

Docs discuss ways to make healthcare wallet-friendly

TNN | Mar 13, 2011

CHENNAI: Almost ten years ago, when the [Chengulpet Government Hospital](#) did not have adequate warmers to keep newborns cozy, an electrician came up with a solution. He prepared an indigenous baby warmer using 100 watts bulb and a regulator along with a senior paediatrician.

"Today, the hospital has several state-of-the-art baby warmers. But the indigenous warmer is still used," state health secretary VK Subburaj on Saturday. Without warmers, baby's temperatures can go down leading to increased risk of infection or even organ failure. The state health department, which has been planning to increase the facilities for newborn care at the primary healthcare centres said it was considering such equipments.

"Every one working in healthcare sector has to be innovative to bring in cost-effective solutions for problems," he said at the conference on affordable healthcare organized by the Times of [India](#) along with state government and FICCI. At the Kancheerapuram district headquarter's hospital, doctors are even planning to make double-decker warmers to reduce the paucity of space.

During the meeting doctors and hospital administrators discussed the importance of prevention, early detection and treatment of several diseases. With less than 1% of the GDP spent on healthcare, many people are forced to bear the cost of healthcare all by themselves. "As per the international standards, the spending should be at least 5.5%," said GSK Velu, convenor, healthcare Panel, FICCI (TN state council).

Times of India released a coffee table book on the trailblazers of medicare community. They also felicitated 10 doctors Maxofacial surgeon Dr SM Balaji, Billroth Hospital chief Dr Rajesh Jaganathan, ophthalmologists Dr Amar Agarwal and Dr Mohan Rajan, cardiac surgeon Dr KM Cherian, Global hospital chief Dr Ravindranath, orthopedic surgeon Dr [PVA Mohandoss](#), diabetologist Dr Vijay Vishwanath, [SRM Medical College](#) chancellor Dr TR Pachamuthu and medical oncologist

The FIICI awarded for the best PHC for Banavararam in Vellore, best hospital for Government headquarters hospital in Cuddalore and **best private hospital to Aravind Eye Hospital**. The lifetime achievement award for the best doctor was given to Dr Georgi Abraham of Madras Medical Mission.