

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025, Theme, Significance, Initiatives

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National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 is observed on 7 November across India to raise public awareness about early detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer. This day serves as a national reminder of the importance of understanding cancer, its risk factors, and preventive measures. Various health organisations, NGOs, and government bodies conduct screening camps, awareness drives, and educational events to mark the occasion. The day emphasizes timely diagnosis and lifestyle changes to reduce India's growing cancer burden.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025

National Cancer Awareness Day plays a crucial role in educating citizens about cancer's impact on society and the importance of regular health checkups. Cancer is one of India's fastest-growing public health challenges, responsible for over 8 lakh deaths annually. The day focuses on promoting early detection, healthy lifestyles, and timely medical intervention. Awareness campaigns help reduce stigma, empower communities, and encourage preventive action through screenings, vaccinations, and awareness programs at schools, hospitals, and workplaces.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Theme

While the official theme for 2025 has not been announced separately, it is expected to continue focusing on “United by Unique”, aligned with WHO’s World Cancer Day 2025 campaign. The theme highlights equity in cancer care, ensuring that every individual, regardless of income or location, has access to early diagnosis and effective treatment.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Historical Background

National Cancer Awareness Day was first introduced in 2014 by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the then Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The day coincides with the birth anniversary of Marie Curie, the Nobel laureate whose pioneering research on radioactivity contributed significantly to cancer treatment. The government launched this observance to spread awareness about different cancers, their symptoms, and treatment options. Since then, the day has been observed annually to educate people about preventive care and early screening.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Causes of Cancer

Cancer develops when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably, often influenced by genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Tobacco use remains the major cause, accounting for 50% of male cancers and 25% of female cancers. The rise in sedentary lifestyles, pollution, and unhealthy diets further contribute to this growing concern. The major risk factors include:

- Tobacco consumption- leading cause of oral, lung, and throat cancers.
- Unhealthy diet- high intake of processed foods and low consumption of fruits and vegetables.
- Alcohol abuse- increases risk of liver and esophageal cancer.
- Obesity and inactivity- linked with breast and colon cancer.
- Exposure to radiation and chemicals- from workplaces or pollution.
- Genetic predisposition- family history of cancer.
- Although in the present time this disease has become common among people irrespective of age, diet, habits, etc.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Early Detection Significance

Early detection significantly improves survival rates and treatment success. In India, however, two-thirds of cancer cases are detected at advanced stages, reducing the chances of cure. Regular health checkups, self-examination, and participation in screening programs for breast, cervical, and oral cancers can make a crucial difference. The government promotes these screenings through initiatives like the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS).

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Preventive Measures for Cancer

Cancer prevention focuses on reducing exposure to known risk factors and adopting a healthy lifestyle. Simple steps can significantly reduce cancer risk:

- Avoid tobacco in all forms.

- Maintain a healthy weight through regular exercise.
- Eat a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- Limit alcohol consumption.
- Protect yourself from UV radiation.
- Get vaccinated against HPV and Hepatitis B.
- Undergo regular cancer screenings as per age and risk group.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Global Burden

According to the **World Health Organization** (WHO), cancer accounted for over 10 million deaths in 2020, making it one of the leading causes of death worldwide. The most common cancer types were:

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Global Burden		
Type of Cancer	New Cases (2020)	Deaths (2020)
Breast Cancer	22.6 lakh	6.85 lakh
Lung Cancer	22.1 lakh	18 lakh
Colon & Rectum Cancer	19.3 lakh	9.16 lakh
Prostate Cancer	14.1 lakh	-
Stomach Cancer	10.9 lakh	7.69 lakh

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Indian Aspects

India faces an increasing cancer burden, with 20-25 lakh active cancer patients at any given time. As per GLOBOCAN 2020, India recorded 13.24 lakh new cases and 8.51 lakh cancer-related deaths. The data shows gender-based variations:

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Indian Aspects	
Gender	Common Cancer Types
Men	Lip/ Oral Cavity (16.2%), Lung (8%), Stomach (6.3%)
Women	Breast (26.3%), Cervix Uteri (18.3%), Ovary (6.7%)

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Role of NGOs

Non-profit organisations such as the Indian Cancer Society, Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA), Tata Memorial Centre, Mahalakshmi Foundation, etc. play an essential role in supporting patients and families. They conduct awareness programs, provide financial aid, and promote research. Partnerships between government bodies, NGOs, and corporate sectors are crucial for comprehensive cancer control.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Government Initiatives

The Government of India has implemented several initiatives to reduce the cancer burden. These programs aim to make cancer diagnosis and treatment accessible and affordable for all.

1. National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP)- focuses on prevention, early detection, and palliative care.
2. NPCDCS- integrates cancer screening into primary healthcare.
3. Tertiary Care Cancer Centres Scheme- supports 27 regional cancer centers nationwide.
4. National Cancer Grid (NCG)- a network of over 300 hospitals for uniform cancer care standards.
5. Ayushman Bharat (**PM-JAY**)- provides free cancer treatment to eligible families.
6. Financial Assistance- Various States Governments such as Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, etc. provide financial assistance to the patients undergoing treatment for the Cancer based on the policies as per the state. Along with this the patient is also eligible to get one time financial assistance for Cancer Treatment from the Central Government after qualifying the required criteria.
7. NGO Aid: Several NGOs dedicate their funding and contributions to the patients undergoing cancer treatment by helping the patient and their families financially, providing shelter for outstation treatments, meals and fruits, continuation of education of the child patients, etc.

Cancer Treatment in India

India has some of the world's best cancer hospitals providing high-quality, affordable treatment. These hospitals offer advanced diagnostics, surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation:

- Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai- Government-funded and globally recognized for affordable oncology care.
- AIIMS, New Delhi- Offers subsidized treatment with modern oncology facilities.
- Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai- Provides free or low-cost treatment to low-income patients.
- Kidwai Memorial Institute, Bengaluru- Regional cancer center serving South India.
- Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute, Delhi- Known for advanced care at accessible rates.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 Challenges

Despite progress, several challenges persist in India's fight against cancer. Each challenge requires a clear way forward for effective implementation:

- Late diagnosis due to low awareness
- Limited access to specialized healthcare
- High cost of treatment

- Rural-urban healthcare gap
- Tobacco addiction
- Lack of research and data
- Stigma and fear among patients
- Shortage of trained oncologists
- Environmental pollution
- Rising lifestyle-related cancers

Way Forward:

- Strengthen community-based screening programs.
- Expand regional cancer centers under NCG.
- Broaden insurance coverage through PM-JAY.
- Improve telemedicine and mobile screening units
- Implement stricter anti-tobacco laws and education.
- Promote cancer registries and digital health records.
- Conduct awareness drives to normalize early testing.
- Enhance training programs for healthcare workers.
- Strengthen regulations on industrial and air pollutants.
- Promote preventive health education at schools and workplaces.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 UPSC

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 is an important occasion to renew India's commitment to fighting cancer through awareness, prevention, and early detection. With over 13 lakh new cases annually, the need for community participation, government action, and healthcare innovation is stronger than ever. Empowering citizens with knowledge about symptoms, preventive measures, and screening can save countless lives. By addressing risk factors, improving healthcare access, and fostering early diagnosis, India can move toward a healthier, cancer-aware society.

India has made major progress in oncology through innovation and research. Advanced technologies like immunotherapy, robotic surgery, and targeted therapy are now available in leading centers. Institutes such as Tata Memorial Centre, AIIMS, and National Cancer Institute (Jhajjar) are developing indigenous cancer drugs and precision diagnostic tools. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in early detection and molecular profiling of tumors has enhanced treatment accuracy. The government's collaboration with ICMR and private sectors ensures affordable access to new therapies, strengthening the nation's cancer care ecosystem.

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