Lasers light up India-UK collaboration for cancer care

More than a million new cases of cancer are diagnosed in India annually and an important treatment tool using laser technology is unavailable for the majority of people. But a medical revolution could be waiting at the tip of a laser thanks to a pairing of UK universities and Indian Institutes to work on treatments that may help diagnose and fight cancer faster.

Radiotherapy, a common cancer treatment using high-energy rays on large areas of the body, does not discriminate between healthy and unhealthy tissues. The UK is leading the way in new laser-plasma research for cancer therapies and teams from the UK and India are now exploring these technologies and training a new generation of Indian researchers.

The majority of developing countries are not able to afford new laser treatments because of the cost of buying and running the equipment needed. This collaboration aims to create cheaper and easier alternatives to facilitate the implementation of laser technologies for better treatment and diagnosis.

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Science And Technology Facilities Council
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“A lot of research and development needs to happen before you can roll out a solution — to control the particles and radiation beams — but if you don’t do that initial R&D, it will never happen.”

Dr Rajeev Pattathil,
Science And Technology Facilities Council