🏥 Advanced Stent Procedure at AIIMS Bhopal for Complex Heart Defect

📌 What Happened

Doctors at AIIMS Bhopal successfully treated a rare and complex congenital heart defect – sinus venosus atrial septal defect (ASD) – using an advanced, specially designed covered stent. This minimally invasive procedure is considered highly challenging and marks a significant achievement for interventional cardiology in India.

🫀 About the Condition

- **Sinus venosus ASD is an uncommon type of atrial septal defect where abnormal blood flow occurs between the heart's upper chambers, often associated with abnormal pulmonary vein drainage.**
- **Traditionally, the treatment of choice is open-heart surgery under cardiopulmonary bypass, which carries higher risks and longer recovery.**

🛠️ The Procedure

- **The AIIMS Bhopal team used a specially engineered covered stent to close the defect.**
- **A unique challenge was that one of the pulmonary veins drained near the defect site.**
- **To preserve its function, doctors left the stent uncovered at that segment and used a narrow catheter technique for precision placement.**
- **The intervention was carried out in the cardiac catheterization lab without open-heart surgery.**

🌟 Why This Matters

- **Minimally invasive alternative to open-heart surgery.**
- **Reduced hospital stay and quicker recovery for the patient.**
- **Demonstrates India’s growing expertise in advanced cardiac interventions.**
- **Expands the possibility of using customized stents for other complex congenital heart defects.**

🗣️ Expert Views

- **Cardiologists at AIIMS Bhopal highlighted this as a landmark procedure for central India.**
- **They noted that such precision stent techniques are rarely attempted outside specialized centers.**
- **Experts believe this approach may set the stage for wider adoption of stent-based closure of complex ASDs in India.**

📍 Broader Context

- **India faces a large burden of congenital heart disease (CHD), with nearly 2–3 lakh infants born annually with heart defects.**
- **Minimally invasive interventions can improve access, reduce risks, and cut treatment costs compared to surgery.**
- **This success adds to India’s advancing reputation in cardiology innovations, alongside earlier milestones in valve replacements and structural heart disease interventions.**