

PRASANT'S MESSAGE

CEO's Message

As we step into a new month filled with opportunities and renewed commitment, we extend our warm greetings and appreciation to all our teams, partners, and supporters for their continued dedication and hard work in advancing our mission. During the month, visits were undertaken to Mahanadi Netra Chikatsalaya (MNC) for the finalisation of the annual operational plan and targets for the current year in consultation with the senior management team. Detailed reviews and discussions were also held regarding the ongoing Kandhamal project supported by SightSavers India

(SSI), alongside the completion of final interviews for the District Project Coordinator (DPC) position. This project continues to remain strategically important for MNC's future growth and outreach initiatives. The Community Workers Training Centre at Sonapur was formally inaugurated, marking an important step towards strengthening the regular capacity building and skill enhancement of community workers. In Hyderabad, a review and planning meeting with the Resource Mobilisation Team was conducted to streamline upcoming initiatives and fundraising strategies. Discussions were also held with GoodBye Leprosy Trust, and modalities were agreed upon to establish a formal partnership for implementing a project in Yadgir district, Karnataka. Meetings were conducted with the Jharsuguda hospital management team to explore opportunities for increasing the number of surgeries and expanding service delivery. A visit was also made to the Government Hospital in Patnagarh, which MNC is planning to take on a long-term lease for conducting surgical services. Special appreciation is extended to all colleagues and field teams who continue to implement activities effectively despite the soaring temperatures and ongoing transportation challenges. Their dedication and perseverance continue to make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

IMPACT STORY

Background

A 32-year-old, Shanti, a housewife and agricultural worker, was diagnosed with Multibacillary (MB) leprosy during a community screening programme in Madhya Pradesh. She had an unhealed burn ulcer on her right thumb, swelling in her hand, nerve damage, and a claw hand deformity that affected her daily activities and livelihood.

Challenge Faced

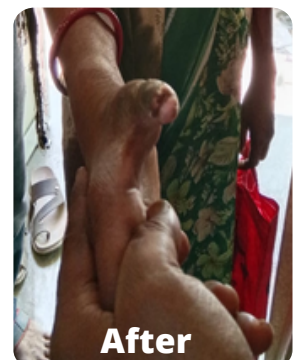
Due to loss of sensation and nerve impairment, the thumb ulcer was not healing properly, increasing the risk of further disability. The condition limited her ability to work and manage household responsibilities. Fear and lack of awareness about leprosy among her family also added to the challenge.

LEPRA Society's Intervention

LEPRA Society provided timely diagnosis, counselling, regular wound care, and follow-up support. The patient received Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) treatment, a self-care kit, health education on injury prevention, and protective aids to reduce the risk of further damage and disability.

Life After the Intervention

With regular treatment and continuous support, the ulcer gradually healed, and Shanti became more confident in managing her condition. Improved awareness and self-care practices helped her regain independence, continue her daily activities, and reduce fear and stigma within her family.





- A Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) camp was conducted in Pedana for persons affected by Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), focusing on Self-care, exercise, nutrition, and disability prevention. Protective footwear were also distributed to beneficiaries.
- Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) camps were Organised at Jaggaiahpetta, Thiruvuru Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs), and Visakhapatnam Referral Centre (RC), benefiting persons affected by leprosy. Participants were trained in self-care practices and exercises, and distribution of self-care kits along with Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear.
- A total of 110 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) received nutrition support during the month, with support from Ramco Cements and the Tenali Double Horse Foundation.



- Leprosy screening and awareness activities were conducted at Hukanpukhuri and Dhoedaam Tea Estates in Tinsukia. Suspected cases were identified and referred for further evaluation.
- A review meeting was held at Hapjan Block, Tinsukia, to assess survey findings, review progress, and plan upcoming tea garden screening activities.

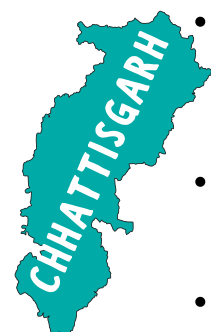


- A quarterly review meeting was held at the Jagruti Project Office, Samastipur, with National Disability Forum (NDF) members and Self-Support Group (SSG) leaders to review project progress and discuss welfare and rehabilitation issues affecting persons affected by leprosy and LF.
- An exposure visit was organised to Little Flower, Raxaul, to



explore livelihood training opportunities and strengthen the economic resilience of SSG leaders and NDF members.

- A Sanitary Pad Business and Awareness Training Programme was conducted in Samastipur to promote menstrual health, hygiene awareness, and women's economic empowerment.
- Self-Support Group meetings were held across Kalyanpur block, focusing on access to Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards, Ayushman Bharat Cards, and various social security and welfare schemes.



- Traditional Healers Training Programmes were conducted at Bakawand Community Health Centre (CHC), enhancing awareness on leprosy, LF, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Sickle cell disease, and Scabies.
- Panchayati Raj Institution and Opinion Leader Sensitisation Programmes strengthened community participation and engagement in SHAKTHI Project activities.
- Hydrocele patients were facilitated for surgery, and ulcer



dressing services were provided through the Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) Clinic at RC Jagdalpur.

- Street plays on Malaria awareness were organized across the SHAKTHI Project area, reaching thousands of community members.



- An awareness and assessment programme, conducted at the West Delhi Referral Centre, with Delhi AIDS Control Society (DACS), promoted early detection, reduced stigma, and provided information on MDT. Suspected cases were identified and referred for further evaluation.
- A review meeting between Rotary Seniors and Indira Gandhi Hospital (IGH), focused on progress, challenges, and improving coordination in leprosy services.
- A Disability Care Camp at the WDRC supported disability prevention and self-care for persons affected by leprosy and LF. Protective footwear, self-care kits, and physiotherapy guidance were also provided.



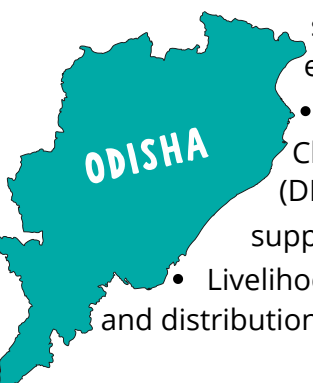
- School awareness programmes and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities on leprosy and LF were conducted at schools in Ranchi, Jharkhand, to promote awareness and early detection among students and teachers.
- A meeting was held with the State Leprosy Office, Ranchi, to discuss activities and coordination related to the LEPRA Referral Centre.



- Active Case Detection (ACD) surveys and awareness activities on leprosy and LF were conducted by the Alirajpur RC, to promote early identification and treatment.
- New cases of leprosy with disability were identified and confirmed at the Alirajpur Comprehensive Disability Care Centre (CDCC).



- As part of the ACD campaign, the Physio Care Assistant (PCA) conducted an awareness session for a women's group in Bamanwada village, Rajura block, Chandrapur district. Using flashcards and PCA educated participants on the early signs and symptoms of leprosy, emphasising the importance of timely identification, treatment, and reducing stigma associated with the disease.



- Community awareness activities, including Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHND) meetings, flash card demonstrations, and group discussions, were conducted to improve knowledge on leprosy signs, symptoms, and early treatment. Visits supported early identification and awareness.
- Comprehensive Disability Care Centre (CDCC) activities at Chandanpur, Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) clinics, ulcer dressing services, and physiotherapy support were provided to persons affected by leprosy.
- Livelihood support initiatives, including mushroom farm monitoring, and distribution of medicines further contributed to improving the health and well-being of beneficiaries.



- Representatives from Infosys visited the Nallakunta Referral Centre (RC), Hyderabad, twice to understand LEPRA Society's work in leprosy and LF, interacting with staff and beneficiaries.

- A validation programme for suspected leprosy cases was conducted in Pardi village, Asifabad district, where eligible individuals were identified and initiated on Leprosy Treatment.
- The RC team conducted an Integrated Prevention of Disability (IPOD) Camp and a Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) Camp in Dilawarpur and Kadthala villages



BPHRC

- Dr. Neelaveni, Principal Investigator (PI), and Dr. Michael, Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), participated in the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Intermediate Grants Implementation Research Outcomes Workshop 2026, held in New Delhi. During the workshop, Dr. Neelaveni presented the project's progress, key achievements, and implementation learnings, highlighting the impact of the ongoing research initiative. The event provided

an important platform for knowledge sharing, peer learning, and discussions on strengthening evidence-based public health interventions through implementation research.

Key Highlights



Conducted field testing of AI-enabled digital footwear measurement technology at Shanthi Nagar and Moulali Leprosy Colonies, Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) team and shoe technicians.



Insightful visit to the Association of People with Disability (APD), Bengaluru, along with LEPRA Society Board Member Mr. Antony Swamy, to learn about impactful initiatives promoting inclusion, rehabilitation, and empowerment of persons with disabilities.



A productive meeting with Mr. Murray Culshaw, Bengaluru-based strategic communications expert and former OXFAM Director, along with LEPRA Board Member Mr. Antony Swamy, to discuss strategies for strengthening donor engagement, organizational visibility, and impactful social storytelling.



Participated in an insightful meeting with the Catalyst Management Services (CMS) team on mainstreaming Social and Economic Rehabilitation (SER), along with LEPRA Board Member Mr. Antony Swamy, exploring opportunities for enhanced collaboration and community impact.

Key Highlights

Visit to the WIPRO-Azim Premji Foundation (APF) Head Office Campus, Whitefield, Bengaluru, during which SHAKTHI project updates were shared and gratitude was expressed to Mr. Gururaj Patil and Ms. Sandya for their time, guidance, and insightful suggestions.



Infosys team, accompanied by Mr. Mahesh, visited Nallakunta Referral Centre (NLRC) and interacted with patients, strengthening engagement and support for the rehabilitation programme while gaining insights into patient care and recovery.

Hosted the Azim Premji University (APU), Bhopal Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme Placement and Faculty Team, providing valuable exposure to LEPRA's continuum of care approach and highlighting meaningful learning opportunities through public health internships.



Meet Our Staff

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

My journey with LEPRA began with a passion for community service and health awareness. Today, I work closely with communities to identify suspected cases, support referrals and treatment follow-up, and conduct awareness activities to ensure healthcare services reach vulnerable populations.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

We work closely with government departments, schools, hostels, and community leaders to raise awareness about leprosy and other health issues. Through community meetings and interpersonal communication, we encourage early detection, treatment, and the reduction of stigma.

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

Many people in my area live in remote and scattered hamlets, making outreach challenging. I address this by spending more time in the field, building strong community relationships, and conducting regular follow-up visits to ensure no one is left behind.

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

The trust and affection I receive from beneficiaries is the most rewarding part of my work. Seeing positive changes in their lives and knowing I have contributed to their well-being gives me a deep sense of satisfaction and purpose.



Laxman Singh Sastiya
Outreach Workers (ORW)
RC Aalirajpur

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

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