

# SAMIKSHA

By LEpra Society

## Celebrating 76 years of Indian Independence

### Prasant's Message



We celebrated 76th Independence day at all our project locations including head office which included planting saplings in the areas. Let me start by congratulating all of Lepra (BPHRC) receiving the Patent Certificate for TB Kits from The Patent Office of Government of India which took us more than 10 years of follow up. Lepra Society Participated in Niti Ayog (GoI) consultation on multi-dimensional poverty in MP and WHO organized consultative event on mental health at Pune. I visited our project area in Nirmal district to understand the challenges of MDA (where we were working alongside the district health authorities). I also had the opportunity to visit the LCDC in the districts of Jamui, Lakhisarai, Munger and Bhagalpur in Bihar where Lepra Society was responsible for monitoring. Before closing I want to appreciate the supportive visit of Milena for BPHRC strategy development and organizing the LRI workshop at Vijaywada.

### Impact story



Gagan Deep, an 18-year-old resident of Majhimunda village in Sonapur District, faced a life-altering challenge when he developed a claw-like deformity in his right hand during the COVID-19 pandemic. His family, which included his father, mother, younger and elder brothers, and a sister, depended on daily labor work and government support to make ends meet. They lived in a pucca house provided through the IAY program but faced overcrowding due to their large family.

Gagan's father, a person with a disability, owned one and a half acres of non-irrigated land and supplemented the family income by working in vegetable fields.

The family received PDS rice and a monthly Old Age Pension (OAP) of 500 rupees for his father. Their monthly income ranged from Rs. 6,000 to 7,000, but they often had to borrow money to meet their needs.

Gagan's health deteriorated as his family neglected his condition due to the absence of pain. Eventually, when the claw deformity affected his ability to eat, his father sought medical help. Unfortunately, medical treatment resulted in irreversible disability. It was only when LEpra staff intervened during a follow-up visit for his father's disability that Gagan's condition was noticed.

LEpra staff offered counseling and arranged for Gagan to receive Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) for leprosy. After completing the treatment, Gagan underwent Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) on his hand in January 2021. This surgery not only improved his ability to grasp objects but also enhanced his overall cosmetic appearance.

Now, Gagan works at a fly ash plant, contributing to his family's income and reducing their financial burden. His parents are immensely grateful for the intervention by LEpra Staff, which not only transformed their son's life but also provided hope for a brighter future with reduced financial struggles.

*Join hands to eradicate leprosy*

# STATE WISE UPDATES

## ANDHRA PRADESH



care packages.

- In Thiruvuru, a new satellite camp addressed 13 LF and 5 Leprosy cases, providing demonstrations on foot care, LF exercises, and Leprosy ulcer dressings.
- At Viswa Bharathi School, Tenali, a survey educated 102 students on Leprosy signs. Post-education, all were physically examined, revealing one potential suspect.
- Local donors in Gampalagudem distributed tricycles to physically handicapped individuals, benefiting two individuals with Leprosy among the ten recipients.
- A World Mosquito Day rally took place at UPHC, Tenali, involving staff from the Malaria and Filariasis units, as well as Lepa staff, to raise awareness about mosquito-borne diseases.

- A commemorative DPMR camp was organized in Machalipatnam to mark the birth anniversary of Mother Teresa. The event saw the participation of 17 patients who received dry ration kits and ulcer

- Portable toilets greatly assist individuals with LF and mobility issues. The Jagruti project distributed portable commode

toilets in Kalyanpur, Samastipur, with Sri Maheshwar Hajari as the chief guest, garnering community appreciation.

- Community Resource Persons (CRPs) received digital training on the new COMPREHESIV app, designed to empower local Community Health Care Personnel (CHCP) for universal primary healthcare in India.
- We're extending efforts to gather MDA reports. An app was developed and shared with LF partners, strengthening collaboration for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination and demonstrating our commitment to healthcare goals.

## BIHAR REGIONS



**In the month of August 1342 nerve function assessments were done**

[Click here for our Major achievements](#)

[Click here for IEC & photo gallery](#)

## CHATTISGARH



- A Special DPMR Clinic was conducted at Gorabandh PHC in Jagdalpur, CG state. It saw 21 beneficiaries, including 6 new cases, 6 ulcers, 9 reaction/physio care, and 6 UT/other disabilities. Additionally, 10 ASHA/RHO members received sensitization, with participation from Govt officials and project personnel.

## MADHYA PRADESH



- During August, a camp was held in PHC Kathiwarra, Alirajpur district, attended by 20 individuals affected by Leprosy. They received self-care guidance and aid and appliances.
- Patient diagnosis at home, conducted by resource person Pt. Rohit Sharma, is an ongoing activity that includes multiple follow-up sessions for affected individuals.
- SJLC Center Sanawad offered diverse services to individuals affected by Leprosy, including RCS, Post RCS follow-up, new case detection, ulcer care, and nerve function tests.

## ODISHA



- As part of the LF (Lymphatic Filariasis) project in Kanas Block, Puri, . It aimed to address the needs of those affected by LF by providing suitable footwear, acknowledging the mobility challenges posed by the condition's severe limb swelling. This initiative aimed to improve their quality of life.

- A training program took place at the ASHA Rehabilitation Centre in Birapratappur Gram Panchayat, Sadar Block, Puri, involving participants from various sectors. Dr. Acharya, an expert, led the session, emphasizing timely referrals and promoting collaboration among healthcare professionals and media. The interactive program facilitated knowledge exchange and capacity building.
- Thanks to LEpra staff, Sandyarani Panda, a Leprosy-affected individual in Puri district, secured benefits from PMAY Rural Housing Scheme, and a house is now being built for her.
- Two MMDP Clinic and Self-care camps took place in Kalahandi and Koraput Districts benefitting 46

Leprosy Cured disabilities individuals with footwear, ulcer kits, and adaptive devices. Three PMP/RMP Sensitization programs were held in Koraput and Nabarangpur Districts, sensitizing 71 individuals about Leprosy and LF.



[Click here for our Leprosy Dashboard](#)

[Click here for our LF Dashboard](#)



# STATE WISE UPDATES

## TELANGANA



Leprosy Officer, Telangana.

- IEC materials for Leprosy Case Detection Campaign, supported by LEPROA Society, were unveiled by Dr. Anuradha M, Regional Director, MoHFW, Gol, and Dr. John Babu, State Leprosy Officer, Telangana.
- Healthy household contact examination was done at Muthyampet Village, Kagaznagar where two new cases were detected
- An awareness program on leprosy was conducted for government school students in Hyderabad.
- ASHA volunteers in Ranga Reddy District received orientation on leprosy as part of the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign at PHC Sherlingampally.

## BPHRC



- The Indian Government's Patent Office has awarded a patent titled "PRIMERS PROBES AND KIT BASED ON SAME FOR DETECTING MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS COMPLEX AND NON-TUBERCULOSIS MYCOBACTERIUM" to LEPROA Society and the Department of Biotechnology, Gol. This innovative invention, disclosed in the September 13, 2013 application, has received official recognition and is valid until 2033.
- A project orientation workshop on "Personal footwear for foot ulcers in leprosy through innovative community engagement" was conducted in Vijayawada, AP, India, from July 31 to August 2. The workshop aimed to define project activities, data collection tools, SOPs, and training schedules for outreach workers, monitoring officers, and PHC staff to ensure project success.

## Meet our staff



Hello, I'm Tamanna Bhatra. In 2017, while undergoing my own treatment, I had the privilege of discovering my career path as a Physiotherapy Care Assistant at LEPROA, all thanks to the guidance of Mrutyunjay Giri Sir (PT, Nabrangpur). Supported by my family and with my brother Lakeswar benefiting from LEPROA's educational fee support, I embarked on this fulfilling journey just six months ago. I am immensely grateful for the PCA training and the opportunity to work in this role.

**Could you describe a typical day in your role as a Physiotherapy Care Assistant?**

My typical day involves maintaining the DPMR-OPD register, patient counselling, managing patient cards, facilitating MDT distribution.

**What techniques or strategies do you employ to ensure that patients are comfortable and at ease during their physiotherapy sessions?**

To ensure patient comfort during physiotherapy sessions, I employ several strategies: I maintain open communication, explaining each session's purpose, actively listen to their concerns, provide empathetic support, and employ pain management techniques when needed. I adapt sessions to their physical capabilities, create a calming environment, educate them on the benefits, monitor progress, involve family when appropriate, and remain flexible in adjusting the therapy plan based on their evolving needs and goals.

**Physiotherapy can sometimes involve discomfort or pain for patients. How do you manage and alleviate their discomfort while still achieving treatment goals?**

I begin by evaluating the patient's pain tolerance and engage in open communication to gauge their discomfort. I customize therapy, gradually increasing intensity as they adapt. Pain management includes distraction, relaxation, and pain relief methods. I constantly monitor and adapt the treatment plan accordingly.

## PULSE

### Projects Update for Learning and Sharing Experiences

In August, we conducted Monthly 3rd PULSE Meeting focusing on "Outreach Concepts and Aravind's Approach to Organizing Outreach Programs." The session was led by Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager for Clinical Services at Aravind Eye Hospital in Coimbatore. It proved to be highly informative, offering valuable insights into the effective execution of outreach camps. The participants demonstrated great enthusiasm and responsiveness throughout the session.



## New Staff



I'm Robin Robert, a Fundraising Associate with an MBA in Finance and Marketing from Amity University Noida. I bring 4.5 years of corporate experience, including 3.5 years in

Marketing for Agro-Based Products and 1 year in middle-level management at an NGO focusing on Sustainable Agriculture. My motivation to work at LEPROA stems from a desire to contribute to society, where the emphasis is on serving the community rather than profits, providing me with a deep sense of fulfillment.



**Account Number** 0132 0030 06100 **IFSC Code** IBKL0000002 **Account Name** LEPROA Society **Type of Account** Savings

**Bank Name** IDBI Bank Limited **Branch Name** Basheer Bagh **Bank Address** Mahavir House, Basheerbagh Square, Hyderabad - 29

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