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ARTIST Gets to Partner With ASSOCHAM in Tackling Diabetes

NEW DELHI - India's oldest industry association ASSOCHAM is actively involved in promoting health awareness among its members. On November 14th, ASSOCHAM organised India conference on World Diabetes Day.



Asian Research and Training Institute for Skill Transfer (ARTIST) with a focus on advocacy campaigns, awareness building, capacity building and research participated in ASSOCHAM conference as a Knowledge Partner. ARTIST received the honour as it has been working to improve the capabilities and competencies of Obstetrics & Gynaecologists (ObGyns) in India.

ARTIST conducts training, teaching and research in order to fill knowledge gaps. Having conceptualised and implemented ARTIST work, Dr. Hema Divakar, the CEO and Chairperson of ARTIST said as the keynote speaker of the ASSOCHAM conference, **"Let us talk solutions, move from awareness to action."**

Dr. Hema Divakar is a renowned obstetrician and gynaecologist, researcher, technical advisor to ministry of health and family welfare, IDF (International Diabetes Federation) spokeswoman for South Asia and Co-Chair of NCD Committee FIGO (International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics).

IDF ATLAS released on 14th Nov 2019, estimates that three in four people with diabetes are in low- and middle-income countries and one in six live births (20 million) is affected by hyper glycaemia in pregnancy.

Dr. Hema Divakar explained the importance of numbers. *"The Atlas records that one in two adults with diabetes are undiagnosed. Women of Indian ethnic origin are eleven times more prone to gestational diabetes, and estimated prevalence is 10 to 14%. We are yet to implement the gestational diabetes guidelines on universal testing of all pregnant women in India. Even then, we have four million cases of high blood sugars in pregnant women*



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in India, each year. We are not yet able to document the overall figures in the Indian population. We should have credible data based on research and this will help improve collaborations and efficacy in existing programme" she added.

Gender influences vulnerability to diabetes, affects access to health services and health seeking behaviour for women. This amplifies both short-term and long-term adverse impact of diabetes on women's health. Until and unless urgent action is taken to systematically address the issue, it has the potential to undo the gains in maternal and new-born health achieved in the last decade and further worsen the ongoing diabetes and obesity epidemic.

Dr Hema Divakar said, *"IDF has joined hands with FIGO & FOGSI, which are the international and national professional organisations of obstetrician-gynaecologist to spread awareness about gestational diabetes among the rural communities of India."*

Shri Satyendar Jain, Minister of Health, Govt. of NCT of Delhi unveiled the ARTIST knowledge partner brochure in ASSOCHAM at New Delhi. Along with him were, **Shri Anil Rajput**, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council and Senior Vice President Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd; **Mr. Saurabh Sanyal**, Deputy Secretary General ASSOCHAM **Dr. Sunil Gupta**, Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital; **Dr. Ambrish Mittal**, M.D., D.M. Chairman, HOD, Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Medanta, The Medicity, Gurugram, and **Dr. G.V. Divakar**, Managing Director of ARTIST, a research and training wing of Divakars Speciality Hospital.

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