

## Chennai-Based Hospital Introduces the Prototype of Drone for Organ Transportation

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In Chennai, waiting for ambulances carrying life-saving organs and green corridors may soon become a thing of past. Organ logistics or safe and timely transport of organs is an important aspect of successful organ transplant. Given the shortage of donor organs, delay in transportation results in wastage of organs. In September, 2022, at an event conducted by the MGM Healthcare, Chennai, Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari and Tamil Nadu Health Minister, M. Subramanian, unveiled the prototype of drone to be used for organ transportation.

MGM Healthcare, Chennai has co-developed the drone with a city based drone company. The objective, according to Dr. Prashanth Rajagopalan, Director, MGM Healthcare, is to transport organs throughout the city without the need for many human interactions and disruptions to the flow of traffic. Once the permission is granted, the hospital would use drones to fly organs from nearby districts and states.

Getting organs to the recipient on time is one of the challenges frequently faced, especially if the organs come from tier-2 and tier-3 cities as many such towns and cities lack airports. "It is best to get the harvested heart transplanted within four hours. It's a fight to do this every time. We have made a start with the drone." said Dr. K. R. Balakrishnan who heads the Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support at MGM Healthcare, Chennai.

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