



PRASANT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

As we celebrate the spirit of Christmas and welcome the New Year, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to each one of you. May this season bring peace, hope, and renewed strength as we continue our shared commitment to service and inclusion.

During the past month, LEPRa Society undertook several important initiatives across our programmes and organisational activities. Comprehensive project review meetings were held with our State Coordinators, the Lepira UK team, and Mr. Arun Kumar, Head - Programmes, Resource Mobilization & Communications, strengthening coordination, shared learning, and effective programme implementation.

LEPRa Society also observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at over 140 locations across 11 states, engaging communities to promote prevention, early detection, self-care, and social inclusion for persons affected by leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF). We provided technical support to the Central Leprosy Division to strengthen the Special Monitoring Framework in high-priority districts under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), including Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) monitoring visits in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and West Bengal. With the support of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), over 360 customised protective footwear and self-care kits were distributed in Parvathipuram Manyam district, Andhra Pradesh, improving mobility and quality of life for patients.

We also marked the 21st Foundation Day of Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC), Odisha reviewed programmes during the Mankind Pharma team's visit to the Koraput Care Centre (KCC), and shared Christmas and New Year greetings with staff across all locations, recognising their dedication and commitment. As we enter the New Year, we thank all our teams, partners, and supporters for their continued trust and collaboration as we move forward with renewed purpose and hope.

IMPACT STORY

Healing Beyond Wounds: Uday Naik's Journey to Hope

Uday Naik, from Salarapada village in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha, has been living with leprosy-related disability for the past five years. Belonging to a poor labour family with no formal education and a very limited income, he struggled to manage both his illness and daily livelihood. Lack of awareness, delayed care, and no access to government support led to a steady decline in his health.

Challenge Faced

When identified during a field survey, Uday was in a critical condition with a severe, untreated foot ulcer. His disability prevented him from working regularly, pushing his family into deeper financial distress. He was unaware of social welfare schemes and had received no support such as a pension or housing assistance.

LEPRa Society's Intervention

After assessment, LEPRa Society provided an ulcer care kit and customized protective footwear and conducted regular follow-ups, counselling, and self-care education. The team also facilitated access to government schemes, helping him obtain a disability pension and housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, along with continuous monitoring and guidance.

Life After the Intervention

Uday's foot ulcer healed, and his overall health improved, enabling him to return to daily labour work and support his family. With a secure home, regular pension, and enhanced awareness, his life is now more stable and dignified, and he actively practices self-care and is now active in community



BEFORE



AFTER

ANDHRA PRADESH

- Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) camps were conducted, during which Ethyl Vinyl Acetate (EVA) footwear was distributed to LF patients at Pedapenki Primary Health Centre (PHC), with support from Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL).
- Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) surveys were conducted in Jaggaiahpetta, Eluru, and Tenali to strengthen early detection.
- Fruits and provisions were distributed at the Vizainagaram Referral Centre (RC) with support from Vocational Training Center, Chellore.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed at referral centres and leprosy colonies, supported by district health officials, partners, and donors. Medical students also visited referral centres to learn about leprosy care and management.
- World AIDS Day was observed through rallies and events, with participation from health staff and partners.
- Clinical and nutrition support was provided to people living with HIV at multiple centres.



- Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) training for LCDC was conducted in Tinsukia, Assam, with over 200 participants.
- A one-day LCDC training was held in Guwahati, Assam, attended by LEPRA Society's Physiotherapist, Non-Medical Assistants (NMAs), district health workers, and other field staff.
- The State Leprosy Consultant visited Tinsukia district to supervise and monitor the ongoing LCDC.

Assam

- Self Support Group (SSG) members meeting under the Jagruti Project in Samastipur focused on LF and leprosy, highlighting early signs, prevention, and timely treatment.
- Awareness programmes, Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) meetings, and SSG gatherings across Samastipur and Kaimur focused on early detection, regular self-care, and prevention of disabilities.



BIHAR

- Health staff, students, and community leaders actively participated, gaining practical knowledge to support affected families and promote timely treatment.
- Under the Jagruti Project in Samastipur, the NDF Members Bag Distribution activity provided handbags, diaries, and pens to support daily work and documentation, strengthening morale, coordination, and unity among participants.
- A two-day Microfinance and Business Development Training held at Samastipur strengthened financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills of SSG leaders and members, enabling them to explore income-generating opportunities and contribute to community development.
- During the State-Level Training of Trainers at Patna, LEPRA's key contributions to ensuring a successful and high-quality Mass Drug Administration (MDA) round were highlighted.

- International Disability Week was observed at Karpawand PHC, with Medical Officers from Karpawand and Kolawal PHCs and a Sarpanch from the PRI attending as Chief guests.

- Follow-up of under-treatment (UT) cases was conducted, along with contact and focal surveys in Bijaguda, Uponpal, and Amaguda Nangoor Blocks.
- A village-level forum was formed in Mundagaon village, Bastar district, to strengthen community engagement and referral linkages.



CHHATTISGARH

- Outpatient Department (OPD) services provided nerve function assessments, treatment for new reactions and ulcers, and registration of new leprosy cases, including those identified through Active Case Detection (ACD).

DELHI



- Awareness activities were conducted at Indira Gandhi Hospital (IGH), Guru Gobind Hospital OPD, and an Anganwadi Centre in Mayapuri Basti, Delhi, to promote disease awareness, early symptom identification, and timely treatment.

- Under the Sasakawa Foundation initiative, protective footwear was distributed to identified beneficiaries at Tahirpur Leprosy Colony.

- An Integrated Prevention of Disability (IPOD) camp was held at Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Kusht Ashram, Tahirpur, where foot measurements were taken, Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear and self-care kits were distributed, physiotherapy guidance was provided, and awareness sessions benefited patients and their families.

JHARKHAND

- NLR- until No Leprosy Remains, India organised a State Level Multi-Stakeholders Consultation in Ranchi to strengthen partnerships for leprosy, Skin Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), and related disabilities.

- A new Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van for Jharkhand was flagged off by Dr. Alok Bishkarma and district health officials. During its campaign, it covered 92 villages, reached 62,000 people, and detected 5 new leprosy cases.



MADHYA PRADESH

- A Prevention of Disability (POD) camp in Alirajpur provided comprehensive care for leprosy-affected patients, including assessment, disability grading, wound care, counselling, self-care training, and guidance on protective measures and regular follow-up to improve quality of life.
- Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) at Kot Kiradi and Paanjaria were conducted for patient follow-up and school health screening.



- A coordination meeting with APHC Chacheria Medical Officer, Dr. Shellesh, reviewed activities and strengthened ongoing health and leprosy services.



- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed across operational areas in Chandrapur, with active participation from key stakeholders.
- A Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) camp was conducted in Gondpipari, Chandrapur district, where the Physiotherapist highlighted the importance of self-care practices to prevent and reduce leprosy-related disabilities.

MAHARASHTRA

- Focal surveys were conducted across multiple villages with the support of Block Nodal Leprosy Workers (BNLWs) and ASHAs to strengthen early case detection.

- A monthly review and planning meeting was held at Koraput Care Center (KCC) to discuss footwear supply, referral of cataract cases, and field rehabilitation activities.

- Rehabilitation support included preparation of a posterior slab for a new foot drop case, promotion of home-based self-dressing practices, and collection of foot measurements during DPMR clinics.

- Organised self-care camps and distributed self-care kits at PHCs and leprosy colonies.



ODISHA

- Provided home-based self-care support to LF patients through Community Resource Persons (CRPs).

- The Mankind Pharma team and senior programme staff visited the KCC to review activities.

- OPD services included nerve function assessments, treatment of reactions and ulcers, and registration of new leprosy cases, many detected through Active Case Detection (ACD).

TELANGANA

- In Nirmal district, Physiotherapist and Physio Care Assistants (PCAs) conducted ACD across four villages, screening over 2,600 people, identifying suspected leprosy cases, and following up existing LF cases.
- An orientation programme on leprosy and disability prevention was conducted at Community Health Centre (CHC), Asifabad.
- At the Nallakunta Referral Centre, Hyderabad, Dr. Saraswathi

Additional District Medical and Health Officer (ADM&HO)- AIDS and Leprosy, and philanthropist Mr. Damodar Dass distributed aids and appliances to affected persons as part of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- Technical support was provided during a DPMR camp organised by the district NLEP team in Hyderabad, including nerve function assessment, complication management, distribution of Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear, and self-care kits.

UTTAR PRADESH

- In Kasi Vidyapith block, Varanasi, Outreach Workers (ORWs) conducted house-to-house screening to support early leprosy detection and timely referral.
- At Comprehensive Disability Care Center (CDCC) Chowkaghat, customised footwear was distributed to lymphatic filariasis patients, enhancing mobility, preventing disability, and improving quality of life.

BPHRC

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2025 was observed at BPHRC, with dry ration distributed to people affected by leprosy.
- LCDC monitoring visits were conducted in Jangaon and Yadadri districts to assess implementation quality and reporting.
- Visit of TB Union members and NTEP-STO and other consultants to BPHRC Lab as part of SWASTHYA NAGARAM Project Monitoring.
- Under the ICMR Peripheral Neuropathy (PN) Project, training on early detection and management of peripheral neuropathy in leprosy and diabetes was conducted for medical and paramedical staff at PHC Alwal.
- LRI One Health and WASH Dissemination Meeting was organized, with addresses by Dr. D John Babu, State Leprosy Officer, Dr. M Saraswathi, ADM&HO-AIDS & Leprosy, Dr. Nirmala Prabhavathy, former ADM&HO, and Dr. Aparna Srikantham, PI, LRI Project. Community Resource Persons (CRPs), project coordinators, Deputy Para Medical Officers (DPMOs), PMO of Hyderabad, and the State Leprosy Office team participated.

Key Highlights

As part of the Infosys supported Eye Screening Project, Dr. Sirisha (Project Manager) and Mr. Zakariaiah (Field Coordinator) visited MNC, Odisha to review field activities and train staff, received valuable guidance from Dr. Debendra Sahu, Medical Superintendent of MNC, and also visited the LEPRA RC in Sonapur and MNC Jarsiguda to assess ongoing programme activities.

Monthly Review and Planning Meeting was held at Koraput Care Center (KCC), Odisha. The meeting was attended by Mr. Arun Kumar, Mr. Swamy Reddy, Dr. RituParna, Ms. Amrita, and Mr. Ashish. Key discussions focused on footwear supply, fundraising activities, cataract case referrals, and other ongoing program matters.



Celebrating 21 years of vision, care, and community service, the Foundation Day of Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC), Odisha marked a significant milestone in delivering accessible and affordable eye care to underserved communities. The occasion was marked by the visit of CEO Mr. Prasant Kumar Naik, who interacted with the team and shared his encouragement, reaffirming LEPRA Society's commitment to strengthening community health systems and quality care.

Mankind Pharma team, including Mr. Akhilesh Dimri (Head-CSR) and Mr. Alok Pandey (Senior Manager - CSR), visited Koraput Care Centre (KCC), Odisha, focusing on exploring LEPRA Society's services, interacting with beneficiaries, and understanding care strategies. The visit concluded with positive feedback and discussions on strengthening the partnership and community impact.



Mr. Arun Kumar, Head-Programmes, RM & Communications, along with Mr. Madhab and Ms. Amrita, had a productive and enlightening meeting with the Azim Premji Foundation (APF) State Team, Odisha. The discussion focused on exploring opportunities for stronger collaboration and greater impact engaging with Mr. Rajkishore and Mr. Subhashis.



A productive meeting was held with the Red Cross Secretary and team to discuss resuming collaboration for footwear support in Odisha, with a shared commitment to strengthening the partnership.

The SHAKTHI Project review-cum-planning meeting was held at Bakawand, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, with Mr. Arun Kumar, Head - Programmes, RM & Communications.



An insightful meeting was held with the State Leprosy Officer and Reconstructive Surgeon, Dr. Laxman Karmi (Odisha), focusing on identifying programme gaps, strengthening strategies, and charting a stronger way forward for the NLEP.



A staff meeting was held with Dr. Jayram, Chief Medical Officer of MNC-Jharsuguda, along with Mr. Swamy Reddy from the Head Office, to review ongoing activities and strengthen coordination.

Key Highlights



An insightful meeting was held by Mr. Arun Kumar, Head – Programmes, RM & Communications, Dr. Rituparna, and Ms. Amrita with Dr. Hemant Kumar Kar, renowned leprosy expert and Head of Dermatology at KIMS Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, to discuss diagnostic innovations and key aspects of the NLEP.

A productive follow-up meeting was held at the State Office, Bhubaneswar, with Mr. Subhashis from the Azim Premji Foundation (APF), who shared insightful updates on their impactful interventions in Odisha, focusing on health and nutrition initiatives. Dr. Khyathi also provided a concise overview of the SHAKTHI Project, highlighting key aspects of the work.



The EpiC Project induction training on enhancing HIV care and treatment was launched at Navi Mumbai, bringing together key stakeholders for capacity building and programme strengthening.

Meet Our Staff

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

I joined LEPRAS Society in September 2024 as a Physio Care Assistant, after being supported and trained here following my own leprosy diagnosis. I now work at the Indore Referral Centre, Madhya Pradesh helping patients with physiotherapy, preventing disabilities, and teaching self-care.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

I engage with communities by raising awareness about leprosy, I motivate patients to continue their treatment, teach self-care techniques, and strive to reduce stigma by sharing correct information and my personal experience.

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

One of the biggest challenges is the stigma and lack of awareness surrounding leprosy. Many people hesitate to seek treatment due to fear or misconceptions. I address this through counseling and education, reassuring them that leprosy is completely curable and emphasizing the importance of early treatment and regular follow-ups.

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

My experience with LEPRAS Society has been unforgettable. A memorable moment was when a woman and her son expressed their joy upon healing - that became a cherished memory for me.



Ms. Uma Gayakwad
Physio Care Assistant
Madhya Pradesh

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

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Donate



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