

## **Symbiosis initiative: Medical aid for Pandharpur Wari – June 2017**

The PANDHARPUR WARI, a distinct form of pilgrimage has been taking place for more than 700 years. Annually hundreds of thousands of WARKARIS travel on foot to have a glimpse of Lord Vitthal. The nearly two week long journey culminates at the famous Vithoba Temple at Pandharpur in Maharashtra on Ekadashi (11th day) of the Hindu calendar month of Ashadha.

Punekars' welcome the palakhi of Shri Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj & Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj with much zeal and gusto in the month of June/July every year which starts from Alandi & Dehu respectively. This year the palakhi was welcomed by PuneKars' on 18th June 2017.

From 18th June 2017 to 20th June 2017, Symbiosis Centre of Health Care (SCHC) and Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences (SIHS) in association with Mrs. Sheela Raj Salve Memorial Trust, arranged four mobile medical units to offer free primary medical aid by emergency medical practitioners for warkaris. The overall logistics & crowd management was looked after by the MBA students of Hospital & Health care Management, SIHS.

The Inaugural ceremony was organized at Vishwabhawan, Symbiosis on 17th June 2017. Mrs. Mukta Tilak, Mayor, Pune city inaugurated the medical services by Symbiosis for the warkaris and delivered an inaugural speech wherein she applauded the efforts taken by Symbiosis in providing free primary medical aid to warkaris. Padmabhusan Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, President & Founder, Symbiosis elaborated on the Symbiosis initiative in the Community Outreach Program. Mrs. S. S. Mujumdar Hon. Director, AMM Symbiosis, Mr. Avinash Salve, Corporator PMC and many dignitaries attended & expressed their opinion on this noble initiative spearheaded by Symbiosis & Sheela Raj Salve Memorial Trust. This was followed by the departure of the mobile medical units for the wari from Symbiosis campus to specified locations.

Last year the total number of warkaris served were 45, 433. This year the total number of warkaris served is 41, 668. The warkaris were treated for various ailments like acute gastro enteritis, fever, acute respiratory tract infection, different kinds of minor injuries, aches / pains etc. The event was successfully managed by SCHC Medical Officers, Emergency medical practitioners' and the MBA students which was applauded by one and all.

The Symbiosis management including Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar & many teaching & non-teaching staff members of Faculty of Health & Biomedical Sciences joined the warkaris by walking in the holy procession for a stretch of nearly 22 km from Pune to Manter Wadi on 20th June 2017. This as cited later by many employees of Symbiosis was an experience of a lifetime.

Chief Guest Mrs. Mukta Tilak, Mayor, Pune City, Padmabhushan Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Founder & President, Symbiosis and the emergency medical practitioners during inaugural function.



Primary medical aid given by Symbiosis doctors to Pandharpur warkaris

