

SAMIKSHA

.....BY LEPRA SOCIETY



Prasant's Message

July has been a significant month, marked by heavy rains and important developments. I participated in the Jagruti evaluation meeting with ALM, where we reviewed last year's accomplishments, addressed challenges, and strategized for the upcoming year. This collaborative session, involving donor representatives and LEPRA's senior management, aimed at enhancing the Jagruti Project's impact on health and community development.

Our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has broadened its role to focus on improving program quality and sharing best practices. The TAC offers vital guidance on project development, management, and technical expertise in Health, Inclusion, and Innovation, supporting the Management Committee, Country Management Team, and Programmes Team.

I'm excited to share that we have signed an MoU with SAATHI as a sub-recipient of the Global Fund grant. We are also thankful to ADP and NTPC for their continued CSR support, which has been crucial in advancing our efforts to aid those affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

Lastly, we extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Ana Mathew, a dedicated board member of LEPRA.

Amaresh Bhoi, a 25-year-old male from Tarva block in Sonepur District, was living a normal life until 2019 when he began noticing small patches on his body while working as a typist in Chennai. Concerned, he returned to Odisha and was diagnosed with leprosy at Balangir District Hospital. He started Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) and prednisolone for a year. However, the COVID-19 lockdown prevented him from completing his treatment. In 2021, after a 2-4 month gap, he resumed MDT for another year but later developed nodules and was diagnosed with diabetes.

Impact story



In 2022, Amaresh's condition worsened with foot drop and clawing of his hands. LEPRA's Field Coordinator guided him to Sonepur Care Centre (SCC) on May 5, 2023, where he received treatment for nodules and later underwent claw hand surgery and physiotherapy. Despite being discharged with a healed ulcer, he was readmitted in 2024 due to a plantar ulcer caused by negligence.

Amaresh's dedication to his prescribed exercises led to significant improvements. He could make a fist and had better range of motion in both hands. On May 23, 2024, he returned to SCC for a recurrent ulcer in his right foot, where he continued treatment and physiotherapy.

Amaresh's journey showcases his resilience and determination. With LEPRA's ongoing support and his commitment to self-care, he has made remarkable progress in managing his condition and improving his quality of life.

NTPC's inaugural footwear distribution event



LEPRA hosted its inaugural footwear distribution camp at Sanjay Gandhi Nagar leprosy colony in Medchal district, supported by NTPC. The event featured NTPC's General Manager HR, Mr. Panigrahi, and Communication Manager, Ms. Priyanka, who distributed kits to 50 individuals affected by leprosy. The initiative was facilitated by Mr. Ramesh, President of the Society for Leprosy Affected Persons, Telangana, along with LEPRA representatives. We extend our heartfelt thanks to NTPC for their crucial support in making this camp a success.

Swabhiman Team gets trained for Eye Care

An Integrated Eye Care training session was held at MNC, BMPur, where the Swabhiman team participated actively. The session focused on creating a comprehensive roadmap to enhance eye care services for beneficiaries affected by leprosy. The team discussed strategies to improve early detection, treatment, and ongoing care for those infected or at risk. This initiative aims to strengthen support mechanisms, ensuring that individuals affected by leprosy receive the necessary eye care interventions, thereby improving their overall quality of life and reducing the impact of leprosy-related complications.

The Jagruti Project's Annual Review and Re-Planning Meeting took place in Patna on July 15-16, 2024. Attended by ALM representatives Dr. Sunil Anand and Dr. Shyamala Anand, as well as LEPRA's Chief Executive Prasant Naik, Head of Programmes Arun Kumar, and Head of Finance Om Prakash, the meeting reviewed the past year's achievements, discussed challenges, and planned strategies for the upcoming year. The discussions aimed to enhance the Jagruti Project's impact on health outcomes and community development.

Jagruti's Annual Review

ADP's Commitment to better the lives of the affected

The ADP team, along with the HR Head and CSR Head, visited the Narsingi Referral Centre, where they engaged with patients affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis (LF). During the visit, they saw ADP's generous donation of specialized footwear for these individuals. LEPRA is deeply grateful for ADP's support in improving the lives of those impacted by these conditions.



Condolences to our beloved board member Dr. Ana Mathew

We express our deepest condolences on the passing of Dr. Ana Mathew, a dedicated board member of LEPRA. Dr. Mathew held a Ph.D. in Social Work and brought 40 years of experience in social work education and practice. As the retired Principal of Roda Mistry College of Social Work, she contributed significantly to the development of the organization with her skills and expertise. Her invaluable service and commitment as a former board member of LEPRA will be fondly remembered.

[Click here for our LF Dashboard](#)

[Click here for our Leprosy Dashboard](#)



- The DMHO in ASR District distributed 13 pairs of MCR footwear via a mobile foot care van, enhancing mobility and comfort for the tribal population.
- An Anti-Dengue rally in Tenali, involving Filariasis and LEPRAs staff, successfully raised awareness about Dengue prevention.
- Ten livelihood support cheques, provided by Tenali Double Horse, were issued in Eluru, Jaggaiahpetta, and Tenali to empower beneficiaries.
- The DLO In-Charge of Eluru visited the Referral Centre to verify the quality of MCR footwear and engage with beneficiaries.
- Reorientation training sessions in Krishna and NTR Districts, attended by key health officials, focused on enhancing leprosy management skills among Medical Officers and Nodal Persons.
- NATCO Pharma donated three wheelchairs to the Guntur General Hospital Cancer Unit, improving mobility support for patients.

BIHAR



- Sri Yogendra Singh, District Magistrate of Samastipur, visited the LEPRAs Society NTD Clinic cum Comprehensive Disability Care Centre at CHC Kalyanpur and praised the holistic approach of LEPRAs and ALM in aiding those affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis (LF).
- A multi-sectoral coordination committee meeting at Karpuri Sabhabawan, Samastipur, discussed Mass Drug Administration (MDA) using Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine, and Albendazole (IDA). LEPRAs highlighted the importance of MDA doses and protective footwear, with participation from WHO, Piramal Swasthya, and PCI.
- The LEPRAs MP team observed the Community-Based Group (CBG) in the ASPIRE project in Jamui district, focusing on home-based self-care and peer support for accessing health services

- Rita Devi, a 40-year-old homemaker with bilateral ulnar median palsy and plantar anaesthesia, received Rs 25,000/- from the Jagruti Livelihoods project. This allowed her to upgrade her cosmetic shop, boosting her earnings 3-4 times and improving her self-care, resulting in fewer ulcers and a better quality of life.

- We are dedicated to improving health outcomes and are pleased to report that 10 new leprosy cases were detected at Jagdalpur RC, Chhattisgarh.
- We provided care to 61 cases in OPD, conducted 30 nerve function assessments, identified 4 new NFI cases, observed improvement in 5 NFI cases, and treated 6 new ulcer cases, showcasing our ongoing commitment to comprehensive patient care.
- In our efforts to support the community, we successfully linked 4 cases with Social Security Schemes.
- We held a heartwarming sensitization session on leprosy for ASHA and HW at Kumbharpara PHC on 24.07.2024. The session was attended by 45 dedicated ASHA workers, with the DLO and NMS kindly participating as resource persons.

CHHATTISGARH



DELHI



- A Prevention of Disability (POD) camp was held at Gandhi Kusth Ashram, Tahirpur, Delhi, where 15 individuals affected by leprosy attended a demonstration session, received counseling, MCR footwear, and self-care kits.
- Our Counselor at WDRC, participated in the All India Convention for the Welfare of Leprosy Affected Persons in Jaipur, organized by Sarthak Manav Kusth Ashram. The event included representatives from NGOs like The Leprosy Mission Trust India, LEPRAs, APAL, GLRA, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, and leprosy colony legislative bodies from various states.

JHARKHAND



- A follow-up for 10 Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) cases, including 1 lagophthalmos, 3-foot drops, and 6 claw hands, was conducted at Sparsh Dhanbad, with all individuals showing good functional abilities and appearance, reflecting the quality care at TATA-LEPRAs Referral Centre Dhanbad.
- Sixty Community Health Officers (CHOs) and ninety-six ANMs were sensitized on the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) at the District Meeting Hall in Dhanbad from July 18-23, 2024, with LEPRAs staff participating as resource persons at the request of the District Leprosy Officer (DLO).
- Contact surveys in 13 leprosy colonies in Dhanbad screened 1,117 people. Out of 8 suspects, 4 were confirmed and started on Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT), with the remaining 4 under observation for 6 months. Continuous support and care will be provided to all affected.

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- Two self-care camps were held at Boipariguda and Nabarangpur, treating 52 individuals affected by leprosy. A leprosy forum with 14 members was established in Hardaput, Jeypore Block, Nabarangpur District.
- A leprosy campaign in a village with a population of around 6,000 detected 2 new PB cases and provided treatment for 6 old G-II cases. The District NLEP Coordination Meeting at the LEPRAsonepur Care Centre reviewed progress and planned for the next three months.
- Dr. Michael's visit included an SSG follow-up meeting with 5 members under the LRI Project, ensuring continued support and evaluation.

ODISHA



TELANGANA & MAHARASTRA



- NTPC provided 2,000 self-care kits for leprosy and LF patients in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with 800 kits distributed across 12 colonies and three referral centers.
- GNM students at Eswari Bai Nursing College and 35 ASHAs in Maharashtra received training on leprosy and LF at the Rangareddy Referral Center in July 2024.
- ADP donated 300 pairs of protective footwear for leprosy and LF patients at the Rangareddy Referral Center.
- Awareness programs in Hyderabad schools and an outreach visit to Muthyampet village identified one new MB case. An MMDP camp in Paridi village on 23.07.2024 was well-attended.

BPHRC



- Mr. K. Vilvanathan, Sr. Lab Technician, trained PCAs and PG Dermatology students at Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, on SSS sample collection, staining, and reporting. He, along with Mr. Christopher, also trained TBAs and RPs at Cherlapally Industrial Office in collaboration with TB Alert.
- Ms. Sushree Nibedita Panda, Research Associate, led self-care training for SSG members in E. Champaran, Bihar. Dr. Michael Sukumar Pallapati and the LRI team conducted similar sessions for SSG members and PHC staff in Koraput, Odisha, and Vijayawada, AP.
- Dr. Sirisha, Lab Coordinator, and Ms. Suguna, Research Fellow, visited Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, to promote lab services.

MEET OUR STAFF



Hello, I'm P.K. Khosla, serving as a Physio Technician. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Science and a Master's in Social Work. With over 20 years of experience in the NGO sector, I've developed a deep understanding of community health and rehabilitation.

How many years have you been associated with LEPRAs?

I have been associated with LEPRAs since January 2017, marking over seven years with the organization.

Share your experience and learnings at LEPRAs:

At LEPRAs, I have gained extensive experience in treating patients affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis (LF). My role has involved direct patient care, monitoring treatment progress, and conducting field visits to ensure effective implementation of our programs. These experiences have significantly enhanced my skills in patient management and intervention strategies.

What do you like the most about working with LEPRAs?

What I appreciate most about working with LEPRAs is the opportunity to engage directly with surgical patients through our physiotherapy programs. The ability to contribute to their recovery and witness the positive impact of our work is incredibly rewarding.

A memory at LEPRAs which you would like to share:

One particularly memorable experience was treating a young girl suffering from severe reactions related to leprosy. After her treatment, she expressed her gratitude, which was deeply moving and reaffirmed the importance of our work. It was a powerful reminder of the difference we make in our patients' lives.

What makes LEPRAs a unique organization?

LEPRAs stands out due to its extensive operations across 10 states and its unwavering commitment to providing high-quality care in leprosy, LF, and eye health. The organization's comprehensive approach and dedication to improving patient outcomes are truly exceptional.

Any suggestions for improvement?

To further enhance our services, I suggest initiating surgical interventions in Andhra Pradesh. This expansion could provide much-needed support to patients in the region and strengthen our overall impact.

Thank you to LEPRAs Society team for your unending support
Facilitated by the programmes team



Dr. Indrani Aila
Communication Officer

K. Arun Kumar
Head - Programmes

G. Swamy Reddy
M & E Officer

Priyanka Consultancy
SM Consultant

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



For any queries, please write to us at rmu@leprahealthinaction.in

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