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## Super Speciality Eye Hospital in Patna | Bihar | 16 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Bihar government** signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) with **Sankara Eye Foundation India, Coimbatore** to facilitate the construction and operation of a super-specialty eye hospital in Patna.

### Key Points

- **Land Allocation Approval:**
  - The **Bihar Cabinet approved the allocation of 1.60 acres of land in Kankarbagh, Patna** on a conditional lease at a nominal cost of Rs 1 to Sankara Eye Foundation India.
  - This land will be utilized for the construction of the super-specialty eye hospital.
- **Hospital Details and Benefits:**
  - Sankara Eye Foundation India, an **internationally acclaimed eye treatment hospital**, will construct and operate the hospital at its own expense.
  - Advanced treatments such as **corneoplasty, retinal detachment surgeries, and eye cancer treatments** will be offered along with general eye care.
- **Free Treatment Provision:**
  - **75% of the patients will receive free treatment**, while the remaining **25% will pay for services**.
  - **Families earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually** will qualify for **free treatment**.
- **Contrasting Health Infrastructure Report:**
  - **CAG Audit Findings on Bihar Health Infrastructure:**
    - [The Comptroller and Auditor General \(CAG\)](#) report on Public Health Infrastructure (2016-2022) presented during the winter session criticized the state's performance.
    - Out of the Rs 69,790.83 crore health budget allocated from FY 2016-17 to 2021-22, only Rs 48,047.79 crore (69%) was spent, leaving Rs 21,743.04 crore (31%) unutilized.
  - **Low Health Expenditure:**
    - Bihar's healthcare spending as a percentage of [Gross State Domestic Product \(GSDP\)](#) ranged between 1.33% and 1.73%, and against the State Budget, it ranged between 3.31% and 4.41%.
  - **Resource Shortages:**
    - The report highlighted shortages in drugs, medical equipment, and consumables, pointing to critical gaps in public health infrastructure.