

UP Govt, IIT-Kanpur to jointly set up centre for drone studies, says ACS, home

Apr 9, 2022, 04:10 AM IST



Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh government and the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) are set to enter into a partnership to explore the economic use of drones for public interest.

The collaboration may lead to development of a Centre for Drone Studies on IIT-K campus which is already working on different uses of drones, said IIT-K alumnus and additional chief secretary, home, Awanish Awasthi while speaking at Antaragni festival on Friday.

Later talking to TOI, Awasthi said, "While students from India have been interested in drones for years, most universities and colleges have not been offering specialised courses for drone studies. IIT-K has already done exemplary work in the sector and wanted to explore the idea in a

more organized way. Thus, they submitted a proposal to the state industry department which has also approved it. The draft is now being tweaked for approval from higher levels."

Industry experts pointed out that a drone-industry is shaping up in the country. Certain private estimation players have also spoken about the potential of the drone industry. One such estimate says that it can create close to 1 lakh jobs over the next five years.

"In August 2021, the Union government relaxed regulations for usage of drones by bringing new Drone Rules, 2021. The new structure allowed entry of private startups and institutions into the realm. This has invigorated activities in the sector," said a senior officer in the state industry department. "In addition to this, the government has also introduced a production-linked incentive scheme in September to boost drone manufacturing in India. In February, FM Nirmala Sitharaman underlined the significance of drone shakti, in which the government seeks to consolidate manufacturers, drone application providers, pilots and the entire ecosystem of the industry." Awasthi said that among different players, IIT-K has done exemplary work in the sector and there was immense potential to use their knowledge for creation of jobs in the state. "It is through efforts like this that UP looks forward to achieving its trillion-dollar economy dream," said the officer, who had a nostalgic interaction with the present batch of students.