

PRASANT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

As we reflect on our recent milestones for the month of July, I am filled with gratitude for the compassion, commitment, and innovation that drive our work at LEPRO Society.

We were reminded at the International Leprosy Congress that inclusion is not an option but a responsibility, and that sustainable impact begins where empathy meets innovation. These values continue to shape our approach across all programmes.

In Bihar, the Jagruti Project has made remarkable progress—strengthening Self-Support Groups, improving WASH awareness, and ensuring people affected by NTDs are seen, supported, and

empowered. Their growing visibility within the health system marks a major shift in inclusion and resilience. Our participation in the National Workshop on Strategic and Focused Action by the CLD and MoHFW reaffirmed our role in influencing policy and practice. Insights gained will guide our strategic direction going forward. Field visits, including to Nayagarh, reaffirm the quality of our grassroots work—from early detection to socio-economic rehabilitation. In Rourkela, Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) hosted a well-received quiz competition during OSOCON MID CON – ISPAT JYOTI 2025, engaging young ophthalmologists in a dynamic academic exchange. The event was a testament to our commitment to excellence in eye care and learning.

Governance remains our cornerstone. The successful audit completion and recent MC meeting reflect our dedication to accountability and transparency.

IMPACT STORY

A New Beginning for Mukesh Sharma

Mukesh Sharma, 38, originally from Samastipur district in Bihar, currently lives in Janakpuri, Delhi (House No. 91, Gali No. 8, Sitapuri) with his wife and two children. He works as a carpenter and moved to Delhi in search of better livelihood opportunities. In 2012, Mukesh began experiencing numbness in his left foot, which later developed into foot drop. He sought treatment at Deen Dayal Government Hospital, where he was diagnosed with Hansen's Disease (HD) and underwent MB/MDT treatment from 2013 to 2014. He was declared RFT (Released from Treatment), and later, his foot drop was corrected at GGSG Hospital.

Challenges Faced:

Post-treatment, life was stable until he developed a severe ulcer below the second toe of his left foot. The wound affected his mobility and work, disrupting his income. Disheartened, he returned to Deen Dayal Hospital and was referred to LEPROA's centre.

LEPROA's Intervention:

At our centre, he received regular wound care, counselling, a self-care kit, and protective MCR footwear. Over time, the ulcer healed completely. Mukesh is now able to work again and is living a happy, stable life with his family.



ANDHRA PRADESH

- A dengue awareness rally was conducted in Tenali by LEPROSA Society. New LF cases were line-listed at Verregudem PHC, PHC, Krishna District. A Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) camp was held at Poolbagh Leprosy Colony, Vizianagaram. Foster care and nutrition support were provided to Children Living with HIV (CLHIV) and People Living with HIV (PLHIV) by KCP Ltd., Ramco Cements, and Tenali Double Horse Foundation. Leprosy follow-ups took place in Jaggaiahpetta.



- In Jamui, Self-Support Group (SSG) meetings were held across various locations, fostering peer support, awareness on health, livelihoods, and social inclusion.
- A key meeting in Khaira Block strengthened community engagement and resilience.
- A screening camp at Jhajha Referral Centre enabled early detection of health issues and timely referrals for vulnerable individuals.

BIHAR

CHHATTISGARH

- Outpatient Department (OPD) consultations and Nerve Function Assessments (NFA) identified new cases with Nerve Function Impairment (NFI), reactions, and ulcers.
- Follow-ups, contact and focal surveys, and ulcer care were conducted in Kopaguda, Deurgaon, Durguda, Bakawand, Satosa, and Mohali blocks. Self-Care Kits and Microcellular Rubber customized (MCR) footwear were provided.



- A national-level Training of Trainers (ToT) on Lymphatic Filariasis diagnostics was held with the participation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), World Health Organization (WHO), and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
- At a stakeholder meeting in Kakrola, LEPROSA Society presented its work in leprosy and LF, promoting stronger NGO coordination.

DELHI

- An Active Case Finding camp in Naraina Block, screened households for early disease signs and ensured timely referrals.

- Awareness sessions in Alirajpur aimed at school heads, students and trained Medical Officers and reviewed field activities with the State Leprosy Team.



MADHYA PRADESH

- Reconstructive Surgery screening camps conducted in Indore. Self-care kits, Microcellular Rubber (MCR) footwear, and self-care training were provided to beneficiaries.



- A customised footwear provision camp was held at the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Gondpipari Block, Chandrapur District.
- At PHC Gadchandur, self-care practices were demonstrated, followed by ulcer dressing and counselling for daily home care.



- In Nayagarh, planning was done with the Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (VBDCP) team for hydrocele screening and surgeries. Field visits covered goat farming, mushroom units, and self-care kit distribution in Asurdhipa village with Community Health Centre and project staff.
- In Mayurbhanj, hydrocele surgeries were conducted at Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH), Rairangpur. Self-care camps in Tiring, Jamda, and Bahalda included awareness on LF and Leprosy, disability signs, and Yoga sessions.



- Follow-ups, ulcer care, and MCR footwear distribution took place in Rairangpur, Kucheipal, and Badampahar. Surveys were conducted in Halda, Keshadiha, and Bhanjasara.



- Students from Institute of Management Technology Hyderabad and Apollo Hospital were sensitized on leprosy through visits and health camps. New Multibacillary (MB) cases were diagnosed during screening in Asifabad.
- LEPRA society supported a DPMR camp in Hyderabad, providing self-care kits and (MCR) footwear, with support from Dr. Jhansi Lakshmi and NLEP staff.



- Awareness and screening sessions were held in schools across Nirmal and Hyderabad. Women's groups in Nirmal and Jagityal were sensitized on leprosy through pictorial demonstrations and community sessions.

BPHRC

LRI Project



- LRI One Health Project: House-to-house survey and sample collection conducted in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh and Nayagarh, Odisha.
- LRI Project: Monitoring visit conducted at Koraput field site, Odisha.
- LRI One Health Project: Training session organized for Paravet staff in Nayagarh, Odisha.

Key Highlights

VISION 2020 Annual Conference in Ahmedabad, LEPRA's Eye Care team from Odisha Mr. Bibhu, Ms. Gouri, and Ms. Bhawana presented their research papers.



LEPRA's new initiative in Jharkhand was appreciated by key stakeholders including the State Leprosy Officer (SLO), WHO NTD Coordinator, and NLR Lead.

Mr. Arun, Mrs. Radhika and Dr. Santhi met Dr. Devasagar, State Joint Director of Leprosy, to discuss key NLEP activities planned for 2025-26.



Engaged in a valuable and insightful discussion with the Mankind Pharma team, exploring opportunities for impactful collaboration.

A Proud Moment for LEPRA Society We are honoured to be recognized at the 12th National CSR Summit & #CSRTimesAwards2025 for our impactful work in health, inclusion, and dignity, under the national theme "CSR in Mission Viksit Bharat by 2047." This prestigious recognition celebrates our continued efforts to reach underserved communities, promote inclusive healthcare, and uphold human dignity. This award is a tribute to every team member, partner, and community we serve.



LEPRA Society participated in the National Leprosy Workshop at the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), Delhi, led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The workshop focused on key priorities under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) including transmission interruption, early case detection, and disability care. We thank MoHFW and all partners for their leadership and collaboration in driving progress toward a leprosy-free India.

We are delighted to share that Mr. Sheetal Arora, CEO and Whole-Time Director of Mankind Pharma Ltd., has joined the prestigious 100 Club of LEPRA UK, marking a significant commitment to support and advocacy.

We sincerely thank Mr. Arora for his support and advocacy, which strengthens our efforts both in India and globally.



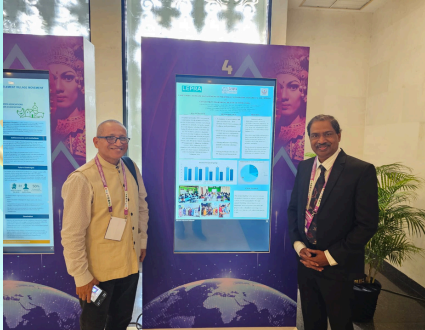
Ms. Sakshi, CSR Head at Hindware, and Mr. Arun recently visited LEPRA's West Delhi Referral Centre (WDRC).

The visit aimed to explore the range of services offered by LEPRA Society, including physiotherapy, ulcer care, and the Integrated Prevention of Disability (IPOD) outreach program. These services play a crucial role in supporting individuals affected by leprosy and other neglected diseases.

Key Highlights



LEPRA Society participated in the 22nd International Leprosy Congress 2025 in Bali, showcasing work on childhood stigma and advocacy. CEO Prasant Kumar, Mr. Arun, Mr. Rajni and Dr. Michael, represented the organization. Mr. Arun, Dr. Michael, and Mr. Rajni presented oral papers and e-posters on key initiatives including Private Sector Engagement, Technology for Footwear Supply (DiMPLE), Data Strengthening, the ASPIRE pilot study, and early detection of peripheral neuropathy in diabetes and leprosy patients.



Dr. Michael's Presentation on "Early detection of peripheral neuropathy in diabetes and leprosy patients"



Mr. Rajni Presentation on "Skin-NTD integrated Active Case Finding (ACF) approaches for leprosy elimination: Insights from the ASPIRE pilot study in Bihar, India"



Mr. Arun Presentation on 1. Impact of Nikusht Data Strengthening Project Telangana State, India, 2. Experiences of Engagement of Private Health Providers for Greater Leprosy Case Detection 3. Digital Measurement for Paduka (Footwear) for Leprosy Patients (DiMPLE)

Meet Our Staff

How did you join LEPRA, and what is your current role?

I joined LEPRA in 2001 as a Non-Medical Supervisor under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Currently, I serve as an NTD Coordinator under the Tata Sparsh project in Dhanbad, Jharkhand. I contribute to LEPRA's initiatives by aligning field-level efforts to maximize impact in Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) interventions.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

I engage with local communities through regular field visits and close coordination with my team. We work to exchange essential information, raise awareness, and build meaningful understanding especially among tribal and migrant populations at the grassroots level.

What are the most significant challenges you face, and how do you address them?

One of the biggest challenges is balancing the needs of the community with limited resources and varying stakeholder priorities. I address this by strengthening coordination mechanisms, encouraging informed decision-making, and building local ownership through inclusive dialogue and capacity-building. Transparent communication and ethical data practices are central to maintaining trust, ensuring sustainability, and delivering responsive programs.

Can you share a memorable experience from your time at LEPRA?

A particularly memorable experience was facilitating Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) for 100 individuals through our dedicated referral centers. This initiative greatly improved access to essential surgical care for marginalized tribal and migrant communities. It also demonstrated the effective use of CSR funds. I was proud to present the impact of this work through a poster presentation at a national forum in New Delhi.



Lal Babu Singh
Dhanbad, Jharkhand
NTD Coordinator,
Sparsh Project

Thank you to LEPRA Society team for your unending support
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