based drone manufacturer Vayu, Inc. “Vayu has made drone deliveries of blood samples in Rwanda and Madagascar. Since the drones are petrol-powered, they can travel up to 200 km per flight. These would be on autopilot, but monitored continuously from a control centre,” Dr. Munuswamy explained. And typical drone for this kind of mission can achieve a speed of around 70 knots or 129.64 km/hr. The PHFI team zeroed in on four probable nodal locations in the State to facilitate drone payload delivery: Adilabad, Siddipet, Mahabubnagar and Khamman.

“We mapped optimal locations from where deliveries could be made and decided on these four locations from where 100% of the population can be covered. Existing facilities such as warehouses have been factored in,” Dr. Munuswamy said.

However, with restrictions on drone flying by individuals in force in the State, the PHFI is of the opinion that the State should take the lead in using this technology so as to provide better and timely healthcare.

IIPH developing a payload-carrying machine for faster reach of healthcare to remote areas

SYED MOHAMMED HYDERABAD

Imagine a situation where urgent vaccines need to be delivered to a remote village in the State. Or, transport blood samples from villages to labs in the district headquarters. The normal mode of transport by road would take long what with the poor road connectivity. Imagine if they could simply be flown? It could soon be a reality as the Indian Institute of Public Health - Hyderabad (IIPH-H) is developing a drone delivery system for medicines with a temperature-controlled payload box, which would surmount terrain hurdles and cut delivery time.

Not a dream

The Digital Drone-based Real Time Advanced Medical Modular Logistics system (D2REAM) project seeks to reach remote areas and deliver temperature-sensitive payload in 30 minutes flat, without a break in the cold chain.

According to Suresh Munuswamy, Health Informatics Rapid Design Lab Coordinator at IIPH-H, a concern of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), the institute has partnered with the prestigious US-based Johns Hopkins University to develop the temperature-controlled vaccine box.

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