



Press Release

ICMR's Mobile Stroke Care Unit for North East Region inaugurated

New Delhi, 28th September 2020: Indian Council of Medical Research [ICMR], the apex medical health research body has initiated to provide stroke treatment through state of the art Mobile Stroke Unit in Tezpur and Dibrugarh area of Assam. The stroke care unit was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and family welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan in presence of Dr. Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR and other senior officials on 28th September 2020 through video conferencing.

Mobile stroke unit (MSU) is a "State of Art" facility with latest CT scanner, provision of telemetry and thrombolytic therapy. This will bring the services of hospital to the patient's door steps by providing acute stroke care management. Mobile stroke units (MSU) will provide services like imaging, mobile laboratories, telemedicine (connection with a hospital), appropriate medication and assessment tools. This will serve the purpose of reducing the time from the symptom onset to treatment (OTT). Staff of the MSU has been trained in all aspects of Stroke Care. A multi-disciplinary team of doctors has been formed to provide consultancy through Telemetry. Training manuals have been developed for doctors, paramedics, CT technicians and drivers.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and family welfare said, "*Mobile health is the future of global healthcare. It's a great idea to provide immediate medical care in remote areas. I am hopeful that ICMR's model for 'Stroke Care Pathway' utilizing mobile stroke unit will address the needs of the people in Tezpur and Dibrugarh area of Assam.*"

Dr. Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR said, "*Recent ICMR study has found that 50% of strokes in north east region are hemorrhagic strokes. Telestroke, which is increasingly being used across the world in the past decade, has shown to decrease the door-to-needle time for acute ischaemic stroke patients of a rural telestroke network. A combination of all these services in addition to directing the identified patient to a hospital with acute stroke care facilities/Stroke Units (SU) will provide improved outcomes.*"

Stroke is a major cause of mortality & morbidity in the country as per India: Health of the Nation's State Report 2017. With an incidence rate of 119 to 152/100000, stroke has a case fatality rate of 19 to 42% in the country. The prevalence of hypertension, a major risk factor of stroke, in indigenous Assamese population and tea garden workers has been reported to be 33% to 60.8% respectively. Anecdotal reports and hospital based studies from this region indicate a huge burden of stroke in Assam.

About ICMR

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. The ICMR has always attempted to address itself to the growing demands of scientific advances in biomedical research on the one hand, and to the need of finding practical solutions to the health problems of the country,

on the other. The ICMR has come a long way from the days when it was known as the IRFA, but the Council is conscious of the fact that it still has miles to go in pursuit of scientific achievements as well as health targets. The Council's research priorities coincide with the National health priorities such as control and management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, control of nutritional disorders, developing alternative strategies for health care delivery, containment within safety limits of environmental and occupational health problems; research on major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, blindness, diabetes and other metabolic and haematological disorders; mental health research and drug research (including traditional remedies). All these efforts are undertaken with a view to reduce the total burden of disease and to promote health and well-being of the population. For more information, please visit <https://www.icmr.gov.in/>

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