

Report on Guest Lecture “Drone Pilot Training and DGCA Certification Requirements”

Date of the event	13/05/2025
Title of the Event	Guest Lecture-Drone Pilot Training and DGCA Certification Requirements
Name of the Resource Speaker	Mr. Bernard Raja, President-Growth & Co-founder, Drone Focus Path, Bangalore.
No. of Participants	100
Venue	Seminar Hall 2

The Departments of Aerospace Engineering and Aeronautical Engineering at MVJ College of Engineering organized a guest lecture on the topic “Drone Pilot Training and DGCA Certification Requirements” on May 13, 2025. The event was conducted in Seminar Hall 2 (Room No. 33) and commenced at 10:30 AM. The session was delivered by Mr. Bernard Raja, President-Growth & Co-founder of Drone Focus Path, Bangalore. The lecture was attended by around 100 students from the Aerospace Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering and related disciplines.

The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Prabhu S, Assistant Professor, Aerospace Engineering Department. The guest speaker was formally introduced, followed by a brief overview of the significance of drone technology in current and future aerospace applications.

Mr. Bernard Raja, with his extensive industry experience, conducted a highly informative session focusing on the importance of DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) certification, regulatory requirements, and structured drone pilot training in India. The session aimed to orient students toward career opportunities in drone operations, aerial surveying, and UAV applications.



The expert speaker, Mr. Bernard Raja, President-Growth & Co-founder, Drone Focus Path, Bangalore, delivering the introduction to Drone Pilot Training and Certification.

1. Introduction to Drone Pilot Training and Career Opportunities

With the rapid advancement in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technologies, drone pilot training has emerged as a critical area in aerospace and aviation education. Drones are increasingly being used in diverse sectors such as aerial mapping, agriculture, surveillance, logistics, cinematography, and disaster management. This growing demand has made licensed drone pilots an essential part of the evolving aerospace ecosystem.

Drone pilot training programs aim to provide individuals with the technical skills and regulatory knowledge required to safely and efficiently operate drones in accordance with DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) guidelines in India. The training typically includes both theoretical and practical components, covering topics such as airspace classification, weather conditions, flight operations, maintenance, emergency handling, and legal compliance.

Career opportunities for certified drone pilots are on the rise, with employment prospects in:

- Government and Defense sectors (e.g., surveillance, border patrol)
- Private industry (e.g., infrastructure inspection, delivery services, film production)
- Agriculture (e.g., crop monitoring, pesticide spraying)
- Environmental monitoring (e.g., wildlife tracking, forest mapping)
- Entrepreneurship (e.g., starting drone-based service businesses)

Furthermore, as drone usage becomes more regulated and mainstream, DGCA certification has become a minimum requirement for operating drones commercially in India. This certification enhances an individual's employability and opens doors to both domestic and international opportunities in the UAV sector.

The session on "Drone Pilot Training and DGCA Certification Requirements" served as a valuable orientation for students, encouraging them to explore the emerging careers in drone technology and preparing them to be industry-ready professionals in the aerospace and aviation fields.



The speaker highlighting job opportunities for engineers skilled in Drone Piloting.



Students of Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering listening to the speaker.



The faculty members of Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering during the guest lecture.

2. Key Topics Covered During the Lecture:

- Introduction to UAVs and Drone Technology: Basics of drone systems, types of drones, and current industry trends.
- DGCA Regulations and Licensing: Detailed overview of DGCA rules governing drone operations in India, including classifications, zones, and permissions.
- Drone Pilot Certification Process: Step-by-step explanation of the drone pilot training modules, eligibility criteria, and evaluation mechanisms prescribed by DGCA.
- Authorized Training Organizations (ATOs): Insights into the role of certified drone training academies, including Drone Focus Path's contributions to training and placement.
- Applications of Drones Across Industries: Use-cases in agriculture, defense, disaster management, infrastructure, logistics, and cinematography.
- Career Prospects and Skill Development: Opportunities for students to upskill in drone technology, certifications, and entrepreneurship in UAV-based services.



The speaker during the Question-and-Answer session.

The speaker engaged the students through real-life examples and thought-provoking discussions. Students were particularly interested in understanding the legal framework and the stepwise path to becoming a licensed drone pilot in India. The session included a Q&A segment where Mr. Bernard addressed doubts regarding drone flying permissions, career roles, safety concerns, and the future of drone technologies.



Dr. Prabhu S, a faculty of Aerospace Engineering offering Vote of thanks

The guest lecture concluded with a vote of thanks by **Dr. Prabhu S**, who appreciated Mr. Bernard Raja's efforts in delivering a detailed and practical overview of DGCA regulations and drone pilot training in India. The session was highly valued by the students, as it offered **clarity on certification pathways and career opportunities** in the rapidly growing UAV industry. Faculty members expressed their gratitude to Drone Focus Path for their valuable collaboration in academic-industry interaction.

The event successfully enriched the students' understanding of regulatory frameworks, industry standards, and the skillsets needed to thrive in the drone technology sector.