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# Commissioning of 1.5 Tesla MRI Unit at Balurghat District Hospital, Dakshin Dinajpur, in Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode and its Consequences

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### ABSTRACT:

Of late the economists categorise Indian Economy as that of Newly Industrialized Countries (NIC). During the last two decades, India has made endeavours to reshape her image of protectionist economy to the liberalization in the market. This is due to the wave of globalization that has oscillated the world. As a consequence, the Indian economy has also been benefitted a great deal. The Economy of India over the last three decades has been turning out to be of the fastest growing ones. The people of India are now in a position to censure more. There has been a marked change in the upliftment of standard of living. Health care, over the recent decades has become a matter of much discussion. The health care system has evolved radically. People now aspire to get quality Medicare facility in lieu of money. The Public Sector in health care is not always been able to meet the aspiration of the people. Now the governments at both the Centre and at the state levels have devised novel plans to provide Medicare facility among the People. So they how tie up with private players to provide better health care Service to the People. This is known as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in healthcare.

**KEYWORDS:** Healthcare, PPP model, Tesla MRI Unit, aspiration, District Hospital, Super Speciality Hospital, Health, Commissioning.

### INTRODUCTION:

WHO (World Health Organisation) defines 'Health' as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. This 'health' does not merely mean the absence of the disease or infirmity. The precious possession of man is a healthy body. This is also a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capabilities. To keep oneself healthy and fit, one needs to be vigilant and take health checkup and other health services at regular intervals. There is a question of keeping oneself healthy as well as providing healthcare services to such a vast humanity in a densely populated country like India. This is not as easy-going as it sounds. For this reason, the union and the state governments have tied up with private sectors at different levels starting from top to bottom.

### Basic Ideas of MRI Service in Healthcare:

The term 'MRI' i.e., Magnetic Resonance Imaging, is a non-invasive medical imaging technique. This technique uses strong and powerful magnetic fields and radio waves. These radio waves create detailed and elaborate images of organs and tissues within the body. MRI is a valuable tool for diagnosing a wide range of medical conditions, particularly those affecting the soft tissues, brain and spinal cord. The distinctive feature of MRI is that it does not use ionizing radiation. That is why it is a very safe option for many patients. To know how MRI device works is very interesting. MRI machine makes use of powerful magnets in order to create a strong magnetic field around the patient. Radio frequency waves when emitted interact with the body's hydrogen atoms. Again, when the radio waves are turned off, the hydrogen atom releases energy. Thus they produce signals. These signals are detected by the MRI machine. These signals are processed by a computer to create detailed cross-sectional images or slices of the body. This is known as image formation. The chief characteristic features of MRI: The principles of MRI machine are that MRI is a non-invasive procedure. That is why it does not involve surgery or incisions. Furthermore 'Detailed Imaging', 'No Radiation', 'Versatility' (can be used to image various parts of the body including blood vessels), contrast agents/dye (like gadolinium) etc.

Application in Health Care: MRI is extensively used in healthcare like in case of Neurological Disorders, (like strokes, spinal cord injury) Musculoskeletal problems (ligaments, etc.)

The existing healthcare services at the district levels in West Bengal is not up to the mark. So, the state Government has made contracts and signed agreements with the Private actors. At Balurghat District Hospital, in Dakshin Dinajpur this initiative (PPP Mode) is being implemented.

As far as the state of West Bengal is concerned, the Department of Health & Family Welfare of the state, PPP Cell, Swasthya Bhawan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, in its letter Memo No.: HFW-14015(13)/1/2019-SPSRC/65 dt. 12/06/2023 issued commissioning Order relating to the commissioning of 1.5 Tesla MRI Unit in PPP Mode at Balurghat District Hospital. The stakeholders in this regard issued another letter. From that letter, of the Health

Department, Govt. of West Bengal, vide Memo No.: HFW-14015(13)/1/2019-SPSRC/99 Dated: 07/08/2023 it is stated that as per approval of the Health Department, e-tender was floated for selection of Private Partner for establishment, operation, maintenance, and management of 1.5 Tesla MRI Scanner at Balurghat DH on PPP Mode (Capex by Partner). The same communication also mentioned that subsequently, Eskag Sanjeevani Private Limited (Selected Bidder) was selected as Selected Bidder who was already issued letter of Award. The letter also mentioned that the commissioning of the unit was already conducted on 15/06/2023.

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## COMMISSIONING OF TESLA MRI AT BALURGHAT DISTRICT HOSPITAL

The commissioning of the '1.5 Tesla MRI Unit' is like a blessing for the people of the district. For, previously they were forced to travel 110 kilometres away either in Malda or in Raiganj, the two adjoining district headquarters- Malda and Uttar Dinajpur respectively to avail themselves of this modernized diagnostic device. The District Healthcare Sector under PPP models have already implemented two more initiatives Dialysis project 1, 2 and Fair Price Medicine Shops 3, 4 for drugs and medicines consumables at different Government Hospitals (Rural Hospital / Block Primary Health Centres) under Public Private Partnerships mode.

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## WHAT STAKEHOLDERS IN DAKSHIN DINAJPUR DISTRICT HAVE TO SAY:

According to the sources associated with the Health Department, Government of West Bengal looking after PPP Cell affairs, it is stated that in Dakshin Dinajpur Head Quarters- Balurghat, there is a District Hospital and a Super Speciality Hospital. In both the hospitals there are numerous beds for the patients to be admitted. The 'In Patients' and 'Out Patients' in both the hospitals get access to the MRI service entirely free of cost. The 'Private Patients', who arrive here on recommendation of doctor(s) other than OPD, also get benefits of the MRI service but at very normal charges. Another noteworthy feature of the MRI service at Balurghat Super Speciality Hospital is that the said service is provided on round the clock basis. So, the patients can be treated properly at whatever hour they needed that service. Apart from one District Hospital and one Super Speciality Hospital Dakshin Dinajpur District has another Sub-divisional Hospital at Gangarampur Sub-division.

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## MIXED RESPONSE OF THE BENEFICIARIES:

The researcher during his deliberation with the beneficiaries associated with the MRI service have received majority of the positive responses. A great number of in and out patients belong to BPL (Below Poverty Line) category have got completely free of cost MRI service. Another finding is that a large number of people have 'Swasthya Sathi' Cards 5,6,7 with them. They also have got the service free of cost. A considerable number of 'Out Patients' also have got the MRI Service at nominal charges. A section of people complains against delay in getting the MRI service.

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## CONCLUSION:

In fine, the MRI Service at Balurghat District and Super Speciality Hospital is a significant inclusion in the district of Dakshin Dinajpur under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model. It is almost a welcome relief for the stakeholders associated with District Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, Sector Reform Cell PPP Model.

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