

VARANASI CANCER CONTROL DECLARATION 2026

Adopted at the 7th Global Cancer Summit 2026

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Date: 23rd August 2026

Preamble

We, the policymakers, public health leaders, oncologists, researchers, institutional heads, and international delegates assembled at the 7th Global Cancer Summit 2026 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, recognizing cancer as a major public health priority and acknowledging its increasing burden in Uttar Pradesh and across India, hereby adopt this Policy Declaration.

Aligned with India's national health priorities and global cancer control commitments, this Declaration establishes a strategic framework to strengthen cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, research, and survivorship care through coordinated government action and multi-sectoral collaboration.

Policy Commitments

1. Strengthening State-Level Cancer Surveillance & Data Systems

We recommend:

- Establishment and expansion of Population-Based Cancer Registries across districts of Uttar Pradesh.
 - Mandatory standardized cancer reporting protocols across public and private healthcare institutions.
 - Creation of a centralized Uttar Pradesh Cancer Data Repository integrated with national cancer databases.
 - Annual State Cancer Burden Report for policy review and planning.
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2. Universal Access to Screening & Early Detection

We resolve to support:

- Integration of oral, breast, and cervical cancer screening into Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs).
- Deployment of mobile cancer screening units in underserved and rural districts.

- Capacity building of ASHA workers and frontline health workers in early symptom recognition.
- Target-based district screening programs with measurable annual coverage benchmarks.

Proposed Target (2030):

- Minimum 70% screening coverage for eligible populations in high-risk districts of Uttar Pradesh.
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3. Expanding Cancer Treatment Infrastructure

We recommend:

- Establishment of Regional Comprehensive Cancer Centres in strategic zones of Uttar Pradesh.
- Strengthening oncology departments in government medical colleges.
- Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models for radiotherapy and chemotherapy expansion.
- Financial protection mechanisms under public insurance schemes to reduce catastrophic health expenditure.

Infrastructure Goal (2030):

- At least one fully equipped cancer treatment center per administrative division of Uttar Pradesh.
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4. Affordable Medicines & Financial Risk Protection

We support:

- Strengthening procurement systems for essential oncology medicines.
 - Inclusion of advanced cancer therapies under government insurance schemes.
 - Transparent pricing mechanisms for high-cost cancer drugs.
 - Promotion of indigenous research and manufacturing of oncology pharmaceuticals.
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5. Research, Innovation & Academic Collaboration

We resolve to:

- Promote translational cancer research collaborations between state institutions and global partners.
 - Encourage clinical trials within Uttar Pradesh.
 - Develop Centers of Excellence in Oncology Research at Banaras Hindu University and other state medical universities.
 - Support AI-based diagnostics, precision oncology, and genomics research initiatives.
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6. Tobacco & Lifestyle Risk Reduction Policy

Recognizing tobacco as a leading cause of cancer, we call for:

- Strict enforcement of tobacco control laws.
 - Expansion of tobacco cessation clinics at district hospitals.
 - State-wide awareness campaigns targeting youth and rural populations.
 - Regulation of carcinogenic environmental exposures.
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7. Integration of Palliative & Survivorship Care

We recommend:

- Mandatory integration of palliative care services at district-level hospitals.
 - Training modules in pain management and end-of-life care.
 - Development of survivorship and rehabilitation programs for long-term cancer survivors.
 - Psycho-social and financial counseling services within oncology departments.
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8. Capacity Building & Human Resource Development

We commit to:

- Expansion of oncology training programs for doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals.
 - Fellowship and exchange programs with international cancer centers.
 - Skill enhancement initiatives for rural healthcare providers.
 - Structured oncology nursing specialization programs.
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9. Governance & Monitoring Framework

To ensure accountability, we propose:

- Constitution of a **Uttar Pradesh State Cancer Control Task Force**.
 - Bi-annual policy review meetings.
 - Public reporting of cancer control indicators.
 - Integration of cancer metrics into state health performance dashboards.
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Call for Government Endorsement

We respectfully urge:

- Government of Uttar Pradesh
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- State Medical Universities
- Public Health Departments
- National and International Health Agencies

To formally endorse this Declaration and incorporate its recommendations into state and national cancer control strategies.

Conclusion

Adopted in the historic city of Varanasi, this Policy Declaration represents a unified commitment to reducing cancer mortality, improving early detection, ensuring equitable treatment access, and strengthening research ecosystems in Uttar Pradesh and beyond.

The Varanasi Cancer Control Declaration 2026 shall serve as a strategic roadmap toward measurable cancer reduction outcomes by 2030 and beyond.