

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME ADDRESS

It gives me indeed great pleasure to welcome the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, who is also the President of the Institute to this function for laying the foundation stone of the Convergence Centre. I am immensely relieved that we have at last been able to commence work on the expansion of infrastructure in the Institute. Such expansion is badly needed as the existing facilities are inadequate to cope with the workload, whether it is teaching or patient care.

I am, therefore, most grateful to Hon. Minister, who has provided us with the required leadership for converting our plans in to action. For the last so many years the Institute had been preparing plan after plan for expansion and decongestion. But all these remained on paper. When the Hon'ble Minister took over, he directed us to give finality to these plans and to focus on implementing them. He has helped at many levels on our behalf to ensure that our plans got cleared and required resources are made available.

It was under his stewardship that the Central Government allocated Rs. 750 crores for implementing the Moily Committee's recommendations for augmentation of infrastructure at AIIMS. The Convergence Centre for which the foundation stone is being laid today is a part of the Moily Committee's recommendations. This Centre will have a covered area of 18,618 sqm in 9 floors and 2 basements. The entire facility will be centrally air conditioned. This Convergence Centre – building will house the knowledge centre which will be meant for creating data base for various research activities including clinical experiences at the AIIMS and also the additional facilities for the departments of Anatomy, Pathology, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Microbiology. The building of the Convergence centre I understand will have state of the art facility and once it is built, both basic sciences and clinical departments will have a common facility of doing technology driven research in the institute and it will serve as knowledge hub. Planning of the building has been got approved from all the departments, who are to be housed here. **Plans were approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee in 2010.** Department-wise Committees have been constituted to supervise the construction process and to ensure that the procurement and installation of equipment is scrutinized with the completion of the

construction. In this manner, we have involved all stakeholders in the construction of this facility. The total construction cost is Rs. 50.85 crores.

We are also in dialogue with the Quality Council of India for providing us the necessary expertise so that all the laboratories in this new facility fulfil NABL accreditation standards. Consultants have already been identified by the HSCC and I am confident that laboratories in this building will be the first set of laboratories in the Institute which would be accredited to NABL from the very beginning.

I am also happy to announce that with the efforts of Hon'ble President we shall be able to start work on the underground parking facility at Masjid Moth. Underground connectivity with the JPNA Trauma Centre has been entrusted to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and work would commence on it also shortly. We are now focusing our efforts for getting approval for the new Hostel building and new OPD Block to decongest the existing facilities in the Institute.

We have outsourced all sanitation work for the Institute and the private agency should be taking over their assigned areas shortly. Computerization of the Institute has been entrusted to the National Informatics Centre and the work has started in right earnest. We have also been provided with connectivity to the National Knowledge Network and I am hopeful that within the next one year the Information Technology enablement of this Institute will improve significantly.

I am indeed most grateful to the Hon'ble President for the guidance and the leadership he keeps on providing to me and my colleagues, who look forward to his continuous support to the Institute. With these words I thank him for sparing his valuable time for being with us today.

Thank you, all

This was the welcome speech made by Prof. R.C. Deka during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Convergence Centre on 14.8.2011 by the Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare and President, AIIMS – Shri Ghulam Nabi Azadji.