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Manipur Launches 'Make in India' Drone To Transport Covid Vaccines

The Indian Council for Medical Research(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.

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By [India.com News Desk](#)| Edited by [Sumaila Zaman](#)

Manipur launches 'Make in India' Drone to transport covid vaccines.(Photo: IANS)

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday launched an initiative "Make in India" to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine delivery to tough and hard-to-reach terrains of the Northeast through drones. The ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone), a delivery model to make sure that life-saving COVID vaccines reach everyone, is in line with the government's commitment to 'Antyodaya' in health – making healthcare accessible to the last citizen of the country, officials said. [Also Read - Telangana Launches 'Medicine From The Sky' Project to Deliver Medicines In Remote Areas Using Drones](#)

"This is for the first time that a "Make in India" drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID-19 vaccine over an aerial distance of 15 km in 12-15 mins from the Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at the PHC. [Also Read - China Develops Prototype Drone For Future Mars Missions](#)

The Union Health Minister further added that the actual road distance between these locations is 26 km. A total of 10 beneficiaries will receive the first dose and eight will receive the second dose as of today at the PHC, added Mandaviya. [Also Read - Mumbai: BMC Uses Drone to Control Vector-Borne Diseases as Cases Surge](#)

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Expressing grati said, "Under hi historic day, w social change." India is home to geographical diversities and drones can be used to deliver essentials to the last mile, he added.

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

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