

# Video-conference route to help special kids

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

## WHAT IS CEREBRAL PALSY

➤ It is a neurological disorder that occurs when the child's brain is under development – either in the womb, after birth or 2-3 years after birth

➤ It affects body movement, muscle control and muscle coordination. Those affected may also have a seizure disorder and some level of mental retardation, learning disabilities, vision, speech or hearing disabilities. **There's no cure, but treatment in the form of therapy and exercise can help the child**



Cerebral palsy, which mainly occurs due to interference in brain development, causes difficulty in movement, speech and, sometimes, learning of children. This occurs either in the womb, or during birth, or even two years after birth, during which rapid development of the brain takes place.

The disability can also affect skills such as writing or typing, as well as balance of the body while walking or standing. Some cannot even hold objects, eat or drink without help and may have fits.

Early intervention in the form of therapy, exercise and sensory integration – stimulating the neural cells – can help.

**Pune:** With a view to provide overall support to children affected with cerebral palsy, city-based Mukul Madhav Foundation has decided to offer a tele-rehabilitation programme at Satara-based Ruby Hall Healthcare Services.

The organization would be guided by specialized doctors attached with KEM hospital in Pune via video-conferencing.

“This is an effort to fulfil the shortfall of specialised doctors such as paediatric neurologists and psychologists whose guidance is essential for these children,” said Ritu Chhabria, managing trustee, Mukul Mad-

hav Foundation. Chhabria was speaking after distributing chairs, wheelchairs and commode chairs for such children in Satara recently.

“Donating these chairs is

not the end of our work. Door-to-door physiotherapy sessions and tele-rehabilitation facility at Ruby Hall would help bring a change in the lives of these children,” Chhabria said.