BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences

ALSCAS marks 10 Years of supporting people living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in India

19 March 2026 | News

Call to strengthen care, research, and awareness for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

Image not found or type unknown

The ALS Care & Support (ALSCAS) Foundation marked ten years of service to persons living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and their families with a special anniversary commemoration, on 15th March 2026, in New Delhi.

The event brought together persons living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (PALS), caregivers, neurologists, researchers, policymakers, patient advocates, and partners from across the healthcare and rare disease ecosystem to reflect on a decade of community-led support and to discuss the future of ALS care, research, and policy in India.

The anniversary programme included a poster gallery walk and the screening of a short film capturing ten years of ALSCAS, and the lived experiences of patients and families. The founders reflected on the organisation's journey and the growing need for stronger support systems for the ALS community in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Satvinder Kaur, co-founder of ALSCAS, said, "When ALSCAS began ten years ago, it was simply a small community of families trying to support one another through an incredibly difficult journey. Today it has grown into a nationwide network that connects patients, caregivers, doctors, and researchers. Our hope is that the coming decade will bring stronger awareness, better care systems, and research that moves us closer to effective treatment."

A panel discussion deliberated on key challenges in ALS care in India, including delayed diagnosis, access to multidisciplinary care, emerging therapies, and the need for stronger collaboration among clinicians, researchers, patient organisations, and policymakers.

The programme also showcased the role of technology in improving the quality of life of PALS, including demonstration of assistive communication tools and digital applications designed to support patients and caregivers. A special kiosk displayed assistive devices used by ALSCAS members to enable communication, mobility, and home-based care.

The event concluded with a renewed call for greater attention to ALS within India’s rare disease landscape, including inclusion of ALS in India’s National Policy for Rare Diseases, expanded patient support systems focussing on development of multidisciplinary ALS care centres across the country, and stronger investment in research and clinical trials aimed at developing effective therapies.