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July, 2017

DNA based Diagnostics for Early Detection of Cervical Cancer for 500 women in Kolhapur District in Maharashtra



Cervical Cancer is the number one cancer and has one of the highest death rates among Indian women. Three-quarters of the world's burden of cervical cancer falls on developing countries such as India. **In India, every 7 minutes one woman dies and daily over 200 women die of cervical cancer and it is increasing.** Late presentation of women with cervical cancer is predominantly due to both inadequate knowledge and lack of effective screening, especially in rural areas. Cervical cancer is preventable, but most women in remote villages do not have access to information about this cancer and also effective screening programmes which can save their lives. Currently there are no organized screening programs for this preventable but deadly disease in India.

In order to tackle this deadly disease among women; Scitech Park, Pune conducted screening programme for 500 women beneficiaries from remote villages in Kolhapur in order to start a crusade and save women's lives against cervical cancer with the unique and innovative diagnostic technology - Digene HPV Test.

The Pilot project for cervical screening of the 500 rural women was conducted at Panhala, Apati, Kodoli, Kale, Mahe, Pohale T. Alate, Sangwade, Arag and Shirol villages from Kolhapur district. This programme was conducted mainly to get an entry point to introduce cervical cancer prevention services in the local health services in Kolhapur District and serve as a focal point to train appropriate health volunteers/personnel in screening, early detection, treatment and follow-up of cervical pre-cancers in remote villages of Kolhapur.

3.2% is the average positive rate for the total 500 samples collected from different villages of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. This is a very serious finding that has come out because of this pilot screening programme.

This initiative was supported by ECGC Ltd. Mumbai under their CSR programme.

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Dec, 2017

Scitech Water ATM launched at Ganeshpurwadi and Dharajwadi villages in Bidar District, Karnataka



Scitech Park, Pune successfully launched Scitech Water ATM on 12th December, 2017 at Ganeshpurwadi and Dharajwadi villages in Bidar District, Karnataka.

The event was graced by Shri. Bhagwant Khuba, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bidar, Karnataka State as the Chief Guest. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Mr. Prakash Khandre, Former MLA, Bhalki Tehsil, Karnataka; Mr. Anant Bhosale, Sarpanch, Ganeshpurwadi; Mr. Shivaji Narvekar, Deputy General Manager (DoP of GM), ECGC Ltd, Mumbai; and Dr. Rajendra Jagdale, Director General & CEO, Science and Technology Park, Pune.

Scitech Park, Pune has installed 2 Scitech Water ATM machines – one each in Ganeshpurwadi and Dharajwadi villages of Bhalki Tehsil in Bidar District, Karnataka which would facilitate in providing clean safe drinking water to around 2500 villagers. This initiative was funded by ECGC Ltd., Mumbai under their CSR Programme.

Providing Solar LED Home Lighting System to Remote Tribal Hamlets within Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra



There are several areas in Maharashtra which are very poorly connected with grid and some of them have no connectivity at all. There is no proper grid connectivity identified in the Wildlife Sanctuaries and developmental activities are not allowed inside especially near the core zone. One such wildlife sanctuary near Pune is Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, and there are several tribal hamlets which do not have grid connection yet.



Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary spread over the area of 130.78 sq. km. was notified by the State Government of Maharashtra in 1985, under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The sanctuary is situated on the crest of Western Ghats that is recognized as one of the 12-biodiversity hotspots of the world. The sanctuary harbors large diversity of endemic & specialized flora and fauna. Sanctuary is home to the state animal of Maharashtra- *Ratufa indica elphistonii*, sub species of the Indian Giant squirrel that is one of three threatened Indo-Malayan squirrel species.

The sanctuary also has great cultural, religious and historic significance. The sanctuary has 14 sacred groves. These are patches of near virgin forests traditionally protected by the local people because of spiritual sentiments associated with these. Sanctuary is named after Bhimashankar temple located inside the sanctuary and surrounded by Bhimashankar sacred grove. The temple is considered to be one of the twelve Jyotirlingas (self emerged) Shiva temples in the country, making it one of the important pilgrimages for Hindus. A total of 18 villages and their hamlets are geographically located inside the sanctuary. These villages and hamlets cover a total area of 148 sq. km. and are inhabited by about 3000 people.

Scitech Park, Pune supported by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India through its Technology Business Incubation Programme as per the established guidelines of National Science & Technology Entrepreneur Development Board of Department of Science & Technology Government of India, has incubated GetMy Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and with the help of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India's Seed Funding and its incubatee company has introduced the Innovative Solar LED Home Lighting System. Distinct in its technology as compared to the available market products having highly efficient and maintenance free inbuilt Lithium Phosphate battery which can be fully charged within 8 hrs through solar panel even during cloudy weather giving 8 - 10hrs of back up. The Lamps developed are maintenance free with a life span of 3-5 years.

Scitech Park, Pune is providing light to 507 beneficiaries from the villages viz., Nigdale (Mhatarbachiwadi and Gothewadi), Kondhval (Gavandewadi, Dhagewadi and Padarwadi), Pimpargane and Bhimashankar Gaonthan covering Bhimashankar-1 which do not have proper grid connectivity; by distributing Solar LED Home lighting Systems. Since these hamlets have very poor grid connectivity or no connectivity at all; this would help several families immensely who are completely deprived of electricity.

This initiative is being supported by New India Assurance Company Ltd, Pune RO.