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NATS to help polio victims

Special Correspondent



North America Telugu Society president Gangadhar Desu addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Friday. Photo: Ch.Vijaya Bhaskar The Hindu

Registration of the victims to be done in a phased manner, says its president

The North America Telugu Society (NATS), a non-profit organisation that serves Telugus, will provide rehabilitation to all polio victims in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

NATS president Desu Gangadhar addressing the media here on Friday said the Government of India had announced that India would be polio free by March 2015.

The NATS would provide rehabilitation to those who have already been maimed by the disease.

Helpline

The registration of the polio victims would be done in a phased manner, district-wise, Mr Gangadhar said. Mr. Gangadhar said there were over eight lakh Telugus residing in North America today and the NATS was extending various services to them and also Telugus in India and other parts of the world.

It was able to resolve various problems of the Telugus residing in North America through its toll free helpline 1888-4-TELUGU (1888-483-5848).

Besides the Telugus, who were permanent residents, several students who were visiting and their parents were contacting the helpline when there were in distress. Many of the calls were about domestic violence and problems with immigration department.

The problem of the Tri-Valley University students was resolved by the NATS, Mr. Gangadhar said.

Free medical camps were conducted for Telugu students and others who did not have health insurance. NATS was running a free health clinic in New Jersey for over a year now, he said.

One of NATS's primary objectives was propagating Telugu language and culture and as part of that the organisation held events at Florida in 2009, New Jersey in 2011 and Dallas in 2013.

The next "America Telugu Sambaralu" would be held from July 2 to 4, 2015 at Los Angeles. He said teachers were taken from here to the United States to train Telugus living there to give performances in these cultural events.

He said Telugus interested in learning more about NATS and its services could do so by visiting website www.natsworld.org.

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