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1st time : Launch function for delivery of vaccine by Unmanned Aerial Vehicle popularly called as drone in Manipur

Manipur

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The District Administration and District Health Society, Bishnupur in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) today organized a launching function for delivery of vaccine by Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or drone at Loukoipat, Bishnupur today. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya launched the initiative through the virtual mode from Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

During the field testing using unmanned aerial vehicles or drones for vaccine delivery today, the pioneering initiative of ICMR's project – Drone Resource and Outreach in North East India (i-DRONE) successfully delivered covid vaccine from Loukoipat to Karang Island in Bishnupur. Covering a distance of 25 kilometres, the drone-based vaccine transportation took approximately 15 minutes to deliver which, otherwise will take about one hour to deliver through road transport. According to ICMR officials, today's vaccine delivery from 'plain to island' is the first in South East Asia.

ICMR officials also mentioned that the i-DRONE project was started for the first time in Manipur to field test vaccine delivery in difficult terrains of the country with study sites selected from Bishnupur, Imphal West, Churachandpur and Tamenglong districts.

Shri V. Vumlnumang, Additional Chief Secretary (H&FW), Dr Samiran Panda, Head ECD and Director, ICMR-NARI, Dr N. Shyamjai Singh, State Mission Director, Dr T. Manihar Singh, State Immunization Officer, Ex-MLAs Govindas Konthoujam and S. Bira Singh, ADM Bishnupur Shri H. Bobby Sharma, SP, CMO among others participated in the function. (DIPR)

