

# SAMIKSHA

.....BY LEPRO SOCIETY

## Prasant's Message

As we transition from the vibrant celebrations of Navratri toward the upcoming festival of Diwali, the spirit of joy and togetherness fills the air. I hope you all had a wonderful time with family and friends, recharging as we continue our impactful work together.



It was a pleasure to welcome Mr. Matt Lovelock, our UK Corporate Partnerships Manager, whose visit further strengthened our collaborations and highlighted the value of our mission.

A special acknowledgment goes to our Andhra Pradesh team for their dedicated efforts in successfully conducting reconstructive surgeries for individuals affected by leprosy at their hospital premises. This milestone marks an inspiring step forward in our commitment to comprehensive care.

Across our other initiatives, our TB/HIV programs continue to expand, our eyecare projects in Chhattisgarh reach more people with essential services, and our Leprosy/LF app development progresses, aiming to provide accessible support. Meanwhile, as India celebrates the elimination of trachoma declared by WHO, we continue to work toward achieving new milestones in public health.

We are also nearing the final stages of our HCL proposal and advancing fundraising strategies to sustain and grow our impact. Special thanks to our team engaged in active school fundraising and preparing the Diwali stall at Mankind Pharma's Delhi headquarters. Initiatives like these play a crucial role in extending our outreach and partnerships.

Wishing you and your loved ones a bright and prosperous Diwali. May the festival of lights bring joy, health, and success, inspiring us all to bring light into others' lives through our work. Let's move forward with optimism and continue working together for a healthier, inclusive future.

Golak Bihari Sahu, a 47-year-old from Narendrapur, Sarankul, Nayagarh, had long struggled with Grade-IV lymphatic filariasis, severely affecting his left leg and making daily labor difficult. His condition led to increasing medical expenses, creating a financial burden.

In December 2022, Golak visited the LEPRO Society's MMDP clinic in Sarankul, where he learned about DEC medication and self-care practices to alleviate his symptoms. Motivated by LEPRO's support, he sought assistance from the Veterinary Department, which provided him with a loan for a cow.

With this new opportunity, Golak began dairy farming. The cow now produces milk, which he sells daily to local tea stalls. This small but significant livelihood change has transformed his financial situation, helping him generate a steady income. Today, Golak's resilience and determination stand as a testament to the impact of community support and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

His journey from facing debilitating health challenges to becoming a successful milk producer showcases the life-changing power of empowerment through practical solutions, reinforcing the importance of providing opportunities to those affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

## Impact story



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- Gandhi Jayanti celebrations were held at Utukuru PHC in NTR District and AMG Colony in Vizianagaram, with participation from the PHC Medical Officer, staff, and NLEP team.
- Mr. Matt Lovelock, Corporate Partnerships Manager from the UK, visited our operational areas in Andhra Pradesh, engaging with the KCP CSR head and interacting with beneficiaries in the field.
- Directorate of Health, accompanied by the DLATO, visited the Vizianagaram Rehabilitation Center, where they interacted with the RC staff, toured the shoe unit, and commended the craftsmanship demonstrated by the Shoe Technician.
- LEPRO facilitated Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) at the New Government General Hospital (GGH) in Vijayawada, where two surgical corrections were successfully performed by the Plastic Surgery Department. The event was attended by the JD Leprosy and DLATO from NTR District.

## BIHAR



- A State Level Coordination Meeting was held with key stakeholders, including Dr. Pankhuri Mishra and LEPRO representatives, at the Additional Director's Office in Patna to discuss the upcoming MDA Campaign and strategies for inter-sector convergence.
- Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse training was conducted across Bihar project locations to improve identification and response to risks for children and adults.
- In a joint operation near Patna Railway Station and Mahaveer Temple, Welfare Department officials, LEPRO Society, and HelpAge India engaged leprosy-affected beggars, offering helpline support and information on social schemes for mainstream inclusion.
- Under ASPIRE, 75 leprosy cases received MDT and counseling, while 94 elephantiasis and 89

hydrocele cases were listed and taught home-based care practices.

- Thirty-one self-support group meetings in Kalyanpur block covered MMDP's five pillars and guidance on managing acute attacks and entry points.
- Our Delhi team has hosted a stall at the HAAT Diwali event organized by Mankind Pharma, showcasing arts and crafts from all our centers. Thanks to the GGH and IGH teams for their support!
- Three ACD and POD camps organized by RC IGH Delhi staff screened 120 people, with 39 individuals receiving custom footwear and self-care kits for leprosy support.
- Awareness sessions on leprosy and LF were held in the OPD at Guru Govind Singh Hospital.

## DELHI



## JHARKHAND



- RC Sparsh, with NLEP Dhanbad and district officials, marked Gandhi Jayanti, pledging to combat social stigma surrounding leprosy.
- Three shoe technicians from Delhi and Odisha trained at RC Dhanbad, with Adal Das sharing expertise on custom footwear design.
- RC Sparsh surveyed six schools in Jamadoba and Sijhua, educating 1,398 students on leprosy, with no new cases detected.

- Our NLEP consultant led a field visit to Balaghat with the state leprosy team to monitor NLEP activities. The team reviewed diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up for leprosy patients, provided on-ground support, and trained local health staff on early detection and complication management.

## MADHYA PRADESH



## ODISHA



- 4 hydrocele patients underwent surgery at Nayagarh Hospital with BHC Tamasi Pattanaik's support. Hydrocele surgery camps were also conducted at Tato CHC, Mayurbhanj, and SDH, Rairangpur.
- In Delanga, LF patients received self-care training and footwear measurements, attended by ASHA and MPHWS staff. At the Gandhi Jayanti event, 27 measurements were taken, and 35 self-care kits distributed by LEPRO Society and AVA.
- Dr. Acharya and the MO at Ranpur CHC agreed to establish an integrated MMDP clinic with weekly sessions, while Nayagarh BHC coordinated with local consultants to facilitate patient support lists for hydrocele and LF cases.

- LF patients in financial distress were linked to the Indian Red Cross Society, each receiving Rs. 10,000 for medical expenses. LF-affected individuals in Purisadar and Kanas began mushroom cultivation after horticulture department training.
- Four leprosy patients received disability certificates at Bhima Bhoi Bhirnakshyam Samarthyasivira in Rairangpur.
- LEPRO Society's Koraput Care Centre celebrated its 34th Foundation Day with District Collector Sri V. Keerthi Vasani, distributing nutrition kits to 60 recovered patients.
- Follow-up for 96 LRI beneficiaries was completed, with one person trained in Boro Podometry Foot Measurement using Kobo data.
- Three forums were formed to educate communities on leprosy and LF symptoms, treatment, and self-care.
- RMP and PMP sensitization meetings were held in Bargarh and Nuapada, strengthening referral systems and educating 58 participants on leprosy and LF care.

## TELANGANA



- Good Bye Leprosy Trust representatives visited the Hyderabad referral center to discuss the role of referral centers in managing leprosy. Sri Nilesh Solanki, Trustee of LEPRO UK, and Sri Prashant Naik, CEO of LEPRO Society, inaugurated the IEC wall and issued a hand stick to a beneficiary with plantar ulcers.
- Two training programs were conducted for Nodal persons and DEOs of PHCs in Wanaparthy and Nagarkurnool districts on leprosy basics and the Nikust 2.0 portal.
- A lepra reaction demonstration was held for PCAs in Chandrapur, and students from the Footwear Design and Development Institute observed pressure points on the baropodometric instrument.

- Mr. Matt Lovelock from Lepra UK visited Balaji Nagar and Sanjay Gandhi Colonies on 12 October 2024, interacting with people affected by leprosy. SLAP President Mr. Ramesh, Vice-President Ms. Anasuya, and colony leaders Mr. Venkata Rao and Mr. Venkataiah participated in the event.
- Training programs included a session on Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for BPHRC staff on 24 October 2024, and participation by Ms. Monisha Louie and Ms. Humera Sultana in a TB-LPA training at ICMR NIRT, Chennai.

## BPHRC



## MEET OUR STAFF

*Can you introduce yourself and your journey with Lepra?*

I am Lal Babu Singh, currently serving as the Coordinator for the Sparsh project in Dhanbad, Jharkhand. I joined Lepra as a Non-Medical Supervisor for the DTST project in Bihar on 1st August 2021.

*What's unique about the SPARSH project and its approach?*

The SPARSH project, launched in 2009 in partnership with Tata Steel Foundation, provides specialized services to people affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis. Through ongoing efforts, the referral center developed a 10-bed Reconstructive Surgery Unit, marking India's first corporate partnership in this area.

*What impact has your team had on the local community?*

SPARSH has distributed 500 pairs of customized MCR footwear across 21 leprosy colonies in Dhanbad each year, with support from Tata Steel. Additionally, 139 individuals have undergone reconstructive surgery (RCS), correcting deformities and regaining their functional abilities, helping them return to normal life.

*What challenges have you faced, and how has the team tackled them?*

A significant challenge was mobilizing RCS cases due to the 60-day hospital stay required. To address this, the team organized screening camps at the district level, collaborating with the District Health Services (DHS) to smoothly transport patients to the center.

*What are your hopes and goals for the future of the Sparsh project?*

Our goal is to restore hope and dignity to people affected by leprosy by correcting deformities and helping them regain functional abilities.

Thank you to LEPRO 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** LEPRO Society **Type of Account** Savings

**Bank Name** IDBI Bank Limited **Branch Name** Basheer Bagh **Bank Address** Mahavir House, Basheerbagh Square, Hyderabad - 29



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