



# COVID19 vacciNATION SHOTS /

... for vulnerable communities

"I was afraid whether I would get vaccinated or not looking at the long queues at vaccination centre."

> "I cannot go to the vaccination centre because of dsiability. LEPRA team took me to the centre and got me vaccinated!"

"It was painful during the injection, but now I feel confident and perfectly alright."

A MANNE

Facilitating

Vacci

SHOTS /

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"I was not sure about the COVID19 vaccination, but the staff motivated and got me vaccinated. I feel safe now!"

# **Tweet support by celebrities**

#### Ranganathan Madhavan Amala Akkineni Mithali Rai Gagan Narang t us ensure the physi ealth Day let us ensure the physical a eing of the #leprosy affected. Suppor org . Lets do our bit to help them 🙏 let us ensure the ph

# World Creativity and Innovation Day (April 21)

CREATIVITY does not stigmatise or discriminate people and it has no boundaries.

We were happy to acknowledge the creative talents of our beneficiaries on the World Creativity and Innovation Day (April 21st). Some pictures of our beneficiaries' talent can be seen here.

### Science of Fitness - Meet our colleague Pankai (Molecular Technologist)

Pankaj Malakar is working as a Molecular Technologist at LEPRA Society - BPHRC. He is a pharmacy graduate and previously worked as a Project Assistant at IICT. Pankaj is fond of sports and fitness from his childhood and he is a national cricket player.

#### What made you develop an interest towards fitness?

As I am very interested in sports, I always wanted to give the best I can. For that, I need a fit body to perform well. After getting into fitness, I realised that it not only improves your physical body but fitness teaches punctuality, discipline and motivation to do anything.

#### Which is more important? Physical fitness or nutrition?

As fitness is also related to your mind, we cannot depend only on physical exercises. We need to look for every possible alternative which adds value to our exercise into shaping our body. I personally think that proper nutrition and exercise goes hand-in-hand & together give the best output.

#### What are some common points between science and fitness?

Science and fitness are common and are correlated to each other. Without proper mind, there is no science or no fitness. Fitness is all about the mind conceiving hard work and improving our performance day by day.

#### What do you believe to be some of the most pressing health issues today? Why?

To me, obesity and diabetes are the current major concerns which can be subsided with proper diet and exercises. When I see people at a very young age turning out to be diabetic and obese, it is alarming because these can affect any age group. Also, good diet and physical fitness are important during this pandemic which strengthens our immune system. Stay fit. Keep working out. Stay happy.

#### Did you know?

The incubation period of leprosy bacteria ranges from 1 year to as long as 20 years. The symptoms might occur anytime.

The pictures and media coverage of our regular activities in the states we are working can be seen here.

## Prasant's reflections...

Let me start with expressing my great sadness and regret for the passing of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; one of our great and most respected supporters. His Royal Highness has been a long-standing supporter of Lepra along with Lepra's patron, Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth. I feel that it is a great loss to the overall cause of Leprosy globally. I am personally overwhelmed and worried with the onslaught of the second wave of COVID19 pandemic. More than 40 of our colleagues have been tasted positive across India. I admire the resilience and commitment of LEPRA to keep open all the referral centres across India even when faced with lockdowns and many other restrictions. The COVID19 response in terms of testing, vaccination drive and emergency assistance for leprosy affected people and vulnerable communities led by domain and state teams has been outstanding. I had the opportunity to meet the land donor who is really impressed with the work of our Bihar team and requested that LEPRA name the facility (when it comes up) in the memory of his dead son. It was great inaugurating a new referral centre at Jamui, Bihar along with the DM & CS (wherein a new leprosy case was detected on the first day of its operation). Want to mention the three recognitions that LEPRA received during the IAL conference in Hyderabad.

#### Join us in adding more smiles by donating at

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