

## AIIMS BIBINAGAR OBSERVING INCREASE PATIENT FOOTFALL

# As footfalls increases, plea made for railway station to be set up near institute

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** Anticipating a further rise in overall footfall once all departments become functional, authorities at AIIMS Bibinagar have approached the railway ministry to set up a station opposite the institute. Hospital authorities expect the daily footfall to go up to 25,000 in the next three years.

With 26 functional departments, the daily footfall of patients now is 1,200 and this number has been increasing at the rate of 100 to 150 a month, say authorities. "A fully-functional AIIMS has a daily footfall of 2,500-3,000 per day. Once all our 40 departments are functional in

<b>REGIONAL CENTRE</b>		
<b>25,000</b>   Expected total footfall in 3 years	<b>40</b>   Departments to be functional in 3 years	<b>26</b>   Functional departments now
		

around three years, we will have those many out-patients," said Dr Vikas Bhatia, executive director, AIIMS, Bibinagar.

He said that taking count of patient attendants, in-patients, students, nurses and doctors, the anticipated foot-

fall will be between 20,000-25,000.

In fact, AIIMS is expected to the regional centre for the entire southern part of the country.

"Our patients will come from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh

● AIIMS expected to be regional centre for entire southern part of country. Patients to come from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, AP and Tamil Nadu

and Tamil Nadu too. While there is a small railway station nearby, we have requested for a railway station to be set up opposite our institute and that most trains stop at this station," Bhatia added.

Setting up of an AIIMS has previously been a trigger for large-scale development around it, say officials. "Even nearby tea stall owners now want to open a stall in front of AIIMS and are seeking permission saying they will sell more here. A restaurant is coming up on the otherwise empty stretch of road. AIIMS is going to trigger a whole lot of development soon and many people will benefit from the railway station too," said Dr Bhatia.

# Patients skip Hyd hosps, head to AIIMS Bibinagar

Pics: Venkat Rao M

## Villagers Say They Save On Travel Time

Amrita.Didya  
@timesgroup.com

**Hyderabad:** Amid allegations of mismanagement, the daily footfall of patients at the AIIMS Bibinagar campus is on a steady rise. From just about 100 out-patients per day in 2019, when the facility was inaugurated, the count has now touched 1,200 with doctors expecting the number to cross 1,500 soon.

When **TOI** visited the facility on Monday, it found dozens of patients from surrounding villages who said they no longer travel all the way to Osmania General Hospital or Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad for treatment.

"I made multiple rounds of various hospitals before someone from my village suggested I come here," said 35-year-old Prahalad from Yadgirigutta, who was there for a breathing problem. "All other doctors before this said it was because of gastroente-

### LONG LINES AT HOSP

Patients queue up for consultation at AIIMS Bibinagar on Monday morning; (Right) An ENT doctor runs a test on a patient



ritis and gave me medication to treat it. When nothing helped and I came to AIIMS, it turned out that my lungs itself had an issue. Over the last 11 days, Prahalad said that his condition has improved significantly. "Also, I have had to spend only Rs 300 for the ICU," he added.

Parkala resident Tangelavanya also found relief for her stomach ache at AIIMS after other doctors could not cure her. "Now, we do not need to go to OGH or

Gandhi anymore. Even the wards here are nice and clean," said the patient spotted in the general surgery ward. Chinna Chinraiya, 62, from Alair had a similar observation. "After my first visit here five months ago, I have stopped going to Hyderabad for treatment," he said.

Like them, there were many others from areas located within 40-50 km radius of AIIMS — including Bhongir, Uppal, Alair, Yadadri and Parkala — who said that the

facility has brought them much respite. Most added that they heard about it through word of mouth.

"We have treated 2.7 lakh patients and completed 10,411 surgeries till last month, including some rare surgeries," said Dr Vikas Bhatia, executive director of the Institute denying allegations of management issues. He dismissed health minister T Harish Rao's remarks about the Centre failing to develop AIIMS, Bibinagar as promised.

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