

# Make-in-India drone ferries COVID vaccines in Manipur, a first in South Asia

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone) -- a delivery model to make sure that life-saving COVID-19 vaccines reach everyone -- on October 4.

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 OCTOBER 05, 2021 / 08:48 AM IST



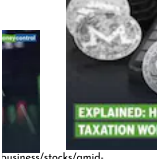
In the first trip, the drone transported COVID-19 vaccines from the Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at the PHC. (Image: Twitter/@mansukhmandviya)

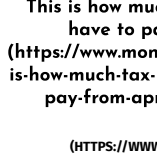
For the first time in South Asia, a 'Make in India' drone transported COVID-19 vaccines over an aerial distance of 15 km in 12-15 minutes in Manipur on October 4.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday launched the Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR) Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone), a delivery model to make sure that the vaccines reach everyone.

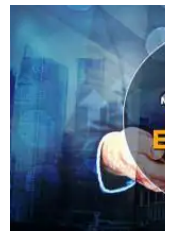
The initiative is in line with the government's commitment to 'Antyodaya' in health, making healthcare accessible to the last citizen of the country, the health ministry said in a statement.

In the first trip, the drone transported vaccines from the Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at the primary health centre (PHC).


  
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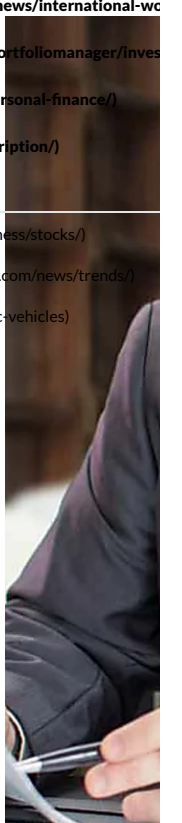
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"The actual road distance between these locations is 26 km. Today, 10 beneficiaries will receive the first dose and eight will receive the second dose at the PHC." Mandaviya said in the statement.

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Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mandaviya said, "Under his leadership, the nation is progressing at a great pace. Today is a historic day, which showed us how technology is making life easier and bringing social change."

He further said that India is home to geographical diversities and drones can be used to deliver essentials to the last mile.

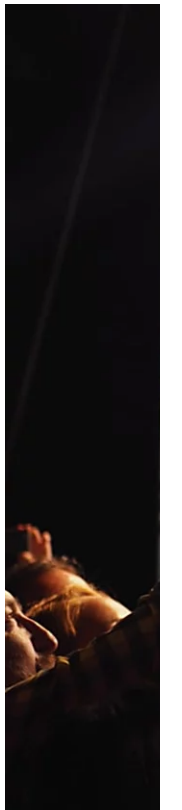
"We can use drones in delivering important life-saving medicines, collecting blood samples. This technology can also be used in critical situations. It may prove to be a game-changer in addressing challenges in healthcare delivery, particularly health supplies, in difficult areas," Mandaviya said.

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Launching the initiative which would facilitate vaccine delivery to hard-to-reach terrains of the country, the health minister said, "Our immunisation programme for COVID-19 has already exceeded all expectations. I strongly believe that this initiative will further help us achieve the highest possible immunisation coverage for COVID-19."

The drone-based delivery project has been granted permission for implementation in Manipur and Nagaland, as well as in Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. (<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/make-in-india-drones-ferries-covid-vaccines-in-manipur-a-first-in-south-asia-7543611.html>)

ICMR conducted an initial study in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, to test the capacity of drones to carry and transfer vaccines safely. (<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=Make-in-India-drones-ferries-covid-vaccines-in-manipur-a-first-in-south-asia-7543611.html>)



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Hijab ban in educational institute that has a uniform cannot be said to be in violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 19 and 21, Karnataka High Court said.

The Karnataka High Court, on March 15, upheld the ban on wearing hijab in education institutes that have prescribed a uniform.

"Wearing of the hijab does not form essential religious practice in **Islam** (<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/tags/Islam.html>)," the judgment rendered by a full bench of the high court said.

The high court has held that a restriction on wearing the hijab, a uniform restriction, falls under reasonable restrictions prescribed under Article 19 (2). Such a ban cannot be said to be in violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 19 and 21, it said.

**Also Read | Nitin Gadkari on hijab row: All religions must be respected** (<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/network18-exclusive-nitin-gadkari-on-hijab-row-all-religions-must-be-respected-8071441.html>)

While upholding the validity of the government order that allowed for the imposition of a ban on donning hijab at institutes where uniform is prescribed, the high court dismissed the batch of petitions that challenged this order.

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The judgment is likely to be challenged before the Supreme Court.

The high court was moved by aggrieved students who challenged the government order citing violation of their fundamental rights. While the case was at first listed before a single-judge bench, it was referred to a larger bench owing to the sensitivities as well as the question pertaining to fundamental rights involved.

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The three-judge bench of the high court led by its chief justice heard the case for around 11 days during which time the court passed an interim order asking students not to don any religious garments. The court had said that this interim order pertained to all faiths and their religious symbols and was not restricted to wearing of hijab alone.

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SHRUTI MAHAJAN

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"We are also deeply concerned over the safety and security of thousands of Indian nationals, including young Indian students, who are still stranded in Ukraine," India said at the Urgent Debate held on March 3 regarding the human rights situation in Ukraine at the 49th Human Rights Council Session in Geneva.

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India on Thursday sought an immediate cessation of violence and end to hostilities in Ukraine as it called for the respect and protection of human rights of people in the war-torn European country and safe humanitarian access to conflict zones.

"We are greatly concerned over the steadily worsening humanitarian situation in Ukraine," India said at the Urgent Debate Thursday regarding the human rights situation in Ukraine at the 49th Human Rights Council Session in Geneva. India called for an immediate cessation of violence and an end to hostilities.

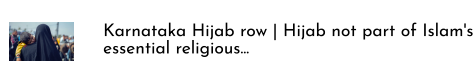
"No solution can ever be arrived at the cost of human lives. Dialogue and diplomacy are the only solution for settling differences and disputes, India said. India called for respect and protection of human rights of people in Ukraine and safe humanitarian access to conflict zones.

"We are also deeply concerned over the safety and security of thousands of Indian nationals, including young Indian students, who are still stranded in Ukraine. We are working together with neighbouring States for their evacuation," it said. India told the session that it has already dispatched humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, including medicines, medical equipment and other relief material and more such assistance will be sent in the coming days.

"This is an urgent necessity that must be effectively addressed," it said. The debate in Geneva came a day after the 193-member UN General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to condemn Russian aggression against Ukraine and demanded that Moscow completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine.

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India abstained on the resolution, which received 141 votes in favour, five against, and a total of 35 abstentions.





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