

Indian Medical Colleges

Motilal Nehru Medical College, Allahabad

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Allahabad is picturesquely situated at the confluence of three rivers—Ganga, Yamuna and according to popular belief, the third river (the mythical Saraswati) joins the confluence through an underground channel. The city has a rich cultural, political and educational heritage. The University of Allahabad was known as the Oxford of the East and many luminaries have passed through its portals.

HISTORY

The establishment of a medical college in Allahabad was a landmark in medical education in Uttar Pradesh (UP). In 1904 a delegation led by Pandit Motilal Nehru, a leader of the freedom struggle and father of Jawaharlal Nehru, called upon Lord Curzon asking for the establishment of a medical college and hospital at Allahabad. He was given a patient hearing but nothing was done. It was in 1961 that Pandit Motilal Nehru's dream was realized, due to the efforts of Shri C. B. Gupta, the then Chief Minister of UP. The medical college building and the main Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital block was inaugurated by Dr Rajendra Prasad, President of India, on the occasion of the birth centenary of Pandit Motilal Nehru on 5 May 1961 and the medical college was named after him. The Swarup Rani Nehru Hospital attached to Motilal Nehru Medical College was constructed in the premises of Malaka Jail where Motilal Nehru was imprisoned during the British rule.

The buildings and grounds of the Government House, 'Raj Bhawan' were acquired in 1963.

The main medical college is situated in the premises of the old Government House. The administrative and teaching blocks are also here. Swarup Rani Nehru Hospital is in the campus of the old Malaka Jail about half a kilometre from the main teaching block. The medical college has certain hospitals affiliated to it such as the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Sarojini Naidu Children's Hospital and the Manohar Das Eye Hospital. The main hospital was started with a bed strength of 100. Today the main teaching hospital of the medical college has 900 beds, 19 wards and 6 operation theatres.

Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital

This hospital was established in 1941. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave part of his house and land for its construction in 1939. The foundation stone was laid by Mahatma Gandhi. It has a bed strength of 250; 40 of these are for cancer patients. It is a pioneer maternity and women's diseases hospital with modern therapeutic and diagnostic facilities. The obstetrics and gynaecology department is partly housed here and partly in the main S.R.N. Hospital complex.

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Sarojini Naidu Children's Hospital

This children's hospital was established in 1968. It houses the paediatrics department which has more than 100 beds, with a neonatal intensive care unit, respiratory unit and separate isolation and surgical wards.

M.D. Eye Hospital (State Institute of Ophthalmology)

This hospital came into existence in 1962 with the donation of the building by a prominent banker and social worker of the city, the late Mr Manohar Das Tandon. Initially it was managed by the local municipal board. In 1963, the hospital was affiliated with the M.L.N. Medical College. The M.S. Ophthalmology course was started in this institution in 1966 and D.O.M.S. in Ophthalmology in 1970. The Government of India, under the National Programme for Prevention of Blindness, instituted a central mobile team affiliated to the M.D. Eye Hospital in 1980.

Separate multistoreyed complexes have been constructed for the superspecialty departments of cardiology and gastroenterology in the S.R.N. Hospital campus.

EDUCATION

At present the medical college is one of the constituent colleges of the Allahabad University and is under the administrative control of the UP Government. Seventy-five per cent of the undergraduate students are admitted on the basis of the combined pre-medical test of UP and the remaining 25% on the basis of an all-India entrance examination.

One hundred and two undergraduate students are admitted to the college each year. Among the reserved categories, 20 seats are for girls. The undergraduate course is for four-and-a-half years followed by one year of rotating internship. Postgraduate courses are available in anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, social and preventive medicine, forensic medicine and toxicology, medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, otorhinolaryngology, anaesthesiology, paediatrics, tuberculosis and chest diseases. D.M. courses in cardiology and gastroenterology are planned in the near future.

FACILITIES

The medical college with its associated hospitals is providing advanced medical facilities and care in the various medical and surgical disciplines to the people of eastern UP. Numerous advanced modern technologies and instruments are available at this institute for early diagnosis and treatment such as the argon laser, surgical microscopes, xenon arc photocoagulator, computerized scan ultrasound, fiberoptic endoscopes, laparoscopes and ultrasound machines. Lasers are being used extensively for the treatment of ophthalmic conditions. The neonatal and paediatric wings are well equipped with incubators and respirators. There are facilities for dialysis, electroencephalography and electromyography.

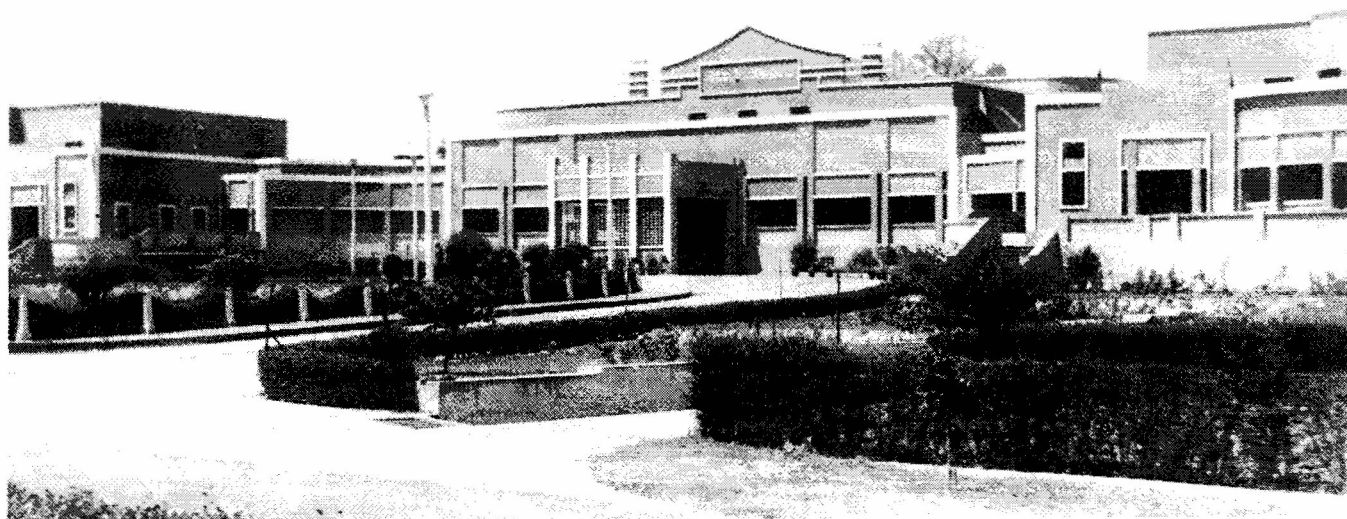


Fig 1. Motilal Nehru Medical College, Allahabad

graphy. Computerized tomographic scanning is being done at the Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital. There is a neurosurgeon in the Department of Surgery to take care of neurosurgical problems.

The department of otorhinolaryngology has been selected as a regional centre for prevention of deafness under the National Plan. The department provides day-care endoscopy, otoneurology, audiology, speech pathology, microsurgical procedures and head and neck surgery facilities.

There are separate departments of cardiology and gastroenterology. The cardiology department has facilities for temporary and permanent cardiac pacing and a four-bedded intensive coronary care unit. The department has recently acquired an echocardiology machine with colour doppler facilities.

The gastroenterology department is carrying out various diagnostic and therapeutic gastrointestinal and pancreato-biliary procedures. This is the only centre in the country which is doing advanced pancreato-biliary procedures without the help of an image intensifier. A substantial amount of clinical research has been carried out in this department and the results have been published in leading journals of the world. In the backdrop of the dismal research carried out at our medical college,¹ this department has contributed its bit in improving the scenario. In 1996 alone, 10 research papers were published from the department; all in journals covered by the *Index Medicus*, and 5 in journals covered by the *Science Citation Index*.

PROBLEMS

There are innumerable problems but the existing system of administration defies solution. In a government-run institution such as ours with scant accountability, work culture seems to have perished. There is no incentive for work well done and no disincentive for work not carried out.

Very few medicines are available in the hospital for patients; but all medicines stamped 'for hospital supply' can be bought at the ten or more medicine shop counters near the hospital. It is

impossible to use the hospital ward toilets because of neglect in repair and the filth around.

No funds are available for research. The college laboratories often do not function due to lack of reagents and the poor patient cannot afford to pay for his or her investigations in pathological laboratories outside. In such a situation it is impossible to produce good research. There is an eternal paucity of funds and journals in the college library. The radiology department is plagued by shortage of films nearly throughout the year, with the result that patients have to be carried outside the hospital on chairs and trolleys for radiological examinations.

A major problem in realizing future goals in the state medical colleges of UP is posed by the setting up of the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences at Lucknow. Most of the state government finances are diverted there. The pie is limited and while the state medical colleges are made to starve, this institution hogs the major share without providing services commensurate with the extraordinary input of funds, because the charges for treatment there are beyond the reach of the common man.

FUTURE PLANS

The future plan is to develop a liver laboratory at M.L.N. Medical College. At present there is no good laboratory in eastern UP where patients with liver diseases can avail diagnostic facilities. The setting up of this laboratory would greatly improve management of patients with liver disease. Plans are also afoot to acquire a CT and MRI unit for the medical college hospital.

It requires considerable dedication to work in a state medical college, with appalling government apathy, and still be able to deliver the goods.

REFERENCE

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