

First free pharmacy at AIIMS opens today, to stock 200 generic drugs

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UNION Health Minister Chidambaram Naidu inaugurated on Sunday a free generic medicine store at AIIMS and a convergence block — designed to bring laboratory facilities of the institute under one roof.

The generic drug store, which will be the first free pharmacy at AIIMS, will open on Monday. It is expected to stock 200 generic drugs and will be open from 8 am to 6 pm on all working days.

The cost of the drugs, estimated at Rs 1.2 crore per month, will be borne by the institute. Speaking on the occasion, Azad said, "AIIMS has about 9,000-10,000 patients being treated at the OPD every day. Of these, many do not have the means to buy medicines. The pharmacy will provide free medicines to such patients."



Sources said complaints of sub-standard drugs being provided at discounted rates by a private pharmacy led the institute to work out a stringent quality control mechanism with the Centre's HLL Life-care Limited, which will be managing the store.

According to authorities, the pharmacy will be the first centralised, medicine supply system across different departments and specialty centres at the institute. It will also help the pharmacology department monitor adverse drug reactions and prescription patterns.

The convergence block designed by HSCC was built at a cost of Rs 58.85 crore over an area of 18,600 square metres and completed in 18 months. The block was part of the recommendations made by the Moolji Committee for augmentation of infrastructure at AIIMS, for which the Central government had allocated Rs 750 crore.

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