

The 'Armar' for accidents

A.S.R.P. MUKESH

A dedicated fleet of ambulances, manned by trained paramedics and policemen, will soon roll out in Ranchi to curb the road accident toll.

Inspired by the golden hour concept in emergency medicine, wherein the first 60 minutes following any traumatic injury is considered the best treatment window to prevent death, the district police have partnered with Tata Steel and super specialty hospital Medica to find Armar or Accident Relief and Medical Assistance in Ranchi.

A similar lifesaver network had been started in Jamshehpur in September last year.

SSP Prabhat Kumar convened an hour-long meeting with representatives of key private hospitals in Ranchi at his office on Tuesday afternoon and together they dwelt on the to-do list for the ambitious project.

"In the first phase, we intend to roll out eight ambulances, each having one trained paramedic and a police jawan, besides the driver," said traffic SP Karthik S. who was present at the meeting, adding that 100-odd police jawans had already been trained in trauma care.

"We will offer ambulance and workforce while Medica will host a centralised command centre where calls will be recorded 24x7 and victims channelled to the nearest hospital. Tata Steel is funding the entire project. The emergency fleet has already been procured and will reach us shortly," Karthik said, adding that a trial run would begin

as early as next week.

According to data made available by the traffic department, 82 people died and 214 sustained injuries in road accidents in Ranchi last year. Police concede that the figures might be higher because minor mishaps go unreported because people fear procedural hassles.

This week, police will begin mapping all hospitals in mishap-magnet areas. "We have distributed pro forma to hospitals in Ranchi to understand their specialties and facilities available. The data will be fed at the Medica command centre so that road accident victims can be sent to the nearest hospital in the least possible time," the traffic SP said.

A year ago, Ranchi traffic police had launched a similar system to extend medical help to victims of road accidents. The nearest private hospital was expected to rush an ambulance once the district police control room informed them of an accident.

However, lack of co-ordination between police and hospitals, as well as infrastructure issues, turned it into a dud initiative.

Karthik stressed Armar would be different.

"In the earlier system, accountability hadn't been fixed because there was no centralised co-ordination set-up. Armar is being launched on the lines of Jarma in Jamshehpur. It will work," he promised.

*Do you think this project will see the light of day in Ranchi?
Tell ttkhand@abpmail.com*