

SAMIKSHA

.....BY LEPRA SOCIETY



Prasant's Message

April was quite eventful with the commencement of the financial year 2024-2025. We held an extraordinary General Body meeting during which Dr. Ashok Kumar was elected as our new Vice Chairman. I extend a warm welcome to Dr. Kumar as he takes on this role.

In addition to this, I had the opportunity to represent LEPRA Society at the ILEP CEO meeting, where I shared our progress and future plans regarding leprosy.

Furthermore, I attended the GLBT board meeting in Bangalore, contributing to discussions and decisions concerning our organization.

We were also delighted to host Ms. Ann Halsig from the UK for a MEAL workshop, where she gained insights into our operations in India. Additionally, we conducted a Safeguarding workshop for our local staff, aiming to enhance their knowledge and skills in safeguarding practices.

As we embark on another month, let us continue to work together tirelessly towards the goal of ending leprosy. Your dedication and commitment are instrumental in achieving this mission.

Impact story

Mr. Mansingh Kashyap, a 21-year-old from a poor family in Upanpal village, initially experienced symptoms of leprosy, with patches appearing on his body and his fingers beginning to claw. After diagnosis and commencement of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) in 2022, his condition persisted, prompting

LEPRA's intervention in 2023. Through consistent medical care, counseling, and rehabilitation support, including the successful implementation of Rehabilitation Counselling Services (RCS), Mr. Mansingh experienced significant recovery.

With a 90% improvement in affected fingers and regained ability to perform daily tasks comfortably, his story underscores the transformative impact of holistic healthcare approaches and collaborative efforts between NGOs and governmental initiatives in addressing health disparities among marginalized communities. LEPRA's comprehensive intervention, coupled with government support, not only facilitated Mr. Mansingh's recovery but also alleviated financial burdens on his family. This case highlights the importance of timely diagnosis, ongoing medical care, and rehabilitation services in enhancing the quality of life for individuals affected by leprosy. Through sustained engagement and support, Mr. Mansingh's journey signifies the potential for positive outcomes and improved well-being within vulnerable populations when holistic healthcare approaches are prioritized and community-based interventions are implemented effectively.



Welcoming our new vice Chair - Dr. Ashok Kumar

Dr. Ashok Kumar, M.D., brings unparalleled expertise and a legacy of transformative contributions to global health as Vice Chairman of the LEPRa Society. With a distinguished career spanning disease eradication efforts like smallpox and leprosy elimination, along with leadership in critical areas such as reproductive and child health, tuberculosis control, and HIV/Syphilis prevention, Dr. Kumar's impact is profound. His authorship of over 135 papers and leadership in public health organizations attest to his commitment, while ongoing involvement in initiatives like the International Commission for Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication and the STAR India HIV Self-testing Project Advisory Group underscores his dedication to advancing health equity and combating neglected tropical diseases.



MEAL workshop & Ann's Visit to Vijayawada

A 3-day workshop on Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning (MEAL) is facilitated by Ms. Ann Halsig, Consultant, Lepira UK at Hyderabad, with State Coordinators and Programmes Team. The purpose of the new MEAL Strategy is to have clearer, easier-to-

understand data supporting reported progress against targets and also to strengthen understanding of MEAL and Project Cycle Management (PCM) through improvements in Capacity Development Needs Assessment and program implementation. MEAL Strategic Pillars are 3600 Partnership Driven Engagement, Evidence and Results-Based Approach, Commitment to Quality and Continuous Improvement, Impact and Knowledge Sharing.

Ann also visit to Project Areas in Andhra Pradesh to interact with the beneficiaries as well as oversee the operations in the area



LEPRA Hosts Comprehensive Training Program on Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse

LEPRA recently spearheaded a pivotal two-day training initiative aimed at enhancing the capacity of its Focal Points members in Safeguarding (SG) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse (PSEA). The training program, meticulously designed and executed under the guidance of Ms. Ann Halsig, a seasoned Capacity Development Consultant, sought to empower participants with the requisite knowledge and tools to effectively implement related policies within the organization. Recognizing the paramount importance of creating a protective environment, the training emphasized the critical role of every staff member in ensuring the well-being of all individuals associated with LEPRA. By equipping Focal Points with comprehensive training, LEPRA underscores its unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of safety, accountability, and integrity across its operations.



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State Wise Updates

ANDHRA PRADESH



- SER support cheques were distributed in Tenali, Gampalagudem, and Vijayawada RCs with the assistance of Mankind Pharma.
- MCR footwear was distributed by the District Leprosy Officer in Kadapa under the Mobile Footcare activity.
- Orientation on self-care was provided to ASHAs and patients in Gattu Bheemavaram village, Jaggiahpeta
- Two SER support cheques were distributed by the Medical Officer at Jaggiahpeta CHC to PLHIV infected persons in Sreyassu and Chillakallu.
- Clinic and nutrition support were provided to 60 OLHIV infected individuals in Sreyassu and Chillakallu.

BIHAR



- The National Consultation on leprosy and migration in India session was chaired by Dr. Sujay Sunitha and State Coordinator Bihar at IBIS Delhi.
- The Women-led WASH and NTD Jagruti project was implemented in Kalyanpur block of Samastipur district, and Women's Day was celebrated in all 31 gram panchayats of the block.
- A larvicide drone, using neem oil concentrate, controlled mosquitoes indoors and outdoors. Collaboration among American Leprosy Missions, LEPRO Society, and the Indian Institute of Public Health Hyderabad covered four panchayats in the first phase of Kalyanpur block.
- On March 6th, 2024, the Civil Surgeon cum CMO inaugurated an eye clinic in Kaimur. DPM and District Health Society staff lauded LEPRO for its comprehensive eye care services in the district.

- 16 new leprosy cases detected in Jagdalpur RC, Chattisgarh, with treatment for 5 new ulcer cases and linkage for 4 cases with Social Securities Scheme.
- Mr. Mansingh Kashyap, diagnosed in 2022, received LEPRO intervention including MDT treatment and RCS. With consistent engagement in exercises and physiotherapy, he achieved a 90% recovery, resuming daily tasks comfortably.

CHATTISGARH



JHARKHAND



- A dissemination meeting for the Robert Luff Phase III project was held at District Health Society Dhanbad, attended by Chief guests Dr. C B Pratapan, Civil Surgeon, Dr. Manju Das, DLO, and NLEP staff. The project findings were detailed by team RC Sparsh.
- Ten individuals (6 males, 4 females) underwent Reconstructive surgery (RCS) for lagophthalmos, foot drop, and claw hand correction, followed by post-operative physiotherapy.
- A joint effort of TATA and LEPRO resulted in the distribution of 115 bed nets at the leprosy colony Nirsa, Premnagar Baliyapur, and Nirmala Hospital Govindpur.

MADHYA PRADESH

- Donation of Rs 51,000 from Mr. Ganesh Chanduka, facilitated by Dr. Acharya ji, supports further health initiatives.
- With the assistance of local Rotarian Mr. Ganesh Chanduka, 25 umbrellas were distributed to leprosy and filaria affected persons, accompanied by discussions on self-care, heat wave protection, and motivation for LEPRO's LF project.



ODISHA



- Successful Self Care Camps, promoted wellness and health awareness, offering screenings and education at Gorumahisani Anganwadi Campus and Jamada CHC Campus.
- A training at Lupung GP empowered Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis patients with self-care skills, forming a new support group.
- Joint field visit in Bahalada block detected Grade 2 Leprosy cases, enhancing disease surveillance and prevention efforts.
- Umbrellas distributed to affected persons emphasized self-care and LF support.
- Workshop discussed self-care and transmission prevention, distributing aid to 25 leprosy patients.

TELANGANA



- Counselor trained on Safe Guarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on April 22-23, 2024. Staff from multiple states attended.
- Cascade trainings held in Sircilla, Nalgonda, and Siddipet districts on April 6, 2024, for Data Strengthening in NLEP project.
- District-level training on Strengthening Data Systems in NLEP conducted in Nalgonda district on April 8, 2024.
- Training on Data Strengthening for Nodal persons and Data Entry Operators held in Siddipet district on April 16, 2024.
- Capacity building programme on Leprosy for ASHAs & Govt.PHC Staff at Rangareddy District on April 19, 2024.
- LCDC Suspects screening programme conducted on April 1, 2024, diagnosing 5 new MB cases at various healthcare centers.

- Dr. Michael Sukumar Pallapati and BPHRC clinical team conducted TB and leprosy awareness and screening at a school in Hyderabad.
- At the LRI Spring meeting in Eindhoven, Dr. Pallapati and Ms. Sushree Nibedita Panda presented progress on personalized footwear for leprosy foot ulcers, receiving acclaim.
- Mr. Zakaraiah led an awareness program on leprosy for ASHA Workers at PHC Cherlapally, Hyderabad, on April 2, 2024.

BPHRC



Meet our Staff



Hello I am Maddamsetty Nagaraju. I've been with Lepra for 21 years and developed a particular interest in serving lymphatic filariasis patients after training in the Sankalp project in 2015.

How do you assess and develop tailored treatment plans for patients with leprosy and lymphatic filariasis?

For leprosy patients, I focus on self-care, ulcer management, reaction management, nerve function assessment, and active exercises. With lymphatic filariasis patients, I emphasize self-care methods, ulcer management, and active exercises.

Describe your experience collaborating within interdisciplinary teams to provide comprehensive care for patients with leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

I coordinate and collaborate with government departments, especially in difficult-to-diagnose cases and reaction management follow-ups.

What physiotherapy interventions do you find most effective for managing impairments associated with leprosy-related disabilities?

I find passive exercises, assist exercises, stretching exercises, and the application of mini POP and cylindrical splints to be effective.

How do you approach the management of lymphedema in patients with lymphatic filariasis, and what techniques do you find most beneficial?

I emphasize daily self care practices and demonstrating active exercises, as well as practicing compression methods.

How do you educate patients about self-care techniques, exercise regimens, and lifestyle modifications to optimize their functional outcomes?

I educate patients on self-care for eye, hands, and feet, as well as swelling reduction techniques for lymphatic filariasis.

Can you share an experience where your empathy positively impacted a patient's journey with leprosy or lymphatic filariasis during their physiotherapy sessions?

Patients often express gratitude for the personalized education and care I provide. They appreciate the empathy conveyed through our conversations, particularly when discussing self-care techniques.

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

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