



Mr. Prasanta Kumar Naik
Chief Executive Officer, LEPRA Society

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

A visit to Bhubaneswar was undertaken during the month to review programme progress with managers and discuss key priorities with the Chairman. Field visits to Nayagarh and Koraput districts, Odisha, included a review of the Leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), and Targeted Intervention (TI) programmes. The TI programme demonstrated significant potential for expansion, given the unmet need for services in the region.

A visit to the Junagarh Netra Chikitsalaya (JNC) was also conducted to review the progress of ongoing construction activities. The MAHANADI Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) has successfully commenced eye screening services for State

Government employees under a formal agreement, marking an important milestone in expanding access to eye care services.

Dr. Kumar represented the organisation at the 6th International Conference on Environmental, Agricultural, Chemical and Biological Sciences and was honoured with the Best Poster Presentation Award for his contribution. The month also included participation in the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) meeting and the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) review meeting held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. An additional achievement during the period was the selection as a member of the Working Group on Policy, Programmes and Advocacy of the Indian Association of Leprologists (IAL) Academy. This appointment provides an opportunity to contribute to policy development, advocacy, and programme strengthening efforts within the leprosy sector. Appreciation is extended to all staff, partners, donors, and stakeholders for their continued commitment and support in advancing the organisation's mission.

IMPACT STORY OF THE MONTH

Background

Rabi Dakua (53), from Sarankul village in Odagaon Block, Nayagarh District, Odisha, is a barber and the sole breadwinner of his family. With his wife and two school-going children depending on his income, he had been living with hydrocele for nearly ten years, which gradually affected his health, work, and family's financial well-being.

Challenge Faced

Hydrocele made it difficult for Rabi to stand for long hours, directly impacting his ability to run his salon. Although he had lived with the condition for years, he avoided surgery due to fear and uncertainty about the procedure, continuing to endure pain and discomfort.

LEPRA Society's Intervention

After being referred by an ASHA worker, Rabi visited the Comprehensive Disability Care Centre (CDCC) in Nayagarh. LEPRA Society's team counselled him and his family about the benefits of free hydrocele surgery and addressed their concerns through home visits. Encouraged by the support, Rabi underwent successful surgery at Nayagarh District Hospital. LEPRA Society also ensured regular follow-up care and guidance throughout his recovery.

Life After the Intervention

Following a successful recovery, Rabi returned to work with renewed confidence and without the discomfort that had limited him for years. He is now able to earn a stable income and better support his family. Thankful to LEPRA Society and the health team, Rabi hopes that others living with hydrocele will seek timely treatment and experience the same transformation in their lives.



**DELHI**

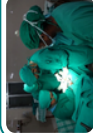
- Disability care camps for persons affected by Leprosy & LF.
- Community awareness & IEC activities.
- Customized assistive footwear for improved mobility.
- Leprosy screening & referral of suspected cases.
- MCR footwear provided to prevent disability.

**BIHAR**

- Early detection, referral & self-care promotion.
- Monthly SSG & NDF community meetings.
- Disability prevention & hygiene awareness.
- Livelihood through sanitary pad enterprise.
- Support for persons affected by LF & Leprosy.
- Encouraging self-care and disability prevention

**ASSAM**

- House-to-house leprosy screening in tea estates.
- Community awareness & IEC activities.
- Medicine distribution during screening.
- Health education on signs, symptoms & early diagnosis.
- Leprosy screening & referral of suspected cases.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

- Reconstructive surgeries to restore function and reduce disability.
- Active case detection through house-to-house screening.
- Provision of MCR footwear and self-care kits for disability prevention.
- Early diagnosis, MDT initiation, and referral services.
- Capacity building through national HMIS training.

**JHARKHAND**

- Community awareness and health education programmes.
- Strengthening community participation in government health initiatives.
- Enhancing access to healthcare and social welfare services.
- Distribution of assistive devices for improved mobility.

**MAHARASHTRA**

- Physiotherapy services for disability management and rehabilitation.
- Electrical muscle stimulation to improve muscle function.
- Active case finding through community-based screening.
- Village awareness using pictorial leprosy flash cards.

**ODISHA**

- Active case detection and community-based leprosy screening.
- Self-care promotion and disability prevention initiatives.
- Livelihood support for persons affected by LF & Leprosy.
- Rehabilitation through ulcer care and assistive services
- Community awareness on Leprosy, LF & Hydrocele.
- Awareness (IEC Van, flash cards, group talks).
- MCR footwear and self-care services provided to beneficiaries.

**BPHRC**

- Advancing research in leprosy and public health.
- Best Poster Presentation Award at ICEACBS 2026.
- Scientific monitoring of TB diagnostic services.
- Provision of MCR footwear and ulcer care services.

**TELANGANA**

- Active case detection through community-based leprosy screening.
- IEC materials distributed across public health facilities.
- MCR footwear provided to prevent disability and improve mobility.
- Strengthening community awareness on Leprosy & LF.
- Visual health support through distribution of spectacles.

**CHHATTISGARH**

- Early detection and registration of new leprosy cases.
- Hydrocele surgeries facilitated for LF-affected persons.
- TB screening through chest X-ray support under the SHAKTHI Project.
- Comprehensive leprosy diagnosis, treatment and nerve function assessment.

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

- Community-based leprosy screening & early case detection.
- Community awareness & IEC activities.
- Health education and community awareness on leprosy.
- Nutrition and healthcare support for vulnerable communities, including PLHIVs.
- Food & nutrition assistance for Marginalized.



1
Prasanta Kumar (CEO) visited the Koraput Care Centre (KCC) and TI Office, Jeypore, interacted with staff, and reviewed project progress, implementation plans, and key operational priorities.



2
Arun Kumar (Head Programs) conducted a comprehensive review of the GC7 HIV Grant Project, focusing on programme performance, financial progress, and key implementation priorities across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



3
LEPRA Society celebrated International Yoga Day across all 11 operational states, with staff and beneficiaries participating in yoga sessions to promote physical health, mental well-being, and holistic wellness.



4
The mobile Podoscan initiative, supported by IOCL, enabled on-site foot assessments for persons affected by leprosy. Customized footwear will be provided to enhance foot health and prevent disability.



5
Under the Group Enterprise Initiative, supported by Mankind Pharma and implemented by LEPRA Society, mushroom production began in Puri. The group recorded a first-day harvest of 71 kg.



6
LEPRA Society team attended the Regional Workshop for Programme Performance Review under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The workshop focused on strengthening strategies to achieve zero transmission of leprosy.



7
An X-ray screening campaign was conducted in the Malgaon PHC area of Bakawand Block, Chhattisgarh, with support from the SHAKTHI Project team. More than 100 individuals with TB symptoms were screened for early detection.



8
A Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on leprosy was conducted at NRI Medical College, Andhra Pradesh, for MBBS and postgraduate students. The programme equipped 190 future healthcare professionals.



9
A management review meeting with the PR SAATHII team was held at LSHO, Hyderabad, to assess the progress of the Global Fund pediatric TB Project in Chhattisgarh. The meeting focused on programme performance & key achievements.



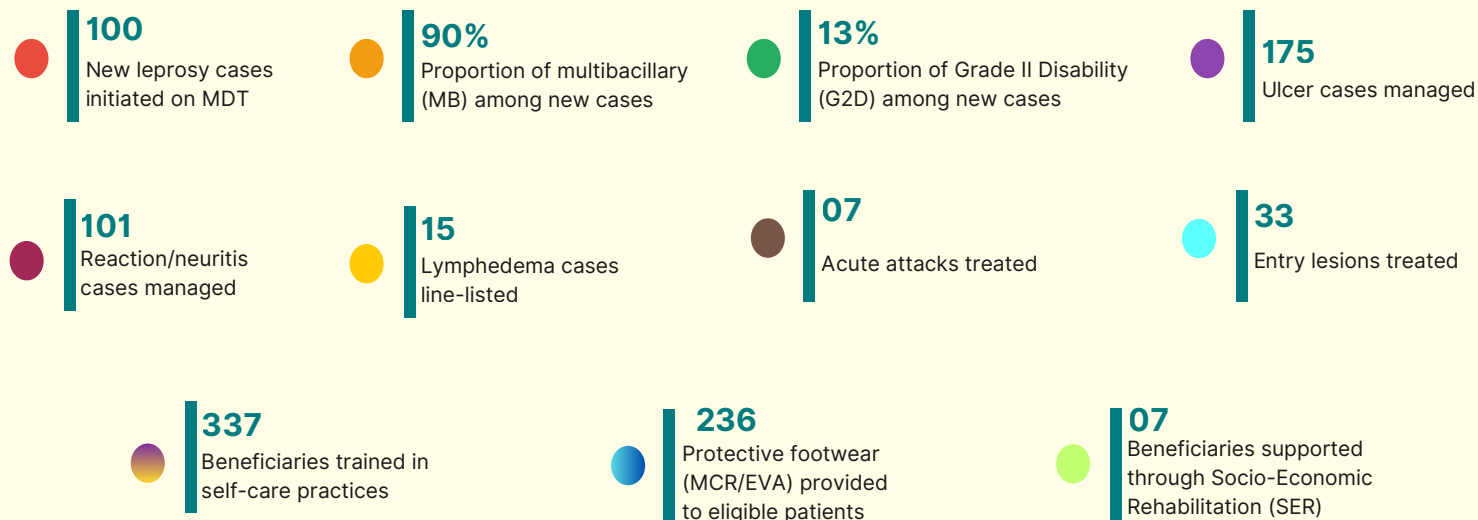
10
LEPRA Society conducted a leprosy sensitization session for nursing students from Barwani Madhya Pradesh, promoting awareness and strengthening future healthcare capacity.



11
Dr. Kumar received the Best Poster Presentation Award at ICEACBS 2026 for his research on the molecular identification of non-tuberculous mycobacteria.



12
At Nirmal, Telangana a total of 47 beneficiaries received prescription spectacles to enhance vision, independence, and overall well-being.



MEET OUR STAFF

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

I joined LEPRA Society after learning through the District Leprosy Office that the organisation was expanding its work on leprosy and lymphatic filariasis in Tinsukia. With prior experience in the Health Department, I was motivated to contribute to this mission. As an Outreach Worker, I conduct patient screening, organise community awareness activities, and support patients by providing Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear, self-care kits, and medicines, while promoting early detection and self-care.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

We work closely with tea garden communities through group meetings, door-to-door visits, and screening camps. Along with creating awareness on leprosy and lymphatic filariasis, we distribute self-care kits and encourage people to access timely treatment and government welfare schemes, helping to reduce stigma and build community trust.

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

Stigma, difficult access to remote tea garden areas, and limited resources remain key challenges. These can be addressed through regular community engagement, mobile screening camps, collaboration with health authorities, and continuous awareness efforts that encourage early diagnosis and treatment.

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

One of my most memorable experiences was conducting a screening programme in a tea garden community. Seeing people openly participate, learn about the early signs of leprosy and lymphatic filariasis, and accept self-care kits and MCR footwear reinforced the impact of awareness, compassion, and timely support in transforming lives.



Raktim Hazarika

Outreach Worker (ORW)

CDCC Tinsukia, Assam

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

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

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

Scan & Follow us on Social Media [@LEPRASociety1989](https://www.facebook.com/LEPRASociety1989) [@LEPRA_Society](https://www.twitter.com/LEPRA_Society) [@leprasociety](https://www.instagram.com/leprasociety) [@LEPRASociety](https://www.linkedin.com/company/LEPRASociety) [@LEPRASociety1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEPRASociety1)

