

LUNG CONNECT INDIA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE ORGANISATION?

Words from the Heart

Patients Express Gratitude to Their Doctors This Doctors' Day



Some words come straight from the heart—and those are the ones that matter the most. This Doctors' Day, Lung Connect India Foundation invited patients to express their gratitude through handwritten letters dedicated to the doctors who stood by them throughout their cancer journey. The response was truly heartwarming, with each letter carrying a deeply personal story of hope, trust, compassion, courage, and gratitude, beautifully reflecting the special bond shared between patients and their doctors. These handwritten messages reminded us that healthcare is not only about diagnosis and treatment, but also about the reassurance, empathy, kindness, and human connection that can make a difficult journey a little easier. For many patients, a doctor's words, presence, and encouragement can become a source of strength during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the patients who took the time to put their feelings into words and make this initiative so meaningful. A special appreciation to Mohammad Rizwan for the thoughtful idea that brought these heartfelt emotions to life. To all the doctors who continue to care, listen, encourage, and stand beside their patients—thank you for your unwavering dedication and compassion, and for making a difference in countless lives every single day.

Ranchi Cancer Summit 2.0 Strengthening Cancer Advocacy

Bringing voices together to drive meaningful change in cancer care.

The Ranchi Cancer Summit 2.0 - NGO Advocacy Workshop brought together healthcare professionals, patient advocates, survivors, caregivers, and community leaders on 4 July 2026 at BNR Chanakya, Ranchi. The workshop provided a collaborative platform to discuss key areas including patient advocacy, cancer awareness, access to care, survivorship, and stronger support systems for people affected by cancer. The discussions highlighted the importance of collective action and meaningful collaboration in strengthening the voice of the cancer community and advancing a more informed, empowered, and compassionate approach to cancer care. Together, we continue to advocate for better access, stronger support, and a more patient-centred future in cancer care.



A LANDMARK MILESTONE IN GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY IN INDIA

Lung Connect India Foundation is honoured to be a part of the publication of the first India-Specific Geriatric Oncology Guidelines, now published in the Journal of Geriatric Oncology—a significant step towards improving cancer care for older adults in India. Proud to contribute to this historic milestone.

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RANCHI CANCER SUMMIT 2.0 RECEIVES MEDIA RECOGNITION



Lung Connect India Foundation was proud to contribute to the Ranchi Cancer Summit 2.0 through the organisation of an NGO Workshop, bringing patient advocacy and the patient perspective into the broader cancer care dialogue.

The summit witnessed 1,000+ doctor registrations and brought together distinguished oncology experts, healthcare professionals, NGOs, and other stakeholders to strengthen collaboration towards better cancer care. A special highlight was the launch of Palash Ki Ummeed – Cancer Survivors Magazine, celebrating inspiring stories of hope, courage, and survivorship. The recognition received by the summit through leading newspapers further highlighted the significance of this collective effort.

Lung Connect India Foundation remains committed to strengthening patient advocacy, awareness, support, and meaningful collaboration to ensure that the voices and needs of people affected by cancer remain at the centre of cancer care.



LAUNCHING OF RANCHI VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the overwhelming support for establishing the Ranchi Cancer Patient Support Group—a collaborative platform that will bring together patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, NGOs, survivors, and patient advocates to ensure that no one has to navigate cancer alone. This was more than a workshop—it marked the beginning of a patient-led movement to build a more compassionate, informed, and patient-centred cancer care ecosystem in Ranchi.

Because every person facing cancer deserves not only treatment, but also guidance, support, and hope.

9TH MASTERCLASS IN LUNG CANCER

Lung Connect India Foundation was represented at the 9th Masterclass in Lung Cancer, held in Varanasi, by our Director, Mr. Sanjeev Sharma. During the programme, Mr. Sharma spoke on patient advocacy and the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in lung cancer care, highlighting how organisations such as Lung Connect India Foundation can contribute to strengthening lung cancer awareness, promoting timely diagnosis, and supporting patients throughout their cancer care journey. His session emphasised the importance of a collaborative, patient-centred approach in addressing the challenges faced by people affected by lung cancer. Patient organisations and advocacy groups play a vital role in bridging gaps between patients, healthcare professionals, and the wider cancer care ecosystem, while ensuring that the patient perspective remains central to discussions on cancer care.



Patient Advocacy and Navigation at the 9th Masterclass in Lung Cancer

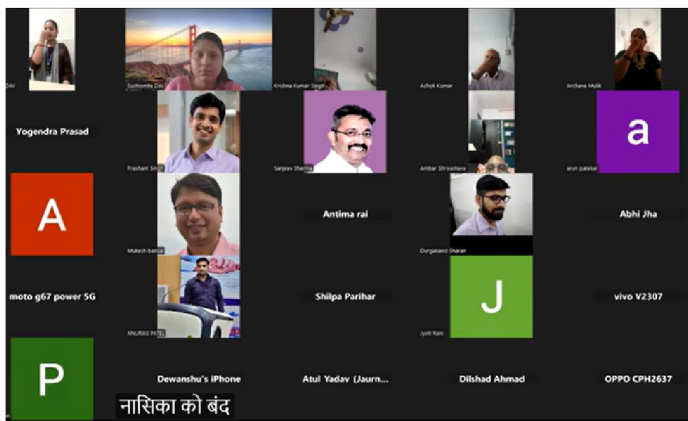


A proud and meaningful moment for **Lung Connect India Foundation** at the **9th Masterclass in Lung Cancer, Varanasi**, where our Director, **Mr. Sanjeev Sharma**, engaged with DM Medical Oncology students and faculty on the importance of **patient advocacy and patient navigation alongside evidence-based cancer care**. Mr. Sanjeev Sharma extends his sincere gratitude to **Dr. Kumar Prabhaskar, Dr. Vanita Noronha, Dr. Akhil Kapoor, CRSF**, and the **organising team** for creating this meaningful platform. We hope this initiative continues to inspire healthcare professionals to recognise and strengthen the role of **patient advocacy and navigation in cancer care**.

PATIENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

MUMBAI CHAPTER

Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 186th Support Group Meeting - Mumbai Chapter on 10th July 2026. During the session, Dr. Anil explained how Radiation therapy helps 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 Mr Ravi Pratap.

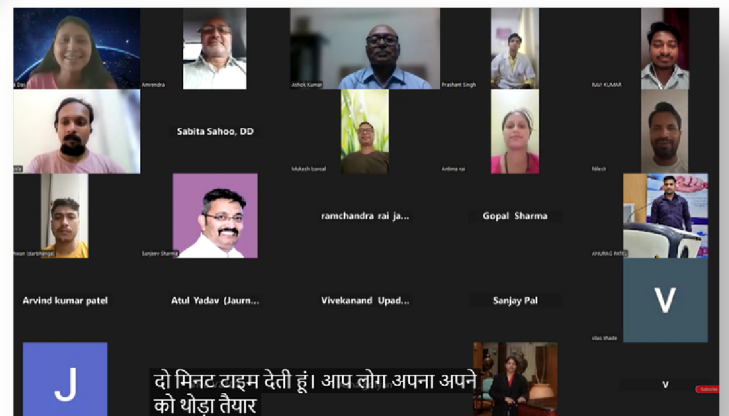


UP-BIHAR CHAPTER

Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 187th Support Group Meeting - UP-Bihar Chapter on 15th July 2026. During the session, Ms. Neetu Yadav explained how can yoga help lung cancer patients, 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 188th Support Group Meeting - Gujarat Chapter on 31st July 2026. During the session, Ms. Rajni explained role of caregivers 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.



SUPPORT MEETS FOR OLDER ADULTS



GERIATRIC

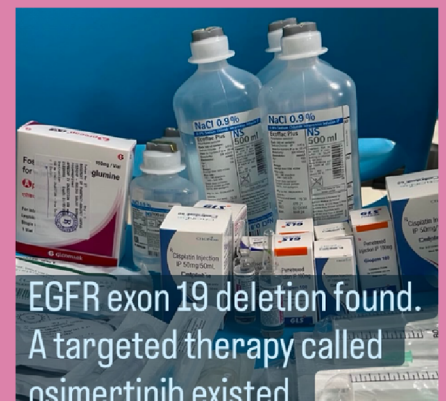
Lung Connect India Foundation successfully conducted its 51st Support Group Meeting - Geriatric Chapter on 17th July 2026. During the session, Ms. Purabi explained how to eat well during cancer treatment. Dr Arvind addressed all the queries of the meeting participants.

From Patient to Advocate: Rasika's Journey of Turning Experience into Action

At 26, Rasika Bombatkar, a physiotherapist from India, was diagnosed with Stage 3B EGFR-positive lung cancer. Her journey exposed her to the realities of treatment access, financial challenges, insurance barriers, and the need for patients to have a stronger voice in healthcare decisions.

Today, Rasika is doing well and continues to use her experience to advocate for people living with cancer. Through her association with Lung Connect India Foundation, she works to ensure that patient voices are heard in conversations around cancer care, research, policy, and decision-making.

Her powerful question captures the essence of patient advocacy: "If everything is for patients, then why aren't we in the rooms where decisions are made?"



From Patient to Advocate: Ravi's Journey of Turning Experience into Action



At just 24, Ravi was preparing for the UPSC examinations in Delhi when he was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. What began as a life-changing diagnosis soon became a journey of resilience, courage, and purpose. Within a year of his diagnosis, Ravi transformed his experience into a voice for others living with cancer. As a patient advocate, he openly shares his journey, raises awareness, and encourages patients to seek information and support.

Ravi has also been actively associated with Lung Connect India Foundation, including serving as **the host for the NGO Workshop at Ranchi Cancer Summit 2.0**. Through his involvement, he continues to contribute towards building a stronger network of patient advocates in India and ensuring that patient voices remain an integral part of cancer care and advocacy.

Patient/Caregiver Corner



SHAMPA GHOSH

LIVING WITH LUNG CANCER
WEST BENGAL, INDIA

At an age when most young people are focused on building their careers and chasing their dreams, Shampa Ghosh from Durgapur, West Bengal, found herself facing an unexpected challenge—an ALK-positive lung cancer diagnosis. A postgraduate student pursuing her Master's degree in Bengali, Shampa never imagined that cancer would become a part of her journey.

Looking back, she says that no one ever expects such a disease to enter their lives. But once it does, many people begin to believe that life has come to a standstill. Shampa refuses to accept that.

"The disease should not stop us from living our lives," she says. "We have to fight alongside it and continue moving towards our goals. Nothing should be allowed to take away our dreams."

Being diagnosed at such a young age has not been easy. Treatment and hospital visits have often disrupted her studies. During examinations, she has struggled to write papers to the best of her ability, making academics much more challenging than she had ever imagined.

She is still striving to build her future and has not yet started her professional career. However, determined not to let cancer define her, Shampa also takes tuition classes for children. Teaching not only keeps her mind occupied but also allows her to contribute financially, easing some of the burden on her parents.



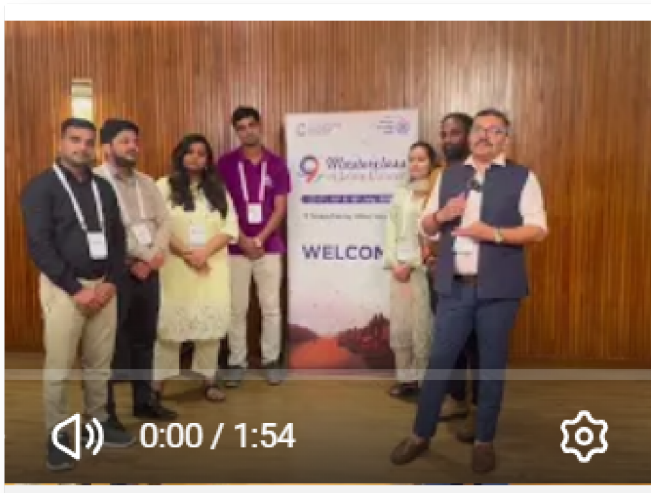
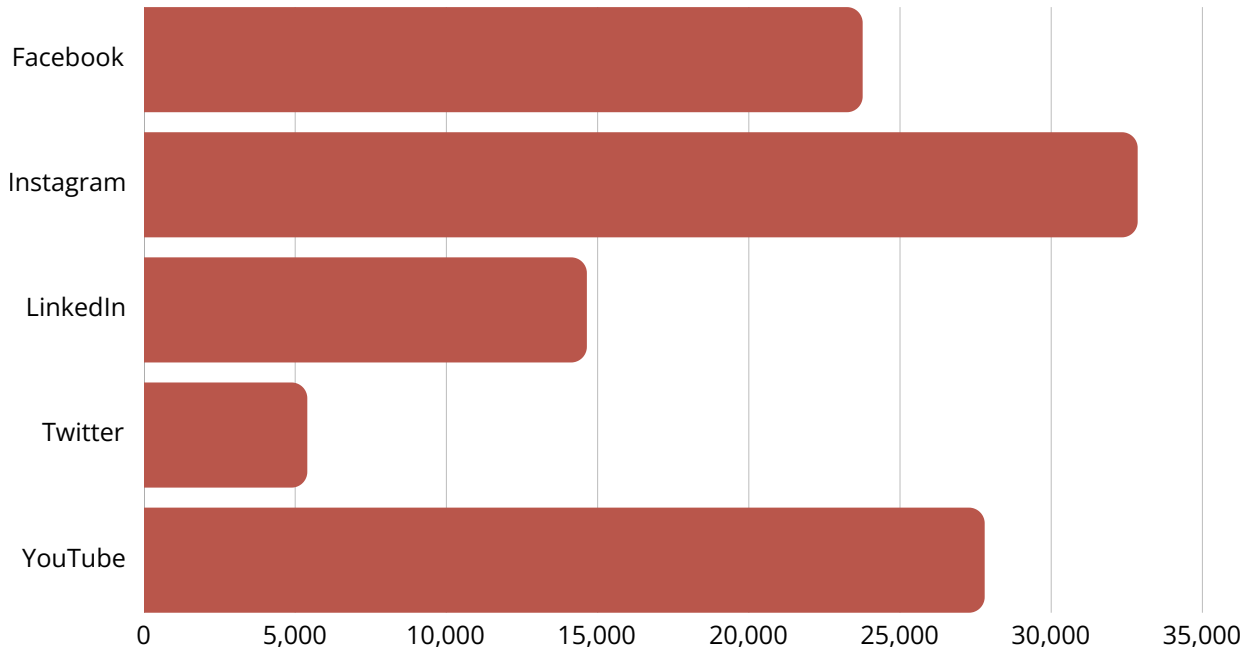
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Her message to every patient is simple yet powerful: "No matter what situation life brings, never stop smiling. Whatever happens, keep moving forward with a smile."

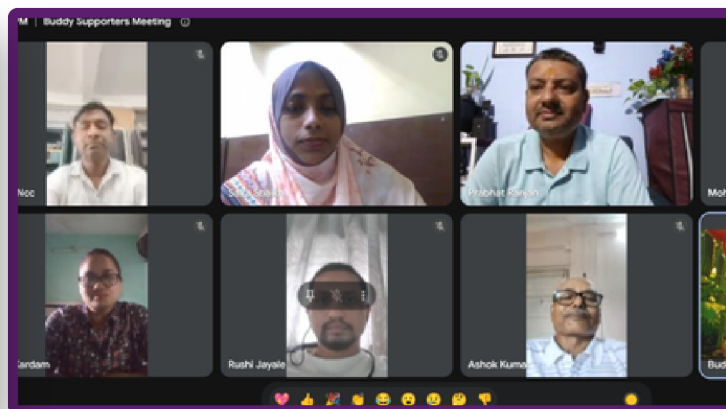
SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Lung Connect India Foundation



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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. Every month we take feedback from our navigators and volunteers about their experience with the new patients.



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Since its inception, the Buddy Program- Saath Nibhaaye, Hauslaa Badhaye successfully connected 557 buddy seekers with trained survivors and experienced peers. Supported by a dedicated network of 34 buddy supporters, the programme continues to provide emotional support, practical guidance, and reassurance to patients and caregivers across India.