



SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE
Tamaka, Kolar



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY & LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE



Online Newspaper Clipping Service
Dtd- Sunday, 18th, November- 2018

Page No.11

Vote catching over ailing medical college project

Rivals claim credit over institution coming up in Sikar

MOHAMMED IQBAL
SIKAR

In the rough and tumble of electoral politics, a proposed government medical college being constructed on a donated plot here has become a core issue.

The much-needed facility, which is yet to meet Medical Council of India (MCI) norms, has rival parties claiming credit for its establishment.

The voters in Rajasthan's arid, northern Shekhawati region are upset over the delay in starting the medical college.

The college is still being constructed, though it was announced along with six other colleges during the previous Congress regime. After the change of government in 2013, the project went to the neighbouring Churu district, with Sikar being included later in a Centrally sponsored scheme.

The Kalyan Arogya Sadan Trust donated 80 bighas of land adjacent to its charitable tuberculosis hospital in the city for the medical college in 2016, but the proposal to attach the existing Shri Kalyan Government Hospital to it has not succeeded as the latter lacks facilities specified by the MCI norms.



Years in the making: The Government Medical College building under construction in Sikar. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The college principal and controller, Govardhan Meena, told *The Hindu* that since the MCI inspection teams had repeatedly rejected the government hospital's status as an attached institution, it was proposed to build a new 300-bed hospital on an adjacent piece of land, also to be made available by the trust.

Sagar Khachariawas, district president of the All India Kisan Sabha, affiliated to the CPI(M), said the ruling BJP and the Congress had exploited the medical college issue to get votes without taking any concrete steps to ensure that the institution started functioning.

"The original plan was shifted to a smaller town, Churu, only because it is the

constituency of erstwhile Health Minister Rajendra Rathore," he said.

While Dr. Meena affirmed that the construction would be completed in the next two months and the college's first academic session would start in July 2019, social activist Ashfaq Kayamkhan said the BJP and Congress candidates should spell out their plans to get the college started.

"In the race to get credit, the attention shifted from construction of building and its monitoring. This has led to a slower work here unlike other cities where medical colleges have come up," Mr. Kayamkhan said. For the voters of Shekhawati, it has been a long wait.