

Mettlepower Communications

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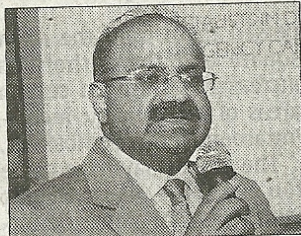
The Bengal Post

Medica to invest ₹300 crore

Our Correspondent

Kolkata: Medica Superspecialty Hospital, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Medica Synergie group, has earmarked around ₹300 crore to expand its health-care chain in eastern India. It is also mulling to hit the market with its initial public offering (IPO) within the next 2-3 years.

Dr Alok Roy, chairman, Medica Synergie, unveiling the plans of the group said, "We are planning to add 2,000 beds in 10 locations in eastern India in states including West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and north



■ Dr Alok Roy

east by the end of December 2012. We will invest around ₹300 crore for the purpose. Some of the hospitals to be started are brown field acquisitions." He said the Medica hospital in Mukundapur has seen an 80 per cent occupancy rate within the first year.

Medica is also planning to come with superspecialty chains in Patna, Varanasi, Shillong and Gaya with cardiology, orthopaedics, nephrology and gastroenterology treatments. In other locations like Burdwan, Asansol, and Gorakhpur, there would be a tertiary care hospital. Each hospital will comprise between 100-200 beds.

According to the chairman, Medica has treated over 75,576 patients in the first year of operations. Total outpatient visits are around 71,576 with 3,577 surgeries conducted. Around 27,255 patients have undergone

dialysis, he said.

The hospital attracts 8-10 patients every month through its EMI scheme. On the West Bengal healthcare scenario, Roy said that the total number of beds available in West Bengal is about 75,000, resulting in 1100 people served per bed. The state would require over four times more number of beds than what is currently available to reach anywhere near WHO norms.

Around 26 per cent of Indian population resides in the eastern part of India. Bed to population ratios range from 1 bed:1500 people to 1 bed:3000 people.