

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ASSOCIATION OF RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS OF INDIA - NORTH EAST CHAPTER, 2019 ON 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019 AT CLASSIC GRANDE, IMPHAL

Dr. Shyam Tsering, President, Association of Radiation Oncologists of India,  
Friends from Media,

All the Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to be with you all here today, especially in a Conference of Association of Radiation Oncologists of India, North-East Chapter, 2019.

As you all are well aware that cancer disease has become highly endemic in the North-East and Manipur is no exception. I also would like to take the opportunity of sending my best wishes to the cancer patients, their families and relatives on this important occasion.

Cancer is one of the diseases which can strike any one, irrespective of age, sex, profession or economic status. More and more people in the region are falling prey to this dreaded disease and unfortunately, detection of the disease is done often at a late stage when it is too late for effective treatment and cure. About 80% of cancer patients, at some stage of treatment or the other find themselves struggling to cope with financial requirement for treatment. Hence, the management of finances is a vital issue which needs to be tackled like the treatment of the disease itself. Therefore, I strongly believe that awareness campaign for regular health check-up should remain central to any efforts for countering this disease.

As you are all well aware that cancer management calls for a highly specialized team of Doctors such as Radiation, Oncologists, Surgical Oncologists, Medical Oncologists, Palliative Care givers, Oncology nurses,

etc. The team has to work harmoniously and seamlessly, inter-disciplinary consultancies and tumour boards must be held regularly and adoption of evidence based standard treatment protocols are the hallmarks of a good cancer hospital.

Organization of such a Conference is important and at the same time, essential in the North-East because cancer pattern is different from other parts of the country mainly due to lifestyle and genetic character prevalent in the area. This Conference provides a platform for deliberations on the newer aspects of cancer treatment. The fast advancement in the field of Radiation Oncology has immensely benefitted persons suffering from cancer and I am hopeful that this Conference where about 100 Oncologists from all over the country are congregating will dwell not only on the latest advancements but also look into the aspect of better care of those suffering from cancer.

Though, I am not a Doctor, here today, in the presence of Specialists and eminent resource persons in this field, I would request you that this type of Conference should be held regularly with the main objective of creating awareness among the people about the fact that people can survive cancer and the diagnosis of the dreadful disease does not necessarily lead to death. Cancer survivors, care givers, cancer patients, doctors, advocates, economists, politicians and people from different walks of life should join together to encourage those who are under treatment. It is also a matter of great satisfaction to know that eminent resource persons are also participating in this Conference and will have a fruitful deliberation and explore ways and means to contain and prevent this dreadful disease.

I am fully confident that the contribution of the Association of Radiation Oncologists will certainly help in checking and treating cancer in Manipur for which they should continue their endeavours for fulfillment of what they have targeted.

I extend my best wishes to the people suffering from cancer and pray for their speedy recovery and long life. I also wish the Conference a grand success.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.