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PPP could be the model for providing better rural healthcare: Vice President

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He called upon the medical fraternity to launch nationwide awareness campaign on the health hazards posed by modern lifestyle in view of the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases



The Vice President of India, M.Venkaiah Naidu recently inaugurated GEM hospital in Chennai.

While addressing the gathering, urged doctors to visit universities and colleges to create greater awareness among students on the need for regular physical activity, eating healthy food and avoiding consumption of alcohol and tobacco.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palanisamy, the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, O. Panneerselvam, the Minister for Fisheries and Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Tamil Nadu, D. Jayakumar, the Minister for Transport, Tamil Nadu, M.R. Vijayabhaskar, the Founder of GEM Hospitals, Dr. C. Palanivelu and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

He called upon the medical fraternity to launch nationwide awareness campaign on the health hazards posed by modern lifestyle in view of the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases.

He urged the private sector to make medical treatment accessible and affordable to the common man and expressed concern over the rising cost of healthcare services and added that there have been instances in which families have been driven to penury or burdened by debts because of the high costs of treatment.

Naidu said that, “despite the efforts of governments in states and centre, healthcare faces formidable challenges in terms of low public spend, low doctor-patient ratio, low patient-bed ratio, rising out-of-pocket expenditure, dearth of medical colleges and trained doctors, inadequate infrastructure in rural areas.”

“Such challenges cannot be met by governments alone and called upon the private sector to focus more on improving health infrastructure in rural areas. The rural-urban disparity in healthcare and insurance is adding to the financial burden of the people”, he added.

Expressing concern that doctors were not spending the required time with the patients unlike in the past when the family physician used to do, the Vice President urged doctors to provide comfort to those who come to them in times of distress. You must always treat patients with empathy and provide them the much-needed human touch and healing touch, he added.

“Aayushman Bharat programme launched by the government of India would be a boon to needy and poor families in the country and would help improve the health outcomes, particularly in the rural areas. Establishment of 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres across the country aim to provide holistic healthcare”, he added.

The Vice President also said that Public Private Partnership could be the model to bridge the gap by providing technically advanced primary and secondary healthcare centres that act as the first response units to combat diseases or general ill health.