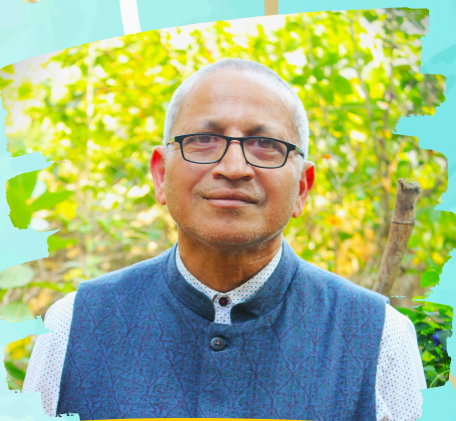




PRASANT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

As we reflect on this month, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the milestones we have achieved together at LEPRO Society. Each step forward is a reminder of the strength of our collective commitment to building healthier and more inclusive communities.

This Independence Day, our teams celebrated across all centres in 10 states, reaffirming our values of freedom, equality, and service. It was a proud moment to see our community spirit come alive in every corner of the country. We also marked several important beginnings. A new Referral Centre was inaugurated at Ranchi in Jharkhand, and in Assam, a Comprehensive Disability Referral Centre has begun operations in Tinsukia. In Andhra Pradesh, we opened a new regional

office in Vijayawada. These expansions bring our services closer to communities in need, strengthening our reach. Our partnerships continue to grow meaningfully. We have begun a pilot programme with Infosys for eye screening, and we are honoured to commence a three-year partnership with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) for community-based screening for NTDs and communicable diseases in Chhattisgarh. We are also collaborating with FHI360 for HIV interventions in Maharashtra. A Vision Centre Strategy workshop in MNC Odisha and the visit of our donor SEVA to the Eye Care Programme in Odisha further deepened our focus on eye health. It is also a privilege for LEPRO Society to take on the role of Chair of the Goodbye Leprosy Trust (GBLT), reflecting our leadership in global health collaborations. Each of these achievements is not just a milestone but a step forward in our shared journey of health, inclusion, and innovation. I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of the LEPRO family whose dedication has made these moments possible. Together, we continue to create impact that goes far beyond numbers.

IMPACT STORY

Restoring Confidence and Function – Pushpa's Journey

Pushpa, a 63-year-old woman, had completed her Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) for leprosy three years ago and was registered as released from treatment (RFT). Despite being cured, she recently developed a painful ulcer on the third finger of her right hand, accompanied by visible shortening up to the distal interphalangeal (DIP) joint.

Challenge Faced

The ulcer caused significant discomfort and made it difficult for Pushpa to use her hand for daily household tasks. The pain and deformity also affected her confidence and limited her social participation.

LEPRO Society's Intervention

Pushpa received comprehensive care at LEPRO Society Centre- Indira Gandhi Hospital Delhi. She was provided with wound management, self-care training, and regular follow-ups under the supervision of LEPRO's trained medical team. She also received health education on self-care for hands to prevent further damage. With consistent care and guidance, Pushpa's ulcer healed completely. She regained better hand function, can manage daily tasks comfortably, and feels confident leading an active and independent life.



ANDHRA PRADESH

- On Independence Day, a New State Office Building was inaugurated in Vijayawada.
- State Strategic Plan 2025-2026 workshop was conducted with GLRA, SLO, JD and all ILEP partners.
- Foster Care Support, Nutrition Support, Clinic Support and follow ups were provided for around 165 people and children living with HIV.
- DPMR and MMDP Orientations were conducted for 80 ASHA workers, 130 bednets were distributed in Bethany Leprosy Colony, MMDP and DPMR camps was conducted for beneficiaries, and school surveys for 500 children was held to raise leprosy awareness.



- A State-Level NLEP Coordination Committee meeting, a Partner's Review cum Coordination Meeting, and an Orientation & Training for District Program Coordinators were held with WHO, ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) partners, Piramal Foundation and state officials, focusing on progress review, LF quality assurance, and strengthening community engagement in elimination efforts.

BIHAR

- Meeting held with ICMR-VCRC scientists on the LF research study in Bihar, where the State Program Officer assured full cooperation and support.
- Independence Day Gram Sabha meetings emphasized creating leprosy- and filariasis-free Panchayats and simplifying disability certification processes.

CHHATTISGARH



- In August 2025, Sustainable Health Approaches for Key Tribal communities Health Interventions (SHAKTHI) a three-year community-based screening for NTDs and communicable diseases was launched in Bakawand block, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, with support from Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI). A morbidity management unit will be set up at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Bastar.
- Block Medical Officer (BMO) and sector supervision teams reviewed project activities and appreciated LEPRA's involvement in Bakawand CHC Sector Meeting



- School-based awareness and health examination activities were conducted at Municipal Corporation of Delhi Schools focusing on early detection and fostering proactive community engagement.
- Trainings at Indira Gandhi Hospital (IGH) Delhi, Guru Gobind Singh Hospital, and Delhi Government Dispensary, Dwarka engaged combinedly 100 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), doctors, and staff to strengthen skills in leprosy detection, referral support, and rehabilitation services

DELHI

JHARKHAND

- A Comprehensive Disability Care Centre (CDCC) was inaugurated in Ranchi on 4th August, appreciated by health officials and partners.
- Aids and Appliances Distribution Program at Sparsh Centre, Dhanbad supported persons affected by leprosy with mobility aids and MCR footwear.
- A School Survey and Health Education session at Jeetpur, Dhandab, reached 50 students, promoting early detection and awareness.



MADHYA PRADESH

- Integrated trainings on Leprosy and Hepatitis were conducted in Guna and Sehore, strengthening frontline capacity in early detection, treatment, stigma reduction, and referral mechanisms.
- Awareness programs were organized for school students in Alirajpur and ASHAs in different districts, using discussions, visual aids, and storytelling.
- Field and monitoring visits included a Spot Leprosy Survey with the DLO to improve case detection and surveillance.



- Districty Leprosy Officer (DLO) from National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) reviewed activities in Chandrapur.
- Using flashcards, the Physio Care Assistants (PCA) sensitized women in Rajura block on leprosy during their gathering before agricultural work, promoting early awareness at the grassroots.

MAHARASHTRA

- Disability certificates facilitated for 8 persons from Koraput district, enabling access to government benefits.
- Honored by SDMO Rairangpur on Independence Day for achievements in hydrocele surgery and RCS.
- Members of a Self-Support Group at Samput agreed to initiate phenyl production as a livelihood activity.



ODISHA

- Discussions held with horticulture officials at Kanas, Puri to promote beekeeping and honey cultivation with training and subsidies.
- School health education, awareness programs, IEC Van, Mass Drug Administration awareness activities, mass surveys, household coverage, checkups, and eye case screenings were conducted across schools, orphanages, and blocks.



- Dr. Varun Vijay Gaiki, ROHFW Telangana, visited RC Kagaznagar and reviewed NLEP & NVBDCP activities, interacted with patients, examined case sheets.
- Awareness sessions were held with Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), school students, and during mega health camps in Hyderabad.
- Contact and focal surveys in Asifabad district identified new cases, and validation of a new diagnosed case in hyderabad was conducted by the District Nucleus Team at Nallakunta Referral Centre

TELANGANA

BPHRC

- Dr. Michael and Ms. Alekya presented the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) project poster at Telangana Science Congress 2025.
- Project Assistant Ms. Pallavi More received advanced training in Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) at TLMI, Delhi and Droplet Digital PCR (ddPCR) at ICMR NIREH Workshop Bhopal .
- Under the ICMR Peripheral Neuropathy Project, medical, paramedical staff, and ASHAs of Primary Health Centre (PHC) Malkajgiri were trained, facilitated by Principal Investigator Dr. Neelaveni Kudugunti.



Key Highlights

Independence Day celebrations across all our Referral Centers in India Honoring freedom with unity and pride



Insightful interaction with Shri Jagdish Pradhan, Chairman, LEPRA Society, at Bhubaneswar Office, Odisha.



LEPRA Society has opened a new office in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, to strengthen programmes and community outreach.



Ms. Deepthi from the Infosys CSR team visited LEPRA Head Office, Cherlapally, and conducted a demo of the Eye Screening App.

Key Highlights



Independence Day was celebrated with pride and unity across all 10 state referral centres and head offices of LEPRa Society, reaffirming our collective resolve for a healthier, inclusive, and leprosy-free India.



Inauguration of LEPRa-Mankind Comprehensive Disability Care Centre at Nirmal Bhavan, Ranchi, Jharkhand, in the presence of state officials, APAL leadership, DFIT representatives, and community leaders.



Shri Kapa Ramaiah, Board Member, visited LEPRa Vijayawada Office and shared valuable insights, offering renewed direction for Lymphatic Filariasis interventions.



The Vision Spring team visited LEPRa Society Hyderabad Office to explore collaborations in eye health, focusing on community-based services and improved access to quality vision care.



Government physiotherapists training held at The Leprosy Mission (TLM) Muzaffarpur by Damien Foundation India Trust (DFIT), with Mr. Santosh (LEPRa Society) leading a session on footwear components.

Meet Our Staff

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

I joined LEPRa Society in September 2023 as a physiotherapist, focusing on disability care and rehabilitation. My work centres on functional recovery and empowering individuals affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

I conduct awareness sessions, active case finding in slum areas, and contact surveys around patients. I also participate in IPOD (Integrated Prevention of Disabilities) camps to screen and support people with disabilities, promoting early detection and reducing stigma.

What are the most significant challenges you face, and how do you address them?- The major challenge in Delhi is late-stage reporting, leading to high disability rates. We address this through awareness campaigns on early detection and the role of physiotherapy, encouraging timely treatment to prevent complications.

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

One memorable case was of Puneet, who came with severe foot drop. Through physiotherapy, medication, and team support, he regained full mobility in five months a powerful reminder of how timely care changes lives.



Vishal Pandey
Physiotherapist
IGH South Delhi

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

Manohar Kulkarni
Social Media Consultant

Dr. Anantha Lakshmi Latchayya
Communications Officer

Dr. Khyathi
Manager- Knowledge Management
and New Initiatives

Arun Kumar Kandukuri
Head - Programmes RM & C



Account Number 0132 0030 06100 **IFSC Code** IBKL0000002 **Account Name** LEPRa Society **Type of Account** Savings

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

Donate



Scan & Follow us on Social Media For any queries, please write to us at rmu@leprahealthinaction.in

[@LEPRaSociety1989](https://www.facebook.com/LEPRaSociety1989) [@LEPRa_Society](https://www.instagram.com/LEPRa_Society) [@leprasociety](https://www.linkedin.com/company/leprasociety) [@LEPRaSociety1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEPRaSociety1)