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Have We Entered The Era Of Deliveries Using Drones?

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's Superman. No, it's a delivery drone.

With the launch of Amazon Air, we have officially stepped into the era of product delivery using drones. This means that the army of orange, red and black we see on the roads could soon be seen operating logistics drones for the delivery of goods, products and even piping-hot food.

Launched to a super-niche subset of audiences in the California and Texas region, Amazon Air will deliver products of up to 5 pounds through drones in a duration of one hour. This move by Amazon is to test the waters in terms of drone-based delivery systems and garner votes of confidence on this technology and revisit data for inferences, practical concerns, optimization and security.

The delivery drones from **Amazon Air** are capable of flying at a speed of around **80km per hour and can reach an altitude of up to 400ft.**

The drones are also equipped with sensors for the drones to conveniently dodge people, pets and any obstacles they are likely to encounter en route.



Where Does India Stand In This Drone Delivery Revolution?

At the time of writing this, we seemed to have already knocked at the doors of opportunities for drone-based delivery modules and received a nod from the government as well. Based on the latest news, the Indian government has announced that private players can make use of drones to deliver products and goods to customers but prioritize complying to Drone Rules, 2021.

Indian unicorns like Swiggy have also been seen shortlisting a few drone startups (Marut Dronetech, ANRA+TechEagle Consortia, Skyeair Mobility and Garuda Aerospace) to conduct initial tests. Besides, Zypp Electric has also shared that it will soon commence drone delivery of packages in cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi-NCR, Pune and Mumbai. Dunzo had also partnered with the Telangana government to deliver medicines earlier.

A significant progress in the drone delivery space in India is the introduction of **The Drone Rules, 2021** and ban on import of drones in Completely-Built-Up, Semi-knocked-down or Completely-Knocked-down forms. This implementation makes it easier to own and operate drones on the one hand and paves a significant way for Indian drone manufacturers to capitalize and propel indigenous initiatives such as the **Make In India campaign** on the other. It's a very nascent situation right now and it'll be interesting to see how our skies would look a few years down the line due to refinement and introduction of new laws and arrival of more market players.

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The Inevitability Of Reskilling And The Modern Day Drone-Acharya

Apart from the idea of delivering products and packages, drones have been widely used by enterprises and private players for land mapping, surveillance, delivering medicines and vaccines, defense, agriculture and more. As the implementations of drones become more mainstream, what becomes inevitable is the idea of reskilling.

Like driving, piloting drones would become a necessary skill for people who intend to land a job in this sector. To keep up with this new and increasing demand, the MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has also shared that over 126 ITIs are undertaking and offering programs on drone manufacturing, repair and maintenance for aspirants.

Are drones our first step towards more convenience and less road congestions?



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