



ICCI
Indian Childhood
Cancer Initiative

Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI)

Newsletter 2026, Issue 2

We are excited to share with you the ICCI meetings and a summary of the key projects undertaken by our eleven taskforces.

+91-99 5359 1580

www.indiachildcancer.org

contact@indiachildcancer.org

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Information and Educational Videos on Childhood Cancer Released on YouTube



To improve health literacy, awareness, and patient engagement in India, existing informational and educational materials on childhood cancer were reviewed. A gap analysis of these resources highlighted the need for relevant, context-specific content in video format.

In response, we piloted a project focusing on seven priority topics identified with inputs from the Information and Awareness Taskforce. The videos designed for children with cancer and their families/caregivers, were successfully launched on our YouTube channel: Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI).

The videos were filmed in Mumbai at Tata Memorial Hospital and St. Jude Child Care Centre India. These videos address key areas where accessible and India-specific information was previously limited. To further expand reach and accessibility, ICCI plans to dub these videos into multiple regional languages, including **Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, and Bengali.**

Information and Educational Videos on Childhood Cancer Released on YouTube



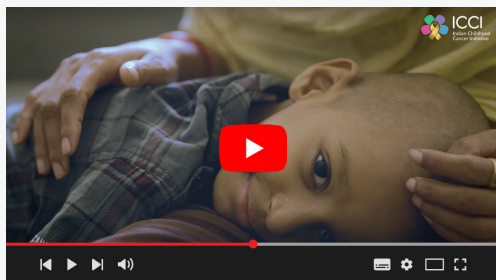
Video Topics available on YouTube



Busting Common Myths About Childhood Cancer



Psychosocial Support in Childhood Cancer



Understanding and Managing Pain



How to Access Financial Support for Children with Cancer?



Cancer Survivorship in India



What is Clinical Trial?



Child with Cancer has fever: What you should do?

Marking International Childhood Cancer Day with Focus on Oncofertility



On the occasion of International Childhood Cancer Day, attention was brought to an important yet often overlooked aspect of survivorship oncofertility.

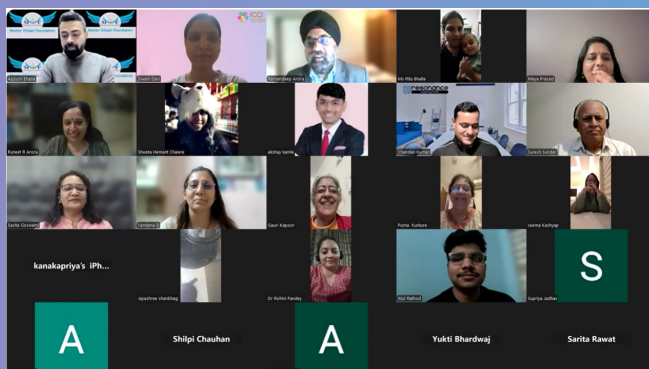
To mark the day, ICCI organised a webinar titled “Oncofertility in Childhood Cancer – Practical Approaches in India” on 16 February 2026. The session highlighted the growing importance of fertility care as survival rates in childhood cancer continue to improve.

The webinar saw strong participation, with over 100 attendees. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Satish Kumar Adiga on “Current Standards of Fertility Preservation in Prepubertal Children (including work done in India)”, highlighting the increasing interest and need for dialogue on this subject.

Bringing together leading experts and stakeholders, the session focused on:

- ✓ Current standards of fertility preservation in children
- ✓ Practical approaches to integrating fertility care into treatment in India
- ✓ Bridging the gap between evidence and implementation

Another highlight of the event was the **launch of ICCI’s Multi-Stakeholder Position Statement and Call to Action** on Recognising and addressing fertility issues among childhood cancer patients and survivors in India.



The discussion was highly engaging, with valuable insights and perspectives shared by speakers and participants alike, underlining the need to look beyond survival and prioritise quality of life after cancer.

If you wish to watch or revisit the discussion, access full webinar recording here:

https://youtu.be/08v0kCoi0s?si=X7t3xpMT6q-4Kk_Y

Launch of the Standards for Pediatric Palliative Care in India



The Indian Association of Palliative Care (IAPC) has launched the Standards for Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC) in India on 14th February, 2026. This marked an important step towards strengthening care for children living with serious illnesses.

Pediatric Palliative Care is an essential component of comprehensive healthcare. It addresses key dimensions of suffering in serious illnesses, supporting children and their families throughout the illness journey.

Developed through a rigorous and inclusive consultative process involving families, healthcare professionals, counsellors, policy experts and international collaborators, these standards outline key domains and practical recommendations to enhance the delivery of PPC services across India.



STANDARDS FOR PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE IN INDIA

A CONSENSUS DOCUMENT



Several of the members of ICCI Palliative Care Taskforce were involved in the creation of this document. Furthermore, ICCI has also endorsed these standards.

The document is available on the ICCI website www.indiachildcancer.org for wider access and dissemination.



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India

In a significant policy milestone, the DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has constituted a Technical Expert Group (TEG) for children with cancer on 9th January 2026.

This development follows a proposal submitted by ICCI, highlighting the need for a coordinated, service-based national approach to childhood cancer.

The TEG will serve as an advisory body to guide national efforts in strengthening childhood cancer care across the country. It has identified four key objective areas:

- Enhancing comprehensive management
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and research
- Developing policy and programme guidelines, improving access to care
- Collectively aiming to build a more responsive and effective national system for childhood cancer care.

Mapping Childhood Cancer Services in India



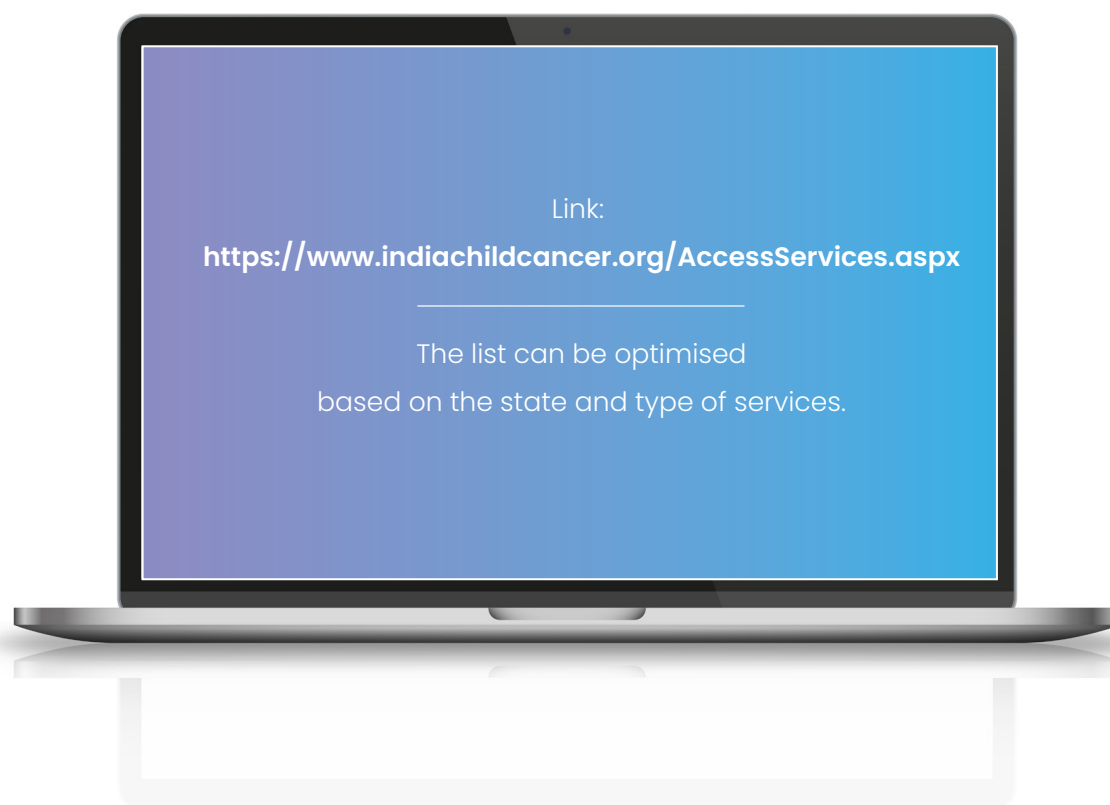
As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen access to childhood cancer care, ICCI conducted a comprehensive mapping exercise to identify Home Away From Home facilities and Hospice centre for children with cancer across India. This exercise also incorporated a list of hospitals that participated in the SIOF mapping initiative. The list of hospitals was obtained from SIOF and has been systematically compiled and integrated into the mapping effort.

The consolidated information has been transformed into an interactive map and is now available on the ICCI website, enabling patients, caregivers, and stakeholders to easily access and navigate services across the country.

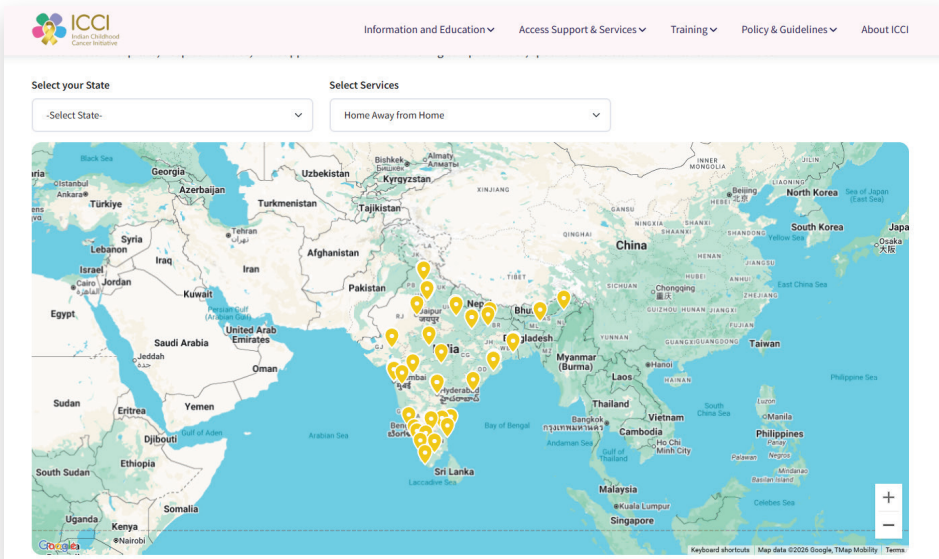
This initiative aims to improve visibility of available services, support informed decision-making for families, and strengthen linkages across the continuum of care for children with cancer in India.

The list and address can be found on our website
www.indiachildcancer.org under the heading:

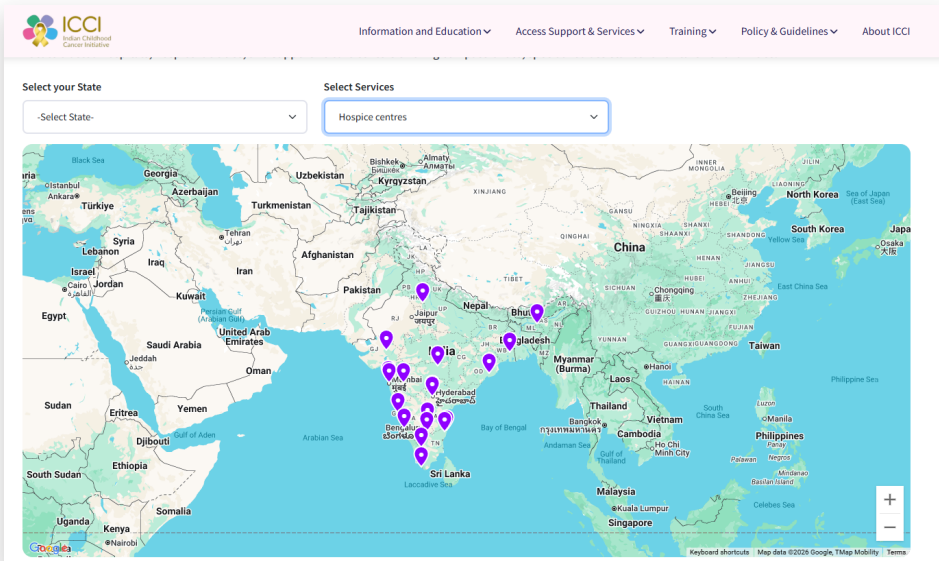
Access Support & Services > Access Services.



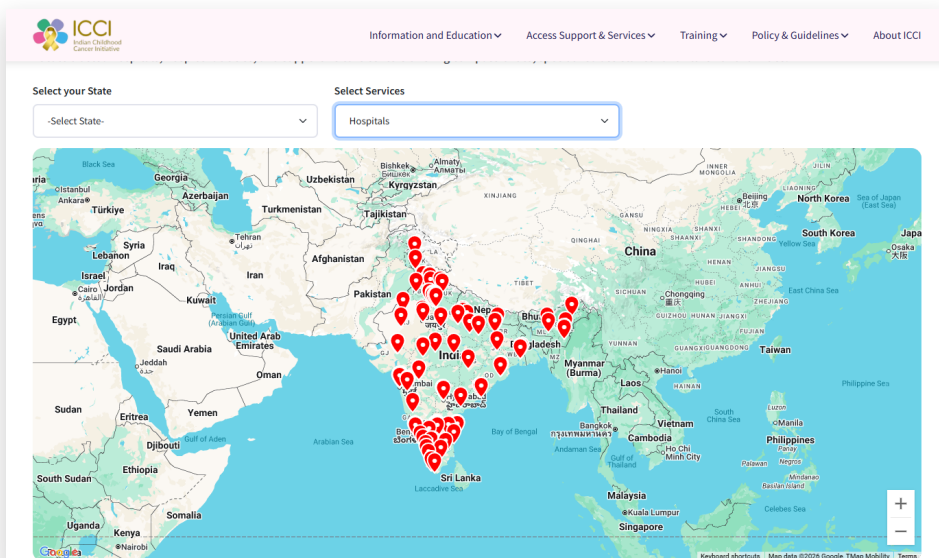
Mapping Childhood Cancer Services in India



Home Away From Home Centres for Childhood Cancer



Hospice Centres for Childhood Cancer Patients



Hospitals with Pediatric Oncology services

Participation in Regional/National Meetings and Workshops



ICCI represented in PEDICON 2026, Kolkata

At the PEDICON 2026 in Kolkata, ICCI was strongly represented in advancing the agenda of Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC). On 17th January 2026, a dedicated workshop on PPC for pediatric oncologists was conducted at the Tata Medical Center, focusing on recognising medical futility and understanding the appropriate transition from curative to palliative approaches in children with serious illnesses. The workshop created an important platform for clinicians to reflect on compassionate, patient-centred care and the integration of palliative principles early in the treatment journey.



Continuing this momentum, on 18th January 2026, ICCI taskforce chairs Dr Veronique Dinand and Dr Archana Iyengar represented ICCI in a panel discussion on the integration of pediatric palliative care into routine pediatric practice at the Biswa Bangla Convention and Exhibition Centre. The session highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in addressing pain and improving quality of life for children with serious illnesses. Their participation reinforced ICCI's commitment to strengthening PPC services in India and promoting greater awareness among pediatricians about the timely integration of palliative care.

Participation in Regional/National Meetings and Workshops



Odisha 6th CanCon- Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

ICCI participated in the Odisha Sixth CANCON multi-stakeholder engagement held on 26th February in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

During the event, we conducted a dedicated session aimed at building upon the outputs of previous stakeholder consultations. The discussion was organized around three key thematic areas:

- ✓ Early detection, recognition, and referral
- ✓ Training and capacity building
- ✓ Government advocacy and policy



Within this session, stakeholders collectively reviewed and documented key activities undertaken over the past few years. Building on these insights, a shared vision for 2030 was outlined. Participants further identified and mapped specific activities and roles that different stakeholders could undertake to achieve these long-term goals.

Participation in Regional/National Meetings and Workshops



ICCI at the St. Jude Global South Asia Convening, Mumbai

ICCI participated in the first St. Jude Global South Asia Convening Meeting held in Mumbai from March 9–12. The convening brought together key stakeholders from across the region, including representatives from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Timor-Leste, along with national and global partners working towards strengthening childhood cancer care.

ICCI actively contributed to key discussions, sharing insights from its ongoing work and engaging with partners to identify priorities for advancing pediatric oncology care in India and the region. ICCI also participated in the Regional Advisory Committee Meeting.



Multi-Partner National Framework

ICCI participated in the National Frameworks session at the St. Jude Global South Asia Regional Meeting, contributing to discussions on India's experience in building and implementing coordinated, national-level approaches to pediatric cancer care.

The session highlighted how diverse stakeholders; including foundations, clinicians, researchers, patient navigators, and government partners have come together to form collaborative coalitions that strengthen and advance childhood cancer care across the country.



Participation in Regional/National Meetings and Workshops



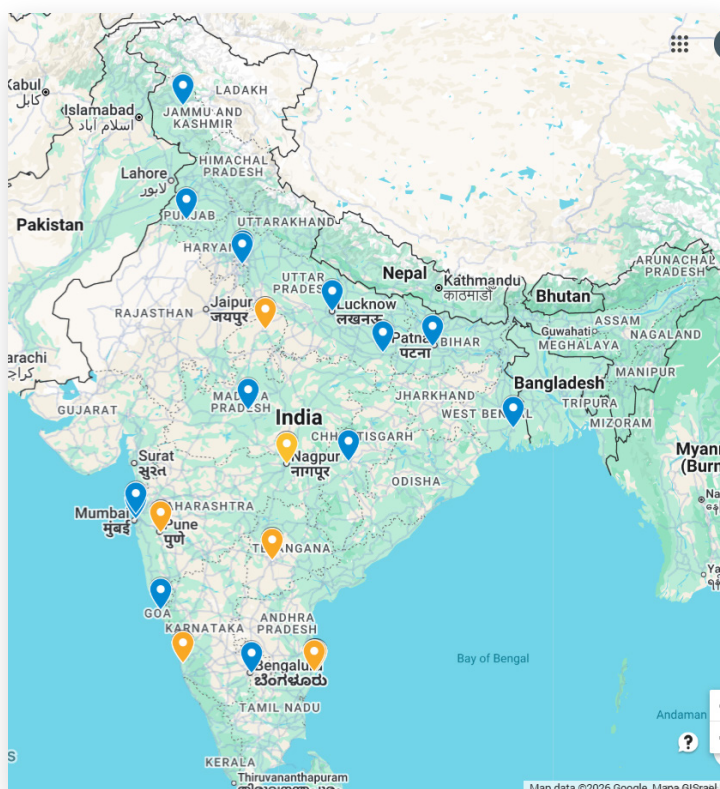
KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Nancy Bolous presenting the partial analysis of the cost-effective study

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Presentation

Cost-effectiveness analysis project was presented during the convening. Based on data from 17 hospitals, the analysis was shared by Dr. Nancy Bolous, highlighting important findings from the partial analysis & offering valuable insights into the cost-effectiveness of childhood cancer care across participating institutions.



Government Centres

Trust hospitals

Meeting with Shri Saroj Kumar Ji

A side meeting was facilitated by WHO India with Shri Saroj Kumar Ji, Director, NP-NCD, Government of India. The meeting included participation from WHO India, WHO SEAR, National Cancer Grid, Tata Memorial Hospital, St. Jude Global, and ICCI.

ICCI presented a summary of its work, including updates on the newly formed Technical Expert Group (TEG). The discussion led to alignment on key national priorities, and Shri Saroj Kumar Ji suggested a follow-up in-person meeting to take this forward.



ICCI Taskforce Restructuring: A More Focused Approach



In 2026, ICCI has restructured its taskforces to enhance coordination, reduce overlap, and strengthen impact across childhood cancer care initiatives. Building on its multi-stakeholder model, the new structure introduces a more streamlined and strategic framework.

> > > > > > > > **Key Changes** > > > > > > > >

✔ Six Core Taskforces

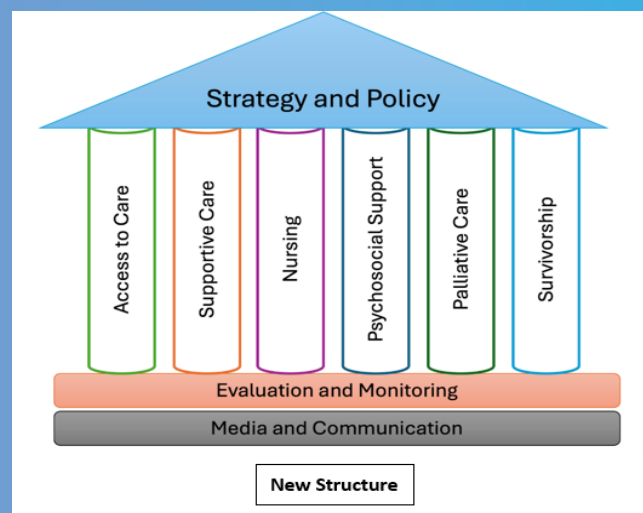
Access to Care | Supportive Care | Nursing | Psychosocial Support | Palliative Care | Survivorship

Earlier groups such as Information and Awareness, Financing and Policy, Research and Clinical Trials, Data and Registry, and Drugs & Diagnostics have been integrated into the new structure for better alignment and efficiency.

✔ Two Cross-Cutting Themes

- Media and Communication | Evaluation and Monitoring
- Overarching Focus on Strategy and Policy

✔ Overarching Focus on Strategy and Policy





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