

Over 100 cancer centres come together for 7th National Cancer Grid meeting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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THE NATIONAL Cancer Grid (NCG), with the support of Tata Trusts, has announced the launch of a high bandwidth, secure and private network to help cancer care centres around the country interact with each other directly.

Other than enabling knowledge sharing, the facility would also provide access to multiple solutions like Virtual Tumor Board, Digital Nerve Centre, etc.

The NCG, at present, comprises 108 centres, which shares about 60 per cent of the cancer load of the country.

Launched in 2012, the NCG

held its seventh meeting on May 20 and 21 at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, which saw over 150 participants from 108 centres across the country.

The NCG's primary mandate is uniform standards of cancer care across India through evidence-based management. It also intends to facilitate exchange of expertise between centres and create a ready network for collaborative research in cancer.

NCG's initiative of 'Travelling School of Pathology', which aimed at imparting quality training to pathologists in remote areas, was piloted this year for 12 cities in Northeast India and the results were shared at this forum.

The centre now aims to repli-

cate the project in other parts of the country. Navya, NCG's second opinion engine, has provided 10,000 opinions to patients across 22 countries. It now plans to establish five clinical trial units across India to help researchers with cancer research logistics.

Dr CS Pramesh, professor and chief, Thoracic Surgery, Tata Memorial Hospital, and convenor of NCG, said, "This year, the NCG has grown to 108 institutes to treat, perhaps, 60 per cent of the country's cancer load. The priorities this year are appropriate use of technology, training and collaborative research. The release of NCG guidelines of care was a critical first step in eliminating disparities in cancer care".