MANIPAL HOSPITALS JOINS HANDS WITH SARLA AVIATION AND AEROMED TO TRANSFORM EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT IN INDIA

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In a significant step towards transforming emergency medical transportation in India, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road has signed a tripartite MoU with Sarla Aviation and Aeromed International Rescue Services to explore the development of next-generation air ambulance services using eVTOL aircraft. The partnership brings together Sarla Aviation's eVTOL technology, Manipal Hospitals' network of hospitals and clinical expertise, and Aeromed's experience in air ambulance and medical evacuation services. The aim is to develop a seamless system that can transport patients directly between their location and the appropriate hospital, helping reduce delays caused by road traffic and long-distance travel.

The MoU, signed on August 7, 2026, will focus on developing the aircraft's medical cabin, establishing patient transfer procedures and identifying medical routes where faster transportation could make a critical difference. The partners will also work on emergency transfers for trauma, heart attacks, strokes, newborns requiring specialised care and organ transplantation.

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As part of the collaboration, the teams will jointly work on designing the medical bay and integrating essential equipment into Sarla Aviation's Shunya eVTOL aircraft, while keeping patient safety and comfort at the centre. They will also develop standard procedures for transferring patients between ground ambulances, the aircraft and hospitals, including protocols for situations where patients require urgent escalation of care. Training programmes, insurance and safety frameworks, as well as research into patient outcomes, will also form part of the collaboration.

Shri. Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation of India, commented: "What we have to now provide is seamless connectivity from the airport to the doorstep. That is where this will be very, very instrumental. With the kind of urbanisation and increase in population that we are seeing, we have to bring in new technologies to cater to that."

For patients and families, the potential impact is significant. In medical emergencies, every minute can matter. A dedicated air ambulance service that can avoid congested roads and connect patients more quickly to specialised medical care could help make emergency and inter-hospital transfers faster and more efficient.

Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman, Manipal Hospitals, stated: "Healthcare is constantly evolving, and our responsibility is to embrace innovations that can make care more accessible, timely and effective. The integration of advanced aviation technology with our healthcare expertise has the potential to significantly transform emergency and inter-hospital patient transfers. Through this collaboration, we hope to help shape a safe, clinically robust and scalable model for next-generation air ambulance services in India, with the patient firmly at the centre."

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