

Speech for Hon'ble Governor for Programme on PET MRI Wing Inauguration on 03-10-21

Warm Welcome to Shri Venkaiah Naidu Ji, Hon'ble Vice President of India to Assam. Warm wishes to Hon'ble Chief Minister Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa sarma ji, Health Minister Assam Shri Keshab Mahanta ji, Chief Secretary, Assam Shri Jishnu Barua ji and other dignitaries and learned Health Professionals present in this august occasion today.

The whole world is passing through difficult times due to COVID Pandemic. The disease has been a great challenge to the existing health system in more than one way. Beyond the direct impact as a disease, immeasurable difficulties have been faced by patients with different other diseases, especially serious diseases like Cancer, kidney, heart and liver ailments. The general restrictions in travel, non availability of flights at convenient locations and time and engagement of health staff in COVID related duties had affected these patients to considerable extent. One important learning out of the pandemic is to develop state of art facilities at least at the State level so that long distance travelling for many needy patients can be avoided. State Government of Assam has been taking significant steps in this

important aspect, especially in providing quality diagnostic and treatment facilities for Cancer patients. The most modern technologies used for Cancer Detection are now being made available in Assam. Today, another significant mile stone will be achieved by auspicious inauguration of PET MRI wing in State Cancer Institute, Guwahati by Hon' Vice President of India.

PET MRI being an advanced facility is available in a very small number of institutio in India. It is heartening to know that now North East India has the 4th PET MRI in the country, which assumes special significance considering the comparatively high incidence of cancer in this part of our country.

I am sure that this will help not only the patients from Assam, but also the greater North Eastern India. I also hope that the centre will grow in the near future to provide world class treatment in Cancer sector for a large population in our neighbouring countries as well.

These efforts will not only decrease the difficulties for the patients, but also improve the quality of early diagnosis and more importantly exact localisation of the disease so that precise treatment can be provided. Considering the side effects of many cancer drugs, an accurate diagnosis and localisation definitely helps in much better patient safety as well as better survival.

Embracing scientific advances to the betterment of humanity is the way forward for all of us. I take this opportunity to congratulate the technical team involved in establishing the PET MRI wing in State Cancer Institute and wish the very best to the dedicated team of Physicians, Nuclear Physicists, Radiologists and supporting staff so as to provide best of the services to the needy patients.

Once again, I welcome Hon Vice-President of India and request him to guide us in our endeavour to be with our people in the best possible ways in the future as well.

Thank you all,

JAI HIND