CURRENT AFFAIRS

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IDRONE INITIATIVE

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "iDrone initiative". The topic "iDrone initiative" has relevance in the Science and Technology section for the UPSC CSE exam.
Relevance of the topic "iDrone initiative"
For Prelims:
What is a iDrone initiative?
For Mains:
GS 3: Science and Technology
What is the significance of the iDrone initiative?
What are the applications of drone technology in governance?
Way Forward

Why in the news?
The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has successfully carried out a trial run of its iDrone initiative, delivering blood bags. This marks the first time such a trial has been conducted in the country.

What is a iDrone initiative?
iDrone is an initiative by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that utilizes drones for the transportation of essential medical supplies, including vaccines and blood products. It aims to overcome logistical challenges and improve the accessibility and efficiency of healthcare delivery, especially in remote and inaccessible areas.

What was the operation like?
During the inaugural trial flight, 10 units of whole blood samples were transported within the visual line of sight, originating from GIMS and LHMC.
The iDrone initiative was first implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic when the ICMR utilized drones to distribute vaccines to remote locations. This innovative approach helped reach areas with limited infrastructure and difficult terrain, ensuring the timely delivery of vaccines to communities in need.

What is the significance of the iDrone initiative?
1. Swift and secure transportation without compromising the quality of the products.

2. Enhance healthcare accessibility, reduce transportation time, and improve the overall healthcare infrastructure in India.
3. Potential of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in revolutionizing medical logistics and contributing to efficient healthcare systems.

What are the applications of drone technology in governance?

Drone technology offers several applications in governance, contributing to various aspects of public administration and governance processes. Here are some key applications of drones in governance:

1. Surveillance and Security: Drones equipped with cameras and sensors can enhance surveillance capabilities, monitoring public spaces, borders, and critical infrastructure.
2. Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development: Drones can capture aerial images and conduct surveys for urban planning purposes.
3. Environmental Monitoring and Conservation: Drones aid in monitoring and managing natural resources and protected areas.
4. Disaster Management and Response: Drones play a vital role in disaster management and response operations. They can assess the extent of damage after natural disasters, identify affected areas, and aid in search and rescue missions.
5. Traffic Management: Drones can monitor traffic flow, identify congested areas, and help optimize traffic management systems.
6. Surveying and Property Assessment: Drones equipped with mapping software and cameras can facilitate property surveys, land record management, and urban land-use planning.
7. Public Health and Emergency Medical Services: Drones can support public health initiatives by delivering medical supplies, vaccines, or emergency medical equipment to remote areas or during emergencies.
8. Citizen Engagement and Public Awareness: Drones can be used to engage citizens and raise public awareness about government initiatives, public services, or social issues.
   These applications demonstrate how drone technology can enhance governance processes, improve decision-making, and facilitate efficient public administration across various sectors. It is important to balance the use of drones with privacy considerations, regulatory frameworks, and ethical guidelines to ensure responsible and accountable use in governance.

Source:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1923036

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