

Mahajan supports Sassoon PPP model

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), developed on public-private partnership (PPP) basis, at Sassoon General hospital has prompted medical education minister Girish Mahajan to issue directives to other state-run medical college-attached health hubs to replicate the model.

Mahajan, who launched the facility on Sunday, said Sassoon's PPP model was "worth emulating" by other state-run healthcare institutes.

The 59-bed NICU is expected to treat 3,000-5,000 critically ill newborns per year free of cost.

The Rs 11 crore-facility comes at a time when life-saving units in public hospitals are either resource-strapped or are overburdened. A day's stay at a NICU in any private hospital costs between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000.

The hospital registers around 9,000 deliveries a year and 30% of the newborns, who have low birth weight, are pre-term or have some other medical conditions, need NICU support.

Various corporate hou-

ses, trusts and foundations had joined hands with the state government to develop the facility. Finolex's Mukul Madhav Foundation provided equipment, furniture and 25% of the civil infrastructure at a collective cost of Rs 4.16 crore. Shreemanth Dagdusheth Halwai Ganapati Trust also provided for the civil infrastructure at Rs 3 crore.

Besides, Cummins, Persistent Foundation, Suzlon and Syska have collectively provided financial support for the medical gas pipeline system.

The government, on its part, has provided equipment, electrical and civil work worth Rs 2 crore.

Sassoon General Hospital treats about 7 lakh patients in its outpatient department and 70,000 indoor patients annually. These patients require minor to super-speciality level treatment.

Through citizens' participation, the hospital has started a range of services, including a shelter for patients' relatives, human milk bank for orphans and ill babies, and a haemophilia centre for free treatment of patients with blood disorder, among other initiatives.

₹11 CRORE FACILITY