

'Punjab to improve healthcare facilities'

Healthcare is a priority for the Punjab government and many big corporate units of India have shown interest in building ultra modern hospitals in the state, MP Sukhbir Singh Badal, president of Shiromani Akali Dal, said here Friday.

'We are planning to set up more hospitals in Punjab in the coming days as we really have scarcity of good hospitals in this region. If we have hospitals then there is a lack of good technology and manpower,' Badal told reporters after inaugurating a cath lab at Fortis hospital here.

A catheterization laboratory or cath lab is an examination room in a hospital or clinic with diagnostic imaging equipment used to support the catheterisation procedure. A catheter is inserted into a large artery, and various wires and devices can be inserted through the body via the catheter which is inside the artery.

'Healthcare is one issue that has been continuously neglected by every central government since independence, but now we have to change the scenario,' Badal said.

'I personally know countless cases in Punjab where people died due to lack of medical facilities. We plan to take medical facilities to every nook and corner of the state and for that we are looking towards a fruitful association with private players.'

'The expenditure to set up this hi-tech cath lab is five times what we have for normal cath labs. Facilities available in this lab are at par with any western country,' said G.S. Kalra, director of department of cardiology, Fortis Hospital, Mohali.

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