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BJP MLA Sagar raises funds from community, redevelops hospital

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MUMBAI: In January, BJP MLA from Charkop Yogesh Sagar was in dire need of Rs 3 crore to keep the redevelopment work of a charitable hospital going. “This was the monthly expense and at the time it seemed difficult... but like a miracle...I received a call...The person said he knew that I was building this hospital and offered me Rs 50 lakh. I then received another call, from a person in Dubai....he offered to give Rs 1 crore. I asked him to give me a loan of Rs 2 crore and I would return it to him at the earliest. He did,” said Sagar. He travelled abroad to Dubai to raise funds from his community. Sagar, who has won the best MLA award from NGO Praja for three consecutive years, did not raise funds through his political contacts, but from his community members.

Sagar belongs to the Sonar (goldsmith) community and was a trustee of the Suvarna charitable trust that set up Suvarna nursing home in 1986. “It was the first dialysis centre beyond Bandra where dialysis was done for Rs 100 and kidney transplant for Rs 80,000 to Rs 1.2 lakh,” he said. As the hospital became dilapidated, it was shut down in 2015-16 and a decision was taken to redevelop it. Work started in 2017, but stopped in 2018. By December 2019, the responsibility of redevelopment fell on Sagar as all other trustees resigned. “We had only Rs 3 crore in the fixed deposit,” he said. Sagar obtained all the requisite permissions from BMC for a 10-storey hospital with a cardiac centre and a maternity section. The construction and equipment has cost less than Rs 100 crore, he said, and the land is owned by the trust. On Sunday, the Dhankunwarben Babubhai Dhakan Hospital and Ramaben Pravinbhai Dhakan Cardiac Centre was inaugurated by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

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