

AWARENESS

ADVANCEMENT

ADVOCACY

NEWSLETTER

Lung Connect India Foundation

What happened in the organisation last month?

SUNACT LUNG CONNECT INDIA FOUNDATION
(A Patient Support Group)
Date: 15/01/2026

To:
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Room No. 152, South Block, Prime Minister's Office
New Delhi - 110011, India.

Subject: Strengthening India's Fight Against Cancer: Proposal for Including Advanced Diagnostics and Targeted Therapy in Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY)

Respected Sir,
As we step into 2026, I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. We hope this year brings continued progress and prosperity to our nation under your esteemed leadership.

We represent the, a dedicated organization working to improve lung cancer care and patient support in India. Our recommendations are rooted in our experience of working with over 80,000 patients across the country. Through constant ground-level feedback and surveys, we have identified a critical need for policy intervention to save lives and prevent families from falling into poverty.

India is currently facing a silent epidemic, often termed the "cancer capital of the world" with 3.4 million new cases annually. One of the greatest challenges for our citizens is the staggering **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPEx)**.

Our data shows that:

- Late Detection Costs More:** Due to a lack of affordable, high-end diagnostics, cancer is frequently detected at advanced stages. Treating late-stage cancer is significantly more expensive and less effective, leading to a massive spike in out-of-pocket costs that often bankrupts middle and lower-income families.
- Financial Toxicity of cancer has become a primary driver of poverty in India,** as the lack of affordable high-end diagnostics often leads to late-stage detection—making treatment up three to four times more expensive and far less effective. This "Late-Stage Trap" forces families into a cycle of distress, where they are compelled to sell ancestral assets or take high-interest loans to cover essential costs not yet included in standard government packages. Furthermore, without biomarker testing, many families incur "wasteful expenditure" on ineffective treatments, ultimately leading to high rates of treatment abandonment as patients choose to protect their family's financial future over their own survival.

Our Request: Strengthening the Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) Scheme

We highly commend the Government for the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which has been a lifeline for millions. To truly address the financial burden of cancer and reduce OOPEx, we earnestly request your support in advocating for the inclusion of the following in the PM-JAY framework:

- Advanced Diagnostic Tests (Molecular & Bio Marker Testing):** Early and accurate detection is only possible through these high-end diagnostics. Including these in the scheme will ensure early-stage detection, which drastically lowers the overall cost of treatment and improves survival rates.
- Targeted & Immunotherapy:** Modern "Precision Medicine" or targeted therapies are the current gold standard, offering better outcomes with fewer side effects than traditional chemotherapy. Currently, these are prohibitively expensive for common citizens, leading many to abandon treatment halfway.

Conclusion

Including advanced diagnostics and targeted therapies in the Ayushman Bharat package would ensure that even the most vulnerable patients have access to the best possible care, rather than just the most affordable care. This shift will directly reduce the catastrophic financial burden on Indian families.

We look forward to your valuable intervention in Parliament to champion these life-saving changes. We are available to provide our detailed survey reports and data insights to your office at your convenience.

With warm regards,


Sanjeev Sharma
Director, Lung Connect India Foundation
+91 99672 90760, sanjeev@lungconnectindia.org
www.lungconnectindia.org

NEWS UPDATE



CLINICAL STUDY FOR LUNG CANCER

ABOUT THE STUDY

This clinical research study is open for participants diagnosed with:

- Envafoimab plus platinum-based doublet chemotherapy versus placebo plus platinum-based doublet chemotherapy as neoadjuvant/adjuvant therapy in subjects with resectable stage IIA and IIB(N2) non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC).

166th SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
MUMBAI-MAHARASHTRA

Topic:
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
Advanced Medical Directive (AMD)

Followed by Q & A Session by Dr Arvind Vaidyanathan

GUEST SPEAKERS **MODERATOR**

 DR SAVITA BUTOLA MD, PhD MD, PhD	 DR ARVIND VAIDYANATHAN MD, PhD MD, PhD	 DR PAWANENDRA RAJ SINGH MD, PhD MD, PhD	 DR VANDANA MAHAJAN MD MD
--	--	---	--

107th SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
UP-BIHAR

Topic:
Oral Hygiene
A Small Step That Makes a Big Difference

Followed by Q&A session with Dr Akhil Kapoor and Dr Amit Kumar

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

 DR LOKENDRA GUPTA Professor, Dept of Dental and Prosthodontics Surgery IIMVCC, Varanasi	 DR AMIT KUMAR Senior Medical Oncologist Medanta Hospital Pune	 DR AKHIL KAPOOR Professor Medical Oncology IIMVCC, Varanasi
 ASHOK KUMAR Living with lung cancer	 PRABHAT RANJAN Coregiver Member	



We are beginning 2026 with a resolute mission—to make advanced cancer care accessible to every Indian. As part of our continued advocacy efforts, LCIF has submitted formal appeals to the Hon'ble President of India, the Prime Minister, and all Cabinet Ministers, urging that precision medicine and diagnostics be included under the Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) scheme. This initiative builds on the movement we began last year, when a memorandum signed by 800 patients was submitted to the government and the issue was even raised in the Rajya Sabha. By integrating precision medicine and diagnostics into public health schemes, we can help ensure that patients are not denied life-saving treatment due to financial constraints.

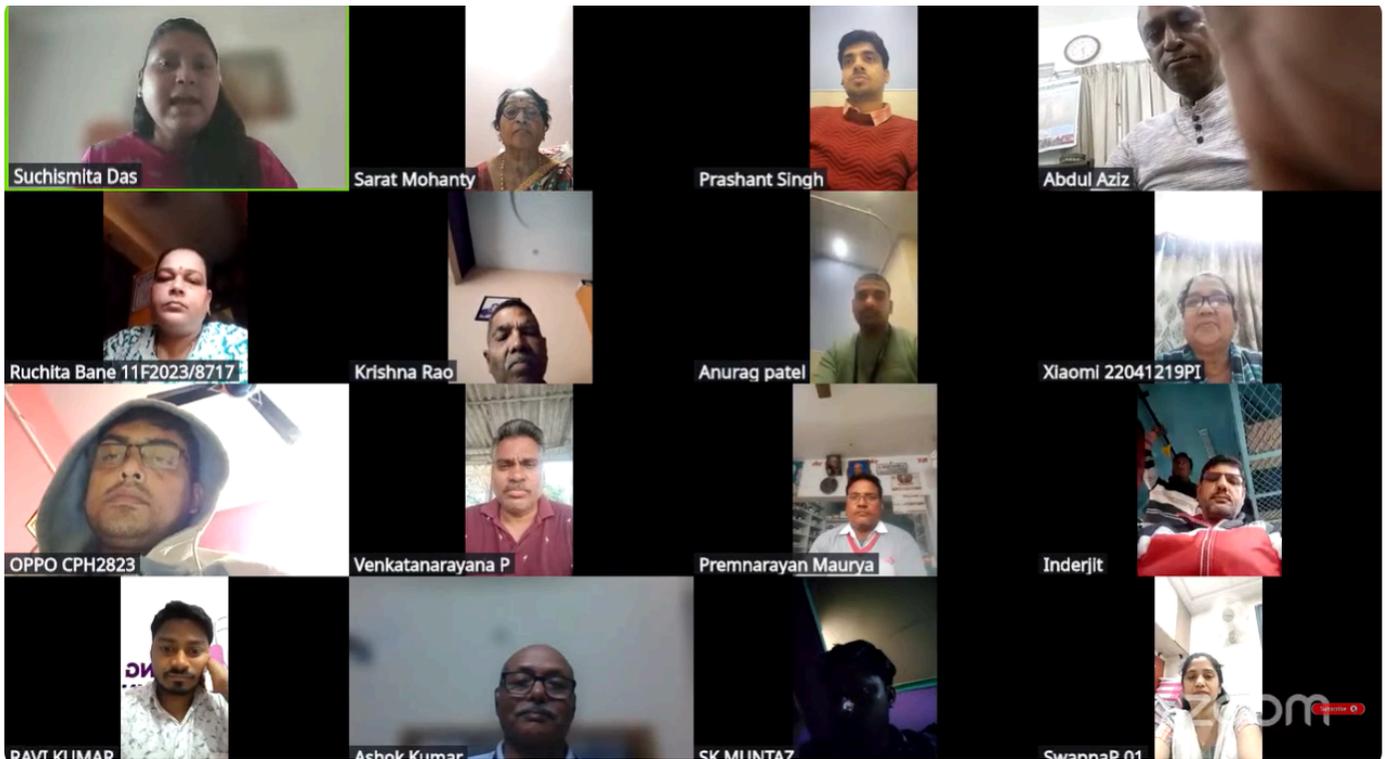


LUNG CONNECT
A FORUM FOR PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS

WWW.LUNGCONNECTINDIA.ORG

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

Stay connected, subscribe now for news updates, latest activities, workshops, free resources and more!



Support Group Meetings Fixed Time-Fixed Days

Mumbai Chapter- We have successfully conducted 166th Support Group Meeting "All you need to know about Advanced Medical Directive" by Dr Sabita Butola.

UP-Bihar Chapter- We have successfully concluded 167th Support Group Meeting "Oral Hygiene: A small step that makes a big difference" by Dr Lokendra Gupta.

Gujarat Chapter- We have successfully concluded 168th Support Group Meeting "Breathe Better, Move Stronger: The Role of Physiotherapy in Lung Cancer Care" by Sminu Rajesh Shah.

Geriatric OPD Meeting- We have successfully concluded 45th Support Group Meeting "Nutrition for elder patients undergoing treatment" by Gauri Pillai.



Buddy Program

Navigating the complexities of lung cancer treatment can be overwhelming, which is why our buddy program plays a crucial role in the patient care experience. A buddy is a steadfast virtual companion who assists patients in managing the list of tasks that accompany treatment.



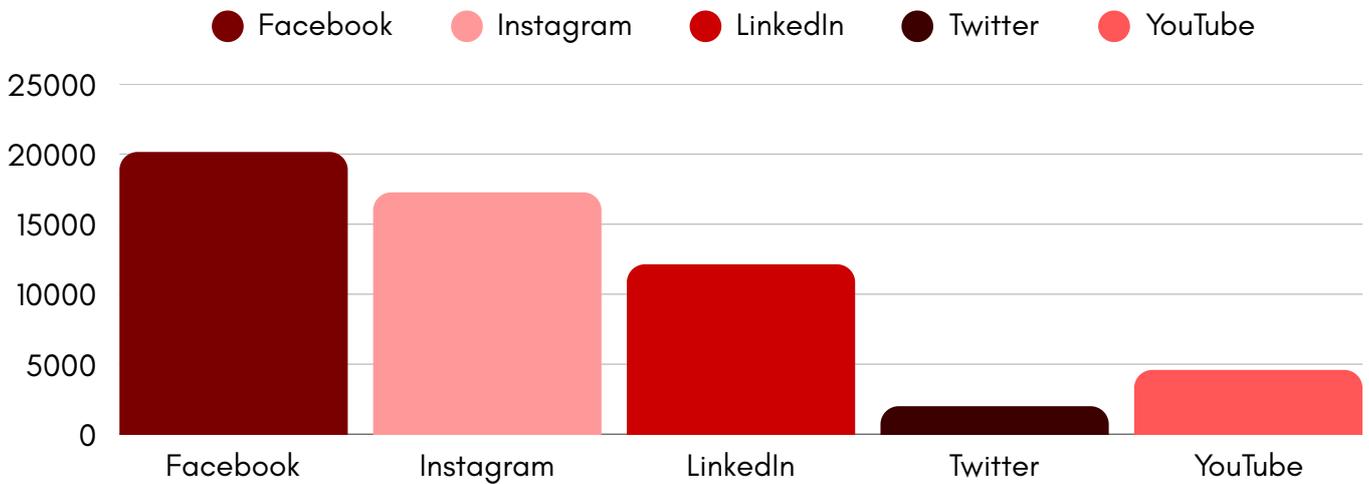
Request a Buddy



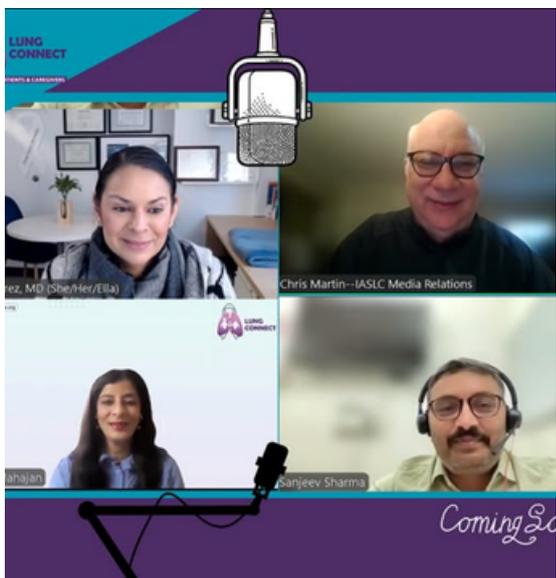
Become a Buddy

Buddy Program- Saath Nibhaaye, Hauslaa Badhaaye is a free of cost peer to peer support initiative by us. We have helped 280+ newly diagnosed patients/ caregivers till now.

Glimpse of our Social Media



PODCAST



Sanjeev Sharma and Vandana Mahajan were honoured to participate in “Lung Cancer Considered”, the official podcast of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC).

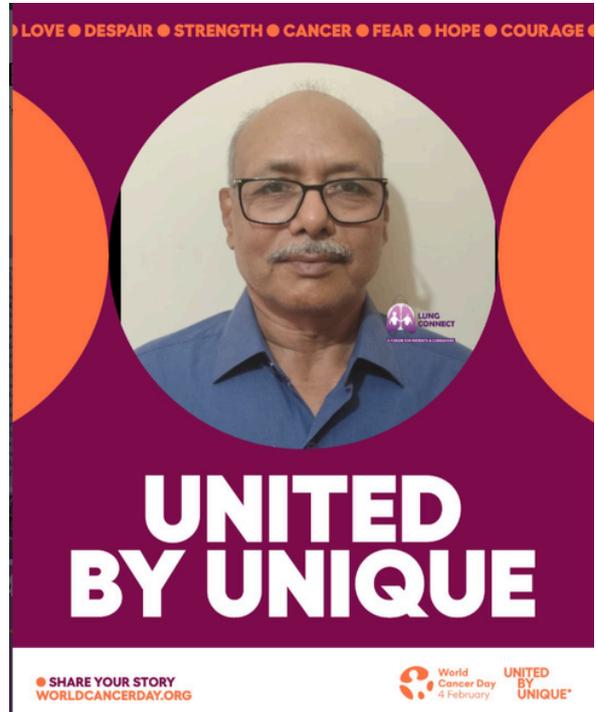
“Lung Cancer Considered” brings together researchers, clinicians, allied health professionals, patients, and advocates from across the globe who are working to shape the future of lung cancer care. We are grateful to Dr. Narjust Florez and IASLC for providing LCIF with this valuable opportunity to share our perspectives and experiences.

Patient/ Caregiver Corner

Our community stands with every patient and caregiver, celebrating your strength and supporting you through every step of the journey.



SILPI SURAL
LUNG CANCER SURVIVOR
WEST BENGAL, INDIA



ASHOK KUMAR
LIVING WITH LUNG CANCER
JHARKHAND, INDIA



BRIJESH JAISWAL
LUNG CANCER SURVIVOR
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI, INDIA