

Admin gears up
for a cashless
Gangasagar mela

HT Correspondent
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Apprehending that demonetisation is likely to affect Gangasagar Mela this year, district administration is taking adequate steps to ensure the pilgrims enjoy a cashless mela.

This is the first time that four banks — IDBI, ICICI, United Bank and Bandhan — are setting up ATM booths in the mela ground. Last year, only SBI set up an ATM booth.

More than 10 lakh pilgrims are expected to visit the mela. The district administration is trying to ensure supply lower denominations of rupees other than Rs 2,000. "We have requested them to bring lower denominations for the pilgrims. Four banks will set up temporary ATM booths on the mela ground," said PB Salim, district magistrate, South 24-Parganas.

ADM Joyoshi Dasgupta and SP Sunil Kumar Chowdhury will also oversee the activities in the mela.

Gangasagar island is around 160 km from Kolkata and is surrounded by Muriganga river and sea. The place is considered a sacred because of Kapila Muni temple and lakhs take a holy dip in the river. People will take the dip on January 14.

"Gangasagar Mela Mobile App is being introduced for the first time by the district administration. It will be officially launched on January 5 by chief minister at Nabanna," said an official.

There will be 150 CCTV in the mela ground. On Monday South 24-Parganas district administration said Rs 61 crore is being spent for making arrangements at Sagar Mela.

Parents of brain dead baby want clinic shut

THE CASE Avighna Saha is lying in a vegetative state for more than two months after being administered an injection by a nurse

HT Correspondent
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: An 18-month infant is lying in a vegetative state at a premier private hospital for neuroscience in the city for more than two months. Avighna Saha (picture right) suffered a cardiac arrest after he was allegedly administered potassium chloride injection through intravenous fluid (IV) by a nurse at Park Clinic on September 29.

The infant's parents have urged chief minister Mamata Banerjee to shut down the private hospital as exemplary punishment until a full investigation is done.

Avighna was admitted to the clinic on September 28 with mild dehydration and symptoms of vomiting.

According to medical experts, concentrated potassium chloride can be fatal if it is injected.

Avighna's father, Monojit Saha, has lodged an FIR against the nursing home and Dr AK Paul and the nurse Poonam Debnath at the Shakespeare Sarani police station on January 2.

"It is a case of medical negligence. My son's condition deteriorated after the nurse administered the potassium chloride injection. We have lodged an FIR against the clinic, Dr AK Paul and Poonam Debnath," Monojit said while speaking to reporters on Tuesday.

"Initially, the Park Clinic had



IT'S A CASE OF MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE. MY SON'S CONDITION DETERIORATED AFTER A NURSE ADMINISTERED THE INJECTION... THE CLINIC TRIED TO SUPPRESS THE INCIDENT... THE MANAGEMENT PAID THE BILLS FOR MY SON'S TREATMENT AFTER WE SHIFTED HIM TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL.

MONOJIT SAHA, father

tried to suppress the incident when we drew the attention of the concerned doctor about negligence in treatment. The clinic's management paid the bills for my son's treatment after we shifted Avighna to Apollo Gleneagles Hospital," said Monojit.

"Avighna is now undergoing treatment at Institute of Neuro Science under Dr Hrishikesh Kumar for the past two months. The hospital concocted a story that the child became hypoxic because of aspiration during feeding, they claimed," said Monojit.

"Although he is still breathing, the playful and happy child has turned almost lifeless and

is in a vegetative state due to medical negligence," said Monojit.

People for Better Treatment (PBT), a non-government platform floated for the victims of medical negligence in the country, has also written to chief minister Mamata Banerjee, requesting her to take action against the erring doctors and nurses of the clinic.

"The parents have briefed us. Exemplary punishment should be given to the doctors and nurses of the clinic. We have also written to the chief minister requesting her intervention. The licence of the clinic should be cancelled," said Dr Kunal Saha, president of PBT.