



ICCI
Indian Childhood
Cancer Initiative

Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI)

Newsletter 2026, Issue 3

We are excited to share
quarterly updates of
Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative

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National Teaching Session on the Blinatumomab Access Programme (BHAP)



26 March 2026 | Virtual

As part of the **Pediatric Hematology Oncology National Teaching Programme**, Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI) supported a national knowledge-sharing session on the **Blinatumomab Humanitarian Access Programme (BHAP)**. The program brought together pediatric oncology experts to discuss expanding access to Blinatumomab therapy and share practical experiences from both international and Indian healthcare settings.

PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY NATIONAL TEACHING PROGRAMME

BLINATUMOMAB HUMANITARIAN ACCESS PROGRAMME (BHAP)

26th March, 2026 **7:00 PM Onwards**

Blinatumomab Humanitarian Access Programme (BHAP)
Dr Caitlyn Duffy, St. Jude Hospital

Outpatient Blinatumomab
Dr Revathi Raj, Apollo Hospital, Chennai

Indian Perspective on Blinatumomab and BHAP
Dr (Surg Cdr) Gaurav Narula, TMH Mumbai

Organising Committee

 DR. S. P. YADAV CHAIRPERSON PHO SR. CONSULTANT PHO & BMT PHYSICIAN MEDANTA HOSPITALS NEW DELHI	 DR. SHWETA BANSAL HON SECRETARY PHO HOD PHO & BMT PHYSICIAN H.N. RELIANCE HOSPITAL MUMBAI	 DR. PONNI SIVAPRAKASAM SR. CONSULTANT - PHO & BMT PHYSICIAN GLENDALES-FORTIS, CHENNAI, TN	 DR. ARUN DANEWA SR. CONSULTANT PHO & BMT PHYSICIAN ARTEMIS HOSPITAL GURGAON
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The session featured presentations by **Dr. Caitlyn Duffy (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital)** on the BHAP initiative, **Dr. Revathi Raj (Apollo Hospital, Chennai)** on outpatient administration of Blinatumomab, and **Dr. (Surg Cdr) Gaurav Narula (Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai)** on the Indian perspective & implementation of BHAP. The programme provided healthcare professionals with valuable clinical insights to support the safe and effective use of Blinatumomab in pediatric oncology.

Strengthening Childhood Cancer Care in Chhattisgarh



23 April 2026 | Raipur

ICCI in collaboration with AIIMS Raipur and BALCO Medical Center, convened a multi-stakeholder meeting in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**, bringing together representatives from the Government of Chhattisgarh, public and private hospitals, civil society organizations, professional associations, WHO, and other partners working in childhood cancer. The meeting was attended by key leaders including **Dr. Subodh Dhar Sharma**, Director of Health Services, Government of Chhattisgarh; **Dr. Urvin Jha**, WHO India; and **Dr. Shweta Bansal**, PHO-IAP, among other distinguished stakeholders.

- ✔ Reviewed the state's childhood cancer burden, existing services, referral pathways, and key gaps in care.
- ✔ Shared institutional experiences, best practices, innovations, and implementation challenges.
- ✔ Highlighted civil society initiatives supporting patient navigation, nutrition, psychosocial care, accommodation, financial assistance & awareness.
- ✔ Discussed policy priorities and partnerships to strengthen childhood cancer care within the state health system.
- ✔ Identified priority actions to improve early diagnosis, referrals, workforce capacity, supportive care, and data systems.

HIGHLIGHTS



Building a Collaborative Childhood Cancer Network in Assam



16 May 2026 | Radisson Blu, Guwahati

Following the successful state engagement in Chhattisgarh, ICCI, in collaboration with **Dr. Bhubaneswar Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI)** and **Deepsikha Cancer Foundation**, convened the **Assam State Stakeholder Meeting on Childhood Cancer** in Guwahati. The meeting brought together representatives from the Government of Assam, healthcare institutions, public and private organisations, civil society organisations & development partners to strengthen collaboration for childhood cancer care across the state. The workshop was attended by key leaders including **Dr. S. Lakshmanan**, Mission Director, NHM Assam (Child Health Services); **Dr. Ranjit Agarwal**, Local IAP-Assam; and **Dr. Pritam Singha Roy**, PHO-IAP.

A special address was delivered by **Dr. Ravi Kannan**, Director, Cachar Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, highlighting the importance of collaborative action to strengthen childhood cancer care in Assam.

The meeting provided a platform to review Assam's childhood cancer landscape, showcase the work of healthcare institutions and support organisations, and discuss opportunities to strengthen referral networks and coordinated service delivery. Through state presentations, institutional experiences, and a collaborative SWOT analysis, stakeholders identified key priorities for building a stronger childhood cancer network and improving access to timely, quality care for children across Assam.

- ✔ Reviewed Assam's demographic, health system, and childhood cancer landscape to identify state-specific opportunities and challenges.
- ✔ Six healthcare institutions presented existing pediatric oncology services, referral pathways, and institutional experiences from across the state.
- ✔ Ten civil society organisations showcased services supporting accommodation, nutrition, psychosocial care, palliative care, patient navigation, and family support.
- ✔ Collaborative SWOT analysis identified priority actions to strengthen referral systems, partnerships, and coordinated childhood cancer care across Assam.

HIGHLIGHTS



Conducted an Early Recognition of Childhood Cancer Training Session at CARES 2026



2 May 2026 | Christian Medical College & Hospital, Ludhiana

ICCI conducted an interactive training session on **Early Recognition of Childhood Cancer during CARES 2026 at Christian Medical College & Hospital, Ludhiana**, engaging medical students & young healthcare professionals in strengthening early diagnosis and timely referral.



The programme was organised with the leadership of **Dr. Shruti Kakkar**, Chair of ICCI's Access to Care Taskforce. Faculty included **Dr. Krutika Kurhade Goel**, **Dr. Prashant Chhabra**, and **Dr. Dhruv Ghosh**, who facilitated practical, case-based discussions on recognizing warning signs and applying clinical algorithms in real-world settings. Dr. **Rohini Pandey** represented ICCI during the training programme.

- ✓ The session had a patient-centric exposure, where participants had the opportunity to apply recognition algorithms to real clinical scenarios.
- ✓ It was focused on strengthening clinical understanding of early warning signs, red flag symptoms, timely referral pathways, and the importance of maintaining a high index of suspicion in pediatric practice to support earlier diagnosis and improved outcomes for children with cancer.

HIGHLIGHTS

National Stakeholder Workshop for India's Childhood Cancer Roadmap



21-22 May 2026 | New Delhi



ICCI convened a two day **National Stakeholder Workshop on Childhood Cancer**, under the theme **"The Pediatric Cancer Convergence: Bridging Policy, Care, and Lived Experience"**, to review the progress made in childhood cancer care across India, strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration & build consensus on national priorities for improving access to quality care.

The workshop brought together representatives from the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, NITI Aayog, NHSRC, state governments, WHO SEARO, WHO India, UNICEF India, St. Jude Global**, along with clinicians, researchers, civil society organisations, childhood cancer survivors, and technical partners to strengthen India's national response to childhood cancer.

National Stakeholder Workshop for India's Childhood Cancer Roadmap



CHIEF GUEST



Dr. V. K. Paul
Member,
NITI Aayog

GUEST OF HONOUR



Dr. L. Swasticharan
Additional Deputy
Director General, MoHFW

Four panel discussions:

(Panel 1) The National Roadmap: Towards a Unified Pediatric Cancer Policy Framework

The panel focused on the key aspects for integrating childhood cancer into existing national and state health systems. The panel emphasized that India already possesses many of the foundational elements required to strengthen childhood cancer care and the focus should therefore be on integration, coordination, and implementation rather than creating parallel systems.



National Stakeholder Workshop for India's Childhood Cancer Roadmap



(Panel 2) Sustainable Investment: Expanding Universal Health Coverage for Childhood Cancer

The panel underscored the need for evidence-based financing models, robust costing studies, stronger reimbursement mechanisms, and greater alignment between treatment advances and financial protection schemes.



(Panel 3) Optimizing Care Pathways: Strengthening Centers of Excellence and Referral Networks

The third panel focused on improving access to timely diagnosis and treatment and highlighted referral delays as a major barrier to improved outcomes. The panellists discussed the identification of Centres of Excellence and the adoption of referral and back-referral pathways.



National Stakeholder Workshop for India's Childhood Cancer Roadmap

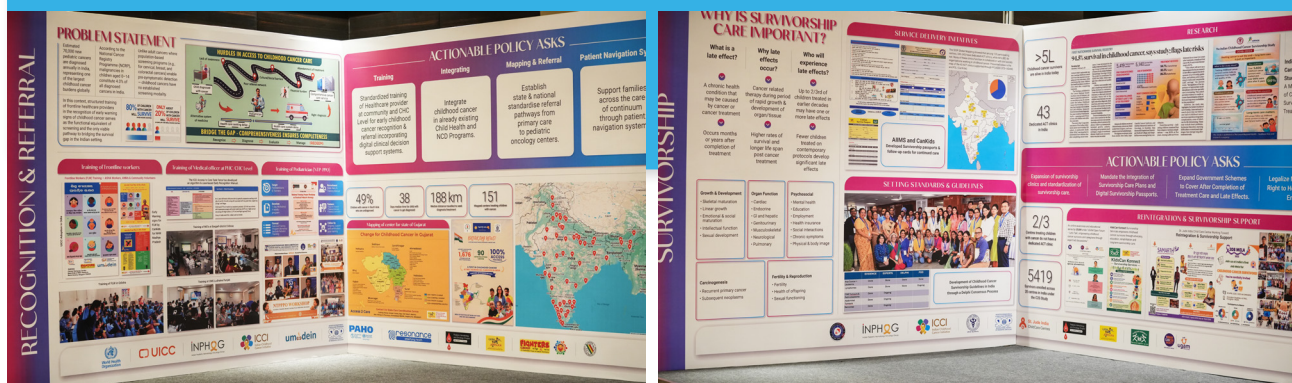


(Panel 4) From Policy to Practice: Tailoring Pediatric Oncology to Diverse State Ecosystems

Recognizing India's diversity, the fourth panel, explored how national priorities can be adapted to local realities. The discussion highlighted examples from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Kerala, and Gujarat, demonstrating how state governments and local stakeholders are adapting childhood cancer services to regional needs



A dedicated Gallery Walk showcased three years of collaborative progress across psychosocial care, accommodation services, workforce development, research, survivorship, holistic care and information & education.



National Stakeholder Workshop for India's Childhood Cancer Roadmap



- Reflected on ICCI's progress over the past year, highlighting achievements in strengthening childhood cancer care through collaboration, state engagement, and partnerships.
- ICCI taskforces shared updates on new resources, training programmes, research & practical tools developed to support healthcare professionals and improve care for children with cancer.
- Representatives from Odisha, Assam, and Chhattisgarh shared how collaborative efforts are helping improve childhood cancer services and access to care within their states.
- New plans were presented to strengthen data collection, monitor progress, and guide future action to improve childhood cancer care across India.



- Stakeholders reviewed ICCI's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, providing feedback to help shape the organisation's priorities and collective roadmap for the coming years.
- The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to continue working together to ensure that every child with cancer has access to timely, quality care, regardless of where they live.



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