financial assistance to the trained & skilled trainees: Avenues for providing financial assistance to the trained & skilled trainees in the form of incentives or loan, to enable them to create sustainability in different field, will also be considered by the Government in consultation with Finance Department.

4.5 Drone Enable Governance:

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

4.5.1 PM Swamitva Yojana and land surveys/digitization of land record;

4.5.2 Empowering district administration and police: Promoting adoption Drone surveillance to deal with maintenance of law and order, managing crowd, traffic regulation, illegal poppy plantation, illegal tree felling, etc.

4.5.3 Drone in Agriculture: Promote use of drone for crop assessment, spraying of insecticides, and nutrients on fields. The State will incentivize use of high-capacity drones in the coming times to transport agricultural produce like fruits, vegetables and flowers to markets.

I. Application of Drones in Agriculture:

Application of Drones in Agriculture and Horticulture sectors in the land lock regions like Manipur are innumerable. Important points for application drone in agricultural sectors in the state are:

- i. Drones will be used for improving practices of precision farming, which has gained traction in recent years. Smart or precision farming uses a combination of ground and satellite applications to enable site-specific processing of images to document agricultural lands to increase the range of spatiotemporal scales that are accessible without invasive sampling which is compatible with drone technology.
- ii. To monitor and maintain crop health through watering, fertilizer and pesticide dispersal. Drones equipped with spectroscopy and thermography technologies can find dry areas within and address problematic areas that may have been missed by conventional watering equipment. Conversely, drones can also be used detect as well equipment leaks as irrigation issues.
- iii. To act as mechanical insect vectors pollinators, providing a third key benefit. Although remain the most eventually important pollinators, drones may provide vital support, particularly with the decline of bees' population.
- iv. From pathogens to insurance claims, drones can cover large areas damaged by natural disasters to uncover the causes and incidents. Applying drones' consequences of in agricultural insurance claims and surveys to validate the fast response combined with high-resolution provide the imaging to possibility to collect information over large scales.
- v. To incentivize use of high-capacity drones to transport agricultural produce like grains, fruits, vegetables, etc. and flowers from remote hills to the district HQ/ markets.
- vi. Promotion of Agriculture Drone in the use of Crop loss monitoring by providing proper surveillance of the field through a Bird's Eye view with real time image/ videos, which enables precautionary measures viz, timely spraying of pesticides, nutrients, irrigation and harvesting efficiently. The State will also incentivize use of high-capacity Drones in transport of Agriculture Produce from Remote areas and high-resolution Drones in prediction of unwanted weathers which may affect Agriculture.

II. Drone in Horticulture: Promote use of Drones for surveillance of crops (growth), Insect and Disease incidence), Land (Terrain assessment, landscaping and mapping) and Irrigation potential; to expediate crop insurance claim settlements. Spraying of pesticides, nutrients, pollens and broadcasting seeds.

4.5.4: Usage of Drone for agricultural & horticultural purposes: The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use of Drone Application with pesticides for Crop Protection and for Spraying Soil & Crop Nutrients in Agricultural, Forestry, Non-Cropped Area, etc. published by the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare should be followed and complied at all times.

4.5.5 Augmenting Healthcare delivery: Adoption of Drones in Healthcare sector to provide an incessant logistic service in geographically difficult terrain of Manipur for a universal access to healthcare. It will facilitate moving of vaccines, pharmaceuticals, lab tests, diagnostics, blood, and small medical devices, quickly, to interior places/rural areas/hilly regions that cannot be served sufficiently by the current healthcare system.

4.6 Use of drones in infrastructure projects: Policy encourages use of Drone technology gainfully by various implementing agencies including PSUs under the Government of Manipur starting from project planning, monitoring, and execution to cut planning and survey cost, increase efficiency and accuracy. Drone may be used to provide real-time images of construction projects, at any stage, for an unparalleled record of all activity.

4.6.1 Use of Drone for maintenance of Law & Order etc.: The Manipur Drone Policy, 2023 promotes use of Drone for maintenance of law and order, managing crowd, traffic regulation, to survey and mapping of illegal poppy plantation and illegal tree felling, etc.

4.6.2 Promoting use of Drone for (I) Assisting search and rescue team (II) Monitoring Wildlife (III) Protecting Environment (IV) Covering Sporting Events (V) Fire Fight and Human Rescue.

4.7 Drone Mahotsav/Mela:

Aimed at generating awareness and creating enthusiasm for use of Drones by Departments and in Private Sectors.

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

5. The Drone Airspace Map:

5.1 The Airspace Map is dynamic in nature. The restriction of the flying for drones will be governed by the marking of Red Zones by the State Government in the Digital Sky platform and other restrictions of drone fly areas like Airport, International border and Army bases, etc., under the regulatory rules of drones issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation, Government of India.

5.2 Regulation of Drone:

All Drones of different variants (including nanos, micros, small, medium and large) operating in the State should be mandatorily registered in the Digital Sky Platform and obtain Unique Identification Number (UIN) from Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Government of India.

5.3 All Drone/Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operating in the State shall mandatorily follow all rules/guidelines set under the Drone Rules, 2021, which has been notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India vide G.S.R. 589(E) dated the 25th August, 2021.

6. Incentives and interventions identified for the policy

6.1 Incentives

Such incentives/subsidies along with operational guidelines will be provided to eligible applicants under the policy as may be notified by the State Government from time to time in consultation with and concurrence of the Finance Department, Government of Manipur. (FD)

6.2 All the provision of incentives, if any, provided in the policy shall be subject to approval of the Constituted State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC).

Eligibility:

- Unit/ project registered as Proprietor, Partnership firm, Cooperative Society, Company, Trust, Non-Government Organisation (NGO) can avail incentives under this policy. State Government/ Central Government departments shall not be eligible for any incentives under the policy.
- A unit that has availed any incentive for the same assets under any other scheme of the state government, or any agency of the state government shall not be eligible for incentive under this scheme.

6.3 Guidelines

- The unit/ project availing assistance under any other scheme/ similar schemes of State Government shall not be entitled to avail incentives under this policy.
- Unit/ project may avail incentives under any scheme of the central government. However, the total incentives from state and central government schemes should not exceed the maximum limit of assistance under the relevant scheme.
- Unit/ project availing incentives under this policy shall continue their operation at least 10 (ten) years from the date of receipt of the incentives under the policy. In case of closure of the unit (unless the closure is due to reasons outside management's control) within the stipulated time, the amount so far released as incentives shall be recovered with the prevailing rate of interest within three months.
- Unit/ project should have a positive net worth.

- Conditions for minimum employment to the domicile of Manipur will be notified separately by the Government for availing incentive/subsidies.

- Eligibility for grants, subsidies, and incentives will be subject to the fulfilment of minimum employment conditions as well as the minimum work performance envisaged.

- Facilities layout should conform to applicable rules & regulations as applicable viz. environment consent/ clearance for establishment, Town & Country Planning as per Government of India and Government of Manipur guidelines.

7. State Level Empowered Committee:

A State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) consisting of members from the following departments/ agencies will be constituted for sanctioning of assistance/ incentives concerning various proposals received under the policy:

I.	Administrative Secretary (Finance), Govt. of Manipur	Chairman
II.	Administrative Secretary (Transport), Govt. of Manipur	Member
III.	Administrative Secretary (Planning), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
IV.	Administrative Secretary (Horti. & SC), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
V.	Administrative Secretary (Agri), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
VI.	Administrative Secretary (Textile, Commerce & Industry), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
VII.	Administrative Secretary (Power), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
VIII.	Administrative Secretary (IT), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
IX.	Administrative Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
X.	Administrative Secretary (Revenue), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
XI.	Administrative Secretary (Works), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
XII.	Administrative Secretary (SLEE), Govt. of Manipur or his representative not below the rank of Joint Secretary.	Member
XIII.	Director (Research, CAU), Imphal, Manipur	Member
XIV.	Jt. Director (ICAR), Lamphelpat, Imphal Manipur	Member
XV.	Director (Transport), Manipur	Member Secretary

- The Committee is also authorized for interpretation of any provision and to give clarification/decision with reference to any provisions under this policy and associated resolution and it will be final and binding to the applicants.

- Some other departments may be added in due course, if the need arises.

- The proposals received will be processed as per the priority of sectors/ sub-sectors/facilities and financial provisions.
- The Committee is authorised to interpret any provision and to give clarification/ decision regarding any provisions under this policy and associated resolution and it will be final and binding to the applicants.
- The committee shall be competent to include/ exclude any facility from the ambit of resolution to ensure all-inclusive growth of the logistics sector in the state.

8. Amendments to the policy:

Department of Transport, on recommendation of the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC), shall have the right to review the provisions of this policy from time to time and include/ amend/ delete provisions as it may deem fit for the growth of this sector.

9. Conclusion:

Manipur Drone Policy, 2023 envisages use of Drone Technology as a bridge for reaching government benefits to the poor and remote areas in the State. The policy shall foster the villages in utilisation of drones in agricultural works like spraying of pesticides, in disaster management, land survey, mining, agricultural activities, monitoring of works, and revenue mapping among others. The Policy shall also enhance the Government of Manipur vision of New Manipur (Anouba Manipur) - connect every individual to the government. This policy will help Manipur to contribute to the Prime Minister's vision to make India as a drone hub by 2030.