

LILAVATI HOSPITAL CHARTS AMBITIOUS EXPANSION PLAN

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The hospital is in talks to buy land in its immediate neighbourhood

Proposed super-specialty set-up will have 300 beds; will offer robotic surgery.

Lilavati Hospital, one of Mumbai's oldest and most well regarded health institutions, has chalked out an expansion plan, which includes a super specialty hospital.

The new initiative could be seen as a response to the city's other top hospitals - Bhatia, Nanavati and Breach Candy - making public their plans to add capacity.

Lilavati Hospital currently has a capacity of 320 beds, and reports 100 per cent occupancy for most of the year.

A senior official from the hospital said that it was close to buying space in its immediate neighbourhood in Bandra. If the deal goes through, the existing hospital will be connected to the new one.

"We have realised that we need advance care facilities, new equipment and centres of excellence. Plus, additional Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and dedicated neo-natal care. We are in talks to buy the neighbouring plot but nothing has been finalised yet," said Ajaykumar Pande, a vice-president at Lilavati Hospital.

A senior doctor from the hospital, who did not want to be quoted, said that Lilavati's move was in response to other hospitals such as Nanavati and Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital offering advanced medical care in the western suburbs. According to the senior doctor, the hospital has identified another plot in Bandra, and will purchase it in case talks to buy the neighbouring plot fall through.

The new super specialty centre will enable Lilavati to conduct liver or heart transplants. It will have a radiation centre (the hospital offers only chemotherapy at the moment) and a dedicated trauma care set-up to deal with accident cases. The new set-up will also have centres for robotic surgery, neurosciences, and diabetes and obesity.

The hospital was set up in 1997 with ten beds and 22 doctors. Today, it has one of the city's largest (ICUs), over 300 consultants and a staff of nearly 1800.