

UBF Diary

January 2021

Dr P Raghu Ram conferred the OBE— Officer of the Most Excellent Order of British Empire

- One of the youngest surgeons of Indian origin to get the prestigious award
- Given to those who have 'gone the extra mile' in their service and stand 'head and shoulders' above others in their distinction
- Governor of Telangana felicitates Dr Raghu Ram on being honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in the 2021 New Year's Honours list

Dr TAMILISAI Soundararajan, governor of Telangana felicitated Dr P Raghu Ram at Raj Bhavan on January 9, for being honoured in the 2021 New Year's Honours list by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with the prestigious OBE—Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The governor paid tributes to Dr Raghu Ram on becoming one of the youngest surgeons of Indian origin in over 100 years, to be conferred with UK's second highest ranking Order of the British Empire award (excluding a knighthood/damehood). It was given to Dr Raghu Ram in recognition of his outstanding services towards improving breast cancer care and surgical education in India and for UK-India relations.

The British Honours system aims to show gratitude publicly to those who have 'gone the extra mile' in their service and who stand 'head and shoulders' above others in their distinction.

Meanwhile, Dr Raghu Ram too expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Telangana government for giving him the opportunity and encouragement over the past 13 years, which has enabled him to implement several landmark initiatives, replicating the best of British practices in breast healthcare in Telangana and India.

"I feel immensely proud to be a 'living bridge' between the UK and India and I dedicate this incredible recognition to my family, and equally, to my patients who have given me the unique privilege to be involved in their care. I owe a deep sense of gratitude to the Board of Directors of KIMS Hospitals, who gave me a free hand to translate my vision into reality and to my colleagues at KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases & Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, for their extraordinary contribution to ensure the best possible care to my patients," he said.



Dr Smt TAMILISAI Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana felicitating Dr Raghu Ram



Hyderabad Turns a Powerful Pink for 10th year in a Row



Established in 2007, Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation (UBF), a not-for-profit breast cancer charity has completed 13 eventful years.

Through the Foundation's consistent innovative initiatives, breast cancer is no longer a 'closet issue' in this region—it is a commonly discussed topic now thus bringing about the much-needed awareness resulting in more lives being saved.

Hyderabad is the only city in Asia to have prominent buildings and historic monuments turn pink in one

night since 2010. Despite the ongoing pandemic, Charminar, the Buddha statue and KIMS Hospital were illuminated in pink on September 30 evening, for a record tenth consecutive year, to mark the beginning of International Breast Cancer Awareness month in October.

The idea was started by the Estee Lauder group of companies in 2000, when they illuminated their buildings around the world in pink, to mark the breast cancer month and this campaign caught on worldwide.

The UBF Oration: Saving Lives with Early Detection

The International Breast Cancer awareness month kicked off with the 2020 edition of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Oration virtually delivered by K Sujatha Rao, former union health secretary on October 4, 2020.

'Gift your loved ones, who are 40 years or older, an annual mammography screening, instead of a sari or something else during Dasara and Diwali' – this was the heartfelt message by Dr Ushalakshmi, founder chairman of UBF and a gritty, breast cancer conqueror.

Raj Bhavan support

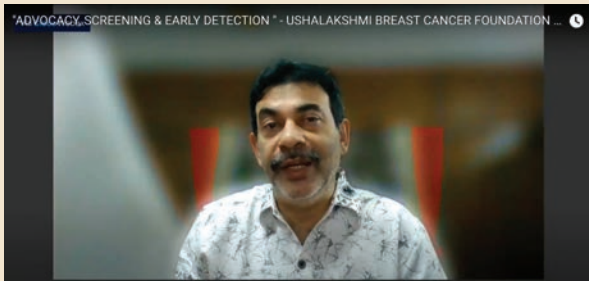
Speaking on the occasion, Telangana governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan, who was chief guest of the programme, said that she has been encouraged by UBF's inspiring Pink Ribbon campaign for over a decade. To strengthen the campaign in the state, Raj Bhavan would be illuminated in pink on the last day of October 2020, she added.



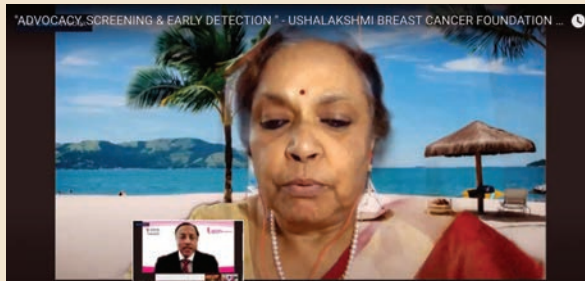
Chief Guest Dr Smt Tamilisai Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana



Dr K Ushalakshmi, Founder Chairman of UBF



Jayesh Ranjan, Chief Advisor, UBF



Sujatha Rao, Former Union Health Secretary, Govt. of India

In her oration, talking about 'Breast cancer advocacy, screening and early detection of breast cancer', K Sujatha Rao said breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women in India.

"If diagnosed early and treated early, many lives can be saved. It is for this reason that the government is focusing on raising awareness, early screening and diagnosis among women," she said, adding that India needs to step up the number of oncologists and other allied specialities, and upskill physicians, and nurses working in district hospitals and primary health care centres.



Dr B Bhaskar Rao, Managing Director, KIMS Hospitals

December 2020

ASICON 2020

A Memorable Virtual Conference in Challenging Times

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 80th annual Congress of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASICON 2020) was held as a virtual event. More than 6,000 surgeons from India and abroad participated in this three-day Congress held from December 16 to 19.

Delivering his presidential address, Dr P Raghu Ram said that it has been a god-given opportunity, a great honour and an incredible privilege to serve the esteemed association, which is Asia Pacific's largest and the world's second largest surgical organisation.

"Insight, integrity and inspiration have been the three pillars of reference in my leadership journey. Over the past 24 months, both in my role as vice-president and president ASI, I have been working to the best of my abilities to ensure creative leadership and accountable governance, which has been my "mantra". The expectations and views of "grassroot" members have been uppermost in my mind, all along. As I come to the end of my tenure, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the membership for electing me to this apex position, with an unprecedented victory margin, never before witnessed in ASI's 82-year-old history."



His Excellency Dr Lotay Tshering, Hon'ble PM of Bhutan

In the history of the association, this was the very first time that a prime minister of a country graced an important ASI ceremony as the chief guest. Dr Raghu Ram said that this speaks volumes about the enormous credibility, high regard and extraordinary impact that the association has earned for itself worldwide.

"The PM of Bhutan, Dr Lotay Tshering is an epitome of simplicity, who is transforming Bhutan and he would hopefully serve as an inspiration to the over 6,000 surgeons, who are participating in this scientific extravaganza," Dr Raghu Ram said.

Meanwhile, delivering his chief guest's address virtually during the convocation ceremony, Bhutan PM, Dr Lotay Tshering said, "It is important to be good human beings first and later good surgeons. It is important to adhere to the Hippocratic oath. Surgeons operate with a knife and I have the advantage of operating with the pen as a politician and with a knife as a surgeon. I am a surgeon first and forever. Politics is only a passing phase in my life."

Dr Lotay Tshering further spoke about the Gross National Happiness (GNH), which is a philosophy that has been the guiding force for Bhutan that aims for collective happiness and well-being of a population. As a doctor himself, he emphasised to the surgical fraternity the importance of serving selflessly for the greater good of humanity.

Justice G Raghuram, director, National Judicial Academy, who inaugurated the conference said in his address, "I compliment and commend Dr Raghu Ram for implementing a creative leadership and accountable governance in the association, during the most disastrous pandemic year and for raising over ₹1 crore towards procuring and delivering the much-needed PPEs and hand sanitisers to frontline healthcare workers across the nation."

"I am very happy to learn about the landmark online training initiatives spearheaded by the association over the past few months, which would certainly pave the path towards significantly improving surgical care in the country. I commend the surgical fraternity for the yeomen service in these challenging times, many times sacrificing their personal comfort, braving all odds of equipment



Justice G Raghuram, Director, National Judicial Academy

shortages, spending sleepless nights, and also putting their families at risk as well. There is a need to revisit and adhere to the nuanced ethical norms during these challenging times, and importantly adhere to the Hippocratic oath at all times," said Justice Raghuram.

(A bird's eye view of Dr Raghu Ram's visionary leadership journey as President ASI 2020 'The year that was' can be accessed by reading the Editorial, published in the December 2020 issue of the Indian Journal of Surgery, which is the 'voice for surgery' in India) Here is the link:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12262-020-02675-0>



President, ASI in Conversation
with Sadhguru at ASICON 2020
Compassionate Knife

Compassionate Knife - an Interaction with Sadhguru

Dr Raghu Ram interacted with Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of Isha Foundation in a programme titled "Compassionate Knife", in which Dr Raghu Ram posed a few questions related to the challenges and dilemmas faced by the medical fraternity and sought Sadhguru's answers to them. This interview was showcased during prime time at the conference and has so far been watched by over 83,000 people worldwide.

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7GK4Ca_In4