

**Address given by the Director, AIIMS on the occasion of “Dedication of Geriatrics OPD to the National Programme for Health Care of Elderly” and “Laying of Foundation Stone of Underground Parking” by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon’ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare & President, AIIMS on 01-10-2011 at Masjid Moth, AIIMS, New Delhi.**

Good Morning to you all !

Hon’ble Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Ji, President, AIIMS & Shri Anil Kumar Ji, Secretary (Health), other officials from the Ministry, AIIMS Faculty, Residents, Students, Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen and the friends from Media.



It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Hon’ble HFM and President AIIMS, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Ji, for dedicating our geriatric healthcare OPD to the National Programme for the Health Care of the Elderly and for laying the foundation stone for the “Underground Parking Facility”. Both these events are additional feathers in the cap of AIIMS and we owe these to the dynamic leadership of the Minister and his desire to continuously upgrade facilities at the institute.

Friends, Ladies & Gentlemen !, I welcome you all to this function.

It is a matter of pride for us that AIIMS has been designated as a regional centre under the National Programme for the Healthcare of the Elderly. Our institute has done considerable pioneering work in this field and our faculty has made significant contributions in formulating the national programme. Our immediate priority is to create a pool of health personnel who would specialize in geriatric health care. With this objective in mind, we have decided to start a new PG course (M.D.) in Geriatric Medicine which would commence from the next academic session. An exclusive ward for geriatric medicine will also be operational shortly. Of course, eventually we hope to house the National Institute for the Health Care of the Elderly within AIIMS.

With success in family welfare programme during the last 60 years, people in India are living longer life requiring a separate attention for them, which is recognized both by the Government and Public.

Elderly patients coming to AIIMS mainly report with diseases like cardiovascular ailments including stroke, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung diseases and locomotive problems. Depression is another major area of health issues among the elderly people that we are trying to address under the new single-window geriatric services system. Ultimately there will be a convergence of multiple Health Care experts for this purpose.

As the premier institute for medical education and research, AIIMS has the challenging mandate of continuously reorienting itself to address the current and future needs of

the country in the health sector. It has so far, thousands of patients that come to the institute every day are a living testimony that we have fulfilled this mandate quite successfully. We are held back only by physical constraints of space. We are trying to address this issue also to the best of our ability. Visible progress appears to have been though slow. It is, therefore, gratifying to note that expansion of infrastructure at the institute is now picking pace in the last 2 years under the able leadership of our Hon'ble Minister/President, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Ji.

In August, the construction of the 'Convergence Block' commenced and is scheduled for completion within 18 months. The underground parking of which the minister has laid the foundation stone today is planned for completion within 12 months. It will be a three level basement parking with a capacity for about 450 cars. The uncovered portion of the nallah is also being covered which would provide additional parking space. For the convenience of patients we have inducted 8 brand new vehicles for operating a free ferry service between the parking place and the hospital.

The dearth of hostel accommodation for students and junior doctors has been causing us a lot of concern. I am happy to share with you all, that NDMC has sent our plans to the Delhi Urban Arts Commission for final approval. We are ready to start the construction by November this year. Similarly, work on connecting the institute with JPNATC by a motorable subway is also expected to be taken up by DMRC in November. By the year end a lot of construction activity would have commenced in the institute. All these projects will be strictly monitored for quality control and time bound execution.

I am indeed most grateful to our President, the Hon'ble Minister Shri Azad ji, who has ensured that there should be no dearth of resources for the institute. He has already given 'in-principle' approval for the 2<sup>nd</sup> campus of AIIMS at Jhajjar where the Govt. of Haryana has allotted 300 acres of land for this purpose. The proposal for starting an outreach OPD at Jhajjar has already been submitted to the Ministry and we hope to receive the approval soon so as to operationalize the OPD as soon as possible.

Ladies and gentlemen!

With these words I once again welcome our honourable, HFM, other dignitaries and all of you present here, and thank all of you including the friends from media who made this event today so successful by their presence.

Jai Hind.

Prof. R.C. Deka  
Director/CEO, AIIMS