

SAMIKSHA

.....BY LEPRO SOCIETY

Leprosy & Lymphatic Filariasis

Prasant's Message

It is with great pleasure that I share some of the key highlights from our recent activities, underscoring the unwavering dedication of our teams. First and foremost, I wish to convey my warm congratulations to Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) on its 20th Foundation Day, a testament to the exceptional commitment to eye care demonstrated over the years. Your collective efforts continue to impact thousands in Odisha. I recently visited several of our centers, including the Mayurbhanj Leprosy Eradication Program (MayurLep), where I was inspired by the work being done to improve lives. I also had the privilege of visiting the Koraput and Sonepur Care Centers, witnessing firsthand the dedication of our teams.

Additionally, we had the privilege of hosting a visit from the Azim Premji Foundation for Programme Finance Due Diligence, the team including Mr. Gururaj Patil, Ms. Sandya, and Mr. Jogindra Kumar Meher. This visit played a crucial role in exploring potential partnerships and driving the expansion of LEPRO programmes to reach those in need.

I would also like to highlight the visit of Mr. Akhilesh Dimri, CSR Head at Mankind Pharma, to Koraput, Odisha. During his visit, we had the opportunity to showcase the direct impact of our work on the ground. These visits were facilitated through the collaboration of the LEPRO Head Office Team (Programme, Resource Mobilisation, Communications and Finance), State and Project teams (AP & Odisha).

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Shri K. Krishna Reddy, Chairman, and Smt. K. Prabhavati, Director of Sri Vamshidhar High School, Nadergul, Telangana State, for their unwavering support and exceptional dedication. Their efforts have been instrumental in fostering a spirit of compassion and social responsibility among the students of the school.

As we move forward, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to enhancing lives and building a society free from leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis, and preventable diseases, ensuring a healthier future for all.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Mr. Prasant Kumar Naik, CEO LEPRO Society visited Mushroom farms of LF-affected persons in Puri, Odisha.



34 LEPRO staff from 9 states participated in a Physiotherapy workshop at Raxaul, Indo-Nepal Border.



Dr. Prabha Desikan, Director of ICMR-Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (ICMR-BMHRC), Bhopal visited to Sonepur Care Centre, Odisha.



LEPRO- Blue Peter Public Health and Research Centre (BPHRC) celebrated its 25th anniversary on December 14, 2024. A souvenir was released on the occasion.

State Wise Updates

ANDHRA PRADESH



- World Disability Day celebrations held in Vizianagaram & Eluru Referral Centre, and Bapatla Leprosy Colonies. Aids, Appliances, and Self-Care Kits distributed
- Post-Reconstructive Surgery physiotherapy training conducted at New Govt. Hospital, Vijayawada, for physiotherapists, PG doctors, and Lepra physiotherapists by a resource person from Sivananda Rehabilitation Home, Hyderabad.
- Higher education cheques distributed in Eluru, Tenali, Machilipatnam, and Gampalagudem, supported by Tenali Double Horse Foundation.
- Self-care camps at Gampalagudem Primary Health Centres saw 22 patients practicing SSO(Soaking, Scraping, Oiling) and ulcer care; self-care kits distributed, sponsored by National Thermal Power Corporation(NTPC), with National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) and Lepra staff attending.
- Additional self-care kits distributed at Pedana, Damien Leprosy Centre, and Vegavaram, supported by NTPC.
- Lepra staff attended a state-level LCDC(Leprosy Case Detection Campaign) workshop in Vijayawada, reviewed by the Health Commissioner and Director of Health.

BIHAR



- Vector Borne Diseases Control Officer(VBDCO) and consultants from 24 Bihar districts attended State Training Of Trainers(ToT) on Mass Drug Administration (MDA) in Patna; LEpra shared insights on Lymphatic Filariasis case line listing and Medical Management and Disability Prevention(MMDP).
- 186 Self Support Groups (SSG) and Peer Support Leaders trained on leprosy, LF, and government schemes at Panchayat-level sessions by Team Jagruti.
- 145 pairs of customized footwear delivered by the Mobile Footwear Unit to four leprosy colonies.
- Health camp in Barhat block included ASPIRE team demonstrations and distribution of footwear and self-care kits.

CHHATTISGARH



- International Disability Day program held at Semra Primary Health Centre (PHC), Nangoor block, Bastar district.
- Ulcer Treatment(UT) & Grade 2 case follow-up surveys and FMT(Fecal Microbiota Transplant) collection conducted in Kachara, Nangoor, and Kousmi Bokawand blocks; 1 new MB case with type 2 reaction confirmed at Chote Deuda.
- Ulcer and UT case follow-ups completed; 1 complicated case referred to In- Patient(IP) ward, Koraput, from Marthapal.

DELHI



- Rotary supported distribution of 91 footwear at an Integrated Prevention of Disability(IPOD) camp at Missionaries of Charity, Nand Nagri, Delhi, following a demonstration of home-based practices.
- A Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation(DPMR) camp, organized with NLEP Delhi at Shanti Kusth Samiti, Tahirpur, saw State Leprosy Officer(SLO) distributed footwear to people affected by leprosy in Tahirpur.
- Twenty-four school teachers were sensitized on leprosy basics and early case detection to aid in breaking transmission.

JHARKHAND



- Foot mapping of 31 females and 24 males conducted in Bokaro leprosy colony, with demonstrations of home-based practices and health education to prevent disability progression.
- Contact examination of 56 people and screening of 534

students in Jamadoba Ayodhya Nagari, Dhanbad, identified 2 female PB cases, now under Multi Drug Therapy.

MADHYA PRADESH

- Comprehensive training for 62 National Health Mission (NHM) physiotherapists was conducted at Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Center (BMHRC), enhancing their healthcare skills.
- The District Task Force meeting for the Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Campaign in Indore reviewed progress and strategize interventions for LF elimination.



- State Coordinator Naveen Satle visited Indore's Regional Center and held discussions with the Associate Professor of Skin and VD at M.Y. Hospital to strengthen dermatology services.
- A training session on Nikusht 2.0 for NLEP record management was held in Indore, targeting District Leprosy Officers and NLEP staff from the Indore division.
- State Technical Coordinator Satish Chaudhary monitored LCDC implementation in Seoni and Chhindwara districts, addressing challenges and ensuring adherence to guidelines.
- An ASHA sensitization program on LCDC was organized at Sendhwa, led by Dr. Gupta (District Leprosy Officer, Barwani) and the Block Medical Officer, enhancing ASHA roles in LF elimination.
- Dr. Senthilnathan, Deputy Director General of Leprosy, reviewed LCDC activities, providing guidance to improve campaign effectiveness and community engagement.
- A leprosy sensitization session for healthcare staff, including AWWs (Anganwadi Workers), ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists), ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives), CHOs (Community Health Officers), and sector PHC (Primary Health Center) staff, was led by Amarnath Prasad, focusing on early detection and treatment to support elimination efforts.

MAHARASHTRA

- The annual Kusht Surakshith Maharashtra (KUSUM) campaign was held in Chandrapur district over five days, targeting areas like prisons, mines, and ashram schools excluded from routine surveillance.
- RC staff conducted awareness and screening camps in two schools, screening 720 students.
- Training on leprosy conducted for 31 Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) and MBBS Medical Officers of NLEP, Koraput, with participation from DLO Dr. Suresh, TOT of NLEP Koraput, DLC, and NMS.
- Disability certificates distributed at Rairangpur SDH, followed by group discussions on leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis.
- International Disability Day events held in Nabarangpur, Jamurda, and Junagarh, attended by 57 disabled persons in collaboration with "SAKSHAM."
- Four focal surveys conducted in villages; one PB case detected at Paikmal Block.
- BNLW and HW(M) training on leprosy held at CDMO office, Koraput; 31 doctors trained on leprosy management.
- Forum meetings on leprosy and LF conducted in Sinapali, Jharbandh, and Khariar Blocks; self-care items distributed to 21 cases in Nabarangpur.
- School health education programs and skin smears conducted in Paikmal, Dhenkimunda, Padampur, Rairangpur, and Haradakhol.
- Mattresses donated for Sonapur care center through fundraising efforts.
- Training programs, health camps, and sensitization sessions conducted at Bijatala, Jamda, Bahalda, and Rairangpur.
- Hydrocele surgery supported for two LF patients in Puri.
- New Self support groups (SSG) formed at Jasuapur Gram Panchayat (GP), Pipili Block, with 12 participants, attended by local leaders and medical officers.
- Self-care kits distributed during SSG follow-up at Dibyasinghapur GP.
- Bee farming and subsidy arrangements discussed with Assistant Horticulture Officer for farmers of mushroom cultivation.
- OPD attendance of 494 cases; 364 nerve function assessments conducted; 16 new NFI/reaction cases identified; 32 new ulcer cases treated.
- 237 new cases registered, including 55 from active case detection.
- Ulcer dressing and foot measurement done at Koraput Care Centre(KCC); skin smear collection and functional slab preparation completed.

ODISHA



- Portable commodes were distributed in Nirmal District for persons affected with Leprosy and LF enhancing sanitation facilities for persons affected by leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis.
- On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Rangareddy Referral Centre distributed customized MCR footwear to residents of Santosh Nagar leprosy colony, with participation from the District NLEP team and SLAP Telangana.
- World Disability Day at Hyderabad Referral Centre included the distribution of aids and appliances to leprosy-affected persons, attended by ADM&HO and district NLEP staff.
- Self-care kits and footwear (supported by NTPC & LEPRAs) were distributed to beneficiaries across seven leprosy colonies and two referral centres.
- A sensitization program for 50 ASHA volunteers on leprosy and the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign was held at Rangareddy Referral Centre.
- Three district-level training sessions for the Data Strengthening project took place in Peddapally, Mancherial, and Asifabad, attended by 150 participants.
- An orientation on leprosy was conducted for PG students of Osmania Medical College at Rangareddy Referral Centre (RC).
- Awareness programs on leprosy were held for women at an Anganwadi center and for lactating mothers in Gundaipet, Asifabad district.
- Contact survey and nerve assessments were conducted in Krushnapally village, Asifabad.
- LEPRAs supported The District Leprosy Officer, Hyderabad during the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign with two staff monitoring activities in the district.



BPHRC

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) team visited Blue Peter Public Health and Research Centre for an internal audit of the Peripheral Neuritis in Leprosy and Diabetes project.
- 25 self-care kits were distributed to beneficiaries, including those affected by Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis, to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Dr. Sridevi, Project Officer for Tuberculosis, Leprosy, and HIV/AIDS, visited BPHRC to verify laboratory facilities and NTEP-related records.



Condolences

Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

At LEPRAs, we mourn the passing of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a visionary leader whose economic reforms transformed India. His commitment to public health was evident through the launch of the National Rural Health Mission in 2005, aiming to improve healthcare access in rural areas and combat diseases like lymphatic filariasis. His legacy in advancing both economic and health sectors will continue to inspire future generations.



The team at LEPRAs Society came together to honor the memory of Sri Gundevar Pothanna, a devoted member who dedicated 27 years of his life to our mission. Joining us in 1998 as a skilled Shoe Technician, Sri Pothanna's contributions went far beyond crafting footwear. His work extended to providing essential ulcer care, assisting physiotherapists, and actively supporting awareness programs. With a compassionate eye, he detected Grade 1 and Grade 2 disabilities, ensuring timely intervention for those in need. Sri Pothanna was known for his gentle demeanor and the meaningful connections he built with patients. His unwavering commitment and kindness have left an indelible mark on all of us at LEPRAs Society.

Gundevar Pothanna



Impact story



Dharam Singh Thakur
45 year-old
Jagdalpur,
Chhattisgarh

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MEET OUR STAFF

How did you join LEPRO, and what is the work you do?

I joined LEPRO Society in September 2002 as a Non-Medical Supervisor, supporting leprosy program integration, case detection, mobile clinics, and reporting. Currently, as District Coordinator, NTDRU, Kaimur, Bihar, I lead case detection, IPOD camps, health system strengthening, and disability care efforts.



Siodhari Singh

How do you plan to engage with local communities to raise awareness about leprosy, reduce stigma, and encourage early detection and treatment?

I use IEC, interpersonal communication, and behavior change initiatives to raise awareness, encourage early case detection, prevent disabilities, and combat stigma at the community level.

What strategies do you think are most effective in managing and motivating a diverse team working on leprosy-related initiatives?- Collaborating with PRI leaders and government stakeholders, I engage individuals affected by leprosy to spread awareness and empower them to live with dignity.

In your opinion, what are the most significant challenges in leprosy control, and how would you address them in your role as a field coordinator?- The biggest challenge is dispelling myths and misconceptions about leprosy. I prioritize community engagement and collaborate with Rural Medical Practitioners to detect missed cases in villages.

Share a beneficiary story that is close to your heart.

Devendra Paswan, an LF patient, faced severe physical and financial challenges. Through LEPRO's self-care guidance, his symptoms improved, allowing him to work again and enabling his son, Rahul, to return to school. Devendra now advocates for self-care and encourages others with LF to seek help.



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Resource Mobilization and Communication Initiatives

The LEPRAs Society's strength lies in its grassroots approach, driven by dedicated staff members who work directly with patients. The SMILE initiative seeks to identify and engage "Saksham Mitras" (supporters) from various sectors—philanthropists, NGOs, educational institutions, and corporates—to provide comprehensive support for Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis) patients. The goal is to address their immediate needs, promote long-term rehabilitation, and empower patients to become self-reliant, improving their quality of life.

A total of 14 schools in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have actively participated in screening and awareness programs on leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis. Over 20 thousand students took part, raising awareness and promoting early detection. Among them, 2000 students have been identified and engaged as "Saksham Mitras" as supporters played a vital role in raising awareness and mobilizing resources for the needs of leprosy & Lymphatic Filariasis patients to empower them & to promote self-reliance.

సాక్షి
చిట్టి చేతులు పెద్ద సాయం..

- లెప్రసి నివారణకు విరాళం అందజేసే
- ఉదారత దాటుకున్న విద్యార్థులు

బడంగోనేటి: చిట్టి చేతులు సహాయంతో ముందుకు వచ్చి అవస్థాస్థులను అందించాయి. లెప్రసి, ఎయిడ్స్ నివారణకు రీయలేయి లెపి సాయం అందజేశాయి. కార్పొరేషన్ నాడవీరిలోని ప్రైవేట్ పాఠశాల విద్యార్థులు ఉత్సాహం కను కల్పించే ప్రయత్నం చేశారు. అధ్యాపకుల ప్రోత్సాహంతో యాభై మంది పాఠశాల చైర్మన్ కృష్ణారెడ్డికి అందించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా అయిన మాట్లాడుతూ.. కడుపుతో పాటు మానవత విలువలు పాఠశాల దళనందే నేర్పాకోవడం చాలా సంతోషంగా ఉందన్నారు. విద్యార్థులను ఆనిసందించారు.

లెప్రసి పాస్టర్ ప్రాంతీయ ప్రతినిధికి చెక్ అందజేస్తున్న పాఠశాల చైర్మన్ ఆనందరం విరాళం చెప్పిన లెప్రసి సాక్షి ప్రాంతీయ ప్రతినిధి అరుణ్ అందజేశారు. కార్యక్రమంలో పాఠశాల డీన్ దాశరథి, ప్రెసిడెంట్ గోపాలకృష్ణ, ఏక మదుసూదన్, అధ్యాపకులు తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.



Margadarsi Chit Funds contributed 428 footwears to LEPRAs Society

LEPRAs Society had the privilege of hosting a visit from the Azim Premji Foundation for program and finance due diligence. The team, including Mr. Gururaj Patil, Ms Sandhya, and Mr Jodindra Kumar Meher, visited LEPRAs Head Office and made a field visit to Vijayawada. During the visit, they interacted with the project team and patients gaining valuable insights. This visit was instrumental in exploring potential partnerships and driving the expansion of LEPRAs programs to reach more individual in need.



Field Visits by Azim Premji Foundation to Vijayawada.



LEPRAs had privilege of hosting Program and Finance team from Azim Premji Foundation Mr Gururaj Patil , Ms. Sandya, Mr Jogindra Meher at LEPRAs Head Office and Field area in Vijayawada, AP

LEPRAs Society team had the privilege of welcoming Mr. Akhilesh Dimri, CSR Head at Mankind Pharma, to the field areas of Koraput, Odisha, where he interacted with patients, staff, and local stakeholders. During his visit, we had the opportunity to showcase the direct impact of our work on the ground.



The picture on the left shows a person affected with LF- Grade 7. Seeing his condition, Mr. Akhilesh Ji and Mankind Pharma promptly agreed to support his treatment, demonstrating their commitment to making a difference.

Thank you to LEPRAs Society team for your unending support