



# Association of People Affected by Leprosy

*Equity and Integration*

**Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

## **1. Report on activities of APAL State-Level Bodies and APAL Leaders**

- APAL found out the utmost needy and difficult to reach area tribal people and provided food grains
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with Mr. Govind Swamy Executive Member of APAL participated in a 2-days workshop for strengthening the implementation of LPEP
- the collaborative District Level Capacity Building & Advocacy Meeting at the community hall in S.L. Home Hospital TLM
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with the state committee Chhattisgarh and Mrs. Keroline Executive Member of APAL visited and interacted with all persons affected by leprosy
- In collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, APAL and Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana inaugurated a Community hall
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan visited Navnirman Kushth Aashram
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan visited Sri Sai Baba Kushth Aashram
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare's letter in Leprosy Bulletin 114 published by Sasakawa Health Foundation
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan visited Ganga Kushth Aashram
- APAL's Executive Committee Meeting was held on 25th April 2023 at APAL's Office in Hyderabad in the presence of Mr. Maya Ranavare President of APAL
- APAL's state committee In collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh conducted a medical camp
- APAL's state committee Jharkhand and Mr. Madhu Sudan Tiwari met Dr. Salini Tudu DLO Bokaro and Dr. Sajid Alam Physiotherapist
- APAL's state committee and all the leaders of the leprosy colonies approached and submitted a memorandum to the district collector
- In collaboration with the Rotary Club, APAL's state committee constructed two houses for two persons affected by leprosy
- APAL and the APAL's state committee(SKNS) collaborated with Youth with Mission, conducted an eye camp
- In collaboration with Trimurti Chashak Datta Nagar Tramba Mumbai Aayojak Datta Nagar Mitra Mandal conducted to get together
- APAL in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Ruturaj Patil MLA Kolhapur inaugurated CC Road Construction

- APAL along with the state committee and leprosy colony leaders approached the Government authorities and District collector and submitted a memorandum
- APAL's state committee collaborated with the Government of Maharashtra and the District Collector of Ratnagiri Mr. Devendra Singh visited Datta Nagar Colony
- APAL's Vice President participated in The Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease
- APAL's Vice President participated in The Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease
- Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation & APAL is always committed to working in Restoring the Dignity of the persons affected by Leprosy
- President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL Treasurer Mr. Prakash Done and staff visited Sivananda Leprosy Rehabilitation Center
- APAL had the honor of attending the Miss. Supranational Forum on Hansen's Disease
- APAL had the opportunity to visit the Mahatma Gandhi colony in Muland, Mumbai, along with the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation and the APAL's state committee Maharashtra
- APAL had the opportunity to visit Hanuman Nagar in Kalyan, Mumbai along with the APAL state committee Maharashtra and Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation
- In collaboration with the Regional Institute of Ayurveda, APAL conducted a Medical Camp
- APAL had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Valmiki Nagar Colony in Nasik, Mumbai
- APAL's state committee in Bihar had a meeting with Mr. Saurabh Jorwal, the new district officer of East Champaran Motihari, Bihar
- In collaboration with Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, APAL along with the APAL's state committee Maharashtra conducted a workshop
- In collaboration with Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, APAL along with the APAL's state committee Maharashtra visited Kaushalya Vikas Center
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with APAL's State Committee and the Working President of SLAP, Mr. Prakash Done, recently distributed registered house pattas
- Mr. Prakash Done, APAL's treasurer, along with the residents of Leprosy Colony in Bhimavaram, submitted a memorandum to the district collector, Ms. Prasanthi
- APAL wanted to share some great news about an eye camp that recently took place in Nasik
- APAL and APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Prasant Nayak, CEO of Lepra Society
- During a recent visit to Hyderabad, APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, had the privilege of meeting with Dr. John Babu, the State Leprosy Officer
- APAL and APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently met with Ms. Prangya Ayyangari Miss India & Asia
- APAL and APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare met with Mr. Laxmi Narayana Manager of CSR Muthoot Finance
- APAL and APAL's state committee in Gujarat contacted Dr. Rajesh HOD Leprosy of Ahmedabad to request a dressing materials kit

- APAL and the state committee in Madhya Pradesh, the Health Department of the Government conducted a POD (Prevention of Disability) camp
- APAL's Vice President of Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan and Shyam Gope, Co-Secretary of District Leprosy Welfare Committee,
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, recently participated in a 2-day workshop organized by the Central Leprosy Division
- APAL's President Mrs Maya Ranavare along with Dr Sudarshan Mandal, DDG Leprosy and Ms. Nikita Sarah Head Advocacy& Communication
- APAL participated in the 2nd Brainstorming meeting towards the National Conference
- APAL and its President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, along with Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of APAL, visited the WHO Regional Office in India, Delhi.
- APAL had the opportunity to meet with Mr Rajiv Manjhi, Joint Secretary Leprosy, at the Nirman Bhawan,
- APAL had an Online Collaborative Meeting in Delhi, in collaboration with Sasakawa Health Foundation
- APAL had the opportunity to meet with Mr Sanjay Pandey, Joint Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, at the Nirman Bhawan
- APAL had a wonderful visit to Tahirpur Leprosy Colony in Delhi along with the Sasakawa Health Foundation and APAL's state committee
- APAL's state committee in Delhi and some young people met with Mrs. Shaili Oberai, the MCD Mayor
- On 25th August 2023, APAL's state committee in Bihar made a significant intervention by identifying children in need of ITI Trade training
- APAL's state committee in Gujarat and Mother Teresa Orphan Charitable Trust paid a visit to Gandhi Seva Sangh
- As per the request of APAL's state committee in Andhra Pradesh and the leaders of Jyothi Leprosy Colony
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently sanctioned and distributed disability pensions to 20 individuals affected by leprosy
- During their visit to Sanjay Nagar Leprosy Colony in Borivali, Mumbai, the president of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) and the state committee in Maharashtra meticulously observed the healthcare and ulcer care services
- a significant event unfolded during a district-level review meeting orchestrated by the Government of Maharashtra
- APAL's state committee in Telangana, in collaboration with Share the Vision Swa Chanda Seva Sansthan, distributed essential commodities
- a heartwarming collaboration between the Mother Teresa Missionary and APAL's state committee in Gujarat brought essential relief
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, recently met with Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal (IAS), the Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- APAL and APAL's state committee in Bihar (SAMUTHAN) had the opportunity to meet with the ADS of East Champaran District
- , APAL and APAL's state committee in Telangana met with Dr. D John Babu sir, Joint Director (NLEP), and Additional Director Mr. Ravindra Nayak

- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL, embarked on a significant journey to the ILEP Conference held in Tarangire, South Africa.
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the chance to visit the leprosy colonies in Tarangire, Tanzania, South Africa
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently attended the ILEP Conference in Tarangire, South Africa where she presented her insights on the Impact, Benefits, and Challenges of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy
- APAL's state committee in Madhya Pradesh participated in Hotel Kesar in Khandwa was the venue for a one-day state-level election seminar program organized under the auspices of Madhya Pradesh Viklang Manch (
- The APAL's state committee in Delhi and some young people met with Mrs. Shaili Oberai, the MCD Mayor
- APAL and the APAL's state committee in Andhra Pradesh have submitted a memorandum regarding the construction of houses
- In collaboration with the Reliable Charity Organization, APAL's state committee in Telangana recently provided essential commodities
- APAL's state committee in Chhattisgarh recently conducted a POD (Prevention of Disability) Program in Champa, Chhattisgarh
- APAL's Joint-Secretary Mr. Ramvarai Sah visited a colony named Banmankhi in the Purnea district
- In collaboration with LEPRO and Shodhana organizations, APAL's state committee in Telangana distributed MCR footwear
- Ms. Vrushali Corporator of Maharashtra and advocate observed the need for cleaning up the colony.
- APAL collaboration with the Lions Club headed by Ramreddy distributed essential commodities
- In collaboration with wonderful Devotees of Baba through Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samiti and APAL distributed essential commodities
- APAL recently attended a meeting in Delhi on Navigating Health and Education, which discussed the journey of children with disabilities and those requiring regular medical care.
- APAL' President Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the pleasure of meeting and sitting down with Mr. Prakash, the CEO of Rising Star Outreach, and Mr. Arun Kumar, the Head of Projects for Leprosy Society
- APAL is thrilled to announce that Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the organization, recently graced the Global Partnership Zero Leprosy meeting
- WHO-supported sub-national verification and assessment of verification process for recommendations
- APAL is proud to share that the Telangana RTC staff, Mr. Ramulu. Mr. Rajinikanth and Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL, have recently distributed free bus passes
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, Dr. V R Pemmaraju - SHF, and Mr. Rama Varai Sah - APAL India had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Chintaram Hazarika, the State Leprosy Officer
- APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, Dr. V R Pemmaraju - SHF, and Mr. Rama Varai Sah - APAL India had the opportunity to Visit Shantivan Leprosy colony, Missionary of Charity, Umshangling, Nong Poh



- Sahayog Leprosy Prevention's well-wishers distributed copy notebooks to the children of individuals impacted by leprosy in the coaching class
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a meeting of state coordinators in New Delhi
- APAL's Executive Committee Members held a meeting on 15th December 2023 in New Delhi.
- A significant collaborative meeting took place in New Delhi. The meeting was organized by APAL-S-ILF and was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Takhiro Nanri, CEO of SHF
- Emergency goods and blankets were distributed to 40 families affected by leprosy in Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Colony
- a team comprising Dr. Palekar, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and the District Leprosy Team, visited the leprosy colony located in Kolhapur
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sanghatana, hosted a commemorative event to honour the legacies of Mr. Baba Amte and Dr. Sivajirao Partvardhan
- The Unity in Christ team, under the leadership of M. Ramesh, the State Coordinator for APAL, distributed essential commodities
- Mr. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sanghatana, hosted a commemorative event to honour the legacies of Mr. Baba Amte and Dr. Sivajirao Partvardhan
- APAL's President Mrs Maya Ranavare have participated in National Confluence of Leprosy
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), participated in the National Confluence
- APAL President Mrs Maya Ranavare Participated at the International Purple Festival in Goa 2024
- In collaboration with The Society for Rural Development Society (SRD) and APAL state committee in Telangana recently organized a distribution program for essential commodities, bed sheets, and sarees
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, participated in the Leprosy Convention hosted at the Purple Festival in Goa
- The Governor of Odisha, Raghubar Das, visited a Netaji leprosy colony in Bhubaneswar on Makar Sankranti
- The state committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Chhattisgarh made commendable efforts in organizing an Ayushman application camp
- The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Jharkhand was in attendance at the State Leprosy Prevention Office's meeting in Ranchi
- Bokaro District Office in Jharkhand distributed tricycles to three individuals with disabilities
- APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, along with APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, visited the SLO office in Indore

- APAL conducted an Anti-Leprosy Day program in collaboration with the Government of Assam in Kamrup, Assam
- In conjunction with the government of Madhya Pradesh, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and the state committee in Madhya Pradesh conducted an anti-leprosy day rally campaign
- In observation of Leprosy Day, the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in conjunction with the Goonj Foundation, APAL distributed blankets and rations
- On the 30th of January 2024, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a State Committee Review meeting in Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, which falls on January 30th, 2024, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 98 leprosy patients were awarded Great 2 certificates by APAL's state committee in Bihar
- The recent conferment of the Padma Bhushan award to Shri Ram Naik Saheb by the Government of India, on behalf of APAL and APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra, we met him and congratulated him.
- A recent report highlights the issues presented at a meeting held to ensure the success of Sparsh, a program intended to run from January 30 to February 13, under the chairmanship of the Civil Surgeon in the Deputy Commissioner Auditorium of Dhanbad District
- the Behrampur Urban Health Center in collaboration with the APAL organized a medical camp
- The observance of World Leprosy Day on January 30, 2024, coinciding with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, presents an opportune moment to raise awareness about leprosy and extend support to those impacted by the ailment
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare delivered her message at Global Appeal 2024 to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy will be signed by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in partnership with the Government of Meghalaya conducted the Fortnight World Leprosy Day program
- The efforts of APAL's State Committee in Odisha, the inauguration of pucca houses in Lingaraj Leprosy Colony, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- The initiatives that aim to provide support and accommodation for the healthy children of leprosy patients, such as the Leprosy Ashram Bindova, warrant appreciation
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) state committee in West Bengal conducted an event on Fortnight World Leprosy Day
- The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Uttar Pradesh recently organized an awareness program
- The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar recently organized an awareness program
- On the occasion of the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a ceremony was held in Balajinagar Mother Teresa Colony to celebrate leprosy eradication activities
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare and the authorities from the Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL) had the honour of meeting with the 19th Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Ram Naik

- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, on behalf of APAL (Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy), met Manisha Chaudhary
- On the occasion of Gandhi's death anniversary, a special event was held in Sanjay Gandhinagar Moulali Colony
- The closure of the Leprosy Eradication Fortnight was celebrated with grandiosity in Pedda Amberpet Shantinagar Colony
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Maharashtra recently participated in the Fortnight Anti-Leprosy Day program
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) partnered with the State Committee for Welfare of Persons Affected by Leprosy
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently visited the Baba Amte Kusht Ashram and the Anandavan Ashram in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently paid a visit to the Gokuldharm colony
- An LCD Program was recently conducted in the Peddamberpet Shanthinagar colony, under the supervision of various medical personnel in collaboration with APAL's State Committee in Telangana
- the Sadhan Foundation, an organization dedicated to serving leprosy patients and slum dwellers, hosted an event in Tahirpur
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL recently received an invitation from the Public Health Department Employees Association to attend their annual meeting in Nagpur
- The APAL State Committee in Chhattisgarh recently conducted a self-care Prevention of Disabilities (POD) program
- Madam Manisha Chaudhary, a distinguished Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Dahisar in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- APAL State Committee in Uttar Pradesh, in conjunction with the children of persons affected by leprosy residing under the compassionate care of MLRC (Missionaries of Lepers Relief Center), Adara, actively participated in the inauguration program
- APAL State Committee in Bihar has taken a proactive stance in applying for a disability pension
- APAL's State Committee took a significant step forward in its health and welfare initiatives. They presented their comprehensive annual report to the Dhanbad District Leprosy Prevention Officer
- APAL's State Committee in West Bengal, in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal, has achieved a significant milestone through the construction and sanction of a new community hall
- In a remarkable collaboration between the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Madhya Pradesh (SKNS) and Youth with Mission, a significant initiative was undertaken to address the pressing needs of the community
- On March 11, 2024, amidst the serene ambience of Manipur Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre, the Swachhata Pakhwada initiative took flight, illuminating the lives of children born to leprosy sufferers
- In a collaborative effort with the Government Hospital, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently organized a Prevention of Disability (POD) Camp
- International Shirdi Saibhakta Seva Trust (TSSBST) orchestrated an act of benevolence in Pedda Amber Pate Santosh Nagar Colony and Shantinagar Colony to commemorate Akhanda Namasaptha

- The State Committee of APAL in Bihar, under the leadership of Mr. Someshwar Dubey as the State Coordinator, has made considerable strides in uplifting the community of Gandhigram Post Ashram in the Motipur District of Muzaffarpur
- In a commendable collaboration between Chival Hospital and the State Committee of APAL in Haryana, a health camp

***APAL found out the utmost needy and difficult to reach area tribal people and provided food grains***

On 2nd April 2023, APAL found out the utmost needy and difficult to reach area tribal people and provided food grains to all families at Ganesh Nagar in Rayagada District, Maharashtra, also explained the disease of leprosy and related consequences briefly

On this distribution Mrs. Maya Ranavare President APAL, APAL's State commity Maharashtra, team of Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, team of Alert India, corporator advocate Mr. Bhujbal and Mr. Uday Thakar Advisor APAL have contributed



***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with Mr. Govind Swamy Executive Member of APAL participated in a 2-days workshop for strengthening the implementation of LPEP***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with Mr. Govind Swamy Executive Member of APAL participated in a 2-days workshop for strengthening the implementation of LPEP and rolling out the implementation of NSP and Nikusht-2. This is part of the Novartis/ NLRIF project.

NLRIF collaboration with CLD organized the workshop at hotel Goldflinch, Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana.





***The collaborative District Level Capacity Building & Advocacy Meeting at the community hall in S.L. Home Hospital TLM***

On 4th April 2023, the collaborative District Level Capacity Building & Advocacy Meeting at the community hall in S.L. Home Hospital TLM, Champa, Chhattisgarh

In this meeting, 70 members representing APAL, TLM, NLEP, SIYF, all state leaders, coordinators, leaders of leprosy colonies participated and discussed the current and future activities for the socio- economic empowerment and welfare of persons affected by leprosy and their families

Also, elected new leaders for serving people affected by leprosy and in the matter of selection gave importance to women and followed the gender equality



***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with the state committee Chhattisgarh and Mrs. Keroline Executive Member of APAL visited and interacted with all persons affected by leprosy***

On 5th April 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with the state committee Chhattisgarh and Mrs. Keroline Executive Member of APAL visited and interacted with all persons affected by leprosy at Ghoghranala Leprosy Colony in Champa, Chhattisgarh

During this visit, discussed the education support, livelihood of women affected by leprosy, the status of the social entitlements, and the status of the ulcer treatment. APAL found out about the lack of MCR footwear due to low-quality footwear damage within 2 months.



***In collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, APAL and Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana inaugurated a Community hall***

On 6th April 2023, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, APAL and Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana inaugurated a Community hall or social welfare center at Sanjay Nagar, in Gaonkari District, Mumbai

At this inauguration, Mr. Ram Naik Former Governor of UP, Mr. Bhopal Fergane - President of Maharashtra Leprosy Association, Mrs. Maya Ranware - President of APAL, BRAND AMBASSADOR GOA, Mr. Rasul Mulla - APAL State Leader Maharashtra, Mr. Uday Thakar - APAL, Consultant, Sachin Kumar Patidar - Zonal Program Coordinator (ZPC), SILF Convenor Shafi Shaikh - President Samast Sanjay Nagar Panch Committee and Gavkari Mandal S.N. Boys have contributed and provided one Almirah to the center.



***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan visited Navnirman Kushth Aashram***

On 17th April 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan visited Navnirman Kushth Aashram in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

During this visit interacted with all persons affected by leprosy and their families residing in the colony and discussed the availability of social entitlements, general and ulcer treatment, education support to children, and livelihood support from the Government; observed the infrastructure of the colony and found out the poor living conditions like lack of water and toilet facilities, etc

On this visit Mr. Dayalu Prasad State Coordinator of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Raghu, Mr. Balram, Mr. Bhalu Prasad Mr. Tiwari, and Ms. Aanya have participated and got a grand welcome from the residents



***Baba Kushth Aashram***

On 18th April 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan visited Sri Sai Baba Kushth Aashram in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh



During this visit interacted with all persons affected by leprosy and their families residing in the colony and discussed the availability of social entitlements, general and ulcer treatment, education support to children, and livelihood support from the Government; observed the infrastructure of the colony and found out the land issues, poor living conditions like lack of water and toilet facilities, etc

On this visit Mr. Dayalu Prasad State Coordinator of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Raghu, Mr. Balram, Mr. Bhalu Prasad Mr. Tiwari, and Ms. Aanya have participated



### ***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare's letter in Leprosy Bulletin 114 published by Sasakawa Health Foundation***

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare's letter in Leprosy Bulletin 114 published by Sasakawa Health Foundation, Japan

APAL is thankful to SHF for their great support and helps to persons affected by leprosy and their family members

Thank you to the Sasakawa Health Foundation and other well-wishers for supporting and sustaining us always.

LETTER



**Maya Ranavare**  
President, Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), India  
Born and raised in a leprosy colony, and a person affected by leprosy herself, Maya Ranavare has been working for the improvement, welfare, and rights of persons affected by leprosy and their families for over 20 years. She became APAL's president in July 2022.  
<https://www.apalindia.in>

### Update from APAL's new president, Maya Ranavare

Since taking on the role of president of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), I have visited many leprosy colonies in various states and met related government authorities in their offices. Being able to observe situations first-hand has been good for me and has facilitated my analysis of what is necessary. Many women of all ages came forward and explained their important requirements like never before, and I was pleased to note their high level of confidence and self-belief.

**Extra effort needed to reach tribal populations**  
Regarding health care and social services, some areas require improvement. In particular, program implementation tends to be weak in difficult-to-reach and tribal areas. Control of leprosy in tribal populations requires extra effort. Accurate and timely detection of leprosy in these underprivileged communities is an important step toward achieving the goal of zero discrimination. Increased awareness among the tribal population about the signs and symptoms of the disease is important for achieving the target of a "leprosy-free India."

**Lowering barriers to participation**  
At APAL, we face challenges that are shared by many people's organizations and persons affected by leprosy: literacy, low education, lack of digital skills, and inability to communicate in English. These factors make many persons affected by leprosy feel hesitant about participating in meetings, conferences, and workshops where standards for presentations are high and discussions proceed at a quick pace. For the world to understand the diversity of the leprosy community, our participation is necessary, but many of us need some accommodations for our participation to be meaningful.

I urge organizations, foundations, and trusts to imagine going for a walk with a friend. When you care about that friend and want to listen to them, you adjust your speed as necessary to continue walking side-by-side. You pay attention to your friend's stamina and choose a path for the day that both of you can complete. You notice the level of your friend's speech and try to match it. These are the kinds of accommodations that we need for participation in international events.

NO. 114

### Awards and honors

Lately, executive members of APAL have been receiving recognition for their services to the leprosy community. Awards and honors are useful to persons affected by leprosy for overcoming self-stigma and developing an identity as champions and role models for the leprosy community. I want to encourage this trend toward public recognition, and so I will list some recent awards and honors here, starting boldly with my own.

- Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, received a Durga Ratna award for 21 years of tireless valuable service. Also, she was selected to speak as a representative of all people's organizations at the 21<sup>st</sup> International Leprosy Congress and the International Symposium at the Vatican on Hansen's Disease.
- Ms. Koushik Bhargava, Executive Member of APAL, was honored at a regional press conference in Champa.
- Mr. Ramavaram Sahi, Joint-Secretary of APAL, was honored as a Special International Guest at the grand celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> International Day of Dignity and Respect organized by IDGA Nepal.
- Mr. Prakash Dore, Treasurer of APAL, was honored with a memento for being a best social worker in Andhra Pradesh for 12 years at an international BC Association celebration.

Thank you to the Sasakawa Health Foundation and other well-wishers for supporting and sustaining us always.



APAL's president, Maya Ranavare, at the ceremony where she received a Durga Ratna award. In this award she is surrounded by the award "Durga" and given to women who have qualities similar to the goddess Durga, who is known as a brave fighter on behalf of those who need protection.

### ***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan visited Ganga Kushth Aashram***

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare along with APAL's state committee Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Takuya Tanabe Photojournalist, Asahi Simbun, Japan

visited Ganga Kushth Aashram and Kashi Vishwanath Kushth Aashram in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

During this visit interacted with all persons affected by leprosy and their families residing in the colony and discussed the availability of social entitlements, general and ulcer treatment, education support to children, and livelihood support from the Government; observed the infrastructure of the colony and found out the land issues, poor living conditions like lack of water and toilet facilities, etc

On this visit Mr. Dayalu Prasad State Coordinator of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Raghu, Mr. Balram, Mr. Bhalu Prasad Mr.Tiwari, and Ms. Aanya have participated



***APAL's Executive Committee Meeting was held on 25th April 2023 at APAL's Office in Hyderabad in the presence of Mr. Maya Ranavare President of APAL***

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, APAL's Executive Committee Meeting was held on 25th April 2023 at APAL's Office in Hyderabad in the presence of Mr. Maya Ranavare President of APAL and discussed the future plans of activities for socio-economic empowerment and welfare of persons affected by leprosy(Disability) and their families living in the leprosy colonies overall India

On this occasion, Mrs. Maya Ranavare President of APAL, Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan Vice President, Mr. Sarang Gayadhane General Secretary of APAL, Mr. Ramvarai Sha Joint Secretary, Mr. Prakash Done Treasurer of APAL, Mrs. Keroline, Mr. Prabhakar Sahoo, Mr. Govind Swamy have participated





***APAL's state committee In collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh conducted a medical camp***

On 29th April 2023, APAL's state committee In collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh conducted a medical camp and provided health care services at New Jyothi and Krupa Leprosy Colony in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh

APAL is thankful to the health department of Andhra Pradesh for their valuable support to persons affected by leprosy and their families and special thanks to Mr. Prakash Done Treasurer of APAL for his contribution to the leprosy fields



***APAL's state committee Jharkhand and Mr. Madhu Sudan Tiwari met Dr. Salini Tudu DLO Bokaro and Dr. Sajid Alam Physiotherapist***

On 29th April 2023, APAL's state committee Jharkhand and Mr. Madhu Sudan Tiwari met Dr. Salini Tudu DLO Bokaro and Dr. Sajid Alam Physiotherapist at her office and discussed the current situations and solutions of persons affected by leprosy and their families

APAL is thankful to Dr. Salini Tudu for her positive response and comfortable hospitality and special thanks to Mr. Madhu Sudan for his active services to persons affected by leprosy; he submitted APAL's annual book to them



***APAL's state committee and all the leaders of the leprosy colonies approached and submitted a memorandum to the district collector***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, APAL's state committee and all the leaders of the leprosy colonies approached and submitted a memorandum to the district collector and urged The decision of the Health Minister dated 07.01.2014 to fill the 359 vacant posts in the state and 184 sanctioned leprosy workers posts by the Government of India should be implemented. 500 posts of dressers should be sanctioned.

As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, every leprosy victim should be given a 40% disability certificate, RFT, and Measles free certificate and sent to a pension home.

Activate the national level Hindu Leprosy Association, its Bhubaneswar and Puri Leprosy Asylums with 86 Leprosy Colonies, 4 Leprosy Asylums, 14 Leprosy Asylums. Free residential school education, training, employment, and accommodation should be provided to children from primary to higher education. Along with this, a loan of Rs 5 lakh should be provided to each family for business at a 50% subsidy without interest.

Leprosy-free children should be reserved for 3% of employment.

2014 Recruitment of candidates who have worked for 15 years for the post of Leprosy Officer in various Leprosy Colonies, working in the National Leprosy Control and Health Department to fill the vacant posts of Health Officers in 2007-11.



***In collaboration with the Rotary Club, APAL's state committee constructed two houses for two persons affected by leprosy***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, In collaboration with the Rotary Club, APAL's state committee constructed two houses for two persons affected by leprosy at Gandhi Kusht Aashram in Rohtak, Haryana

APAL is thankful to Mr. Chandra Garg President of the Rotary Club, and Mr. Naresh Jain Secretary of the Rotary Club for their support to persons affected by leprosy and their families to live comfortably, and special thanks to Mr. Govind Swamy Executive Member APAL for his active contribution to the leprosy community



***APAL and the APAL's state committee(SKNS) collaborated with Youth with Mission, conducted an eye camp***

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, APAL and the APAL's state committee(SKNS) collaborated with Youth with Mission, conducted an eye camp, and tested 250 children at Sai Ram Avatar Kusht Seva Samity in Indore, Madhya Pradesh



APAL is thankful to Youth with Mission organization for their responsibility to children who live under the shadow of leprosy in the leprosy colonies  
Special thanks to Mr. Sarang Gayadhane Secretary of APAL for his efforts and contribution to the leprosy fields



***In collaboration with Trimurti Chashak Datta Nagar Tramba Mumbai Aayojak Datta Nagar Mitra Mandal conducted to get together***

On 25th May 2023, In collaboration with Trimurti Chashak Datta Nagar Tramba Mumbai Aayojak Datta Nagar Mitra Mandal conducted to get together and celebrated the football-winning ceremony

APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, State Coordinator of Maharashtra Mr. Rasul Mullah, Mr. Jitendra, and leaders from 24 colonies have participated and shared their knowledge with all



***APAL in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Ruturaj Patil MLA Kolhapur inaugurated CC Road Construction***

On 27th May 2023, APAL in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Ruturaj Patil MLA Kolhapur inaugurated CC Road Construction at Swadhar Nagar in Kolhapur, Maharashtra

On this occasion, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the colony leaders, the youth, and all inmates participated.

APAL is thankful to Mr. Ruturaj Patil and the Government of Maharashtra for the most valuable and useful services by providing better infrastructure to people affected by leprosy and their families



***APAL along with the state committee and leprosy colony leaders approached the Government authorities and District collector and submitted a memorandum***

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, APAL along with the state committee and leprosy colony leaders approached the Government authorities and District collector and submitted a memorandum to save the land belongs the colony.

The farm and land in Bobbili Prema Samjam leprosy colony in Andhra Pradesh is lying and the government and some businesses are trying to encroach on it.

APAL is thankful to the District Collector and the authorities for their positive and favorable response. Special thanks to Mr. Prakash Done State Coordinator of Andhra Pradesh and Mrs. Prabhavathamma Colony Leader of Bobbili for their active contribution to the leprosy community



***APAL's state committee collaborated with the Government of Maharashtra and the District Collector of Ratnagiri Mr. Devendra Singh visited Datta Nagar Colony***

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, APAL's state committee collaborated with the Government of Maharashtra and the District Collector of Ratnagiri Mr. Devendra Singh visited Datta Nagar Colony and interacted with people affected by leprosy and their families

During this visit, people gave him a warm welcome and people submitted memorandums to him and APAL is thankful to colony leader Mr. Yashwant Sawant for his contribution.





***APAL's Vice President participated in The Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease***

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, APAL's Vice President participated in The Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease and the celebration of 150 years discovery of leprosy Bacillus 1874 "Leprosy is still an issues" organized by Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative and Bergen University in Bergen, Norway

He delivered his presentation on Human Rights and Dignity and he proclaimed the actual situations of persons affected by leprosy and the accessibility status of human rights in India and for the response activities done by APAL through right-based approaches

APAL conveys gratitude to the Nobel Man and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for leprosy elimination Mr. Yohie Sasakawa and the team for introducing us a new knowledge and organizers the useful opportunities



***APAL's Vice President participated in The Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease***

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023, APAL's Vice President participated in The Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease and the celebration of 150 years discovery of leprosy Bacillus 1874 "Leprosy is still an issue" organized by Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative and Bergen University in Bergen, Norway

He presented a poster on Awareness tools for Hansen's Disease to Zero Discrimination and explained the importance of awareness of Hansen's Disease particularly in remote areas or difficult-to-reach areas in India

APAL conveys gratitude to the Nobel Man and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for leprosy elimination Mr. Yohie Sasakawa and the team for introducing us a new knowledge and organizers for useful opportunities.



***Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation & APAL is always committed to working in Restoring the Dignity of the persons affected by Leprosy***

On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation & APAL is always committed to working in Restoring the Dignity of the persons affected by Leprosy in India; conducted a collaboration meeting in Delhi under the leadership of Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation CEO Gaurab Sen and APAL's President Maya Ranavare.



***President Mrs.Maya Ranavare along with APAL Treasurer Mr.Prakash Done and staff visited Sivananda Leprosy Rehabilitation Center***

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, APAL's President Mrs.Maya Ranavare along with APAL Treasurer Mr.Prakash Done and staff visited Sivananda Leprosy Rehabilitation Center at Kukatpally In Hyderabad and met the great senior surgeon Dr. Anath Reddy and interacted with him



During the visit Dr. Ananth Reddy shown all the facilities of the center and explained all the history



***APAL had the honor of attending the Miss. Supranational Forum on Hansen's Disease***

On 6th July 2023, APAL had the honor of attending the Miss. Supranational Forum on Hansen's Disease "Driving Social Change through the Power of the Crown" organized by Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative in Poland.

One of the most impactful speeches of the day came from Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL. She spoke passionately about the situation faced by persons affected by Hansen's disease in India and shared her own personal experience as someone who has been affected by the disease. Maya also spoke about how she came to work with APAL and the amazing work that the organization is doing to support individuals affected by leprosy. It was inspiring to hear about the progress that has been made and the ongoing efforts to ensure that everyone affected by the disease has access to the support they need.

APAL would like to extend my gratitude to the Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative and their team, as well as the Nobel Man and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for leprosy elimination Mr. Yohie Sasakawa for their new initiative "Driving Social Change through the Power of the Crown." This initiative is a wonderful way to help restore dignity to persons affected by leprosy and help them to live confidently in mainstream society. APAL is incredibly thankful for this opportunity to be a part of this important work.



***APAL had the opportunity to visit the Mahatma Gandhi colony in Muland, Mumbai, along with the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation and the APAL's state committee Maharashtra***

On 9th July 2023, APAL had the opportunity to visit the Mahatma Gandhi colony in Muland, Mumbai, along with the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation and the APAL's state committee Maharashtra. During our visit, we met with the persons affected by leprosy and

their children. It was heartening to see the enthusiasm and positivity among everyone present.

We interacted with all the inmates and discussed the need for educational support for children living under leprosy's shadow. It was an excellent opportunity to understand the challenges faced by these children and their families and to explore ways in which we can support them in their education.

APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, APAL's state coordinator Mr. Rasul Mullah, and SILF's Program Officer Mr. Sachin were present at the meeting and contributed their valuable insights. It was inspiring to see their commitment to making a difference in the lives of those affected by leprosy.

Overall, the meeting was a great success, and APAL is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a meaningful initiative.



***APAL had the opportunity to visit Hanuman Nagar in Kalyan, Mumbai along with the APAL state committee Maharashtra and Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation***

On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023, APAL had the opportunity to visit Hanuman Nagar in Kalyan, Mumbai along with the APAL state committee Maharashtra and Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation. Our main goal was to conduct a meeting with persons affected by leprosy and their children. It was a great opportunity to interact with all the inmates and discuss the need for educational support for children living under the shadow of leprosy.

The meeting was attended by some key people, including APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, APAL's state coordinator Mr. Rasul Mullah, SILF's Program Officer Mr. Sachin and Mr. Jitendra. It was a great experience to see everyone come together to support this important cause. We discussed the challenges faced by children affected by leprosy and how we can provide them with the necessary support to continue their education.

Overall, it was a highly productive meeting and APAL glad to have been a part of it. It is important that we continue to raise awareness about the issues faced by those affected by leprosy and work towards finding solutions





***In collaboration with the Regional Institute of Ayurveda, APAL conducted a Medical Camp***

On 13th July 2023, In collaboration with the Regional Institute of Ayurveda, APAL conducted a Medical Camp at Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Our team was able to provide healthcare services to 150 people who have been affected by leprosy.

We are extremely grateful to the Regional Institute of Ayurveda for their wonderful support and assistance during this event. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Vijay Kumar for his generous contribution to the leprosy community. Together, we were able to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by this condition.



***APAL had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Valmiki Nagar Colony in Nasik, Mumbai***

On 18th July 2023, APAL had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Valmiki Nagar Colony in Nasik, Mumbai. We were accompanied by Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation and APAL's state committee Maharashtra. It was a pleasure to meet and interact with the children of persons affected by leprosy.

We discussed the need for educational support for children who live under the shadow of leprosy and skill development training for women who are married and seeking to build their careers. We also had the chance to talk to the youth and women who were present.

The meeting was attended by APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, SILF staff Mallika and Aftab, Sachin, Abhijeet and Mr. Jitendra from Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana. It was a great experience to be a part of the initiative and we hope to participate in similar events in the future.



***APAL's state committee in Bihar had a meeting with Mr. Saurabh Jorwal, the new district officer of East Champaran Motihari, Bihar***

On 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, APAL's state committee in Bihar had a meeting with Mr. Saurabh Jorwal, the new district officer of East Champaran Motihari, Bihar. During the meeting, the committee members discussed various issues related to the leprosy colony, including the implementation of the Parental and Senior Citizen Welfare and Vihar Welfare Rules - 2012.

To address the pending cases at the district level, the approving officers have been directed to complete the hearing of the pending cases without delay and execute them at a speedy pace. It is hoped that this will help resolve the issues faced by the leprosy colony and ensure the welfare of all citizens.



***In collaboration with Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, APAL along with the APAL's state committee Maharashtra conducted a workshop***

On 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, In collaboration with Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, APAL along with the APAL's state committee Maharashtra conducted a workshop with the family members of persons affected by leprosy in Nasik, Maharashtra

On this occasion, interacted with all the youth and women and discussed the Livelihood projects, and taught the financial management

APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, SILF staff Mallika and Aftab , Sachin, Abhijeet and Mr. Jitendra from Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana have participated





***In collaboration with Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, APAL along with the APAL's state committee Maharashtra visited Kaushalya Vikas Center***

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023, In collaboration with Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, APAL along with the APAL's state committee Maharashtra visited Kaushalya Vikas Center in Nashik with the family members of persons affected by leprosy in Nasik, Maharashtra

On this occasion, interacted with all the youth and women and discussed the Livelihood projects, and taught financial management, skill development pieces of trainings

APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, SILF staff Mallika and Aftab , Sachin, Abhijeet and Mr. Jitendra from Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana have participated



***The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with APAL's State Committee and the Working President of SLAP, Mr. Prakash Done, recently distributed registered house pattas***

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with APAL's State Committee and the Working President of SLAP, Mr. Prakash Done, recently distributed registered house pattas to 70 families affected by leprosy and their families in Bhimavaram.

This is a commendable effort towards social welfare services for those affected by leprosy, and APAL expresses its gratitude towards the government for their support. We are also grateful for Mr. Prakash Done's active contribution to the leprosy community, and we assure that all areas will be sanctioned.



***Mr. Prakash Done, APAL's treasurer, along with the residents of Leprosy Colony in Bhimavaram, submitted a memorandum to the district collector, Ms. Prasanthi***

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Mr. Prakash Done, APAL's treasurer, along with the residents of Leprosy Colony in Bhimavaram, submitted a memorandum to the district collector, Ms. Prasanthi, regarding the sewage problem caused by the uncultivated pond during the rainy season. The colony, which is located in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward of West Godavari District

Bhimavaram, has been severely affected by the sewage entering the colony due to the rains. This has caused serious illnesses and inconvenience to the residents.

According to Mr. Prakash, the district collector responded positively to the memorandum and assured them that necessary action will be taken to resolve the issue.

APAL expresses its gratitude to the district collector for her prompt response and extends a special thanks to Mr. Prakash Done for his active contribution to the leprosy community.



***APAL wanted to share some great news about an eye camp that recently took place in Nasik***

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, APAL wanted to share some great news about an eye camp that recently took place in Nasik, Maharashtra. In collaboration with DN Trust and Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, APAL was able to conduct the camp and test 175 people who have been affected by leprosy. Not only that, but they were also able to provide eye lenses to 50 of those individuals.

This is such an incredible service that will really make a difference in the lives of those affected by leprosy. APAL just wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude to DN Trust and Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana for their amazing work and dedication to helping people affected by leprosy.



***APAL and APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Prasant Nayak, CEO of Lepra Society***

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023, APAL and APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Prasant Nayak, CEO of Lepra Society, and Mr. Arun Kumar, Head of Projects at Lepra Society; had productive discussions at the head office of Lepra in Hyderabad, Telangana.



We had a productive visit where we talked about how we can collaborate in the future to work towards the socio-economic empowerment and welfare of individuals and families affected by leprosy. We came up with some great ideas and we are excited to see how we can positively impact together.

APAL is grateful to the Lepra Society for their kind and welcoming hospitality. They responded positively to our needs and treated us with respect. It was a comfortable and pleasant experience, and we appreciate their efforts.



***During a recent visit to Hyderabad, APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, had the privilege of meeting with Dr. John Babu, the State Leprosy Officer***

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023, During a recent visit to Hyderabad, APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, had the privilege of meeting with Dr. John Babu, the State Leprosy Officer of Telangana, at the Directorate of Public Health &FW.

The two had a productive discussion on several topics, including awareness programs, LCDC, collaboration activities, dressing material support, participation in the policy-making committee, and more.

APAL is very appreciative of Dr. John Babu's warm hospitality and positive response.



***APAL and APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently met with Ms. Prangya Ayyangari Miss India & Asia***

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, APAL and APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently met with Ms. Prangya Ayyangari Miss India & Asia and conveyed huge congratulation in Hyderabad, Telangana

We had some really productive discussions about awareness programs, participation in gender equality workshops, new launching events, and CSR fundraising recommendations. She responded positively and seemed eager to do what she can to fulfill these goals. APAL is grateful to SHF for their great intervention and initiates "Driving Social Change through the Power of Crown" to bring a productive change in to the leprosy community



***APAL and APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare met with Mr. Laxmi Narayana Manager of CSR Muthoot Finance***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, APAL and APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare met with Mr. Laxmi Narayana Manager of CSR Muthoot Finance at his office in Hyderabad, Telangana

We had productive discussions about future activities and collaborative awareness programs for the socioeconomic empowerment and welfare of people affected by leprosy and their family members.

APAL is thankful to Mr. Laxmi Narayana for his positive response and assumed responsibility



***APAL and APAL's state committee in Gujarat contacted Dr. Rajesh HOD Leprosy of Ahmedabad to request a dressing materials kit***

4<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL and APAL's state committee in Gujarat contacted Dr. Rajesh HOD Leprosy of Ahmedabad to request a dressing materials kit for individuals who are affected by leprosy and are struggling with wounds and ulcers at Gandhi Seva Sangh Leprosy Colony. It is important to note that due to the loss of sensation, People Affected by Leprosy are susceptible to developing ulcer wounds on their hands and feet. Daily dressing of these ulcers is necessary to prevent bone infections and possible amputation of legs and fingers.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Rajesh visit our colony and provide us with the necessary dressing kit. Thanks to his kind gesture, we were able to dress all of our leprosy brothers



and sisters the very next day with the help of the Lakshminarayan dresser from APAL. This was crucial in stopping the progression of their wounds.

APAL is incredibly thankful for the support and cooperation we received from Dr. Rajesh and his team. Additionally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Vijay Kumar Pasem for his unwavering dedication and contributions to the leprosy community.



***APAL and the state committee in Madhya Pradesh, the Health Department of the Government conducted a POD (Prevention of Disability) camp***

4<sup>th</sup> August 2023, with the efforts of APAL and the state committee in Madhya Pradesh, the Health Department of the Government conducted a POD (Prevention of Disability) camp at Sant Dnyaneshwar Leprosy Seva Samiti Mahesh Yadav Nagar Banganga Indore. They provided ulcer care services to 25 persons affected by leprosy, while also teaching them self-care and related physical exercises.

APAL is grateful to the health department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh for their health care services to people affected by leprosy, and special thanks to the state committee and Mr. Radha Krishna for his contribution to the camp.



***APAL's Vice President of Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan and Shyam Gope, Co-Secretary of District Leprosy Welfare Committee,***

On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL's Vice President of Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan and Shyam Gope, Co-Secretary of District Leprosy Welfare Committee, Anil Kumbhkar congratulated the newly posted Honorable Deputy Commissioner Mr. Manjunath Bhajantri in East Singhbhum on behalf of all the persons affected by leprosy and also invited him to visit the leprosy ashrams or colonies

We also submitted a request for free education for the children of persons affected by leprosy under the "Right to Education Act". We are thrilled to report that the Deputy

Commissioner has promised to take appropriate action on our request and has committed to visiting the colony soon.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, recently participated in a 2-day workshop organized by the Central Leprosy Division***

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, recently participated in a 2-day workshop organized by the Central Leprosy Division (CLD) in coordination with the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP) & World Health Organization (WHO), India.

This workshop was held in Pune, Maharashtra on 10-11 August 2023 and aimed to develop training modules for promoting mental wellbeing of Leprosy Patients. It's great to see such initiatives being taken to support those in need.



***APAL's President Mrs Maya Ranavare along with Dr Sudarshan Mandal, DDG Leprosy and Ms. Nikita Sarah Head Advocacy& Communication***

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL's President Mrs Maya Ranavare along with Dr Sudarshan Mandal, DDG Leprosy and Ms. Nikita Sarah Head Advocacy& Communication at the Leprosy Mission visited Anandvan leprosy colony in Pune and interacted with youth, women and colony leader





On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, APAL participated in the 2nd Brainstorming meeting towards the National Conference on the Abolishment of Discriminatory Laws against People Affected by Hansen's Disease in India at The Leprosy Mission Trust India office in Delhi.

The meeting was attended by a number of individuals and organizations, including Mrs. Maya Ranavare, Mr. Prakash Done, Mr. Mohan from APAL, Mr. Arman Ali, and Ms. Niharika Das from DPI India, Mr. Gaurab Sen and Mr. Shubhendra Sachan from S-ILF, Ms. Nikita Sarah and Mr. Subhojit Goswami from TLMI, and Ms. Dhvani Mehta and Ms. Rituparna Padhy from Vidhi Centre. Additionally, Dr. Takahiro Nanri and Ms. Mao Hasebe from SHF also participated in the meeting. The discussions were productive and focused on ways to eliminate discriminatory laws against those affected by Hansen's Disease in India.



***APAL and its President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, along with Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of APAL, visited the WHO Regional Office in India, Delhi.***

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL and its President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, along with Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of APAL, visited the WHO Regional Office in India, Delhi.

During the visit, had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Vivek Lal and his team and discussed the collaboration to work together for the socio-economic empowerment and welfare of persons affected by leprosy and their families.

On behalf of the people affected by leprosy, we express our gratitude to Dr Vivek for the positive response, comfortable hospitality, and respect. It was a fruitful visit, and we look forward to working together towards the betterment of the community.



***APAL had the opportunity to meet with Mr Rajiv Manjhi, Joint Secretary Leprosy, at the Nirman Bhawan,***

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL had the opportunity to meet with Mr Rajiv Manjhi, Joint Secretary Leprosy, at the Nirman Bhawan, 246-A wing of the Ministry of Health & Family

Welfare in Delhi. Along with the Sasakawa Health Foundation team, we discussed the urgent need to appeal against laws that impact persons affected by leprosy in India.

The discriminative laws have caused many to face segregation from their families and society, as well as stigma and discrimination. Additionally, they have been denied access to education and employment opportunities. It was a productive meeting, and we hope that our efforts will lead to positive change for fellow people affected by leprosy in India. APAL wanted to express our gratitude to Dr. Takahiro Nanri, CEO of SHF, Dr. Rashmi Shukla from NPO (Leprosy) WHO India, Dr. Ranghanadh Rao, Ms. Mao Hasebe Program Officer, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and Mr. Prakash Done, Treasurer of APAL. They all participated and contributed to the efforts of APAL.



***APAL had an Online Collaborative Meeting in Delhi, in collaboration with Sasakawa Health Foundation***

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL had an Online Collaborative Meeting in Delhi, in collaboration with Sasakawa Health Foundation. During the meeting, SHF interacted with all executive members of APAL; and had fruitful discussions addressing various topics such as the problems and current situation of the affected, accessibility of rights, collaboration with NGOs, Ideology, knowledge sharing, the right way of approaching to Govt authorities, solution measures, Future plans, Status of the social entitlements, organization development, time management, and more.

APAL is grateful to Dr Takahiro Nanri CEO of SHF, Dr. Ranganatha Rao and Ms. Mao Program Officer of Hansen's Disease Program for their all kind of support to help people affected by leprosy and their families. APAL is committed to providing welfare, empowerment, health care and social protection services to persons affected by leprosy, and we are thankful to have the support of SHF in our endeavors.





***APAL had the opportunity to meet with Mr Sanjay Pandey, Joint Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, at the Nirman Bhawan***

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL had the opportunity to meet with Mr Sanjay Pandey, Joint Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, at the Nirman Bhawan, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in Delhi. Along with the Sasakawa Health Foundation team, we discussed the urgent need to appeal against laws that impact persons affected by leprosy in India.

It's unfortunate that there is still a stigma surrounding Leprosy and societal discrimination towards persons affected by leprosy. Discriminatory provisions in over 100 Central and State Acts and Rules unfairly label Leprosy as a "loathsome" and "dangerous" disease, which prevents those who have been cured from pursuing certain professions and even using local transportation. It's unacceptable that these laws also prevent people from contesting in elections and holding positions of authority in universities. We need to raise awareness about these discriminatory laws and their impact on those affected by Leprosy and work towards amending or repealing them. It's important to sensitize duty bearers on the causes and contagiousness of Leprosy and discuss ways to amend or repeal these laws in order to create a fair and just society for all. The discriminative laws have caused many to face segregation from their families and society, as well as stigma and discrimination. Additionally, they have been denied access to education and employment opportunities. It was a productive meeting, and we hope that our efforts will lead to positive change for fellow people affected by leprosy in India.

APAL wanted to express our gratitude to Dr. Takahiro Nanri, CEO of SHF, Dr. Rashmi Shukla from NPO (Leprosy) WHO India, Dr. Ranghanadh Rao, Ms. Mao Hasebe Program Officer, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, Mrs. Nikita Sarah Head - Advocacy & Communication of TLMTI and Mr. Prakash Done, Treasurer of APAL. They all participated and contributed to the efforts of APAL.



***APAL had a wonderful visit to Tahirpur Leprosy Colony in Delhi along with the Sasakawa Health Foundation and APAL's state committee***

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023, APAL had a wonderful visit to Tahirpur Leprosy Colony in Delhi along with the Sasakawa Health Foundation and APAL's state committee. We had the opportunity to interact with the colony leaders, youth, and beneficiaries of the livelihood and education scholarship program. The support from Sasakawa has made a significant impact on the community, and we were honored to witness the positive changes firsthand. Thank you, the nobleman and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for leprosy elimination Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, for your continued efforts in making a difference in people's lives.

During the visit, APA L's team Mrs Maya Ranavare, President, Mr Prakash Done Treasurer, Mr Giridhari Lal State Coordinator, Mr. Vijay Kumar and Mr. Arjunram APAL's youth had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Takahiro Nanri, CEO of SHF, and Mao Program Manager of SHF, who joined us to interact with the colony residents. We had a fruitful discussion on various key points, including the tireless advocacy support of Mr. Sasakawa on the empowerment of people affected by leprosy, the history of colony establishment, the current living conditions of the inmates, the status of social entitlements, and healthcare services.

We also took a tour around the colony, observing its infrastructure and gaining insights into the lives of the residents. It was a valuable experience, and we are grateful to SHF for the opportunity to have participated in such an important meeting.

APAL expresses our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ranganadh Rao for all of the invaluable support and contributions he has provided. His dedication and expertise have been instrumental in our success, and we are truly grateful for his efforts. Thank you, Dr. Rao, for your unwavering support and tireless commitment to our organization. We couldn't have done it without you!



### ***APAL's state committee in Delhi and some young people met with Mrs. Shaili Oberai, the MCD Mayor***

On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023, The APAL's state committee in Delhi and some young people met with Mrs. Shaili Oberai, the MCD Mayor. They submitted a memorandum requesting that at least 4% of cleaning staff employment opportunities be made available to people affected by leprosy and their family members. This would help to improve living conditions for those who have been impacted by this disease.

APAL wants to thank Mrs. Shaili Oberai for her prompt and positive response in providing cleaning staff and comfortable hospitality for our organization; APAL want to extend a special thank you to Mr. Giridhari Lal, State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Vijay Kumar, Secretary of the state committee, and Mr. Arjun, Joint-Secretary of the state committee for their valuable contributions to advocacy and working with relevant authorities on behalf of our cause. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated





***On 25th August 2023, APAL's state committee in Bihar made a significant intervention by identifying children in need of ITI Trade training***

On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023, On 25th August 2023, APAL's state committee in Bihar made a significant intervention by identifying children in need of ITI Trade training, who reside in leprosy colonies. The committee recommended 14 students to TLM ITI in Nasik, Maharashtra, providing them with an opportunity to learn valuable skills and improve their future prospects. This action demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, have access to essential resources and education.

APAL just wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude to TLM for their invaluable support of the children who are living with leprosy. I also want to extend a special "thank you" to Mr. Someswara Dubey, the State Coordinator of APAL, and the state committee in Bihar for their generous contribution in recommending education support. These efforts truly make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.



***APAL's state committee in Gujarat and Mother Teresa Orphan Charitable Trust paid a visit to Gandhi Seva Sangh***

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, APAL's state committee in Gujarat and Mother Teresa Orphan Charitable Trust paid a visit to Gandhi Seva Sangh in Ahmedabad. During their visit, they engaged with all the residents of the colony and discussed the current issues faced by individuals affected by leprosy. The Mother Teresa Orphan Charitable Trust reassured them that the problems would be resolved soon.

The visit was attended by Mr. Narsimhlu State Coordinator, Mr. Gangaram Vice President of the State Committee, and Mr. Vijay Kumar Secretary of the State Committee. They explained the current situation of those affected by leprosy and their families.



**As per the request of APAL's state committee in Andhra Pradesh and the leaders of Jyothi Leprosy Colony**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023, As per the request of APAL's state committee in Andhra Pradesh and the leaders of Jyothi Leprosy Colony, the Government of Andhra Pradesh sanctioned, constructed and inaugurated an Urban Primary Health Center at Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Bhimavaram, AP, The UPH Centre was inaugurated by RESPECTED Mr Grandhi Srinivas, MLA of West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.

APAL would like to express deep gratitude to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Mr. Grandhi Srinivas for his unwavering support. Special thanks are also due to Mr. Prakash Done, Working President of the State Committee, Mr. Veeraju, Secretary of the State Committee, and Mr. TSM Raju, Volunteer Youth Committee of APAL, for their invaluable contributions to the leprosy community.



**The Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently sanctioned and distributed disability pensions to 20 individuals affected by leprosy**

On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023, The Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently sanctioned and distributed disability pensions to 20 individuals affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities at Jyothi Nagar Leprosy Colony in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh. This initiative was made possible through the efforts of APAL's state committee in Andhra Pradesh.

APAL is grateful to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for their invaluable services to individuals affected by leprosy, and would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Prakash Done, Working President of the state committee in Andhra Pradesh, and Mr. TSM Raju, Volunteer Youth of APAL, for their contributions in the distributions and the leprosy fields.



**During their visit to Sanjay Nagar Leprosy Colony in Borivali, Mumbai, the president of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) and the state committee in Maharashtra meticulously observed the healthcare and ulcer care services**

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, During their visit to Sanjay Nagar Leprosy Colony in Borivali, Mumbai, the president of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) and the state



committee in Maharashtra meticulously observed the healthcare and ulcer care services offered by the Dressing Unit situated within the colony. Impressed by the dedication and efficacy of the services, they extended their commendation towards the active involvement of Colony leader Mr. Shapi Sheikh and the skilled dresser in advancing the field of leprosy care.

Their appreciation underscored the crucial role played by individuals like Mr. Sheikh and the dresser in alleviating the plight of those affected by leprosy, fostering hope and health within the community.



***A significant event unfolded during a district-level review meeting orchestrated by the Government of Maharashtra***

On September 7th, 2023, a significant event unfolded during a district-level review meeting orchestrated by the Government of Maharashtra. Amidst the deliberations, Mr. Rasul Mullah, the State Coordinator for APAL in Maharashtra, took the floor to unveil the APAL's Annual Book. With precision and eloquence, Mr. Mullah presented the comprehensive report to the esteemed attendees, including Mrs. Darsha Sha, the Health Head Officer of Mumbai District, and Mr. Manish Range, the Assistant Officer of Mumbai.

The presentation marked a pivotal moment in bridging vital information between APAL and key governmental health authorities, fostering collaboration and informed decision-making for the betterment of public health initiatives in Maharashtra.



***APAL's state committee in Telangana, in collaboration with Share the Vision Swa Chanda Seva Sansthan, distributed essential commodities***

APAL's state committee in Telangana, in collaboration with Share the Vision Swa Chanda Seva Sansthan, distributed essential commodities to the people affected by leprosy at Shantinagar Colony in Hyderabad. The program aimed to help people affected by leprosy, with Share the Vision charitable organization (Khammam) distributing essential commodities to 100 families.

The event was graced by Municipal Commissioner Mr. S. Ravinder Reddy and Mrs. Vidyavati Vijender Reddy (4th Ward Councilor) as chief guests who expressed their desire to continue organizing such programs in collaboration with Share the Vision Swa Chhanda Seva organization.

Share the Vision President Narayana, Treasurer Pal Sadguna Rao, and Sudhir Babu expressed their gratitude to M. Ramesh, State Coordinator of APAL, for supporting the event.

APAL is grateful to Share the Vision Swa Chanda Seva Sansthan for their commendable services to people affected by leprosy and their families, and a special thanks to Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL for his contribution.



***A heartwarming collaboration between the Mother Teresa Missionary and APAL's state committee in Gujarat brought essential relief***

On September 12th, 2023, a heartwarming collaboration between the Mother Teresa Missionary and APAL's state committee in Gujarat brought essential relief to those most in need. At Gandhi Seva Sangh in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 50 individuals affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities were the recipients of this benevolent gesture. In a display of compassion and solidarity, essential commodities were distributed, offering vital support to those facing challenging circumstances.

The partnership between APAL and the Mother Teresa Missionary embodies the spirit of empathy and collective action, demonstrating the power of collaboration in addressing societal needs. This initiative not only provided tangible assistance but also served as a beacon of hope for marginalized communities, reminding them that they are not forgotten.

Amidst the distribution, APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to the Missionaries of Mother Teresa for their invaluable support. Special recognition is also deserved by Mr. Narisimhlu, the State Coordinator, and Mr. Vijay Kumar, whose dedication and efforts



played a pivotal role in orchestrating the distributions and reaching out to the leprosy-affected populations. Their commitment reflects a commitment to service and underscores the importance of individuals coming together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, recently met with Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal (IAS), the Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.***

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, recently met with Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal (IAS), the Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. During the meeting, she emphasized the need to abolish laws that allow discrimination based on leprosy disease. The secretary assured her that he would take necessary steps with concerned authorities to initiate steps towards abolishing or repealing discriminatory laws.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Leprosy Mission India, VIDHI Centre of Legal Policy, National Centre for Employment for Disabled People Sasakawa Health Foundation, and WHO. The secretary supported organizing an event around World Leprosy Day, 30 January, Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi Ji to bring all stakeholders together to sensitize the issue of stigma against leprosy and steps to be taken to eliminate discrimination.

Mrs. Maya Ranavare handed over a copy of the annual report to the Secretary, of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.



***APAL and APAL's state committee in Bihar (SAMUTHAN) had the opportunity to meet with the ADS of East Champaran District***

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, APAL and APAL's state committee in Bihar (SAMUTHAN) had the opportunity to meet with the ADS of East Champaran District alongside persons affected by leprosy from Bihar and state committee leaders. We had the chance to voice our

concerns and were grateful to have our problems solved. It was a productive and positive meeting.

APAL want to express my gratitude to ADS of East Champaran District for their invaluable support. Their positive response was truly appreciated and we would also like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Somewswara Dubey State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Ramavarai Sah Joint Secretary of APAL, and our other leaders for their interventions and contributions to the leprosy community. Their efforts are truly commendable and have made a significant impact.



***, APAL and APAL's state committee in Telangana met with Dr. D John Babu sir, Joint Director (NLEP), and Additional Director Mr. Ravindra Nayak***

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023, APAL and APAL's state committee in Telangana met with Dr. D John Babu sir, Joint Director (NLEP), and Additional Director Mr. Ravindra Nayak to discuss the problems we have been facing. We explained everything in detail, including the need for 2 MCR pairs of footwear to be provided per year.

We also discussed the importance of supplying bandages with supporting medicine in each colony. It was encouraging to hear that 9 people from Dichpally came to continue their work in the leprosy ward, despite the fact that general wards will now be done in Nizamabad government hospital. They even met with higher officials and spoke positively about the situation.

APAL is grateful to the Government authorities for their support and we want to give a special shoutout to Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL for his amazing contributions to the leprosy community in Telangana. We appreciate all that he has done to make a positive impact in the lives of fellow people affected by leprosy.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL, embarked on a significant journey to the ILEP Conference held in Tarangire, South Africa.***



On September 17th, 2023, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL, embarked on a significant journey to the ILEP Conference held in Tarangire, South Africa. Her attendance at this global forum underscored APAL's commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy. Mrs. Ranavare's presence not only represented APAL but also served as a voice for the countless individuals in India facing the challenges of leprosy.

During her participation in the conference, Mrs. Ranavare delivered a compelling address, drawing attention to the harsh realities of living conditions endured by those affected by leprosy and their families in India. Her poignant insights, drawn from personal experiences, offered a firsthand perspective on the struggles and obstacles faced by this marginalized community. Through her impassioned speech, Mrs. Ranavare highlighted the urgent need for concerted efforts to address the socio-economic disparities and stigma surrounding leprosy.

Moreover, Mrs. Ranavare took the opportunity to showcase APAL's unwavering dedication to combating these issues. She shared the organization's notable achievements and ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for individuals impacted by leprosy. From community outreach programs to advocacy campaigns, APAL's multifaceted approach underscores its commitment to effecting positive change and fostering inclusivity. Mrs. Ranavare's presence and advocacy at the ILEP Conference epitomized APAL's mission to empower and uplift those affected by leprosy, resonating with stakeholders worldwide and catalyzing momentum towards a more equitable future.



***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the chance to visit the leprosy colonies in Tarangire, Tanzania, South Africa***

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the chance to visit the leprosy colonies in Tarangire, Tanzania, South Africa. During her visit, she had the opportunity to interact with the inmates of the colony and observe firsthand the living conditions and infrastructure.

She also noted the people's personal hygiene, availability of health care, social protection services, education support, employment, self-employment, social entitlements, and mental well-being of those affected by leprosy who reside in the leprosy colonies. Evidently, the government services provided to those in need were extremely important in ensuring they received the care and support they required.

She attended a meeting between ILEP Panel Members and the African Alliance against MTN at Chelsea Center Hotel Dar-es-Salam in Tanzania.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently attended the ILEP Conference in Tarangire, South Africa where she presented her insights on the Impact, Benefits, and Challenges of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy***

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently attended the ILEP Conference in Tarangire, South Africa where she presented her insights on the Impact, Benefits, and Challenges of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) as a People Organization. Her presentation was well-received and provided valuable information on the important work that APAL does. It was clear that Mrs. Ranavare is passionate about her work and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those affected by leprosy. Overall, her presentation highlighted the significant impact that APAL has had on the lives of many people and the challenges that remain in ensuring that everyone has access to the care and support they need.

She concluded "We must always strive for empowerment, especially in the face of historical and systemic dehumanization. By taking an active role in our lives and reflecting critically on our situation, we can begin to challenge the structures that keep us subordinated. This means having access to important resources and decision-making power and being able to control our own lives. Empowerment is crucial in the ongoing struggle for equality and justice"



***APAL's state committee in Madhya Pradesh participated in Hotel Kesar in Khandwa was the venue for a one-day state-level election seminar program organized under the auspices of Madhya Pradesh Viklang Manch (***

***M.P.) sister organization and National Center for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP). The***

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, APAL's state committee in Madhya Pradesh participated in Hotel Kesar in Khandwa was the venue for a one-day state-level election seminar program organized under the auspices of Madhya Pradesh Viklang Manch (M.P.) sister organization and National Center for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP). The



program was aimed at discussing the issues of the manifesto and the problems faced by disabled people, along with their basic life issues. A media conference was also held on the same subject. Among the notable participants were Arman Ali and members from APAL and NCPEDP.

Other attendees included Secretary Sarang Gaydhane and Sahayog Krish Nivaran Sangh from Indore, Raju Rathod, Gopal Shinde, Sarita Dhundhale, Congress representative Dr. Munish Mishra, City President Awadhesh Ji Sisodia, In-charge Harda Kundan Malviya, State Secretary Raees Abbasi, Congress Block President, and President of Disabled Forum, Madhya Pradesh Anand Malakar ji, as well as the presidents of the Disabled Forum of all the districts. The event was fruitful and informative, and we hope it will lead to meaningful action in support of the disabled community.



### ***The APAL's state committee in Delhi and some young people met with Mrs. Shaili Oberai, the MCD Mayor***

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, The APAL's state committee in Delhi and some young people met with Mrs. Shaili Oberai, the MCD Mayor. They submitted a memorandum requesting that at least 4% of cleaning staff employment opportunities be made available to people affected by leprosy and their family members. This would help to improve living conditions for those who have been impacted by this disease.

APAL wants to thank Mrs. Shaili Oberai for her prompt and positive response in providing cleaning staff and comfortable hospitality for our organization; APAL want to extend a special thank you to Mr. Giridhari Lal, State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Vijay Kumar, Secretary of the state committee, and Mr. Arjun, Joint-Secretary of the state committee for their valuable contributions to advocacy and working with relevant authorities on behalf of our cause. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated



***APAL and the APAL's state committee in Andhra Pradesh have submitted a memorandum regarding the construction of houses***

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, APAL and the APAL's state committee in Andhra Pradesh have submitted a memorandum regarding the construction of houses that were damaged and built a long time ago. The Chairman of the Legislative Council, Mr. Koye Moshenu Raju, requested the State Housing Minister, Mr. Jogi Ramesh, to take necessary measures to build new houses for the leprosy patients in Bhimavaram Leprosy Colony as the current houses are in a dilapidated condition.

In response to this, the Minister assured that he would take immediate action to grant new houses to the people in the Leprosy Colony.

APAL want to express our gratitude to the Government authorities for their invaluable services to the persons affected by leprosy; would also like to give a special thanks to Mr. Prakash Done, Working President of the state committee in Andhra Pradesh, and Mr. Veerraju, colony leader, for their contribution to the welfare of the leprosy community. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and they have truly made a difference in the lives of those affected by this disease.



***In collaboration with the Reliable Charity Organization, APAL's state committee in Telangana recently provided essential commodities***

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, In collaboration with the Reliable Charity Organization, APAL's state committee in Telangana recently provided essential commodities to 90 families affected by leprosy in Parvath Nagar (Borabanda). It was an honour to have Allapur Corporator Smt. as our esteemed chief guest. Sabiha Gausuddin and Parvat Nagar President Mr. D. Jahed Sharif (Baba) expressed their appreciation for Ravi, the president of the organization, for his numerous charitable initiatives and encouraged him to continue his good work.

APAL also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Ramesh APAL state coordinator, and Mr Parushuram Ms. Maniyamma, for their invaluable contributions to this program, which were recognized by the Reliable Charity Organization. The residents of Parvat Nagar Colony were deeply grateful for the support and assistance provided by the Reliable Charity organization.





***APAL's state committee in Chhattisgarh recently conducted a POD (Prevention of Disability) Program in Champa, Chhattisgarh***

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, APAL's state committee in Chhattisgarh recently conducted a POD (Prevention of Disability) Program in Champa, Chhattisgarh. The program aimed to provide ulcer care services and teach self-care to persons affected by leprosy.

One of the major concerns for those affected by leprosy is the development of ulcer wounds on their hands and feet due to loss of sensation. Daily dressing of the ulcers is crucial in preventing bone infections and amputation of legs and fingers.

APAL is grateful to Ms. Syambhai, the State Coordinator of APAL, for his invaluable contribution to the leprosy community.



***APAL's Joint-Secretary Mr. Ramvarai Sah visited a colony named Banmankhi in the Purnea district***

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, APAL's Joint-Secretary Mr. Ramvarai Sah visited a colony named Banmankhi in the Purnea district. There are 35 families residing there, but unfortunately, the land is privately owned. The landowner wishes to create a way through the land. Last month, he met with the Land Minister of Bihar, Mr. Alok Mehta, and presented him with an application and a list of 19 colonies from 11 districts.

The minister referred the list to the Purnea DM, and he scheduled to meet with him tomorrow. He hopes we can come to a fair and reasonable solution for the landowner and the families living in the colony.





***In collaboration with LEPRa and Shodhana organizations, APAL's state committee in Telangana distributed MCR footwear***

In collaboration with LEPRa and Shodhana organizations, APAL's state committee in Telangana distributed MCR footwear to persons affected by leprosy at Shanthi Nagar Colony in Hyderabad.

The event was graced by some distinguished guests, including Dr. John Babu, Dr. Aruna DLO, DM&HO Leprosy & AIDS, Mr. Arun Kumar Head of Program LEPRa, Ms. Sulochana PMO, Mrs. Srinivas Reddy DPMO, Mr. Kameswara Rao PO LEPRa, Mr. Babu Rao Physiotherapist LEPRa, Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL and Mr. Samuel Colony Leader.

Witnessing such a great example of community spirit and collaboration was heartwarming. The participants' invaluable contribution to the leprosy community has been noticed, and APAL is incredibly grateful for their efforts. We see the best in people, and it is a true testament to the kindness and generosity of humanity. Thank you to everyone who helped make a difference and showed that we can achieve great things together.



***Ms. Vrushali Corporator of Maharashtra and advocate observed the need for cleaning up the colony.***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, During a recent visit to Tilak Nagar Colony in Panvel, Maharashtra, APAL along with the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sangh and respected Ms. Vrushali Corporator of Maharashtra and advocate observed the need for cleaning up the colony. They interacted with the residents and saw firsthand the importance of taking action to improve the cleanliness of the area.

APAL would like to express gratitude to Ms. Vrushali for her intervention and efforts and give special recognition to the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sangh and their team for their dedication and responsibility to helping society.





***APAL collaboration with the Lions Club headed by Ramreddy distributed essential commodities***

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, APAL collaboration with the Lions Club headed by Ramreddy distributed essential commodities such as ration in Santosh Nagar Colony. The distribution was made possible with the help of Saraswati Madam, who did it in memory of K. Jayalakshmi's father Mr. Umamaheshwar Reddy.

In addition, the Lions Club will provide tent goods in the colony. The governor has promised the state leader M Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL and the residents of the colony have expressed their gratitude for the support they received.



***In collaboration with wonderful Devotees of Baba through Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samiti and APAL distributed essential commodities***

On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023, In collaboration with wonderful Devotees of Baba through Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samiti and APAL distributed essential commodities, including sarees and blankets to 150 families of persons affected by leprosy at Shantinagar Colony and Santhosh Nagar Colony in Hyderabad, Telangana

It's crucial to acknowledge and APAL express gratitude towards Baba's devotees who have made this possible. Their selfless acts of kindness and generosity will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the lives of those affected by leprosy, as well as their families. It's heartwarming to see individuals come together to make a positive difference in the world. APAL convey a special thanks to Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL for his active contribution to the leprosy community



***APAL recently attended a meeting in Delhi on Navigating Health and Education, which discussed the journey of children with disabilities and those requiring regular medical care.***

On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023, APAL recently attended a meeting in Delhi on Navigating Health and Education, which discussed the journey of children with disabilities and those requiring regular medical care. Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL was present at the meeting.

It was a very informative and productive session, where we discussed various challenges faced by these children and ways to improve their access to healthcare and education. Overall, it was a great opportunity to learn and share ideas with other professionals in the field.



***APAL' President Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the pleasure of meeting and sitting down with Mr. Prakash, the CEO of Rising Star Outreach, and Mr. Arun Kumar, the Head of Projects for Lepra Society***

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023, APAL' President Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the pleasure of meeting and sitting down with Mr. Prakash, the CEO of Rising Star Outreach, and Mr. Arun Kumar, the Head of Projects for Lepra Society, to discuss how we can work together to empower individuals affected by leprosy and their families who reside in leprosy colonies throughout India.

It was a productive meeting, and we're excited to see what the future holds for this collaboration.



***APAL is thrilled to announce that Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the organization, recently graced the Global Partnership Zero Leprosy meeting***

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023, APAL is thrilled to announce that Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the organization, recently graced the Global Partnership Zero Leprosy meeting held at the Leprosy Complex in Tahirpur, New Delhi. This event served as a



pivotal platform for stakeholders from around the globe to converge and strategize on the collective mission of eradicating leprosy from our world. Mrs. Ranavare's presence at this significant gathering not only underscored her personal dedication but also exemplified APAL's unwavering commitment to the cause.

The meeting in New Delhi served as a beacon of hope, drawing together experts, policymakers, and advocates in a unified effort to address the multifaceted challenges posed by leprosy. Mrs. Ranavare's participation lent a distinct voice to this global dialogue, bringing to the forefront the importance of comprehensive approaches that prioritize both treatment and societal integration for individuals affected by leprosy. Her insights and contributions resonated deeply within the assembly, fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility among attendees.

APAL's steadfast dedication to improving the lives of those impacted by leprosy was vividly reflected in Mrs. Ranavare's active engagement at the Global Partnership Zero Leprosy meeting. As the organization continues to champion innovative solutions and advocate for marginalized communities worldwide, Mrs. Ranavare's presence serves as a powerful reminder of the collective strength and determination required to achieve a world free from the stigma and suffering associated with leprosy.



### ***WHO-supported sub-national verification and assessment of verification process for recommendations***

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023, APAL had the pleasure of meeting some incredible individuals who are dedicated to helping those affected by leprosy in the World. Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President going to participate in WHO-supported sub-national verification and assessment of verification process for recommendations to HPA Maldives to move towards zero-leprosy status in Maldives.

Seeing such passionate and determined individuals working towards such an important goal was truly inspiring.



***APAL is proud to share that the Telangana RTC staff, Mr. Ramulu. Mr. Rajinikanth and Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL, have recently distributed free bus passes***

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023, APAL is proud to share that the Telangana RTC staff, Mr. Ramulu. Mr. Rajinikanth and Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL, have recently distributed free bus passes to 65 members of persons affected by leprosy at Shanthi Nagar Colony in Hyderabad, Telangana.

This is a wonderful initiative that will allow these individuals to travel without any financial burden and access the facilities they need. It is heartwarming to see such kind gestures of support and care for the underprivileged members of our society. Kudos to the team for their efforts and dedication towards making a positive impact in the lives of fellow persons affected by leprosy in need.



***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, Dr. V R Pemmaraju - SHF, and Mr. Rama Varai Sah - APAL India had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Chintaram Hazarika, the State Leprosy Officer***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, Dr. V R Pemmaraju - SHF, and Mr. Rama Varai Sah - APAL India had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Chintaram Hazarika, the State Leprosy Officer (SLO) at the Directorate of Health Services in Assam.

During the meeting, they discussed the activities of the Sasakawa Health Foundation, including the work of its Goodwill Ambassador for leprosy elimination, Mr. Sasakawa. They also introduced the activities of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL). Additionally, they presented the annual report for the year 2022-23 to SLO Assam. suggested a meeting with the Managing Director of National Health Mission (MD NHM) to discuss the challenges faced in the program. During the meeting, they shared that there were high rates of new case detection in the Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts, and a special search activity was planned in early 2024 to address this issue. The special search activity would involve the participation of staff from tea gardens and civil society organizations.

They also informed MD NHM that no other leprosy NGO was currently active in Assam and that APAL in Assam needed reorganization and strengthening to better serve the community. In addition, they provided details about leprosy colonies and contact numbers of four persons affected by leprosy.

Finally, APAL organized a meeting with persons affected by leprosy on November 4, 2023, to facilitate their interaction with the organization.





***APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, Dr. V R Pemmaraju - SHF, and Mr. Rama Varai Sah - APAL India had the opportunity to Visit Shantivan Leprosy colony, Missionary of Charity, Umshangling, Nong Poh***

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023, APAL's President Mrs. Maya Ranavare, Dr. V R Pemmaraju - SHF, and Mr. Rama Varai Sah - APAL India had the opportunity to Visit Shantivan Leprosy colony, Missionary of Charity, Umshangling, Nong Poh

Mr. Pyrbot, a physiotherapist from Ri Bhoi district accompanied the SHF and APAL team to the hospital and introduced to Sr M Sarika MC in charge of the leprosy hospital, and Sr M Luciana MC of the leprosy hospital.

- 70 patients are inmates of the hospital, most of them needing disability care
- The physiotherapy unit is equipped but no trained staff is available.
- Footwear unit with facilities of micro-cellular rubber footwear lacks trained staff to provide footwear though equipment is available
- Rations for the patients are provided by Missionaries of charity and drawn from donations from local philanthropists
- Majority of the patients belong to Assam
- Mr. Kat Tongper is the local contact person for the persons affected by leprosy in the hospital



***Sahayog Leprosy Prevention's well-wishers distributed copy notebooks to the children of individuals impacted by leprosy in the coaching class***

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Sahayog Leprosy Prevention's well-wishers distributed copy notebooks to the children of individuals impacted by leprosy in the coaching class operated by Sai Ram Avtaar Leprosy Seva Samiti in Indore.

APAL expresses gratitude to Sahayog Leprosy Prevention for their valuable support and considers it their responsibility to take care of the affected individuals and their families.



### ***Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a meeting of state coordinators in New Delhi***

On December 15th, 2023, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a meeting of state coordinators in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL. The primary objective of this gathering was to identify the most pressing needs of individuals affected by leprosy and their family members and to develop feasible solutions to address these requirements.

During the meeting, all state coordinators in attendance shared their experiences regarding the current state of affairs in their respective states. They emphasized the need for socioeconomic entitlements that would empower and benefit those affected by leprosy and their kin.

It was unanimously agreed that reasonable solutions are essential to promote the welfare and socio-economic empowerment of those impacted by leprosy. Through this meeting, APAL aimed to facilitate communication and collaboration between state coordinators, with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of those affected by leprosy across the nation.



### ***APAL's Executive Committee Members held a meeting on 15th December 2023 in New Delhi.***

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023, APAL's Executive Committee Members held a meeting on 15th December 2023 in New Delhi.

During the meeting, they discussed the current situation of persons affected by leprosy and possible solutions for their social economic empowerment and welfare. It's important



to address the needs of those living in poor conditions and work towards uplifting their standard of living.



***A significant collaborative meeting took place in New Delhi. The meeting was organized by APAL-S-ILF and was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Takhiro Nanri, CEO of SHF***

On December 16th, 2023, a significant collaborative meeting took place in New Delhi. The meeting was organized by APAL-S-ILF and was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Takhiro Nanri, CEO of SHF. The gathering served as a beacon of hope that united the members of APAL and the dedicated staff of S-ILF in a shared mission to advance the cause of socio-economic empowerment and welfare for individuals affected by leprosy and their families across India. The synergy of minds and hearts during the meeting symbolized a profound commitment to addressing the challenges faced by this marginalized community. The participants worked together to find tangible solutions and create meaningful change.

The formation and flourishing of such alliances are a cause for celebration. When organizations pool their resources, expertise, and passion for a common purpose, the potential for positive impact becomes boundless. The collaboration between APAL-S-ILF and Dr. Takhiro Nanri's SHF signify a dedicated effort to break down barriers, advocate for inclusivity, and amplify the voices of those often overlooked in society. This coming together exemplifies the power of unity in driving forward progress and fostering a brighter, more equitable future for all.



***Emergency goods and blankets were distributed to 40 families affected by leprosy in Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Colony***

On December 19th, 2023, emergency goods and blankets were distributed to 40 families affected by leprosy in Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Colony. The distribution was led by Mr. T Ravi Garu, Director of Reliable Trust, and Municipal Commissioner Mr. Ravinder Reddy. The initiative was carried out under the direction of APAL's state coordinator M Ramesh. It's heartwarming to see such efforts being made to support the affected families.

On behalf of persons affected by leprosy APAL express our gratitude to Reliable Trust and team and special thanks to Mr. Ramesh for his active contribution



On December 23rd, 2023, a team comprising Dr. Palekar, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and the District Leprosy Team, visited the leprosy colony located in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The objective of the visit was to educate people affected by leprosy about the significance of self-care for leprosy ulcers and to take measurements for MCR Footwear to ensure safe and comfortable mobility.

During the visit, the district leprosy team imparted vital knowledge to the inhabitants of the colony regarding the importance of self-care in managing leprosy ulcers. Additionally, the team also took measurements for the MCR Footwear, which would enable the people to walk safely and comfortably. Overall, the visit proved to be a significant step towards providing better healthcare services to the affected individuals.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sanghatana, hosted a commemorative event to honour the legacies of Mr. Baba Amte and Dr. Sivajirao Partvardhan***



On December 25th, 2023, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sanghatana, hosted a commemorative event to honour the legacies of Mr. Baba Amte and Dr. Sivajirao Partvardhan. The event took place in Sanjay Nagar, Borivali, located in East Mumbai.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate the lives and contributions of these two individuals, who have made significant contributions to the fields of leprosy treatment and healthcare. This event aimed to inspire and motivate others to continue their work towards improving the lives of those affected by leprosy and other medical conditions.



***The Unity in Christ team, under the leadership of M. Ramesh, the State Coordinator for APAL, distributed essential commodities***

On the 25th of December, 2023, the Unity in Christ team, under the leadership of M. Ramesh, the State Coordinator for APAL, distributed essential commodities to twenty-six families affected by leprosy in Santosh Nagar Colony, Hyderabad, Telangana.

APAL expresses its gratitude to the Unity in Christ team and Mr. Sunil Kumar for their invaluable service rendered to the individuals affected by leprosy.



***Mr. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sanghatana, hosted a commemorative event to honour the legacies of Mr. Baba Amte and Dr. Sivajirao Partvardhan***

On December 28th, 2023, Mr. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Nivaran Sanghatana, hosted a commemorative event to honour the legacies of Mr. Baba Amte and

Dr. Sivajirao Partvardhan. The event took place in Antule Nagar, Kandhwa, Pune, Maharashtra

The event's purpose was to celebrate the lives and contributions of these two individuals, who have made significant contributions to leprosy treatment and healthcare. This event aimed to inspire and motivate others to continue their work towards improving the lives of those affected by leprosy and other medical conditions.



### ***APAL's President Mrs Maya Ranavare have participated in National Confluence of Leprosy***

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024, APAL's President Mrs Maya Ranavare have participated in National Confluence of Leprosy on 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Bangalore

The workshop & Conference theme is LEPROSY FREE INDIA - WAY FORWARD. Organized by Indian Association of Leprologists in collaboration with VIMS& RC Bangalore.

Dr. Takahiro Nanri CEO of Sasakawa Health Foundation is the chief guest of the conference

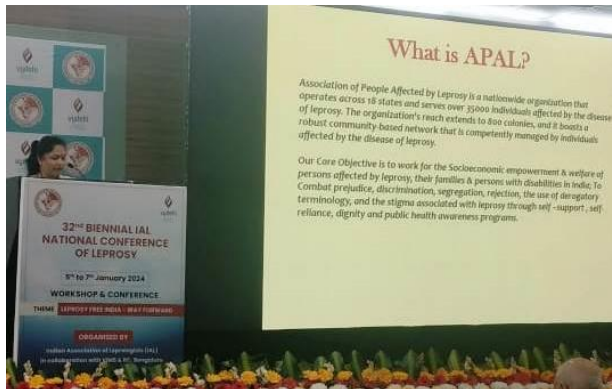


### ***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), participated in the National Confluence***

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), participated in the National Confluence of Leprosy held in Bangalore from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. She delivered a speech on "The Role of APAL in Leprosy Elimination in India." The event provided a platform for experts, scholars, and stakeholders to discuss and deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in the fight against leprosy in India.



During the presentation, Mrs. Ranavare shared her experiences, as well as the practices of the organization (APAL), and acknowledged the contributions of all the supporters and leprosy champions. Her address was well-received by the attendees, who highly appreciated her valuable insights on the subject matter.



### ***APAL President Mrs Maya Ranavare Participated at the International Purple Festival in Goa 2024***

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, APAL President Mrs Maya Ranavare Participated at the International Purple Festival in Goa 2024 celebrating diversity India's first-of-its-kind inclusive festival that celebrates persons with disabilities from 8th to 13th January.

During the meeting, Mrs. Maya brought up a concern regarding the difficulties individuals affected by leprosy face when obtaining disability certificates. Specifically, she highlighted the lack of knowledge among medical professionals about how to issue certificates to those affected by leprosy. The central and state commissioners for persons with disabilities received this issue positively and are currently developing new standard operating procedures. These procedures will aim to provide assistance to individuals affected by leprosy in obtaining disability certificates in the future.



### ***In collaboration with The Society for Rural Development Society (SRD) and APAL state committee in Telangana recently organized a distribution program for essential commodities, bed sheets, and sarees***

On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024, In collaboration with The Society for Rural Development Society (SRD) and APAL state committee in Telangana recently organized a distribution program

for essential commodities, bed sheets, and sarees for leprosy-affected families in the Peddambar Pate Shanti Nagar Leprosy Colony.

The SRD staff took the opportunity to educate the community about the effective management of leprosy. They emphasized the significance of adhering to medical advice, consuming nutritious food, and taking medication regularly to achieve complete recovery. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of seeking medical attention promptly if individuals display symptoms such as dry skin or untouchable body spots. The coordinators of this event, Kranti Kishore and Parvathy, were active participants. It is noteworthy that the SRD staff also tried to dispel the notion that leprosy is a curse and clarify that it is a treatable ailment that requires timely medical attention.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, participated in the Leprosy Convention hosted at the Purple Festival in Goa***

On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, participated in the Leprosy Convention hosted at the Purple Festival in Goa. The convention was organized in collaboration with TLM, SHF, VIDHI, NCEPEDP, and other organizations.

During her address, Ms. Ranavare discussed the advocacy initiatives undertaken by APAL and elucidated its vision, mission, and key initiatives to the audience. She also extended her gratitude to Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, for his support and assistance.



***The Governor of Odisha, Raghubar Das, visited a Netaji leprosy colony in Bhubaneswar on Makar Sankranti***



On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, The Governor of Odisha, Raghubar Das, visited a Netaji leprosy colony in Bhubaneswar on Makar Sankranti. He arrived at the colony without any special arrangements and interacted with the residents who were affected by leprosy and their families like a common man.

The women of the colony welcomed him with traditional rituals and he spent time with the children, distributing blankets to over 50 women. It's commendable that he also enquired about the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) programme and other welfare schemes in the leprosy colony.

APAL would like to express gratitude to the Governor for his responsible interaction. Additionally, special thanks are extended to Mr. Jainuddin, the State Coordinator of Jharkhand, and Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice-President of APAL, for their commendable efforts.



***The state committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Chhattisgarh made commendable efforts in organizing an Ayushman application camp***

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024, The state committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Chhattisgarh made commendable efforts in organizing an Ayushman application camp for individuals affected by the disease who reside in the leprosy colonies in the region. The Government administered the camp, and Mrs. Keroline, a board member of APAL, deserves special recognition for her active contribution and monitoring of the event. Her dedication and commitment to the cause are truly admirable.

The Ayushman card is a national health authority-issued card that provides access to a network of public and private hospitals across India. The card can be used to receive cashless treatment and hospitalization at these network hospitals

The Ayushman Bharat Yojana (PMJAY) is the world's largest health assurance scheme. It aims to provide a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 12 crores of poor and vulnerable families



***The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Jharkhand was in attendance at the State Leprosy Prevention Office's meeting in Ranchi***

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Jharkhand was in attendance at the State Leprosy Prevention Office's meeting in Ranchi under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. SLO Virendra Kumar Singh partook in the meeting to achieve a successful Jharkhand State Sparsh Program awareness campaign. Representing the Indian Medical Association, Jharkhand, was a member present at the meeting.

State Program Manager, National Health Mission, Jharkhand, Namkum, Ranchi, State Nodal Officer, State Sahiya Cell. Community Stimulation Cell Officer, Jharkhand. Dr. Abhishek Paul, State Coordinator, WHO, Jharkhand, Ranchi. Dr. Siddharth Bishwal, NLEP Coordinator, NLR. Dr. Gautam, State Coordinator, D.F.I.T. Nodal Officer, IEC Cell. Madhusudan Tiwari, Nicodin Tirkey Apal Organization Jharkhand, Ranchi. Director, Doordarshan, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Director, All India Radio, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

During the meeting, it was unanimously decided that a touch and leprosy detection campaign would be conducted throughout the state from January 30 to February 13, 2024. The campaign will involve Sevakas and ASHA workers conducting door-to-door screenings in all Anganwadi centres, along with banners and posters, while health officers and employees will be running programs in schools and colleges.

The scale of the program this year is noteworthy, especially given the allegations made by the APL team last year regarding the provision of food in the name of the LCD campaign. These allegations led to rumours and the Ghodabandha incident in Jamshedpur, which prompted discussions on the responsible parties and how to maintain character in conducting such a campaign. As a result, plans have been made to run the LCD and Sparsh programs on a larger scale this year.



***Bokaro District Office in Jharkhand distributed tricycles to three individuals with disabilities***

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Bokaro District Office in Jharkhand distributed tricycles to three individuals with disabilities. This commendable act highlights the APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand's commitment to supporting people with disabilities and improving their quality of life.



The provision of tricycles is undoubtedly a significant step towards enabling greater mobility and independence for the recipients. We hope that this initiative will inspire other organizations to follow suit and contribute to the welfare of the disabled community.

APAL extend our gratitude to the Bokaro District Office in Jharkhand for their invaluable and useful services to persons with disabilities.



***APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, along with APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, visited the SLO office in Indore***

On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, along with APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, visited the SLO office in Indore and presented a memorandum. Several discussions were held during the visit, which proved to be fruitful.

The memorandum outlined several key issues that require attention. Firstly, we respectfully request that representatives from APAL or the state committee be included in the Government's programs. We believe that this measure would facilitate collaboration and promote greater participation in the state's affairs.

We urge the Government to duly incorporate these representatives into its programs and initiatives. Doing so would enable a more inclusive and robust policymaking process and enhance the overall effectiveness of the Government's initiatives.

Secondly, the memorandum requested that children or disabled leprosy patients be appointed as dressers in every leprosy colony in the state, where there are ulcer patients. These dressers would receive an honorarium of at least Rs 5000 for treating the ulcer patients.

Lastly, APAL requested to be included in the government's survey conducted throughout the state. This would enable the organization to better understand the needs of the people and provide appropriate support.

APAL expresses its gratitude towards the SLO for his positive response and warm hospitality during the visit. It is hoped that he will take prompt action on the issues raised in the memorandum. APAL would like to extend special thanks to Mr. Sarang Gayadane, Secretary of APAL, and Mrs. Saritha for their valuable contributions during the visit.



***APAL conducted an Anti-Leprosy Day program in collaboration with the Government of Assam in Kamrup, Assam***

On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024, APAL conducted an Anti-Leprosy Day program in collaboration with the Government of Assam in Kamrup, Assam. The program aimed to raise awareness on leprosy and recognize the efforts of leprosy champions and the medical department. Additionally, blankets were distributed to those in need. APAL's Joint Secretary, Mr. Ramavarai Sah, contributed to the program by explaining the services offered by the organization.

The program was successful in spreading awareness of leprosy, an important public health issue. The recognition of leprosy champions and the medical department serves to acknowledge their significant contributions to the cause. Furthermore, the distribution of blankets to those in need demonstrates APAL's commitment to improving the lives of those affected by leprosy.

In conclusion, APAL's Anti-Leprosy Day program in Kamrup, Assam was a commendable initiative that helped raise awareness of leprosy and recognize the dedication of those involved in the fight against the disease.



***In conjunction with the government of Madhya Pradesh, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and the state committee in Madhya Pradesh conducted an anti-leprosy day rally campaign***

On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024, In conjunction with the government of Madhya Pradesh, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and the state committee in Madhya Pradesh conducted an anti-leprosy day rally campaign in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The rally was attended by Mrs. Maya Ranvare, President of APAL, Mr. Sarang Gaedane,



Secretary of APAL, members of the State Committee, residents of colonies, and some stakeholders.

During the rally, the participants declared that leprosy is not a contagious disease, rather it is curable, and that treatment is available free of cost at all government hospitals. APAL expresses its gratitude to the government of Madhya Pradesh for their invaluable support and cooperation in this initiative.

This anti-leprosy day rally serves as a vital step towards raising awareness about the curability of leprosy and the availability of free treatment at government hospitals. It is a testament to the ongoing efforts to eradicate the stigma associated with leprosy and to promote greater inclusivity for those affected by the disease.



***In observation of Leprosy Day, the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in conjunction with the Goonj Foundation, APAL distributed blankets and rations***

On January 30th, 2024, in observation of Leprosy Day, the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in conjunction with the Goonj Foundation, APAL distributed blankets and rations to members of the Leprosy Complex in Tahirpur, Delhi. The RWA President of the Leprosy Complex, Shri Girdhari Lal, alongside General Secretary Vijay Kumar, Secretary Arjun Ram, and members Gopal Chand, MD Israil, MD Aslam, and others, facilitated the distribution of these resources. We express our gratitude for their efforts in providing support to the community.

It is commendable to observe the RWA and the Goonj Foundation collaborating to help the members of the Leprosy Complex. We appreciate their dedication to providing relief to the community on this occasion. We hope that the community receives continued support and aid, and we appreciate the efforts of all those involved in making this distribution possible.



***On the 30th of January 2024, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a State Committee Review meeting in Indore, Madhya Pradesh***

On the 30th of January 2024, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a State Committee Review meeting in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The meeting provided a platform for discussion on the current activities of the State Committee and future plans for the socioeconomic empowerment and welfare of persons affected by leprosy and their families.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed the organization's new vision and its commitment to serving the leprosy community. APAL's President, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, and Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, the Secretary of APAL, were in attendance and provided insightful contributions to the discussions.

Their attendance demonstrated their dedication to the cause and inspired others to be deeply involved in the services provided to the leprosy community. The meeting was a success and a step forward towards achieving the organization's objectives.



***On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, which falls on January 30th, 2024, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 98 leprosy patients were awarded Great 2 certificates by APAL's state committee in Bihar***

On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, which falls on January 30th, 2024, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 98 leprosy patients were awarded Great 2 certificates by APAL's state committee in Bihar at Sadar Hospital in East Champaran, Motihari. Floral tributes were also paid to Gandhi at Gandhi Leprosy Ashram Chhatauni.

The work of the Father of the Nation was commemorated, and Sam Utthaan Apal Bihar demonstrated its commitment to the inclusion of leprosy patients and their families in mainstream society, along with the provision of quality education to their children. Leprosy patients must pay attention to their children and strive for a good education. Constitution AAPAL Bihar is committed to supporting all leprosy patients in this endeavour.

During this event, the State President of Constitution AAPAL, Mr. Someshwar Dubey, shared his insights, along with the Secretary, Mr. Brij Kishore Prasad, and Deputy Secretary, Mr. Ramesh Prasad. The wrestling ashram heads and residents also participated in the event.



This event was a significant step in the direction of empowering leprosy patients and their families. The dedication of Sam Utthaan Apal Bihar and the Constitution AAPAL Bihar towards this cause is commendable, and we hope that such initiatives will bring positive changes to the lives of leprosy patients.



***A commemoration event was held to mark Anti-Leprosy Day in Durgapur-B leprosy colony, located in Rourkela, Odisha***

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, A commemoration event was held to mark Anti-Leprosy Day in Durgapur-B leprosy colony, located in Rourkela, Odisha. Srj Sarada Nayak, Cabinet Minister, along with officials from the BSSO, DSSO, and Leprosy Officer, among others, were reported to have participated in the occasion.



***The recent conferment of the Padma Bhushan award to Shri Ram Naik Saheb by the Government of India, on behalf of APAL and APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra, we met him and congratulated him.***

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, The recent conferment of the Padma Bhushan award to Shri Ram Naik Saheb by the Government of India, on behalf of APAL and APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra, we met him and congratulated him.

The honour is in Shri Ram Naik's contributions to society, particularly his efforts in assisting those affected by leprosy families, including one of our stakeholders. We extend our congratulations to him for his remarkable service.

It is always inspiring to witness individuals being recognized for their selfless contributions to society. Shri Ram Naik Saheb's efforts have been instrumental in

positively impacting the lives of those affected by leprosy families. His tireless efforts to assist this group demonstrate his dedication and commitment to their well-being.



***A recent report highlights the issues presented at a meeting held to ensure the success of Sparsh, a program intended to run from January 30 to February 13, under the chairmanship of the Civil Surgeon in the Deputy Commissioner Auditorium of Dhanbad District***

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, A recent report highlights the issues presented at a meeting held to ensure the success of Sparsh, a program intended to run from January 30 to February 13, under the chairmanship of the Civil Surgeon in the Deputy Commissioner Auditorium of Dhanbad District. The APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand attended the meeting, during which Shri Madhusudan Tiwari, a member of APAL, discussed several critical issues related to leprosy patients.

Mr. Tiwari highlighted that Dhanbad district has 21 leprosy colonies, and caste certificates have not yet been issued to the children of the leprosy colonies, causing significant problems for the children. Moreover, the Dhokra Panchayat exemplifies the misconceptions about leprosy patients in society. Despite providing 1 acre of 35 decimal land to leprosy patients in 2005, the villagers of Dhokra Panchayat have not allowed the leprosy patients to settle to date.



***the Behrampur Urban Health Center in collaboration with the APAL organized a medical camp***

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Behrampur Urban Health Center in collaboration with the APAL organized a medical camp at the Satya Jeevan Leprosy Association in Santosh Nagar



Behrampur. The objective of the camp was to provide free medicines for leprosy to the public, along with complimentary medical opinions, and diabetes and blood pressure screenings.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the team of the Urban Health Center, the organizing doctor, Madam Vaghela Saheb, the in-charge of Santosh Nagar police post, and Dharmendra Bhai and Satya Jain of Leprosy for their generous support of this event. We also extend our thanks to Secretary Khwaja Hussain Bhai for his invaluable contributions to the success of the camp.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the community and believe that this event will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of those who attended.



***The observance of World Leprosy Day on January 30, 2024, coinciding with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, presents an opportune moment to raise awareness about leprosy and extend support to those impacted by the ailment***

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, The observance of World Leprosy Day on January 30, 2024, coinciding with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, presents an opportune moment to raise awareness about leprosy and extend support to those impacted by the ailment. It is imperative to foster an environment of compassion and empathy towards individuals afflicted by this disease. The program scheduled at Sadar Hospital in Motihari, East Champaran, can serve as a pivotal platform to read out resolutions and messages of solidarity towards leprosy-affected persons. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to come together and promote awareness and understanding towards leprosy and its repercussions on individuals and communities.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare delivered her message at Global Appeal 2024 to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy will be signed by the World Health Organization (WHO).***

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare delivered her message at Global Appeal 2024 to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy will be signed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Appeal, which will be launched at a ceremony at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on January 31, 2024, is being signed by WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa.

The event is being organized by the Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative as part of its "Don't Forget Leprosy" campaign. Since 1975, the Initiative has worked closely with the WHO toward the common goal of eliminating leprosy.

Global Appeal 2024 calls for a world where no one is left behind because of a treatable disease, aiming to break the chains of discrimination and ensure dignity for all.

Mrs. Maya's delivered message is The eradication of discrimination against individuals affected by leprosy necessitates a collaborative effort.

It is imperative that countries establish laws and policies that acknowledge and address this issue, and involve those affected by leprosy in policy-making to address the problem of discrimination, particularly concerning leprosy.

Countries must also recognize their obligation to prevent third parties from discriminating against persons affected by leprosy, as mandated by international and domestic law. It is also essential that the fourth pillar of non-discrimination in the Global Strategy is not left behind and that all human rights are recognized as universal, interrelated, interdependent, and indivisible.

Individuals affected by leprosy should be recognized as experts with ample experience and be placed at the forefront of strategies aimed at interrupting leprosy transmission. Moreover, the World Health Organization must accord equal significance to all aspects of the Global Strategy.





***APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in partnership with the Government of Meghalaya conducted the Fortnight World Leprosy Day program***

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in partnership with the Government of Meghalaya conducted the Fortnight World Leprosy Day program. The program was designed to increase awareness about leprosy while acknowledging the contributions of leprosy champions and the medical department. The program also involved the presentation of scarfs to honour the authorities such as MD SLO MI DHS and other MDs of Meghalaya.

During the program, APAL's Joint Secretary, Mr. Ramavarai Sah, visited the leprosy colonies and provided an overview of the organization's services. The aim was to create awareness among the leprosy-affected people and to emphasize the need for their holistic development. The visit helped the organization to establish a direct connection with the community and understand their specific needs. The initiative was well-received by the community, and APAL's efforts were appreciated by all stakeholders.

The program successfully spread awareness of leprosy, an important public health issue. The recognition of leprosy champions and the medical department acknowledge their significant contributions to the cause.

In conclusion, APAL's Fortnight World Leprosy Day program in Meghalaya raises awareness of leprosy and recognizes the dedication of those involved in the fight against the disease.



***The efforts of APAL's State Committee in Odisha, the inauguration of pucca houses in Lingaraj Leprosy Colony, Bhubaneswar, Odisha***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, The efforts of APAL's State Committee in Odisha, the inauguration of pucca houses in Lingaraj Leprosy Colony, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Sri Naveen Patnaik, is a positive step towards providing better living conditions for the residents. The inclusion of basic facilities such as a kitchen, dressing room, bedroom, dining hall, lavatory, and bathroom is crucial for improving the overall quality of life for the people in the colony.

The availability of a ramp facility is also a commendable addition, as it ensures accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges. This initiative reflects a commitment to creating inclusive and sustainable housing solutions, contributing to the well-being and dignity of the residents.

It's heartening to see government efforts aimed at improving the living standards of communities, especially in areas that may have faced challenges in the past. Such

initiatives play a vital role in addressing social issues and promoting a more equitable and inclusive society.



***The initiatives that aim to provide support and accommodation for the healthy children of leprosy patients, such as the Leprosy Ashram Bindova, warrant appreciation***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, The initiatives that aim to provide support and accommodation for the healthy children of leprosy patients, such as the Leprosy Ashram Bindova, warrant appreciation. Additionally, the collaboration between APAL's state committee in Uttar Pradesh, Seva Samarpan Sansthan and Hindustan Petroleum to create accommodation facilities equipped with 10 cameras is commendable.

The provision of vocational training in candle-making, incense sticks, and other skills is a positive step towards empowering individuals who may be suffering from leprosy or disabilities. This kind of training has the potential to contribute to their economic independence and overall well-being.

Initiatives such as these play a significant role in creating a supportive environment for individuals affected by leprosy and their families.



***The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) state committee in West Bengal conducted an event on Fortnight World Leprosy Day***

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) state committee in West Bengal conducted an event on Fortnight World Leprosy Day at the Manipur Leprosy Rehabilitation Center in Manipur, West Bengal. The event's objective was to enhance awareness about leprosy through public rallies.



The event witnessed active participation from students and local stakeholders. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Nabakumar Das for his valuable contribution towards this awareness program



***The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Uttar Pradesh recently organized an awareness program***

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Uttar Pradesh recently organized an awareness program on leprosy at Navjeevan Inter College, Mohanlalganj, Uttar Pradesh. The program aimed to educate children and teachers about the public awareness and symptoms of leprosy.

The initiative was undertaken as a part of the APAL's efforts to raise awareness about the disease, which continues to be a major health concern in many parts of the world. Through the program, the participants were informed about the various aspects of leprosy, including its causes, symptoms, and treatment options.

Overall, the program was highly successful in raising awareness among the participants about the importance of early detection and treatment of leprosy. It is hoped that such initiatives will help in reducing the stigma associated with the disease and in improving the lives of people affected by it.



***The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar recently organized an awareness program***

On 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, The State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar recently organized an awareness program on leprosy at primary schools located in Maa Jankinager Colony, Sitamarhi, Bihar. The program aimed to educate students and their families about the disease, including its prevention and treatment.

The initiative is commendable as it recognizes the importance of raising awareness about leprosy, which is a debilitating disease that affects millions of people worldwide. By educating young students at an early age, the program has the potential to create a lasting impact on the community's health and well-being.

Overall, the program's success can be measured by its ability to raise awareness and empower individuals with knowledge about leprosy. Such initiatives are critical in addressing health disparities and promoting health equity, and we applaud APAL's State Committee for their dedication and efforts towards this cause.

Special thanks to Mr. Brij Kishore Secretary of the State Committee for his contribution in the awareness program



***On the occasion of the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a ceremony was held in Balajinagar Mother Teresa Colony to celebrate leprosy eradication activities***

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, On the occasion of the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a ceremony was held in Balajinagar Mother Teresa Colony to celebrate leprosy eradication activities. Representatives from the Reliable Trust, including Cheif Mr Satyanand, distributed essential commodities to 60 families affected by leprosy in collaboration with APAL's State Committee in Telangana.

The event was attended by Simharaju Garu, Deputy Paramedical Officer of Johar Nagar PHC, Joseph Garu, Deputy Paramedical Officer of Malkajgiri PHC, K Anusuya Member of the State Committee, and residents of the Colony.

APAL extend our gratitude to the representatives of the Reliable Trust for their efforts in providing assistance to those in need and special thanks to Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL for his active contribution in the leprosy fields





***Mrs. Maya Ranavare and the authorities from the Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL) had the honour of meeting with the 19th Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Ram Naik***

On the 10th of February 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare and the authorities from the Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL) had the honour of meeting with the 19th Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Ram Naik, at their premises. This meeting was a significant opportunity for the APAL authorities to interact with a distinguished political figure and offer their congratulations to him on his recent Padma Bhushan award.

Mr. Ram Naik is a veteran politician from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who has had a long and illustrious career in Indian politics. He held the position of Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha for several years. The government appointed him as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh in 2014, a role he served in until 2019. Furthermore, Mr. Naik has been honoured with the Padma Bhushan award in recognition of his invaluable contributions to public service.

During the meeting, the APAL authorities extended their congratulations to Mr. Naik on his recent accolade and expressed their sincere admiration for his unwavering dedication to the field of public service. Moreover, they brought up important topics related to PM Awas Yojana and Disability Pension, which offered insights into various areas that will help persons affected by leprosy all across the country.

Overall, the meeting was incredibly informative and gave the APAL authorities the chance to engage with a seasoned political figure. Mr. Naik shared his extensive knowledge with the authorities, and the meeting ended successfully on all fronts. It is a reminder of the great strides being made towards addressing health and social concerns impacting people affected by leprosy across the country.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, on behalf of APAL (Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy), met Manisha Chaudhary***

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, on behalf of APAL (Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy), met Manisha Chaudhary, at the Member of Legislative Assembly - Dahisar, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Mrs Chaudhary is a member of the BJP for Maharashtra and has previously served as a National Executive Member and Mangroves Committee member.

The meeting proved fruitful as the two discussed pertinent issues such as the PM Awas Yojana and the land issue affecting Pushp Vihar Colony. Specifically, they addressed concerns about funding housing projects through the PM Awas Yojana and their equitable distribution to keep in accord with the scheme's inclusive mandate.

Furthermore, the meeting highlighted the ongoing land issue impacting the quality of life of Pushp Vihar's residents adversely. Mrs. Ranavare brought these issues to Manisha Chaudhary, and the MLA responded positively to their concerns. She offered suggestions on steps to be taken to address these pressing concerns. Also, she acknowledged the need for focused efforts to improve the lives of those affected by diseases like leprosy.

APAL, grateful for the open and continuous dialogue with Mrs Chaudhary on these sensitive topics, thanked her for her positive response and continues to extend its cooperation to government initiatives that aim to improve the quality of life of those affected by leprosy.

Overall, Mrs Ranavare's meeting with Manisha Chaudhary promises much for the 100 families affected by residents in the Pushp Vihar community. The productive exchange is a reminder of the vital role that advocacy and dialogue play in tackling complex issues related to public welfare. APAL hopes that both public and private stakeholders continue to collaborate for the well-being of those affected by leprosy.



***On the occasion of Gandhi's death anniversary, a special event was held in Sanjay Gandhinagar Moulali Colony***

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, On the occasion of Gandhi's death anniversary, a special event was held in Sanjay Gandhinagar Moulali Colony to celebrate the eradication of leprosy. Representatives from the Reliable Trust, including Cheap Satyanand, distributed essential commodities to 90 families who were affected by leprosy. The event was attended by several individuals, including Head Constable SK Rafi (Slap-Tis) as a representative of PIS CI, EC member K Anusuya B Venkataiah, Malkajgiri, Mr. Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL and various colony residents.

The APAL state committee in Telangana expressed their gratitude to the representatives of Reliable Trust for their efforts in making the event a success. The distribution of essential commodities to families affected by leprosy is a crucial initiative in the fight against this disease. The event demonstrated the commitment of the organizers and participants to the cause of leprosy eradication.

Overall, the event was a testament to the effectiveness of community-based initiatives in addressing the challenges faced by individuals and families affected by leprosy. The participation of various stakeholders, including government officials, non-profit



organizations, and community members, highlights the importance of a collaborative approach in achieving the goal of leprosy eradication.



***The closure of the Leprosy Eradication Fortnight was celebrated with grandiosity in Pedda Amberpet Shantinagar Colony***

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024, The closure of the Leprosy Eradication Fortnight was celebrated with grandiosity in Pedda Amberpet Shantinagar Colony, attended by the State Health Director, Dr. Ravindra Naik, as the chief guest. The program was led by T.V. Venkateshwarlu, Vice Chairman of the Hindu Kusht Nivaran Sangh, and many medical officers were present.

During the event, Dr. Naik highlighted that leprosy is not a difficult disease and can be treated with medicines if detected early. The awareness program, initiated on January 30, lasted for 15 days, and Dr. Naik suggested that it should be continued persistently, not just for a limited time. He pledged to work tirelessly towards making India leprosy-free by 2027, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi. Additionally, TV Venkateshwarlu, Vice Chairman of the Hindu Kusht Nivaran Sangh, urged the public to treat leprosy patients with compassion and extend support in every way possible. Dr. John Babu, Joint Director of Leprosy, emphasized that eradicating leprosy is possible only with awareness and that more initiatives to raise public awareness will be taken. Medicines for the disease will be provided free of cost in all primary centres. The event culminated with Health Director Dr. Ravindra Naik distributing blankets to leprosy patients.

The program was attended by Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad Additional DMHOs Dr. Aruna and Dr. Nirmala Prabhavathi, Sivananda Home CEO Dr. Ananthar Reddy, State President of SLAP (Society of Leprosy Affected Persons) Maniyada Ramesh, DPMOs, APMOs, and residents.



***The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Maharashtra recently participated in the Fortnight Anti-Leprosy Day program***

On 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Maharashtra recently participated in the Fortnight Anti-Leprosy Day program. During the program, the State Committee presented a memorandum to increase the 5000 disability pension for individuals affected by leprosy, to cover their basic needs and extra treatment expenses. The event was attended by various esteemed dignitaries, including EMC staff in Mumbai, Mahanagar Palika health officers, and Dr. Daksha Saha, Dr. Pednekar, and Dr. Renge, Assistant Director Leprosy. Rasul Mulla, the leader of APAL State of Maharashtra, was also present.

The attendees took an oath to work towards the betterment of leprosy-affected individuals, ensuring that they receive the support and resources they need to enhance their quality of life. They discussed various mechanisms to support citizens affected by leprosy, resulting in disabilities. The APAL State Committee presented the memorandum to increase the disability pension to cover the rising needs of individuals affected by leprosy and ensure that appropriate resources for survival beyond treatment prevention are provided.

Rasul Mulla expressed his gratitude for hosting the program in association with the India Leprosy Foundation & Ministry Of Health. They discussed the need for revising and updating laws regarding government schemes for individuals affected by leprosy and upgrading medical facilities worldwide. The attendees deliberated on different suggestions, such as awareness campaigns and bringing health services to the cooperatives of society, to provide a broader insight into preferences.



***Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) partnered with the State Committee for Welfare of Persons Affected by Leprosy***

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) partnered with the State Committee for Welfare of Persons Affected by Leprosy (SAMUTHAN) and the East Champaran Lion Club to distribute essential provisions to 12 families residing at the Gandhi Kushth Colony in Pipra, East Champaran, Bihar. The provisions, consisting of food grains and blankets, were intended to aid families affected by leprosy who lack access to basic amenities.

This collaborative effort is a commendable initiative that not only provides necessary support to those in need but also highlights the importance of community-driven solutions



to address social issues. The provision of basic amenities to those affected by leprosy is a crucial step in the fight against this debilitating disease. The efforts of APAL, SAMUTHAN, and the East Champaran Lion Club should be recognized and commended for their contribution to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently visited the Baba Amte Kusht Ashram and the Anandavan Ashram in Nagpur, Maharashtra***

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare recently visited the Baba Amte Kusht Ashram and the Anandavan Ashram in Nagpur, Maharashtra, where she had the opportunity to interact with San Vikas Amte and gain insight into the livelihood projects and services designed to benefit individuals and families affected by leprosy. Her visit was a testament to her compassion towards those who suffer from the disease and the need for community support. Throughout her visit, she was able to gain firsthand experience of the daily challenges and obstacles faced by these families and learned about the essential initiatives undertaken by the ashram.

Mrs Ranavare's interaction with the individuals at the ashram enabled her to learn about the employment opportunities being generated and the various corresponding methods available to further support those affected by the disease. Her interest and support in this area have helped to generate awareness and encourage attitudinal changes in support of APAL and its vision for inclusivity and equitable living for individuals affected by leprosy. Overall, Mrs. Ranavare's visit to the ashram reflects her deep commitment to the cause and demonstrates her dedication to supporting the affected individuals and families.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently paid a visit to the Gokuldharm colony***

On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently paid a visit to the Gokuldharm colony in Wardha, Maharashtra. Her primary objective was to engage with the residents on the pressing issues of water supply and education for their children. Despite their long-standing history of leprosy, the colony finds itself beleaguered with essential plumbing issues that adversely impact their daily routines. During her visit, Mrs. Ranavare intently listened to their grievances and discussed the tools and utilities required to improve their living conditions.

Furthermore, Mrs. Ranavare emphasized the importance of education for the children of the colony. Leprosy has often resulted in the marginalization and exclusion of affected individuals and their families. Therefore, providing elementary education opportunities would prove to be a welcome change. Her interaction with the colony underscored the need to address the core issues surrounding the livelihoods of people impacted by leprosy. In conclusion, Mrs. Ranavare's visit to Gokuldharm colony brought to the fore the essential issues that are faced by people affected by leprosy. Her keen focus on the issues of water supply and education for children is a testament to the unwavering dedication of APAL to the cause of bettering the lives of the affected individuals.



***An LCD Program was recently conducted in the Peddamberpet Shanthinagar colony, under the supervision of various medical personnel in collaboration with APAL's State Committee in Telangana***

On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, An LCD Program was recently conducted in the Peddamberpet Shanthinagar colony, under the supervision of various medical personnel in collaboration with APAL's State Committee in Telangana. The program was attended by Dr. Ruddramadevi, the PHC in charge, the Basthi Divakhana team, and participants of the Shanthinagar Colony. The event was also attended by Srinivas Reddy, the DPMO, Vanaja, the Lab Technician, along with ASHA workers.

The program involved various tests to determine blood sugar levels, with doctors and medical workers conducting thorough checks. Monthly health checkups were also organized to provide helpful medicine dispersion and ensure the overall well-being of underprivileged communities.

Mr. Ramesh SLAP TS President), applauded and appreciated the PHC governing proceedings. In his concluding speech, he conveyed his gratitude to the medical staff for operating the facility in the most exemplary terms. The event serves as a testament to the importance of healthcare services and their impact on communities that are often deprived of such resources.



The valuable community gesture suggested through these clinical trials is further evidence of APAL's rigorous and ongoing social integration outreach programs.



***the Sadhan Foundation, an organization dedicated to serving leprosy patients and slum dwellers, hosted an event in Tahirpur***

On February 19, 2024, the Sadhan Foundation, an organization dedicated to serving leprosy patients and slum dwellers, hosted an event in Tahirpur, Delhi. The initiative, led by the organization's founder, Mr. Ashok Kumar, and organizer, Mr. Vinay, aimed to provide necessary support to individuals facing challenging circumstances.

During the event, MP Manoj Tiwari presented an ambulance to the attendees, with additional ambulances and medicines donated to disabled individuals, women, and children for emergency needs. MP Shri Manoj Tiwari was also briefed on the Sadhan Foundation's contributions towards the community, including the Sadhan Singh Moral Education Institute, Free Medical Clinic, and the upcoming project of Sadhan Foundation, Ayurveda Chikitsa. The discussion emphasized the importance of widespread efforts to treat leprosy patients and ensure education opportunities for their children.

The event was attended by several individuals, including the foundation's founder, principal, doctors, advocates, and others. Dr. Rashmi Gupta, Miss Kriti Gupta, Dr. Punika, Advocate Mr. Vinay, Dr. Sonali Priya, Dr. Mayank Kansal, Riya Singh, and Mr. Mukesh were among those present.

In summary, the event organized by the Sadhan Foundation was a significant step towards addressing the needs of the underserved community in Tahirpur, Delhi. The initiatives undertaken during this event are likely to have a long-lasting impact on the lives of those who depend on the support of organizations like the Sadhan Foundation.

APAL is thankful to the Sadhan Foundation for their invaluable support and responsibility to our fellow affected by leprosy and their families



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL recently received an invitation from the Public Health Department Employees Association to attend their annual meeting in Nagpur***

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL recently received an invitation from the Public Health Department Employees Association to attend their annual meeting in Nagpur. As an active member of several grassroots organizations dedicated to promoting healthcare, sanitation and hygiene awareness amongst marginalized communities in the region, Mrs Ranavare was keen to participate in the formal discussions and also got the opportunity to share her experiences and insights on key challenges facing public health initiatives in the region.

In addition to the formal proceedings, Mrs Ranavare took the opportunity to visit the Sevagram Ashram, an institution dedicated to Gandhian thought and principles of community service and self-reliance. At the ashram, she observed the various services being offered to the local community, including health clinics, vocational training programs, and initiatives supporting sustainable agriculture and clean energy. Mrs Ranavare expressed her appreciation for the work being done by the Sevagram team and noted that it was a great model for similar initiatives to be taken in other regions with similar challenges.

Overall, Mrs. Maya Ranavare's participation in this meeting and visit to Sevagram Ashram serve as a model for partnership and collaboration among government and non-governmental entities towards expanding access to quality healthcare and social services in underserved communities.



***The APAL State Committee in Chhattisgarh recently conducted a self-care Prevention of Disabilities (POD) program***

On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, The APAL State Committee in Chhattisgarh recently conducted a self-care Prevention of Disabilities (POD) program aimed at promoting health prevention measures. The program provided essential training and guidance to individuals on how they can prevent disabilities resulting from preventable health conditions by adopting simple yet significant preventive measures. Notably, the program attracted many participants from leprosy colonies who found it enlightening and empowering to understand the importance of self-care in their daily lives.

During the program, the APAL Committee highlighted various concerns, including unhealthy work-life balance habits, unhealthy dietary patterns, sedentary lifestyles, and other poor habits that contribute to the onset of disabilities. Following a detailed discussion, the program emphasized that making small, simple, but significant lifestyle changes could help individuals avoid disabilities. By regularly engaging in physical exercises, consuming a balanced diet, prioritizing mental health, reducing stress levels, and undergoing regular medical checkups, individuals can sidestep disabilities originating from non-hereditary, non-communicable diseases.



The program's outcome underscores the need for individuals to take responsibility for their health by adopting preventive measures to avoid disabilities. By doing so, individuals can minimize the potential impact of preventable health conditions on their overall well-being.



***Madam Manisha Chaudhary, a distinguished Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Dahisar in Mumbai, Maharashtra***

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Madam Manisha Chaudhary, a distinguished Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Dahisar in Mumbai, Maharashtra, is a prominent figure within the BJP in the state. For the quality of lives of persons affected by leprosy and their families, she became a Knowledgeable dedicated advocate By raising her voice to the voiceless.

APAL (Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy) has expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to meet with her and presented a memorandum outlining the challenges faced by the affected communities. It is worth noting that Mrs Chaudhary has taken a strong stance on addressing the land issues faced by people affected by leprosy living in colonies across Maharashtra.

For the response, Madam Chaudhary demonstrated responsible support by elevating the concerns to the parliamentary platform, where she eloquently spoke about the issues at hand. With her ongoing advocacy, there is hope that the problems faced by these communities will be swiftly resolved. The support extended by Madam Manisha Chaudhary is not only appreciated but also remembered as a significant step towards addressing the needs of those affected by leprosy in Maharashtra.



***APAL State Committee in Uttar Pradesh, in conjunction with the children of persons affected by leprosy residing under the compassionate care of MLRC (Missionaries of Lepers Relief Center), Adara, actively participated in the inauguration program***

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, APAL State Committee in Uttar Pradesh, in conjunction with the children of persons affected by leprosy residing under the compassionate care of MLRC (Missionaries of Lepers Relief Center), Adara, actively participated in the inauguration program of the Annual Sports event. This heartwarming collaboration showcases the commitment of APAL towards fostering inclusivity and providing support to those affected by leprosy. The event not only serves as a platform for promoting physical activity and a sense of community but also aims to break the stigma associated with leprosy by encouraging interaction and inclusion.

The participation of the children underscores the importance of creating an environment where everyone, regardless of their background, can engage in activities that promote well-being and unity. This initiative reflects APAL's dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of those affected by leprosy and fostering a sense of belonging within the community.



***APAL State Committee in Bihar has taken a proactive stance in applying for a disability pension***

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, APAL State Committee in Bihar has taken a proactive stance in applying for a disability pension on behalf of 10 individuals affected by leprosy residing in Motihari Colony, whose pensions were unfortunately discontinued. In this critical endeavour, Mr. Ramavarai Sah has played a pivotal role, showcasing his unwavering commitment to the cause. His dedicated efforts have ensured that the necessary paperwork and applications are meticulously processed, aiming to reinstate the disability pensions for these 10 individuals.

This compassionate initiative by the APAL State Committee, with Mr. Sah's significant contribution, exemplifies the organization's commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of those affected by leprosy, fostering a community that values inclusivity and support.





***APAL's State Committee took a significant step forward in its health and welfare initiatives. They presented their comprehensive annual report to the Dhanbad District Leprosy Prevention Officer***

On 6th March 2024, APAL's State Committee took a significant step forward in its health and welfare initiatives. They presented their comprehensive annual report to the Dhanbad District Leprosy Prevention Officer, highlighting their various programs and activities aimed at improving the lives of leprosy patients in the region. The committee's focus on a holistic approach was evident, as they addressed not only medical treatments but also broader needs such as disability certification, cataract tests and surgeries, disability pension provisions, and other essential facilities for the leprosy-affected population in the colony.

In a noteworthy development, the Dhanbad District granted permission on the 21st of this month for the establishment of a camp dedicated to providing disability certificates, conducting cataract tests and surgeries, and facilitating disability pension processes. This initiative reflects a commitment to comprehensive healthcare and support for leprosy patients, acknowledging the significance of addressing both the medical and socio-economic aspects of their well-being. The collaborative efforts between the APAL's state committee and the district authorities are commendable, signalling a positive stride towards enhancing the quality of life for individuals affected by leprosy in the region. The request for such facilities is a testament to the commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that those facing the challenges of leprosy receive the necessary care and resources to lead fulfilling lives.

APAL special thanks to Mr. Madhu Sudan Tiwari Secretary of the state committee for his continued contribution to the leprosy community.



***APAL's State Committee in West Bengal, in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal, has achieved a significant milestone through the construction and sanction of a new community hall***

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, APAL's State Committee in West Bengal, in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal, has achieved a significant milestone through the construction and sanction of a new community hall in Kankar Danga colony, Barnpur, West Bengal. The initiative, inaugurated on March 6, 2024, stands as a testament to the concerted efforts aimed at fostering community development and inclusivity. The community hall is expected to serve as a hub for various social and cultural activities, enhancing the overall well-being of the residents in the area.

APAL would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the Government of West Bengal for their unwavering support and commitment to the welfare of the leprosy community. Special thanks are extended to the State Committee for their dedicated efforts in realizing this project, which not only provides a physical space for community gatherings but also symbolizes the spirit of unity and cooperation in addressing the needs of marginalized populations. This collaborative venture underscores the importance of partnership between government bodies and non-profit organizations in creating positive change and fostering an environment of inclusivity and compassion.



***In a remarkable collaboration between the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Madhya Pradesh(SKNS) and Youth with Mission, a significant initiative was undertaken to address the pressing needs of the community***

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, In a remarkable collaboration between the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Madhya Pradesh(SKNS) and Youth with Mission, a significant initiative was undertaken to address the pressing needs of the community. Their joint efforts resulted in the installation of a bore well at Rajabhaj Kusht Ashram, a facility dedicated to individuals affected by leprosy. The initiative aimed to alleviate the water scarcity issues faced by the residents of the ashram, enhancing their living conditions and overall well-being.

The success of this endeavour was greatly attributed to the dedication and commitment of key individuals involved, notably the youth leader, Mr. Bharat Rawat, and APAL's volunteer, Mr. Raju Rathore. Their tireless efforts and active participation in the project ensured its smooth execution and made a positive impact on the lives of approximately 300 people affected by leprosy and their families. The bore well not only provided a



sustainable water source but also symbolized a collaborative spirit that transcended organizational boundaries for the betterment of the community.

APAL expresses its gratitude for the invaluable contributions of Youth with Mission, recognizing their selfless service to those in need. The partnership exemplifies the power of collaboration in addressing social challenges and underscores the importance of collective efforts in creating positive change within communities affected by leprosy. Through initiatives like these, meaningful strides are taken towards fostering inclusivity and enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable populations.



***On March 11, 2024, amidst the serene ambience of Manipur Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre, the Swachhata Pakhwada initiative took flight, illuminating the lives of children born to leprosy sufferers***

On March 11, 2024, amidst the serene ambience of Manipur Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre, the Swachhata Pakhwada initiative took flight, illuminating the lives of children born to leprosy sufferers. Honourable Dr Roy, alongside Uma Chowdhury, GNM, and Raghunathpur, graced the occasion with their esteemed presence, infusing the event with enthusiasm and purpose. The atmosphere buzzed with activity as participants engaged in various cleanliness drives and awareness programs.

APAL, with heartfelt gratitude, extends appreciation to Dr. Roy and Mr. Nabakumar Das, the State Coordinator of APAL, for their unwavering dedication and active contribution, which significantly enriched the event and its noble cause.



***In a collaborative effort with the Government Hospital, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently organized a Prevention of Disability (POD) Camp***

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, In a collaborative effort with the Government Hospital, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently organized a Prevention of Disability (POD) Camp in Khanpura. This initiative aimed to address the needs of individuals affected by leprosy by providing essential care and support. One of the key components of the camp was the distribution of MCR Footwear and Dressing Materials, crucial for ulcer care and prevention of disability among leprosy patients. This effort not only alleviated immediate health concerns but also emphasized the importance of proactive measures in managing the condition.

The involvement of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the State Committee in Madhya Pradesh played a pivotal role in the success of the camp. Their collaboration ensured that resources were efficiently allocated and that the outreach efforts reached those most in need. APAL expresses profound gratitude to both entities for their unwavering commitment to serving the community and for their continued support of initiatives aimed at improving the lives of individuals affected by leprosy. Such partnerships underscore the significance of collective action in addressing complex health challenges and fostering inclusive healthcare systems.



***The state committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar plays a crucial role in advocating for the rights and welfare of individuals affected by leprosy across the state***

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, The state committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar plays a crucial role in advocating for the rights and welfare of individuals affected by leprosy across the state. Recently, Mr Ramavarai Sah, the Joint Secretary of APAL, undertook a significant visit to the Banmankhi Colony situated in Banmankhi Purnia district. In this colony, 34 families are grappling with the challenges posed by leprosy. These families reside in makeshift plastic Jogi huts, highlighting the dire living conditions they endure.

Despite the colony being on land belonging to a farmer, the inhabitants face uncertainty regarding their tenure. The farmer has not evicted them from the land, but he has also refused to formalize their residency by registering the land. This limbo leaves the affected families vulnerable and without legal recourse to secure their shelter. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, APAL swiftly took action.



APAL's response was prompt and strategic. They submitted a memorandum to the relevant authorities, urging them to intervene and address the land ownership issue plaguing the Banmankhi Colony residents. By highlighting the plight of these families and advocating for their rights, APAL demonstrates its unwavering commitment to supporting and empowering individuals affected by leprosy.

The efforts of APAL in Bihar, spearheaded by dedicated individuals like Mr. Ramavarai Sah and Mr. Ramesh underscore the importance of advocacy and collective action in addressing systemic challenges faced by marginalized communities. As APAL expresses gratitude for the advocacy efforts undertaken, they also reaffirm their commitment to continuing the fight for justice and dignity for all those affected by leprosy in Bihar and beyond.



***International Shirdi Saibhakta Seva Trust (TSSBST) orchestrated an act of benevolence in Pedda Amber Pate Santosh Nagar Colony and Shantinagar Colony to commemorate Akhanda Namasaptha***

On the 16th of March, 2024, the International Shirdi Saibhakta Seva Trust (TSSBST) orchestrated an act of benevolence in Pedda Amber Pate Santosh Nagar Colony and Shantinagar Colony to commemorate Akhanda Namasaptha. The Trust's microfinance initiative disbursed cheques to 11 economically disadvantaged students, offering them a ray of hope for a brighter future. This initiative aimed to alleviate immediate financial burdens and empower these students to pursue their education with renewed vigor. Furthermore, the Trust provided medical kits and new clothes to 10 individuals afflicted by leprosy at the Gurram Guda Sai Baba Mandir, extending warmth and dignity to those who are often marginalized by society.

The esteemed chairman, S. Lakshmi Narasimha Rao, led this altruistic endeavor with his visionary leadership, guiding the Trust in its mission of service and compassion. Alongside him, Vice President Lakshmi, General Secretary Samanthakmani, and Treasurer Pawan, in their respective roles, epitomized dedication and commitment to the cause. The participation of Sitarama Raju, Sambasivaraju, and the State Coordinator of APAL Mr. Ramesh exemplified solidarity in the pursuit of humanitarian goals. The special guest, King Hanmantu's presence, lent further significance to the event, underscoring the unity of purpose in serving the community's most vulnerable members.

Throughout the event, gratitude resonated with heartfelt thanks extended to the trustee representatives whose unwavering support made this noble endeavour possible. The APAL state committee conveyed their gratitude for the Trust's compassionate umbrella and its noble mission of service.



***The State Committee of APAL in Bihar, under the leadership of Mr. Someshwar Dubey as the State Coordinator, has made considerable strides in uplifting the community of Gandhigram Post Ashram in the Motipur District of Muzaffarpur***

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, The State Committee of APAL in Bihar, under the leadership of Mr. Someshwar Dubey as the State Coordinator, has made considerable strides in uplifting the community of Gandhigram Post Ashram in the Motipur District of Muzaffarpur. By adopting a collaborative approach, the Committee has implemented various initiatives to improve the socio-economic conditions of the residents. Notably, the recent distribution of clothes to 50 families by the Ramakrishna Paramahansa Sanstha in Muzaffarpur serves as a testament to the collective effort and compassion exhibited by both local organizations and individuals. This act of benevolence provides essential support to those in need and fosters a sense of unity and solidarity within the community. The Committee's efforts and Sanstha's contribution exemplify the power of collaboration in addressing socio-economic challenges in local communities.



***In a commendable collaboration between Chival Hospital and the State Committee of APAL in Haryana, a health camp***

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, In a commendable collaboration between Chival Hospital and the State Committee of APAL in Haryana, a health camp was successfully conducted at the Alakh Alakh leprosy colony. The program, led by esteemed medical professionals including Dr. Chival Srujan, Dr. Vinit Nehal, Dr. Rani, Dr. Poonam, and Dr. Priti, aimed to provide essential healthcare services to the residents of the colony. Their dedication and expertise ensured that the health camp was not only efficient but also impactful, addressing various medical needs of the community. APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to these doctors for their invaluable contribution towards improving the health and well-being of those in need.



Furthermore, APAL expresses special appreciation to Mr. Govind Swamy, an Executive Committee Member, for his significant contribution towards the success of the health camp. Mr. Swamy's unwavering support and dedication played a pivotal role in organizing and facilitating the event, ensuring that the necessary resources and logistics were in place. His commitment to the cause of combating leprosy and promoting healthcare accessibility in underserved communities exemplifies the spirit of altruism and compassion. The collaboration between Chival Hospital, and APAL, and the dedication of individuals like Mr. Swamy underscores the importance of collective efforts in addressing healthcare challenges and fostering positive change within society.



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