

Sassoon General Hospital gets Neonatal ICU facility

ST CORRESPONDENT
reporters@sakaaltimes.com

Pune: A Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) was inaugurated at Sassoon General Hospital (SGH) on Sunday. This unit is expected to be one of the busiest NICU of western Maharashtra catering to almost 5,000 critically ill babies per year free of cost.

Dean of BJ General Medical College (BJGMC) Dr Ajay Chandanwale said that this facility will be available free of cost to the economically challenged section of the society.

"Neonatal mortality accounts for most infant mor-



INAUGURATED: (From L to R) Mukta Tilak, Pune Mayor; Dilip Kamble, State Minister for Social Justice Maharashtra; Anil Shirole, Member of Parliament; Girish Mahajan, Minister for Medical Education and Water Resource, Maharashtra among others were present during the launch of the NICU facility.

talities in India. NICU plays a critical role in reducing neonatal and infant mortality rate. These 59 beds at the NICU will be helpful for treating various problems of the newborn babies like pre-term, birth asphyxia, neonatal jaundice and others," said Chandanwale.

He also added that trained faculty and nurses will be available to the unit to take care of the admitted newborn babies.

"There are 18 beds for high dependency babies, 15 low dependency beds, 22 feeder beds, two isolation beds and two triage beds. The unit also has 10 ventilators and 8 bubble CPAP ma-

chines. And other instrument to cater to the emergencies," added Chandanwale.

The initiative was a part of the private public partnership (PPP) where Finolex Industries and Mukul Madhav Foundation along with Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Trust have come forward for the noble cause of providing high quality, free level III neonatal intensive care to sick newborn babies.

The new NICU will drastically improve the quality care of critically sick low birth weight, premature babies thus reducing the neonatal mortality and morbidity. The other donors who have contributed to the project are

Cummins India Limited, Persistent Foundation, Suzlon, Syska and Bank of Baroda.

Ritu Chhabria, Managing Trustee, Mukul Madhav Foundation, said that the NICU is a step to provide good health to newborn babies. She also highlighted that the next step in the pipeline would be to make arrangements for the transportation of the babies in need.

"This unit is the biggest in the State and has state-of-the-art equipment to cater to the needs of newborn babies. This initiative is also an example of PPP model and the wonders that can be created with the help of partnerships," said Chhabria.