



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



World Cancer Day (February 04)

Strengthening Cancer Care in India

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

February 03, 2022

“The effort is that the citizens of the whole country can get the benefits of the schemes of the central government, anywhere in the country, there should be no restriction for that. This is the spirit of One Nation, One Health”

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

INTRODUCTION

World Cancer Day is a global event taking place every year on 4th February to unite people worldwide in the fight against cancer. Its aim is to raise awareness and education about cancer, sensitize governments and individuals across the world to take action

Globally about 8.8 million people die from cancer each year; if left unchecked, the number of deaths will increase to 13.2 million per year by 2030. The five most frequent cancers in India are breast cancer, cervical cancer, oral cancer, lung and colorectal cancer.

CANCER SITUATION IN INDIA

Cancer is rapidly emerging as a matter of public health concern in India. In 2020, there were an estimated 1.39 million cancers in India. Globally, cancer is among the leading causes of death, contributing to about 10 million deaths during 2020.¹

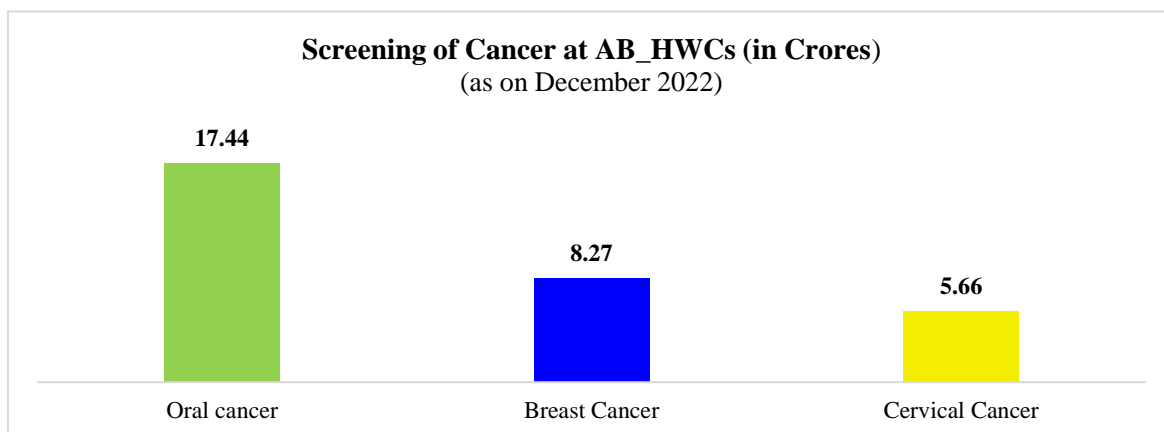
Cancer is being diagnosed and treated at various levels in the Government health care system. The Government has taken a range of steps in recent years to address the challenge of cancer more effectively. These range from population-level initiatives for prevention, control and screening for common types of cancer and strengthening cancer care infrastructure.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CANCER UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT

- Establishment of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) across the country was announced by the Government of India in February 2018. [Screening of three](#)

¹https://ncdirindia.org/All_Reports/HBCR_2021/resources/HBCR_2021.pdf

[common cancers i.e. oral, breast and cervical](#)², along with other common Non-communicable Diseases, is an integral part of service delivery under the AB-HWCs.



- Treatment of cancer under the [Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana](#) (launched in 2018) has been one of the prime focus areas to safeguard the beneficiaries from catastrophic expenditure of cancer treatment. Health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakhs per family per year is provided for secondary or tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crore beneficiary families identified from [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#) (SECC) 2011 database. Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy packages, along with surgical oncology are covered as part of cancer treatment in the empanelled hospitals under the scheme. A total of 435 procedures have been defined for the treatment of cancer.
- Measures have been taken to discourage the use of tobacco products, which is one of the key risk factors of Cancer.
- Preventive aspect of Cancer is strengthened [under Comprehensive Primary Health Care through AB-HWC scheme](#), by promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication at the community level.³
- Other initiatives for increasing public awareness about Cancer and for promotion of healthy lifestyle includes observation of National Cancer Awareness Day & World Cancer Day and [use of print, electronic and social media for continued community awareness](#)⁴.
- [Healthy eating is also promoted](#) through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- [National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke](#) (NPCDCS) gives financial support under National Health Mission (NHM) for awareness generation Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities for Cancer to be taken by the States/UTs as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

² <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1887497>

³ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1884182>

⁴ [IDBI](#)

FOCUS ON ONCOLOGY IN ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS)

Significant focus on Oncology in its various aspects has been ensured in the new AIIMS that are being established under the aegis of [Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana](#) (PMSSY). [The six functional AIIMS in Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh already have operational cancer treatment facilities.](#)⁵ These AIIMS have been provided with state-of-art diagnostic, medical and surgical care facilities. The other AIIMS are being set up with cancer treatment facilities.

STRENGTHENING CANCER CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cancer Care Facilities in other Medical Colleges under PMSSY

Cancer treatment facilities have also been created/planned in 13 State Government Medical Colleges which have been taken up for upgradation under PMSSY. [The details are as follows:](#)

Sl.	State	Name of Govt. Medical College	Facility
Phase-I			
1.	Jharkhand	RIMS Ranchi	68 bedded Oncology Block (Completed)
Phase-II			
2.	Punjab	Govt Medical College, Amritsar	Oncology (Completed)
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Prasad Govt. Medical College, Tanda	Oncology (Completed)
Phase-III			
4	Karnataka	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli	Medical Oncology (Completed)
5	Rajasthan	SP Medical College, Bikaner	Surgical Oncology (Completed)

⁵ <https://pmssy-mohfw.nic.in/index.php>

6	Rajasthan	RNT Medical College, Udaipur	Radiotherapy/Oncology (Completed)
7	Telangana	Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal	Medical Oncology
8	Uttar Pradesh	Govt Medical College, Gorakhpur	Surgical Oncology (Completed)
10	Uttar Pradesh	M.L.N Government Medical College, Allahabad	Surgical Oncology
11.	Uttar Pradesh	LLRM Medical College, Meerut	Radiotherapy (Completed)
Phase-IV			
12	Uttar Pradesh	Govt Medical College, Agra	Radiation/Medical Oncology
13.	Bihar	Patna	Radiotherapy (equipment)

Enhancing Facilities for Tertiary Care of Cancer

The Central Government is implementing the **Strengthening of Tertiary Care of Cancer Scheme** in order to enhance the facilities for tertiary care of cancer. [19 State Cancer Institute's \(SCIs\) and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres \(TCCCs\)](#)⁶ have been approved so far under the said scheme. Under NPCDCS, 707 District non-communicable diseases (NCD) Clinics, 268 District Day Care Centres, and 5541 Community Health Center NCD Clinics have been set up. Six institutes at Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have been completed so far. The other 33 institutes are at different stages of development.

Cancer Care Infrastructure in North East India⁷

- One of the major projects identified for the year under [PM-DevINE](#)- announced in **Budget 2022-23 with an initial allocation of Rs 1500 crore**- is the “Establishment of Dedicated Services for the Management of Paediatric and Adult Haematolymphoid Cancers in North-East India, to be located at **Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI) Guwahati**” at an estimated cost of Rs. 129 crore. This initiative is expected to give a huge boost to cancer care in the region given that in the last 11 years, 3,855 childhood and adult Haematolymphoid cancer patients reported to BBCI for treatment.

⁶ [IDBI](#)

⁷ [IDBI](#)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation [seven cancer hospitals in Assam](#) at a function in Dibrugarh on 28 April 2022. These cancer Hospitals are built at **Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Darrang, Tezpur, Lakhimpur, and Jorhat**. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of **seven new cancer hospitals at Dhubri, Nalbari, Goalpara, Nagaon, Sivasagar, Tinsukia and Golaghat** to be constructed under phase 2 of the project. The project is part of the initiative by Assam Cancer Care Foundation, a joint venture of Government of Assam and Tata Trusts, to build South Asia's largest affordable cancer care network with 17 Cancer care hospitals spread across the state.



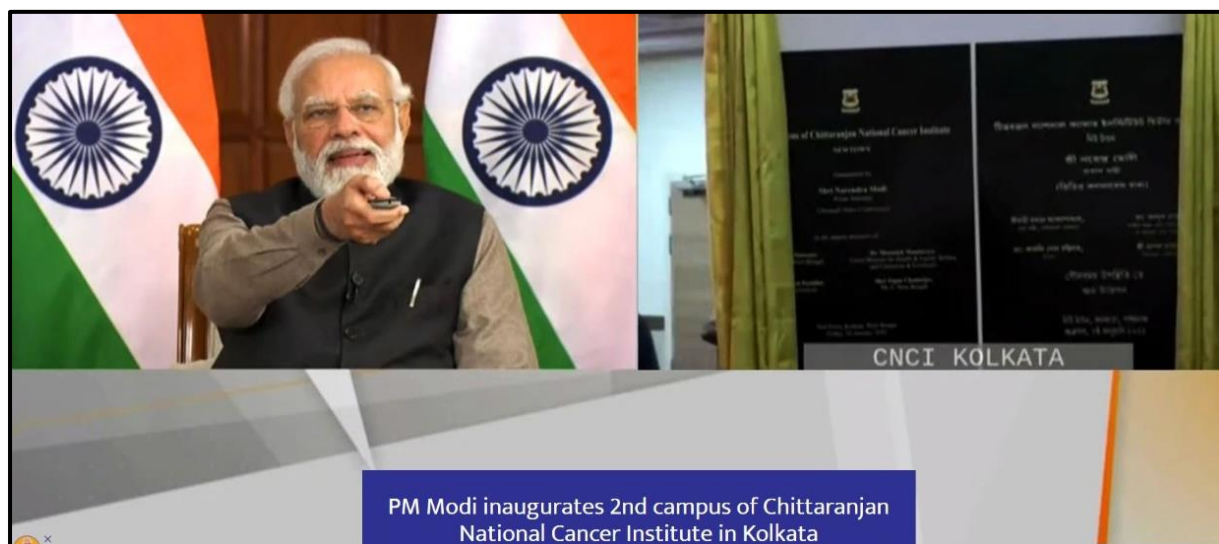
Recent Developments

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **inaugurated the Amrita Hospital in Faridabad on August 24, 2022**. This super-specialty hospital is equipped with 2600 beds, and will ensure the availability of modern medical infrastructure in the NCR region. The hospital has been constructed at an estimated cost of around Rs. 6000 crores, and aims to provide state-of-the-art healthcare facilities to the people of Faridabad and the entire NCR region.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi **inaugurated the 'Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre' at Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar District, Mohali on August 24, 2022**. The hospital has been launched with an endeavour to provide world-class cancer care to the residents of Punjab and neighbouring states & UTs. The hospital has been built at the cost of over Rs. 660 Crore. **The cancer hospital is a tertiary care hospital with a 300-bed capacity**. It is equipped with modern facilities to treat all types of cancers using every available treatment modality like Surgery, Radiotherapy and Medical Oncology - Chemotherapy, immunotherapy and Bone marrow transplant. The Hospital will function like a **'hub' of cancer care and treatment in the region, with the 100 bedded hospital in Sangrur functioning as its 'spoke'**.

GIVING A BOOST TO CANCER RESEARCH

- **National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Jhajjar**, a state-of-the-art Tertiary Cancer care cum Research Institute constructed at the AIIMS Jhajjar campus, was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 February 2019. Facilities include surgical oncology, radiation oncology, medical oncology and approximately 700 patient care beds, among others. As India's premier institute of cancer, NCI, Jhajjar is responsible for identifying priority areas for Research & Development carrying out basic and applied research in molecular biology, genomics, proteomics, cancer epidemiology, radiation biology and cancer vaccines.

- **The Centre for Integrative Oncology (CIO)** has been established as a joint venture of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR-ICMR) with the intention of collaborative research activities in cancer. CIO was inaugurated in February 2017.
- The second campus of [Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute](#)⁸, Kolkata is also a key step in the same direction. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 7 January 2022. It is a [460 bedded hospital](#). Out-Patient Department (OPD) services and IPD services had started with effect from August 2020 and August 2021, respectively.



- **The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a Cancer Research Initiative, “Affordable Approaches to Cancer” on 14 November 2018.** The broad aim of the research initiative is to support high quality research to deliver innovative and translatable outputs that accelerate progress against cancer outcomes in both the countries, and which also have the potential to have major global impact. Under the initiative, the core challenges have been identified and seven seed grants have been awarded.
- [The National Cancer Grid \(NCG\)](#)⁹ has established [the Koita Centre for Digital Oncology \(KCDO\)](#) to promote use of digital technologies and tools to improve cancer care across India. KCDO will play an important role in driving digital transformation across the cancer care continuum. KCDO will support NCG hospitals in sharing best practices in digital health, adopting digital health tools, and driving many common technology initiatives including EMR adoption, healthcare data interoperability, reporting and analytics. KCDO will also enable NCG and NCG hospitals to pilot and adopt new technologies – including AI, machine learning, big data, automation, cloud, mobile – which will benefit hospitals, doctors, patients and consumers.

⁸<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1788317>

⁹ <https://tmc.gov.in/ncg/index.php/list-of-centers>

OTHER INITIATIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR CANCER CARE¹⁰

- **Cervical cancer ranks as the 2nd most prevalent cancers in India** and accounts for nearly one-fourth of the world's cervical cancer deaths despite being largely preventable. India has launched its first indigenously developed **vaccine, “CERVAVAC” for the prevention of Cervical Cancer**.¹¹ This affordable and cost-effective vaccine takes India a step closer to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**, put out list of **390 anti-cancer non-scheduled medicines with MRP reduction up to 87%** in 2019. The average out of pocket expenditure for cancer patients is 2.5 times that for other diseases. **This move benefited 22 lakh cancer patients in the country** and would result in annual savings of approx. Rs. 800 crores to the consumers.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices was approved on 20 March, 2020. **The total financial outlay of the Scheme is Rs. 3,420 crore.** The four target segments of medical devices are cancer care/ radiotherapy medical devices; **radiology & imaging medical devices and nuclear imaging devices**; anesthetics & cardio-respiratory medical devices; renal care medical devices and all implants including implantable electronic devices.
- The Government has taken many steps to **promote research in Ayurveda to develop treatment of cancer**. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) set up by the Government as an autonomous organization has undertaken research related to Cancer and has also been involved in drug development and documentation of medical practices, including **development of AYUSH QOL2C for improving quality of life in cancer patients.**

References

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- https://www.nhp.gov.in/world-cancer-day-_pg#:~:text=World%20Cancer%20Day%20is%20a,in%20the%20fight%20against%20cancer.
- <https://www.uicc.org/news/one-month-world-cancer-day-2023>
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Video links

- [This short animated video encourages women to learn the symptoms of gynecologic cancers.](#)
- [Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre: A hub of cancer care & treatment.](#)

AG/HP/MZ/DG/IJ

¹⁰ [IDBI](#)

¹¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1856034>