

PRASANT'S MESSAGE



As we step into this new financial year, I am pleased to share key updates from our programmes. We are proud to announce the restarting of leprosy activities in Uttar Pradesh, with a new Referral Centre in Varanasi. This marks a significant milestone in our journey to re-establish a strong presence in one of the highest-burden regions. A thorough review of our LF programmes was conducted, with a focus on integrated care for affected individuals. The discussions reaffirmed our commitment to combining morbidity management with mental health support and community mobilisation. The Swabhiman programme, embedded within our LF response, continues to empower affected persons—particularly women—to become change agents in their own lives and communities.

I am also pleased to share that Mankind Pharma has renewed its support for the next three years, strengthening our capacity to scale services in leprosy and LF. Their continued commitment is a powerful endorsement of our work and values. Additionally, I had the privilege of attending the Management Committee meeting of the GoodBye Leprosy Trust, where we explored collaborative strategies to accelerate the elimination of leprosy through innovation, partnerships, and advocacy. These discussions are vital as we work to amplify our collective voice at national and global platforms. Together, with the unwavering dedication of our teams and the support of our partners, I believe we are moving closer to a future where leprosy and LF are no longer causes of stigma, disability, or exclusion.

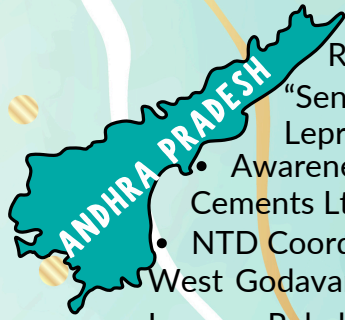
IMPACT STORY

Rukumani Sahoo, a 69-year-old woman from Kudahansa village in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha, lives with her husband amidst financial hardship. Illiterate and part of a Below Poverty Line (BPL) household, she endured years of suffering due to leprosy, which led to the loss of fingers on both her hands and feet. These physical deformities severely limited her mobility and ability to perform daily tasks, leaving her emotionally isolated and stigmatized—even within her joint family. Her husband, a daily wage labourer, struggled to support them. During a line listing activity, LEPRO Society identified Rukumani and offered compassionate counselling, regular follow-ups, an Ulcer Care Kit, and protective footwear—bringing much-needed relief and improving her comfort and dignity. Through livelihood support, Rukumani and her husband were able to open a small shop near their home. This has become a stable source of income and restored their sense of independence. Today, Rukumani feels financially secure and emotionally empowered. She expresses deep gratitude to LEPRO Society for transforming her life and now stands as a symbol of strength and resilience in her village, inspiring others to seek support and rebuild their lives.



Rukumani Sahoo
69 years old
Kudahansa Village
Mayurbhanj District
Odisha

State Wise Updates



- LEPROA Society and GLRA (German Leprosy Relief Association) jointly conducted "Sensitization Rights of People affected by Leprosy" programme.
- Awareness drive conducted to Drivers of KCP Cements Ltd.
- NTD Coordinator interacts with Bapatla DLATO and West Godavari DLATO and visits Lankala Koderu PHC and Leprosy Rehabilitation centre, Srungavruksham.
- Compression garments helping to reduce swelling, supplied to LF infected persons.



- National Level Training of Trainers on Revised Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) Elimination Guidelines organized by National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NCVBDC).
- Vidhan Sabha Speaker Mr. Devesh Chandra Thakur gave and facilitated pension benefits and



education support for individuals affected by leprosy.

- ASPIRE Pilot Project was presented at WHO's Second Global Meeting on Skin NTDs in Geneva as a model for integrated screening and treatment.
- ASPIRE project mid-term evaluation activities were carried out with stakeholder meetings and field observations led by Mr. Guillermo.



- Outpatient services included clinical consultations and nerve function assessments.
- Follow-up activities for Under Treatment cases, contact surveys, and monitoring of reaction cases were conducted across several blocks.



- A Disability Care Camp was conducted at WDRC in Delhi, where participants were trained in self-care practices to prevent disability and recurrent ulcers.



- Customized MCR footwear and Walker bar were distributed to enhance mobility and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy.



- District NLEP Chandrapur provided MCR footwear to leprosy-affected individuals across the district.
- Metacarpophalangeal (MCP) extension block was applied on the day of suture removal after claw hand correction through Reconstructive Surgery (RCS), to support proper finger alignment and healing.



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

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State Wise Updates

MADHYA PRADESH

- Annual meeting of LEPRASociety MP was held with participation from Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) leadership and ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) representatives.
- The Annual Review Meeting was held with project teams to finalize action plans and budgets for 2025-26, including safeguarding training, DATS (Digital Adherence Training System) application updates, and planning for improved activity and budget tracking.



- Active leprosy case search was conducted in Dimda village near Kagaznagar with support from the District NLEP team.
- District-level cascade training under the Data Strengthening Project was held in Sanga Reddy with participation from nodal officers, data entry operators, and district officials.

TELANGANA

- LEPRASociety supported the Hyderabad District National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) team in a general health and DPMR(Disability Prevention and Morbidity Management) camp.

ODISHA

- Swabhimani Project annual review and planning meeting held at Sonapur Care Center (SCC) in presence of LEPRASociety CEO.
- Education support cheques distributed to girl beneficiaries by LEPRASociety Ambassador Gorakhnath Ji and the CEO at SCC.
- World Health Day and World Malaria Day observed with participation of beneficiaries and health staff.



- Two-day screening drive held for facilitating government financial support for persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups.
- Spiritual library donated by Prof. Meena Moharana inaugurated at SCC by the CEO.
- Meetings held with Medical Superintendent at Rajsunakhala CHC and with DLO at Baripada.
- Disability certificates distributed in Bijatala Block.
- Village Health and Nutrition Day meeting attended at Badsiajang.

BPHRC



- Resource Mobilisation & Fundraising (RM & FR) workshop was organized for BPHRC by the RM&FR team.
- Supportive supervisory visit under the LRI Project was undertaken in Raxaul, Bihar.
- Training of Laboratory Technicians at Primary Health Centres (PHC) on slit skin smear microscopy in leprosy.
- Dr. Joy Michael from BMGF- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and The Union team visited BPHRC laboratory for the Swasthya Nagaram TB Project.
- Research collaboration with GIS, Singapore in the area of leprosy has been initiated.

Key Highlights



Mr. Arun- Head of Programmes addressing WHO TDR MPH Implementation Science students at the Indian Institute of Health Management Research University (IIHMRU), Jaipur on LEPRA Work on Neglected Tropical Diseases (Leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis) and Building Collaboration across Sectors



Dr Joy Michael- Infectious Diseases specialist from CMC Vellore and Mr Shahshikant Naik from The Union

Unveiling of Mankind Project Book by Shri Sheetal Arora, CEO and lifetime Director, Mankind Pharma at Vimarsha-Mankind Pharma Annual CSR Meet



Mr. Arun- Head of Programmes and Dr. Khyati at Azim Premji Foundation Conference on 'Health Among Tribal Communities: Experiences and Learnings from the Ground' in Ranchi

Meet Our Staff

How did you join LEPRA, and what work do you do?-I joined LEPRA Society in July 2022 and currently serve as Field Coordinator at Jagdalpur RC, Bastar District (Chhattisgarh). I work across three blocks and the Comprehensive Care Centre, focusing on leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

How do you engage with communities to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote early detection?- Many people approach us at advanced stages, often with disabilities. To promote early detection, we train traditional healers and grassroots health service (GHS) providers in tribal areas like Bastar, leveraging their trust within the community.

What strategies help manage and motivate a diverse team in leprosy initiatives?- Developing locally tailored IEC/BCC plans and involving key influencers such as PRI members, GKS, ASHAs, traditional priests, and government health staff can effectively mobilize the community and ensure program success.

What are the key challenges in leprosy control, and how do you address them?-High prevalence and delayed detection, especially among women, are major challenges. Surveillance and follow-up are often lacking. We address this through regular monitoring, POD/POWD activities, and identifying NFI cases to prevent disability. While stigma is decreasing, more efforts are needed in community education.

Share a beneficiary story that is close to your heart.- A woman from Nangoor village faced severe ENL reactions and stigma from her family. With counseling and treatment at our LEPRA Care Centre, her health improved, and she is now happily married, living a normal life.



Sibasankar Hota
Field Coordinator, Jagdalpur Referral Centre, Chhattisgarh

Thank you to LEPRA Society team for your unending support



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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

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