1st April 20:

To,
Shri Santosh Khorgade
Joint Secretary
Govt of Maharashtra

Subject: Encouragement of technical institutions to participate in India's Largest Dror Innovation Challenge hosted by Drone Federation India & MeitY, Govt of India

Dear Sir,

The **Drone Federation India (DFI) is a non-government, non-profit industry bo representing 550+ drone companies and 5,500+ drone pilots** and promotes Indian dro and counter-drone technology solutions worldwide.

DFI in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technolo (MeitY), has launched NIDAR – National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application a Research, a national-level drone innovation competition specifically focused on motivati India's student community. **The competition was launched by Shri S. Krishnan - Secreta MeitY and Prof. T. G. Sitharam - Chairman, AICTE on 18th March 2025.**

The competition problem statements are focussed on precision agriculture a disaster management. Student teams are challenged to **build two collaborat autonomous drones for object detection and autonomous delivery,** an evolv technology area for the drone industry.

NIDAR offers students cash prizes worth 40 Lakhs, internship opportunities v the best drone companies in India, startup incubation and cloud credits.

We humbly request that you encourage technical education institutes fr Maharashtra to participate in this national-level competition.

We also request your office to circulate the Invitation Letter, Concept Note, a Competition Posters to all technical education institutions across the state.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Yours since

Smit S
Presi
Drone Federation India (

Annexures for circulation:
Invitation Letter
Concept Note
Competition Posters

Concept Note on
NIDAR - National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application & Research

The adoption of drone technology in India has witnessed remarkable growth, driving economic development and transforming key sectors. Drones are now extensively used for land record digitisation, precision agriculture, infrastructure monitoring, medical deliveries, and national security, among other critical applications.

Recognising the transformative impact brought by drones in several sectors, our **Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave us the vision to make India a global drone hub by 2030** and the Central Government opened up the ecosystem and published the **liberalised Drone Rules, 2021. Most of Indian airspace is now accessible** without special permissions for drone operations, boosting the ease of doing business.

India has encouraged world-class drone manufacturing through financial incentives like the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** and government-industry trade promotion programs. The government's "Make in India" push has made domestic drone manufacturing compulsory while **restricting the import of finished products** and encouraging foreign partnerships.

As the largest consumer, the government has employed drones for major projects, including **surveying numerous villages, distributing agriculture drones, conducting mine audits, and using drone data to verify road construction projects.** Liberalised export policies and international trade networks have further integrated India into the global drone market.

India's evolving drone ecosystem has transitioned from being seen as a risk to becoming a critical tool for development across agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, and disaster management. **The Indian drone market is projected to reach $11 billion by 2030, accounting for 12.2% of the global drone market.** This growth reflects the country's commitment to harnessing drone technology for large-scale impact, positioning India as a leader in the global drone industry.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched **'SwaYaan – Capacity Building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems'** in September 2022 with the goal of fostering a national industry-academia collaborative ecosystem for Drone/UAS & related technologies.