

# It's one trained doctor per 16 villages in India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** Promoting health and preventing chronic diseases have not yet been adequately incorporated in the country's agenda, said medical experts, pointing out that public health advocacy has been mostly confined to communicable diseases, population stabilisation and recently to HIV/AIDS.

Speaking at the 2nd GE Healthcare Early Health Media Summit, Dr Ali Mehdi Research Associate Indian Council of Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER) said the growing challenge of chronic diseases in the country can no longer be ignored as deaths due to NCDS would rise from 53% now to 67% by 2020.

According to a health risk assessment study done by PeopleHealth among more than 4,000 IT/ITES employees in the age group of 24-50 years in Bangalore, 31% have abnormal cholesterol, close to 55% carry a moderate risk of suffering from CVDs and diabetes, 37% suf-



fer from moderate levels of hypertension.

Referring to neonatology, S Ganesh Prasad, vice-president of clinical systems, GE Healthcare said GE Healthcare and NICE Foundation, an NGO, will work together towards two new healthcare models for creating a sustainable healthcare delivery model in maternal infant care.

The infant mortality is 56.72 for every 1000 babies born in India. 12 lakh infants die during the first month of life, which is one-fourth of the global number.