

SAMIKSHA

.....BY LEPRA SOCIETY



Prasant's Message

We are delighted to report the remarkable progress and accomplishments we made in January, demonstrating our dedication to improving healthcare and tackling leprosy-related issues. We started performing surgeries at our new 9-bed hospital in Jharsuguda, a significant step towards enhancing our eyecare services. This endeavor aims to

offer affordable and high quality medical care to those who need it, in line with our overall mission. Apart from our community initiatives, we boosted team morale through a fun event at Nagarjuna Sagar. These shared experiences enhance the synergy and efficiency of our organization, creating a sense of solidarity among our team members.

Our efforts gained recognition with a visit from a potential corporate donor to our referral centre. This highlights the growing interest and support for our cause, appreciating the impactful work we collectively do.

Moreover, considerable attention was given to next year Action Plan and budget 2024-25 preparation for all States and BPHRC, ensuring strategic financial planning for the sustainability and growth of our initiatives.

World Leprosy Day was celebrated across all locations, reaffirming our commitment to raising awareness and dispelling myths about leprosy. Following this, we actively participated in a fortnight dedicated to spreading leprosy awareness, furthering our outreach and education efforts.

A particularly noteworthy achievement is Odisha's distinction as the first state to declare leprosy as a reportable disease. This recognition is a proof of the effectiveness of our endeavors and sets a standard for other regions to follow. As we look back on these milestones, let us renew our passion for the cause and continue pursuing excellence in healthcare and leprosy eradication.



Join hands to eradicate leprosy

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



For any queries, please write to us at rmu@leprahealthinaction.in

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State Wise Updates

ANDHRA PRADESH

- The LRI Projects organized a staff training session on wound care at the Gampalagudem PHC. The training covered the best practices and guidelines for treating and preventing wounds.
- At the Santhapeta UHC, an ASHA orientation program was held for the health workers in Vizianagaram District. The program was supported by the DLO, DNMO, and NLEP staff, and it aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of the ASHAs, MLHPs, and general health staff.
- The filaria staff and the DMO of Machalipatnam distributed 50 bednets in the slum areas as a preventive measure against filariasis.
- IEC materials supplied to Krishna, Guntur, and Vizianagaram Districts. The IEC materials helped to raise awareness among the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of filariasis.



BIHAR

- The Jagruti project end evaluation was conducted by the team from Rajasthan and West Bengal, who interviewed various stakeholders. The Jagruti team received positive feedback for their efforts. The final report will be available next month.
- The ASPIRE team conducted sensitization sessions for 1550 ASHA workers in Jamui district, covering 10 blocks. The sessions focused on skin NTDs such as Leprosy, LF, Scabies, PKDL, and CL. The ASHA workers learned how to screen and refer patients to PHCs.

DELHI



- A Self-care camp and Footwear Fair was held at Tahirpur Leprosy Complex, Delhi, for twenty-six people with leprosy. The WDRC team taught them how to take care of their affected limbs and took their measurements for customized protective footwear.

The DPMR Clinic and Self-care camp at Nagamal CHC provided valuable services to 15 people with disabilities. They learned how to take care of themselves and their health, and received dressing kits and MCR footwear to prevent further complications. The camp was a success and a great example of community-based rehabilitation.

CHHATTISGARH



JHARKHAND

- We reached out to 60,000 people in Dhanbad through our mobile IEC van. We held 285 group sessions in 80 villages, where we detected 12 leprosy cases, referred them to PHCs, taught LF self-care, and screened 2 people for RCS with Sparsh team.
- We also partnered with TATA Steel Foundation (TSF) to provide 300 mosquito nets to 21 leprosy colonies in Dhanbad district. Sparsh team assessed the needs and ensured effective distribution at the community level.



MADHYA PRADESH



- The Sendhwa Team provided personalized healthcare to 24 patients at the Mega Health Mela, where they detected four new cases and gave them tailor-made MCR footwear.
- At Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital, Dr. Priyanka, NMA, led a Referral and Consultation Services (RCS) camp that offered AMC, physio aid, counseling, and rifampicin treatment for families.
- Samarth Project trained 12 volunteers on how to use the Kobo application for the endline survey in Rajnagar, Lavkushnagar, and Gaurihar. As of January 20th, they have completed 720 surveys for LF-affected individuals and 480 surveys for leprosy-affected individuals. This shows the impact of the training program and the dedication of the volunteers to the Samarth Project's goals in the selected areas.

- The MAYURLEP project organised a self-care camp for leprosy patients at Jamada CHC and Bahalada CHC in partnership with the CHCs.
- A Block Level Forum was formed in Rairangpur block, Gorumahisani, and trained on how to advocate for health issues in different platforms.
- We distributed blankets to 80 leprosy patients at the Gorumahisani and Rairangpur Block Meeting Hall. the block Chairman Mining General Manager, Manager, and the President of Mayurbhanja Labour Union at Gorumahisani supervised the distribution. The blankets were provided by Pro. Ghana Shyama and Sons Pvt. Ltd., Mining, Gorumahisani.
- We also distributed 17 latrine work orders in the Model Village for NTDs at Besarakacha, with the support of the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch of Rairangpur Block.
- Dhusasan Chhual Singh, an LF patient, is doing kitchen gardening on his land in Sahupada GP, Kanas Block. LEPRO helped him to access horticulture activities.



TELANGANA



- Organized a DPMR camp at UPHC Ibrahimpatnam, Rangareddy district, in collaboration with the district NLEP team. Provided counseling, nerve function assessments, and distributed footwear to those in need.
- In Gangapur and Kondapalli villages of Asifabad district, a MMDP camp for individuals affected by elephantiasis took place. District health staff, including Dy. DMHO, MLHPs, HAs, and UPHC team, participated. Fifty attendees received self-care kits and footwear.

BPHRC

- Dr Diana Lockwood, an Emeritus Professor at LSTM, UK, visited BPHRC and Sivananda Rehabilitation Home in Hyderabad from 9th to 11th January 2024. She was interested in learning about the research activities and projects that are being carried out by these institutions.

OTHER UPDATES



32 Biennial Indian Association of Leprosy (IAL) Conference, Bengaluru

- The 32nd biennial conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists (IAL) in Bengaluru was attended by representatives from LEPRO UK and LEPRO Society (India). They showcased two E-Posters on their initiatives to support leprosy-affected people.
- One E-Poster highlighted the Social Entitlements programme in Telangana, which helps people access government schemes and benefits. The other E-Poster featured Mobile Footwear Services in Maharashtra, which provides custom-made footwear to prevent ulcers and infections.



2 Day Physio Care workshop for Leprosy and LF @ Sevagram , Maharashtra

- The State Coordinator and Project Officer organized a Regional 2- Day Physio Care workshop for Leprosy and LF at Sevagram, Maharashtra, on 24-25 January 2024. The workshop focused on improving the physiotherapy services for people affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis. LEPRO project teams from AP, Telangana and Maharashtra participated in the workshop and exchanged their experiences and best practices. The workshop was honoured by the presence of Dr.Sandip Gedam, ADHS (Lep.) Chandrapur District, Dr B C Garg , Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and CE and Head -Programmes from LEPRO.

[Click here for our Leprosy Dashboard](#)

[Click here for our LF Dashboard](#)

Meet Mrutyunjay Giri, Our Field Coordinator:



Meet our Staff

I am Mrutyunjaya Giri and I work as a Field Coordinator for LEPRa Society in Nabarangpur District, Odisha. I have 31 years of experience in Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis interventions. I started as a Paramedical Worker and then trained in physiotherapy. I have served in Koraput Care Centre and Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts.

How do you plan to engage with local communities to raise awareness about leprosy, reduce stigma, and encourage early detection and treatment?

Leprosy awareness has changed in the community. Before, people came to us when they saw skin patches. Now, they wait until they have disabilities, which makes treatment harder. We need to find leprosy cases early. We work with traditional healers in tribal areas like Koraput. We train them to spot leprosy signs and encourage people to seek help.

In your opinion, what are the most significant challenges in leprosy control, and how would you address them in your role as a field coordinator?

Despite the decline in the Prevalence Rate and ANCDR, MB cases are still detected at a high rate, especially among males. The GHS has started treatment for these cases, but the surveillance system is weak and needs improvement. LEPRa staff are involved in surveillance, POD/POWD, and NFI activities to prevent disability among leprosy patients. Stigma in the community is decreasing, but some educated people still have negative attitudes towards leprosy.

Share a beneficiary story that is close to your heart?

One of the beneficiaries from Mahulpadar village in Nabarangpur had frequent ENL episodes that caused her to be confined to bed and develop ulcers. Her family was stigmatized and worried about her survival. I counseled them personally and took her to the LEPRa Care Centre, where she got proper treatment. Her condition improved, and she was able to get married and live happily.

Our inspirational case stories



Before

Kanea Binda, a young man of 21 years, had difficulties in his life because of his finger deformities due to Leprosy. He lived with his parents and elder brother's family in Paikmal Block, Bargarh district. They were poor farmers who sometimes worked as laborers outside the state. They lived in a small hut and belonged to the BPL category. Kanea was worried about his future, especially his marriage prospects, as he faced social stigma due to his condition.

Kanea was worried about the operation and how he would be perceived by others. The LEPRa team provided him with emotional support and arranged for him to receive physiotherapy and surgery at Bargarh Hospital. His fingers healed and he was able to access the Government Pension scheme and the incentive for surgery. Kanea is now happily earning his living and planning to get married this year.



After

"I am grateful to LEPRa for their remarkable work on my hands and its surgery. Team LEPRa support restored my confidence and empathy enabled me to overcome my fears. Now, I anticipate a future free of discrimination. Thank you, Team LEPRa!"

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS](#)



Dr. Indrani Aila
Communication Officer

Thank you to LEPRa Society team for your unending support
Facilitated by the programmes team
K. Arun Kumar
Head - Programmes

G. Swamy Reddy
M & E Officer

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