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Civic body to temporarily shift hospital

AURANGABAD: Putting on hold its proposal of demolishing Durga Prasad hospital at Shahaganj market, the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) on Saturday said it would first build a facility for the hospital on an adjacent land before demolishing the old structure. "Looking at the number of patients visiting the hospital, the civic body has decided to make stop gap arrangement for the hospital," municipal commissioner Harshdeep Kamble said on Saturday.

The AMC has proposed to develop a state-of-the-art hospital in place of Durga Prasad hospital under built operate and transfer (BOT) model and hence, it was looking forward to demolishing the existing structure. The civic body is also developing the Shahaganj market with a private partner under BOT model.

The Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) has been running the hospital in the building owned by the municipal corporation.

Kamble said the civic body would shift the hospital in a new building for the time being. "The hospital will be set up again in the same spot with new facilities," he said.

The residents of the area and shopkeepers in Shahaganj

market had strongly objected to the AMC's drive and urged the municipal body to provide an alternative land.

They said the hospital was offering services to many below poverty line and middle-class people. Many regular patients had also urged the municipal administration to suspend the drive till an alternative arrangement is made.

Sikander Ali, executive engineer and BOT chief in the AMC, said the municipal body has already assigned a private player for building the new facility. At present, the hospital occupies 2,000 sq ft area, but under the new plan, it will get nearly 5,000 sq ft area.