

OCTOBER 11, 2025

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PALLIATIVE CARE (NHM) LAKSHADWEEP

PALLIATIVE CARE

WORLD HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE DAY (WHPCD) 2025



World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) is celebrated annually to raise awareness of palliative care, with the 2025 theme "Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care." This year, it builds on a decade since the World Health Assembly emphasized palliative care as essential. Over 60 million people need palliative care globally, with 80% in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), yet only 4% of their needs are met, revealing a significant disparity compared to over half met in high-income countries.

Event Overview – UT of Lakshadweep

The National Program for Palliative Care under the National Health Mission in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep marked WHPCD 2025 with an inclusive program involving stakeholders, NGOs, ASHA workers, doctors, and other frontline palliative care workers.

The program was inaugurated by **Dr. M.C. Mohammed, CMO (SAG)** & Medical Superintendent, Indira Gandhi District Hospital, Kavaratti. In his address, he stressed the importance of universal access to palliative care and underscored that palliative care should extend beyond hospital boundaries, reaching into communities with active engagement from stakeholders.





Dr. Beegum Sajitha CN, Chief Medical Officer, emphasized the goal of ensuring palliative care reaches every household by mobilizing all available resources.

Dr. Afrusanasri, Nodal Officer, Karunya Palliative Care under AYUSH Mission, spoke on integrating AYUSH practices and complementary therapies into palliative care to enhance holistic well-being.



Adv. Saleem PK representing PUSHPA Organization, highlighted the role of community participation and personal responsibility in caring for loved ones, rather than leaving caregiving solely to institutions.



Mr. Umar Farook KK, Helen Keller Awardee and State President, National Integrated Forum of Artists & Activists, called for palliative care to include a special focus on persons with disabilities.

Ajmala Thasneem, a Psychiatric Counselor, stressed the importance of mental health support in palliative care, noting that psychological well-being is essential for compassionate healthcare for seriously ill individuals and their families.



Dr. Muneera, Medical Officer In-charge at Deen Dayal Upadhyay AYUSH Hospital, conveyed unwavering support for palliative care initiatives in Lakshadweep.



Mrs. Fathima KB, Social Worker, emphasized the vital need for society to transform its mindset to help palliative care patients.

Mrs. Abida M, ASHA Worker, shared her experiences in community level.



Mr Abdul Rauf, representing the State TB Cell, discussed the support provided to tuberculosis patients through the Nikshay Mitra initiative.

ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS

During the program, assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, and air beds were distributed to deserving patients, supporting their mobility and comfort.





Dr. Ali Azher (State Program Officer-NPPC) welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the event. **Mr. Mohammed Rasheed CK** (Rehabilitation Worker-NHM) delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all contributors and attendees.



World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) 2025 in Lakshadweep successfully brought together healthcare professionals, community representatives, NGOs, and support networks to advance the vision of universal access to palliative care. The event reinforced the message that palliative care should be available to everyone—irrespective of geography, income level, or health condition—through coordinated efforts across health systems, community structures, and individual responsibility.

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