



A Link with Life



Co-sponsored by:

SNEHA

SUICIDE UPDATE 2026

DATES:
26TH-28TH FEB 2026

VENUE:
TAJ COROMANDEL



<https://snehasuicideupdate2026.com/>



REGISTER NOW



40

YEARS OF



SNEHA

A Link with Life

**JOIN US FOR A LANDMARK NATIONAL EVENT
DEDICATED TO SUICIDE PREVENTION,
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS,
AND COMPASSIONATE CARE**

AS WE CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF SNEHA'S JOURNEY

Since 1986, SNEHA has been a trusted space for individuals in emotional distress. This event is a tribute to every volunteer, listener, partner, and person impacted over the past 40 years. We stand as a Link with Life and invite you to be part of this legacy.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Scientific Sessions by Eminent Speakers
- Panel Discussions on Policy, Media & Mental Health
- Pre-conference Workshops
- Commemorative 40-Year Celebration of SNEHA
- Interactive Exhibitions & Partner Booths

WHY ATTEND?

- Engage with leading experts in suicide prevention and mental health.
- Participate in cutting-edge workshops and training sessions.



FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

SNEHA is an NGO established in 1986 specifically to work in the field of suicide prevention. SNEHA is run by volunteers and provides emotional support to the distressed, depressed and suicidal, 365 days a year.

SNEHA is involved in creating awareness about suicide prevention at the local and national levels and also actively engaged in community-based interventions to prevent suicides, both in urban and rural areas.

SNEHA completes 40 years of service in 2026. This milestone is not just a marker of time, but a reflection of four decades of unwavering commitment, tireless service, and collective impact.

SNEHA has successfully conducted multiple conferences, including suicide updates in the years 2016 and 2019, which were hugely appreciated by mental health professionals.

SNEHA is happy to announce the next edition of the Suicide Update, scheduled from 26th to 28th February, 2026 at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai. This programme is conducted under the aegis of the Indian Psychiatric Society, International Association for Suicide Prevention and National Human Rights Commission.

This suicide update will be conducted by leading researchers, clinicians and experts on suicide from around the world and India. It aims to provide participants an insight into the current research on suicide and its prevention. It will enhance the knowledge and skills of all mental health professionals. A pre-conference workshop is also scheduled for 25th February, 2026.

We look forward to your active participation and valuable contributions in making SNEHA Suicide Update 2026 a grand success.

Dr. Lakshmi Vijayakumar
Founder Trustee



FACULTY



PROF. ANN JOHN

Prof. Public Health and Psychiatry
Swansea University
Chair, National Advisory Group
on Suicide and Self harm prevention
Welsh Government



PROF. DIANA E CLARKE

Director of Research and Senior
Research Statistician/Epidemiologist
American Psychiatric Association
Assistant Professor
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Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health



PROF. ANNETTE ERLANGSEN

Adjunct Professor
Johns Hopkins University
Honorary Associate Professor
Australian National University
Danish Research Institute for
Suicide Prevention



PROF. DIEGO DE LEO

Director Emeritus
WHO Collaborating Centre for
Research and Training in Suicide Prevention
Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry
Griffith University, Brisbane
Director, Slovene Centre
for Suicide Research



PROF. BRIAN L MISHARA

Director and Founder, Centre for Research
and Intervention on Suicide
Ethical Issues and End-of-Life Practices
(CRISE) Professor of Psychology
University of Quebec à Montréal



PROF. DINESH BHUGRA

Professor of Mental Health &
Cultural Diversity,
Institute of Psychiatry
King's College London

FACULTY



PROF. GIL ZALSMAN

Prof of Psychiatry, Tel Aviv University
Past CEO, Geha Mental Health Center, Israel
Past president of the IASR
Co-chair of child psychiatry
network of ECNP



PROF. GUSTAVO TURECKI

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McGill University
Director, McGill Group
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PROF. GIN S MALHI

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Mental Health Unit
Melbourne School of Population
and Global Health



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Director and Professor
Centre for Mental Health
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FACULTY



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Head, Suicide Prevention Research,
Orygen Centre for Youth Mental Health
Melbourne School of Psychological
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PROF. MARIA A OQUENDO

Chair, Department of Psychiatry
Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania



PROF. J JOHN MANN

Paul Janssen Professor of Translational
Neuroscience in Psychiatry and Radiology
Director, Molecular Imaging and
Neuropathology Division
Dept. of Psychiatry
Co-Director, Columbia Center
for Prevention and Treatment of Depression
Columbia University / New York State
Psychiatric Institute



PROF. MERETE NORDENTOFT

Chief Psychiatrist
Psychiatric Center Copenhagen
Professor, University of Copenhagen



PROF. KEITH HAWTON

Emeritus Director and
Professor of Psychiatry
Centre for Suicide Research
University of Oxford



PROF. MORTON M SILVERMAN

Adjunct Assistant Professor
of Psychiatry
Medical College of Wisconsin

FACULTY



PROF. PAUL YIP

Director, HKJC Centre for
Suicide Research and Prevention
Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Social Sciences
The University of Hong Kong



DR. SOUMITRA PATHARE

Director, Centre for
Mental Health Law & Policy
Indian Law Society (ILS), Pune



PROF. PRABHA S CHANDRA

Senior Professor
Department of Psychiatry
National Institute of Mental Health and
Neurosciences (NIMHANS)



DR. SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN

Chair - MSSR Foundation
Chennai



MS. RAMYA KANNAN

Health editor and Chief of Bureau
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, The Hindu



DR. M SURESH KUMAR

Consultant Psychiatrist
Chennai



PROF. RORY O'CONNOR

Professor of Health Psychology
Director, Suicidal Behaviour Research
Laboratory School of Health & Wellbeing
University of Glasgow



**PROF. THOMAS
NIEDERKROTENTHALER**

Professor, Public Mental Health Unit
University of Vienna
Founder Chairman, Wiener Werkstaette
for Suicide Research

FACULTY



MS. VANDA SCOTT
Special Invitee
International Association
for Suicide Prevention (IASP)



PROF. VLADIMIR CARLI
Head, Research Units
National Centre of Suicide Prevention
Karolinska Institute



**PROF. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN
GANESAN**
Professor of Psychiatry
National Institute of Mental Health and
Neurosciences (NIMHANS)



MS. WENDY ORCHARD
Chief Executive Officer
International Association
for Suicide Prevention (IASP)



PROF. VIKRAM PATEL
Paul Farmer Professor and Chair
Department of Global Health and Social
Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Co-Founder, Sangath



PROF. YOGESH DWIVEDI
Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry
Elesabeth Ridgely Shook
Endowed Chair for Psychiatric Research
University of Alabama
at Birmingham



PROF. YUNYU XIAO
Assistant Professor, Department of
Population Health Sciences
Health Informatics and
Artificial Intelligence and in Psychiatry
Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University

SUICIDE UPDATE 2026 PROGRAMME

25TH FEBURARY 2026 - PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

FACULTY:

International Coordinators: Vanda Scott and Wendy Orchard

National Coordinators: Professor Anish V Cherian and Dr Vikas Menon

Gatekeeper Training: Professor Brian Mishara

Panel Lead: Professor Jo Robinson

TIME	TOPIC	VENUE
9.30 am - 11.30 am	Gatekeeper Training Pt 1	Clive Dupleix Hall, Taj Coromandel
11.30 am - 12.30 pm	Suicidal Behaviour in Women and Girls Panel	
12.30 pm - 13.30 pm	Lunch	
13.30 pm - 14.30 pm	Priority Settings for Suicide Prevention Session	
14.30 pm - 16.30 pm	Gatekeeper Training Pt 2	



DAY 1 - 26TH FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
08.30 am - 09.00 am	Registration		
9.00 am - 10.30 am	Prof. Jo Robinson	A global overview of suicide and suicide prevention	President IASP
	Dr. Soumya Swaminathan	Climate change and Suicide	MSSRF Foundation
	Prof. Vikram Patel	Social determinants of suicide	Harvard University
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Tea Break		
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prof. J John Mann	Neural Mechanisms Underlying Stress Responses Leading to Suicidal Behavior	Columbia University
	Prof. Gustavo Turecki	New Insights on the molecular and cellular basis of depression and suicide	McGill University
	Prof. Yogesh Dwivedi	Non-coding RNAs: New players in the pathobiology of depression and suicide	The University of Alabama
12.30 pm - 01.30 pm	Lunch		
01.30 pm - 03.00 pm	Prof. Merete Nordentoft	Suicide and Psychosis	University of Copenhagen
	Prof. Gin S Malhi	Suicide and Mood disorders	University of Sydney
	Prof. Maria A Oquendo	Suicidal behavior in persons with no diagnosis	University of Pennsylvania



DAY 1 - 26TH FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
03.00 pm - 03.30 pm	Tea Break		
03.30 pm - 05.00 pm	Dr. M Suresh Kumar	Suicide and Addiction	Consultant Psychiatrist, Chennai
	Prof. Rory O'Connor	Psychology and suicide risk	University of Glasgow
	Prof. Brian L Mishara	Suicide as a way of coping: Building hope to prevent suicide	University of Quebec Montreal
06.00 pm - 07.30 pm	SNEHA 40 th Anniversary Function		
	Guest of Honor - Justice V Ramasubramanian, Chairman National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India		
07.30 pm	Dinner		

DAY 2 - 27TH FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
09.00 am - 10.30 am	Prof. Dinesh Bhugra	Suicide among medical students	Kings College, London
	Prof. Prabha S Chandra	Beyond Depression: Understanding the Pathways to Maternal Suicide	National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)
	Prof. Gil Zalsman	Suicide in young people	University of Tel Aviv
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Tea Break		
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prof. Annette Erlangsen	Suicide and Medical Illness	Danish Research Institute for Suicide Prevention
	Prof. Diego De Leo	Suicide in the elderly	University of Primorska
	Prof. Morton M Silverman	Assessment of suicide	Medical College of Wisconsin

DAY 2 - 27TH FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
12.30 pm - 01.30 pm	Lunch		
1.30 pm - 03.00 pm	Prof. Paul Yip	Social Media and Suicide	HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention
	Prof. Jane Pirkis	Public health interventions - I	University of Oxford
	Prof. Keith Hawton	Public health interventions - II	Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
03.00 pm - 04.00 pm	Prof. Ann John	Clinical Contacts Prior to Suicide: Patterns, Pitfalls, and Prevention	Swansea University Medical School
	Prof. Vladimir Carli	Scalable clinical interventions	Karolinska Institute
04.00 pm - 04.30 pm	Tea Break		
04.30 pm - 06.00 pm	Prof. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler	Media and suicide overview	University of Vienna
	Prof. Gregory Armstrong	Indian Perspective	University of Melbourne
	MS. Ramya Kannan	Journalist Perspective	The Hindu
07.00 pm	Conference Dinner		

DAY 3 - 28TH FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
09.00 am - 10.30 am	Dr. Soumitra Pathare	Community intervention in suicide prevention	Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy (CMHLP)
	Dr. Diana E Clarke	Cultural Assessment and Suicide	American Psychiatric Association (APA)
	Prof. Venkatasubramanian Ganesan	Pharmacotherapy & Neuromodulation for suicidal behaviour	National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)

DAY 3 - 28TH FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Tea Break		
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prof. Helen Herrman	Coercion and suicide in mental health care	University of Melbourne
	Asst. Prof. Yunyu Xiao	Risk Pathways to Suicidal Behavior in Youth	Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University
	SNEHA	SAS and Chat	
12.30 pm to 01.30 pm Valedictory	Chief Guest - Shri. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Former Governor of West Bengal, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi Guest of Honour- Dr. Darez Ahamed, IAS, Government of Tamilnadu		
1.30 pm	Lunch		

IASP Partnerships for Life Global Initiative to Prevent Suicide Pre-Conference Workshop

The Global Initiative to Prevent Suicide aims to supporting the development of a comprehensive, strategic approach to suicide prevention. This Partnerships for Life workshop will focus on gatekeeper training and regional topic related themes.

The workshop objectives include:

- Promoting learning from research on best practice and effective interventions in relation to the implementation of suicide prevention programmes, the exchange of knowledge and information about the key priorities and promoting effective suicide prevention action through peer learning, mentorship and collaboration.
- Gatekeeper training.
- This workshop will include a panel focussed on Suicide and its prevention in Women & Girls.

The learning objectives include:

- Knowledge on depression and early identification of suicidal behaviour, to perform crisis intervention, and to inform bereaved relatives.
- Understanding of regional topic related themes within suicide prevention.

ABSTRACT

POSTERS

- We invite abstracts for poster presentation which can be submitted only online.
- Abstract deadline for poster presentation is 31st December 2025.
- Best posters will be awarded.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Abstract submissions will be accepted only through the online portal.
- The content must be the original work of the author and should not be plagiarized
- Abstracts must demonstrate a sound scientific methodology, with clear results or outcomes.
- The work should have expected scientific merit and relevance.
- The presenting author must be listed as the primary author.
- Display Format: 42" LCD screen (landscape orientation)
- Aspect Ratio: 16:9
- File Format: PowerPoint (.PPT)
- File Size: 5-10 MB
- Number of Slides: One (1) only
- Not Allowed: Animations, videos, or sound
- Content Structure: Introduction, Aim, Methods, Results, Conclusion, Acknowledgements
- Posters should be brief, self-explanatory, and well-organized.



FEE STRUCTURE FOR SUICIDE UPDATE (26th FEBRUARY - 28th FEBRUARY, 2026)

Registration	Upto 30 th Sep 2025	Upto 31 st Jan 2026	From 01 st Feb 2026
Practitioners	₹ 8,850	₹ 11,800	₹ 14,750
Students / Volunteers	₹ 5,900	₹ 8,850	₹ 10,620
International delegate	\$ 225	\$ 250	\$ 300
Accompanying persons	₹ 5,900	₹ 8,850	₹ 10,620

Registration for the accompanying person can be done only through delegate registration. Please note that accompanying persons are not eligible for kit bags and certificates.

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP (25th February, 2026)

Please note that conference registration is mandatory to attend the workshop. Pre-conference Workshop participation is complimentary only for registered conference delegates. So kindly confirm your slots when you register.

Registration for participation in the workshop is open to volunteers, professionals, and crisis-line workers. Participation is limited to 75 only.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to the Conference Secretariat via email at: info@snehasuicideupdate2026.com

Refunds will be processed as per the following schedule:

- Up to 31st August, 2025: 75% of the registration fee will be refunded
- Up to 30th November, 2025: 50% of the registration fee will be refunded
- From 1st December, 2025 onwards: No refund will be provided
- All refunds will be processed within 15 days after the conclusion of the conference, in accordance with the above policy.



CONTACT

Registration Contact

Mr. Tamilan

+91 73387 42151

Time (9 AM - 6 PM IST)

Other Queries

Ms Rathi

+91 95000 68813

Time (9 AM - 6 PM IST)

Mail

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