

Anupama Singh calls for concerted effort to make Arunachal cancer free



ITANAGAR, Nov 16: Let it be the first step towards a Cancer Free Arunachal, said Arunachal Pradesh First Lady Anupama Singh while launching the 10-day state breast cancer awareness campaign at Raj Bhavan here today. She said, "Working together, marching together, fighting together, I know we will be successful. Therefore, let's spread the message that women in Arunachal Pradesh need to get smart and get screened".

Expressing her concerns, Singh said, like all of you, when I hear the word 'cancer,' I do not see anything but faces. Faces of pains, of children with family tragedies. We have

all seen what cancer does, and we are here today because we hope for a day when it does not happen to anyone anymore. This dream can happen in our lifetime, if we as an individual redouble our commitment to make it happen,

Breast cancer awareness campaign

she said.

Urging upon the State Government for more cooperation and adequate fund allocation for the programme, she said "if we fail to act today, the impediment will climb higher, benefits will erode further, and the numbers of people af-

ected will swell to include thousand more Aruachalees".

Appealing for involvement of anganwadi workers, the ASHAs, teachers and Goan Burahs, she said, early detection remains the key.

Singh suggested for organizing walkathons, rallies and small group meetings at all level and awareness campaigns through postering and distribution of pamphlets and exhibitions of foods that prevent cancers.

Muskan Society President stressed on access to cutting-edge clinical treatment for the patients and need for continued efforts in availing improved, (Contd. P-3)

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(From P-1) quality and breakthrough medications and treatments in subsidized rate. She added, that treatment is creating a situation where a single illness can wipe out a lifetime of savings.

Effort should be made to provide financial help to the patient, he said.

State Health and Family Minister Tanga Byaling, expressed his happiness that a much needed awareness campaign has been taken up by Muskan Society led by the first lady. While assuring his full cooperation for such initiatives, he urged upon all not to feel shy but turn up for regular health checking.

Visionary behind PPP in health sector in the State, Anshu Prakash, Health Commissioner said, it is a disease which not only affect the patient but the whole family due to its cost factor. Stressing on mechanism for early detection, he appealed women not to panic but face it boldly. The health commissioner assured to do all to avail maximum benefit of the GOI programmes and improve the facilities in the districts. He further said that government is looking at the mechanism followed by Assam Government, where BPL patients are given free of cost treatment.

In his keynote address, Dr. M. Basar said, breast cancer is the third commonest cancer in the state after stomach and liver cancer.

He said that state have facilities for treating cancer patients but if provided with radiotherapy facility, lot more cancer cases can be mitigated.

Dr. Basar added, that there is a proposal for an oncology wing in the General Hospital, Naharlagun which need the patronage of the State Government.

Dr. Chaitali Lokhande, the coordinator of the campaign, highlighted on the objective of the initiative. She said, breast cancer is the disease which is silently devastating lives of many women in the State, therefore, looking at the necessary and much needed initiative; the NGO took the responsibility.

In the technical session, internationally reputed breast cancer campaigner, Dr. (Capt) Ritu Biyani of 'Project Highways Infinite' said cancer knows no boundary and is a silence killer. The resources person stressing on need for awareness said we need to change our attitude towards the disease and talk openly.

Cancer survivor herself, she said, I was aware of the cancer but never took out time for myself for regular checking. Hoping the a cancer detecting machine will be provided at the earliest, she also dwelled in length on the works undertaken by her on breast cancer awareness.

Dr. Sam Tsering of General Hospital, Naharlagun through PowerPoint presentation showed the cancer cases in the State. Driving through the message that breast cancer is curable, Dr. Tsering also stressed on regular monthly checking. He also cited example of cases, where suffering of patients were prolonged by quack and religious misconceptions.

Such was the response that the hour-long meetings stretched to more than three and half hours. Hundreds of anganwadi workers, officials of Social welfare and child development department including its director R.T. Riba and large numbers of women from all walks of life and students attended the function.

Such awareness meetings will be organized at Ziro, Daporijo, Aalo, Yingkiong and Pasighat.

In the sideline of the launching programme, Muskan Society member secretary Mamta Riba, dwelt in the length on other initiatives of the Society, which includes the toy train in Nyokum Lapang ground, heart surgeries, honourium to ASHAS and de-addiction centre. (PRO to Governor)