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**Chief Minister Dr. Sarma dedicates 200 bedded ICU Complex in GMCH
Presents 896 appoint letters to GNMs**

CM asks health authority to step up routine immunization programme for children and pregnant women along side COVID 19 vaccination

Dispur, July 6: In what can be termed as adding more teeth to the state's medical infrastructure to make health care facilities more accessible, affordable and advanced, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today dedicated the newly constructed 200 bedded ICU complex at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital in Guwahati.

The ICU with the 200 ICU beds, four dialysis beds, 80000 litre liquid medical oxygen tank and fire detection and prevention system have been created involving an expenditure of Rs. 20 crore. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma in the same programme presented appointment letters to 896 GNMs under national health mission.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma termed the day as very significant as the addition of 200 more ICU beds to the health infrastructure of Guwahati Medical College and Hospital would go a long way in helping the hospital to serve the poor and underprivileged. He said that before the first wave COVID 19 pandemic hit the state, Guwahati had only 67 ICU beds. However, within a span of little more than one year, now the city has altogether 591 ICU beds taking all the government health institutions in the city together.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also asked the Health Department to take steps for installation of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Machine (ECMO) in all the eight medical college and hospitals in the state. The Chief Minister also asked the Health Department to send two doctors and four nurses in all the hospitals across the state to render medical treatment to the patients even in the far-flung areas. He said that in name of COVID, the poor people in the interior areas should not be deprived of medical attention. Therefore, he, asked the Health Department to ensure posting of doctors and nurses immediately.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also asked the Mission Director National Health Mission Dr. Lakshmanan S. to tie up with NGO and take steps for setting up Oxygen Concentrator Bank in each district of the state to help the post-covid patients in case oxygen requirement. He said that initially the districts badly affected by COVID 19 will have oxygen concentrator banks.

Dr. Sarma asked the Health Department to step up routine immunization programme of the children and start the extended programme of Intensified Mission Indradhanush for the children and pregnant mothers who might have missed the inoculation due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Stating about the 80000 litre medical oxygen tank made operational in GMCH today, Dr.

Sarma said that the facility will help the state in storing medical oxygen and use them in exigency which would render great relief to the patients.

Chief Minister on the occasion, felicitated Chief General Managers of State Bank of India and SIDBI and Executive Director IOCL, Guwahati who helped the State government in setting up the 200 bedded ICU complex as a part of their corporate social responsibility programme.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Keshab Mahanta also spoke on the occasion. MP Guwahati Queen Oja, MLA Naharkati Taranga Gogoi, Principal Secretary to Health Anurag Goel, Commissioner and Secretary Health Siddhartha Singh, Director Medical Education Dr. Anup Barman, Commissioner and Special Secretary PWD (Building) Raj Chakraborty, Principal GMCH Dr. Achyut Baishya and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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