

# SAMIKSHA

.....BY LEPRO SOCIETY

## Prasant's Message

I am delighted to share the key highlights of our recent activities, which reflect our unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the communities we serve. Dr. Srilekha Penna, ILEP India Coordinator, along with Ms. Geetanjali, visited the LEPRO Society Head Office (LSHO), offering valuable insights into our ongoing programs. Additionally, our Head of Programmes met with the District Collector of Mayurbhanj to express our gratitude for his steadfast support of our initiatives, including the upcoming Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) in the region.

I also had the privilege of visiting our Delhi Referral Centers to assess the effective implementation of our disability care services. The trip to Jamui, for the ASPIRE project alongside the Effect Hope delegation from Canada, was equally rewarding, as we witnessed the tangible impact of our efforts on the ground.

In Vijayawada, I had the opportunity to connect with staff and beneficiaries, reaffirming the importance of our grassroots interventions. In Puri, I was impressed by the enthusiasm of our LF project beneficiaries who are engaged in mushroom rearing—a sustainable livelihood activity we hope to replicate in other states. In Bhubaneswar, we held a Management Committee meeting to discuss our strategic direction. A significant milestone was reached at Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) as we prepare to launch a four-year B.Sc. Course in Optometry, which will contribute to building local capacity in eye care services.

Another key moment came with the launch of the Leprosy Digital Learning Systems (DLS) Mobile Application during the State LCDC Training program, in the presence of Dr. Ravindra Naik, Director of Public Health. This innovation represents a major step forward in strengthening our health teams' capacity and extending the reach of our training programs. Finally, my meeting with the SAATHII team regarding our HIV project in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana reinforced the strength of our partnerships and our shared commitment to delivering impactful healthcare initiatives. Each of these milestones is a testament to the collective efforts of the entire LEPRO family. Let us continue working together to create a future filled with hope and dignity for those we serve.

**Enroll Now!** Admissions open for B.Sc. Optometry (4 years) at Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya, an ISO & NABH-accredited eye care center affiliated with Odisha University of Health Sciences. Eligibility: +2 Science with 50% marks. Hostel facility available. Contact: 9437443354 / 9178203769 | WhatsApp: +917751905211.

Khadi Bhatra, a 59-year-old monk from Deuda village, Koraput, faced years of hardship battling recurring blisters and ulcers, initially treated with herbal remedies. Diagnosed with MB leprosy in December 2021, he began treatment at Lepra Society Koraput. Later, complicated foot ulcers brought him back for intensive care, including regular dressings, physiotherapy, and self-care training.

With Lepra Society's support, Khadi accessed essential supplies and enrolled in the Madhubabu Pension Scheme. Using these resources, he started a coconut shop near the temple, regaining his livelihood. By January 2023, his ulcers had healed, and his mobility had improved, allowing him to resume a fulfilling life. Grateful for the care and guidance, Khadi and his family attribute his recovery and community reintegration to Lepra Society's unwavering support.

### Impact story



[Click here for our Leprosy Dashboard](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS](#)

[Click here for our LF Dashboard](#)

# State Wise Updates

## ANDHRA PRADESH



- Post-operative procedures were conducted for 4 RCS patients at referral centers.
- School surveys and fundraising activities were undertaken in the AP operational areas, creating awareness in 13 schools.
- Children's Day was celebrated at Sreyassu with games, activities, and prize distribution for winners.
- Support group meeting at Pedana PHC addressed socio-economic issues, advising engagement with government officials.
- Footwear was distributed to patients by TH Ward Medical Officer at Vizag RC.
- Self-care camps in Gampalagudem and Marpalli PHCs trained 24 patients in ulcer dressing and SSO and distributed kits sponsored by NTPC.
- Focus group discussions were held at Gampalagudem PHC with 19 participants facilitated by ORW, guided by evaluators and researchers.
- Interaction with Regional Manager, SBI, RBO, Vizianagaram and Ms. Roja Director, HS Foundation for Resource Mobilisation by Mr. Swamy Reddy and Mr. Ramana

## BIHAR



- The HCL Grant team lauded LEPRA's collective efforts in improving lives in Samastipur.
- LEPRA trained 32 District Coordinators in partnership with CFAR to enhance LF program implementation.
- A house-to-house survey identified 94 leprosy cases and other NTDs, with treatment facilitated by the ASPIRE team.
- ASPIRE project activities were reviewed by the Effect team, including meetings and field visits.
- Rajni Kant Singh attended ITC in Italy, and Rachna Kumari participated in DNDI's meeting in Ethiopia, advocating for rights and medication access.
- A self-care camp was held at Deuda Leprosy Colony, Bastar, on Gandhi Jayanti, including ulcer care, distribution of kits, fruits, and dry food, attended by DLO and NMA.
- Two village-level forum formation meetings were conducted at Gorawand (Nangoor block) and Bakawand block, with 28 participants in total.
- A Village Cluster Level Forum Formation Meeting was held at Jagdalpur
- State Pediatric TB Training of Trainers(ToT) was held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh

## CHHATTISGARH



## DELHI



- Sixteen ulcer cases were treated at RC Sparsh, with training in home-based care and customized footwear provided.
- 183 students were screened in Dhanbad schools, with no suspected leprosy cases identified.
- Twenty individuals attended a disability care camp at WDRC, received self-care training, kits, and customized footwear.
- A healthy contact survey of 12 index cases in Delhi examined 15 people, with no new cases detected.

## JHARKHAND



## MADHYA PRADESH

- The Rehabilitation Center in Alirajpur conducted a leprosy awareness session for 150 students and organized interactive activities to empower them as community advocates for leprosy awareness.
- Community group talks promoted grassroots understanding, and a mega health camp in Rajpur block identified 17 leprosy cases, provided ulcer care, and assessed patients for reconstructive surgery.
- A reconstructive surgery camp at St. Joseph's Leprosy Centre, Sanawad, treated 15 patients, while 8 others were referred for surgery to improve their quality of life and social reintegration.
- Outreach activities with DNT identified 4 new child leprosy cases and monitored 4 Grade II patients.



- A state-level LCDC training and coordination meeting in Bhopal reviewed progress, addressed challenges, and equipped healthcare staff with skills for leprosy detection, treatment, and stigma reduction.
- The NTDRU Technical Coordinator visited Rewa to mentor healthcare staff, emphasizing early detection, treatment, and alignment with national leprosy elimination guidelines.



## MAHARASHTRA

A contact survey was conducted in Gondpipari block of Rajura district, Maharashtra.

[Click here for IEC & Gallery](#)

## ODISHA

- NLEP coordination-cum-sensitization programme was held in Rayagada with 26 participants, alongside LCDC training sessions across six districts with FC/PT/PO as resource persons.
- 3 self-care camps and DPMR clinic strengthening programs in Kalahandi, Bargarh, and Koraput benefited 34 individuals, with additional training in BaroPodometry Foot Measurement using Kobo data capture.
- 3 forums were formed to discuss LEP/LF symptoms, treatment, cure, and self-care, complemented by SSG meetings in Kanas, focusing on follow-ups and livelihood linkages for leprosy and LF-affected individuals
- A footwear distribution camp at Gadsanaput GP, Puri, provided 14 pairs of footwear, and LEPRAs Society supported hydrocele surgeries in Nayagarh hospital, Odisha.
- A Sambha Ratha awareness program on leprosy and LF was launched at Rairangpur.
- An orientation session on resource mobilization was conducted for the Mayurlep staff to enhance fundraising strategies.
- The State M&E visited Uprabeda in Kusumi Block to interact with leprosy patients and evaluate intervention effectiveness.
- Disability certificates were facilitated for 10 leprosy and LF-affected individuals.
- Leprosy and LF awareness sessions were conducted for school students in Bijatala Block and through group talks in Rairangpur, Bahalda, Tiring, and Thakuramunda.



## TELANGANA

- Awareness and screening program was conducted for 650 students at Balaji High School, Medchal district.
- Contact survey and screening of suspected leprosy cases in Bhareguda village, Asifabad district was conducted by PCA.
- 35 pairs of footwear was distributed by a Shoe Technician at Devapally Leprosy Colony, Nizamabad district.
- Pictorial awareness program on leprosy for a women's group in Nirmal district was held
- Awareness and screening program for 400 students at Spring the Dale School, Rangareddy district was conducted.



## BPHRC

- Dr. E. Kumar demonstrated sample collection and transport for TB and leprosy testing at Koraput's Satellite Research Laboratory.
- Certifications renewed for tuberculosis drug susceptibility testing using Liquid Culture and Line Probe Assay.
- Monthly ICMR-Peripheral Neuropathy project review held at Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad.
- LRI Project FGDs were conducted in Gampalagudem, Vijayawada, led by Ms. Sushree Nibedita Panda and Mr. Abdul Vaheed Basha.



## Publications :

- Study on Streptococcus dysgalactiae (bacteria that can worsen leprosy foot ulcers by infecting open wounds, delaying healing, and increasing complications) as a secondary pathogen in leprosy foot ulcers published in Iranian Journal of Microbiology (IF: 1.2).- <https://ijm.tums.ac.ir/index.php/ijm/article/view/4809>
- Research on the importance of contact tracing for leprosy control published in Iranian Journal of Microbiology (IF: 1.2).- <https://ijm.tums.ac.ir/index.php/ijm/article/view/4866>



Visit of Dr. Srilekha Penna, ILEP India Coordinator, and Ms. Geethanjali to LEPRA Society



The Head of Programme met the Mayurbhanj District Collector and CDMO to discuss the Mayurlep initiative and ensure alignment with district priorities.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS



HIV Project Induction Training for LEPRA Team- PR SAATHII & Global Fund G7



Leprosy Digital Learning Systems (DLS), a collaborative initiative by the LEPRA Society, ALM, and the Telangana State Leprosy Office, was officially launched by Dr. Ravindra Naik, Director of Public Health, and Dr. John Babu, State Leprosy Officer of Telangana.



CEO, State Coordinator Visit to Mushroom Cultivation Initiative by LF-Affected Individuals at Puri, Odisha



Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) One Health Project conducted a training session for Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in Mentada village, Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

## MEET OUR STAFF

1. How did you join LEPRA, what is the work you do, and how long have you been associated with LEPRA?

I joined LEPRA after applying for the post of Block Health Coordinator through an advertisement published on devnetjobsindia.org. I was offered the position and have been associated with LEPRA since November 11, 2015.

2. A memory at LEPRA that you would like to share?

One memory that stands out is helping Mr. Golak Bihari Sahu, a 47-year-old from Narendrapur, Sarankul, Nayagarh, who was suffering from LF (Lymphedema) in his left leg (Stage IV) along with other health problems. I taught him self-care practices, which helped him completely stop experiencing acute attacks. Over time, his health improved significantly. He also faced severe financial issues, so I connected him to the local Veterinary Officer to secure a dairy loan, which supported his livelihood.

3. How do you plan to engage with local communities to raise awareness about LF?

I focus on rapport building with key stakeholders such as Panchayati Raj Institution members, ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers, local leaders, and various line departments. These collaborations help me effectively spread awareness about LF and its management.

4. In your opinion, what are the most significant challenges in LF programs, and how would you address them in your role as a Block Health Coordinator?

One of the major challenges in LF programs is convincing educated individuals about the importance of self-care. They often question or dismiss the guidance provided. However, I address this challenge by engaging in continuous and frequent teaching sessions. Over time, they begin to trust the information and show interest in practicing self-care techniques.

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



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Account Number 0132 0030 06100 IFSC Code IBKL0000002 Account Name LEPRA Society Type of Account Savings

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