

## Govt on fast track to combat cancer

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The Max Super Specialty Cancer Hospital here has come as a ray of hope for the patients whose number has multiplied over the past few years. The hospital that would also provide cardiac specialty was inaugurated yesterday by Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal.

Built at a cost of Rs 145 crore, the state-of-the-art hospital was a much awaited project as the cancer patients had to travel outside the state for treatment, which was beyond reach for many.

Badal clarified that the cost of treatment of the patients who could not afford it would be borne by the Rogi Kalyan Samiti, which had been provided a



grant of Rs 3 crore by the hospital. The hospital would also pay the Samiti 5 per cent of its earnings every year.

Analjit Singh, chairman-cum-managing director of the Max, said that another hospital has come up under the PPP mode at Mohali.

Meanwhile, this was the second cancer treatment facility provided by the Punjab Government in the Malwa region within one week. Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal had on Friday inaugurated projects worth Rs 58.15

crore for providing comprehensive cancer and research facility at the Faridkot-based Guru Gobind Singh Medical College of the Baba Farid University of Health Sciences.

These facilities include the Rs 34 crore Radiotherapy Department, projects worth Rs 19 crore for the Department of Nuclear Medicines and projects worth Rs 5.15 crore for the Department of Radiodiagnosis.

The Chief Minister said the state government had released a grant of Rs 60 crore for the opening of a cancer hospital here by the BFUHS.

He said the state government had established a corpus fund of Rs 20 crore for the current financial year to provide free treatment to the poor patients suffering from cancer.

### Centre wants 4 govt hospitals in Malwa belt

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The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended four hospitals in the government sector for the Malwa belt keeping in view the high incidence of cancer cases from the region.

ICMR Director General Dr VM Katoch, who was the chief guest at the inaugural of the molecular genetic lab of the Central University here, revealed this. Katoch said instead of encouraging private sector health services in the cancer belt, the government should act on the recommendations of the ICMR. — TNS