

## PRASANT'S MESSAGE



Every milestone we achieve is a testament to our unwavering commitment to transforming lives. As we reflect on our recent successes, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the dedication and passion each of you brings to our mission.

We have embarked on an exciting journey with the Nellore Eye Project, supported by Operation Eyesight International, Canada, bringing vital eye care services to those in need. The launch of the Lepra Eyecare Strategy marks a significant step in strengthening our vision care initiatives, ensuring a brighter future for many. Our global collaborations continue to grow, with Dr. Madleina Denhardt, Head of Research at Lepra UK, visiting to enhance research and program strategies. Rajni, our State Coordinator for Bihar, represented LEPROA Society at the 2nd Global Skin NTD

Meeting organized by WHO in Geneva, ensuring our work is recognized on the world stage. We also had a meaningful engagement with the Azim Premji Foundation team in Chhattisgarh, where Mr. Arun and Dr. Khyathi led due diligence efforts, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and excellence. Similarly, the HIV/AIDS Alliance completed its due diligence for our Madhya Pradesh program, ensuring continued accountability and impact. A special moment of pride was the Bihar Foundation Day celebrations across all our projects in Bihar, honoring the resilience and spirit of the communities we serve. Meanwhile, in Madhya Pradesh, our year-end program review allowed us to reflect on our progress and refine our strategies for the future. Each of these achievements is a reflection of your tireless efforts and dedication. Your work is not just impacting lives— it is rewriting destinies.

## IMPACT STORY

Ganesh Prasad Burnwal, a 56-year-old farmer from Jhajha, Jamui District, had been suffering from Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) for six years. Due to a lack of awareness and treatment, his condition worsened to Grade II, causing severe swelling, discomfort, and psychological distress. His family's attempts at homeopathic treatment proved ineffective, further deepening their frustration. Referred to the NTD Clinic through a Rapid Inquiry Survey by LEPROA Society, Ganesh received intervention under the ASPIRE Project. Physiotherapy technicians trained him in morbidity management and provided a self-care kit and protective footwear during an Self Support Group Meeting. Committed to the self-care regimen, Ganesh experienced significant improvement within three months, reducing his condition from Grade II to Grade I. This not only restored his physical health but also boosted his confidence and well-being. Empowered by his recovery, Mr. Ganesh now actively raises awareness about LF in his village, encouraging others to seek timely intervention. His journey highlights the transformative impact of awareness, education, and community support in managing LF, demonstrating how initiatives like the ASPIRE Project can change lives and combat stigma.



**Ganesh Prasad Burnwal**  
56 years old  
Jhajha Village,  
Jamui district  
Bihar



- Dr. Ashok Kumar, Vice Chairman of Lepra Society visited AP operational areas, interacting with key department heads, TDH management, IGP beneficiaries, and the Directorate of Health.
- The NTD Coordinator visited Srikakulam PHC in Krishna District to verify records.



- Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign launched in 24 districts, with the State Consultant Filaria (LEPRA Supported) monitoring and supervising in Saran district.
- Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) workshop conducted at



District Hospital Bhagalpur for Medical Officers and Community Health Officers (CHO), organized by the Vector-Borne Disease Control Officer (VBDCO) team and LEPRA Society.

- Training for Jeevika group members (Jeevika cadre Master Resource Persons (MRPs), Community Nutrition Resource Persons (CNRPs), Village Resource Persons (VRPs), Bookkeepers, and Community Mobilizers (CMs)) was conducted by the Jagruti team at Panchayat Bhawan Hajpurva in Samastipur, focusing on home-based care and awareness for leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF).



- Azim Premji Foundation team, along with Mr. Arun - Head of Programmes and Dr. Khyati visited LEPRA Society Jagdalpur Referral Centre.
- School-based survey and health education sessions conducted at Gorawand village.



- Community awareness activity conducted on leprosy symptoms, importance of early treatment, active case detection, ensuring timely medical intervention.
- Physiotherapy care with massage techniques, strengthening exercises, and stretching routines provided under the ROTARY/LEPRA PROJECT at Indira Gandhi Hospital.



- Two post-RFT ENL(Released from Treatment) reaction cases were successfully managed at the Sparsh Centre, ensuring timely and effective treatment for complex cases.



- LEPRA Society & MANKIND Pharma, in collaboration with the District NLEP team, organized a "Run for Leprosy" marathon to raise awareness about leprosy.
- Women's Day was celebrated across LEPRA Society's operational areas highlighting women's health and empowerment.



## MADHYA PRADESH

- Follow-up session at St. Joseph Leprosy Center(SJLC), Sanawad, led by CMHO Dr. M.S. Sisodia, assessed 32 post-RCS patients, ensured financial aid, and emphasized on self-care.

- Samarth Project entered Phase II, training

Self-Support Groups (SSGs) using the Community-Based Governance (CBG) manual, focusing on leadership, meetings, records, and inclusion.

- International Women's Day was celebrated, with discussions on women's health, physiotherapy, and preventive care.

- The Madhya Pradesh State Leprosy Forum met in Indore to review progress, plan for 2025-26, and explore sustainable funding for the SKNS State Committee.

- A Walkathon by NHM marked International Women's Day, promoting gender equality and health awareness.



## TELANGANA

- International Women's Day 2025 was celebrated at Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare (IIHFW) Hyderabad, with Smt. Hymavathi, IAS, Project Director, TGSACS, as Chief Guest.

- MCR footwear distributed to individuals affected by leprosy at Arogya Matha



Rehabilitation Centre, Nagarkurnool district.

- DPMR(Disability Prevention Medical Rehabilitation) camp conducted at Leprosy Health Centre, Nalgonda.
- Kagaznagar Referral Centre organized 3 Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) camps in villages of Asifabad district.

## ODISHA

- Maria del Mar Marais- Senior Programme Manager - India and Bangladesh, and Mr. Naveen(State Coordinator) visited project sites, overseeing IEC awareness programs, self-care camps, SSG meetings, and mushroom farming support under the Nayagarh LF Project.

- Training on Digital Adherence Training System(DATS) held at Koraput Care Centre (KCC) under the guidance of Mr. Arun & Dr. Khyathi.

- Post-operative care at KCC, including physiotherapy monitoring, ulcer dressings, preparation of posterior and dorsal slabs, and rehabilitation support by PCA trainees.



## BPHRC

- Dr. Madleina Denhardt, Head of Research at Lepra UK, visited Blue Peter Public Health and Research Centre (BPHRC) for discussions on leprosy research implementation to strengthen research efforts in leprosy care and control.

- TB awareness session conducted for Bharat Gas Plant truckers, educating them on prevention, symptoms, and treatment while distributing informative materials and addressing queries to enhance awareness among vulnerable groups.

For any queries, please write to us at [rmu@leprahealthinaction.in](mailto:rmu@leprahealthinaction.in)

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## Key Highlights



Mr. Rajnikant Singh, State Coordinator Bihar region represented LEPRA Society at the 2nd Global Skin NTD Meeting organized by WHO in Geneva



Maria del Mar Marais- Senior Programme Manager – India and Bangladesh & Dr. Madleina Denhardt, Head of Research at Lepra UK & visited Bihar Project Locations



Mr. Arun, Head Programmes & RMC and Dr Khyathi, Manager New Initiatives facilitated Azim Premji Foundation team (Mr Gururaj Patil and Dr Sandya) visit to Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh



Management Committee & General Body Meeting



Media Team from Effect Hope Canada in Bihar



Dr. Ashok Kumar, Vice Chairman, LEPRA Society visited AP Operational areas

## Meet Our Staff

**How did you join LEPRA, and what is the work you do?** - I joined LEPRA Society in January 2000 as an Attender and received training in ulcer care at the Central Leprosy Institute, Chengalpattu. I now provide ulcer care, POP support, self-care training for leprosy and LF patients, and conduct Podocan assessments and footwear distribution for diabetic patients.

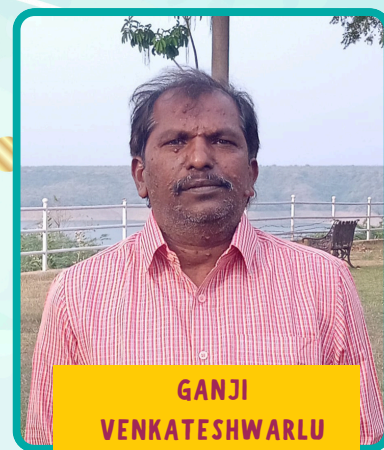
**How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?** - I participate in community-based camps, awareness sessions, and house-to-house visits, educating people about leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, and diabetes care. Through interactive discussions and live demonstrations, I encourage self-care practices and help reduce stigma.

**What are the most significant challenges, and how would you address them in your role?**

The biggest challenge is ensuring continuous care and adherence to treatment among patients. Many people hesitate due to stigma and lack of awareness. I address this by providing consistent follow-ups, counseling, and demonstrating self-care techniques to empower patients.

**A memory at LEPRA that you would like to share?**

One of my most cherished memories is a house-to-house survey where our team engaged directly with communities, conducting camps and offering much-needed support. I also recall a person who had suffered from leprosy for decades. When he came to BPHRC, I provided him with limb care, and over time, he recovered. Overwhelmed with joy, he wept and hugged me—a moment I will never forget.



**GANJI VENKATESHWARLU**  
BPHRC

Thank you to LEPRA Society team for your unending support

Facilitated by  
**K. Arun Kumar**

Head - Programmes & RMC

**G. Swamy Reddy**  
M & E Officer

**Anantha Lakshmi Latchayya**  
Communications Officer

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