

Apollo Tyres setting up super-speciality hospital

Onkar S. Kanwar's Apollo Tyres group has entered the healthcare sector with a super-speciality hospital in Gurgaon, on the outskirts of the national capital, with a seed investment of Rs.2.1 billion (\$45 million).

Christened Artemis Health Sciences (AHS), the 260-bed hospital over 8.3 acres of land will open next month. 'In the second phase, another 240 beds will be added,' said Somnath Chakarborty, chief operating officer of AHS.

'This is the first of similar ventures we have planned over the next seven-eight years. We will focus on cardiology, oncology and orthopaedics in these hospitals,' Chakarborty told IANS.

Senior officials of the group said the second phase will entail an investment of Rs.1 billion and that all the facilities will be fully controlled by PTL Enterprises - a subsidiary of Apollo Tyres.

Chakarborty said the group was planning to open at least 10 more such hospitals in smaller cities since it was difficult to get requisite land in metropolitan areas.

'So far, we have decided on four cities - Baroda in Gujarat, Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Kochi in Kerala and