



Dementia
India Alliance

+91 8585990990

www.dementia-india.org

Newsletter of Dementia India Alliance | June 2026



Three years ago, DIA began with a simple dream: that no family in India should have to face dementia alone.

From a small team and a handful of initiatives, we've grown into a national movement — screening communities, building support systems, training the healthcare workforce, and embedding dementia care into government systems through training, state task forces, and stronger public-private partnerships.

Building on the momentum of DIA's first year, the Tata Trusts Programme entered Year 2 with renewed targets and an expanded team, while DIA's growing institutional presence opened new opportunities for CSR, partnerships and funding.

We're deeply grateful to persons with dementia, family caregivers, partners, donors, and government stakeholders who've made this journey possible — there's much more ahead, and we believe the way forward is through collective action.

By strengthening the team, shaping stronger systems and delivering care where it is needed, DIA is turning action into meaningful impact.



In just three years, DIA has touched 1 lakh+ lives, conducted 20,000+ cognitive screenings and supported 3,000+ families, with 11,400+ people screened this period alone. Key milestones include the Tamil Nadu State Dementia Action Plan partnership, the national release of DIA's Minimum Standards for Dementia Care Homes, the launch of Online Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, and the submission of an Integrated National Dementia Plan to key stakeholders.

At **DemCon 2026**, we come together for DIA's flagship conference where three years of action meets a new phase of acceleration.

DemCon'26
Dementia Conference

Dementia Care:
Action to Acceleration

18th & 19th Sep 2026
IIT-M Research Park
Chennai

Dementia India Alliance



Impact At a Glance: January-June 2026



11,400+

Individuals Screened



3,200+

Caregivers Upskilled



5,200+

Healthcare Professionals Trained



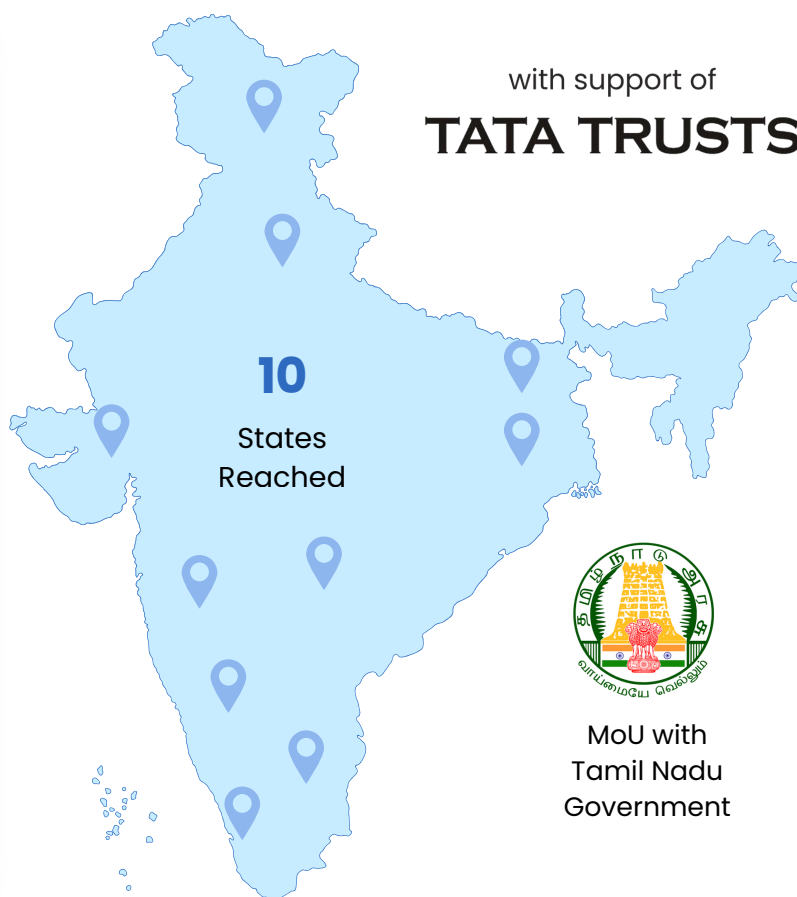
100+

Family Caregivers Trained



200+

Families Reached via DemSupport



with support of
TATA TRUSTS



MoU with
Tamil Nadu
Government



180

Support Group
Participants



186

Caregiver Guidance
Sessions



272

Helpline Calls from 11 States
and a few Foreign Locations



10

Training & Capacity Building
Programs

Voices from the Ground

The CST sessions are very interesting. The activities are being aptly planned to stimulate them, while appearing to be a fun activity. Thank you so much for handling all the participants patiently and ensuring that each of them is fully engaged. Very detailed instructions given in advance by you, make it very easy for the caregivers to support and make the entire session productive for our loved ones with meaningful engagement. Great efforts!!— **Ms. Karuna, Family Caregiver, Hyderabad**

The session on Brain Health, Dementia, and Healthy Ageing was informative, engaging, and clinically relevant. It highlighted the importance of early recognition of cognitive decline and strategies to promote healthy brain ageing. The speakers presented practical, evidence-based approaches in a clear and interactive manner. The program enhanced my understanding of dementia prevention, early detection, and holistic care. Overall, it was an excellent learning experience. — **Dr. Shwetha Poovani**

Indeed the program was very useful. The staff also were able to understand well. The trainer conducted it in a very nice and interactive manner – our residents were also happy to participate in the screening. Thank you so much!
**Mr. Donald Fernandes, Founder Trustee,
Street Providence, Goa**

Government & Policy Collaborations

Tamil Nadu: MoU with Department of Health and Family Welfare

In January, the Government of Tamil Nadu agreed in principle to partner with DIA on end-to-end dementia care — spanning awareness, risk reduction, screening, prevention, care, long-term management, and capacity building, with a strong emphasis on innovation and research.



By March, the partnership was already in motion — a working meeting with NHM, DMHP and NCD teams began shaping a state dementia task force, workforce training plans, Centres of Excellence, and district-level memory clinics.

Meeting with the TN Health Minister

In June, DIA held a key policy meeting with the Government of Tamil Nadu, including Mission Director- Dr. S. Aneesh Sekhar, Health Secretary- Dr. Darez Ahmed and Health Minister- Dr. K. G. Arun Raj. The Health Minister also agreed in principle to announce dementia as a public health priority at the conference — a significant step for dementia advocacy in India.



National Policy Engagement

The Integrated National Dementia Plan, developed through DIA's National Consultative Meet, was formally submitted in March to Dr V. K. Paul (Member, NITI Aayog), Shri Sudansh Pant, IAS, Secretary, MoSJE, and Mr Bharat Lal, CEO, NHRC. A detailed follow-up report on state of dementia care policies and action items was requested.

Submission of the Integrated National Dementia Plan to NHRC



National Milestone: Minimum Standards for Dementia Care Homes

In May, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) released the Guidelines on Minimum Standards for Dementia Care Homes, developed by DIA and formally launched by the Hon'ble Minister (MoSJE) — setting a new quality benchmark for residential dementia care across India.



Karnataka Government Partnership

At the CSO Knowledge Exchange Workshop convened by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, DIA presented the roadmap for establishing Healthy Ageing Hubs across rural Karnataka, converting Gram Panchayat digital libraries into community healthy ageing hubs.



Screening & Early Detection

Log on for free and confidential memory screening — www.demclinic.com

Rural Screening — Channagiri Taluk, Davanagere

After DIA's proposal was approved by the District Health Officer, the team trained doctors and ASHA workers across every Primary Health Centre in Channagiri before taking screening door-to-door as part of the dementia friendly taluk initiative .



Reach grew steadily — 1,018 screened in March, 2,077 across 23 villages in April, 1,392 in May and 616 in June — with house-to-house screening consistently outperforming camp-based screening in reach and follow-through.

Rural Screening — Coimbatore

Coimbatore told its own rural story: a 200-strong camp in May & June coincided with DIA and PSG Hospitals launching a dedicated Dementia Rural Health Project with new rural drives alongside Sri Venkateshwaraa Med City reaching 83 elders in Red Hills, Chennai.



Tribal Screening — Reaching the Unreached

DIA's door-to-door model carried into tribal communities rarely reached by screening programmes: 202 seniors screened in Andhra Pradesh in March, 190 across three tribal villages in Vizag in April, and a further 222 across two tribal villages in Vizag in June. These initiatives are well received and supported by the district medical office.

Other Screenings — Urban, Old Age Homes & MoSJE

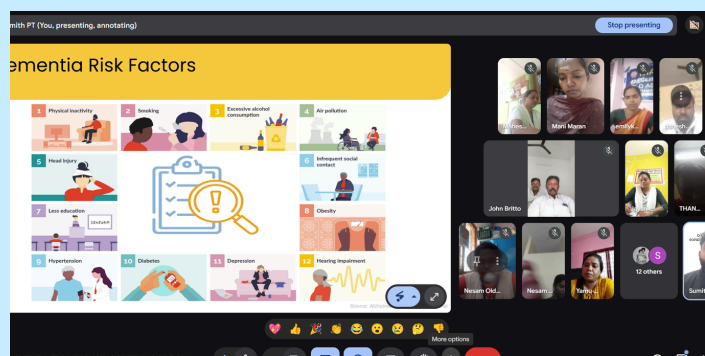


Beyond rural and tribal India, DIA continued screening across urban and institutional settings. In January, 494 people were screened across 12 sites in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, including old-age homes, faith institutions and elder-care communities. In June, DIA conducted its first dedicated institutional screening camp—a three-day OP and IP drive at the National Centre for Ageing—reaching 292 senior citizens.

Capacity Building: A Dementia-Ready Workforce

Starting at Home: In-House Screening Training

In January, Executive Director Ramani Sundaram trained the DIA team on standardised dementia screening tools, strengthening protocols ahead of expanded screening drives.



Training the Dementia Care Workforce

In January, DIA trained 122 staff across nine old-age homes in five states — including 45 staff from MoSJE-registered homes in Tamil Nadu — and expanded into Manipur, reaching seven homes and senior citizen centres across the Northeast.

Building Trainers Nationwide

PSG Hospital, Coimbatore trained 192 nursing and allied-health staff across three cohorts in January alone, part of 361 learners trained that month. Training of Trainers programmes followed in Chennai (13, February), Bangalore (11) and Jamshedpur (31 nursing tutors and principals, March) — Jamshedpur's cohort has already cascaded into 357 further participants through 5 of their own programmes.



June: Four Workshops, One Ecosystem

Athulya Senior Living, Chennai

The “Healthy Brain, Healthy Ageing” session, facilitated by Dr Hannah (SCARF) and Dr Anu (DIA), reached around 33 healthcare professionals and senior citizens.



National Centre for Ageing, Chennai

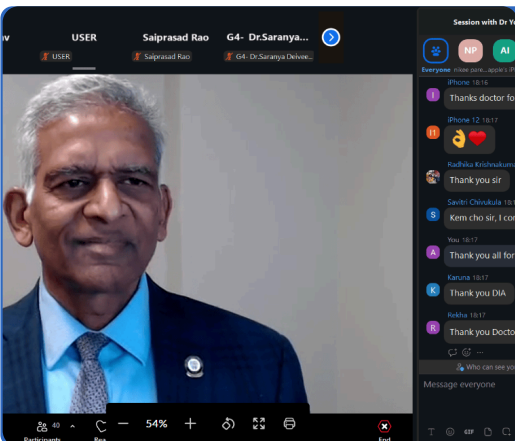
Dr Srikala Bharath led a session on Dementia Diagnosis and Management, reaching 43 physicians, geriatricians and senior resident psychiatrists.

International Webinar “Protect Your Brain”

Dr Yogesh Shah from Broadlawns Medical Center, USA, led a webinar on brain health and reducing dementia risk, reaching 66 participants on 12 May.

Online Workshop “Design Thinking & Innovation”

Workshop, led by Shyam Vishwanathan, Vice President, DIA, brought together 34 founders, CEOs and healthcare professionals



Extending the Network: Workshops & Consultations



BRIDGHES Workshop, Bengaluru (March)

Joint BUFI-IPH initiative; DIA (Dr Srikala Bharath, Chippy Sebastian) joined clinicians, researchers and community workers to explore shared case and policy repositories and challenges like delayed diagnosis and caregiver burden.



GRACE Workshop with Christ University

DIA engaged 29 Compassionate Religious Women, including nursing professionals, on the psychosocial and behavioural aspects of dementia care.



ICMR ELDER-AID Stakeholder Meet, MAHE

In March, Dr. Anu represented DIA alongside 10+ doctors from Yenepoya, Manipal and other institutions, contributing to a new Geriatric Care course curriculum for nurses.

Community Awareness

In January, 266 people were sensitised across 4 states, led by DIA's partnership with the Rotary Club of Thrissur, which ran three sessions in Kerala reaching 121 people, alongside outreach in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



Awareness in Clinical & Academic Spaces

DIA served as Knowledge Partner at the St John's Geriatric Conference in Bengaluru (170 delegates, February), while academic workshops at Yenepoya Medical College and Jain University reached a further 97 students and faculty the same month.



Strengthening the Dementia Care Journey

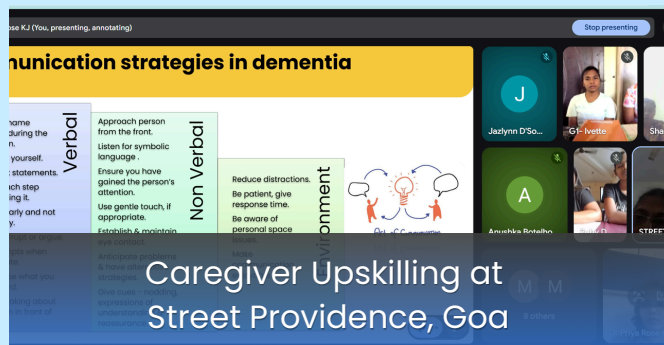
DemSupport, a joint initiative of NIMHANS and DIA, connects families with consultations, support groups, training and directory of resources in one place, soon extending its reach through an online platform. DIA's new Cognitive Stimulation Therapy programme further strengthens this care journey with engaging sessions for older adults living with dementia.



Interested in CST? Scan the QR code to register.

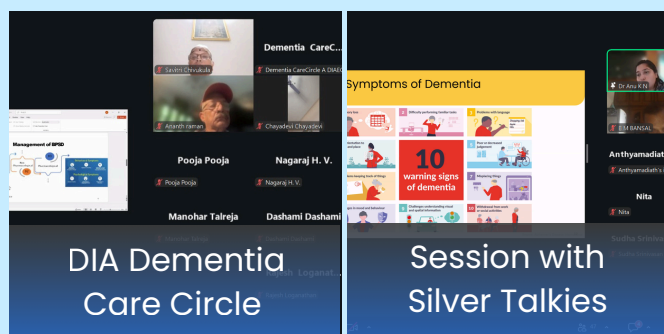


Family & Caregiver Impact



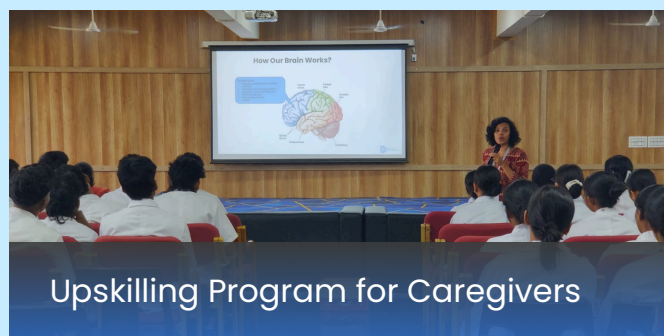
Reaching New Grounds in Goa

In January, a new partnership with Street Providence added 35 caregivers to DIA's upskilling programme, the first recorded caregiver upskilling activity in Goa, alongside 48 caregivers trained through the ongoing DIA & UWM programme, and 15 family caregivers trained directly.



Caregivers Training with Silver Talkies

Dr Anu's online Ask Me Anything with Silver Talkies, shaped by questions from its 40+ community, trained 85 family caregivers through an interactive Q&A in April — bringing total family caregivers trained across the period to over 100.



June: A Record Month for Caregivers

Caregiver upskilling reached its highest point yet in June, with 771 caregivers upskilled in a single month, more than triple April's total, as DIA's training programmes matured alongside the growing screening footprint that surfaces new families in need of support

DIA in the Spotlight: News & Cinema

DIA served as Knowledge Partner for the upcoming **Kannada film September 21**, highlighting dementia's impact on individuals and families. The collaboration also opened opportunities to strengthen DIA's public awareness efforts with comedian Dayanand.

Vajood Rahe Maujood- A Tata Trusts initiative

A powerful short film released during World Alzheimer's Month, that looks beyond memory loss to the gradual loss of identity in dementia — encouraging families to recognise the signs and act early.



Scan the QR code to watch the film "Vajood Rahe Maujood"



Newest Additions to the Network

DIA also welcomed a wave of new partner organisations into its outreach ecosystem this period, extending the model of working through institutions embedded in local communities:



Satoru Foundation



KEFI Health Care Pvt. Ltd.



Kauvery Hospital



Arujiva Ayurveda Hospital



Preet Aikya Elder Assist



Samvrdhhi Faladāyī Sampūrnatā Foundation



Samarth Life Management Pvt. Ltd.



Sound 'N' Mind Foundation



Manisha Mandir



Mental Health Action Trust



Caregiver Saathi

Join Hands in Making a Difference

As a national organization, we need your support to promote the cause of dementia. Your encouragement is crucial in bringing help and hope to persons with dementia and their family caregivers. Here's how you can get involved.

Family Carers & Individuals:

Join us as an individual affiliate

Students:

Become a 'DemChamp' – our youth advocates for dementia awareness

Health Care professional:

Access our certified training programs to deepen your expertise

Academic Institutions:

Collaborate With us to promote awareness and education around dementia

Hospitals:

Help build a dementia–friendly ecosystem by joining our dementia–friendly hospital network

Volunteer/Intern:

Your time and skills can make a significant difference.

Donate:

Support our Initiatives and help us reach more families in need.

Follow us:

Follow us on social media for updates and more.

CSR:

Partner with us to expand dementia awareness and care across India.

Join as an Outreach of Dementia India Alliance

Organizations working in the field of Age Care are invited to partner with Dementia India Alliance to expand the reach of dementia care and create a meaningful impact in the community.

Collaborate to establish care services

Participate in conferences & campaigns

Conduct awareness programs & workshops

Promote Training Programs

Support & Facilitate DIA's Initiatives

2nd Floor, 3C-989, HRBR Layout. Banaswadi, Bengaluru 560043

National Dementia Support Line: •91 8585 990 990 E: info@dementia-india.org

www.dementia-india.org | Free online memory clinic: www.demclinic.com



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@dementiaindiaalliance



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