

# Cervical cancer screening camp for staff of Dist Collectorate

*Pune:* District Collector Suhas Diwase on Wednesday announced a two-day cervical cancer screening camp at the district collectorate.

Welcoming the initiative taken by Prayas, a non profit organisation working in the field of cervical cancer for more than a decade, Diwase said, "We are collaborating with Prayas for a two-day cervical cancer screening camp at the district collectorate."

"At least 40 per cent of staff at the Collectorate are women and we encourage maximum number of women to undergo cervical cancer screening," Diwase told *The Indian Express*. Cervical cancer screening using an HPV test (and not pap smear or cytology) has been recommended by the World Health Organization for all women aged 30 to 49 years.

"Awareness about cervical cancer is very low in our society," said Dr Smita Joshi, senior scientist at Prayas, where the team has screened more than 35,000 women so far. Women who are screened in the programme are provided free colposcopy and treatment as needed. The programme was supported by Emerson Electric Co. (India) Pvt Ltd for the entire year. **ENS**