

Cheapest cancer medicine is available in India: Health Minister

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Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya speaks at the launch of News18's 'Sanjeevani' initiative

Speaking at the inauguration of 'Sanjeevani: United Against Cancer,' a joint initiative by the Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation and News18 Network, with Tata Trusts as a knowledge partner, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh L. Mandaviya proclaimed that out of the 90 medicines for cancer, India gives out 42 at the cheapest rates.

"We are increasing cancer hospitals and tertiary care facilities. Our approach towards the health sector is holistic. We have increased MBBS and PG medical seats and colleges and created medical educational resources. Ayushman Bharat health infrastructure mission is working towards it. We have launched the pharma policy. We are the pharmacy of the world in generic medicines," he said.

"The nation belongs to all its citizens, and the responsibility for its well-being lies collectively with each individual. It was this shared responsibility and collective effort that enabled the nation to effectively combat the challenges posed by COVID-19" said Mandaviya at the News18's Sanjeevani launch event.

The primary goal of 'Sanjeevani' is to promote awareness, foster discussions about the silent cancer epidemic, and address the common fears associated with this critical disease. "The Sanjeevani initiative will lead to discussions and deliberations. Send a note on it to us, so we can track the suggestions coming from people. The Modi government believes in stakeholder consultation. Public partnership is integral to India's health model. Share your ideas with us, so we can fight the diseases in the nation" the Minister added.

The Minister discussed the government's approach to cancer care, emphasising health and wellness screening at district-level hospitals and fee waivers for impoverished patients. He noted that cancer medicines are available at non-profit prices due to India's fixed trade margin, with a focus on making healthcare more affordable and accessible.