



PRASANT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

This month, LEPRO Society marked several significant milestones across our organisational and programme initiatives. A Resource Mobilisation and Communication workshop was held at the Head Office, supported by the visit of Ms. Clare Roche, Director of Fundraising and Communications at Lepira UK and Ms. Meenakshi Batra, Chairperson of Resource Mobilisation and Communications Sub Committee, LEPRO Society. During her time in India, Ms. Roche engaged with the Mankind Pharma donor team in Delhi and the Rotary Club in Hyderabad to explore and strengthen partnerships. Leadership engagements included the 95th Management Committee Meeting (virtual) in Bhubaneswar, the Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya Advisory Board Meeting, and

the Cross Management Team Meeting. Notably, in the GoodBye Leprosy (GBLT) Trustees Meeting, LEPRO Society was elected as Chair an honour that underscores our long-standing commitment to global leprosy elimination. On the programme front, multiple capacity-building and review activities were carried out across states. A three-day physiotherapist and shoe technician workshop took place in Sonapur, alongside a performance review of the Jharsuguda Eye Hospital. Additionally, a two-day review-cum-training of the Samarth Project in Bhopal helped strengthen team capabilities and enhance project execution. These efforts collectively reflect our continuous drive to improve service quality and foster impactful collaborations in the fight against leprosy and other neglected diseases.

IMPACT STORY

Healing Beyond Wounds: Balkishan's Journey to Hope

Balkishan, 33, originally from Madhya Pradesh and now living in Basai Dharapur, Delhi, came to our centre in 2022 with severe complications of multibacillary (MB) leprosy. His fingers were clawed, and ulcers on his hands and feet made even simple tasks painful and difficult.

Challenge Faced

Because of the deformity and repeated ulcers, Balkishan struggled to work and often had to change jobs. Walking was painful, his hand grip was weak, and the constant wounds caused emotional stress and financial strain. Irregular follow-ups worsened his condition, delaying healing and affecting his confidence.

LEPRO Society's Intervention

At West Delhi Referral centre, he received regular ulcer care, systematic dressing, and continuous counselling. Our team supported him with health education, taught him daily self-care practices, and helped him understand how to protect his anaesthetic hands and feet. With consistent care, his ulcers gradually began to heal.

Life After the Intervention

With steady follow-up and improved self-care, Balkishan's ulcers significantly reduced. Although the clawing remains, he can walk more comfortably, perform daily activities with greater ease, and feels more confident. He is grateful for the support and hopeful about returning to stable work and rebuilding his life.



BEFORE



AFTER

- Across Jaggaiahpetta, Eluru, and Tenali, teams participated in Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) activities, focusing on early detection and awareness.

- 132 Ethyl Vinyl Acetate (EVA) footwear distributed in pedapenki PHC to LF affected persons with support from Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), The District Medical Officer (DMO) of Pedapenki distributed the footwear to beneficiaries.



ANDHRA PRADESH

- Third-year Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) students visited the Vizianagaram Referral Centre to learn about leprosy signs and symptoms.
- A Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation camp in Pedana provided services to beneficiaries.
- Medical Officers and Nodal Persons received training on LCDC in Chittoor.
- Nutrition support was provided to people living with HIV at Nandigama Antiretroviral Therapy Centre through Tenali Double Horse Foundation and in other locations with support from Ramco Cements. Clinic services, including medical examinations and medicines, were also extended.

- Prevention of Disability (POD) Camp was organised by our physiotherapist in collaboration with the District Leprosy Cell and Hapjan Block Primary Health Centre teams, providing physiotherapy exercises, suitable footwear, and self-care kits to community members.
- Our field workers strengthened early detection in Tinsukia by identifying 11 new leprosy cases through dedicated community visits, ensuring timely treatment and support.

Assam

- Self-Support Group (SSG) meeting saw active participation and meaningful discussions on early signs and symptoms of Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF). Members reinforced self-care practices and committed to spreading awareness within their neighbourhoods.
- A district-level training was organized for Community Health Officers (CHOs) and Block Community Mobilizers (BCMs) on the Night Blood



BIHAR

Survey across all blocks. (A night blood survey is a test conducted at night to detect microfilariae in the blood, helping monitor and control lymphatic filariasis in endemic areas.)

- The Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van continued field visits, distributing leaflets to raise community awareness. Community-Based Group (CBG) members actively promoted the Night Blood Survey (NBS) and the upcoming Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign.
- A planning meeting with National Disabled Forum (NDF) Members and Key Senior Self-Help Group Leaders (SSGLs) focused on meaningful participation of people affected by LF and Leprosy. It was agreed to distribute customised footwear, self-care kits, and compressor garments to identified eligible individuals.

- A sensitisation session on Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) was held for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Health Worker (Female) [HW(F)] at Nangoor Community Health Centre (CHC), attended by district and block health officials and facilitated by the project team.

- At the DPMR clinic, follow-ups were done for reaction, ulcer, and ulcer treatment cases. One complicated case was referred to the In-Patient ward at Nangoor.

- Head of Operations & Finance (Mr. Om), along with State Finance Manager (Mr. Ashis), visited the SHAKTHI Project in Jagdalpur.



CHHATTISGARH

- In Jagdalpur Block, follow-ups for Released-From-Treatment (RFT) cases and Ulcer Treatment (UT) cases were completed, Microcellular Rubber (MCR) footwear was provided, and contact surveys was also carried out.



- An awareness session at Municipal Corporation of Delhi School engaged 389 students, parents, and teachers on Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF). Screening and open interaction helped strengthen early understanding and community awareness.

- Ms. Clare Roche from Director Fundraising and Communications, lepra UK visited West Delhi Referral Centre at Guru Gobind Singh Hospital to review services.

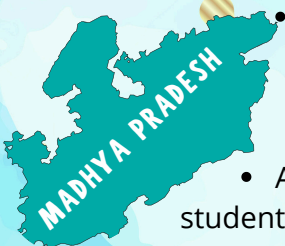
- The Integrated Prevention of Disability (IPOD) and Disability Care Camp focused on early detection, self-care, and disability prevention for people affected by Leprosy and LF. Participants received counselling, wound care, self-care kits, and customised footwear, while the sessions enhanced awareness and promoted safe self-care practices.



- A large group of teachers in Jharia and Tundi blocks received awareness on early signs of leprosy and referral pathways. The sessions helped build confidence to guide students and families in their communities.

- Chief Medical Officer of Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), flagged off the IEC van in the presence of senior officials from TSF and SPARSH.

The van will travel across villages in all blocks of Dhanbad to promote leprosy awareness and encourage early health-seeking behaviour.



- Under the SAMARTH Project, a three-day training was held for Self-Support Group (SSG) members on corporate society basics, Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) registration, and livelihood activities like mushroom cultivation and honeybee farming.

- A school awareness session was organised in Alirajpur to educate students and teachers about leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

- Field teams conducted an active case detection drive for leprosy, visiting households, screening individuals, and referring suspected cases for early diagnosis and treatment.



- The Assistant Director of Health Services (Leprosy), an orientation programme on leprosy was organised for general health staff in Chimur Block, Chandrapur District, ahead of the upcoming Leprosy Case Detection Campaign.



- A three-day physiotherapy, footwear technician training, and capacity-building workshop was conducted at the Sonepur Care Centre. LEPRA Odisha Ambassador Sri Gorakhnath Saho attended the meeting.

- A sensitization program was held in Koraput for MBBS and Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) Medical Officers, facilitated by the Central Leprosy Team.

- Outpatient Department (OPD) cases were attended, including new leprosy cases identified through Active Case Detection (ACD). Nerve Function Assessments (NFA), ulcer care, and other essential clinical services were also provided.

- IEC van programs were organized for mass awareness at CHCs in Rababaguda, Borigumma, and Kotpad.

- Under the SURABHI Programme for children at Capital Government High School, a three-day screening event was conducted in Bhubaneswar. A total of 423 individuals both children and adults were screened, leading to the identification of children with refractive errors who require further eye care support.



TELANGANA



- A mega IPOD camp was organised in Sathanapally village of Nirmal district for people affected by lymphatic filariasis and leprosy. LEPRA Society provided footwear, self-care kits, assistive devices, and western commodes, made possible through the generous support of Mr. Srinivas and his family.
- A re-orientation programme on the NIKUST 2.0 Portal

was conducted for staff from three UPHCs after a request from the District Nucleus Team.

- Dr. Sreya Pradhan from the Azim Premji Foundation visited Nallakunta Referral Centre Hyderabad, interacted with the medical team and beneficiaries, and received demonstrations on the DATS and DiMPLE applications.
- Leprosy awareness activities were carried out at a Government High School in Nagarkurnool district, engaging students, teachers, and NLEP staff.

BPHRC

- Oral presentation on "Early Detection and Management of Peripheral Neuropathy in Diabetes and Leprosy," funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), at the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) Conference, Kochi, by Principal Investigator (PI) Dr. Neelaveni Kudugunti and Ms. Rhesa Sheryl, LEPRA Society project scientist.
- Biosafety Level III (BSL III) Laboratory inspection were carried out by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) nominee and Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) members.
- Training was conducted for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), paramedical, and medical staff at Primary Health Centre (PHC) MC Pally and PHC Narapally.
- Rice was distributed to beneficiaries through Lloyd Technical Centre Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support.
- A workshop on Commercial Determinants of Health was organised at the Blue Peter Public Health & Research Centre (BPHRC).



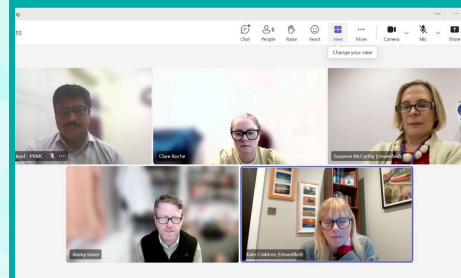
Key Highlights



A Resource Mobilisation and Communications Workshop was held at the LEPRA Society Head Office with key representatives from all regions participating. The workshop was enriched by the presence of Ms. Clare, Director of Fundraising and Communications at LEPRA UK, and Ms. Meenakshi Batra, Chairperson of Resource Mobilisation, making it a truly collaborative and insightful session.



A mega Integrated Prevention of Disability (IPOD) camp was organised in Nirmal district, bringing essential care and support to individuals affected by LF and leprosy. The camp focused on early detection, disability prevention, and improving the quality of life for the community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Srinivas and his family for their generous support in making this initiative possible.



A key meeting was held with the LEPRA UK Fundraising Subcommittee to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration and stronger resource mobilisation. The discussions opened new pathways for joint initiatives, enhanced partnerships, and strategic support for the organisation in the coming year.

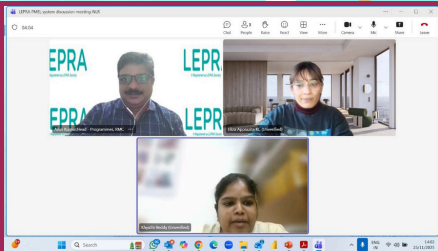
Key Highlights



A workshop on the Commercial Determinants of Health was organised at BPHRC, LEpra Society Head office cheralpally, Hyderabad. The session was led by resource

persons from the Institute of Public Health (IPH), Bengaluru providing valuable insights and learning for the team.

Project planning and review meeting for the SHAKTHI Project was held at the Jagdalpur office in the presence of Mr. Arun (Head Programmes, Resource Mobilisation & Communications) and Dr. Khyathi, ensuring focused discussions and strengthened planning for upcoming activities.



A meeting was held with Ms. Eliza, the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL) Advisor from the NLR (Netherlands Leprosy Relief) Netherlands team, to discuss reporting through the Data Adherence and Tracking system (DATS), refine outcome measures, and strengthen impact measurement using dashboards.



Dr. Sreya Pradhan, Grants Manager from the Azim Premji Foundation, visited the Nallakunta Referral Centre in Hyderabad. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange insights, observe ongoing initiatives, and strengthen collaborative learning.



A three-day national meeting was held from 29-31 October 2025 at ICMR-JALMA, Agra, bringing together national partners to strengthen AMR surveillance for leprosy, introduce pharmacovigilance systems, and review overall progress. LEpra-BPHRC participated as a key Regional AMR Centre, with Dr. Kumar (Scientist-Microbiology) contributing to technical discussions and the national AMR implementation roadmap.

Meet Our Staff

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

One of my colleagues from the college where I previously worked showed me the job notification, and I applied for the position. I work as an outreach worker. My role is to identify new cases and provide treatment, motivate patients, and conduct camps to render services to them.

How do you engage with local communities to raise awareness?

I meet local leaders, explain to them about leprosy, and ask them to include awareness sessions during their meetings. I then create awareness during those gatherings.

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

Some patients do not receive pensions for their disabilities. In such cases, I approach local officials to help them obtain the pension. For patients who have not completed their treatment, I visit them personally and motivate them to take their medicines regularly.

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

I am proud of the awareness activities I conducted with school children over the past two years. Engaging with young minds through interactive sessions and discussions has been one of my most memorable experiences.



Mrs. M. Naga Vani
Outreach Worker
NTDRU, Project
Andhra Pradesh

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

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