

**Report on the sixth event organized by ACTREC Alumni Association on 'Cancer Screening and Support Awareness Abhiyaan (CSSAA-2)' at Bharatiya Tatwadyan Vishvasta Mandal Hall, Bhandup Village, Bhandup (E), Mumbai on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**

The sixth AAA event was organized in collaboration with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Bhandup (E) at Bharatiya Tatwadyan Vishvasta Mandal Hall, Bhandup Village, Bhandup (E), Mumbai. The event was sponsored by Biocon OncoTherapeutics. Shri Vivek Bhagwat, Secretary, RSS Mulund-Chembur welcomed the participants. This year 2012 is being considered as 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Shri Bhagwat informed all that arranging the CSSAA event in collaboration with ACTREC Alumni Association was a step of RSS, Bhandup (E) Vibhag towards health-related awareness in youths and adults of central Mumbai, on occasion of commemorating 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Later Dr. Jyoti Kode, Secretary, AAA introduced ACTREC Alumni Association activities to all. Shri Bhagwat introduced lead speaker Dr Ashish Bakshi as Alumni Member AAA and currently In-charge, Bone Marrow Transplantation Division Medical Oncologist at Hiranandani Hospital. He also introduced Dr Tanuja Teni, EC member of AAA and currently working as Senior scientist at ACTREC. Both the speakers were felicitated with bouquet of flowers and a set of books on biography of Swami Vivekanand. Dr. Bakshi discussed in details information on common cancers in men and women viz. oral cancer, prostate cancer (men), breast cancer and cervical cancer (women) with emphasis on pre-disposing factors, exposure to tobacco or fat-rich diet, diagnosis, and importance of prevention and management of these cancers. This was interactive session and many participants got their queries answered in language of their own comfort (marathi, hindi and english). This was followed by talk by Dr Teni on basic mechanism of cancer formation and various modern technical tools to identify and study cancer cause, development of treatment modalities. She also introduced to all, ACTREC as premiere institute in India with mandate of Research, Treatment and Education in Cancer. She also explained organizational structure, various departments and their contribution towards mandate of ACTREC. Secretary, AAA introduced speakers of Support Systems in Cancer Management Dr Shashank Ojha, In-charge, Blood Transfusion Unit and Dr Praveen Clement, Medical Officer, Marrow Donor Registry India (MDRI). Dr. Ojha gave short presentation on importance of blood components and platelet donation during serious health ailments as well as during cancer treatments. Dr Praveen Clement delivered brief presentation on mandate of Marrow Donor Registry India (MDRI) and appealed all to become registered members. Both talks were followed by answers to queries raised by participants. Ms. Harshala and Ms. Rekha, team members of MDRI as well as Dr Meenal and Ms Aarti Hirve, team members of Platelet Donation group registered the participants by accepting their registration-cum-consent forms and collected 10 ml blood samples from each of them. In all, around 65 participants attended the event. The age group was around 35-60 years. Thirteen of them registered themselves for MDRI and Eleven participants registered themselves for platelet donation voluntary programme. There were requests by coordinator of the event and Secretary, RSS Mulund-Chembur group for holding more of such awareness programs for those who could not attend the event for some reasons. The program ended at 2.15 pm with refreshments to all. In following two weeks 7 participants were called for platelet support for needy patients and they voluntarily travelled to institute and performed their social responsibility. This indicated the success of such program for patient welfare.