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DNA PUNE

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(From left) Ajit Pawar, Chhagan Bhujbal, Girish Bapat and Narendra Jadhav at the silver jubilee celebrations of Poona Hospital on Sunday - SANJAY DESHPANDE

Rs950 cr approved for public health

Nadeem Inamdar

Deputy chief minister Chhagan Bhujbal said on Sunday that the state has sanctioned Rs950 crore for upgradation of the public health infrastructure in the state. Special emphasis is being laid on setting up dispensaries and clinics with latest equipment.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a function on the occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations of Poona Hospital and Research Centre at Yashwantrao Chavan Natyagriha.

According to him, while Rs150 crore would be spent on public health sector alone, Rs250 crore have been sanctioned for treatment of cardiac vascular diseases. Bhujbal said doctors' fraternity has become so advanced and sophisticated that there is now specialist for every organ of the human body.

Bhujbal added Savitribai Phule should be an example for every individual as she fought the plague with great courage.

He lauded the role played

by the hospital donors and trustees in ensuring that quality treatment was provided to the poor and needy patients.

District guardian minister Ajit Pawar in his speech promised to provide all the necessary government help and clearances for the future projects of the hospital.

Trustee of the hospital Rasiklal Dhatriwal demanded extra floor space index (FSI) for the expansion of the hospital.

"The necessary funds are there but we want extra FSI so that more patients can be accommodated for treatment in the hospital," he said.

Planning Commission member Narendra Jadhav in his address pointed out the importance of human qualities necessary for the medical fraternity to serve the poor and needy and asked them to refrain from commercialisation of the profession.

City BJP MLA Girish Bapat, hospital trustee Devchand Shah and other office-bearers of the trust were present.

pune metro

Naidu refused formal talks or release from jail: Bhujbal

Deputy CM says the ex-Andhra CM is only trying to gain political mileage in the wake of upcoming by-poll

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SILVER JUBILEE: Deputy Chief Minister Chagan Bhujbal (right) releases a souvenir to mark the silver jubilee of Poona Hospital and Research Centre at Yashwantrao Chavan Hall in Kothrud on Sunday. Also seen are Planning Commission member Dr Narendra Jadhav (left) and Hospital Board's president Mukunda Leha.

REPORTER

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Pune: Terming TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu's ongoing protest over Bahhal barrage irrigation project in Nanded district a means to gain "political mileage and publicity", Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Chagan Bhujbal on Sunday said that former Andhra Pradesh chief minister had turned down his request for arranging formal talk over the issue.

"I had a word with Chandrababu prior to his planned visit to Bahhal project. I had assured him that all the information he needed would be provided by the state government, if he sits with us for a formal talk. However, he preferred to do this his own way," Bhujbal said.

Speaking with media-persons on the sidelines of

OFFER REJECTED

"I had a word with Chandrababu prior to his planned visit to Bahhal project. I had assured him that all the information he needed would be provided by the state government, if he sits with us for a formal talk. However, he preferred to do this his own way," Bhujbal said.

the silver jubilee function of Poona Hospital and Research Centre, Bhujbal said Naidu's protest over Bahhal project is politically motivated in the wake of upcoming by-election in Andhra Pradesh.

On Saturday, Naidu and other party leaders were sent to two days judicial custody by a Dharmabad

court in Nanded district after they refused to seek bail.

The former Andhra chief minister was arrested along with his supporters for violating prohibitory orders in Maharashtra's Nanded on Friday, when they were planning to visit the Bahhal barrage irrigation project in Dharmabad for an inspection.

Bhujbal said Naidu has also turned down an appeal from the state government to free him from judicial custody by giving an assurance on personal bond.

"We have told him he can return to his state after some formalities. However, he is not keen to do so," he said.

When asked how the state government would now tackle the issue of Naidu's protest, Bhujbal did not give any precise answer, expressing inability to find the solution presently.