**AIIMS outsources lab, pharmacy operations to HLL Lifecare**

* **First time AIIMS entrusts outside organisation to run lab, pharmacy**

For the first time, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has outsourced the laboratory and pharmacy operations to an outside organisation –HLL Lifecare Ltd.

In the trend-setting move, the AIIMS has entrusted the functioning of laboratory and pharmacy of its Outreach OPD at Badsha Village of Jhajjar district in Haryana to HLL Lifecare Limited. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad formally inaugurated the OPD on November 24.

Apart from the whole range of laboratory services, HLL will provide generic medicines in 194 drug categories to all patients through the outreach pharmacy.

HLL Lifecare, the mini-ratna public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Health through its brands- Hindlabs and Lifecare Centres (LCC) -provides diagnostic services and retail outlet in pharma and surgical implants to partner institutions in a Public-Public Partnership (PPP) model.

HLL has been operating specialty diagnostic and pharmacy services in leading health institutions in Kerala, Orissa and other states in collaboration with the respective State Health Departments.

“The partnership with AIIMS means that our footprint in this specialty segment is extended to North India. The collaboration will prove to be a spring-board for our future expansions in the area. Many other States have also approached us to avail our services in the division,’’ HLL Chairman and Managing Director Dr M Ayyappan said.

“Effectiveness of healthcare delivery organizations can be enhanced by focusing on medical care delivery and outsourcing services like diagnostics, pharmacy etc to a specialist agency. Outsourcing partnerships offered by HLL through Hindlabs are made to suit the specific requirement of the partnering institution,” he said.

Inaugurating the OPD, Shri Azad said due to the high number of patients visiting AIIMS, most departments were handling workload in excess of their designed capacity. “As a result of this, patients have to wait for long periods for various procedures and services. For this reason, the need for expansion of AIIMS was felt and thus the Outreach OPD at Badsha, Jhajjar has been conceived and designed to handle approximately 1,000 patients per day”, he said. Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Dr Ayyappan were also present on the occasion.