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Apollo India to setup proton therapy cancer center

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Chennai: Apollo Hospitals will establish a Proton Therapy Center in India, the first of its kind across South East Asia, Africa and Australia. The launch marks the beginning of the next wave of cancer therapy offerings by Apollo, which covers the equipment and services supplied by Ion Beam Applications (IBA) to help establish the Apollo Proton Therapy Center including the long-term operation and maintenance contract.

IBA will equip the Apollo Proton Therapy Center with its Proteus Plus multi-room configuration, including three treatment rooms with uniform scanning and pencil beam scanning capabilities. IBA will also provide all dosimetry equipment to ensure the safest and fastest commissioning of the center so that patients can benefit from this technology starting 2016.

In addition to this, the Apollo Proton Therapy Center will have a significant portion of the facility dedicated to R&D that will partner with leading institutions across the world to foster innovation so as to make modern healthcare accessible and available for the nation.

Speaking on this new initiative, Dr Prathap C Reddy, chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group, said that, "This new proton therapy facility will give patients access to the most advanced radiation therapy technology. Moreover, the center will become an International Proton Therapy Center of Reference in Asia, allowing us to further enhance our ability to provide superior cancer care and promote the benefits of proton therapy technology across the sub-continent".

Proton therapy is increasingly considered the most advanced and targeted cancer treatment due to its superior dose distribution and fewer side effects. Protons deposit the majority of their effective energy within a precisely controlled range, directly within the tumor and sparing healthy surrounding tissue. It is used today to treat many cancers and is particularly appropriate in situations where treatment options are limited and conventional radiation therapy presents risks to patients.