

PRASANT'S MESSAGE

We proudly celebrated the 37th Foundation Day of LEPRASociety across our centres in 11 states. The occasion offered an opportunity for reflection on our journey and reaffirmation of our commitment to the communities we serve. On this significant day, we were honoured to present the Desikan Award to Dr. Digant Amte and Dr. Anagha Amte for their transformative work in malaria control among tribal communities in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. Through community-led health interventions, they successfully reduced cerebral malaria deaths to zero in 2023 and 2024. We also awarded Dr. Suwash Baral for strengthening leprosy diagnosis in Nepal, significantly reducing diagnostic delays and ensuring uninterrupted services even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their contributions exemplify dedication, innovation, and compassion. We observed the Anti-Leprosy Fortnight (2 Daan Utsav, 30 January–14 February) across all project states, conducting awareness and outreach activities to promote early detection, timely treatment, and the elimination of stigma. We also actively supported the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign in Bihar from 10 to 28 February, which covered 34 districts. The campaign implemented the triple-drug (IDA) regimen in 15 districts and the double-drug (DA) regimen in 19 districts, strengthening efforts to combat Lymphatic Filariasis (LF). The programme review visits to the SHAKTHI project, Chhattisgarh and Bihar, strengthened monitoring and improved the quality of implementation. We also engaged in constructive discussions with the Government of Odisha on identifying an alternative hospital facility at Jharsuguda. Despite funding constraints, we remain confident that through collective effort and strong partnerships, we will continue to advance our mission and achieve sustainable impact.

IMPACT STORY

Background

Mrs. Dasari Padma, a 40-year-old widow from Islampeta, Kothapeta, Vijayawada Urban, Andhra Pradesh is the sole caregiver for her daughter, who is studying Intermediate. She earns her livelihood through home-based tailoring and selling women's clothing.

Challenge Faced

Around 13 years ago, Mrs. Padma developed swelling in her left leg, later diagnosed as Grade 3 Lymphedema. She suffered acute inflammatory attacks every six months, spending Rs. 30,000–40,000 over the years on treatments, affecting both her health and financial stability.

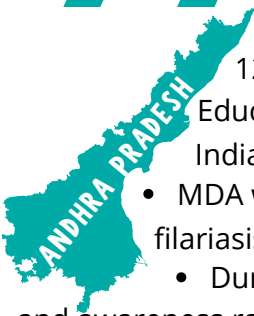
LEPRA Society's Intervention

In 2016, following a visit from an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker, Mrs. Padma attended the monthly filaria camp conducted by LEPRA Society at Kothapeta Government Hospital. She received physiotherapy guidance, education on self-care, limb hygiene, exercises, elevation, infection prevention, and Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) protective footwear. She also received livelihood support of Rs. 10,000 from Mankind Pharma and LEPRA Society to expand her tailoring business.

Life After the Intervention

With regular self-care and follow-ups, Mrs. Padma has been free of acute attacks for the past four years. The livelihood support strengthened her financial independence, allowing her to focus on her business and her daughter's education. She expresses deep gratitude to LEPRA Society.





- Prevention of Disability (POD) activities included distribution of 120 pairs of protective footwear and unveiling of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials with support from the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL).
- MDA was launched in Vizianagaram district to prevent filariasis, with Albendazole tablets distributed to the eligible population.
- During Anti-Leprosy Fortnight, we organized orientation sessions, campaigns, and awareness rallies across our operational areas, with active participation from medical professionals, general health staff, and students who pledged their commitment to eliminate leprosy.



- Comprehensive foster care, clinic, and medical support were provided to CLHIV (Children Living with HIV) and PLHIV (People Living with HIV), with examinations conducted by Government Doctors.
- Nutrition support was extended to beneficiaries through collaboration with Ramco Cements and Tenali Double Horse Foundation, strengthening overall health and treatment adherence at community and Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Centre levels.



- Comprehensive screenings were carried out in tea gardens across Tinsukia through systematic house-to-house visits, enabling early identification of suspected leprosy cases and promoting timely referral for treatment.
- The team also underwent hands-on training at Tinsukia Civil Hospital, enhancing their skills in identifying and diagnosing leprosy through practical demonstrations and case-based learning.



- World Leprosy Day and Neglected Tropical Diseases Day were jointly observed under the leadership of District Magistrate, reinforcing messages of early detection, free treatment, and zero stigma through multi-departmental collaboration.
- An IEC van was also flagged off in Jamui to expand community outreach.



- Self-Support Group (SSG) meetings raised awareness on LF prevention, leprosy symptoms and curability, non-discrimination, and access to welfare schemes such as Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards and pensions, encouraging members to support vulnerable families in Samastipur.
- Leadership and livelihood efforts were strengthened through training in modern beekeeping, improved farming practices, and group management.



- Mr. Prasanta Kumar, CEO of LEPRA Society, visited the SHAKTHI Project to review ongoing activities, interact with the project team, and assess field-level implementation.
- On Anti-Leprosy Day, around 100 students from Muli and Bakawand schools participated in a cycle rally flagged off by the School Principal and Mr. Prasanta. The event concluded with a tree plantation drive symbolizing hope and healing.



- Training for ASHAs at a local dispensary focused on early case detection, disability prevention, self-care, and active case identification, reinforcing the crucial role of frontline health workers in community-based leprosy control.
- A review meeting with Dr. Shintoo Doomra, State Leprosy Officer, addressed challenges in ensuring treatment continuity for migrant leprosy patients, particularly difficulties in conducting contact surveys due to frequent relocation. Strategies to strengthen patient tracking and inter-state coordination were discussed, along with ongoing Anti-Leprosy Fortnight activities.



JHARKHAND

- The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) conducted document verification across 36 Tata leasehold villages, selecting 220 individuals for life-support devices.

- A POD camp was also organized at Mother Teresa Colony, where self-care kits were distributed to promote rehabilitation and improve quality of life for persons affected by leprosy.

- World Leprosy Day was observed in Dhanbad with a rally flagged off by the Civil Surgeon following an oath-taking ceremony. Tributes were paid at a local leprosy colony, and awareness sessions reached students and persons affected by leprosy, including a school program engaging over 200 students.



MADHYA PRADESH

- POD and Self-Care Camps were organized at Community Health Center Niwali and Civil Hospital Sendhwa under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) and Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC), benefiting ninety patients including new, under- treatment, and released-from-treatment cases.



- Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) training strengthened field staff capacity for early detection and reporting, while under the Samarth Project in Chhatarpur district, nearly thirty SSG members conducted village awareness drives and wall paintings to promote MDA and leprosy awareness.



- LEPRA Society's 37th Foundation Day was celebrated at the referral centre in Maharashtra, bringing together beneficiaries, government stakeholders, and local representatives to mark the occasion.

- A workshop for Private Medical Practitioners (PMPs) was conducted under the Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC) in Mool.

MAHARASHTRA

- During Anti-Leprosy Fortnight, blanket distribution was undertaken for 300 persons affected by Leprosy and LF, alongside awareness rallies, mass meetings, school programs, and IEC campaigns across multiple blocks to promote early detection and reduce stigma.

- Active Case Detection surveys, Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) clinics, Reconstructive Surgery admissions, home-based self-care support, and livelihood follow-ups were also conducted, strengthening community-based care and rehabilitation efforts.



ODISHA

- Self-care camps, Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP), DPMR services, ulcer management, counselling, EVA footwear distribution, and referral for slit skin smear testing were conducted at Puri District Headquarters Hospital.
- IEC activities focused on health education, awareness campaigns, and field demonstrations to empower communities.



- LEPRA Society's 37th Foundation Day was celebrated across all referral centres in Telangana, with participation from district health officials, donors, beneficiaries, and local stakeholders, strengthening partnerships and community engagement.

- Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC) was observed across Hyderabad, Kagaznagar, Nirmal, Asifabad, Rangareddy, and other operational areas through rallies, school and college

awareness programmes, workshops for Private Medical Practitioners, and sensitization

meetings with Primary Health Centre staff, ASHAs, and Panchayati Raj Institution members, reaching thousands of students and community members.

- Special campaigns in high-endemic villages led to confirmation of new leprosy cases and initiation of Multi-Drug Therapy.

- DPMR and MMDP camps were conducted, providing Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear and self-care kits to beneficiaries.



- A comprehensive programme review was conducted at the Varanasi Mankind Referral Center, Community Health Center, to assess ongoing interventions and strengthen referral services. The visit was attended by Mr. Prasanta Kumar (CEO) and Mr. Rajnikanth (State Co-ordinator)



BPHRC



- A Global Leadership delegation from The Union visited Blue Peter Health and Research Centre as part of the Swasthya Nagaram Tuberculosis (TB) Project, reviewing progress and strengthening collaborative efforts in TB control.
- Under the LRI One Health Project, paraveterinarians were trained in animal sample collection at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Parvathipuram, Vizianagaram district, enhancing field-level diagnostic capacity.

- A community outreach program was conducted at Borabanda, and LEPRA Society Institutional ethics committee (IEC) team received training at BPHRC on Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) ethical guidelines for biomedical research, strengthening both community engagement and ethical research practices.

Key Highlights



Mr. Prasanta Kumar (CEO) visited the SHAKTHI Project in Chhattisgarh, to review ongoing activities, interact with the project team, and assess field-level implementation, reaffirming LEPRA Society's commitment to effective community-based interventions.



A comprehensive field visit was conducted in Keonjhar district for Azim Premji Foundation, with participation from Mr. Arun kumar (Head - Programmes RM & Communications) and Dr. Ritu Purna Hota. The visit focused on closely reviewing field-level interventions, engaging with stakeholders, assessing programme impact, and strengthening collaborative efforts to enhance community outreach and service delivery.



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Key Highlights

Mr. Prasanta Kumar (CEO), officially inaugurated the Morbidity Management Unit (MMU) at Bakawand Community Health Centre. This initiative, supported by Azim Premji Foundation, marks a significant step toward expanding disability care to remote and hard-to-reach communities, ensuring access to timely and essential medical services



At IAL-LEPCON 2026 held at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, Leprosy Society – BPHRC faculty delivered two oral presentations: Dr. Michael Sukumar on a district foot health model for leprosy and diabetes, and Dr. E. Kumar on advanced diagnostics in chronic leprosy foot ulcers. The session, chaired by Mr. Rajnikanth, State Coordinator, was well appreciated and reinforced our commitment to research-driven leprosy care and disability prevention.



Mr. Omprakash, Head of Finance & Operations, and Mr. Ashish, State Finance Manager, visited the SHAKTHI Project in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, to review project activities and ensure effective financial and operational management on the ground.



Training programme for LEPRO IEC members on the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research was organised at BPHRC. The session was led by Dr. Uday Kumar P, DBT nominee, strengthening members' understanding of ethical standards, regulatory compliance, and responsible conduct in biomedical research.



A productive review meeting was held with Mr. Suku from Rising Star to share updates on the progress of Active Case Finding activities in Raxaul block. Dr. Khyathi and Mr. Mayank were also part of the discussion. The team highly appreciated the progress achieved, expressed satisfaction with the outcomes, and reaffirmed their commitment to continue and further strengthen the partnership moving forward.



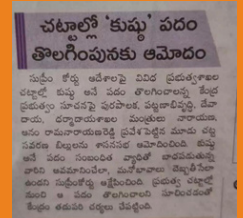
Dr. Sarwar from the Azim Premji Foundation visited Samastipur for a field-level overview of LEPRO's ongoing program activities. The visit focused on the LF programme and the Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) services, with discussions around enhancing community outreach, improving service delivery, and addressing challenges faced in the implementation of the hydrocele surgeries

Key Highlights



We are pleased to announce that Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and LEPRASOCIETY have successfully signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to strengthen collaborative efforts towards community health and social development. This partnership marks an important step in expanding impactful initiatives and reaching more vulnerable communities through joint action.

The Andhra Pradesh (AP) Legislative Assembly has approved amendment bills to remove the term "leprosy" from several state laws, following directions from the Supreme Court of India to eliminate stigma. This collaborative effort of the AP state government, LEPRASOCIETY, and other ILEP agencies aims to protect the dignity of persons affected by leprosy and promote more inclusive legislation.



A Footwear MCR sole cutting training was conducted for Telangana shoe technicians at the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), Gachibowli, a government-recognized institute. The training provided hands-on experience with a footwear cutting machine, helping technicians enhance their technical skills in the production of therapeutic footwear.

Meet Our Staff

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

I joined LEPRASOCIETY after applying for a vacancy I came across. I currently serve as an NTD Disability Coordinator, where I support the government through training programmes, complication management, and supportive supervision for neglected tropical diseases.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

We conduct group discussions, organise school-based IEC activities, and hold meetings with key stakeholders to spread awareness and encourage community participation.

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

Stigma and the two-month recovery period after Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) often make patients hesitant. To address this, we arranged two months of ration support for families, which helped patients confidently undergo the surgery.

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

During the floods in Begusarai, we mapped affected individuals and ensured timely support reached those in urgent need. It was a truly meaningful experience of service.



Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh
NTD Disability Coordinator
Begusarai, Bihar



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 LEPRASOCIETY team for your unending support
Facilitated by

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