

Government of Tripura
Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs

S-1444

Agartala, 5th September, 2020

Rejoinder for the editorial article published in DainikSambad newspaper on 5th September, 2020 with title 'AchlyataneSwapankathan'

In the editorial article with the above mentioned title as published in the DainikSambad newspaper dated 5th September, 2020 it has been mentioned that many issues were raised before Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura during his visit to AGMC & GBP hospital on 2nd September, 2020. However no proper direction to resolve the same was given by the Hon'ble CM. This assertion has been far from truth. The actual position is as given below. It is expected that the same will be reflected in the editorial space in your newspaper.

The following instructions were given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura during his visit to GBP Hospital on 2nd September, 2020

1. Agartala Municipal Corporation would keep to 2-3 water tankers standby at AGMC & GBP hospital daily so that there is no water scarcity.
2. Strength of doctors and nurses to be increased for proper management of COVID-19 patients. Doctors are to be engaged on voluntary basis. If required additional nursing staff would be posted in Covid wards by pulling from other wards.
3. Volunteers and floor managers to be provided in all Covid wards to assist the patients.
4. Covid ward at NTH-1 building to be made functional immediately. Renovation works of Jayanti block shall be completed on urgent basis so that Covid ward can be started there too.
5. Additional casual workers would be provided for proper cleanliness and for proper handling of dead bodies.
6. Pending payments of casual workers should be cleared without delay.
7. Patients who have completed 14 days under observation at Dedicated COVID Hospital should be released.

8. The CT scan machine to be made functional and the pending bills of CT scan machine should be cleared promptly.
9. Report cards/ case sheets of patients should be updated daily. Doctors on round should give daily observation on the case sheet. These case sheets should be shared with Health Directorate.
10. Separate dedicated team of senior specialist doctors and experts should be formed to visit serious patients daily.
11. Oxygen supply lines should be checked and if any fault is detected, should be rectified without delay. Sufficient pressure of oxygen should be maintained at all the times.
12. Sufficient stock should be maintained for all necessary medicines. If required, supply orders may be placed in advance.
13. Microphone facility to be provided at all Covid hospitals and COVIDCare Centres.
14. Separate action plan to be formulated for taking care of mental health of Covid patients.
15. Security in-charge to give daily report about security situation at GBP hospital to Joint Director, Health.
16. Rules of engagement of Senior resident doctor to be examined by Directorate of Medical Education so that senior residents can be recruited easily.

A daily report is being sent by health department to Government regarding the action taken so far on these points. In pursuance with the directions given above, most of the actions have been taken already. Covid wards have been made operational at NTH-1 building. Jayanti block has been handed over to PWD for converting it into Covid hospital. Additional manpower such as doctors, nurses and supporting staff have been posted in various Covid wards. The number of casual workers has been increased to maintain proper cleanliness.

Doctors and nurses are taking daily rounds of Covid patients on taking personal preventive measures. A specialist doctor is included in every healthcare team deputed inside Covid wards, enabling patients to avail of specialist advice on matters related to their individual health condition and dietary requirements. On the instruction of Hon'ble Chief Minister, a team of Special Doctors has also been constituted now.

This apart, through the teleconferencing facility introduced, patients can interact with specialist doctors of different clinical specialities and obtain their advice. The teleconferencing is being held every day without exception. Actions have also been taken to introduce Public Address system to further strengthen the teleconferencing facility and doctor-patient interactions. C. C. cameras have been installed everywhere inside Covid wards to keep a close tab on cleanliness and patientcare services within the wards. Sufficient sweeping and cleaning staff have been employed in the wards, and the RMO of the hospital has been assigned overall responsibility to ensure proper cleaning and sanitation. Patients' families are being kept informed of the patients' health condition and their queries are being answered. Order has already been placed for procuring a dead body carrying van. An officer has been specifically designated as Nodal Officer to oversee Oxygen Supply and Management. Oxygen pressure is being monitored continuously ensuring constant maintenance of the requisite pressure level. Process is underway to install and commission another Oxygen Supply System in the Jayanti Block of the hospital. A water tanker has been placed by the AMC on standby at the hospital as a backup water-supply system to overcome any exigency. Dialysis facility has been set up for the Covid-patients requiring dialysis. There is no shortage of pulse oximeter, digital BP and other essential medical devices in the Covid wards. The concerned supplier-firm has already been contacted for repairing the dysfunctional CT Scan machine.

It's not a fact that any patient from Belonia was found missing, or that there is any shortage of antigen test kits in the hospital. All across the State, antigen tests are being carried out in sufficient numbers every day.

Acting on the instruction of Hon'ble CM, bed-capacity for Covid patients has now been increased in the NTH-I building from 11 to 130. Every effort has been undertaken to step up the quality of patient care services and amenities, with an objective to render best possible services to patients in a demanding situation. Several other initiatives are afoot to further improve the patient care services in the hospital. Therefore, the information given in the editorial article is far from truth.
