

Is there life after cancer?

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Cancer Sahyog, the oldest cancer support group in the country, is holding a seminar on 'Life after Cancer' at India International Centre on its 12th anniversary on October 6.

The seminar will focus on the effects of cancer on relationships. Mr P.K. Ghosh, Secretary of Cancer Sahyog and a cancer survivor, says that they will present the case of three cancer survivors (a couple and a man) who will narrate their experiences following the diagnosis.

In September-end, Cancer Care India will formally constitute Cancer Care India, an apex body of cancer support groups.

According to Mr Ghosh, General Secretary of Cancer Care India, cancer support groups from various parts of the country are expected to attend the first governing body meeting at the office of Can Support in Shahpur Jat, Asiad Village. Cancer support groups which will be represented at the meeting are Sankalp in Bhillai, Sahayta Charitable Welfare Society, Chandigarh, Calcutta Association of Laryngectomees, and Kolkata-based Laryngectomees Club, Hitaishini and Prerak, Chennai-based Can Stop and Sanctuary, Vasantah Memorial Trust in Coimbatore, Cancer Concern Society in Dehra Dun, Tej Ram Memorial Cancer Society, Laryngectomee Club of India, Mastectomees' Association, Can Support and Cancer Patients Aid Association in Delhi, Cancer Support Group in Jamshedpur, V Care and Dream Foundation in Mumbai. The objective behind setting up the apex body is to coordinate the activities of all support groups, advocate for common issues with the government, protect the interests of cancer patients and also help in organising more cancer support groups in the country.

Twenty volunteers (cancer survivors) of Cancer Sahyog provide emotional support to cancer patients in cancer clinics at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute, Army Reference and Research Hospital and Batra Hospital.