

LUNG CONNECT INDIA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

VOL 43**June 2026**

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE ORGANISATION?

World Cancer Survivor Day:
Celebrating Courage, Resilience, and Hope



Every cancer survivor's journey is a powerful reflection of courage, resilience, and unwavering hope. On World Cancer Survivor Day, we pay tribute to the extraordinary individuals who have faced the challenges of cancer with remarkable strength and continue to inspire others through their determination. Survivorship is more than reaching the end of treatment—it represents perseverance through physical, emotional, and psychological challenges. Every milestone achieved and every story shared serves as a beacon of hope for patients, caregivers, and families navigating their own cancer journey. At Lung Connect India Foundation, we are privileged to witness the resilience of lung cancer survivors who transform their personal experiences into sources of encouragement for others. Through our patient support groups, awareness initiatives, and advocacy efforts, we remain committed to creating a compassionate community where survivors can share their voices, inspire hope, and empower those newly diagnosed. On this special occasion, we also remember those who are no longer with us and extend our heartfelt support to patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and everyone dedicated to improving cancer care. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to raising awareness, promoting early detection, supporting access to quality treatment, and ensuring that no one faces lung cancer alone.

World Blood Donor Day

On World Blood Donor Day, Lung Connect India Foundation highlighted the vital role of blood and platelet donation in supporting patients undergoing cancer treatment, particularly those receiving chemotherapy and other intensive therapies. Our director Mr Sanjeev Sharma completed 70+ platelet donation on this day. He says, "every donation reminds me of one simple truth: someone, somewhere, gets another chance at life because a donor said yes."



Congratulations

IASLC STARS SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2026



RASIKA BOMBATKAR

PATIENT ADVOCATE, LCIF

Thank you IASLC (International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer) for recognising the efforts of Lung Connect India Foundation contributing in the domain of Lung Cancer

www.lungconnectindia.org

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE IN PATIENT ADVOCACY

Lung Connect India Foundation is proud to congratulate Ms. Rasika Bombatkar on her selection for the prestigious **IASLC STARS (Supportive Training for Advocates, Researchers & Survivors) Scholars Program 2026** by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC). Through this highly regarded program, Rasika will receive specialized training, mentorship, and opportunities to collaborate with leading researchers, clinicians, and advocates from across the globe. Her participation will further strengthen the integration of patient perspectives into lung cancer research, policy, and advocacy initiatives. We are delighted to see her represent the patient community on an international platform and are confident that her contributions will continue to drive meaningful change for individuals and families affected by lung cancer.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR PATIENT ADVOCACY

Congratulations

INVITED SPEAKER AT WCLC 2026



VANDANA MAHAJAN

PATIENT ADVOCATE, LCIF

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We are proud to announce that our Lead Counselor, Ms. Vandana Mahajan, has been invited as a **speaker at the World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) 2026**. This prestigious opportunity recognizes her exceptional dedication to patient advocacy, compassionate care, and her unwavering commitment to supporting people affected by lung cancer. Through her work, she has empowered patients and caregivers, promoted patient-centered care, and strengthened the importance of integrating patient voices into cancer care and policy discussions. At this premier global forum, she will share invaluable insights drawn from her years of frontline experience, shedding light on the critical emotional and psychological challenges families face during treatment. By bringing her unique, on-the-ground perspective to an international stage, she not only represents our organization's core values but also amplifies the urgent need for holistic, comprehensive support systems worldwide. Her participation at WCLC 2026 marks a significant milestone, reflecting the growing global recognition of the impact of patient advocacy. We congratulate Vandana on this remarkable achievement and wish her every success at WCLC 2026.

Congratulations

PATIENT ADVOCATE EDUCATIONAL AWARD



SUCHISMITA DAS

PATIENT ADVOCATE, LCIF

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CELEBRATING A MILESTONE IN PATIENT ADVOCACY

We are proud to share that our team member, patient advocate, and lung cancer survivor, Suchismita Das, received the prestigious **IASLC Patient Advocacy Educational Award**. This recognition celebrates her dedication to patient advocacy, resilience, and commitment to empowering the lung cancer community. Her journey from diagnosis to survivorship serves as a profound source of hope and inspiration for countless individuals navigating their own treatments. By courageously sharing her story and actively participating in educational initiatives, Suchismita helps bridge the vital gap between medical professionals and the patients they treat. This award underscores the immense value of lived experience in shaping compassionate, effective healthcare.



Low-dose pembrolizumab with chemotherapy in advanced NSCLC: A phase 3 randomized trial.

Authors: [Nandini Sharrel Menon](#), [Vanita Noronha](#), [Minit Jalan Shah](#), [Aparna Sharma](#), [Prabhat Singh Malik](#), [Anuj Gupta](#), [Akhil Kapoor](#), [Sharvari Gaikwad](#), [Alok Goel](#), [Ankush Shetake](#), [Supriya Goud](#), [Sucheta Bhagwan More](#), [Akanksha Yadav](#), [Srushti Shah](#), [Kavita Prakash Nawale](#), [Rajiv Kumar Kaushal](#), [Omshree Shetty](#), [Amit Janu](#), [Trypti Pai](#), and [Kumar Prabhash](#) [SHOW FEWER](#) | [AUTHORS INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

Advancing Lung Cancer Care Through Research and Reliable Information

At Lung Connect India Foundation, we believe that research is the driving force behind progress in lung cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Every scientific discovery, clinical trial, and medical breakthrough contributes to improving patient outcomes and creating new possibilities for those affected by the disease. Our commitment extends beyond supporting research—we are equally dedicated to ensuring that patients, caregivers, and the community have access to authentic, evidence-based information. In an era where misinformation can create confusion and anxiety, reliable medical knowledge empowers individuals to make informed decisions, engage confidently with their healthcare teams, and better understand the treatment options available to them. By sharing updates on the latest research, innovations in precision medicine, emerging therapies, and advancements in cancer care, we aim to bridge the gap between scientific progress and patient awareness. We believe that informed patients are empowered patients, and that education plays a vital role in improving quality of life and treatment outcomes. Together, through research, education, and collaboration, we can continue to advance lung cancer care, inspire hope, and work towards a future where every patient has access to the knowledge and support they need. The full articles are available on our website.



Patient Story: A Journey of Resilience

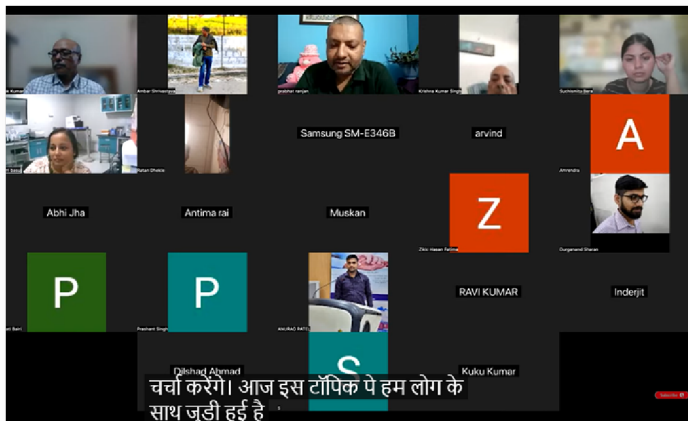
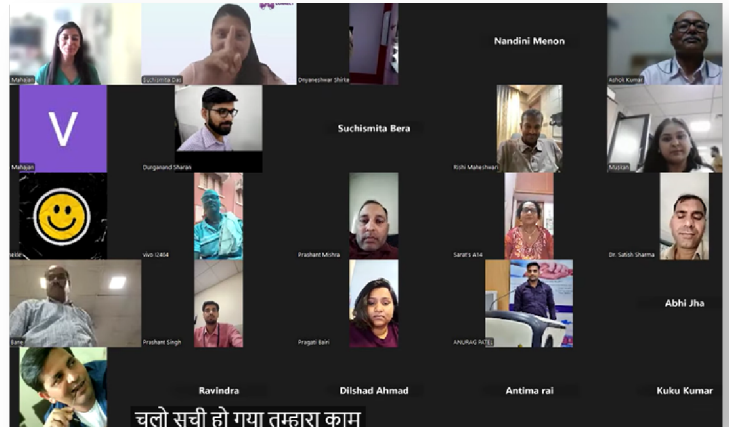
This month, Lung Connect India Foundation shared the inspiring story of a 25-year-old woman from Durgapur, West Bengal, whose life took an unexpected turn after being diagnosed with ALK-positive lung cancer. At an age when she was building her future, she was suddenly faced with fear, uncertainty, and the challenges of cancer treatment.

Through her unwavering resilience, the support of her loved ones, and access to timely treatment, she continues to move forward with hope and determination. By courageously sharing her lived experience, she is helping break the misconception that lung cancer affects only older individuals or smokers. Her story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of awareness, early diagnosis, and patient support, while inspiring others facing similar challenges to find strength and hope in their own journeys.

PATIENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

MUMBAI CHAPTER

Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 182nd Support Group Meeting – Mumbai Chapter on 12th June 2026. During the session, Dr. Nandini explained how air pollution rising risk in lung cancer. Dr Arvind addressed all the queries of the meeting participants. The meeting also featured inspiring words of motivation and shared experiences from Ms Sampa Ghosh.

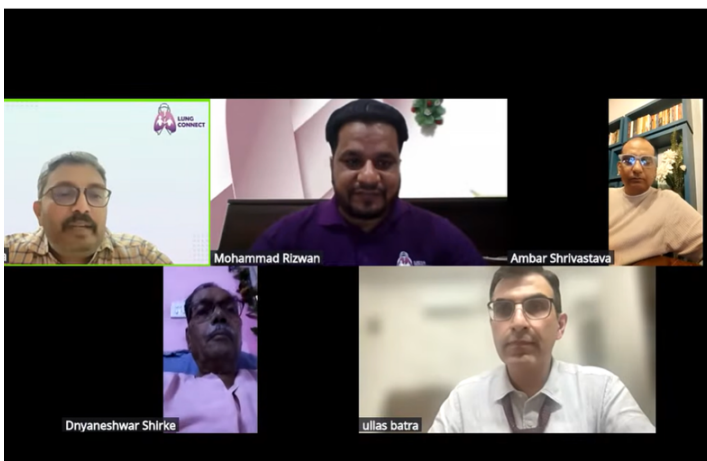
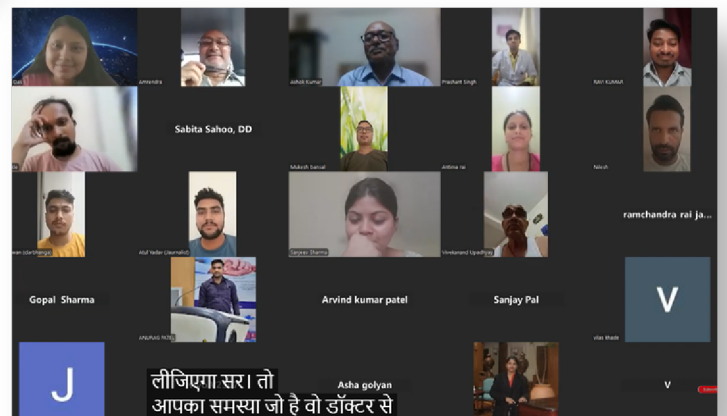


UP-BIHAR CHAPTER

Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 183rd Support Group Meeting – UP-Bihar Chapter on 17th June 2026. During the session, Dr. Moitri & Dr Zikki explained the role of pathology & molecular testing in lung cancer, Dr Amit addressed all the queries of the meeting participants. The meeting also featured inspiring words of motivation and shared experiences from Ashok Kumar.

GUJARAT CHAPTER

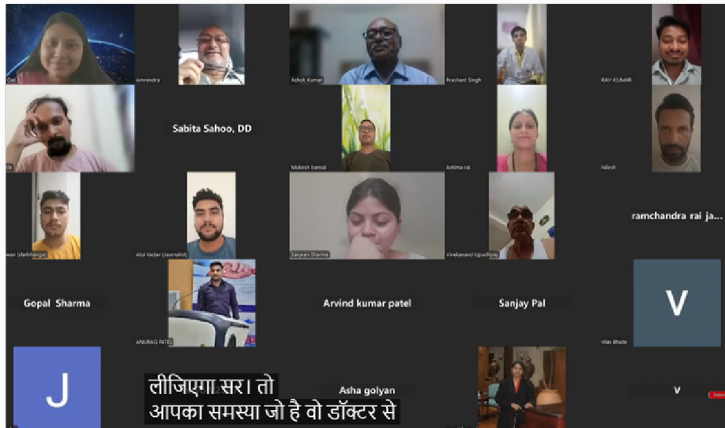
Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 184th Support Group Meeting – Gujarat Chapter on 26th June 2026. During the session, Mr. Prashant explained role of patient navigators in lung cancer india. Dr Palak Bhatt addressed all the queries of the meeting participants. The meeting also featured inspiring words of motivation and shared experiences from Paresh Shah.



DELHI CHAPTER

Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 185th Support Group Meeting – Delhi Chapter on 29th June 2026. During the session, Dr. Ullash Batra & team explained how biomarker testing helps in lung cancer treatment, Dr Ullash Batra & team addressed all the queries of the meeting participants.

SUPPORT MEETS FOR OLDER ADULTS



GERIATRIC

Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 50th Support Group Meeting – Geriatric Chapter on 19th June 2026. During the session, Dr. Fathimath how to improve sleep during cancer. Dr Arvind addressed all the queries of the meeting participants.

PATIENT/ CAREGIVER CORNER



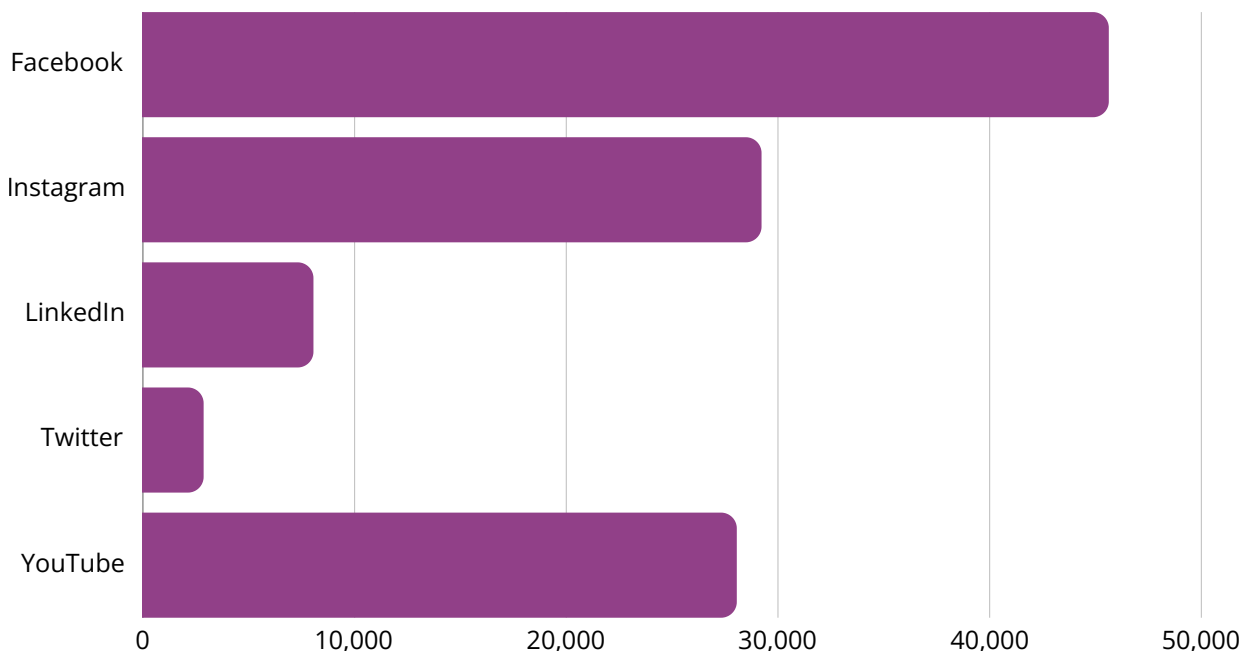
BRIJESH JAISWAL
LUNG CANCER SURVIVOR
UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

MY NAME IS BRIJESH JAISWAL, AND I AM FROM MAHARAJGANJ DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH, NEAR THE NEPAL BORDER. I AM A LUNG CANCER SURVIVOR. IN 2021, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER. MY SYMPTOMS BEGAN WITH A PERSISTENT COUGH AND SMALL TRACES OF BLOOD IN MY SPUTUM. AT FIRST, I IGNORED IT, AS I WAS PHYSICALLY ACTIVE AND INVOLVED IN REGULAR WORK, AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING MINOR. OVER TIME, HOWEVER, THE BLEEDING INCREASED, AND I DECIDED TO CONSULT A DOCTOR. THE DOCTOR DIAGNOSED ME WITH TUBERCULOSIS (TB), AND I UNDERWENT A SIX-MONTH TB TREATMENT COURSE. EVEN AFTER COMPLETING THE TREATMENT, THE BLEEDING DID NOT STOP. I WAS THEN ADVISED TO UNDERGO A PET-CT SCAN. WHEN I GOT THE SCAN DONE IN MIRZAPUR, THE DOCTORS INFORMED ME THAT THERE WAS A TUMOR IN MY LUNGS. I WAS TOLD THAT FURTHER TREATMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF TUMOR. SINCE THERE WERE LIMITED TREATMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE LOCALLY, WE SEARCHED ONLINE AND LEARNED ABOUT THE MAHAMANA PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA CANCER CENTRE IN VARANASI. WITHOUT DELAY, WE WENT TO VARANASI FOR TREATMENT. THERE, MY MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUED FOR NEARLY TWO TO THREE MONTHS.



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Lung Connect India Foundation



HIGHLIGHTS

LUNG CANCER AWARENESS

The society has designed an interactive theatre, with actors, musicians, dancers and singers to spread the message of Lung Cancer awareness. The society has also organized a series of workshops, seminars, and campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of smoking and the importance of early detection.

AVAILABLE TREATMENT OPTIONS

Doctors explained that lung cancer treatment is guided by histopathological findings, disease staging, and comprehensive biomarker profiling. Depending on the patient's clinical profile, treatment may include targeted therapy, immunotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery, radiation therapy, or multimodal treatment approaches. The session emphasized the importance of molecular diagnosis in selecting personalized treatment and improving quality of life.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The society organized a support group for patients and caregivers, providing a platform for sharing experiences, coping strategies, and emotional support. The group also offers educational resources and referrals to specialized services.

BIOMARKER TESTING

The doctor emphasized the importance of biomarker testing in lung cancer, which can help identify specific genetic mutations and guide the selection of targeted therapies. Biomarker testing is typically performed on tissue samples obtained through biopsy or surgery.

26, Rasika was treating patients.

When she became one.

India & Oxford, UK

Daytime Habits & Nap Tips for Better Sleep

Daytime Habits That Improve Sleep

- Keep Naps Short
- Avoid Late Naps
- Limit Nap Time
- Maintain Routine

Be Careful with Naps

Duration
Timing
Frequency
Consistency

184TH SUPPORT GROUP MEETING - GUJARAT

MAKING CANCER CARE SIMPLER: THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF PATIENT NAVIGATORS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 184th Support Group Meeting - Gujarat which was held on 26th June 2026.
- Mr. Prashant highlighted the crucial role of patient navigators in supporting patients throughout their cancer journey.
- He highlighted the challenges experienced by cancer patients and how patient navigators help them across the right care and resources.
- He clearly explained the distinction between the roles of healthcare professionals and patient navigators in cancer care.
- He also shared insights into the challenges patient navigators face and the concepts that patients find most difficult to understand.
- Later Dr. Pulak also addressed all the queries of the meeting participants.

PANELISTS

PRASHANT SINGH
Senior Business Development Manager, Lung Connect India Foundation

DR. PULAK PATIL
Medical Oncologist, Ahmedabad

MR. PRADEEP SINGH
Lung Cancer Patient & Patient Advocate, Surat, Gujarat

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN LUNG CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS?

HOPE THROUGH RESEARCH

Access to New Treatments | Expert Care | Advance Cancer Research | Hope for Tomorrow

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. IDENTIFY YOUR INTEREST
2. ELIGIBILITY
3. PRE-CLINICAL TRIAL
4. INFORMED CONSENT
5. START YOUR TRIAL

BE A PART OF RESEARCH. BE A PART OF A BETTER FUTURE.

CLINICAL TRIAL BRINGING HOPE TO THE FUTURE

How to Participate in Clinical Trials : A simple Guide

Making clinical trials easier to understand — one step at a time. This meaningful initiative was thoughtfully developed by our team member, Mohammad Rizwan, whose dedication and effort helped create a simple, patient-friendly guide to explain clinical trials, eligibility, and participation in an easy-to-understand manner for patients and caregivers. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Akhil Kapoor and Dr. Ullas Patra for their invaluable guidance and support in shaping this resource. Through this effort, we hope to empower patients with the right information and help them navigate clinical trial opportunities without unnecessary confusion or barriers.

BUDDY PROGRAM- SAATH NIBHAAYE HAUSLA BADHAAYE

At Lung Connect India Foundation (LCIF), our Buddy Program stands as a reminder that support goes beyond treatment. By connecting patients and caregivers with trained survivors and experienced peers, we are building a network rooted in empathy, understanding, and shared strength.

Each interaction offers more than guidance—it brings comfort, reduces fear, and helps individuals feel seen and heard during a challenging time. As the program continues to grow, so does its impact across our community.



Subscribe to Our Newsletter

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

बडी प्रोग्राम

साथ निभाए, हौसला बढ़ाए

क्यों जुड़ें हमारे बडी प्रोग्राम से?

लंग कैंसर के इलाज की जटिलताओं को समझना एक कठिन प्रक्रिया हो सकती है, और यही कारण है कि लंग कनेक्ट का बडी प्रोग्राम मरीजों की देखभाल के अनुभव में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। एक बडी एक भरोसेमंद ~~सहचर~~ साथी होता है, जो मरीजों को इलाज से जुड़ी विभिन्न जिम्मेदारियों और कार्यों को प्रबंधित करने में मदद करता है।

- भावनात्मक सहयोग
- स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में समन्वय
- दुष्प्रभावों के प्रबंधन में सहायता
- वित्तीय मार्गदर्शन
- देखभाल में सहायता

बडी बनें

बडी का अनुरोध करें

Since its inception, the Buddy Program has received 723 support requests, successfully connecting 517 buddy seekers with trained survivors and experienced peers. Supported by a dedicated network of 33 active buddy supporters, the program continues to provide emotional support, practical guidance, and reassurance to patients and caregivers across India.