Oral Cancer

Prelims: Current events of National & International importance

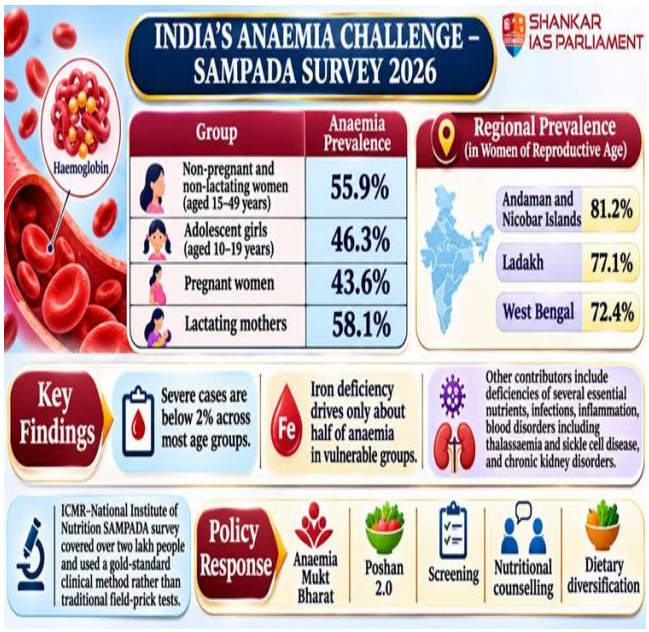
Why in News?

Recently, it has been suggested that identifying oral cancer in Stages I and II can increase the 5-year survival rate to 80–90%, compared to significantly lower survival when diagnosed at an advanced stage.

- **Oral cancer** - Cancer that forms in ***tissues of the oral cavity*** (the mouth) or the oropharynx (the part of the throat at the back of the mouth).

Oral cancer in India

- **Annual cases** - Over 1,35,000 new cases reported annually, remains one of the most prevalent cancers in India.
- **Disease burden** - India accounts for nearly one-third of the global incidence of the disease, according to GLOBOCAN 2020 and the National Cancer Registry Programme.
- **Major contributing factors** - Use of smokeless tobacco, betel quid, and areca nut, especially in underserved communities.
- **Precancerous conditions -** Leucoplakia or oral submucous fibrosis.



- **Early diagnosis** - When diagnosed at an early stage, oral cancer is highly treatable, with five-year survival rates exceeding 80% for Stage I and II cases.
- **Use of Advanced tools** -VELscope and Oncodiagnoscope should be used to screen

suspicious red or white patches in the oral cavity.

- **Regular surveillance-** High-risk patients who underwent biopsy should be placed under regular surveillance to monitor for any signs of malignant transformation.
- **Advanced treatment-** Each case is thoroughly evaluated and discussed by a tumour board.
- **Individualised diagnosis** - Treatment plans are individualised, following internationally recognised protocols.
- **3D printing** -It is incorporated in preoperative planning and reconstruction.
- This allows for the creation of accurate anatomical models, simulate surgeries, and fabricates patient-specific surgical guides and reconstruction plates.
- **Improvements** - These advances have improved surgical accuracy, reduced operating time, and contributed to better postoperative function and aesthetics.
- **Postoperative care** - Speech therapy, nutritional support, physical rehabilitation, and psychological counselling
- **Ongoing follow-up** - Ensures early detection of any recurrence or secondary conditions.
- **Trios of the treatment** - Early diagnosis, tailored treatment, and holistic rehabilitation.

Reference

The Hindu | Oral cancer diagnosis

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