

# Coimbatore gets country's first hospital-based air ambulance

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In a major boost to the health care sector, a city-based private hospital has launched a hospital based helicopter air ambulance facility, claimed to be the first time in Coimbatore as well as in India, to provide timely treatment to critical patients during the golden hour to reduce deaths.

Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, unveiled Ganga Air Ambulance Service here on Friday. The minimum cost for an hour's service is Rs. 1 lakh. The hospital is paying Rs. 23 lakh per month for the maintenance of this helipad as it is on a lease period for two years. There are two pilots and three flight maintenance engineers.

Ganga Air Ambulance is a twin engine Augusta Westland Helicopter,



Ganga Hospital unveils country's first hospital-based air ambulance in Coimbatore on Friday.

which has been exclusively designed for aeromedical transport of patients. Unlike many other helicopters which are also used for transporting VIPs and people, this is exclusively built for air ambulance needs. Dr Raja Sabapathy and Dr Rajasekaran told

reporters that this special helicopter first was brought into India to fill in the mandatory requirement during the 'Formula 1 car races'. The facility is launched under the agreement with the New Delhi-based company, OSS Air.

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