

**September
2025**

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Exemption on cards for cancer drugs-Business Standard, 3rd Sep. 2025

Exemption on cards for cancer drugs

MONIKA YADAV

New Delhi, 2 September

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, convening for two days starting Wednesday to take up the much-awaited rationalisation of the multiple-rate indirect tax regime announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day, is likely to consider GST exemptions for around 36 cancer-fighting drugs, a new price-based levy for cigarettes, and fresh price thresholds for footwear and apparel taxes.

The Council, that includes representatives from all states, is slated to discuss the Centre's proposal to do away with the 12 per cent and 28 per cent GST rates, retain the extant rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, and introduce a new 40 per cent special rate for sin and luxury goods.

If states concur with this formulation, over 250 items that currently face a 12 per cent levy are likely to be reclassified, with around 223 of them being moved to the 5 per cent bracket, and the rest to the 18 per cent bracket. Items likely to move from the 12 per cent slab to 5 per cent include marble and granite blocks in uncut form, and renewable energy equipment such as solar power generators, solar cells, wind energy items and solar modules.



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Exemption on cards for cancer drugs-Business Standard, 3rd Sep. 2025

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Exemption on the cards for cancer drugs

Similarly, nearly 30 items from the 28 per cent tax bracket, may be shifted to an 18 per cent levy, with the higher 40 per cent tax being imposed on about 10 items. Some of the items in the 28 per cent bracket that are likely to benefit from a rate reduction, are auto parts and tyres, air-conditioners, televisions, motorcycles, lead-acid batteries, and even rowing boats.

Garments and apparel as well as footwear priced above ₹2,500 are likely to attract 18 per cent GST, while those below this threshold are expected to be taxed at 5 per cent, sources said. Currently, all kinds of footwear attract 18% GST, barring casual footwear which is taxed at 12 per cent if priced below ₹1,000. Similarly, apparel with an actual selling price over ₹1,000 is taxed at 12 per cent, and clothes with a lower price face 5% GST.

In addition, hotels with room tariffs below ₹7,500 per room night for the entire previous year may be taxed at 5 per cent instead of 12 per cent. Presently, the GST levy for such hotel rooms is pegged at 12 per cent.

According to sources, the Council may also revisit cigarette taxation, with a proposal to shift to an MRP-based levy that is linked to printed prices, benefiting smaller, unorganised players with lower MRPs, while companies with higher-priced products, may face a bigger hit.

Currently, cigarettes are subject to 28 per cent GST, along with an excise duty which varies based on the length of the stick, a national

calamity contingent duty and GST compensation cess. Industry has sought a more nuanced system, with tax linked to criteria such as stick length and whether the cigarette is filtered or non-filtered.

The major rate rationalisation exercise, also includes a plan to fully exempt 36 cancer drugs from GST, sources conveyed. In September 2024, the Council had lowered the GST levy on a few cancer drugs to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

Separately, the Council is expected to revise the rate for Goods Transport Agents - from 12 per cent with Input Tax Credit (ITC) to 18 per cent with ITC. However, an existing alternate regime under which they can pay 5 per cent GST without ITC will continue.

"This dual option means the change is unlikely to significantly impact the transport industry, as businesses can still opt for the concessional scheme depending on their credit position," said Vivek Jalan, partner at Tax Connect Advisory Services.

Post-sale discounts

The resolution of an oft-disputed tax treatment of post-sale discounts is also on the agenda of the Council, according to sources in the know. Presently, only certain types of discounts qualify for tax adjustment through credit notes.

Many post-sale discounts, which refers to the offer of a concession by sellers to buyers during or after a transaction, or based on targets such as turnover, or year-end discount schemes, don't qualify for issuance of GST credit notes, and "commercial credit notes"

are issued for these.

Tax officers have been treating commercial credit notes issued for schemes like turnover or year-end discounts as a service provided by recipients of the credit notes, triggering litigation.

"If a discount is agreed in advance, it qualifies for a GST credit note under the law and it can reduce the tax amount; but if it is given later, like a turnover rebate or year-end scheme, it only qualifies as a commercial credit note, which is just a book adjustment with no tax impact," said Jalan.

"The dispute arises because some field officers argue that such discounts provided via commercial credit notes are in lieu of services — such as marketing support, sales promotion or achieving turnover targets — rendered by the distributor to the supplier, even though it is a fact that no actual service is provided," Jalan added.

Although the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) clarified this issue through a Circular 105 issued in 2019, the same was subsequently withdrawn. Since then, litigation on this aspect has been occurring across sectors, Jalan noted.

"The reported rate rationalisation, particularly to exempt cancer drugs and reduce rates on 223 items from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, could provide significant relief to people, if approved. Businesses would need adequate transition time for inventory management and system updates," said CA Nitin Bansal, State President, CA Cell, BJP Haryana.

Terming the proposed ₹2,500 threshold for higher GST levies on textiles and footwear as balanced, Bansal said the rate changes would need an agreement between the Centre and the states, and the timing just ahead of the festive season could provide immediate relief if implemented swiftly.

Hyundai Motor's CSR arm, IIT-M launch Centre for Cancer Genomics research: Business Line, 4th Sep. 2025

Hyundai Motor's CSR arm, IIT-M launch Centre for Cancer Genomics research



SCOPE FOR HOPE. IIT-M Director V Kamakoti (third from left), Unsoo Kim (third from right), MD, HMIL, representatives from Hyundai and IIT-M at the launch of 'Hyundai Hope for Cancer' programme in New Delhi on Wednesday

Our Bureau
Chennai

Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF), the CSR arm of Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras), on Wednesday launched 'Hyundai Hope for Cancer', an initiative dedicated to transforming paediatric cancer care in India.

As part of its multi-year commitment towards this cause, HMIF has allocated a social impact investment of ₹56 crore towards this project.

The initiative involves the Hyundai Centre for Cancer Genomics, housed at IIT-Madras' main campus in Chennai.

The centre features India's first community-based Cancer Tissue Biobank, enabling advanced genomic research in paediatric leukaemia and lymphoma.

"By building an Indian childhood cancer genomic database, strengthening early detection and screening, and expanding access for underserved communities, the programme exemplifies

sabka prayas in action and reaffirms our commitment to equitable, technology-enabled healthcare," Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan said in a statement.

PERSONALISED FOCUS

The Centre will focus on genomic sequencing to identify genetic mutations, laying the foundation for a national paediatric cancer genome database and personalised treatment protocols.

It will also serve as a hub for medical experts, global partners and contribute to international efforts such as the International Cancer Genome Consortium and WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Unsoo Kim, MD, HMIL, said, "Hyundai Hope for Cancer' is not just about building infrastructure – it's about healing, resilience, and hope.

"Every child deserves the chance to live a healthier, brighter tomorrow."

V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said, "This centre will catalyse breakthrough studies in paediatric oncology."

Date: 06.09.2025

BIDEN UNDERGOES SURGERY FOR SKIN CANCER-The Asian Age, 6th Sep. 2025

BIDEN UNDERGOES SURGERY FOR SKIN CANCER

Washington, Sept. 5: Joe Biden recently underwent surgery to remove skin cancer lesions, a spokesperson said Thursday, the latest health challenge for the former US president.

His spokesperson Kelly Scully confirmed the surgery after Inside Edition published a video of Biden leaving church in Delaware with a fresh scar on his forehead.

She said Biden received Mohs surgery, a procedure used to cut away skin until no evidence of cancer remains. Two years ago, he had a lesion removed from his chest. The lesion was basal cell carcinoma, a common form of skin cancer.

ক্যান্সারের যন্ত্রণার কথা শোনালেন বর্গ: এইসময়, 6th Sep. 2025

ক্যান্সারের যন্ত্রণার কথা শোনালেন বর্গ

এই সময়: ক্যান্সার আক্রান্ত ছিলেন টেনিস কিংবদন্তি বিয়ন বর্গ। প্রস্টেট ক্যান্সার আক্রান্ত হওয়ার কথা জানিয়েছেন তিনি নিজেই। বর্গের আত্মজীবনী 'হার্টবিট' সম্প্রতি প্রকাশিত হবে। তার আগে সেই বইয়ের কিছু টুকরো টুকরো কাহিনি সামনে এসেছে। সেখানেই ক্যান্সার সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ের কথা লিখেছেন তিনি। ৬৯ বছর বয়সি বর্গের কথায়, 'এই মুহূর্তে আমার কোনও সমস্যা

নেই। তবে প্রতি ছ'মাস অন্তর আমাকে চেক-আপ করাতে হয়। যেটা মোটেই খুব স্বাভাবিক ব্যাপার নয়।' যদিও স্বস্তির খবর, সম্প্রতি স্টকহোমের বাড়ি থেকে এক ভিডিও বার্তায় বর্গ বলেছেন, 'এখন ভালো আছি।' ১১টি গ্র্যান্ড সলামের জয়ের মালিক বর্গের ২০২৩ সালের সেপ্টেম্বরে ক্যান্সার ধরা পড়ে। অস্ত্রোপচার হয় ২০২৪ সালে। সে প্রক্রিয়া রীতিমতো কঠিন ছিল বলেই স্মৃতিচারণা করেছেন বর্গ।

Glenmark starts clinical trials for lung cancer drug- The Hindu, 6th Sep. 2025

Glenmark starts clinical trials for lung cancer drug

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Friday said it has initiated a multi-country Phase 3 clinical trial for Envafolimab, a novel drug for third-stage non-small cell lung cancer.

The company said it has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India to begin patient enrolment and dosing in the country. In parallel, the drug firm has submitted a clinical trial application in Russia and is preparing to open additional clinical trial sites in Brazil and Mexico, Glenmark said.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide.

ক্যানসারের টিকা আবিষ্কারের দাবি: আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা, 8th Sep. 2025

ক্যানসারের টিকা আবিষ্কারের দাবি

▶ ক্যানসার চিকিৎসায় বড় সাফল্যের দাবি করলেন রাশিয়ার বিজ্ঞানীরা। রাশিয়ার ফেডারাল মেডিক্যাল অ্যান্ড বায়োলজিক্যাল এজেন্সি (এফএমবিএ) ঘোষণা করেছে, ওই রোগের টিকা তৈরি করে ফেলেছেন তাঁরা, যা ক্যানসার আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তির শরীরে প্রয়োগের জন্য তৈরি। ইন্টার্ন ইকনমিক ফোরামকে এই সাফল্যের কথা এফএমবিএ-র প্রধান ভেরোনিকা স্কভর্ৎসোভা। ক্যানসার আক্রান্তদের বিনামূল্যে ওই টিকা দেওয়া হবে। নয়া আবিষ্কৃত টিকার নাম দেওয়া হয়েছে 'এনটেরোমিক্স'। ভেরোনিকা জানিয়েছেন, বহু বছরের গবেষণার ফল এই টিকা। মানবদেহে পরীক্ষামূলক প্রয়োগের আগেও তিন বছর গবেষণা হয়। এই টিকা নিরাপদ এবং অনেক বেশি কার্যকর। কিছু ক্ষেত্রে ক্যানসারের টিউমার একেবারে চুপসে যায়, কোনও ক্ষেত্রে টিউমারের বৃদ্ধি ৬০ থেকে ৮০ শতাংশ হ্রাস হয়ে যায়।

ক্যান্সার টিকায় সাফল্য রাশিয়ার?: এইসময়, 8th Sep. 2025

ক্যান্সার টিকায় সাফল্য রাশিয়ার?

এই সময়: ক্যান্সারের গ্রাফ উর্ধ্বমুখী সারা পৃথিবীতেই। এমনই সন্ধিক্ষণে রাশিয়ার তৈরি একটি ক্যান্সার ভ্যাকসিন নিয়ে আশাবাদী চিকিৎসক মহল। রুশ বিজ্ঞানীরা উদ্ভাবন করেছেন নতুন এক ধরনের এম-আরএনএ ভিত্তিক টিকা 'এন্টারোমিক্স' যা বেশ কিছু ক্যান্সারের নির্ভরযোগ্য নিরাময়ের আশা দেখাচ্ছে। সেই টিকার প্রথম পর্যায়ের ক্লিনিক্যাল ট্রায়ালে সাফল্যের দাবি করলেন রাশিয়ার বিজ্ঞানীরা। তবে মানুষের শরীরে একেবারে প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ের এই ক্লিনিক্যাল ট্রায়ালে কার্যকারিতা নয়, মূলত সুরক্ষার দিকটিই দেখা হয়। ৪৮ জন স্বৈচ্ছাসেবকের উপরে করা সেই ট্রায়ালে অবশ্য ক্যান্সারের টিউমার ছোট হওয়ার নজিরও দেখা গিয়েছে ভালো মাত্রায়। তবে এখনও কোনও 'পায়ার-

রিভিউড' জার্নালে সেই ট্রায়ালের রিপোর্ট প্রকাশিত হয়নি।

এন্টারোমিক্স ভ্যাকসিনটি চারটি নিরীহ (যা রোগ সৃষ্টি করতে অক্ষম) ভাইরাসের সংমিশ্রণে তৈরি। এটি ক্যান্সার কোষ ধ্বংসের ক্ষেত্রে প্রত্যাশিত প্রতিরোধ ব্যবস্থাকে সক্রিয় করে তোলে। প্রি-ক্লিনিক্যাল ট্রায়ালে আগেই অ্যানিম্যাল মডেলে টিকার সুরক্ষার প্রমাণ মিলেছিল। এ বার প্রথম পর্যায়ের ক্লিনিক্যাল ট্রায়ালেও সুরক্ষা প্রমাণিত হলো হিউম্যান মডেলে। ট্রায়ালে এরই সঙ্গে দেখা গিয়েছে, টিকাটি টিউমারের সাইজ ৬০-৮০ শতাংশ পর্যন্ত কমাতে সক্ষম। উল্লেখ্য, এই টিউমারটি 'কাস্টমাইজড', যার অর্থ, প্রতিটি রোগীর জন্য এই টিকা আলাদা ভাবে তৈরি করা হয় আর্টিফিশিয়াল

ইন্টেলিজেন্স (এআই) ব্যবহার করে।

এই বিশেষ পদ্ধতির জন্যই এন্টারোমিক্স টিকা নিয়ে আশার বাতাবরণ তৈরি হয়েছে স্বাস্থ্য মহলে। যদিও এটি বাজারে আসতে এখনও ঢের দেরি। তার আগে ট্রায়ালের দ্বিতীয় ও তৃতীয় পর্যায়ের সাফল্য এবং তারও পরে ওষুধ নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থার ছাড়পত্র জরুরি। টিকাটি রুশ ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল রিসার্চ রেডিয়োলজিক্যাল সেন্টারের উদ্যোগে শুরু হয়েছে। ভবিষ্যতে কোলোরেক্টাল ক্যান্সার রোগীদের উপরে ব্যবহারের পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে। পরবর্তী পর্যায়ে মেলানোমা ও ব্রেন টিউমারের চিকিৎসাতেও এর প্রয়োগের পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে। রাশিয়ার স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রক সূত্রে খবর, এই ভ্যাকসিনের উৎপাদনের খরচ ভোক্তা প্রতি প্রায় তিন লক্ষ রুবেল।

Date: 10.09.2025

TELANGANA OPENS DAY CARE CANCER CENTRES IN 34 GOVT HOSPITALS:
Millennium Post, 10th Sep. 2025

TELANGANA OPENS DAY CARE CANCER CENTRES IN 34 GOVT HOSPITALS

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government on Tuesday inaugurated Day Care Cancer Centres in 34 Government General Hospitals across the state. Health Minister C Damodar Rajanarasimha virtually launched the centres from the government medical college in Sangareddy. About 55,000 cancer cases are reported in the state every year, and the number is expected to rise to 65,000 in the next five years, he said. "The government is focusing on cancer prevention, early diagnosis and treatment in view of the rising cases," he added. Until now, cancer treatment has been available only in two major government hospitals in Hyderabad. "The state government has decided to provide cancer treatment in every district so that care is easily accessible to patients," Rajanarasimha said.

CANCER CURE!-The Asian Age, 11th Sep. 2025

CANCER CURE!

WITH GLOBAL cancer cases projected to reach 35 million by 2050, a revolutionary hope is emerging from Russia. Scientists have developed Enteromix, an mRNA-based cancer vaccine that trains the immune system to identify and destroy tumour cells. Unlike chemotherapy, which harms healthy tissue, Enteromix uses RNA from a patient's own tumour to generate personalised vaccines that precisely target cells, making the treatment minimally invasive. Early-stage trials in colorectal cancer have delivered stunning results — 100 pc efficacy and safety. Enteromix could truly be the game-changer we have been waiting for.

R.S. Narula
Patiala

কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তায় পেট-সিটি: আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা, 12th Sep. 2025

কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তায় পেট-সিটি

▶▶ কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তার সাহায্যে পাঁচ মিনিটেই করা যাবে পেট-সিটি স্ক্যান। তবে সেটি হবে ডিজিটাল মাধ্যমে। কর্কট রোগের চিকিৎসায় এমনই অত্যাধুনিক যন্ত্রের পরিষেবা চালু হল শহরে। এই রোগের চিকিৎসায় ইতিমধ্যেই রেডিয়োথেরাপি যন্ত্রের ব্যবহার চালু করেছে রুবি হাসপাতাল। বৃহস্পতিবার চালু হল ডিজিটাল পেট-সিটি স্ক্যান। হাসপাতালের চেয়ারম্যান ও এমডি, চিকিৎসক কমল কে দত্ত জানান, অ্যানালগ-যন্ত্রে ২০-২৫ মিনিট সময় লাগত স্ক্যান করতে। তাতে ৪.৩ মিলিমিটারের থেকে ছোট টিউমার শনাক্ত করা যেত না। কিন্তু, ডিজিটাল যন্ত্রে সময় কম লাগার পাশাপাশি ২.৯ মিলিমিটারের টিউমারও চিহ্নিত করা যাবে, রেডিয়েশনের ডোজও লাগবে এক-তৃতীয়াংশ। খরচ অ্যানালগের মতোই। কমল জানান, প্যাপ স্মিয়ার, ম্যামোগ্রাম, লো-ডোজ সিটি চেস্ট স্ক্যান, কোলনোস্কোপি ও পিএসএ-মতো পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে স্তন, জরায়ু মুখ, বক্ষ, কোলন ও প্রস্টেটের কর্কট রোগ প্রাথমিক স্তরে শনাক্ত সম্ভব।

Landmark cancer surgery performed at Odisha hospital: The Asian Age, 13th Sep. 2025

Landmark cancer surgery performed at Odisha hospital

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BERHAMPUR, SEPT. 12

In a major milestone for healthcare in southern Odisha, doctors at SUM Hospital, Berhampur, have successfully performed a complex head and neck cancer surgery, bringing new hope to patients in the region.

A 69-year-old man, diagnosed with carcinoma of the right buccal mucosa involving both jaws with cutaneous extension and severe trismus, underwent a technically demanding bite composite resection with neck dissection. The extensive surgical defect was reconstructed using a forehead flap, ensuring both cancer clearance and functional restoration, hospital sources said.

Date: 13.09.2025

AI to cut drug discovery time: The Asian Age, 13th Sep. 2025

DIGITAL | MODEL DeepMind working on cancer cure, immune disorders

AI to cut drug discovery time

London, Sept. 12: Discovering new medicines takes years and is marred by an astronomical failure rate. The Nobel Prize-winning head of Alphabet's artificial intelligence (AI) lab says the technology will soon trim that time to under a year.

"In the next couple of years, I'd like to see that cut down in a matter of months, instead of years," Demis Hassabis said. "That's what I think is possible. Perhaps even faster."

Hassabis runs Google DeepMind, the company's AI unit, as well as Isomorphic Labs, an Alphabet



division focused on the drug discovery. Earlier, Isomorphic Labs has cut deals with pharmaceutical companies Eli Lilly and Novartis.

Pharma and biotech companies have touted AI-powered drug discovery as a way to speed up patient access to new treatments, cut development costs and

respond to health-care crises more quickly. The field has shown major advances in computing, using algorithms to grasp large swaths of molecular data. But no AI-designed drugs have completed a successful clinical trial.

Hassabis said the company has shown the first few proof points for delivering drugs to trial but didn't provide an update on timing. "It's a bit early to say," he said.

Isomorphic Labs was created to commercialise AlphaFold, DeepMind's AI system that predicts protein behavior.

Hassabis said research-

ers are working on a much more advanced version of the latest AlphaFold model, capable of understanding more than just protein interactions.

The company is working to find treatments for cancer and immune disorders. Rebecca Paul, its director for medicinal drug design, said the diseases offer a relatively simpler path for translating work on algorithmic models into clinical results.

AI-developed drugs will turn many cancers into a treatable chronic disease, Paul said. "It's really difficult to put a time stamp on it," she said. — *Bloomberg*

Date: 14.09.2025

Immunotherapy and cancer care: The Asian Age, 14th Sep. 2025

ANUSHREE CHAURASIA

✓ In the fight against cancer, immunotherapy has been labelled as a major 'breakthrough.' Immunotherapy has rapidly transformed the way bladder cancer is managed worldwide, with immune checkpoint inhibitors now firmly established as treatment options for advanced or metastatic disease. But the story no longer ends there. Clinical research continues to expand indications for immunotherapy, moving it into earlier lines of therapy, maintenance settings, and even non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC).

For patients and clinicians alike, this trend brings both new possibilities and new challenges. Experts say that while immunotherapy promises better outcomes and bladder-preserving treatment strategies, its integration into routine care is shaped by realities such as affordability, awareness, and infrastructure.

EARLY-STAGE IMMUNOTHERAPY

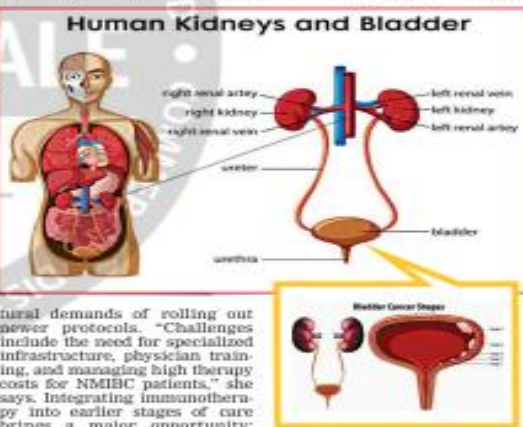
One of the most significant shifts is the potential use of immunotherapy for patients with NMIBC, particularly those who do not respond to conventional treatments like intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG). Offering immunotherapy earlier in the disease pathway could delay progression and improve quality of life by reducing the need for radical surgery.

"Opportunities lie in offering advanced care earlier, improving patient outcomes, and positioning practices as leaders in cutting-edge bladder cancer treatment," says Dr. Siddhesh Tryambake, Consultant Medical Oncologist, TGH Onco Life Cancer Centre.

According to him, the challenge lies in bridging the gap

Immunotherapy and Cancer care

Immunotherapy can change the world for bladder cancer patients, but its integration into routine care faces harsh realities of affordability, awareness, and infrastructure



between research and practice. "High treatment costs, the need for specialized training, and limited local awareness about immunotherapy for NMIBC remain key hurdles," he says.

SEVERAL CHALLENGES

While the science is moving quickly, adoption in practice requires infrastructure and clinical expertise. Dr. Purvi Kadakia Kutty, Pediatric Hemato-Oncologist & Bone Marrow Transplant Specialist at NewEra Hospitals, Navi Mumbai, highlights the struc-

tural demands of rolling out newer protocols. "Challenges include the need for specialized infrastructure, physician training, and managing high therapy costs for NMIBC patients," she says. Integrating immunotherapy into earlier stages of care brings a major opportunity: Bladder-preserving treatment options that improve survival and attract patients seeking advanced cancer care.

THE COST FACTOR

The cost of immunotherapy remains a major concern. Depending on the drug and regimen, patients may need prolonged or maintenance therapy, adding to the financial burden.

"Doctors may address affordability by exploring generic alternatives, tailoring treatment duration, and enrolling patients in clinical trials," says Dr. Tryambake. He added that

tant in helping patients gain access to costly therapies.

Dr. Kutty emphasises the need for individualizing care. "We discuss and confirm PD-L1 or other relevant biomarkers before starting immunotherapy. Patients are counselled on financial planning, and we prioritize cost-effective regimens where possible," she says. She also points to pharmacy-led patient assistance programs and clinical-trial enrollment as ways to bridge the access gap.

REAL-WORLD OUTCOMES

While randomized trials provide the evidence base, real-world outcomes depend on how therapies are integrated into health systems. Patient diversity, variable access to insurance, and awareness levels all affect outcomes globally.

Doctors say they are cautiously optimistic. "Patients are increasingly open to immunotherapy as they see it as modern and targeted," Dr. Tryambake notes. "The key is balancing expectations with what is financially and medically feasible."

According to Dr. Kutty, ongoing education is equally critical. "Patients should adhere to the instructions given by the doctor. Clear communication ensures that they not only access therapy but also sustain it safely."

LOOKING AHEAD

The next frontier for bladder cancer care will likely involve tailoring immunotherapy protocols for earlier use while ensuring that affordability does not exclude large sections of the population.

Global expansion of clinical trials, growth of assistance programs, and broader access to generic immunotherapies may help narrow this gap. But the path forward requires investment in training, infrastructure, and financial support systems to make immunotherapy a standard rather than an exception.

As bladder cancer treatment evolves, the story of immunotherapy reflects both the promise and the pressure points of translating medical advances into meaningful, equitable care for patients worldwide.

“HIGH TREATMENT COSTS, SPECIALIZED TRAINING, AND LIMITED LOCAL AWARENESS ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR NMIBC REMAIN KEY HURDLES.”
— Dr. SIDDHESH TRYAMBAKE,
Consultant Medical Oncologist, TGH Onco Life Cancer Centre

“CHALLENGES INCLUDE THE NEED FOR SPECIALIZED INFRASTRUCTURE, PHYSICIAN TRAINING, AND MANAGING HIGH THERAPY COSTS FOR NMIBC PATIENTS.”
— Dr. PURVI KADAKIA KUTTY,
Pediatric Hemato-Oncologist &
Bone Marrow Transplant
Specialist, NewEra Hospitals

NGOs, hospital assistance programs, and government health schemes are increasingly impor-

Date: 17.09.2025

Delhi CM inaugurates Asia's first cancer care centre for women: The Statesman, 17th Sep. 2025

Delhi CM inaugurates Asia's first cancer care centre for women

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 16 September

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday inaugurated Asia's first-of-its-kind dedicated cancer care centre for women in the city, and said that it gives her great satisfaction to see things moving towards real empowerment for women.

Gupta, while inaugurating the Apollo Athenaa at Defence Colony in Delhi, said that it will stand as a milestone in cancer care for women, ensuring dignity, security, and privacy for every woman. "Cancer care for women is a very sensitive issue," the Delhi CM said.

MP from New Delhi, Bansuri Swaraj, who was present on the occasion, expressed concerns over the issue, stating that, "As cancer is rising at an alarming pace, the Government of India has introduced robust



policies and strategic interventions to enhance prevention, early detection, treatment, and patient care nationwide. Our government is also consistently prioritising women's health." She further said that Apollo's transformative initiative and setting a global benchmark in women-centric

cancer care will complement the national health mission.

Speaking on the occasion, Founder Chairman of Apollo Hospitals Group Dr Prathap C Reddy, said, "Apollo Athenaa represents a new horizon in women's healthcare, where cutting-edge science meets compassion, and every woman

is assured of dignity and timely care." In the recent past, more women have been diagnosed with cancer than men.

A new study from ICMR's National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) has revealed that breast and cervical cancers are most common types of cancers among Indian women.

Date: 18.09.2025

CM SAINI FLAGS OFF NINE BREAST CANCER SCREENING VANS: Millennium Post,
18th Sep. 2025

CM SAINI FLAGS OFF NINE BREAST CANCER SCREENING VANS

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini flagged off nine breast cancer screening vans from Parade Ground, Sector 5, Panchkula. These vans will provide health



screening to approximately 75,000 women. Addressing the media, the Chief Minister said that on the auspicious occasion of the Prime Minister's birthday, this initiative marks a significant step towards respecting women, safeguarding their health, and strengthening society. He congratulated Kalka MLA Shakti Rani Sharma and Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma for this initiative.

कैंसर से बचाव के अनमोल टिप्स-सन्मार्ग, 18th Sep. 2025

कैंसर से बचाव के अनमोल टिप्स

तनावमुक्त जीवन जीएं- तनाव शरीर में कैंसर पैदा करने वाले रसायन बनाने में मदद करता है। तनावग्रस्त होने से आप रास्ता नहीं निकाल सकते। तनावमुक्ति ही एक ऐसा साधन है जिससे आपको सफलता मिल सकती है।

शाकाहारी भोजन का सेवन करें- शाकाहारी भोजन रेशायुक्त होता है जो हमारी पाचन क्रिया को ठीक रखने में सहायक होता है। मांसाहारी भोजन में रेशा न होने के कारण पेट भी ठीक साफ नहीं हो पाता। डिब्बाबंद भोजन से परहेज करें। ताजा फल सब्जियों का सेवन करें क्योंकि ताजे फलों में एंटी ऑक्सीडेन्ट्स होते हैं जो कैंसर से शरीर को बचा कर रखते हैं।

धूम्रपान न करें- धूम्रपान करने से कई रोगों को निमंत्रण मिलता है इसलिए इस आदत से दूर रहना ही बेहतर है। ताजा हवा में गहरी सांस लें। धूम्रपान विशेषकर फेफड़ों को बहुत नुकसान पहुंचाता है और कैंसर होने की संभावना को भी बढ़ाता

है।

नियमित व्यायाम:- नियमित सैर, जॉगिंग, साइकिल चलाना, तैरना आदि व्यायाम शरीर को फिट रखने में सहायक होते हैं। नियमित व्यायाम से फालतू कैलोरी भी काफी खर्च होती है। व्यायाम को अपनी दिनचर्या का अंग बनायें।

असाधारण लक्षणों के प्रति लापरवाही न बरतें- कोई भी असाधारण लक्षण दिखाई देने पर उसके प्रति लापरवाह नहीं होना चाहिए जैसे लगातार बुखार का रहना, कोई असाधारण गिलटी का होना, अचानक वजन गिरना, खाने पीने में मुश्किल होना, शरीर पर फोड़े-फुंसी का इलाज कराने पर भी ठीक न होना आदि। ऐसा महसूस होते ही डॉक्टरी जांच अवश्य करायें ताकि कुछ समस्या होने पर इलाज समय पर ही करवा लिया जा सके। मर्ज बढ़ने से पहले ही उसकी नब्ज पकड़ में आ जाये तो तकलीफ कम हो जाती है।

■ सुदर्शन चौधरी
(स्वास्थ्य दर्पण)

Date: 18.09.2025

पूर्वी भारत में कैंसर इलाज के लिए टूबिम लाइनर एक्सेलेरेटर तकनीक की शुरुआत-सन्मार्ग, 18th Sep. 2025

महानगर

पूर्वी भारत में कैंसर इलाज के लिए टूबिम लाइनर एक्सेलेरेटर तकनीक की शुरुआत

कोलकाता : कैंसर उपचार को और अधिक सटीक, तेज और प्रभावी बनाने की दिशा में एक बड़ी तकनीकी उपलब्धि हासिल हुई है। पूर्वी भारत में पहली बार रूबी कैंसर सेंटर में टूबिम लाइनर एक्सेलेरेटर 3.0 तकनीक की शुरुआत की गई है। इस उन्नत रेडिएशन तकनीक में अत्याधुनिक कंटूरिंग सिस्टम और एक्लिप्स वर्जन 18 प्लानिंग सॉफ्टवेयर शामिल हैं। इस तकनीक के साथ एक समर्पित सीटी सिम्युलेटर भी स्थापित किया गया है, जिससे कैंसर रोगियों को समय पर और अधिक उपयुक्त उपचार मिल सकेगा। इस नई रेडिएशन मशीन की मदद से कैंसर के इलाज में सटीकता और कम साइड इफेक्ट के साथ बेहतर परिणाम मिलना संभव होगा। इसी कड़ी में रूबी जनरल हॉस्पिटल में पहली बार डिजिटल पीईटी सीटी स्कैन मशीन का भी उद्घाटन किया गया है। यह तकनीक पारंपरिक पीईटी सीटी स्कैन की तुलना में कई गुना अधिक तेज और प्रभावशाली है। स्कैनिंग का समय 30 मिनट से घटकर मात्र 5 मिनट हो गया है और मरीज को केवल एक तिहाई रेडिएशन डोज ही दी जाती है। इसके अलावा यह तकनीक अत्यंत स्पष्ट और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली इमेज प्रदान करती है, जिससे सबसे छोटे ट्यूमर की पहचान संभव हो पाती है। रूबी जनरल हॉस्पिटल के चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक डॉ. कमल के दत्ता ने ऑन्कोलॉजी की अहमियत पर जोर देते हुए बताया कि पॅप स्मीयर, मैमोग्राम, लो डोज सीटी स्कैन एलडीसीटी, कोलोनोस्कोपी और पीएसए टेस्ट जैसे सरल परीक्षणों से भी कैंसर की शुरुआती पहचान संभव है। उन्होंने कहा कि यदि लोग नियमित जांच कराएं, तो कई जिंदगियां समय रहते बचाई जा सकती हैं।

ক্যান্সারের বিগ সার্ভ, তবু আশায় বর্গ: এইসময়, 19th Sep. 2025

ক্যান্সারের বিগ সার্ভ, তবু আশায় বর্গ

এই সময়: আশা করছি, আমি ঠিক হয়ে যাব...। যিনি কথাটি বলেছেন, তাঁর থ্রাস্টেট ক্যান্সার বেশ অ্যাগ্রেসিভ জায়গায়। তবু আশায়, আর পাঁচজন সাধারণ মানুষও যেমন থাকেন।

বক্তার নাম বিয়র্ন বর্গ। ছ'টি ফরাসি ওপেন ও পাঁচটি উইম্বলডন তাঁর খুলিতে। ১১টি গ্র্যান্ড স্লাম জিতে ২৫ বছরেই অবসর নেন টেনিস থেকে। বৈভব, খ্যাতির তুঙ্গে থাকার সময়ে ড্রাগে আসক্তিও

জন্মেছিল তাঁর। পরে সুস্থ হন। বিশেষজ্ঞ হিসেবে কাজ করেছেন দীর্ঘ দিন। কিন্তু গত বেশ কয়েক বছর অক্লান্ত ক্যান্সারে।

২০২৪ সালে অস্ত্রোপচার হলেও তাঁর ক্যান্সার ফিরে এসেছে আবার। ক্যান্সারের সঙ্গে লড়াই যে মানসিক ভাবে কঠিন পরিস্থিতিতে ফেলেছে তাঁকে, তা নির্দিধায় স্বীকার করেছেন তিনি। বর্গের কথায়, 'ডাক্তারের সঙ্গে কথা বলেছি। উনি বলেছেন,

খুব খুব খারাপ অবস্থা। কিছু ঘুমন্ত ক্যান্সার সেল আছে, যারা ভবিষ্যতে বড় লড়াইয়ের সামনে ফেলবে। প্রতি ছ'মাসে আমি টেস্ট করাতে যাই। এটা নিয়েই চলতে হবে।'

নিজের কষ্টের কথা বলতে গিয়ে বলেছেন, 'কখনও কিছুই অনুভব করি না। আবার কখনও সব ফিরে আসে। আশা করব, ঠিক হয়ে যাব। আমি এখন এক দিন-এক দিন করে দেখছি, বা এক বছর-এক বছর করে।'



বর্গকে নিয়ে চিন্তায় টেনিস মহল

Bolsonaro diagnosed with early-stage skin cancer: The Statesman, 19th Sep. 2025

Bolsonaro diagnosed with early-stage skin cancer

Rio de Janeiro: Doctors for former President Jair Bolsonaro said Wednesday that they detected early-stage cancer in skin lesions removed from the 70-year-old politician following his conviction last week on attempted coup charges.

Bolsonaro, under house arrest in Brasilia until his sentence is finalised, has been to hospital twice since Thursday's court verdict. He went to the DF Star hospital Sunday to have eight lesions removed for testing, and again on Tuesday because of vomiting and low blood pressure before being released Wednesday.

Results showed early-stage skin cancer in two of the lesions, doctors said in a statement Wednesday, adding that Bolsonaro will need clinical monitoring and regular reevaluation.

"My father has already fought tougher battles and won. This one won't be any different," Bolsonaro's eldest son Flávio said on a post on X.



মৌমাছির বিষে কর্কট-সূত্র পেলেন বিজ্ঞানীরা: আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা, 20th Sep. 2025



Date: 21.09.2025

CANCER CAMP AT MOLARBAND AYUSHMAN AROGYA MANDIR: Millennium
Post, 21st Sep. 2025

CANCER CAMP AT MOLARBAND AYUSHMAN AROGYA MANDIR

NEW DELHI: As part of the Swasth Naari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, the Preventive Oncology division of IRCH-AIIMS organised a cancer screening camp at Molarband Ayushman Arogya Mandir. The initiative focused on early detection of breast, cervical and oral cancers, with doctors conducting clinical examinations and offering counselling on preventive health practices. Women from nearby communities participated in large numbers, availing free services and guidance on lifestyle changes. Volunteers assisted in streamlining registrations and awareness activities. The camp highlighted AIIMS's commitment to strengthening preventive healthcare and empowering women through timely cancer awareness and screening.

Silent Divide: The Statesman,
21st Sep. 2025

Silent Divide

India's cancer statistics reveal a troubling contradiction: women are being diagnosed more often, yet men are dying in greater numbers. This is not a quirk of biology alone but the outcome of lifestyle habits, social behaviour, and the way public health systems are built.

Among Indian women, breast, cervical, and ovarian cancers dominate the charts. Many of these are either hormone-driven or infection-related, and awareness campaigns have made early screening far more common.

From reproductive health check-ups to targeted outreach on cervical and breast cancer, women are more likely to encounter the health system before symptoms become fatal. Early detection saves lives, and the results are visible in lower mortality rates despite rising incidence.

Men, on the other hand, face a different reality. Oral and lung cancers, both closely tied to tobacco and alcohol, remain the leading killers. These cancers are aggressive and less responsive to treatment. Men are also far less likely to visit a doctor for preventive checks.

The reluctance to seek help, combined with high-risk habits such as smoking and chewing tobacco, leads to late diagnoses when treatment is both costlier and less effective. The numbers show the price of neglect: fewer cases than women, but more deaths.

Cancer control is not merely a medical task; it is a reflection of how society values prevention over cure and whether it can persuade people to act before pain forces their hand.

Regional variations add another layer of complexity. The north-eastern states, especially Mizoram, report lifetime cancer risks that are double the national average, driven by rampant tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and distinctive food preparation practices.

Delhi records the highest overall incidence for men, while Hyderabad leads in breast cancer among women. These clusters underline the fact that cancer is not a uniform national challenge but a mosaic of local crises shaped by culture, diet, and environment.

The pattern mirrors a broader global divide. In wealthier nations, higher detection rates are balanced by better survival because health systems catch disease early. In poorer regions, fewer people are diagnosed, but more die, reflecting inadequate access to timely treatment. India straddles both realities - urban centres inch toward Western levels of detection while vast rural belts remain locked in late-stage discovery and poor outcomes.

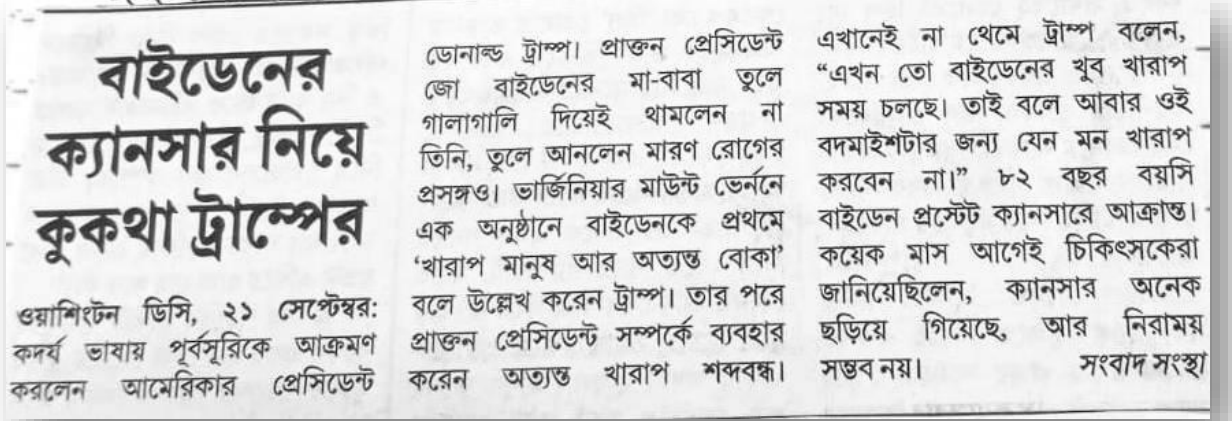
A genuine response must, therefore, be multi-layered. Tobacco control, higher taxation on cigarettes and chewing products, and aggressive anti-smoking campaigns must target men with the same energy that breast and cervical screening campaigns target women.

Primary health care must be strengthened so that men, too, routinely encounter doctors before symptoms appear. Regional strategies are critical: what works in Delhi will not automatically work in Mizoram.

India cannot afford complacency. If awareness campaigns remain lopsided and lifestyle risks unaddressed, the silent divide will widen - women will live longer with cancer, and men will continue to die in disproportionate numbers.

Date: 22.09.2025

বাইডেনের - ক্যানসার নিয়ে -কুকথা ট্রাম্পের: আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা, 22nd Sep. 2025



Cancer cases in Rajasthan exceed national average: The Statesman, 23rd Sep. 2025

Cancer cases in Rajasthan exceed national average

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE*Jaipur, 22 September*

The analysis of the cancer patients' data of Rajasthan has projected an average incidence of the disease at 134.57 per one lakh population in the year 2025, which is much above the projected national average of 113 per lakh of population.

Expressing concerns over this trend, Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital (BMCH) Director (Clinical) Dr SG Kabra said that the data that emerged from the Histopathology department of BMCH is surprising and serious.

The department of the BMCH is a centre approved for reporting histopathologically confirmed cases of cancer to the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research for ICMR's Indian Cancer Registry, Dr Kabra said.

Elaborating on the analysis done, he said that statistical analysis of Indian Cancer Registry data by Krishnan Satish Kumar and others in 'Cancer incidences estimated for 2022 and projected for 2025' (IJMR 2023) estimates the incidence in India to be 100.4 per lakh population in 2022, and an estimated increase of 12.8 per cent in 2025.

Thus, the estimated incidence in 2025 is 113.2 per lakh population.

The Registry culled this data received from the Population-Based Cancer

Registries. The data is not comprehensive for the entire country but constitutes an unselected representative sample for crude incidence analysis, it said.

Dr Kabra said that based on the sample size, the crude cancer incidence rate per one lakh population for each district has been worked out. The average incidence for Rajasthan, as per the BMCH sample, is 14.9 per lakh.

Since BMCH receives 1 case for every 9 estimated cancer patients, the overall state average is 14.9 multiplied by 9, which is equal to 134.57 per lakh of population. This is higher than the estimated average of 113/lakh population for India.

This is not the end of worries of the people and the authorities, as some of the districts, including Jaipur, Ajmer, and Jhunjhunu, have shown cancer incidence two to three-fold higher than the state and the national average.

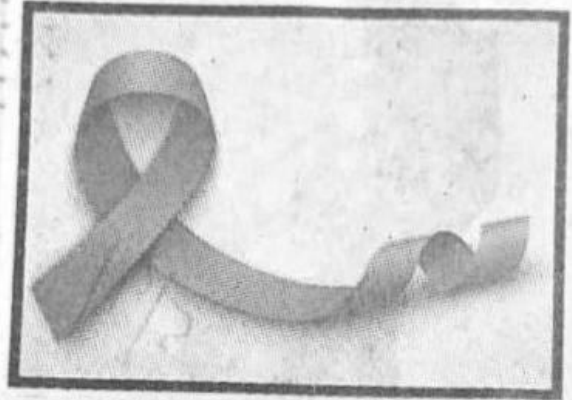
Among these, Jaipur district, with 332/lakh, tops the tally, followed by Ajmer (256/lakh), Jhunjhunu (235/lakh), and Dausa (225/lakh).

According to the analysis, lip, oral cavity, and pharynx cancers emerged at the top in the tally of incidences, followed by digestive organs, then respiratory and intrathoracic organs at third place, breast cancer at fourth place, and female genital organ cancer at fifth.

Date: 25.09.2025

जन्म के समय अधिक वजन भी स्तन कैंसर का कारण -सन्मार्ग,25th Sep. 2025

जन्म के समय अधिक वजन भी स्तन कैंसर का कारण



हाल ही में हुए एक शोध के अनुसार जन्म के समय जिन लड़कियों का वजन अधिक पाया गया, उन्हें मेनोपॉज से पूर्व ही स्तन कैंसर होने की संभावना अधिक रही। स्वीडन में हुए इस शोध में 5000 महिलाओं पर विशेषज्ञों ने यह अध्ययन किया। इसमें 63 महिलाओं को 50 वर्ष की उम्र से पहले ही स्तन कैंसर पाया गया। इनमें से जिन महिलाओं का वजन, जन्म के समय 4 किलो पाया गया, उन्हें स्तन कैंसर होने की संभावना अन्य महिलाओं जिनका वजन जन्म के समय 3 किलो से कम था, की तुलना में अधिक पायी गयी।

Childhood obesity: Wake-up call for our generation: The Statesman, 26th Sep. 2025

Childhood obesity: Wake-up call for our generation

Childhood obesity does not happen overnight. It is the result of multiple factors: poor dietary habits, sedentary lifestyles, increased exposure to ultra-processed foods, and a lack of awareness about healthy eating. The tragedy, however, is that much of it can be prevented. Simple investments in community-level nutrition counseling can go a long way in reducing these numbers.

The numbers are alarming. For the first time in recorded history, children and adolescents living with obesity have outnumbered those who are underweight, according to new data from UNICEF.

This is not just another statistic to be

filed away; it is a wake-up call. Childhood obesity is fast becoming one of the greatest public health threats of our time, laying the foundation for a future plagued by non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and certain cancers. Unless urgent action is taken, we risk raising an entire generation burdened by preventable illnesses.

Childhood obesity does not happen overnight. It is the result of multiple factors: poor dietary habits, sedentary lifestyles, increased exposure to ultra-processed foods, and a lack of awareness about

healthy eating. The tragedy, however, is that much of it can be prevented. Simple investments in community-level nutrition counseling can go a long way in reducing these numbers.

Parents and caregivers need guidance on how to properly introduce complementary foods at six months, the importance of exclusive breastfeeding, and the nurturing of healthy eating habits within households.

Exclusive breastfeeding, in particular, has been proven to lower the risk of obesity later in life. Yet many mothers are pressured to give breastmilk substitutes, convenience foods, and adhere to cultural misconceptions. Just as we have strong

regulations preventing the advertising of breastmilk substitutes on our television screens, similar restrictions should apply to unhealthy food products aggressively marketed to children.

It is counterproductive to promote the benefits of breastfeeding while allowing industries to bombard children with colorful, persuasive advertisements for sugary drinks, chips, and candies.

Another critical step is helping children rediscover real food. The rise of ultra-processed foods has sidelined traditional, nutrient-dense meals. These packaged foods are engineered for taste but stripped of essential nutrients, leaving children with excess calories and little nourishment.

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Awareness on breast cancer: The Statesman, 26th Sep. 2025

Awareness on breast cancer

Kolkata: Zydus Lifesciences Ltd. and Pinkathon, India's women's run, announced the 10th edition of the Mumbai Pinkathon scheduled for 21 December 2025 at MMRDA Grounds, BKC. As a part of its nation-wide awareness campaign on breast cancer Zydus has collaborated with Pinkathon. The run, Zydus Pinkathon will be spread across 6 cities spanning over 2025-26. Zydus Pinkathon will be led by women to raise awareness on breast cancer and women's health. The official event was unveiled by Dr Sharvil Patel, managing director, Zydus Lifesciences Ltd., Meha Patel, vice-chairperson, Zydus Foundation.

**September
2025**

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