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Aviation Ministry grants ICMR conditional permission to use drones for vaccine delivery

The Civil Aviation Ministry said on September 13 it has granted conditional permission to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to use drones in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Manipur, and Nagaland to deliver vaccines beyond the visual line of sight.

The ICMR has been permitted to use drones up to a height of 3,000 metre to deliver vaccines, the ministry's statement added.

Two days ago, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had launched first of its kind 'Medicines from the Sky' project at Vikarabad in Telangana under which drugs and vaccines will be delivered using drones. The ministry's statement mentioned that the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Mumbai has also received conditional permission to use drones for research, development and testing purposes in its own premises.

Also read: [Aviation ministry passes Drone Rules, 2021 to ensure ease of using drones in India](#)

Both the organisations — the Bombay-IIT and the ICMR — have been granted conditional exemption from Drone Rules, 2021, the statement said. "This exemption shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the said airspace clearance and shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of approval of the said airspace clearance or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the statement noted.

On August 25, the ministry had notified Drone Rules, 2021, that liberalised the drone rules of the country. The Drone Rules, 2021, have been notified to "usher in an era of super-normal growth while balancing safety and security considerations in drone operations", the ministry's statement said.