

Goa should be prepared to face global epidemic crises : Health Minister Francis D'souza

Saturday 27th July 2015

“Global epidemics are becoming an serious concern across the world, and Goa should be well prepared to face and combat any such situation in future”, implied Honourable Deputy Chief Minister & Health Minister of Goa, Shri. Francis D'souza as he addressed the valedictory session at recently held ICG Seminar on “Goa's Response to Global Epidemics”. This programme was organised by The International Centre Goa (ICG) in association with Directorate of Health Services (DHS) and Indian Medical Association (IMA), Tiswadi.

Nila Mohanan, District Collector – North Goa; chief guest at the inaugural session; in her address, reviewed the recent global epidemics and implied on developing a mechanism for earlier detection of potential epidemic and an impetus to nullify the same. Khwaja Ayub Zickriya, GM - ICG, Dr. Jose D'sa, Deputy Director - DHS and Dr. Prasad Netravalkar, President, IMA - Goa also spoke at the inaugural function.

The primary objective of the one day seminar was to discuss various issues with respect to strategies presently being adopted in epidemic diseases monitoring and surveillance, evaluate preventive healthcare facilities and make recommendations to enhance Goa's preparedness to such global epidemics in future.

Dr. Rajendra Tamba, ex - state epidemiologist was the chairperson in working session 1 on surveillance & outbreak response. During this session; Dr. Utkarsh Betodkar, epidemiologist, DHS spoke about various governmental guidelines followed in eventuality of epidemic situation . Dr. A.K. Mandal, port health officer described the surveillance protocol implemented at air and sea ports and Dr. Umesh Kamat, President IMA – Tiswadi spoke about the observations made by medical practitioners in general population during recent outbreaks.

Dr. Amit Dias, lecturer – preventive and social medicine, GMC chaired working session 2 on public health care & Goa's preparedness for future epidemics. During this session; Dr. Kedar Raikar, medical officer incharge – PHC Corlim spoke about the facilities available at public health centres across the state. Ms. Jyoti Sardesai, Deputy Director – FDA spoke about availability and procurement of vaccines and treatment drugs during recent outbreaks . Dr. Sunanda Amonkar, Medical Superintendent - GMC spoke about the infrastructure at the apex hospital in response to epidemic situations.

Development of contingency plans and standard operating procedures in view of epidemic crises, community awareness programmes with help of NGO's and dedicated isolation ward at government hospitals were among the many recommendations made at the programme . The final list of recommendations will be shortly submitted to the directorate of health services for necessary action.

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