

OnChronicle

AN EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER OF ALAMELU CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, SUPPORTED BY TATA TRUSTS



1 Welcome Note

Dear Reader,

With great delight we present to you this issue of the long-awaited OnChronicle. We decided to call it the 'Edition of Delight' as there are multiple happenings that unfolded during the past few months.

We are delighted that nine centres set up by the Cancer Care Programme got inaugurated in Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Patients at these newly-commissioned cancer care health establishments are being looked after by our own experts, including Oncology Specialist Nurses who have completed their 'Nursing Fellowship Programme'.

Our delight knows no bounds, when we are able to help a patient in early detection of cancer disease and assist through the continuum of treatment. All efforts of our Outreach Teams are focused towards flipping the early to late detection ratio. National and International observances further add an impetus to our outreach initiatives.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and it delights you too.

Happy Reading!



Content

1. Welcome note
2. Bringing alive the access pillar of Cancer Care Programme
3. Outreach initiative for early detection of cancer
4. Nursing Fellowship Programme (NFP)
5. World No Tobacco Day

2 Bringing alive the access pillar of cancer care programme



With the focus of ensuring affordable, high-quality cancer care to our fellow countrymen, closer to their homes, this specific Programme of Tata Trusts initiated its journey in 2017. Several milestones have been achieved in the last five years – setting-up cancer care facilities in a challenged period, initiating opportunistic screening kiosks in the premises of Government Hospitals, upgrading cancer care hospitals and making day care chemotherapy services available at our locations.

April, May and June 2022 were major milestone months of the programme.

The Government of Assam and Tata Trusts entered into an MoU in 2018, to set up a network of cancer care facilities. On 28th April, Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Mr. Narendra Modi and Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Trusts, inaugurated seven hospitals of the network in a function held at Dibrugarh.

The inauguration was held in the august presence of Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Governor, Assam; Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam; Mr. N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons, Mr. N. N. Tata, Trustee, Tata Trusts and a host of other ministers and dignitaries. The seven hospitals are located at Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Darrang, Jorhat and Tezpur.

The Prime Minister lauded the efforts of Tata Trusts during the inaugural address.

SVICCAR (Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care & Advanced Research), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, is a comprehensive and advanced cancer care facility in the region, which was inaugurated on 5th May by Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Mr. Y. V. Subba Reddy, Chairman, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Dr. K. S. Jawahar Reddy, IAS, Executive Officer (TTD), Mr. N. Srinath, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tata Trusts, Dr. Sanjiv Chopra, Chief Executive of ACF were present during the launch.

The Chief Minister lauded Tata Trusts for setting up the hospital and assured his support to provide cashless cancer care treatment in the State.



Yenepoya Medical College (Deemed to be University), at Deralakatte, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada District, wanted to upgrade the cancer treatment facility with the addition of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine departments. Tata Trusts supported the Institute with a grant-in-aid in establishing 'Zulekha Yenepoya Institute of Oncology' within the Medical College Hospital, thus accomplishing a comprehensive cancer care centre in Karnataka.

On 11th June 2022, Mr. Sunil Kumar, Minister of Kannada Culture and Energy Department, Karnataka, inaugurated the institute in the presence of Dr. Yenepoya Abdulla Kunhi, Chancellor, Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Mr. Srinath N., Chief Executive Officer, Tata Trusts, and Dr. Sanjiv Chopra, Chief Executive, Alamelu Charitable Foundation.



These cancer care centres in Assam, Tirupati and Yenepoya, have already started to make a positive difference in the lives of cancer patients and caregivers by making quality care services accessible to them closer to their homes. What's more, the care services are provided by our very own teams of trained doctors, nurses and technicians.

Partners who have helped us in our journey in facilitating this network are: Pfizer, DIAV, Indian Oil, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd., Engineers India Ltd., Exim Bank, BPCL, Dmart, HDB Financial Ltd. Services, IndusInd Bank, LIC Housing, Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd., Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd., Savita Oil Technologies Ltd., Voltas, UCPL, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Communications and Trent. We appreciate their partnership and collaborative spirit.

Outreach initiative for early detection of cancer



One of the key issues that challenge quality cancer care delivery in our country is late detection of cancer disease. It's a known fact that if cancer gets detected early, then it's possible to treat, improve quality of life and save lives. Outreach teams at Assam, Tirupati, Ranchi, Chandrapur and Cuttack, have been working for cancer awareness and screening, tobacco control and training of frontline health workers.

From April to June 2022 the team engaged over 35,000 people for various initiatives. Here are the key highlights of the work done during the period.

- 200 students came forward to take a pledge against tobacco consumption and participated in the walkathon at an awareness programme by **Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF)** in collaboration with District Tobacco Control Cell and Swami Yoga Nanda Giri College, **Kokrajhar**, Assam.
- A picture presentation session on cancer awareness was held for illiterate population of Dobragaon, **Kokrajhar**, Assam, in collaboration with District Social Welfare Department (ICDS).
- Beneficiaries were screened and Community Health Officers (CHOs) were provided on the job training for screening and anti-tobacco counselling, at a Health Mela in **Lakhimpur**, Assam.
- 2,000 people attended the special awareness session organized for members of the religious group 'Bahari Satra Mahasabha' at **Barpeta**.
- 30 Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) camps were conducted by **SVICCAR** team in and around **Tirupati**, for people living in remote areas and special groups like factory workers, municipal workers and dairy workers.
- The team from Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (**RCHRC**) participated in a mega health camp titled 'अबुआ बुगनि स्वास्थ्य' meaning 'our better health,' organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs at Khunti, **Jharkhand**. Beneficiaries were screened for oral, breast and cervical cancer, and also Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C infections.
- 20 Educational Institutes in **Ranchi** were supported in implementation of Tobacco Free Educational Institute (ToFEI) to curb the use of tobacco in adolescents and youth.
- In a special screening programme 523 jail inmates at District Jail, **Chandrapur**, were screened for oral, breast and cervical cancers. The team identified 4 suspects – 1 for oral cancer, 2 for breast cancer and 1 for cervical cancer, who are being followed up.
- 418 people from 33 Self Help Groups (SHGs) were sensitized at **Cuttack** and a special group screening was conducted for Odisha State Road Transport staff, wherein bus drivers and conductors were told about harmful effects of tobacco consumption and checked for oral cancer.



Activity	Number of people
Screening for NCDs along with oral, breast and cervical cancer screening	26,325
Students (adolescents and youth) engaged for anti-tobacco	7,063
GPs, Informal providers and HWC staff trained for cancer screening	1,588
Jivika Sakhis/ SHGs/ VOs trained for community awareness & tobacco control	2,456



With consistent efforts, the team is hopeful of moving the needle from late-to-early detection.

4

Nursing Fellowship Programme (NFP)



All-round care calls for quality infrastructure and manpower. Human resource development is an important part of the Distributed Model of Cancer Care.

Our Nursing Fellowship Programme (NFP) spread over a period of 11 months hones the competencies of nurses. They are enabled to deliver evidence-based high quality care to patients diagnosed with various types of cancer.

8 nurses from SVICCAR, Tirupati, completed their fellowship in June 2022. As of June 2022, 13 nurses from RCHRC, Ranchi and 9 nurses from SVICCAR, Tirupati, are undergoing the fellowship programme.

As a part of the NFP, post their preliminary theory and practical examination, the nurses have also completed their research projects.

S. Vijayakumari is an Oncology Specialist Nurse at SVICCAR. She completed her B.Sc. Nursing and joined SVICCAR in 2021. Here's what she has to say about the rigorous training she recently completed:

"I had to appear for a written test to join SVICCAR. I cleared the test with a good score. At the time of selection, I was informed that all Oncology Specialist Nurses at SVICCAR undergo the Nursing Fellowship Program (NFP). As a fresher this was a golden opportunity.

As part of NFP, I underwent 60 days training at Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai. At TMH, I worked under the supervision of an experienced team. I learnt about various aspects of cancer care through postings in OPD, Radiotherapy, Medical and Surgical Oncology Wards. NFP enhanced my clinical knowledge by caring for the patients and their caregivers, through case presentations to clinical team and health education to patients and families.

Apart from postings in the clinical set-up of a hospital, I also got posted in Community Health settings where I involved myself in screening for early detection and actively participated in Outreach Community programs.

My dream about growing in my professional career has turned true with my enrolment in NFP which is a 1st step towards preparing myself to be an Oncology Nurse.

I am very thankful to the management of SVICCAR and specially, my mentors from the Nursing team for empowering me with all opportunities towards my career growth."



World No Tobacco Day

Tobacco consumption is linked to at least 20 cancer types - oral cancers, lung, liver, stomach, bowel and ovarian cancers, as well as some types of leukaemias. Tobacco products cause some 2.4 million deaths globally every year and about 25% of cancer related deaths happen due to tobacco consumption.



Tobacco use burdens the global economy with an estimated US\$ 1.4 trillion in healthcare costs and lost productivity each year.

If tobacco use is curbed, a large number of cancer cases can be prevented. Quitting tobacco at any age can make an immense difference for the user, increasing life expectancy and improving the quality of life.

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is an annual awareness day taking place on 31st May. It is observed with an inherent idea to raise awareness of the ill effects caused by tobacco products to people, public health, communities and the environment.

Our Outreach Teams have adopted a multi-pronged strategy, wherein they work with law-enforcement agencies to minimise public smoking and with the education department to make schools tobacco-free and NGOs, NSS groups to ensure maximum coverage of awareness initiatives. The teams engage with school and college students, sensitizing them on harmful effects of tobacco through educational sessions and creative approaches like poster and quiz competitions, etc.



A campaign was developed to support the team's efforts and to amplify the communication. The communication comparing harmful effects of tobacco to war, tobacco can leave people speechless and 'how nobody wants to face harmful effects of tobacco' was rolled out.

The team carried out multiple activities:

- SVICCAR, Tirupati, conducted multiple activities on the occasion - awareness sessions for corporate employees, industrial workforce, school and college students, rally by nursing students and health camps using the Mobile Medical Unit.



- RCHRC, Ranchi, collaborated with multiple stakeholders. In association with the State Tobacco Control Cell (STCC) an online questionnaire, focusing on harmful effects of tobacco, was rolled out amongst students and youth. Awareness sessions were conducted for students of coaching centres as a part of 'Tambaku Ko Kahen Na' campaign of Prabhat Khabar Newspaper. Community sensitization was conducted through a special programme on community radio, Radio Khanchi which is being promoted by Ranchi University.



- 349 beneficiaries were screened at two special screening camps organized for workers of ACC Cement Plant at Chandrapur and for construction workers at CCCF hospital site and new campus of GMC, Chandrapur.

