

Pre-event Press release
PILOT DEMO FOR MEDICINE DELIVERY USING DRONES

The Government of Meghalaya shall be conducting a demonstration to pilot the use of drones in the healthcare sector in the West Khasi Hills District. The demo shall witness the delivery of healthcare supplies like medicines and vaccines on **26th November 2021, 11:00 am onwards**. This pilot is under the initiative of **Smart Village Movement - Berkeley Haas**, with the collaborative objective to study the **feasibility and effectiveness of smart aerial logistics for multiple service delivery mechanisms**.

The use of drones has gained much merit in the past two years, beginning with the World Economic Forum's- Medicine from the Sky Project in India. Several states are piloting similar solutions to boost access to medical care in rural communities. Meghalaya's unique terrain combined with climatic conditions, road connectivity, and sporadic populations create a need for innovative solutions. **Its use can further augment healthcare access to transport blood, platelets, and other time-critical medical supplies**.

The critical parameters used to rationalize this capability are distance, hard-to-reach areas, and constrained road conditions that prolong travel time. For example, the time usually taken to travel from District Hospital Nongstoin to Maweit PHC is generally **3 hours to cover its distance of 35 km, with a round trip of 6 hours**. The unique advantage of drones would cut down the period and make delivery **five times faster**. In the case of Nongstoin to Maweit, the expected delivery time would be **20 minutes only**. The pilot's output aims to propel its use and usefulness to the ground healthcare workforce across the rural parts of the state. Studying the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of using new-age innovative logistic solutions can **enhance time and resource management for the healthcare system** in the state. After consultation with NHM officials in West Khasi Hills, two routes have been identified for the demo. Making Nongstoin District Hospital the central hub, the pilot shall witness deliveries to PHCs of Mawei, Markasa, and Kynshi.

The Honourable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K Sangma, will participate through a virtual medium to witness the drone pilot in the state. The program will be supported by the National Health Mission, Meghalaya office.

Smart Village Movement's healthcare logistics partner Tech Eagle Innovations will be responsible for deploying the activities. They have recently conducted pilots in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Delhi-NCR. The demo in West Khasi Hills District to be undertaken is to comprehend the use of a Hybrid VTOL type of drone in India for the first time.

Their trials have been approved by multiple key stakeholders like MoCA, AAI, DGCA. The demo in West Khasi Hills District to be conducted is to comprehend the use of a TechEagle's made in India Hybrid e-VTOL type of drone for the first time in India.