

PRASANT'S MESSAGE

CEO's Message

As we step into the new financial year, it is important for us to refocus our efforts on fundraising, especially in light of the challenging phase being faced by LEPRO Society and Lepira UK. Due to the current funding constraints and necessary restructuring, we have had to make some difficult decisions, including parting ways with a few of our valued colleagues. We sincerely hope to welcome them back once we are able to stabilize and overcome this phase. We have undertaken a comprehensive review of our operational plans, including the roadmap for MahaNadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) for

2026-27, ensuring that our programs continue to be impactful and aligned with our mission.

We also undertook a visit to Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, to review the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) programme with SARDS (SARDS – Society for Applied Research and Development Studies), and to explore potential partnership opportunities with SEIL Energy (SEIL – South East India Energy Limited). A key highlight was the State-level Leprosy Symposium, focusing on the role of dermatologists and the private sector in strengthening the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Additionally, our visit to Kaimur, Bihar, allowed us to review preparations for the operationalisation of a new operation theatre (OT) and assess ongoing programme activities.

Together, these efforts reflect our continued commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery, partnerships, and community impact despite the challenges we face. With renewed focus and determination, we look forward to the year ahead with the aim of creating even greater impact.

IMPACT STORY

Background

Lakshman Ramchandra, a 60-year-old daily wage worker, lives in a nuclear family. He is a previously treated case of Leprosy and completed Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) a decade ago. Despite successful treatment, he continued to experience complications due to loss of sensation in his feet. He is currently receiving follow-up care and support from the Chandrapur Referral Center in Maharashtra.

Challenge Faced

Due to reduced sensation, Lakshman developed a chronic ulcer on his right mid-foot. Over time, another ulcer formed on his left outer aspect of the left ankle, caused by prolonged cross-leg sitting. These painful and persistent wounds made walking extremely difficult, directly affecting his ability to work and leading to loss of daily income.

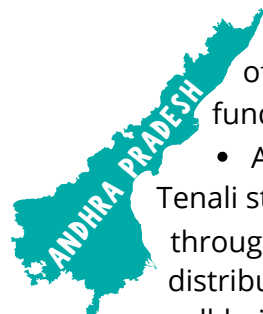
LEPRO Society's Intervention

LEPRO Society identified the severity of his condition and initiated comprehensive wound care management. Regular wound debridement (scraping) and dressing were carried out to remove dead tissue and promote healing. He was also provided with an ulcer care kit and Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear to reduce pressure on the affected areas and prevent further injury.

Life After the Intervention

Following consistent care and support, Lakshman showed significant improvement. The infection reduced, and the deep ulcers began to heal steadily. With improved mobility and reduced pain, he was able to regain comfort and gradually return to his daily activities. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the LEPRO Society team for helping him walk again with ease and restoring his independence.





- School children in Vizianagaram were awarded with certificates of appreciation for their contribution to LEPRA Society through fundraising, encouraging community participation from a young age.
- An MMDP (Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention) camp in Tenali strengthened care for persons affected by Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) through practical guidance on self-care, exercises, and nutrition, along with distribution of essential support materials to improve their comfort and well-being.
- Foster care, clinical, and nutrition support were provided to Children Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (CLHIV) and People Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (PLHIV) with support from KCP Limited, Ramco Cements, and Tenali Double Horse Foundation, ensuring improved health, treatment access, and well-being.



- A review meeting at the District Leprosy Office (DLO), Tinsukia, assessed tea garden screening progress, addressed challenges, and strengthened coordination, reporting, and timely treatment.
- Ongoing tea garden screening across Tinsukia includes house-to-house visits for early detection of Leprosy, along with community awareness to reduce stigma and ensure timely referral and care.



- In collaboration with Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO), distributed educational kits to children and ration supplies to elderly persons affected by Leprosy, supporting their learning and daily needs.

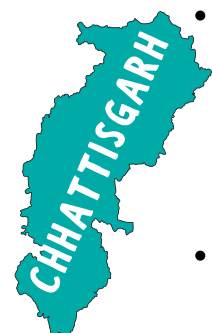


- In Samastipur, Self Support Group (SSG) meetings brought together persons affected by LF and Leprosy, providing a platform for sharing experiences, addressing stigma, and promoting self-care practices such as hygiene, wound care, and early treatment.
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in Jamui with Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and



Community-Based Groups (CBGs). These discussions specifically focused on evaluating the performance of the February 2026 Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign, capturing community perspectives and participation factors.

- SSG leaders in Samastipur initiated mushroom cultivation after training under the Jagruti Project, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for persons affected by LF and Leprosy, with plans to scale up production for improved income and stability.



- Outpatient Department (OPD) services were provided to multiple patients, including nerve function assessments. A new case with Nerve Function Impairment (NFI) was identified, and services were delivered as needed. New cases were registered, including those detected through Active Case Detection (ACD).
- Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) clinics at Jagdalpur covered follow-up of under-treatment (UT) and reaction cases, registration of new Multibacillary (MB) Leprosy cases, and health education.



- Field visits in Bastar block included follow-up, contact surveys, and distribution of dressing kits to beneficiaries.



- An awareness and assessment programme, conducted at the West Delhi Referral Centre, with Delhi AIDS Control Society (DACS), promoted early detection, reduced stigma, and provided information on MDT. Suspected cases were identified and referred for further evaluation.
- A review meeting between Rotary Seniors and Indira Gandhi Hospital (IGH), Delhi focused on progress, challenges, and improving coordination in leprosy services.



- A Disability Care Camp at the West Delhi Referral Centre (WDRC), supported disability prevention and self-care for persons affected by leprosy and LF. Protective footwear, self-care kits, and physiotherapy guidance were also provided.



- A field visit in Raisen focused on human rights and welfare schemes for persons affected by Leprosy. A coordination meeting with multiple departments emphasised convergence for the effective delivery of benefit schemes.
- During an OPD session, new cases of Leprosy were diagnosed, including one from Newali block in the Sendhwa area. All identified individuals were registered and initiated on treatment and follow-up in line with standard care guidelines.



- Comprehensive physiotherapy services were provided under disability management at the Referral Centre, Gadchandur, Chandrapur district.
- Interventions such as wax bath therapy, finger loop training, splint support, and targeted exercises were provided to enhance mobility, reduce stiffness, and improve functional independence of affected individuals.



- Field activities across Banspal, Rairangpur, and surrounding blocks focused on strengthening leprosy services through meetings with health officials, community discussions, and baseline data collection.

- Active Case Detection surveys, line listing, and household visits supported early identification and awareness.

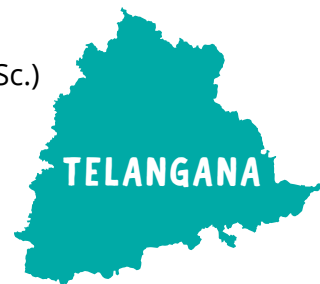
- Clinical and rehabilitation services included DPMR clinics, new case detection, hydrocele care, physiotherapy, and disability camp facilitation. MCR footwear distribution, ulcer care, and follow-up of reaction cases were also undertaken.

- Livelihood support initiatives, including mushroom farm monitoring, and distribution of LF medicines further contributed to improving the health and well-being of beneficiaries.





- An awareness session on Leprosy was organised by the Referral Centre (RC), Rangareddy, for Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) Nursing students from Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, Hyderabad.
- An orientation programme was conducted for Shoe Technicians (STs) at Nallakunta, on accurate foot measurement using the Digital measurement application (DiMPLE) with Artificial Intelligence (AI) estimations. Key challenges faced by STs were also discussed.



BPHRC



- An integrated health screening was carried out at Cherlapalli Prison, covering Tuberculosis (TB), Leprosy, HIV, Hepatitis B, and vision problems. Free spectacles were distributed to inmates with support from Infosys.
- Under the LRI (Leprosy Research Initiative) One Health Project, samples were collected from animals with skin lesions in Challapeta village, Vizianagaram district, to support research and surveillance.
- A School Health Program was conducted at COUNT Ministries School, Cherlapalli, where students were screened for skin infections and Leprosy, and provided with appropriate care and management.

Key Highlights



A training session on foot measurement using the DiMPLE with AI estimations was conducted at the Nallakunta Referral Center (NLRC) for footwear technicians from the NLRC and BPHRC (Blue Peter Health Research Center), strengthening their skills in accurate assessment and improved footwear support.



World Malaria Week was observed by the SHAKTHI Project in Bakawand, bringing together around 80 health staff. The initiative featured a rally across the Bakawand Gram Panchayat to raise community awareness, along with a cleanliness drive led by the Sarpanch, reinforcing the collective commitment to malaria prevention and control.



The State Level Symposium on Leprosy, organised by LEPRA Society in collaboration with Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists at Gandhi Medical College, brought together experts to strengthen private sector engagement in the National Leprosy Eradication Programme.



At the Mankind Pharma Annual Review Meeting in Coimbatore, LEPRA Society's project DISPELL (Disability Prevention and Empowerment of Leprosy and LF Patients) was recognised as the best presentation of the session, reflecting its impactful work and earning appreciation from the Mankind Pharma team.

A tricycle was provided to a person with bilateral leg amputation in Utukuru, Andhra Pradesh, restoring a sense of mobility and independence. Deeply moved, the beneficiary expressed heartfelt gratitude to LEPRA Society for the support.



The DISPELL Project Action Planning Meeting, supported by Mankind Pharma, brought together representatives from eight states for focused discussions and strategic planning to strengthen implementation and impact.

Infosys team visited our LEPRA Society Head office, where they were briefed on ongoing programmes and key interventions, gaining insights into our work and impact. They then attended the free spectacles distribution event at the Central Jail, where beneficiaries received essential eye care support, highlighting the importance of accessible healthcare services.



An agreement was signed to establish a partnership with the Department of Electronics at Anurag University for a chip-based sensor project aimed at tracking step counts and assessing footwear usage among individuals affected by leprosy, supporting improved monitoring and patient care.

Meet Our Staff

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

I joined LEPRA Society with a passion for community health. Currently, I support monitoring, data management, and coordination with field teams for effective project implementation.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

I engage with local communities through regular interactions, awareness sessions, and participation in field activities. By working closely with community health workers and local leaders, I help spread awareness about diseases, promote early detection, and encourage people to access available health services.

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

Ensuring accurate data and community participation can be challenging. I address this through regular follow-ups, coordination, and building trust with communities.

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

A memorable experience for me has been seeing the positive impact of our interventions at the community level especially when individuals receive timely treatment and support. Witnessing improvements in their health and confidence reinforces the importance of our work and motivates me to continue contributing to the project.



Dr. Mahipal Munda
Monitoring & Evaluation
Officer- SHAKTHI



Manohar Kulkarni
Communication Executive

Dr. Anantha Lakshmi Latchayya
Communications Officer

Dr. Khyathi Pilaka
Manager- Knowledge Management
and New Initiatives

Arun Kumar Kandukuri
Head - Programmes RM & C

Thank you to LEPRA Society team for your unending support
Facilitated by

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