



Goa to Establish Drone Design and Aero Centre at Quitol for Sandbox Testing

Porvorim, July 30, 2025: The Government has proposed the establishment of a **Drone Design and Aero Centre at Quitol**, envisioned as a dedicated ecosystem where innovators can design, sandbox, and fly drones, said **Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Shri Rohan A. Khaunte**.

*“The Centre will be uniquely positioned in India and form a part of the proposed **Tourism Aero Hub**,”* Khaunte added, noting that it would enable Goa to support next-generation innovation in drone technology.

This initiative stems from the **Goa Drone Policy 2022**, launched on **December 19, 2022**, which seeks to position Goa as a growing hub within India’s drone ecosystem. The policy promotes **drone design, manufacturing, testing, and maintenance**, while simultaneously

building academic and institutional capacity and generating employment opportunities for Goans.

Highlighting Goa's growing capabilities in the field, the Minister cited the example of **Deepak Pathania**, a member of the community of Designers group engaged with the state, who is developing the **world's first amphibian drone**, a project currently being designed, sandboxed, and manufactured in Goa.

To implement the policy effectively, the Department has initiated the empanelment of **DGCA-approved agencies** to provide **certified drone pilot and technician training** for Goan youth.

In line with the national **Drone Didi** scheme, the Government also plans to train and equip **women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** with advanced drones and skills, promoting micro-entrepreneurship and grassroots innovation.

The policy further encourages the use of drones for **citizen-centric services** across sectors such as **agriculture, horticulture, forestry, tourism, healthcare, and mining**, and aligns with the **'Make in India'** initiative to support indigenous innovation.

Through these initiatives, Goa is laying the foundation to establish itself as a key player in India's drone ecosystem, driven by local talent and designed for national impact.