

Amri plans buyouts for national footprint

Our Bureau
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CITY-BASED Amri Hospitals Ltd is drawing up a blueprint to go national. The company, jointly promoted by the Emami and Shracchi Group, plans to grow its pan-India footprint with acquisitions and is in active discussion with three hospitals in Bangalore, Chennai and the National Capital Region.

Amri Hospitals intends to invest around ₹ 1,200 crore over the next three years for its nationwide presence. As part of this, it is looking at growing its capacity from 560 beds to around 3,000 beds in the same period. Amri expects to complete at least one of the acquisitions in a year.

"Our ambition is to make Amri Hospitals one of the biggest healthcare service provider in India, in the same league as Apollo and Fortis," said Amri Hospitals director Manish Goenka. "Amri is a household name in Kolkata and we want to create a similar nationwide identity," he said.

Amri is eyeing multi-speciality hospitals with around 200 beds for acquisition, which would typically have a deal size of around ₹ 100-125 crore. It

wants to acquire at least 5-6 such hospitals in the South and North over the next 3-4 years.

At present, Amri operates two hospitals in Kolkata with a cumulative capacity of 560 beds. It is already working on three new hospital — a 275-bed women and children hospital in the city, a 300-bed multi-speciality unit in Bhubaneswar and a 100-bed facility in Burdwan. Amri is also expanding capacity in its two existing facilities by adding another 165 beds. The cumulative investment on these ventures is about ₹ 550 crore.

"We are also looking at setting up hospitals in Siliguri, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. But these will be greenfield projects. We will expand in the East organically, while in the rest of the country we will look for acquisitions," said Mr Goenka.

Amri Hospitals on Wednesday unveiled a new logo and brand identity. It said the logo change is part of its transformational process to become a preferred healthcare provider and in build-up to a national presence. While Emami owns 66% and the Shracchi Group 30% in the company, the balance 4% is owned by the West Bengal government.

