

UP, Centre in MoU for Gorakhpur AIIMS

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Lucknow: Gorakhpur's dream of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences inched closer to reality on Thursday with the Union and state governments entering into a formal memorandum of understanding (MoU).

Close to the hearts of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief minister Aditya Nath Yogi, the project is to be readied by 2020 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,749 crore.

Of this, Rs 1,101 crore would be taken care of by the Union government.

The state's component includes the cost of land which is estimated to be Rs 738.6 crore. Expenditure on construction of four-lane approach road, water supply and establishment of an independent power feeder will also be borne by UP government.

Officials in the state medical education department headed by additional chief secretary Anita Bhatnagar Jain represented Team Yogi and joint secretary, ministry of



CM Yogi with officials who signed the MoU in Lucknow

health and family welfare, Sunil Sharma signed on behalf of Pradhan Mantri Swastha Suraksha Yojana under which new AIIMS have been set up in the country.

An area of 42.326 hectares has been identified for the premises. "The land will be provided to the Union government on a lease of 90 years," she said.

"The out-patient department will be readied by March 2019 while patient care will take a few more months," she said.

Expressing happiness over the MoU, chief minister Yogi Aditya Nath said that the move will accelerate establishment of AIIMS in Gorakhpur.