

## **INAUGURATION OF AIIMS, RAIPUR**

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur was inaugurated on 27.02.2014 at 11.00 AM by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Dr. Raman Singh, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

The dignitaries included Dr Charan Das Mahant, Minister of State, Agriculture and Food Processing, Govt of India, Shri Amar Agarwal, Minister for Health & Medical Education, Govt of Chhattisgarh, Shri Ramesh Bais, Member of Parliament, Dr Bhushan Lal Jangde, Member of Parliament, Shri Lov Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India, Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India and the members of the Institute Body of AIIMS, Raipur.

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad first inaugurated the Trauma Centre building followed by inauguration of the Medical College building and a visit to the Central Library of the Medical College. He also unveiled the foundation stones for the project of setting up of School of Public Health and the second phase of construction of residential accommodation.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Azad thanked the Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh for providing logistical support to the schemes of the centre like providing land, etc. He also lauded the Director of the Institute for the massive efforts he put in to bring the Institute to the present level. He said that all facilities available at AIIMS, New Delhi would henceforth be available at AIIMS, Raipur itself and in fact these would be better than its counterpart in New Delhi. The minister outlined the priorities of the Central Government in big projects like starting of the AIIMS which had been lying in limbo for a long time, upgrading of medical colleges to super specialty hospitals and increasing the number of MBBS and postgraduate medical as well as nursing seats in the country. He said that though the government floats various health schemes like Janani Sishu Chikitsa Yojana, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Yojana, etc., these are not properly availed by the public due to lack of awareness regarding such schemes. He concluded with the announcement of a tertiary level cancer institute worth 45 crore rupees at Korla and a state level cancer institute worth 120 crore rupees at Bilaspur. Earlier while visiting the Central Library, the

minister praised the facilities available and commented that it is the best library among the six new AIIMS.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Raman Singh said that this was a life-time achievement for the state of Chhattisgarh to have an institute like AIIMS in the state. He praised the Union Health Minister for taking steps like relaxing of norms of the MCI for setting up of new medical colleges due to which new colleges could come up in the state. He said that almost 10% of the population of the state suffered from Sickle Cell Anemia and desired that AIIMS should set up a Sickle Cell Anemia Research Centre to tackle the disease. In a lighter mood, Dr Raman Singh said that after visiting the Central Library of the institute and seeing the facilities available there, he felt like taking admission again in the medical institute.

Dr Charan Das Mahant and Shri Amar Agrawal, both expressed their happiness over the starting of the Institute, while Shri Lov Verma said that the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana had been conceptualized by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and the six new AIIMS were a result of the same. He appreciated the facilities at AIIMS, Raipur and had a special praise for the Central Library of the institute for its e-library facility.

Shri Ramesh Bais proposed the vote of thanks on the occasion.

Dr Nitin M Nagarkar, the Director of AIIMS, Raipur, earlier welcomed the dignitaries and said that the public of Chhattisgarh had high expectations from setting up of the institute. He outlined the facilities available at the Institute and the facilities in the pipeline.

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