

1. Despite advances in healthcare, cervical cancer remains the
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> most common among women. Analyse the reasons behind this. Provide suggestions to improve.

Cervical cancer is the cancer that occurs along the cells of the cervix. India shares one of the highest number of cervical cancer cases.

### India's case

Cervical cancer is the second most common cause after breast cancer amounting to 1.27 lakh cases and 80,000 ~~and~~ deaths annually.

The incidence rate is 18 women per one lakh population sharing 23% of global deaths.

### Reasons for such numbers

① Lack of awareness about the HPV - human Papilloma virus and its infection among women and girls.

③ Social stigma regarding the reproductive health, deters the women to get vaccinations against the disease.

④ Socio-economic conditions of the women discourage them to take early screenings against the disease.

④ Early marriage and child bearing ~~also~~ increases the risk along with practices such as polygamy.

India has made significant efforts to reverse the trend.

### Towards Zero Cervical Cancer

① Vaccination has been the cornerstone to ~~to~~ prevent the cervical cancer. The overall rollout of Cervix which is available at ₹2000/dose aims to cover more women and girls.

② The Sikkom model can be followed at pan India level which ensured 97% coverage of the vaccines. through its commence team and outreach programs

③ The Interim budget 2024-25 has included universal vaccines coverage for girls aged 9 to 14.

④ Implementing the WHO 90-70-90 strategy on women footing. 90% - vaccination for aged 15+ and 70% - screening for cancer age 35 and 45 and 90% treatment to women with cancer.

Gender sensitization and unprecedented vaccination awareness can greatly improve the vaccine uptake and bring down the cases of cervical cancer thereby ensuring women contribution towards Nirmit Bharat.