

SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Monthly Report

To
Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation

Title of the Report	Monthly Progress Report
Name	Mrs. Maya Ranavare
Date of Submission	4 th February 2024
Reporting Period	January 2024

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

- 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's President Mrs Maya Ranavare have participated in National Confluence of Leprosy

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

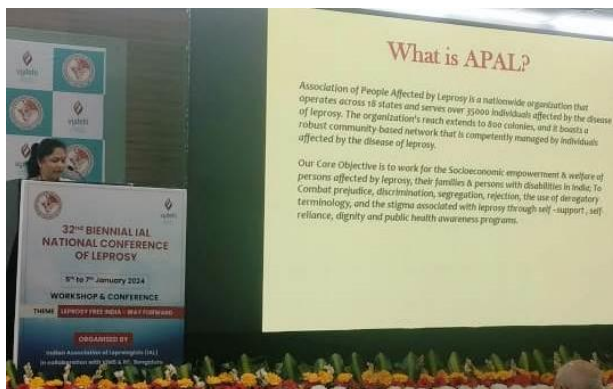
Dr. Takahiro Nanri CEO of Sasakawa Health Foundation is the chief guest of the conference



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

On 7th 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 5th to the 7th 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 11th 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.



On 14th 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 14th 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 17th 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 20th 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 23rd 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 Turkey 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 25th, 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 29th 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.

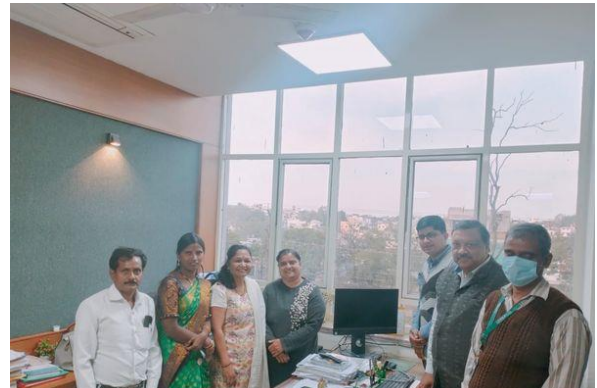
The memorandum outlined several key issues that require attention. Firstly, we respectfully request that representatives from APAL or the state committee be included in the Government's programs. We believe that this measure would facilitate collaboration and promote greater participation in the state's 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 30th 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 30th 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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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 31st, 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 31st 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 31st 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.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare
President APAL