

Private city hospital launches air ambulance service

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ANGEL OF LIFE: The air ambulance, a twin engine Augusta Westland helicopter, is designed for aero-medical transport of patients

Coimbatore: City-based Ganga Hospital on Friday became the first hospital in the country to have a full-time air ambulance service.

The Ganga Air Ambulance, which will be formally launched on Sunday, will be stationed at the helipad set up by the hospital in their nursing college campus at Vattamalaipalayam, near NGGO Colony. "This is also the first private helipad approved by the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) owned by a hospital," said the chairman of Ganga Hospital's orthopaedic department.

The air ambulance, which is a twin engine Augusta West-

land helicopter, is designed for aero-medical transport of patients. "It has space for a stretcher and a place for an accompanying doctor and para medical staff," said the hospital's chairman of the hand and micro-surgery department, S Raja Sabapathy.

The ambulance, which has been taken on a two-year lease from OSS Air, is equipped with amenities for resuscitation, provision of oxygen during transport, pulse and blood pressure monitoring equipment.

The use of the helicopter will cost between ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh. TNN