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Redcliffe Labs and Skyroot Aerospace launch India's first diagnostics & space sciences collaboration

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DRIFT-1 will test Redcliffeâ??s dry diagnostic reagents in Low Earth Orbit for 90 days against an identical ground control



In a landmark initiative coming together of India’s healthcare and private space ecosystems, Redcliffe Labs, one of India’s fastest-growing omnichannel diagnostic service providers, and Skyroot Aerospace, India’s first private company to reach orbit, have joined hands to explore the future of diagnostics in space.

The collaboration brings together two distinctly Indian capabilities diagnostic science and space technology to study how diagnostic reagents perform under the extreme conditions of Low Earth Orbit, while exploring how the learnings could advance diagnostics on Earth.

The first step is DRIFT-1, which will place Redcliffe Labs' dry diagnostic reagents in Low Earth Orbit for 90 days, alongside an identical ground control. Comparing the two will help establish how the space environment affects reagent stability and performance and generate a flight-heritage dataset for the technology.

The initiative extends beyond the first mission, with potential applications spanning space-enabled diagnostics, astronaut health, life sciences and microgravity research, including future point-of-care diagnostic solutions for human spaceflight such as Gaganyaan and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.

For Redcliffe Labs, the opportunity lies in turning this data into knowledge that can inform more resilient diagnostic technologies for challenging environments on Earth, including settings where conventional infrastructure or cold-chain availability is limited.