



PRASANT'S MESSAGE

Dear Team,

The past month has been filled with significant developments, collaborative meetings, and strategic milestones that continue to strengthen LEPRO Society's mission and vision. At the national level, we participated in key engagements in Delhi, including the ILEP CEO Meeting and a joint consultation hosted by WHO, the Central Leprosy Division (CLD), and State Leprosy Consultants. I'm pleased to share that our partnership with Mankind Pharma has been renewed for the coming year, reinforcing their continued support for our initiatives. Additionally, the PLF Annual Meeting in Bihar served as an important moment to reflect on our grassroots partnerships and community-led efforts. The Extraordinary General Body (EGB) Meeting was convened to finalize the revised objectives of LEPRO Society—an important step toward strategic clarity and alignment across our programs.

In a significant expansion of our TB intervention, we formalized the USEA agreement with The Union for the 'Swasthya Nagaram' initiative under NTEP in Medchal District which includes door-to-door screening and the use of tongue swabs for sample collection. Our commitment to learning and knowledge exchange was further strengthened with the successful hosting of Mr. Aarav Sharma, an IIM intern, at our Koraput Care Centre (KCC) in Jeypore. Finally, we are excited to announce the start-up of our new program in Dibrugarh Assam, with the support of Haddenham and Lepro UK to establish a Referral centre for Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) Referral Centre—a first-of-its-kind initiative. I thank each of you for your continued dedication, energy, and passion. Let us carry this momentum forward with renewed purpose.

IMPACT STORY



Tula Soren Nusadihi
village
Mayurbhanj District
Odisha

Tula Soren, a 66-year-old widow from Nusadihi village in Mayurbhanj district, has been battling Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) with paralysis in one leg for the past 10 years. Belonging to a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family and being illiterate, her condition made daily life extremely difficult. With limited mobility, she relied heavily on her 22-year-old son, who is still studying, for both emotional and financial support. During an LF line listing activity, LEPRO Society identified Tula as a critical case and provided her with self-care training, therapeutic exercises, and customized footwear to ease her movement. Understanding her struggles, LEPRO escalated her case to the Block Social Security Officer, leading to the provision of a wheelchair. This intervention has significantly improved her quality of life, allowing her to regain some independence. Expressing her gratitude, Tula said, "With the wheelchair and support from LEPRO, I feel like light has come into my life."

ANDHRA PRADESH

- Training on Slit Skin Smear technique was conducted for health workers and lab staff in Eluru by the NTD(Neglected Tropical Diseases) Coordinator.
- A rally was organized in Tenali to mark World Malaria Day.
- Dry ration kits were distributed to people affected by leprosy in Vijayawada Referral Centre.



- The CMO(Chief Medical Officer) of Varanasi has pledged two rooms and a patient waiting area for the upcoming Referral Centre(RC).
- An interactive awareness session was held at Guru Ram Das School, engaging students on key health and social issues to promote early understanding and action.
- With Bihar Government support, LEPRA Society Jagruti Project completed Lymphatic Filariasis training for 20 staff from 10 Primary Health Centres(PHC) at Samastipur District Hospital, led by experts from Vector Borne Disease Control Office (VBDCO), World Health Organization (WHO), and LEPRA Society.



CHHATTISGARH

- A girl child received an education support cheque from the Area Support Officer and District Non-Medical Assistance in Bastar district.
- Follow-up for Under treatment cases and reaction case, contact surveys, and Micro Cellular Rubber distribution were carried out in Nanguru Block and Hatkachora village.



- An IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) activity was conducted in Vikaspuri, West Delhi, to raise awareness about leprosy. The community was educated on early signs, free treatment, and the need to overcome stigma through timely medical help and support. Community members were encouraged to spread awareness and refer suspected cases for early diagnosis.



- The Tata Sparsh team visited the VIP Leprosy Colony in Gobindpur and the BMP Leprosy Colony in Dhanbad, where they distributed customized Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear to individuals affected by leprosy. This initiative aimed to enhance mobility, prevent foot injuries, and improve the overall quality of life for the residents.



State Wise Updates

MADHYA PRADESH

- Awareness sessions on leprosy and LF were conducted in Alirajpur to promote early detection and reduce stigma.
- Post-Reconstructive Surgery(RCS) patients were followed up at St. Joseph's Leprosy Centre, with new RCS admissions from six districts.
- Under the Samarth Project, a 3-day training on psychosocial support prepared block coordinators to train peer supporters in Self Support groups(SSGs).
- LEPRA Society NLEP Consultant attended the NLEP/ILEP workshop in Delhi to strengthen field monitoring and program execution.



- LEPRA Society provided MCR footwear to persons affected by leprosy across 14 blocks in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra. Over 40 days, a team of four skilled technicians measured, fabricated, and delivered the footwear to local PHCs.
- Additionally, electric stimulation therapy was applied to a woman recovering from claw hand correction at a block PHC in Chandrapur, supporting her rehabilitation.

MAHARASHTRA

ODISHA

- LEPRA Society held self-care camps in Rairangpur, Kanki Bahalda, Ranpur, and Rengalbeda blocks to promote community health.
- Livelihood training on mushroom cultivation was provided to SSG members in Udaypur, led by Mr. Suryakanta Mallick, AHO.
- An ASHA sensitization program took place at Jamda CHC.



- LEPRA Society, along with Sightsavers and SBI Life, participated in the launch of an Autorefractometer at Pokhariput UPHC and a Fundus Camera at the Eye Department of Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar. The event saw participation from SSI staff, SBI's CFO, LEPRA UEH teams, and eye care professionals.
- Group awareness sessions on Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) were held at Rakhasahi, Rairangpur Block.



- Two orientation programmes on leprosy and disability prevention were conducted for primary health staff at UPHCs in Hyderabad, organised by the District NLEP team with support from LEPRA Society. A total of 164 government health staff participated. Additionally, a disability prevention camp was held in Hyderabad, where LEPRA Society provided technical expertise to support the initiative.

TELANGANA

BPHRC



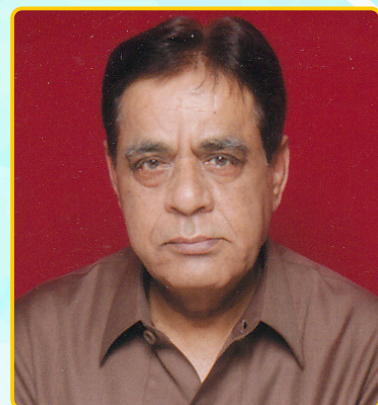
- As part of the LRI Project, a supportive supervisory visit was conducted in Raxaul, Bihar by Mr. Santosh (PT), Ms. Alekya (RA), and Dr. Michael Pallapati, with interactions held with local community members.
- Under the LRI-One Health and WASH Project, Community Resource Persons were oriented at Nayagarh, Odisha, led by Dr. Aparna Srikantam (PI), Dr. Sruthi (Research Associate), and Mr. Sukru Das (Field Coordinator).
- For the ICMR Peripheral Neuropathy Project, training sessions for medical, paramedical staff, and ASHAs were conducted at PHCs in Uppal and Balanagar by Dr. Neelaveni Kudugunti (PI) and Dr. Michael Sukumar Pallapati.

With Sincere Gratitude to our Mentors



LEPRA Society extends its heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Urmila Pingle for her dedicated service as a Governing Board Member from 2006 to 2013. A distinguished medical anthropologist with an MBBS and a Ph.D. in Statistics (Genetics), Dr. Pingle brought deep expertise in tribal health, nutrition, and community-based research. Her longstanding association with premier institutions like ICMR and CSIR enriched LEPRA's approach to inclusive, evidence-based health interventions. Her vision and guidance were instrumental in shaping impactful grassroots strategies that addressed the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations. Dr. Pingle's commitment to ethical, participatory research and sustainable health solutions has left a profound and lasting legacy on LEPRA's mission and continues to inspire our ongoing work in public health.

LEPRA Society sincerely extends its heartfelt appreciation to Lt. Gen. V. D. Tiwari for his exceptional service and contributions as a valued Board Member. A distinguished leader in medical science, Lt. Gen. Tiwari retired in 2003 as the Director and Commandant of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune—one of India's premier medical institutions. Renowned for his extensive research in dermatology, venereology, and leprosy, he brought invaluable scientific rigor and clinical insight to LEPRA's work. As a co-recipient of the prestigious Maj. Gen. Amir Chand Trust Award in 1984, his achievements reflect a lifelong dedication to advancing public health. His research-driven approach and strategic guidance significantly strengthened LEPRA's mission to eliminate leprosy and improve health outcomes for underserved communities.



LEPRA Society sincerely thanks Lt. Gen. (Retd) Dr. M. A. Tutakne for his invaluable contributions as a dedicated Board Member. A distinguished dermatologist and former Commandant of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, Dr. Tutakne was a pioneer in leprosy research and clinical innovation. His ground breaking work led to the development of the 'Thermosense' device, a significant advancement for the early detection of sensory loss in leprosy patients. With over 50 scientific publications and numerous national honors, including the prestigious Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, his academic and clinical excellence profoundly enhanced LEPRA's leprosy control strategies. His leadership, innovation, and commitment to public health continue to inspire our mission and work in vulnerable communities.

Oxygen Support Strengthened at Maharaja General Hospital

Five oxygen concentrators were distributed by the District Leprosy Office (DLO), Vizianagaram, to the Superintendent of Maharaja General Hospital. This initiative aims to enhance respiratory care services and support patients in need of critical oxygen therapy.



LEP India organized a CEO Meeting attended by ILEP India CEOs and key government stakeholders, including Dr. Sunil V Gitte (DDG-Leprosy, CLD) and Dr. Rashmi Shukla (NPO-WHO India), and Prasant Naik (CEO-LEPRA Society). The meeting focused on the 2025 activity plan, reviewed progress and challenges, discussed priorities, explored stakeholder contributions, and aimed to strengthen partnerships.

Our commitment to learning and knowledge exchange was further strengthened with the successful hosting of Mr. Aarav Sharma, an IIM intern, at our Koraput Care Centre (KCC) in Jeypore. Aarav's engagement with our beneficiaries, service providers, and local administration culminated in a presentation on the sustainability of disability care under NLEP—an inspiring reflection of our field impact.



Meet Our Staff

Dr. D. Santhi Priyadarshini joined LEPRASOCIETY with a background in public health and a passion for community health, disease elimination, and strengthening health systems. As the State NTD Coordinator, she leads leprosy-related activities across 26 districts and lymphatic filariasis (LF) interventions in 4 districts of Andhra Pradesh. She works closely with health officials, ILEP partners, and frontline workers to implement the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Her role includes strategic planning, field supervision, capacity building through technical trainings and CMEs, and ensuring effective data reporting through tools like Nikusth. She also facilitates RCS referrals, disability prevention, and post-operative care.



Dr. D. Santhi Priyadarshini
NTD Coordinator
Andhra Pradesh

Dr. Santhi engages communities through awareness campaigns like (LCDC) Leprosy Case Detection Campaign and SLAC, organizes self-care camps, and empowers affected persons as peer educators to reduce stigma. Key challenges she addresses include delayed diagnosis, stigma, poor technical capacity, and weak data systems. Her solutions involve advocacy, training, tech-based monitoring, and strong community involvement. A memorable moment in her journey was organizing a Reconstructive Surgery orientation at Vijayawada, where she saw patients regain hope and mobility. Her work reflects LEPRASOCIETY's commitment to inclusive, compassionate public health.

Thank you to LEPRASOCIETY team for your unending support
Facilitated by

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