

DOCTORS in Jammu and Kashmir have said that the state possesses a huge potential for medical tourism because of the cheap cost and availability of experienced doctors.

Leading doctors of Kashmir valley have got together in Srinagar, to attend the inaugural function of 55th Annual Conference of Indian Association of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons (IACTS) at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convocation Centre (SKICC).

Senior cardiologists of Kashmir revealed that the cardiac surgery in Kashmir costs 80% less than New Delhi and 95% less than Europe.

The doctors explained that keeping the cost effectiveness in mind and the availability of modern expertise and resource, the state had a great potential to tap the opportunity and develop as a medical tourism hub.

Speaking on the occasion

MEDICAL tourism for KASHMIR

The scenic, pollution-free vistas are a plus say experts

Jammu and Kashmir Governor NN Vohra emphasised the need for developing medical tourism. "In another two to three years by 2012, if the rate of medical tourism proceeds the present level of increase, then we would be earn-

ing anything between 2 billion dollars to 2.5 billion dollars every year," he said.

"We have a lot of avenues for medical tourism. Those operations that cost Rs3-5 lakhs in a private hospital in New Delhi can be done here in Rs 50 thou-

sand to Rs 1 lakh," said Dr. AG Ahangar, of SKIMS.

Experts believe that the scenic beauty and the pollution free atmosphere in Kashmir valley can be a positive factor for medical tourism.