

'Make In India' i-Drone

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In news- Union Health Minister recently launched an initiative to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine delivery to tough and hard-to-reach terrains of the Northeast through drones.

About Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone)-

- The ICMR's i-Drone is a **delivery model** to make sure that life-saving COVID vaccines reach everyone.
- As the vaccine delivery in tough and hard-to-reach terrains of India is difficult, i-Drone has been designed to overcome these challenges by deploying Unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAV) / drones to remote area.
- This is for the **first time that a "Make in India' drone has been used in Southeast Asia to transport vaccines.**
- The vaccine was carried 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.
- Currently, the project has been **granted permission for implementation in Manipur and Nagaland, as well as the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

The 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.