

SAMIKSHA

.....BY LEpra SOCIETY

Prasant's Message

March has been a month of profound reflection and forward momentum for LEpra. As we traversed through various significant events and transitions, I am deeply moved by the unwavering dedication and commitment demonstrated by our team and partners.

Our recent visit to Vijayawada afforded us invaluable opportunities to connect with our beneficiaries and engage with our esteemed CSR donors. These interactions underscored the profound impact of our work and reignited our determination to continue striving for positive change.

It brings me immense joy to announce the appointment of Dr. Jagadish Pradhan as our new Chairman. With his wealth of experience and visionary leadership, I am confident that LEpra will continue to flourish under his guidance. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. V.M. Katoch for his invaluable guidance during his tenure as Chair, and we remain resolute in carrying forward his esteemed legacy. I also extend my thanks to Ms. Suzanne for her gracious presence in welcoming our newly elected Chair.

We had a two-day workshop on Resource Mobilization and Fundraising, facilitated jointly by Mr. Arun from LEpra Society and Ms. Clare Roche, Director of Fundraising at Lepra UK, was truly enlightening. Ms. Roche's insights into fundraising strategies have opened up new avenues for us, and I eagerly anticipate implementing these learnings to further our mission.

I am also grateful for the visit of Ms. Suzanne and Ms. Clare to our operational areas in AP. Their firsthand experience of our work reaffirms the critical importance of our efforts in transforming lives and communities.

Furthermore, I am delighted to announce that Mr. Charles, our Ex-Chair at Lepra UK, continues to lend his unwavering support as a trustee. His assistance in establishing a new footwear manufacturing unit underscores his enduring dedication to our cause, and for this, we are truly thankful. Additionally, Lepra UK's Director of Fundraising accompanied us on our trip to Bihar, further solidifying our partnership.

However, amidst the strides of progress, we also mourn the profound loss of our Vice-Chair, Lt. Gen. Dr. Dayakar Thota. His sudden departure has deeply saddened us all, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones.

As we navigate through these moments of change and remembrance, let us honor the legacy of those who have guided us and recommit ourselves to the noble cause that unites us all.

Welcome Mr. Jagadish Pradhan: Our New Chairman at Lepra



Jagadish Pradhan is a distinguished graduate in Political Science with a long-standing commitment to social work. His journey began as a volunteer in Bangladesh refugee relief camps in 1971-72, followed by engagement in drought relief efforts in Kalahandi from 1972 to 1976. Between 1977 and 1992, he served with OXFAM - GB in various capacities across India and Nepal. Pradhan has made significant contributions to pivotal societal debates, advocating for the Right to Information, Right to Work, Right to Food, and Forest Rights Acts. His deep engagement with agrarian issues earned him a nomination by the Government of India as a member of the influential National Commission on Farmers, also known as the Swaminathan Commission. Additionally, he has actively participated in development dialogues at both the state and national levels, enriching the discourse with his insights and experiences.

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we welcome Jagadish Pradhan as the new Chairman of the Lepra Society. With his extensive experience, unwavering dedication, and visionary leadership, we are confident that under his guidance, the Lepra Society will continue to make significant strides in its mission to support and empower those affected by leprosy and other neglected diseases. We look forward to working alongside Mr. Pradhan as we embark on this journey together towards a healthier and more equitable future for all.

Remembering Prof. (Lt. Col.) Dr. Dayakar Thota: Lepra Pays Its Condolences

Prof. (Lt. Col.) Dayakar Thota, a distinguished medical doctor with extensive military service, has left an indelible mark on the healthcare landscape of India. With a career spanning over two decades in the Indian Army, Prof. Thota has not only served his country but has also excelled in academia and hospital administration. His notable roles as Medical Director of Ramdev Rao Memorial Hospital and Chief Consultant at the Institute of Health Systems reflect his commitment to healthcare excellence. Prof. Thota's vast teaching experience and affiliations with prestigious medical institutions underscore his dedication to shaping the future of medical education and administration in India.



Lepra extends its heartfelt condolences to Prof. Thota's family, friends, and colleagues, recognizing his invaluable contributions to the medical community.

Resource mobilization and Fundraising workshop



A two-day workshop on resource mobilisation and fundraising (RM&F) was held in Hyderabad. State Coordinators, the Resource Mobilisation team, and the Projects team were among the attendees. Mr. Arun of the LEpra Society and Ms. Clare Roche, Director of Fundraising at Lepra UK, co-facilitated the workshop. Colleagues at Lepra UK, Ms. Clare, led a session on the company's global fund-raising strategy for 2024-2030, and Mr. Matt spoke about corporate Partnerships. Additional opportunities for participants include RM&F sessions led by well-known Indian NGOs: HelpAge Fundraising Experiences by Mr. Kanchan Sen, Country Head (Resource Mobilisation & Marketing); Sight Savers India (Corporate Fund Raising by Ms. Surabhi & - Individual fund-raising perspectives by Rajeev Gandhi); Mahesh Nathan, Director - Corporate & Grants Engagement Resource Mobilisation at World Vision India; and Mr. Brijendra

Narain Choudhary, Manager- Business Development at NLR India. Overall, The two-day RM Workshop provided a comprehensive understanding of different RM approaches, which paved the way for future resource mobilisation initiatives.

Lepra UK Chairperson Ms. Suzanne McCarthy, Director of Fundraising & Communications, Ms. Clare Roche & Ex- Chairman Mr. Charles Bland visit to AP & Bihar



Lepra UK Chairperson Ms. Suzanne McCarthy & Director of Fundraising & Communications, Ms. Clare Roche experienced the strength of AP & Bihar communities affected by leprosy & lymphatic filariasis. From impactful beneficiary visits to strategic talks with local health authorities, each interaction reinforced our dedication to driving meaningful change. We are thankful for our partnerships with CSR, government, & Rotarians, who contribute to raising awareness and providing support. Together, let's amplify voices, broaden surveys, & ensure no child faces leprosy alone.



Mr. Charles Bland, Ex-Chairman (Lepra), Mr. Prasant Naik, CEO (LEpra), and Ms. Clare, Director Fundraising and Communication, visited Bihar operations, reinforcing Lepra's commitment and strategic engagement.

Impact story



Chitaram Harijan's battle with leprosy encapsulates the transformative impact of targeted healthcare initiatives in rural India. Initially burdened by debilitating lesions and financial strain, Chitaram's journey took a positive turn with intervention from the Kosagumuda Community Health Center.

Diagnosed and registered as an MB case, Chitaram received comprehensive treatment under the care of dedicated Lepra staff and medical professionals. Through a regimen that included steroid therapy, his physical strength gradually returned, allowing him to reclaim his livelihood as a street vendor.

The impact of this intervention extended beyond Chitaram alone. His increased income not only stabilized his family's finances but also improved their overall quality of life. Moreover, the identification and treatment of his wife, Swati Harijan, underscored the initiative's holistic approach to combating leprosy.

Chitaram's journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of healthcare interventions in marginalized communities. Through timely diagnosis, access to medication, and supportive care, initiatives like these offer hope, dignity, and opportunity to those affected by neglected diseases like leprosy.



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State Wise Updates

ANDHRA PRADESH



- SER support cheques were distributed by DLO and HOD of GGH in Vijayawada RC with the support of Mankind Pharma.
- DPMR camp at Piridi PHC served 20 patients with DPMR services and distributed footwear, attended by NLEP and PHC staff.
- MDT was provided to new leprosy cases and nutrition support was given to pregnant women in Tribal areas of Anakapalle District under Board member instructions.
- MDT adherence study was conducted in Vijayawada and Eluru RCs, involving discussions with newly treated MDT users by external evaluators.
- Wheelchairs were distributed in various operational areas in AP with the help of Oracle.
- Reorientation training programme was conducted for M.O.s UPHC and nodal officers in Krishna Dist.

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, LEPRAs 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 LEPRAs for its comprehensive eye care services in the district.

- Twenty people attended a Disability care camp where they were provided with home-based self-care management demonstrations, self-care kits, and protective footwear.
- A Rapid Enquiry Survey (RES) was conducted at Dwarka colony Delhi where 364 people were enumerated. A survey team examined 130 individuals, and although no new cases were detected, awareness on leprosy basics was raised.

DELHI



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 LEPRAs resulted in the distribution of 115 bed nets at the leprosy colony Nirsra, Premnagar Baliyapur, and Nirmala Hospital Govindpur.

- The Samarth Dissemination Workshop on March 4th, 2024, united stakeholders, facilitated by Mr. Naveen Satle, offering valuable insights and culminating in gratitude for their contributions.
- Under the Sasakawa initiative, Mr. Satish Chaudhary, a seasoned expert and State NLEP Consultant, facilitated an enlightening session for 28 staff members at Oriental College, empowering them with crucial insights on leprosy diagnosis and treatment.
- Conducted training sessions for 147 RBSK medical officers, enhancing their capacity in leprosy case detection among children, bolstering the ongoing efforts to combat leprosy.

MADHYA PRADESH



ODISHA



- Collaborated with Odisha Livelihood Mission Cluster Level Federation to link LF patients with livelihood activities in Nayagarh.
- Conducted an MMDP clinic at DHH Puri and held a SSG Formation Meeting at Raigorada with ASHA-3, Lep-1, and LF-11.
- Organized a Self-care Camp on Leprosy with Bijatala CHC addressing awareness, treatment, and self-care.
- Held ASHA Worker Training on Leprosy and LF at Jharadihi to enhance community engagement.
- Conducted awareness campaigns on Leprosy and LF at Gorumahisani weekly market and Bahalada using our IEC van.
- Observed Women's Day at Rairangpur and Bahalada Block in collaboration with the Health Department.

TELANGANA



- NLRC celebrated World Women's Day 2024 by honoring women stakeholders and staff in Hyderabad, with notable guests and event coverage in regional media.
- World TB Day was marked with the theme "Yes! We can End TB" in two DMCs of Hyderabad district, featuring public awareness programs over two days.
- 4th-year MBBS students from Osmania Medical College visited a leprosy clinic in Hyderabad, expressing surprise at not encountering any leprosy cases before.
- Three shoe technicians from Telangana underwent a 25-day skill development training on footwear manufacturing, receiving electronic sewing machines upon completion.
- ASHA volunteers at PHC Lonavally, Asifabad district, participated in an awareness program on Leprosy Case Detection Campaign.
- All four RCs of Telangana supported the District NLEP team during the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign, raising awareness and conducting suspect validation.

- Ms. Sirisha and Ms. Anita Rego conducted focused group interviews and in-depth interviews for MDT adherence study project in Vijayawada, Eluru, and Tiruvuru.
- Dr. Michael Sukumar Pallapati monitored Leprosy Case Detection Campaign implementation in Hanamkonda, Warangal, and Jangaon on 20 and 21 March 2024.
- Dr. Michael Sukumar Pallapati and Mr. A Kameswar Rao attended an NTEP-Partners meeting in Hyderabad on 19th March 2024, presenting the performance of DMCs under LEPRA.

BPHRC



Meet our staff

[Click here for our LF Dashboard](#)

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My journey with LEPRA began as a Laboratory Assistant at the KORALEP Project in Jeypore, Koraput, back in February 1996. Following the completion of my DMLT course, I rejoined LEPRA as a Laboratory Technician at the JUNLEP Project in Junagarh, Kalahandi, in March 2008. Over the years, I've assumed various responsibilities, eventually leading to my current role as a Field Coordinator in Kalahandi District.

What inspired your dedication to serving communities affected by Leprosy, Tuberculosis, and neglected diseases?

My inspiration stems from LEPRA's mission of providing comprehensive healthcare to marginalized communities. Working closely with these communities, particularly in remote tribal areas, has taught me the value of simplicity and resilience. Observing the challenges faced by individuals affected by these diseases reinforced my belief in the importance of serving those in need.

Could you elaborate on some of the challenges encountered while working in remote tribal areas, and how they have been addressed?

Working in remote tribal areas presents challenges such as limited access to healthcare facilities, cultural barriers, and geographical isolation. However, our team at LEPRA addresses these challenges by adopting a multidisciplinary approach. Community engagement is prioritized, local healthcare workers are empowered, and technology is leveraged to ensure timely healthcare delivery to these communities.

How does LEPRA foster multidisciplinary skills among its team members, and what impact does it have on the organization's effectiveness?

LEPRA organizes regular training programs and workshops to enhance the capabilities of its team members. By fostering multidisciplinary skills, the organization improves the quality of healthcare services and strengthens its ability to address complex health challenges. This approach has been instrumental in positioning LEPRA as a leader in the field of leprosy and neglected diseases.

What is your vision for the future of healthcare in remote tribal areas, and how can organizations like LEPRA contribute to realizing that vision?

My vision for the future of healthcare in remote tribal areas revolves around ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services. Organizations like LEPRA can contribute to this vision by advocating for the rights of marginalized communities, implementing innovative healthcare solutions, and fostering partnerships with local stakeholders. Together, we can create a future where everyone has the opportunity to lead a healthy and fulfilling life.

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

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