

Geriatric facility planned at Nimhans

BANGALORE, DHNS: Here's some good news for the elderly suffering from serious health problems.

A geriatric centre is coming up at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) campus for their benefit. The centre will come up next to the SDS Sanatorium Hospital.

Minister of State for Medical Education Dr Sharanprakash Patil said on Tuesday that the centre would be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore and he would bring up the matter before the next cabinet meeting.

He was speaking during the joint commemoration of the

World Alzheimer's Day (observed on September 21), International Day of Older Persons (October 1) and World Mental Health Day (October 10) at the Nimhans premises.

"The centre will have 15-20 beds and ward facilities. It will render both physical and mental health services. I want similar centres to be set up in Gulbarga and Mysore. I will speak to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in this regard," said Patil.

The minister said that the idea for a geriatric centre was mooted by Shashidhar Buggi, Director of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases. Nimhans-like institutes should be set up in other parts of the

State, so that patients need not come all the way to Bangalore, he said.

Nimhans director Dr P Satishchandra said that the Centre had asked them to carry out a national mental health survey to get a clear picture of the number of people suffering from mental diseases and their requirements.

"We will conduct the pilot survey in Kolar in November. It will take a minimum of two months to complete. The survey will take one year to be conducted across the State and will probably start in March, 2014. Also on our agenda is a heritage museum within the campus," Satishchandra said.



CREATING AWARENESS: An exhibition organised as part of World Mental Health Day at Nimhans in the City on Tuesday. DH PHOTO