



Association of People Affected by Leprosy

Equity and Integration

Annual Report 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

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

- In collaboration with the local healthcare center, APIL State Committee in Telangana orchestrated a meaningful Health Camp
- The Chief Minister Bhiksha Yojana initiative was implemented, prompted by a request from the State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Someshwar Dubey. The primary objective of this initiative was to furnish essential educational materials
- Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL, attended a momentous civil felicitation ceremony in Maharashtra alongside APAL's dedicated state committee to honour Sri Ram Naik, a Padma Bhushan recipient
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), played a pivotal role in promoting the cause of those impacted by leprosy at the ILEP India stakeholders meeting
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association for the Protection of the Afflicted by Leprosy (APAL), graced the inaugural function of the NLR Foundation's Silver Jubilee commemoration
- In a mutually beneficial collaboration, Mrs. Parvathi, a highly regarded figure in the Rural Development sector, partnered with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy to extend a significant gesture of support to the community of individuals.
- Mrs. Parvathi, a highly regarded figure in the Rural Development sector, partnered with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy to extend a significant gesture of support to the community of individuals afflicted by leprosy
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the incumbent President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), is a distinguished expert in the global fight against leprosy. Recently, she led a mission to Jordan, where she played an instrumental role in the campaign to eliminate leprosy from the region
- A significant distribution program was conducted at Ambedkar Leprosy Colony and Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, wherein 150 families affected by leprosy received essential aid
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) today convened a virtual State Coordinator's monthly review meeting
- A significant event transpired in the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santhosh Nagar Colony. The International Shirdi Sai Bhakta Seva Trust, a dedicated organization committed to supporting leprosy-affected individuals, orchestrated a benevolent distribution of school bags to 50 students
- APAL's State Committee of Madhya Pradesh convened a crucial discussion with Shri Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, the Mayor of Indore, concerning the maintenance allowance provided by the Municipal Corporation to individuals affected by leprosy
- In a commendable effort to foster community spirit and support the development of youth in leprosy colonies, the Maharashtra State Committee, in collaboration with the Anandvan Leprosy Colony, organized the Maharashtra Leprosy Premier League at Khadki, Pune

- APAL's State Committee in Gujarat, at Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh, in collaboration with the Government Dental College in Ahmedabad, a comprehensive dental health initiative was organized for the residents of the leprosy colony
- APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, alongside Dr. Sangli, and teams from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, recently had a significant meeting with the newly appointed State Leprosy Officer
- Significant strides were made towards addressing the issue of illegal occupation and encroachment at Alvasa Leprosy Dham, Indore. I, accompanied by the ashram residents and Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, the Secretary of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), visited the Collector's office
- Significant action was taken by APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, specifically the Sahayog Kushtha Nivaran Sangh, to address the issue of encroachment on the land of Ram Avatar Kushtha Ashram in Indore. This action was swiftly acknowledged and responded to by the local Collector, highlighting the effective coordination between the committee and administrative authorities
- State Committee of the APAL conducted an extensive visit to various departments across Jharkhand, with a focus on critical issues and developmental projects. At the SLO office
- APAL's State Committee under the auspices of the Leprosy Society focused on the welfare of leprosy patients. Essential ulcer kits for treating and caring for leprosy ulcers were distributed to 50 individuals in need
- Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside key members of the Maharashtra Kush Pidit Sanghatana, convened a crucial meeting with Hon. Kailas Laxmanrao Shinde, Gat Leader of Group No. 6 and the Karyalaya Chief of Mahanagarpalika
- APAL's state Committee in Jharkhand had the privilege of meeting Shri Dhulu Mahato, the Lok Sabha Member of Parliament representing Dhanbad
- APAL President Maya Ranavare, accompanied by representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, held a significant meeting with the Forest Officer of the Kalyan Taluka Department at the Forest Range Office in Kalyan (West)
- The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, accompanied by the APAL State Committee of Maharashtra, conducted a visit to Ambernath Colony in Maharashtra today
- The President of APAL Mrs. Maya Ranavare, led a visit to Ulhasnagar Colony in Mumbai, Maharashtra, accompanied by the state committee members
- In collaboration with the Hope Foundation from England, APAL's State Committee in Delhi (RWA) has successfully negotiated support for the construction of a community Hall
- A delegation from TATA Steel's education department, accompanied by members of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, visited Navjeevan Ashram in Jamshedpur as part of an extensive program
- The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, and Gaurab Sen, the CEO of S-ILF, along with their respective teams, conducted a significant visit to the Kuthori Leprosy Colony in Assam
- Jawahar Nagar Municipal Corporation's 28th Division, specifically Mother Theresa Colony, witnessed a significant act of compassion and support. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, undertook a commendable initiative to distribute medical kits to 50 leprosy victims
- a notable event brought hope and relief to these communities. Representatives from NTPC, under the guidance of APAL's Coordinator M. Ramesh, along with officials from the Lepra Society, organized the distribution of medical kits and tubs

- In collaboration with NTPC and the Lepra Society, APAL's State Committee in Telangana successfully distributed ulcer care kits to 120 individuals
- A successful disability assessment took place at the Shantivan premises. The event benefitted from the participation of an orthopaedic specialist surgeon, a psychiatric specialist, the district leprosy disability in-charge, and the district social welfare officer
- APAL President Maya Ranavare, along with the Executive Committee and State Coordinators from 18 states, participated in a one-day All India Convention for Leprosy
- APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, alongside the State Committee in Rajasthan, embarked on a significant visit to various locations in Jaipur, including Gandhi Ashram, Garibdas Ashram, Jhotwara, and six leprosy colonies
- APAL's President Maya Ranavare participated in a significant meeting convened by the Collaborative organization Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana in Pune.
- In partnership with the NTPC and Lepra Society, the APAL State Committee in Telangana orchestrated a distribution event to deliver essential aid
- a significant event unfolded as the Griha Pravesh ceremony was conducted to commemorate the establishment of new homes for 256 families residing in three leprosy colonies in Ranchi
- a collaborative endeavor was undertaken in Telangana, involving NTPC, ADP, the Lepra Society, APAL, and the State Committee. The event's primary objective was to distribute essential self-care kits, tubs, and MCR footwear
- Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) and the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) held a collaborative meeting in Hyderabad, Telangana, with support from S-ILF.
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) held a significant general body meeting of the State Committee in Telangana with the support of S-ILF.
- In partnership with the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee in Andhra Pradesh, known as the Society of Leprosy Affected Persons (SLAP-AP), convened a significant collaborative meeting at Bethany Leprosy Colony in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh
- APAL conducted a General Body meeting of APAL's State Committee of Andhra Pradesh(Society of Leprosy Affected persons(SLAP-AP) with the support of Brighter Future Development Trust (BFDT) and Lepra Society
- APAL's state Committee in Jharkhand, comprising APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, Jharkhand State Coordinator Mohammad Zainuddin, and APAL Jharkhand Leader Shri Madhusudan Tiwari, participated in the LCDC meeting
- President of APAL, Ms. Maya Ranavare, and the Treasurer, Mr. Prakash Done, visited the Brighter Future Development Trust
- Bishop Durgam Prabhakar, the Founder and President of Bethesda Ministries, orchestrated a compassionate blanket distribution initiative aimed at assisting 40 underprivileged families in B.B. Nagar Leprosy Colony
- A delegation from the APAL's State Committee in Odisha convened with Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi
- Jawahar Ram Paswan, the Vice President of APAL, held a meeting with Rajeshwar Mandal, the charge of the TISCO Community Center
- State Committee of APAL in Bihar held a significant meeting with Shriman Ganga Prasad ji, the former Governor of Meghalaya, at his residence in Patna
- Maya Ranavare, recently met with the District Leprosy Officer of Sangli

- a significant event occurred at the Adilabad Tirupalli Leprosy Colony. Essential items such as blankets, umbrellas, towels, and ration essentials were distributed to the residents affected by leprosy
- a significant event took place at the Adilabad Tirupalli Leprosy Colony, where ulcer care kits and tubs were distributed among the residents
- a significant event was held at Big Amberpet, which was organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation to support families affected by leprosy. Essential provisions, including groceries, were distributed to 100 families
- In a significant effort to support individuals affected by leprosy, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with Lepra Society, distributed Micro Cellular Rubber
- Independence Day 2024, APAL's Coordinators and Executive Committee Members actively participated in the celebrations
- Maya Ranavare, recently led a delegation of APAL's State Committee in Gujarat to the Commissionerate of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education, and Research
- State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Society for Rural Development (SRD), organized a significant distribution event to provide support to leprosy-affected families in Shantinagar Colony. Essential commodities, including ration supplies, were disbursed
- In a joint endeavor, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and Brighter Future Development Trust
- President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, alongside the management of APAL's State Committee, held a meeting with the Governor of Odisha
- , In partnership with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh hosted a Health Screening Camp at New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore
- Under the 15th Finance Commission Scheme, a substantial renovation project took place at the Leprosy Ashram of West Khagron, Ward No. 12. The project focused on renovating the pipeline
- State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, referred to as SAMUTHAN, convened at the office of the Land Reforms Minister in Patna to address critical land-related issues
- State Committee of APAL in Jharkhand, accompanied by Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, conducted a visit to the Angarpathra Leprosy Colony
- APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh conducted a health screening camp in collaboration with Kaligiri Leprosy Hospital at the New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore
- APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, namely Mr. Mohd. Zainuddin and Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, a formal request was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office
- State Committee of APAL, in partnership with the Children of Deccan Foundation, hosted a book distribution event at MPPS School in Pasumamulu as part of the Vidyadhan program
- Pasumamula J.P.H.S. hosted a significant event organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation (CDF) in partnership with Mangala as part of their girl safety program
- State Committee of APAL in Odisha conducted a significant visit to all leprosy colonies in the Balangir district
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy, in collaboration with the District Health Society (DHS) in Kamrup, organized a significant event at the Dhirenpara First Referral Unit (FRU) in Assam

- State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in conjunction with the Share Vision organization, orchestrated a notable occasion to provide aid to families impacted by leprosy
- During a recent meeting, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association for People Affected by Leprosy, held discussions with Mr. Aamdar Satish Patil, a Member of the Vidhana Sabha in Kolhapur
- The State Committee of APAL in Telangana and APAL's State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh Maniyada convened a meeting with the Honorable Minister, Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy
- State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana, in partnership with the Share the Vision Khammam organization, conducted a significant distribution of essential provisions
- State Committee of APAL in Gujarat conducted an educational program at the Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh. The aim was to enlighten third-year [B.Sc](#) Nursing students from KD Hospital, Ahmedabad
- State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, known as SAMUTHAN, submitted a significant application to the Chief Minister of Bihar
- The APAL State Committee in Telangana, in conjunction with the HP Shakti Ladies Club, recently undertook a commendable initiative to distribute food grains to 85 families affected by leprosy
- a delegation led by Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, visited the office of the Additional Director of Health Services (ADHS) in Sangli, Maharashtra
- APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with members of the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, visited several key leprosy colonies
- APAL State Committee in Bihar, represented by Mr. Ramesh Prasad, Mr. Ram Barai, and Mr. Kamlesh, held an important meeting with Harjot Kaur Bamhra, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department in Bihar
- President of APAL, and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, recently held a meeting with Honorable MLA Annasaheb Bansode, Pimpri Vidhan Sabha
- president of APAL, took part in the BIAnnual National Disability Network Meeting conducted in Delhi
- The State Committee of the APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Health Department of Peddambar Peta Primary Health Centre (PHC), recently organized a successful health camp
- APAL's State Committee in Karnataka, accompanied by women affected by leprosy from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony, visited the local Primary Health Center (PHC) to address a critical need for regular health and ulcer care services
- APAL's State Committee in Haryana, in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, recently carried out a compassionate initiative aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy at Rohtak Kusht Aashram
- Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in conjunction with leaders from various leprosy colonies in Bhimavaram, undertook an initiative to address the inadequate infrastructure in their communities
- On 1st October, a detailed inspection was carried out by the authorities of the Municipal Corporation of Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh
- Report on Cleanliness Intervention Led by Mr. Someshwar Dubey at Gandhi Gram Ashram, Mothipur on 1st October 2024.

- In furtherance of this initiative, Councilor Vijender Reddy distributed essential ration supplies to the residents of Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony
- State Committee in Haryana, in partnership with the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club in Rohtak, conducted a compassionate distribution drive in all leprosy colonies throughout the state
- State Committee in Telangana, in partnership with the LEPRO Society, hosted a significant Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) Camp
- In collaboration with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, the APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh orchestrated a Health Screening Camp
- This compassionate initiative took place at Santhi Nagar Colony, a locality where many individuals impacted by leprosy reside. During the event, essential supplies such as food grains, clothes, and blankets were distributed to 100 people
- APAL State Committee, led by State Coordinator M. Ramesh, orchestrated a significant humanitarian endeavor aimed at providing assistance to families impacted by leprosy in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This endeavor, which entailed the distribution of essential groceries
- Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, representing the APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, and his team from the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), formally submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad district
- In Gandhi Gram Post Ashram, Motipur, there is a group of 40 leprosy patients, all of whom are ration cardholders and depend on assistance to obtain essential rations
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the distinguished privilege of serving as the chief guest at the 150-year celebration of The Leprosy Mission
- APAL's State Committee in Telangana in collaboration with Sri Sharada Seva Trust organized a heartwarming initiative to distribute essential commodities
- Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently participated in the ILEP Advisory Panel Meeting
- State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar recently conducted a humanitarian initiative at Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram, Motipur, Muzaffarpur. The organization distributed essential general medicines
- Maya Ranavare participated in a working session with ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) member organizations in Ethiopia
- Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), honoured Dr. Sahir Pal, the Civil Surgeon of East Singhbhum, along with District Leprosy Prevention Officer
- Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, recently visited the Chanpatiya colony in Bihar to conduct a survey of the living conditions in the area
- Under the leadership of State Coordinator Maniyada Ramesh and committee member K. Anusuya, the initiative aimed to provide essential support and care to those in need. The team distributed blankets to 25 families
- The State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar, in collaboration with the Government, successfully organized a UDID (Unique Disability ID Card) camp
- Recently, the Tamil Nadu state committee, in partnership with generous contributors, distributed essential food grains to 55 families residing in the Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony
- On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, the APAL State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the NGO Khushiyan Ke Pal, undertook the distribution of ration kits to 62 families

- The APAL Executive Committee and the Sasakawa Health Foundation convened a productive meeting in Delhi on October 31, 2024
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana, in collaboration with the Better Life Charitable Trust, recently extended much-needed support to leprosy-affected families in Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Colony.
- Recently, the state committee of APAL in Telangana collaborated with the Realine Club to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need. Together, they organized a food distribution
- A significant medical camp was organized in Madhya Pradesh, held at the Arunodaya Leprosy Ashram in Indore
- The APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Samarpan Foundation Trust, successfully organized a two-day medical camp aimed at providing essential healthcare services to the residents of leprosy colonies
- State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) conducted an important meeting with local committee members and the Computer Centre Management Committee at Jamuria Leprosy Colony and Kankar Danga Leprosy Colony
- Mr. Rasul Mullah, serving as the State Coordinator of the Association of People with Disabilities (APAL) in Maharashtra, played an active role in the Consultation on the Status of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Maharashtra
- A complimentary medical camp was organized early in the day at the Indira Leprosy Ashram in Jhotwara, facilitated by the generosity of M/s Shri Krishna Kripa Jewelers, Jaipur
- A notable act of compassion and community service occurred under the auspices of the APAL State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local humanitarian organizations. This initiative involved the distribution of essential goods to 25 families
- Executive Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a significant meeting at the Kinder Kabli Hotel in Delhi. The gathering brought together key members of the committee to discuss pressing issues concerning persons affected by leprosy in India
- State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana actively participated in a significant meeting organized by the Welfare of Disabled Department. The event, held at the Commissionerate Building, Nalgonda X Road, Hyderabad
- Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), participated in an important meeting in Delhi with the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Mr. Yohie Sasakawa.
- The APAL State Committee in Delhi, in collaboration with the Atrium Cardiac Chamber Organization, successfully organized a health camp at the Tahirpur Kusth Ashram
- A comprehensive free medical camp was successfully conducted in Shanti Nagar, Pedda Amberpet, APAL's state Committee in Telangana organized in collaboration with Ashrayam Hand of Hope
- APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) President Maya Ranavare, accompanied by APAL's Advisor Mr. Uday Thakar and the President of Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, Mr. Jitendra Chouvan, recently met with Amdar Mr. Prashant Thakur, MLA of Panvel, as well as a newly elected MLA in Maharashtra
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), recently participated in a significant meeting organized by the Bombay Literacy Project in Mumbai

- In collaboration with representatives from NTPC, the Leprosy Society distributed ulcer kits and tubs to 40 individuals affected by leprosy
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the APAL, recently visited the Ulhasnagar colony to assess and engage with the local community
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the All People's Action League (APAL), recently visited the Saikushth Colony located near Haji Malang in Kalyan
- An impactful initiative took place in Devanagari Colony and Devpalli Colony near Ditch Pally, where 134 ulcer kits and tubs were distributed to individuals affected by leprosy.
- APAL and APAL's State committee in Telangana, in collaboration with representatives of the Leprosy Society distributed MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear free of cost to individuals affected by leprosy
- APAL's State committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the District Leprosy Referral Center (DLRC) in Nallakunta, Hyderabad
- Ms. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), participated in this significant event NLEP National Review Meeting
- Huge congratulations to Ms. Keroline Bhengra Executive Member of APAL for receiving the prestigious "LEPROSY CHAMPION" 🏆 award
- A meeting of the APAL's State Committee in Bihar was convened on December 11 to discuss various administrative and organizational matters.
- Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, actively participated in the dissemination event for the pilot study titled "Leprosy and Migration in India
- Madhusudan Tiwari, Secretary of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, accompanied by Samuel Ji, conducted a significant visit to four leprosy colonies
- The meeting was honoured by the presence of Shri Bharat Ji, a senior officer of the Railways, accompanied by his colleagues. It was attended by local village leaders and community members
- The Karnataka State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with the Nandadeep Charitable Trust, organized a significant event in Mahatma Gandhi Colony
- A significant event was organized at the Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony with the intent of providing support to individuals affected by leprosy.
- The State Committee of APAL in Madhya Pradesh recently engaged in a coordination meeting related to leprosy programs and the welfare of individuals affected by the disease
- APAL's State Committee in West Bengal convened a significant meeting with the Presidents and Secretaries of 12 leprosy colonies within the Paschim Bardhaman district
- The APAL State Committee in Bihar convened an important meeting in Areraj Colony to discuss key developments concerning the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).
- APAL State Committee in Tamil Nadu recently took a significant step towards supporting the health and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy
- Ms. Maya Ranavare, in collaboration with Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues at the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and members of APAL's State Committee in Odisha, recently convened a significant meeting with the Social Minister, Chief Secretary, and State Leprosy Officer of Odisha
- The tireless efforts of **Apal India**'s State Committee in Delhi and Mr. Vijay Kumar, the General Secretary of the RWA Leprosy Complex in Tahirpur, Delhi, a successful camp was organized by Sarvodaya Kusth Ashram.

- The Executive Committee (EC) members of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor of Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), recently visited several leprosy colonies in Odisha.
- APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, has recently distributed food grains and blankets to persons affected by leprosy and their families.
- A significant meeting took place at the Leprosy Ashram in Tahirpur, convened at the request of the State Committee of APAL in Delhi and Mr. Vijay Kumar, the General Secretary of the RWA Leprosy Complex.
- A significant milestone was achieved in Kankar Danga Leprosy Colony, Burnpur, West Bengal, with the inauguration of a new healthcare center.
- APAL's State Committee in West Bengal organized the Sara Bangla Kustha Kalyan Samity Central Committee Meeting at Manipur, Adra, West Bengal.
- a significant event occurred at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Balajinagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, where essential commodities and blankets were distributed to 53 individuals affected by leprosy.
- Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, General Secretary of APAL, together with the State Committee and leaders from nine leprosy colonies, recently convened with the District Magistrate of Indore to present a memorandum advocating for an increase in social entitlements and disability pensions for individuals who have been cured of leprosy
- A distribution program was organized by the State Committee of APAL in Telangana in collaboration with the Grace Service Society Khammam to assist families affected by leprosy in Shantinagar Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony within the Peddambarpet area.
- A significant event took place at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, coinciding with the New Year celebrations.
- APAL's State Committee in West Bengal organized the Sara Bangla Kustha Kalyan Samity Central Committee Meeting at Manipur, Adra, West Bengal. The meeting served as a platform for key discussions on two significant agenda points.
- A significant event occurred at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Balajinagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, where essential commodities and blankets were distributed to 53 individuals affected by leprosy.
- Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, General Secretary of APAL, together with the State Committee and leaders from nine leprosy colonies, recently convened with the District Magistrate of Indore to present a memorandum advocating for an increase in social entitlements and disability pensions for individuals who have been cured of leprosy.
- A distribution program was organized by the State Committee of APAL in Telangana in collaboration with the Grace Service Society Khammam
- A significant event took place at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, coinciding with the New Year celebrations
- APAL, in conjunction with its State Committee in Bihar, hosted a significant visit from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues
- A complimentary health check-up camp was organized at the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony, facilitated by the esteemed Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre in collaboration with the APAL State Committee in Bangalore
- ****APAL Interaction Meeting in Bihar Focuses on Leprosy Services and Community Welfare****

- In collaboration with its State Committee in Bihar, APAL organized a significant visit to the Missionary Hospital and the Prem Nagar Gaunpura colony in Phulkari, Patna.
- Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), accompanied by the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, recently conducted a visit to Mangalgad Hill in Kudus Dashaashram.
- APAL distributed essential food grains and clothing to the residents of the Annai Terissa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalpur.
- APAL proudly announces our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association for Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL), for being awarded the esteemed "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" recognition
- Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently attended the distinguished Sahu Chhatrapati Foundation program.
- Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor for Medical Issues at SHF, recently convened with Deputy Director General of Leprosy at the Central Leprosy Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- Committee of the Association for the People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana coordinated a significant humanitarian initiative in collaboration with Jacob, President of the Grace Service Society.
- The collaboration meeting between the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), and LEPROA was convened on 19 January 2025 at the Khagual Leprosy Colony in Patna, Bihar.
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently conducted a Nutrition Support Program at Gandhi Kusht Aashram in Jamira, Ara (Bhojpur). This initiative aimed to provide essential foodgrains to individuals affected by leprosy and their families, ensuring they receive adequate nutritional support.
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened a significant meeting with its State Committee in Bihar.
- In a recent initiative, the newly elected APAL State Committee in Bihar organized a Nutrition Support Program aimed at addressing the nutritional needs of those affected by leprosy and their families.
- APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized an awareness program on leprosy for the nursing students of Choithram Nursing College at Babulpura Kusht Ashram, Bamnaganga, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- A ration distribution program was conducted in Shantinagar Colony, benefiting 30 families affected by leprosy.
- The celebration of Leprosy Day at Ramnagar Leprosy Colony, Danapur, Patna, was organized under the leadership of APAL's State Committee in Bihar, demonstrating a strong commitment to the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy.
- APAL's State Committee in West Bengal actively participated in the World Leprosy Day celebrations organized by Milan Sangh in West Bengal
- World Leprosy Day was commemorated with great compassion and service at Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh, APAL's State Committee in Gujarat in collaboration with Gateway of Engineering College.
- The APAL team, along with WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and his team, visited Jaatna Leprosy Colony and Jagannath Leprosy Colony in Odisha.

- On the special occasion of Montfort's birthday, ST in collaboration with APAL's State Committee in Telangana organized a noble service program to support 100 leprosy-affected individuals across various colonies. As part of this initiative, each beneficiary received 10 kg of rice, ₹500 in cash, and a wholesome lunch.
- In collaboration with Share the Vision, APAL's State Committee in Telangana successfully distributed food grains to 40 families of persons affected by leprosy at Vadrikal Leprosy Colony in Kamareddy District, Telangana.
- On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, organized a significant awareness program aimed at educating the community about leprosy at Saksh College of Nursing in Miraj.
- On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, organized a significant awareness program aimed at educating the community about leprosy at the College of Physiotherapy in Miraj.
- In collaboration with Reliable Trust (Khammam), played a pivotal role in organizing a humanitarian relief initiative within the Devapalli Leprosy Colony, located in the Ditchpally area of Nizamabad district.
- The State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with local organizations, conducted an impactful initiative at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony in Peddamberpet.
- State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Samarpan Foundation Trust, Red Cross Society, and the District Health Department, organized a free health camp on February 15, 2025, at the Sant Dnyaneshwar Leprosy Service Committee.
- APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra, in collaboration with Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, took a significant step in advocating for the land rights of the residents of the Indiranagar Leprosy Colony in Miraj.
- APAL State Committee in Jharkhand submitted a formal application to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Sub-Divisional Officer (SDM) concerning eviction notices issued to residents of both the Domgarh and BMP Leprosy Colonies.
- APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local donors including Marwadi Madam Brandam, recently organized a heartwarming initiative aimed at supporting the underserved. Essential household items were distributed to 32 leprosy-affected families residing in Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony in Peddampet Pasumamula.
- APAL, along with its State Committee in Maharashtra, recently met with Dr. Ramji Adkekar, the Additional Director of Leprosy, Maharashtra State
- APAL, in collaboration with the Karuna Project and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust, celebrated World Women's Day with great enthusiasm at Sanjay Nagar, Borivali, Mumbai
- On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a special awareness program to highlight the significance of women's empowerment and child protection
- APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh took a significant step in advocating for the rights of persons affected by leprosy by facilitating their access to biometric ration cards
- APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a significant initiative aimed at supporting education in rural areas.

- APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), along with the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, visited the Jeevan Jyothi Society and Vile Parle colony.
- APAL'S Telangana State Committee,(SLAP-TS) in collaboration with Reliable Trust, organized a significant service initiative at the Hindu Yuvajana Sangham premises in Peddamberpet, Hyderabad. As part of this program, essential supplies, including food grains, shirts, sarees, and blankets, were distributed to 550 families of individuals affected by leprosy.
- APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, led by State Leader Mohammad Zainuddin and APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, participated in a crucial meeting organized by the SABAL Center, Tata Steel Foundation
- Mr. Jawahar Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary, have actively represented APAL at key national events
- APAL Vice President Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan Attended Udayan's Foundation Day
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently held its annual meeting in Indore, bringing together key representatives and advocates dedicated to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy
- APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra recently visited the Sanjay Nagar colony in Borivali, Mumbai, to engage with the residents and understand their living conditions.

In collaboration with the local healthcare center, APIL State Committee in Telangana orchestrated a meaningful Health Camp

On 3rd April 2024, In collaboration with the local healthcare center, APIL State Committee in Telangana orchestrated a meaningful Health Camp at the Shanti Nagar Leprosy Colony in Hyderabad. This endeavor aimed to address the healthcare needs of individuals affected by leprosy and their families residing in the colony. Throughout the camp, the health department offered a range of essential healthcare services and provided crucial medicines to those in need. This initiative underscored the commitment of both governmental and non-governmental entities to extend support to marginalized communities.

The Association of People Affected by Leprosy expresses profound gratitude towards the government healthcare department for their concerted efforts in organizing and executing the health camp. Their dedication to addressing the unique healthcare challenges faced by individuals affected by leprosy reflects a commendable commitment to inclusivity and healthcare equity. Additionally, special recognition is extended to Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, whose active contributions played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the event. His unwavering dedication to advocating for the rights and well-being of the leprosy community exemplifies the spirit of compassion and solidarity that is essential in fostering a more inclusive society.



The Chief Minister Bhiksha Yojana initiative was implemented, prompted by a request from the State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Someshwar Dubey. The primary objective of this initiative was to furnish essential educational materials

On the 3rd of April in 2024, the Chief Minister Bhiksha Yojana initiative was implemented, prompted by a request from the State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Someshwar Dubey. The primary objective of this initiative was to furnish essential educational materials to underprivileged children at the Gandhigram Leprosy Ashram. The initiative was spearheaded by Assistant Director Muzaffarpur and his committed team, who equipped 25 children at the ashram with bags, copies, books, and pencil cutters. This step marked a significant stride in enhancing educational opportunities for the children.

The lack of a formal educational institution within the ashram, apart from the Anganwadi, presented challenges to the children's pursuit of education. In response, the assistant director promised to supply tuition arrangements, underscoring their commitment to overcoming educational barriers within the community.

Furthermore, the support group received a check of ₹10,000, which is a laudable gesture. This exemplifies a collective effort towards elevating the marginalized sections of society. The concerted endeavour not only underscores the importance of accessible education but also showcases the spirit of compassion and solidarity in fostering a brighter future for all.



Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL, attended a momentous civil felicitation ceremony in Maharashtra alongside APAL's dedicated state committee to honour Sri Ram Naik, a Padma Bhushan recipient

On 17th April 2024, Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL, attended a momentous civil felicitation ceremony in Maharashtra alongside APAL's dedicated state committee to honour Sri Ram Naik, a Padma Bhushan recipient, for his remarkable 90 years of unwavering dedication to public service. This event provided a unique opportunity for Maya and her team to engage with government authorities, politicians, and various stakeholders, fostering meaningful dialogue on pressing social issues.

During the ceremony, Maya Ranavare seized the opportunity to present APAL's annual report and manifesto concerning persons affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities, underscoring the organization's commitment to advocating for inclusivity and social justice. She highlighted the staggering challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in India, including the disproportionate financial burden imposed on households, limited access to education and employment opportunities, and growing dependence on welfare assistance.

In her interactions with political leaders and stakeholders, Maya passionately advocated for tangible solutions to address the pressing social security needs of persons with disabilities. She emphasized the urgent need for a national pension standard, proposing a direct benefit transfer model that would provide a minimum of Rs 5000 per month to support individuals with disabilities. Additionally, Maya urged for the prioritization of inclusion in government security schemes such as the PM Awas Yojana and MNREGA, ensuring that persons with disabilities receive equitable access to essential services and opportunities.

With unwavering determination, Maya Ranavare and APAL's Maharashtra state committee sought commitments from all political parties to champion the cause of persons with disabilities. Their advocacy efforts centred on creating a more inclusive and supportive society, where individuals with disabilities can thrive with dignity and independence. Through their proactive engagement and advocacy initiatives, the APAL team continues to drive positive change and advocate for social justice within the legal and financial spheres. On this occasion, APAL met Madam Sumitra Mahajan and Mr. Piyush Goyal, the Central Minister. Mr. Rasul Mullah, State Coordinator of APAL, also attended.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), played a pivotal role in promoting the cause of those impacted by leprosy at the ILEP India stakeholders meeting

On 22nd April 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), played a pivotal role in promoting the cause of those impacted by leprosy at the ILEP India stakeholders meeting held at The Metropolitan, New Delhi.

Mrs. Ranavare's extensive experience advocating for the rights and well-being of those affected by leprosy allowed her to contribute valuable insights and perspectives to the meeting. Her emphasis on addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by this community, ranging from social stigmatization to limited access to healthcare and opportunities for socio-economic integration, highlights the importance of comprehensive solutions that go beyond mere medical treatment. Her impassioned advocacy underscored the significance of holistic empowerment initiatives.

Mrs. Ranavare's discussions focused on practical activity plans aimed at fostering the empowerment of individuals affected by leprosy. These plans centered around the need to strengthen partnerships with external stakeholders, including governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. Her vision of a collaborative approach, leveraging the collective expertise and resources of diverse stakeholders, is capable of producing tangible change in the lives of those affected by leprosy. Her strategic vision and proactive engagement set the stage for concerted action towards dismantling barriers and promoting inclusivity.

Mrs. Maya Ranavare's participation in the ILEP India stakeholders meeting epitomizes her unwavering dedication to advancing the rights and dignity of individuals affected by leprosy. Under her leadership, APAL continues to serve as a beacon of hope and empowerment, fostering partnerships and driving initiatives that seek to transform the lives of the marginalized and underserved. As Mrs. Ranavare and her fellow stakeholders forge ahead with their collective endeavours, they demonstrate the power of collaboration in effecting positive change and building a more inclusive society for all.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association for the Protection of the Afflicted by Leprosy (APAL), graced the inaugural function of the NLR Foundation's Silver Jubilee commemoration

On 24th April 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association for the Protection of the Afflicted by Leprosy (APAL), graced the inaugural function of the NLR Foundation's Silver Jubilee commemoration in Delhi as the esteemed Chief Guest. Her attendance at the event served to emphasize her unwavering commitment to eradicating leprosy and providing support for those affected by the affliction. In her address, Mrs. Ranavare eloquently articulated the importance of collective action and solidarity in addressing the challenges faced by individuals living with leprosy. With sincerity and conviction, she called upon all stakeholders to unite and work towards a future in which every person affected by this age-old affliction is treated with compassion and respect.

Mrs. Ranavare's words resonated profoundly as she emphasized the significance of empowerment and dignity for those grappling with leprosy. Her appeal to action was a rallying cry for unity and cooperation, envisioning a society where prejudices are replaced with understanding and discrimination with inclusivity. Her impassioned plea was well-received, stirring hearts and minds alike.

Following her address, Mrs. Ranavare actively engaged in the discussion session focused on the Needs Assessment of leprosy colonies. Her participation underscored her commitment to understanding the ground realities and identifying practical solutions to address the pressing needs of those living in leprosy colonies. With her insightful perspective and compassionate approach, she contributed invaluable viewpoints to the discourse, further cementing her reputation as a staunch advocate for the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy.

Mrs. Maya Ranavare's presence at the event served as a beacon of hope and inspiration, igniting a renewed sense of purpose and determination among attendees. Her unwavering dedication to the cause of leprosy eradication and her steadfast belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every individual left an indelible mark on all those present at the event. Through her leadership and advocacy, she continues to be a driving force in the

ongoing fight against leprosy, reminding us all of the power of compassion, unity, and collective action in effecting positive change.



In a mutually beneficial collaboration, Mrs. Parvathi, a highly regarded figure in the Rural Development sector, partnered with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy to extend a significant gesture of support to the community of individuals

On 29th April 2024, In a mutually beneficial collaboration, Mrs. Parvathi, a highly regarded figure in the Rural Development sector, partnered with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy to extend a significant gesture of support to the community of individuals afflicted by leprosy in Shanthi Nagar Colony, Hyderabad, Telangana. This philanthropic endeavour entailed the distribution of essential food grains to 20 families, providing much-needed sustenance and relief to those grappling with the challenges of leprosy and its effects on their families. Mrs. Parvathi's involvement underscores a spirit of empathy and solidarity, highlighting the efficacy of collective action in addressing the needs of marginalized communities.

The Association of People Affected by Leprosy extends heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Parvathi for her invaluable contribution and unwavering support towards those affected by leprosy and their families. Her benevolent actions have engendered a tangible difference in the lives of individuals facing adversity, providing not only sustenance but also a sense of dignity and belonging. Furthermore, special recognition is bestowed upon Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, whose active participation and unflagging efforts facilitated the seamless execution of the distribution initiative. Through such collaborative endeavours, communities unite to uplift and empower the most vulnerable among them, fostering a culture of compassion, inclusivity, and mutual support.



Mrs. Parvathi, a highly regarded figure in the Rural Development sector, partnered with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy to extend a significant gesture of support to the community of individuals afflicted by leprosy

On 7th May 2024, In a mutually beneficial collaboration, Mrs. Parvathi, a highly regarded figure in the Rural Development sector, partnered with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy to extend a significant gesture of support to the community of individuals afflicted by leprosy in Shanthi Nagar Colony, Hyderabad, Telangana. This philanthropic endeavour entailed the distribution of essential food grains to 20 families, providing much-needed sustenance and relief to those grappling with the challenges of leprosy and its effects on their families. Mrs. Parvathi's involvement underscores a spirit of empathy and solidarity, highlighting the efficacy of collective action in addressing the needs of marginalized communities.

The Association of People Affected by Leprosy extends heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Parvathi for her invaluable contribution and unwavering support towards those affected by leprosy and their families. Her benevolent actions have engendered a tangible difference in the lives of individuals facing adversity, providing not only sustenance but also a sense of dignity and belonging. Furthermore, special recognition is bestowed upon Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, whose active participation and unflagging efforts facilitated the seamless execution of the distribution initiative. Through such collaborative endeavours, communities unite to uplift and empower the most vulnerable among them, fostering a culture of compassion, inclusivity, and mutual support.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the incumbent President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), is a distinguished expert in the global fight against leprosy. Recently, she led a mission to Jordan, where she played an instrumental role in the campaign to eliminate leprosy from the region

On 13th May 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the incumbent President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), is a distinguished expert in the global fight against leprosy. Recently, she led a mission to Jordan, where she played an instrumental role in the campaign to eliminate leprosy from the region. With unwavering dedication and profound knowledge, Mrs. Ranavare brought invaluable insights to the forefront of the campaign, establishing herself as a beacon of hope and expertise.

Mrs. Ranavare's role in the mission to eradicate leprosy from Jordan was transformative. As a seasoned expert in the field of leprosy, she shared her wealth of experience and understanding with local authorities, healthcare professionals, and affected communities alike, raising awareness about the disease and inspiring proactive measures to combat its spread. Her contributions transcended boundaries, and her tireless efforts reaffirmed her

commitment to eradicating the stigma associated with leprosy while ensuring that every individual receives the care and support they deserve.

During the Elimination of Leprosy Disease in Jordan, Mrs. Ranavare demonstrated her relentless pursuit of excellence and unwavering advocacy for those affected by the illness. Her leadership within APAL has set a standard of empowerment and solidarity, empowering individuals to reclaim their dignity and voice in society. Her expertise and unwavering commitment to the cause have earned her a reputation as a seasoned expert and leader in the fight against leprosy.

Mrs. Maya Ranavare's name shines brightly as a testament to the power of compassion, expertise, and determination in the global fight against leprosy. Her participation in the mission to eliminate leprosy from Jordan serves as a reminder that progress is possible when individuals unite with a common purpose. As she continues her journey as an advocate and leader, Mrs. Ranavare's legacy will endure, inspiring future generations to pursue a world free from the grip of leprosy's scourge.



A significant distribution program was conducted at Ambedkar Leprosy Colony and Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, wherein 150 families affected by leprosy received essential aid

On May 18, 2024, a significant distribution program was conducted at Ambedkar Leprosy Colony and Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, wherein 150 families affected by leprosy received essential aid. The event was orchestrated by Ravi Garu, the Chief of Reliable Trust, a reputable organization committed to social welfare. This endeavour constituted a component of the ongoing campaign to assist marginalized communities and enhance their standard of living.

The program witnessed the participation of several prominent individuals, including Pirla Janaiah, the Councilor of the 3rd Ward, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Furthermore, Nagaraju, the President of the Ward Youth Congress Party, actively contributed to the event, underscoring the involvement of young political figures in social causes.

This distribution initiative was executed under the supervision of APAL's state coordinator, Mr. Ramesh, who played a pivotal role. The engagement of APAL underscores the collaborative endeavours among diverse organizations to effect meaningful change. The event sought not only to deliver immediate relief but also to raise awareness about leprosy and the persistent challenges the affected individuals confront.

On behalf of the Society, the Trustees expressed their appreciation to all representatives and volunteers who contributed to the program. Their collective efforts epitomize the spirit of community and the influence of concerted action in nurturing a supportive milieu

for individuals affected by leprosy. This event signifies another stride towards constructing a more inclusive society wherein everyone receives the care and support they merit.



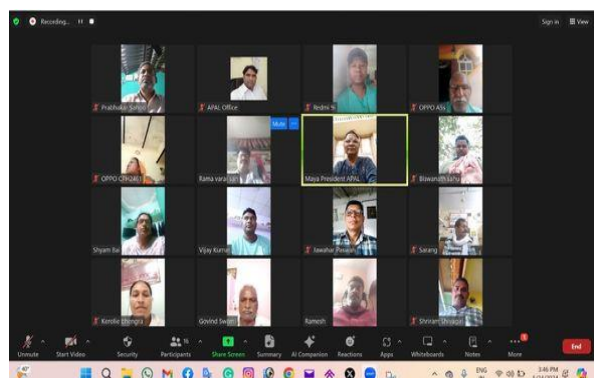
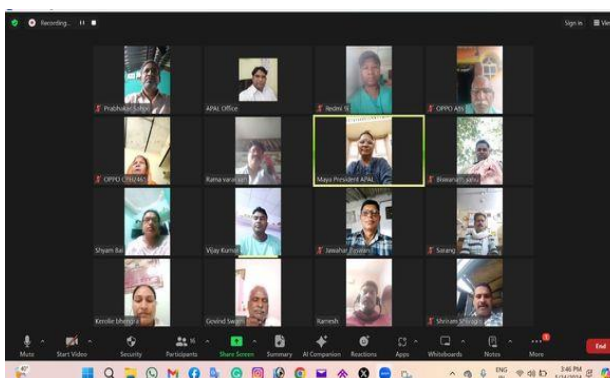
The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) today convened a virtual State Coordinator's monthly review meeting

On 24th May 2024, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) today convened a virtual State Coordinator's monthly review meeting, marking a significant milestone in their ongoing dedication to addressing the challenges faced by individuals affected by leprosy and their families. The meeting served as a platform for in-depth discussions and collaborative problem-solving, focusing on the urgent issues affecting these marginalized communities.

Throughout the meeting, participants conducted a thorough assessment of the current circumstances of people affected by leprosy, meticulously examining the interconnected factors contributing to their vulnerability and marginalization. The dialogue encompassed a wide range of challenges, including socio-economic hardships, healthcare disparities, and deep-rooted stigma, highlighting the multifaceted nature of the issues faced by individuals and families affected by leprosy.

Leveraging collective expertise and lived experiences, the meeting catalyzed the exploration of advocacy solutions designed to address the systemic barriers impeding the full inclusion and empowerment of those affected by leprosy. State Coordinators shared innovative strategies and successful interventions, encompassing community-based initiatives and policy advocacy campaigns aimed at dismantling stigma, enhancing access to healthcare, and safeguarding the rights of individuals affected by leprosy.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, a pervasive sense of determination and solidarity characterized the virtual space, with participants reaffirming their commitment to amplifying the voices of those affected by leprosy and advocating for their rights on local, national, and international platforms. Empowered by their shared vision of a more equitable society, APAL and its partners departed the meeting with renewed vigour, poised to drive meaningful change and foster greater dignity and inclusion for individuals and families affected by leprosy.



A significant event transpired in the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santhosh Nagar Colony. The International Shirdi Sai Bhakta Seva Trust, a dedicated organization committed to supporting leprosy-affected individuals, orchestrated a benevolent distribution of school bags to 50 students

On May 24th, 2024, a significant event transpired in the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santhosh Nagar Colony. The International Shirdi Sai Bhakta Seva Trust, a dedicated organization committed to supporting leprosy-affected individuals, orchestrated a benevolent distribution of school bags to 50 students from Intermediate to Degree level. This compassionate initiative was designed to nurture and bolster the educational aspirations of the students residing in these colonies.

The APAL's state committee in Telangana (SLAP-TIS) played a pivotal role in this event, with State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh spearheading the distribution. The gesture was met with gratitude by the residents of both colonies, who conveyed their sincere appreciation to all members of the Shirdi Sai Trust. The new school bags signify not only educational support but also a beacon of hope and communal solidarity.

Colony President Samel and Vice President Dominic were actively engaged in the proceedings, ensuring the event was meticulously organized and successful. Their involvement underscored the collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment of the local leadership in enhancing the lives of their residents. The event serves as a testament to the potency of collective endeavour and compassion in effecting a tangible difference in the lives of those impacted by leprosy.



APAL's State Committee of Madhya Pradesh convened a crucial discussion with Shri Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, the Mayor of Indore, concerning the maintenance allowance provided by the Municipal Corporation to individuals affected by leprosy

On the 26th of May 2024, APAL's State Committee of Madhya Pradesh convened a crucial discussion with Shri Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, the Mayor of Indore, concerning the maintenance allowance provided by the Municipal Corporation to individuals affected by leprosy. This meeting signified a significant stride towards addressing the financial support required by these patients, culminating in the submission of a memorandum to the Mayor outlining the concerns and needs of the leprosy-affected community.

The meeting was attended by key representatives from various organizations dedicated to leprosy prevention and support. Among them were Shri Sarang ji Gaydhane, the Secretary of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, and Raju ji Rathore from the Sahyog Leprosy Prevention Association, along with Gopal Shinde, Bhamabai Sakhre, and Thakubai

Gaikwad from the Sant Dnyaneshwar Leprosy Seva Samiti, who contributed their insights and experiences to the discussion.

Mayor Shri Pushpa Mitra Bhargava acknowledged the pressing issues raised by the delegation and assured them that the matter would be promptly addressed. This assurance has provided a glimmer of hope to the leprosy-affected community, who have long awaited an increase in their maintenance allowance to better manage their daily needs and improve their quality of life. The commitment from the Mayor to resolve this issue underscores the local government's dedication to supporting vulnerable populations and enhancing their well-being.



In a commendable effort to foster community spirit and support the development of youth in leprosy colonies, the Maharashtra State Committee, in collaboration with the Anandvan Leprosy Colony, organized the Maharashtra Leprosy Premier League at Khadki, Pune

On 3rd June 2024, In a commendable effort to foster community spirit and support the development of youth in leprosy colonies, the Maharashtra State Committee, in collaboration with the Anandvan Leprosy Colony, organized the Maharashtra Leprosy Premier League at Khadki, Pune. This remarkable event not only provided an opportunity for residents to engage in healthy competition and sportsmanship but also highlighted the ongoing efforts to integrate and uplift those affected by leprosy. The league served as a platform to showcase the talents and capabilities of young individuals residing in leprosy colonies across Maharashtra, promoting a sense of inclusion and empowerment.

APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, graced the event with her presence and had the honor of presenting awards to the deserving winners. Her involvement underscored the significance of the league and reinforced the support from APAL for such initiatives aimed at enhancing the lives of those in leprosy colonies. The event was a celebration of perseverance and community, bringing together participants and spectators in a shared spirit of enthusiasm and unity.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, Jitubhau Chavan, Anilbhau Kamle, and Vinayak Suryavanshi, for their exceptional intervention and dedication. Their efforts have been instrumental in creating opportunities for the youth in leprosy colonies to engage in constructive activities, develop their skills, and build confidence. The success of the Maharashtra Leprosy Premier League stands as a testament to their commitment to social welfare and the positive impact of sports as a tool for social change. APAL looks forward to continued collaboration with such visionary leaders to further the cause of empowerment and integration for those affected by leprosy.



APAL's State Committee in Gujarat, at Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh, in collaboration with the Government Dental College in Ahmedabad, a comprehensive dental health initiative was organized for the residents of the leprosy colony

On 6th June 2024, APAL's State Committee in Gujarat, at Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh, in collaboration with the Government Dental College in Ahmedabad, a comprehensive dental health initiative was organized for the residents of the leprosy colony. This initiative aimed not only to educate but also to provide essential dental care. The brothers and sisters of the colony were given vital information about dental cancer, raising awareness about its symptoms, prevention, and the importance of early detection. This educational aspect was crucial in empowering the residents with knowledge that could potentially save lives.

Additionally, the event included thorough dental check-ups for all attendees. Skilled dentists from the Government Dental College conducted these examinations, ensuring that each individual received personalized attention and care. These check-ups were vital in identifying any dental issues that needed immediate or future attention, thus promoting overall oral health within the community.

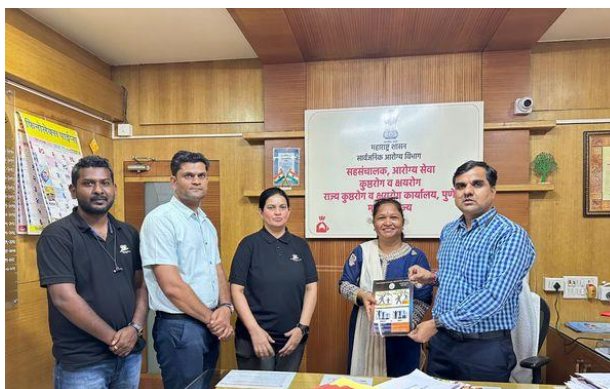
As a gesture of goodwill and to encourage good dental hygiene practices, Colgate toothpaste and toothbrushes were distributed to the children in the colony. This not only brought smiles to the young faces but also equipped them with the tools necessary to maintain their oral hygiene. Such initiatives play a significant role in fostering a sense of well-being and community, highlighting the importance of regular dental care and prevention.



APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, alongside Dr. Sangli, and teams from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, recently had a significant meeting with the newly appointed State Leprosy Officer

On 18th June 2024, APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, alongside Dr. Sangli, and teams from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, recently had a significant meeting with the newly appointed State Leprosy Officer of Maharashtra. This gathering was marked by a warm welcome and a constructive dialogue aimed at addressing the pressing issues faced by individuals affected by leprosy. Maya Ranavare, known for her unwavering dedication to leprosy advocacy, led the discussions with a focus on the current challenges impacting those affected by the disease and their communities.

During the meeting, the delegation provided a comprehensive overview of the leprosy situation in Maharashtra, highlighting the medical, social, and economic difficulties experienced by leprosy-affected individuals and their families. They underscored the urgent need for improved healthcare services, better living conditions in leprosy colonies, and enhanced social integration efforts. The conversation was candid and focused, with the representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation contributing valuable insights and data to support their requests. The delegation made specific appeals for increased government support, including more robust healthcare infrastructure, regular medical camps, and targeted social welfare programs to uplift those living in leprosy colonies. They emphasized the importance of addressing the stigma and discrimination that continue to hinder the full societal integration of leprosy-affected individuals. The State Leprosy Officer responded positively and displayed a friendly and understanding demeanour, acknowledging the concerns raised and expressing a commitment to work collaboratively towards effective solutions. The meeting concluded on a hopeful note, with Maya Ranavare, Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and SILF thanking the State Leprosy Officer for the receptive and empathetic response. They expressed optimism that this engagement would pave the way for tangible improvements in the lives of those affected by leprosy, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment within the state of Maharashtra.



significant strides were made towards addressing the issue of illegal occupation and encroachment at Alvasa Leprosy Dham, Indore. I, accompanied by the ashram residents and Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, the Secretary of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), visited the Collector's office

On June 25, 2024, significant strides were made towards addressing the issue of illegal occupation and encroachment at Alvasa Leprosy Dham, Indore. I, accompanied by the ashram residents and Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, the Secretary of APAL (Association of People

Affected by Leprosy), visited the Collector's office to initiate this pivotal endeavor. The state committee presented a memorandum urging prompt action to rectify the illegal encroachments that have compromised the integrity and security of the Alvasa Leprosy Dham.

During the meeting at the Collector's office, we stressed the urgent need for intervention to protect the rights and living conditions of the ashram residents. Illegal occupation constitutes a grave threat not only to the physical infrastructure but also to the well-being and dignity of those within this community. Our collective presence epitomized APAL's earnest approach to such matters and our dedication to securing justice and safeguarding individuals affected by leprosy.

As we await a response from the authorities, we are optimistic that our endeavours will result in tangible measures to reclaim and uphold the sanctity of Alvasa Leprosy Dham. This action serves as a testament to the resilience and determination of our community in confronting challenges and advocating for our rights with unwavering resolve.



Significant action was taken by APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, specifically the Sahayog Kushtha Nivaran Sangh, to address the issue of encroachment on the land of Ram Avatar Kushtha Ashram in Indore. This action was swiftly acknowledged and On June 25, 2024, significant action was taken by APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, specifically the Sahayog Kushtha Nivaran Sangh, to address the issue of encroachment on the land of Ram Avatar Kushtha Ashram in Indore. This action was swiftly acknowledged and responded to by the local Collector, highlighting the effective coordination between the committee and administrative authorities. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate (S.D.M.) promptly intervened, issuing orders to halt the construction of a water park on the ashram's land, assuring that legal measures would follow against the encroachers.

During this decisive operation, the Secretary of APAL, Mr. Sarang, and the State Committee team and the ashram residents actively participated. Their collective effort underscored a unified stance against encroachment, ensuring the rightful use of the ashram's land would be restored. This event not only demonstrated the commitment of APAL and its affiliates to protecting communal assets but also showcased responsive governance under the leadership of the local administration in Madhya Pradesh.



State Committee of the APAL conducted an extensive visit to various departments across Jharkhand, with a focus on critical issues and developmental projects. At the SLO office

On June 25, 2024, the State Committee of the APAL conducted an extensive visit to various departments across Jharkhand, with a focus on critical issues and developmental projects. At the SLO office in Namkum, Ranchi, discussions were held with Ranjit Pathak, addressing concerns related to leprosy patients residing in the 58 leprosy colonies scattered throughout Jharkhand. These discussions likely encompassed the improvement of living conditions, healthcare access, and community support for the affected individuals.

Furthermore, the team interacted with officials from the Housing Department regarding the allocation of 256 newly constructed houses in Ranchi. This discourse is crucial to ensure the efficient distribution of these housing units to those in need, thereby contributing to the state's efforts to address housing shortages and enhance living standards.

Moreover, the visit included a substantial investigation into the tender process for 64 houses in Jamtara, carried out in collaboration with officials from the Jharkhand Housing Tender Department. This initiative aims to promptly initiate construction efforts, emphasizing the commitment to timely delivery and efficient resource utilization in Jamtara. The anticipated commencement of work in Jamtara underscores the proactive approach of APAL's State Committee in addressing housing challenges across different regions of Jharkhand, thereby advancing comprehensive development goals in the state. APAL is thankful to Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan Vice-President of APAL, Mr. Jainuddin State Coordinator of APAL and Mr. Madhu Sudhan Tiwari from the State Committee for their active contribution



APAL's State Committee under the auspices of the Leprosy Society focused on the welfare of leprosy patients. Essential ulcer kits for treating and caring for leprosy ulcers were distributed to 50 individuals in need.

On 5th July 2024, In Telangana, at the community of Maulali Sanjay Gandhinagar, a significant event organized by APAL's State Committee under the auspices of the Leprosy Society focused on the welfare of leprosy patients. Essential ulcer kits for treating and caring for leprosy ulcers were distributed to 50 individuals in need. This initiative was a collaborative effort with representatives from NTPC, specifically MR Panigrahi, and the Priyanka Leprosy Society. Project Officer Kameswara Rao played a pivotal role in organizing the event.

Dr. Indrāja, a dedicated medical professional, offered her expertise and support to the beneficiaries. The event also saw the active participation of key figures from the Society of Leprosy Affected Persons (SLAP-TS), including the State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh, and B. Venkataiah. Their involvement underscored the importance of community solidarity and the collective effort required to support those affected by leprosy.

The event went beyond the distribution of ulcer kits, providing an opportunity for the colony's residents to express their gratitude to NTPC representatives. The felicitation ceremony, led by Ramesh recognized the contributions of NTPC in supporting the leprosy-affected community. This gesture of appreciation highlighted the positive impact of collaborative efforts between corporate entities and social organizations in addressing public health challenges and improving the lives of vulnerable populations.



Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside key members of the Maharashtra Kush Pidit Sanghatana, convened a crucial meeting with Hon. Kailas Laxmanrao Shinde, Gat Leader of Group No. 6 and the Karyalaya Chief of Mahanagarpalika

On 6th July 2024, Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside key members of the Maharashtra Kush Pidit Sanghatana, convened a crucial meeting with Hon. Kailas Laxmanrao Shinde, Gat Leader of Group No. 6 and the Karyalaya Chief of Mahanagarpalika. The primary agenda of this meeting was to address the ongoing accommodation issues faced by leprosy patients in Maharashtra. Despite the Maharashtra Government's resolution to allocate housing to 38 leprosy patients, several challenges have impeded the effective implementation of this mandate.

This meeting underscored the urgent need for a concerted effort to resolve the accommodation crisis faced by leprosy patients in Maharashtra. Maya Ranavare's leadership and advocacy were pivotal in highlighting the plight of these patients and pushing for substantial reforms in the existing support schemes. The collaborative effort with the Maharashtra Kush Pidit Sanghatana aims to bring immediate and long-lasting

relief to the affected individuals, ensuring they receive the dignity and care they rightfully deserve. The delegation requested expedited allocation of plots for residential projects, an increase in assistance under the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, and the allocation of land under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, emphasizing the need for prompt action from the state government.



APAL's state Committee in Jharkhand had the privilege of meeting Shri Dhulu Mahato, the Lok Sabha Member of Parliament representing Dhanbad

Today, July 7, 2024, the APAL's state Committee in Jharkhand had the privilege of meeting Shri Dhulu Mahato, the Lok Sabha Member of Parliament representing Dhanbad. During a courteous discussion, we apprised him of the significant issues faced by the 25 leprosy colonies within the Dhanbad Lok Sabha constituency. These communities are encountering various challenges, and it was imperative to bring their predicament to the attention of our esteemed MP.

We respectfully requested Shri Mahato to visit these leprosy colonies to gain a firsthand understanding of their living conditions and the specific problems they encounter. His presence and support would be invaluable in addressing the critical needs of these marginalized communities. We are pleased to share that Shri Dhulu Mahato has assured his commitment to the cause. He affirmed that he would indeed work diligently for the welfare of the residents of these colonies, providing them with the necessary support and attention they deserve.



APAL President Maya Ranavare, accompanied by representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, held a significant meeting with the Forest Officer of the Kalyan Taluka Department at the Forest Range Office in Kalyan (West)

On 8th July 2024, APAL President Maya Ranavare, accompanied by representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, held a significant meeting with the Forest Officer

of the Kalyan Taluka Department at the Forest Range Office in Kalyan (West). The delegation presented a memorandum addressing the critical issue of the non-renewal of the lease for the forest land adjacent to the Sainath Leprosy Center. This forest land is not only a primary habitat for the residents of the centre but also a vital resource for their daily living and sustenance.

In the memorandum submitted to the Forest Officer, Maya Ranavare and the representatives detailed the severe difficulties faced by the residents due to the lease's non-renewal. On August 25, 2023, the Forest Department announced that they could not continue the lease on forest area no. 124/1. This decision has caused considerable distress among the residents, many of whom are leprosy patients with limited means. The memorandum highlighted the immediate need to renew the lease to prevent further inconveniences and ensure the well-being of these vulnerable individuals.

Maya Ranavare emphasized the gravity of the situation, underscoring that the forest land serves as the primary habitat for the residents of the Sainath Leprosy Center. The residents depend on this land for their shelter and basic needs, making its renewal critical for their survival. The memorandum was a heartfelt plea for urgent intervention by the Forest Officer to alleviate the suffering of the affected individuals and to provide them with the necessary habitat.

The meeting and the submission of the memorandum showcased the commitment of APAL and the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana to the welfare and rights of leprosy-affected individuals. By advocating for the renewal of the lease, Maya Ranavare and her team demonstrated their dedication to ensuring that the residents of the Sainath Leprosy Center continue to have a safe and secure place to live, thereby upholding their dignity and quality of life.



The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, accompanied by the APAL State Committee of Maharashtra, conducted a visit to Ambernath Colony in Maharashtra today

On 9th July 2024, The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, accompanied by the APAL State Committee of Maharashtra, conducted a visit to Ambernath Colony in Maharashtra today. This visit constituted part of their persistent endeavours to comprehend and address the challenges encountered by individuals affected by leprosy and their families. The committee's primary aim was to directly engage with the residents and local leaders to gain firsthand insight into the daily difficulties faced by these communities.

During the visit, Maya Ranavare and the committee members engaged in discussions with numerous residents and community leaders. They deliberated on pressing issues such as insufficient healthcare services, social stigma, and substandard living conditions. The

conversations were open and underscored the residents' urgent requirements for improved hygiene facilities, access to medical care, and educational opportunities for their children.

The committee put forth several propositions to ameliorate the living conditions in Ambernath Colony. They underscored the necessity for regular health examinations, the establishment of enhanced sanitation facilities, and the provision of clean water. Maya Ranavare also emphasized the significance of community awareness programs to mitigate the stigma associated with leprosy and to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment. The visit culminated in a commitment from APAL to sustain close collaboration with the community for the implementation of these propositions and to advocate for their rights at higher echelons of government and society.



The President of APAL Mrs. Maya Ranavare, led a visit to Ulhasnagar Colony in Mumbai, Maharashtra, accompanied by the state committee members

On 10th July 2024, The President of APAL Mrs. Maya Ranavare, led a visit to Ulhasnagar Colony in Mumbai, Maharashtra, accompanied by the state committee members. During this visit, the committee engaged deeply with the colony leaders and residents, focusing particularly on the women of the community. The discussions centred around several crucial issues, including health concerns, the need for medical support, education for children, livelihood opportunities, self-employment, skill development methods, and the hygiene of the colony areas.

The women of Ulhasnagar Colony played a significant role in these discussions, openly addressing the problems they currently face. They shared their experiences and highlighted the urgent need for sustainable solutions. The dialogue aimed to identify and implement long-term strategies to improve the living conditions and overall well-being of the residents. The visit by APAL's President and the state committee underscored the organization's commitment to addressing the community's needs and empowering women to take an active role in finding and executing these solutions.



In collaboration with the Hope Foundation from England, APAL's State Committee in Delhi (RWA) has successfully negotiated support for the construction of a community Hall

On 10th July 2024, In collaboration with the Hope Foundation from England, APAL's State Committee in Delhi (RWA) has successfully negotiated support for the construction of a community Hall in Shanti Kusht Samithi in Delhi. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to improve living conditions and foster a sense of community within the colony. The successful negotiations highlight the invaluable support and active participation of the leaders, who have shown remarkable dedication to the betterment of their living environment.

APAL extends its sincere gratitude to the funding agency for their generous grant, which has made this project possible. The APAL State Committee has played a crucial role in this endeavour, with particular recognition going to the state coordinator, Mr. Giridhar Lal, and Mr. Vijay Kumar. Their active contributions, initiatives, and interventions have been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. Their commitment and hard work have set a commendable example of leadership and community service, ensuring that the residents of Shanti Kusht Samithi will benefit from improved facilities and a stronger, more connected community.



A delegation from TATA Steel's education department, accompanied by members of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, visited Navjeevan Ashram in Jamshedpur as part of an extensive program

On the 11th of July 2024, a delegation from TATA Steel's education department, accompanied by members of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, visited Navjeevan Ashram in Jamshedpur as part of an extensive program aimed at evaluating and enhancing the living conditions and educational prospects for leprosy-affected residents in the colonies. During the visit, officials engaged directly with the colony residents, conducting comprehensive inquiries to comprehend the daily challenges they face and the educational requirements of their children.

The visit facilitated a meaningful interaction between the officials and the community, offering a platform for the voices of those affected by leprosy to be heard and acknowledged. The Jharkhand State Committee, along with the colony leaders, extended sincere appreciation to the TATA Steel team, Mr. Zainuddin, the State Coordinator of APAL, and his dedicated team. Their steadfast dedication and contributions to the welfare of leprosy-affected individuals and their families were duly recognized and deeply appreciated. This acknowledgement underscores the impactful collaborative efforts of

APAL and local leaders in improving the quality of life and education within these communities.



The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, and Gaurab Sen, the CEO of S-ILF, along with their respective teams, conducted a significant visit to the Kuthori Leprosy Colony in Assam

On 12th July 2024, The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, and Gaurab Sen, the CEO of S-ILF, along with their respective teams, conducted a significant visit to the Kuthori Leprosy Colony in Assam. The primary objective of this visit was to gain a firsthand understanding of the living conditions experienced by the residents affected by leprosy. Their presence emphasized a dedication to promoting a collaborative approach to address the distinct challenges faced by these individuals.

Throughout their visit to the colony, Gaurab Sen and Maya Ranavare deeply engaged with the residents, attentively listening to their experiences and concerns. These conversations provided valuable insights into the daily lives of the residents, characterized by struggles related to social stigma, inadequate healthcare, and insufficient housing facilities. Many residents shared compelling accounts of their experiences with leprosy, highlighting the critical necessity for more comprehensive support systems to enhance their quality of life.



Jawahar Nagar Municipal Corporation's 28th Division, specifically Mother Theresa Colony, witnessed a significant act of compassion and support. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, undertook a commendable initiative to distribute medical kits to 50 leprosy victims

On 12th July 2024, Jawahar Nagar Municipal Corporation's 28th Division, specifically Mother Theresa Colony, witnessed a significant act of compassion and support. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), in collaboration with the Leprosy Society,

undertook a commendable initiative to distribute medical kits to 50 leprosy victims suffering from ulcers. This effort was aimed at providing much-needed medical supplies to those afflicted by this challenging condition, thereby improving their quality of life and aiding in their treatment and recovery.

The distribution event was graced by the presence of notable figures, including APAL's State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh, and the Colony President, Mr. Venkatesh. Together, they handed over the medical kits to the beneficiaries. Their involvement underscored the importance of community support and the collaborative spirit necessary to tackle health issues that impact the most vulnerable populations.

The efforts of NTPC and the Leprosy Society were met with heartfelt gratitude from the community. K. Anasuya and M. Manjula, representing the recipients, expressed their deep appreciation for the support extended to the leprosy victims. This initiative not only provided immediate relief through medical kits but also highlighted the critical role that corporate and social organizations play in addressing public health challenges. The representatives from NTPC and the Lepra Society were acknowledged for their dedication and commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those affected by leprosy.



a notable event brought hope and relief to these communities. Representatives from NTPC, under the guidance of APAL's Coordinator M. Ramesh, along with officials from the Lepra Society, organized the distribution of medical kits and tubs

On 12th July 2024, a notable event brought hope and relief to these communities.

Representatives from NTPC, under the guidance of APAL's Coordinator M. Ramesh, along with officials from the Lepra Society, organized the distribution of medical kits and tubs specifically designed to aid those suffering from ulcers, a common complication of leprosy. The event was a testament to the power of collaboration and compassion in addressing the needs of marginalized groups.

A total of 105 medical kits and tubs were distributed to the residents, an effort led by the 4th ward councillor, Vidyapati Vijayender Reddy. During the distribution, Councilor Reddy emphasized the importance of using the kits and tubs carefully, ensuring that the patients could benefit fully from these resources. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the NTPC representatives and Lepra Society officials for their invaluable support and services, which have significantly impacted the well-being of the leprosy-affected individuals in these colonies.

Colony President Samel Domnik also extended his gratitude, particularly thanking M. Ramesh for his role in facilitating this generous initiative. The provision of these medical kits and tubs represents a significant step towards improving the quality of life for the

residents, enabling them to manage their conditions more effectively and with greater comfort. This collaborative effort underscores the importance of continued support and resources for vulnerable communities, highlighting the positive outcomes that can arise from dedicated social responsibility and community engagement.



In collaboration with NTPC and the Lepra Society, APAL's State Committee in Telangana successfully distributed ulcer care kits to 120 individuals

On 14th July 2024, In collaboration with NTPC and the Lepra Society, APAL's State Committee in Telangana successfully distributed ulcer care kits to 120 individuals affected by leprosy in the areas of Parvat Nagar Borabanda and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar IDPL. This initiative is a testament to the power of collaborative efforts in addressing the healthcare needs of marginalized communities. The distribution of these kits, which are essential for the management and treatment of leprosy-related ulcers, highlights the commitment of these organizations to improving the quality of life for those affected by this condition.

Special thanks are due to the representatives of Lepra and NTPC for their unwavering dedication to serving the most vulnerable members of society. Their support has been instrumental in ensuring that the necessary resources reach those in need. Additionally, the efforts of Mr. Ramesh Maniyada, State Coordinator of APAL, and Mariyamma, who have both played crucial roles in this initiative, deserve particular recognition. Their tireless work and useful interventions have made a significant impact on the leprosy community, providing much-needed care and support. This initiative not only alleviates the physical suffering of individuals but also fosters a sense of hope and solidarity within the community.



A successful disability assessment took place at the Shantivan premises. The event benefitted from the participation of an orthopaedic specialist surgeon, a psychiatric specialist, the district leprosy disability in-charge, and the district social welfare officer

On the 16th of July 2024, a successful disability assessment took place at the Shantivan premises. The event benefitted from the participation of an orthopaedic specialist

surgeon, a psychiatric specialist, the district leprosy disability in-charge, and the district social welfare officer. The presence of the APAL's State Committee in Meghalaya and residents of Mother Teresa Leprosy Home from Nongpoh provided significant support and compassion to the initiative. Despite a brief period of heavy rainfall, the program proceeded smoothly, commencing at 10:20 AM and concluding by 2:15 PM.

During the assessment, a total of 64 individuals affected by leprosy were evaluated. Among them, 13 were new cases, and 48 fell under other categories. The session aimed to ensure comprehensive care and support for those with disabilities related to leprosy. Attendees needing permanent disability documentation were advised to visit the office during official hours with all necessary documents and contact information to link their ADHAAR cards for further assistance and benefits.



APAL President Maya Ranavare, along with the Executive Committee and State Coordinators from 18 states, participated in a one-day All India Convention for Leprosy

APAL President Maya Ranavare, along with the Executive Committee and State Coordinators from 18 states, participated in a one-day All India Convention for Leprosy Affected on July 18 at the Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur. Organized by Sarthak Manav Kushtashram and Leben Ohne Lepra, Germany, the event was graced by chief guest Kalraj Mishra, Governor of Rajasthan, and chairman Ram Naik, former Governor of Uttar Pradesh. The convention aimed to address the current conditions and rehabilitation efforts for those affected by leprosy.

Prominent attendees included D R Mehta, Dr. K L Jain, I.C. Srivastava, and representatives from various leprosy organizations. Mr. Mishra emphasized the importance of treatment and rehabilitation, noting the high prevalence of leprosy in India and calling for increased public participation and education for affected children.

Ram Naik shared his long-standing advocacy for leprosy victims, highlighting efforts in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra for housing and allowances. The convention concluded with discussions on social and economic challenges faced by those affected by leprosy, with experts and civil society leaders sharing insights and solutions.

APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Suresh Kaul for his invaluable role in the success of the All India Convention for Leprosy Affected. His dedicated efforts have significantly improved the lives of individuals affected by leprosy and their families. Through his leadership and commitment, the convention provided a platform for meaningful discussions on enhancing living conditions and promoting dignity for those impacted. Mr.

Kaul's work with Sarthak Manav Kushtashram exemplifies the positive change possible through collaboration and compassion. APAL is deeply appreciative of his unwavering support and vision.



APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, alongside the State Committee in Rajasthan, embarked on a significant visit to various locations in Jaipur, including Gandhi Ashram, Garibdas Ashram, Jhotwara, and six leprosy colonies

On 19th July 2024, APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, alongside the State Committee in Rajasthan, embarked on a significant visit to various locations in Jaipur, including Gandhi Ashram, Garibdas Ashram, Jhotwara, and six leprosy colonies. Accompanied by other state coordinators and members, the team aimed to understand better the living conditions of those affected by leprosy. During their interactions with the residents and their families, they were confronted with the harsh realities faced by these communities. The poor living conditions underscored the urgent need for improved housing and social support systems.

The visit highlighted a critical gap in social entitlements, with many residents lacking access to essential benefits such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and disability pensions. These entitlements could significantly enhance their quality of life, providing them with stable housing and financial support. Maya Ranavare and the APAL team are committed to advocating for these necessary changes, aiming to ensure that the affected individuals receive the support and recognition they deserve from the government. Their visit not only shed light on the current challenges but also paved the way for future initiatives to uplift the leprosy-affected communities in Jaipur.



the Collaborative organization Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana in Pune.

On July 21, 2024, APAL's President Maya Ranavare participated in a significant meeting convened by the Collaborative organization Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana in Pune. The primary agenda of the meeting was to elect the new management committee tasked with enhancing services for individuals affected by leprosy. Following a democratic process, Mr.

Jitendra Chauhan, Mr. Ambika Kamble, Mr. Santosh Gadekar, Mr. Ashok Ambedkar, and Mr. Shakti Shaikh were duly elected to lead this vital initiative.

APAL extends heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed committee members. Their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of those affected by leprosy are commendable, and APAL wishes them the utmost success in their endeavours ahead.



In partnership with the NTPC and Lepra Society, the APAL State Committee in Telangana orchestrated a distribution event to deliver essential aid

In partnership with the NTPC and Lepra Society, the APAL State Committee in Telangana orchestrated a distribution event to deliver essential aid to individuals impacted by leprosy in Kaunapuram Colony, Hanmakonda. The committee distributed dressing tool kits and tubs to individuals coping with leprosy wounds or ulcers to enhance their quality of life and facilitate improved wound care. This endeavour embodies a dedication to addressing the critical health needs of this community, emphasizing the significance of collaboration in driving meaningful change.

APAL expresses profound gratitude to the NTPC and Lepra Society for their invaluable assistance to those in need, as their support has been pivotal in ensuring the success of this initiative. Special recognition is also extended to Mr. Ramesh Maniyada for his active involvement in the leprosy community, as his commitment and endeavours have significantly enriched the lives of the individuals in Kaunapuram Colony by providing them with essential care and attention. This collaboration stands as a testament to the potency of cooperative endeavours in effecting positive change in marginalized communities.



commemorate the establishment of new homes for 256 families residing in three leprosy colonies in Ranchi

On the 23rd of July in 2024, a significant event unfolded as the Griha Pravesh ceremony was conducted to commemorate the establishment of new homes for 256 families residing in three leprosy colonies in Ranchi: Indira Nagar, Nirmala, and Tapovan. The ceremony

was honored by the esteemed presence of the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Hemant Soren, who personally inaugurated the new homes, symbolizing hope and new beginnings for these families. This initiative marked a remarkable milestone in providing secure and dignified living conditions for individuals and families affected by leprosy.

The culmination of this event was the result of unwavering efforts by APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, which submitted a proposal to the Chief Minister advocating for the inclusion of these families in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Their dedication ensured that the voices of the underserved were heard and addressed. This successful initiative underscores the importance of advocacy and collaboration between governmental entities and social organizations.

This accomplishment not only brings stability and joy to the families involved but also establishes a precedent for future endeavours aimed at enhancing the lives of marginalized communities. The collaboration between APAL and the Jharkhand government is a testament to a shared commitment to social justice and empowerment, paving the way for sustained progress and support for those in need.



A collaborative endeavor was undertaken in Telangana, involving NTPC, ADP, the Lepra Society, APAL, and the State Committee. The event's primary objective was to distribute essential self-care kits, tubs, and MCR footwear

On July 25th, 2024, a collaborative endeavor was undertaken in Telangana, involving NTPC, ADP, the Lepra Society, APAL, and the State Committee. The event's primary objective was to distribute essential self-care kits, tubs, and MCR footwear to 45 individuals afflicted by leprosy in Nursing Hyderabad, Telangana. The self-care kits and tubs were generously sponsored by NTPC, while ADP provided the MCR footwear.

APAL expresses profound gratitude to these organizations for their invaluable support to individuals grappling with leprosy-related wounds and ulcers. Special acknowledgement is extended to Mr. Ramesh Maniyada for his active distribution participation and compassionate support for the leprosy community. This event signifies a noteworthy stride towards enhancing the quality of life for people affected by leprosy, underscoring the potency of collaborative efforts and compassion.



Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) and the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) held a collaborative meeting in Hyderabad, Telangana, with support from S-ILF.

On 28th July 2024, the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) and the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) held a collaborative meeting in Hyderabad, Telangana, with support from S-ILF. The event brought together representatives and participants from 21 leprosy colonies across Telangana, focusing on addressing the current issues faced by these communities and exploring potential solutions.

Key figures at the meeting included Mr. Gaurab Sen, CEO of S-ILF, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, Mr. Prakash Done, Treasurer of APAL, Ms. Chandra Kiran, Program Head of S-ILF, and Mr. Ramautar from S-ILF, along with their respective teams. The gathering also included 38 individuals directly affected by leprosy, ensuring that the discussions were grounded in real experiences and needs.

During the meeting, the authorities engaged in meaningful dialogues with participants, emphasizing the importance of understanding the unique challenges within each colony. Topics ranged from healthcare access and infrastructure improvements to social stigma and economic empowerment. The collaborative atmosphere encouraged the sharing of ideas and fostered a sense of solidarity among attendees.

The session concluded with a commitment to implementing actionable strategies that address the immediate needs of the leprosy-affected communities. By strengthening their partnership, S-ILF and APAL aim to create a supportive network that not only addresses current challenges but also paves the way for sustainable development and inclusivity in the future.



Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) held a significant general body meeting of the State Committee in Telangana with the support of S-ILF.

On 28th July 2024, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) held a significant general body meeting of the State Committee in Telangana with the support of S-ILF. This gathering marked a crucial moment for the organization as new Executive Members were elected to lead and serve the community. The event was filled with a sense of renewal and commitment as the newly appointed leaders promised to dedicate their efforts to the socio-economic empowerment of individuals and families affected by leprosy.

The elected management emphasized their dedication to improving the quality of life for their community. They outlined plans to enhance support systems and develop initiatives aimed at fostering greater economic opportunities and social integration. This change in leadership signals a hopeful future for APAL as they continue to advocate for and uplift

those affected by leprosy, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met with compassion and efficiency.



In partnership with the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee in Andhra Pradesh, known as the Society of Leprosy Affected Persons (SLAP-AP), convened a significant collaborative meeting at Bethany Leprosy Colony in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh

30th July 2024, In partnership with the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee in Andhra Pradesh, known as the Society of Leprosy Affected Persons (SLAP-AP), convened a significant collaborative meeting at Bethany Leprosy Colony in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh. Chaired by Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, with the support of S-ILF, the event brought together key figures from both APAL and S-ILF, facilitating in-depth interactions with 76 individuals affected by leprosy from 49 leprosy colonies. The primary focus was to share the vision and ongoing activities of both organizations, while also addressing the immediate concerns of the community.

Throughout the meeting, leaders and representatives from APAL and S-ILF delineated their strategic objectives and current initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for those affected by leprosy. Ms. Maya Ranavare underscored the pivotal role of unity and collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the leprosy-affected community. Key figures from S-ILF, including Ms. Chandra Kiran, the Program Head, provided insights into successful projects and programs that have had a positive impact in other regions, with the aim of replicating these successes in Andhra Pradesh. Attendees, including individuals affected by leprosy, had the opportunity to voice their concerns and share the pressing issues they currently face, such as challenges related to healthcare access, social stigma, and economic opportunities. This open dialogue fostered a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs, enabling APAL and S-ILF to tailor their strategies and interventions more effectively to address these concerns.

A notable aspect of the event was the unveiling of the annual report book of APAL. This publication not only chronicled the achievements and activities of the past year but also served as a testament to the ongoing efforts and commitment of the organization to improve the lives of leprosy-affected individuals. The collaborative meeting at Bethany Leprosy Colony exemplified the dedication of both APAL and S-ILF to closely engage with the community, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are met. By fostering a spirit of cooperation and shared purpose, the event underscored the potential for transformative change through collective action. Both organizations pledged to continue their partnership, focusing on advocacy, resource mobilization, and program implementation to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for those impacted by leprosy in Andhra Pradesh.



APAL conducted a General Body meeting of APAL's State Committee of Andhra Pradesh(Society of Leprosy Affected persons(SLAP-AP) with the support of Brighter Future Development Trust (BFDT) and Lepra Society

On 30th July 2024, APAL conducted a General Body meeting of APAL's State Committee of Andhra Pradesh(Society of Leprosy Affected persons(SLAP-AP) with the support of Brighter Future Development Trust (BFDT) and Lepra Society. The meeting was chaired by Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and took place at the Bapatla Leprosy Colony in Guntur. This collaborative effort aimed to address the needs and concerns of people affected by leprosy, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among attendees.

During the meeting, discussions proceeded smoothly, covering a range of topics crucial to the socio-economic empowerment of individuals affected by leprosy. Participants actively engaged in dialogues, sharing their experiences and insights, which contributed to a productive and positive atmosphere. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the election of new state committee management members. This new committee is poised to bring fresh energy and dedication to their roles.

The newly elected members expressed their commitment to serving the community with unwavering dedication. They promised to work tirelessly to improve the lives of those affected by leprosy, focusing on initiatives that promote their social and economic well-being. This meeting marked a significant step forward in APAL's ongoing efforts to empower and uplift the leprosy-affected community in Andhra Pradesh.



APAL's state Committee in Jharkhand, comprising APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, Jharkhand State Coordinator Mohammad Zainuddin, and APAL Jharkhand Leader Shri Madhusudan Tiwari, participated in the LCDC meeting

30th July 2024, The APAL's state Committee in Jharkhand, comprising APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, Jharkhand State Coordinator Mohammad Zainuddin, and APAL

Jharkhand Leader Shri Madhusudan Tiwari, participated in the LCDC meeting convened at Nepal House in Ranchi.

The meeting was attended by several high-ranking officials, including the Principal Secretary of the Department of Women Child Development and Social Security, Government of Jharkhand; the Secretary of the School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Jharkhand; the Secretary of the Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Jharkhand; the Senior Regional Director of Patna Bihar; the Director-in-Chief of Health Services, Jharkhand, Ranchi; representatives from the Indian Medical Association, Jharkhand, Ranchi; the State Leprosy Prevention Officer, Jharkhand,

Ranchi; the State Program Manager of the National Health Mission, Jharkhand, Namkum, Ranchi; the State Nodal Officer of State Sahia Koshang; Dr. Siddharth Bishwal, NLEP Coordinator, NLR; Dr. Abhishek Paul, State Coordinator, WHO, Jharkhand, Ranchi; Dr. Gautam, State Coordinator, DFIT; and the Nodal Officer of the IEC Cell. The APAL Organization Jharkhand, Ranchi, also took part in the meeting.

The meeting involved a comprehensive discussion on effectively conducting the program by the Government of India's guidelines for the implementation of the initial phase of the Leprosy Detection Campaign (LCDC) 2024, sanctioned for the fiscal year 2024-25. The APAL leaders actively engaged in the discussion, emphasizing the urgent needs of their community. One noteworthy demand made by the APAL leader was the provision of dressing kits in the leprosy colonies of the state, where such provisions were currently lacking. This demand was earnestly considered and endorsed by the authorities, representing a positive stride towards enhancing healthcare facilities for individuals affected by leprosy in Jharkhand.



President of APAL, Ms. Maya Ranavare, and the Treasurer, Mr. Prakash Done, visited the Brighter Future Development Trust

On the 1st of August 2024, the President of APAL, Ms. Maya Ranavare, and the Treasurer, Mr. Prakash Done, visited the Brighter Future Development Trust (BFDT) and met with BFDT's Director, Mr. Victor Parisipogula, and Manager, Mr. Prasad Chowdary. This meeting held great significance as it signified a crucial step towards strengthening the support system for individuals affected by leprosy. The discussions revolved around several critical issues, including the necessity for improved medical support to guarantee timely and effective treatment for leprosy patients. Additionally, there was an exploration of ways to enhance nutrition support, acknowledging the significance of adequate nutrition for the overall health and well-being of those affected by leprosy.

The discussions also underscored the importance of stronger social protection measures to uphold the dignity and rights of leprosy-affected individuals. Both organizations stressed the need for social entitlements to ensure access to basic necessities and

opportunities for a better quality of life. Another focal point of the discussion was education support for children living under the shadow of leprosy. Both APAL and BFDT acknowledged the importance of providing these children with educational opportunities to break the cycle of poverty and stigma associated with leprosy.

The meeting was highly productive, with both APAL and BFDT committing to future collaborative and dedicated work to address these pressing concerns. The partnership aims to create a comprehensive support system that addresses the medical, nutritional, social, and educational needs of those affected by leprosy.

APAL and its team expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the BFDT authorities for their warm invitation and friendly hospitality. The cooperative spirit demonstrated by BFDT reinforced the shared commitment to improving the lives of those affected by leprosy and their families. This collaboration signifies a promising future where both organizations can pool their resources and expertise to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals affected by leprosy.



Bishop Durgam Prabhakar, the Founder and President of Bethesda Ministries, orchestrated a compassionate blanket distribution initiative aimed at assisting 40 underprivileged families in B.B. Nagar Leprosy Colony

On Sunday, 4th August 2024, Bishop Durgam Prabhakar, the Founder and President of Bethesda Ministries, orchestrated a compassionate blanket distribution initiative aimed at assisting 40 underprivileged families in B.B. Nagar Leprosy Colony. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Bolla Venkat Reddy, Joint Nalgonda District D., and C. Yam. Yes, Chairman, who participated as the chief guest. They personally distributed blankets to the recipients, offering essential solace and warmth.

Maniyada Ramesh, State Coordinator of APAL, delivered an address during the event, shedding light on the inadequate infrastructure within the colony. He articulated concerns regarding the absence of proper drainage systems, sanitation facilities, and well-constructed roads. Furthermore, he highlighted the challenges posed by malodorous conditions and mosquito proliferation resulting from the lack of appropriate waste disposal facilities near the colony. He underscored the urgent necessity for ameliorations and pledged to actively pursue resolutions.

The event also witnessed the participation of several prominent individuals from the BB Nagar Leprosy Society, including Vice President Ellamma Morrigadi Narsimha, Secretary Veeramushti Anjaneyulu Pentaiah, Ym. D. Aziz, Somaiah, Lingamallu Upender, Pastor Kondeti Lazar, Pastor Erpula Christopher, Palvai Ajay, Kishan Kumar, Chindam Venkatesh,

Jawahar Ram Paswan, the Vice President of APAL, held a meeting with Rajeshwar Mandal, the charge of the TISCO Community Center

On the 5th of August 2024, Jawahar Ram Paswan, the Vice President of APAL, held a meeting with Rajeshwar Mandal, the charge of the TISCO Community Center. The primary focus of this meeting was to address vital initiatives aimed at the betterment of children from leprosy-affected families residing in 20 ashrams of Jamshedpur. The discussions centred on the integration of these children into mainstream society, with a specific emphasis on education, sports, and employment opportunities.

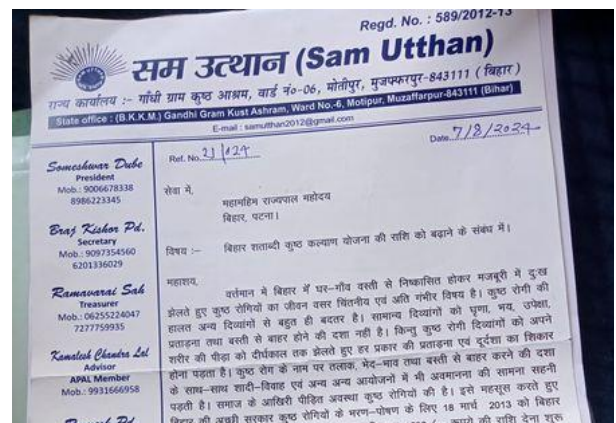
The meeting also delved into the challenges encountered by children who have completed their education but are currently inactive at home. Rajeshwar Mandal affirmed his commitment to supporting these children, ensuring that they have access to the necessary resources and opportunities to pursue further education, engage in sports, and seek employment. His collaboration seeks to empower these children, enabling them to build a more promising and inclusive future.



State Committee of APAL in Bihar held a significant meeting with Shriman Ganga Prasad ji, the former Governor of Meghalaya, at his residence in Patna

On the 7th of August 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Bihar held a significant meeting with Shriman Ganga Prasad ji, the former Governor of Meghalaya, at his residence in Patna. The purpose of the meeting was to request his assistance in organizing a discussion with His Excellency, the Governor of Bihar. The main agenda was to advocate for the expansion of the Bihar Satabadi Kushtha Kalyan Yojana, a welfare program designed to enhance the lives of individuals affected by leprosy.

Understanding the significance of this matter, Shri Ganga Prasad ji facilitated the request and assured the committee that the Governor of Bihar would meet with them within the next 1-2 days. This meeting marks a crucial milestone in the ongoing endeavours to secure more comprehensive support and resources for the leprosy-affected community in Bihar.



Maya Ranavare, recently met with the District Leprosy Officer of Sangli

APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, recently met with the District Leprosy Officer of Sangli to address a pressing issue faced by persons affected by leprosy in the region. The discussion centered on the challenges these individuals encounter when attempting to obtain disability certificates from the government. Despite their eligibility, many struggle with bureaucratic hurdles and delays, making it difficult for them to access the benefits and support they are entitled to. Maya Ranavare emphasized the need for a streamlined, efficient, and user-friendly process to ensure that all eligible individuals can obtain their certificates without unnecessary complications. She proposed that the government should implement a more systematic approach, possibly involving better coordination between medical professionals, government offices, and community organizations, to ensure that these certificates are issued promptly and fairly.

The District Leprosy Officer acknowledged the concerns and expressed a willingness to work towards simplifying the process, recognizing the importance of empowering persons affected by leprosy through easier access to their rights.

Maya Ranavare also presented the District Leprosy Officer of Sangli with APAL's annual report book for 2023-2024. This report provides a comprehensive overview of APAL's efforts and achievements over the past year, highlighting the organization's dedication to improving the lives of persons affected by leprosy. By sharing this report, Maya aimed to further inform and engage the District Leprosy Officer in APAL's ongoing initiatives, fostering greater collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by the leprosy-affected community.



A significant event occurred at the Adilabad Tirupalli Leprosy Colony. Essential items such as blankets, umbrellas, towels, and ration essentials were distributed to the residents affected by leprosy

On the 9th of August 2024, a significant event occurred at the Adilabad Tirupalli Leprosy Colony. Essential items such as blankets, umbrellas, towels, and ration essentials were distributed to the residents affected by leprosy. This initiative was orchestrated by the APAL and the APAL's state committee (SLAP-TS), with the active cooperation and support of Mr. Bommishetty Shyambabu. Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, also played a pivotal role in the event.

During the distribution, Mr. Ramesh emphasized the severe lack of infrastructure development within the colony. He expressed concern over inadequate facilities, including the absence of proper drainage systems, reliable water supply, water taps, CC roads, and

proper waste management systems. The colony's residents are also facing significant challenges due to the poor condition of their houses and bathrooms.

On behalf of the people affected by leprosy residing in the colony, Mr. Ramesh urged government officials and public representatives to provide these basic facilities immediately. He emphasized the need for improved infrastructure to ensure that the leprosy-affected individuals, who are already living in poverty, are not further marginalized. The call to action is a plea for the dignity and well-being of the residents, who deserve a better standard of living and the basic amenities that many take for granted.

APAL expressed gratitude to Mr. Bommishetty Shyambabu for his invaluable kind support to the neediest people affected by the disease of leprosy and their families. Special thanks were also extended to Mr. Ramesh for his dedicated services to leprosy communities.



A significant event took place at the Adilabad Tirupalli Leprosy Colony, where ulcer care kits and tubs were distributed among the residents

On the 9th of August 2024, a significant event took place at the Adilabad Tirupalli Leprosy Colony, where ulcer care kits and tubs were distributed among the residents. This endeavor was made possible through the joint efforts of NTPC and Lepra Society, which provided the necessary resources to enhance the health and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy within the colony.

The distribution was overseen by the State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, who personally presented the kits and tubs to the residents. The compassionate gesture was warmly received, and the colony's inhabitants conveyed their sincere gratitude to the officials of NTPC and Lepra Society for their ongoing support and care.



a significant event was held at Big Amberpet, which was organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation to support families affected by leprosy. Essential provisions, including groceries, were distributed to 100 families

On the 10th of August 2024, a significant event was held at Big Amberpet, which was organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation to support families affected by leprosy. Essential provisions, including groceries, were distributed to 100 families impacted by leprosy. Ms. Vaddepalli Vidhyavati Vijender Reddy, the Councillor, led this commendable effort and personally distributed the provisions to the beneficiaries. The event saw active participation from Nagalla Malkanna, the founder of the Children of Deccan Foundation, as well as Jinson and Hazel, who made valuable contributions to the program's success.

During the event, the State Coordinator of APAL, Maniyada Ramesh, emphasized the crucial role that NGOs, such as the one led by Mr. Malkanna, play in aiding underprivileged families affected by leprosy. He appealed for sustained support for these vulnerable communities to enhance their quality of life. In response, Nagalla Malkanna expressed profound gratitude to his colleagues and volunteers for their unwavering support and commitment to this cause. The event marked a significant stride in providing much-needed assistance to those marginalized by society due to leprosy.



In a significant effort to support individuals affected by leprosy, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with Lepra Society, distributed Micro Cellular Rubber

On 12th August 2024, In a significant effort to support individuals affected by leprosy, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with Lepra Society, distributed Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) Footwear to 26 persons at Raj Bhoj Colony and Anand Nagar Colony in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh. This initiative is part of an ongoing commitment to improving the health and well-being of those affected by leprosy, as MCR Footwear plays a crucial role in preventing foot ulcers and other complications that can arise due to the loss of sensation in the feet, a common issue among leprosy patients.

On behalf of the people affected by leprosy, APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Lepra Society for their valuable and continuous services. Their collaboration and dedication have made a significant difference in the lives of many, ensuring that those often marginalized receive the care and support they need. This partnership exemplifies the power of working together to uplift and empower vulnerable communities.



Independence Day 2024, APAL's Coordinators and Executive Committee Members actively participated in the celebrations

On India's Independence Day 2024, APAL's Coordinators and Executive Committee Members actively participated in the celebrations, marking the day with pride and purpose. The Government extended a warm invitation and a grand welcome to these leaders, acknowledging their dedication to the cause of people affected by leprosy. During the event, they delivered compelling speeches that highlighted the importance of freedom and dignity for those living with the challenges of leprosy. Their words resonated with the audience, emphasizing the need for continued efforts toward equality and respect for all.

APAL took this opportunity to congratulate Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator in Telangana; Mr. Someswar Dubey, the State Coordinator in Bihar; Ms. Shyam Bhai, the State Coordinator in Chhattisgarh; and others for receiving recognition for their unwavering commitment and service. Their efforts have significantly contributed to the empowerment and betterment of individuals affected by leprosy, making them role models in their respective states.



Maya Ranavare, recently led a delegation of APAL's State Committee in Gujarat to the Commissionerate of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education, and Research

APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, recently led a delegation of APAL's State Committee in Gujarat to the Commissionerate of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education, and Research. During the visit, they engaged in a detailed discussion with the State Leprosy Officer, focusing on the ongoing social protection and welfare challenges faced by individuals affected by leprosy in the various colonies across Gujarat. This meeting was pivotal in addressing the gaps in support and highlighting the urgent need for enhanced welfare measures to improve the lives of these marginalized communities.

In addition to the official meetings, Maya Ranavare visited the Gandhi Leprosy Colony in Ahmedabad, where she spent time interacting with the residents. She engaged them in meaningful conversations about their rights as persons affected by leprosy, emphasizing the importance of a rights-based approach in advocating for their needs. Her discussions underscored the necessity of integrating these individuals into mainstream society, ensuring they live with dignity and access the same opportunities as others. Her visit served as both an inspiration and a call to action for the community to continue striving for their rightful place in society.



State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Society for Rural Development (SRD), organized a significant distribution event to provide support to leprosy-affected families in Shantinagar Colony. Essential commodities, including ration supplies, were disbursed

On the 22nd of August 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Society for Rural Development (SRD), organized a significant distribution event to provide support to leprosy-affected families in Shantinagar Colony. Essential commodities, including ration supplies, were disbursed to 25 families residing in the colony, ensuring their access to necessary resources for daily sustenance. The distribution, conducted on a Thursday, brought much-needed relief to the families, many of whom encounter persistent challenges due to their health conditions and the associated social stigma.

Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, actively participated in the distribution, representing SRD and ensuring the efficient and respectful handing over of supplies to each family. His efforts were warmly acknowledged by community members, who expressed gratitude to Mr. Ramesh and SRD for their unrelenting support. The event underscored the significance of collaboration between organizations and community leaders in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. APAL conveyed sincere appreciation to the representatives of SRD for their dedication to effecting a positive change in the lives of those impacted by leprosy.



In a joint endeavor, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and Brighter Future Development Trust

On 24th August 2024, In a joint endeavor, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and Brighter Future Development Trust (BFDT) convened a significant gathering at the Jagannath Leprosy Colony in the Mancheswar Industrial Area, Bhubaneswar, Khordha, Odisha. The assembly facilitated the convergence of representatives from both organizations and members of the leprosy-affected community to deliberate on prospective collaborative endeavors aimed at ameliorating the circumstances of those impacted by leprosy in Odisha. The congregation provided a forum for comprehensive discourse on the existing challenges confronting the leprosy-affected populace in the locale, particularly the substandard living conditions and dearth of adequate assistance.

Throughout the meeting, participants recounted their experiences and articulated apprehensions regarding the severe plight of the leprosy-affected community. The deliberations underscored the necessity of implementing a rights-based approach to redress these concerns and ensure that the voices of those affected are heeded by the pertinent governmental authorities. Both APAL and BFDT affirmed their dedication to advocating for improved social protection, healthcare, and well-being provisions for the community. The collaborative assembly culminated with a consensus on the significance of perpetuating their collective efforts to effect substantial change, with an emphasis on empowering the community and safeguarding their rights in all forthcoming undertakings.



President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, alongside the management of APAL's State Committee, held a meeting with the Governor of Odisha

On August 25, 2024, the President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, alongside the management of APAL's State Committee, held a meeting with the Governor of Odisha, Mr. Raghubar Das, at his office. During the meeting, a memorandum was presented to address a critical issue pertaining to the state's disability pension policy.

Currently, the disability pension of 3,500 rupees is exclusively provided to individuals affected by leprosy who are over 80 years old. This policy has led to the exclusion of many individuals residing in leprosy colonies, enduring significant disabilities and challenging living conditions, who do not meet the age criteria for financial assistance. These individuals, in urgent need of support, are currently deprived of essential resources for sustainable living.

APAL respectfully appealed to the Governor to consider extending the disability pension to all individuals affected by leprosy, regardless of age, by recognizing a 40% disability certificate as the eligibility criterion. This adjustment aims to address the significant gap in

the current policy and ensure that pension benefits reach those most in need, thereby providing these individuals with the means to live with dignity and security. Furthermore, the delegation raised awareness of critical land issues faced by many in the leprosy-affected community, residing in unsafe and uninhabitable housing. They urged the Governor's intervention to address these urgent housing and land concerns, guaranteeing safe and stable living conditions for the vulnerable individuals.

The meeting was attended by Maya Ranavare (President of APAL), Jawahar Ram Paswan (Vice President of APAL), Prabhakar Sahoo (Executive Member of APAL), Biswanadh Sahoo (APAL's State Coordinator in Odisha), and other key members. APAL expressed profound gratitude to the Governor for his positive response and the warm hospitality extended during their visit. APAL remains optimistic that these critical issues will be addressed to enhance the lives of those affected by leprosy in Odisha.



In partnership with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh hosted a Health Screening Camp at New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore

On 28th August 2024, In partnership with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh hosted a Health Screening Camp at New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. This camp was tailored to provide essential health services to individuals affected by leprosy, including ulcer care, eye care, provision of aids and appliances, as well as dispensation of essential medicines. Notably, a need for the expertise of a Reconstructive Surgeon to address complications arising from leprosy was identified during the camp. The primary goal of the camp was to ensure comprehensive healthcare support for those affected by leprosy, thereby enhancing their quality of life and overall well-being.

On behalf of those impacted by leprosy, APAL expresses profound appreciation to Dr. Jerry and the dedicated team from the Schieffelin Institute for their exceptional services and unwavering commitment to the cause. Their compassionate care and medical proficiency have significantly alleviated the suffering and instilled hope among the residents of New Jyothi Leprosy Colony. Additionally, APAL extends special gratitude to Mr. Sayilu and Mr. Prakash from APAL's State Committee for their active and invaluable contributions in organizing and coordinating the camp. Their efforts were pivotal in ensuring the success of the camp, enabling individuals affected by leprosy to receive the requisite care and support.



Under the 15th Finance Commission Scheme, a substantial renovation project took place at the Leprosy Ashram of West Khagron, Ward No. 12. The project focused on renovating the pipeline

On 28th August 2024, Under the 15th Finance Commission Scheme, a substantial renovation project took place at the Leprosy Ashram of West Khagron, Ward No. 12. The project focused on renovating the pipeline and pathways within the ashram premises and had an allocated budget of Rs. 3,07,009. Mr. Sujit Kumar, the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Khagron, in collaboration with Mrs. Chinta Devi, Councilor of Ward No. 12, oversaw the renovation. Their proactive approach and dedication resulted in significant infrastructure improvements at the ashram, creating a safer and more accessible environment for its residents.

The successful realization of this important project was made possible by the relentless efforts of Ramesh Prasad from APAL's State Committee in Bihar. His unwavering commitment to the cause and persistent advocacy ensured that the voices of individuals affected by leprosy were heard, leading to the much-needed renovations. APAL extends its deep appreciation to Mr. Sujit Kumar and Councilor Mrs. Chinta Devi for their invaluable service and support to the leprosy-affected community and their families. Special thanks are also due to APAL's State Committee in Bihar for their active contributions and continuous efforts in advocating for the rights and well-being of those affected by leprosy. Their collective work represents a significant step towards improving the quality of life for this marginalized community.



The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, was invited, alongside the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, to attend a one-day convention

On 29th August 2024, The President of APAL, Maya Ranavare, was invited, alongside the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, to attend a one-day convention organized by the Maharashtra Kushthapit Sanghatna. The event aimed to honor students who received merit scholarships through the Kusthakanth Scholarship Scheme and to welcome the Honorable President of Maharashtra Kushthapit Sanghatna. Distinguished leaders and activists dedicated to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy and those advocating for educational opportunities for underprivileged communities convened at the gathering.

The convention hosted esteemed guests including Hon. Shri Ram Naik, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Hon. Shri Prashant Thakur, MLA of the Panvel Legislative Assembly, and Hon. Shri Manoj Bhujbal, MLA of the Nashik Graduate Constituency, Panchvati, Maharashtra, who served as Chief Guests. Hon. Shri Uday Takar and Hon. Smt. Maya Ranavare took on the roles of Chief Guest and Program Coordinator respectively. The inauguration of the event by Hon. Shri Nitin Kadam from the Education Department of Maharashtra underscored its focus on education and empowerment.

The Maharashtra Kushthapit Sanghatna, located at Shri Ramdas Thakur Samajik Vikas Mandal in Mandve, Panvel, organized the convention under the leadership of Mr. Jitendra Chatehan, President, and Shri Ashok Ambekar, Secretary.

During the session, the organizers initiated a discussion on the necessity of an amended petition to address critical issues faced by people affected by leprosy. They proposed several key demands for inclusion in the new petition:

1. National Survey: Conduct a fresh national survey of all individuals affected by leprosy across the country.
2. National Policy: Formulate a comprehensive national policy for the empowerment and upliftment of leprosy victims.
3. Uniform Subsistence Allowance: Implement a uniform and genuine subsistence allowance across all states.
4. Free Medical Facilities: Instruct all states to provide free medical facilities to all leprosy-affected communities.
5. Preservation of Rights: Ensure housing and land rights are preserved for leprosy sufferers.
6. Free Education and Special Training: Provide free education for the children of leprosy-affected persons and offer special training for competitive government examinations.
7. Amendment in Personal Laws: Introduce necessary amendments in personal laws to protect the rights of those affected by leprosy.
8. Financial Support for Economic Activities: Provide financial support for small-scale industries and agriculture involving leprosy-affected individuals.
9. Tax Exemption for Products: Exempt products made by leprosy-affected persons from VAT/GST.
10. Public Awareness Campaign: Address misconceptions and lack of awareness about leprosy through an effective public awareness campaign.



Patna to address critical land-related issues

On the 3rd of September, the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, referred to as SAMUTHAN, convened at the office of the Land

Reforms Minister in Patna to address critical land-related issues encountered by leprosy colonies in the state. The committee highlighted the significant challenges faced by residents, including insecure land ownership and inadequate living conditions. Emphasizing the urgency of intervention and policy reform, they urged the Land Reforms Minister's office to take concrete steps to address the longstanding land problems affecting the community.

Subsequent to the meeting with the Land Reforms Minister, the committee proceeded to the Social Security Office to submit an application advocating for an elevation in the disability pension for individuals affected by leprosy. They argued that the existing pension amounts are insufficient to meet the basic needs of those living with disabilities and stressed the need for an increase to ensure a more sustainable livelihood. They emphasized that augmenting the pension would significantly enhance the quality of life for individuals affected by leprosy, many of whom already face marginalization and endure social and economic hardships. The delegation expressed optimism that their efforts would yield positive changes and committed to further advocacy for the rights and welfare of leprosy-affected communities in Bihar.

APAL extends its gratitude to the APAL State Committee in Bihar for their advocacy and extends special thanks to Mr. Someswar Dubey, Mr. Kamlesh Chandra Lal, and Mr. Ramvarai Sah for their contributions to the leprosy community.



State Committee of APAL in Jharkhand, accompanied by Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, conducted a visit to the Angarpathra Leprosy Colony

On the 5th of September 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Jharkhand, accompanied by Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, conducted a visit to the Angarpathra Leprosy Colony and Tetulmari Leprosy Colony in Dhanbad. Mr. Tiwari actively engaged with the residents of Angarpathra Colony, holding discussions with them to comprehensively understand the myriad challenges and issues they encounter in their daily lives. This visit served as a platform for the residents to articulate their concerns, predominantly centering around the socio-economic adversities and insufficiencies in the support structures within the colony. The significance of Mr. Tiwari's visit lies in its demonstration of APAL's continuing dedication to comprehending and redressing the specific requirements of leprosy-affected communities across Jharkhand.

Additionally, Mr. Tiwari made his inaugural visit to Tetulmari Leprosy Colony, where he uncovered several pressing issues encountered by the residents. In 2004-2005, 20 leprosy patients from Barambe Ranchi were relocated to Tetulmari. Subsequently, in 2008-2009, 22 houses were erected under the Indira Awas Yojana in Block - Baghmara, Tetulmari, Dhanbad, and these were assigned to all the relocated patients, including two local leprosy patients. However, the current circumstances in Tetulmari Leprosy Colony are dire. The residents rely entirely on a modest government pension of ₹1000 and a monthly ration of 5 kg in addition to a PH (Public Health) card. There are no other means of livelihood or supplementary support, leaving the community to subsist solely on these limited provisions. The visit underscored the urgent requirement for augmented support and enhanced living conditions for the residents of Tetulmari, who persist in enduring severe hardships with nominal resources.



APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh conducted a health screening camp in collaboration with Kaligiri Leprosy Hospital at the New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore

In the previous month, the APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh conducted a health screening camp in collaboration with Kaligiri Leprosy Hospital at the New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore. During the visit, they discovered significant obstacles faced by individuals affected by leprosy, particularly in terms of accessing treatment and eye protection services. Many residents were grappling with insufficient healthcare support, elevating the risk of further health complications, including common eye-related issues among those affected by leprosy.

Recognizing the immediacy of the situation, the APAL State Committee promptly engaged with the pertinent Medical Department of the Government and the District Leprosy Officer of Nellore. They submitted a memorandum urging improved healthcare services for the

colony's residents. The Medical Department responded affirmatively, swiftly coordinating healthcare and eye care services tailored to the needs of those affected by leprosy. Furthermore, they administered BCG vaccinations to the residents, addressing a critical health requirement within the community.

The APAL State Committee, in conjunction with the residents of New Jyothi Leprosy Colony, conveyed their deep appreciation to the Medical Department of Nellore for their speedy and compassionate response. They also extended special thanks to the APAL State Committee Mr. Sayilu, Mr. Prakash and Ms. Jyothi an AASHA worker, who played a pivotal role in the initiative in the locality, making significant contributions to the success of the health camp and ongoing support for the community.



APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, namely Mr. Mohd. Zainuddin and Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, a formal request was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office

On the 9th of September, 2024, a significant development took place to address the well-being of the inhabitants of Nirmal Kusht Colony in Bokaro, Jharkhand. In the presence of Mr. Jawaharram Paswan, the Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), and key members of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, namely Mr. Mohd. Zainuddin and Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, a formal request was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office. This petition aims to launch a housing program for Nirmal Kusht Gram to improve the living conditions of individuals afflicted by leprosy within the colony.

The residents of Nirmal Kusht Colony, backed by APAL's leadership, are optimistic that this initiative will lay the groundwork for obtaining suitable housing and improving their standard of living. This endeavour underscores APAL's unwavering dedication to championing the rights and requirements of individuals affected by leprosy, ensuring that they are not marginalized in the pursuit of socio-economic progress. The presence of APAL's Vice President and State Committee members underscores the significance of this cause and the collaborative endeavour to effect positive change in the lives of the colony's inhabitants.



State Committee of APAL, in partnership with the Children of Deccan Foundation, hosted a book distribution event at MPPS School in Pasumamulu as part of the Vidyadhan program

On September 10, 2024, the State Committee of APAL, in partnership with the Children of Deccan Foundation, hosted a book distribution event at MPPS School in Pasumamulu as part of the Vidyadhan program. This initiative aimed to facilitate the educational advancement of female students by providing them with essential learning resources. The event garnered active involvement from the local community, including the school's teaching staff and the students, who were the program's primary beneficiaries.

The event was graced by Mr. Malkana, the local councillor and founder of the Children of Deccan Foundation, whose unwavering commitment to education and community service has been pivotal in realizing such initiatives. Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, played a significant role in coordinating the event, alongside Vidyadhan program coordinators Pooja and Ramesh. The presence of Vineet, Amir, and Diya, in addition to Mr. Malkana's supporters, contributed to the collaborative atmosphere of the day, underscoring the collective endeavour to champion the education of young girls. This endeavour exemplifies APAL's dedication to the socio-economic empowerment of marginalized communities, in line with its overarching mission to serve individuals affected by leprosy and advocate for comprehensive education.



Pasumamula J.P.H.S. hosted a significant event organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation (CDF) in partnership with Mangala as part of their girl safety program

On Tuesday, the 10th of September 2024, Pasumamula J.P.H.S. hosted a significant event organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation (CDF) in partnership with Mangala as part of their girl safety program. The event primarily aimed at providing safety kits to the female students of the school and conducting an awareness program focusing on hygiene practices. The school's principal led the awareness session, emphasizing the significance of personal hygiene and safety, particularly for young girls. The initiative sought to empower the students with crucial knowledge and resources to uphold their health and well-being.

The event was attended by a diverse group of participants, including Pooja and Diya, Coordinators of the Child Protection Program, Shri Malkanna, the Founder of CDF, Mr. Ramesh Garu, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, and other prominent figures such as Vidyadhan Vineeth and Amir. Their presence and active involvement highlighted the collaborative endeavor to advance the safety and welfare of girls in the community. The event not only furnished practical safety kits but also instilled a sense of awareness and responsibility among the young girls, equipping them with the knowledge necessary

to safeguard themselves and make well-informed decisions regarding their hygiene practices.



State Committee of APAL in Odisha conducted a significant visit to all leprosy colonies in the Balangir district

On the 11th of September 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Odisha conducted a significant visit to all leprosy colonies in the Balangir district. The team, led by Mr. Prabhakar Sahoo, Executive Member of APAL, India, Mrs. Jayanti Pradhan, Secretary of APAL's State Committee Odisha, Mrs. Banita, and Mr. Lokanath Lenka, Member of the State Committee Odisha, engaged with individuals affected by leprosy to discuss the various challenges and issues they encounter in their daily lives. The visit aimed to address the residents' needs, understand their living conditions, and advocate for their rights and welfare.

At Sudpada Adarsh Leprosy Colony, residents emphasized pressing issues such as the proliferation of mosquitoes due to stagnant rainwater, which could not be drained because of inadequate drainage facilities. Furthermore, they raised concerns about the lack of proper land titles (land patta), leaving many families without legal ownership of the land they inhabit, exacerbating their sense of insecurity and instability.

In Narayan Colony, Balangir, the team encountered numerous issues. The residents urgently require land pattas, as well as the construction of a new community hall and pucca houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The community also expressed the need for better sanitation facilities, including the construction of a community toilet. Additionally, they reported that children from the colony are not receiving scholarships under the Sahaya Schemes or the Umbrella Schemes provided by the Odisha Government, limiting their educational opportunities and support.

At Gaintala Colony in Girigobardhanpur, Balangir, which houses 85 individuals across 35 families, 25 out of 33 eligible families have already received land pattas; however, some families are still without legal titles. The president of the colony, Mr. Bighnaraj Rout, along with other residents, voiced concerns about the need for further land patta allocation, the construction of pucca houses, and an improved water supply. Additionally, the community lacks adequate Medical Care and Rehabilitation (MCR) footwear, and they face a dire need for dressing and ulcer care kits. Similar to the other colonies, the children in Gaintala Colony are also facing issues with accessing scholarships.

The visit by APAL's Odisha state committee underscored the urgent need for governmental intervention to address the basic living conditions and welfare of people affected by leprosy in Balangir district. The delegation promised to follow up on these

issues and advocate for solutions that would help improve the lives of these marginalized communities.



Association of People Affected by Leprosy, in collaboration with the District Health Society (DHS) in Kamrup, organized a significant event at the Dhirenpara First Referral Unit (FRU) in Assam

On September 13, 2024, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, in collaboration with the District Health Society (DHS) in Kamrup, organized a significant event at the Dhirenpara First Referral Unit (FRU) in Assam. The primary objective of the event was to mitigate disabilities caused by leprosy and to provide essential healthcare support to individuals affected by the disease. The Government Health Department of Assam actively participated in the event by offering healthcare services, including ulcer care, the distribution of MCR (Microcellular Rubber) footwear, and the provision of ulcer-related medicines. Moreover, the program focused on educating individuals affected by leprosy about crucial self-care methods to prevent further complications and effectively manage their health.

APAL expressed sincere gratitude to the Government Health Department of Assam for their support and dedication. Dr. Purabi, the Zonal Leprosy Officer, Dr. Dhulal from the District Health Society, and Dr. Uday Shankar, the director, were specially recognized for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the success of the event. APAL also extended special thanks to the State Committee of Assam, particularly acknowledging the active involvement and contributions of Mr. Venu, the state coordinator of APAL, towards the welfare of the leprosy community. Overall, the program marked a crucial step towards empowering individuals affected by leprosy and ensuring they receive the care and resources required to lead healthy and dignified lives.



State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in conjunction with the Share Vision organization, orchestrated a notable occasion to provide aid to families impacted by leprosy

On September 13th, 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in conjunction with the Share Vision organization, orchestrated a notable occasion to provide aid to families

impacted by leprosy. Necessities were allocated to 100 disadvantaged families residing in three leprosy colonies: Premasamajam, Dr. Hanson Colony, and Immanial Three Leprosy Colony. This endeavour, spearheaded by Director Mr. Narayana Rao and Chief Secretary Mr. Paul, offered vital assistance to those in need, bringing optimism and respite to the recipients.

The distribution event was honoured by the presence of various esteemed guests, including ZPTC school HM Mrs. Sivakumari, Panchayat Secretary Mr. Krishna, and former Sarpanch Dandi Suresh. They, alongside APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, Mr. Ramesh, disbursed the essential provisions. Their attendance and involvement lent significance to the event, reaffirming the importance of community engagement in supporting the underprivileged segments of society.

The inhabitants of the colonies conveyed deep appreciation to the Share Vision organization for their benevolence. The elders of the colonies, in particular, extended gratitude to the organization's representatives and Mr. Ramesh for their enduring support, which has played a pivotal role in ameliorating their living conditions. This initiative not only furnished material assistance but also fortified the bond of empathy and concern for the leprosy-affected community.



During a recent meeting, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association for People Affected by Leprosy, held discussions with Mr. Aamdar Satish Patil, a Member of the Vidhana Sabha in Kolhapur

On 16th September 2024, During a recent meeting, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association for People Affected by Leprosy, held discussions with Mr. Aamdar Satish Patil, a Member of the Vidhana Sabha in Kolhapur.

Mrs. Ranavare emphasized the significant challenges that individuals affected by leprosy encounter, particularly within leprosy hospitals. She presented a memorandum outlining these issues and submitted the annual report of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy). In response, Mr. Patil expressed his support and dedication to addressing the raised concerns positively.



The State Committee of APAL in Telangana and APAL's State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh Maniyada convened a meeting with the Honorable Minister, Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy

On 16th September 2024, The State Committee of APAL in Telangana and APAL's State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh Maniyada convened a meeting with the Honorable Minister, Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy, to address developmental concerns regarding the Bibinagar Subrahmanyam Leprosy Colony and the longstanding issue of Home Pattas allocation for its inhabitants. The committee highlighted the pressing challenges faced by the residents, who have been awaiting essential amenities and rightful housing provisions. Minister Komati Reddy attentively listened to their grievances and expressed his commitment to addressing the situation.

During the meeting, the Honorable Minister assured the APAL State Committee of his support in resolving the issues promptly and favourably. He acknowledged the significance of providing stable housing and proper facilities to the residents of Bibinagar Subrahmanyam Leprosy Colony, who have historically experienced neglect. His dedication to the cause instilled a sense of hope in the committee, who departed the meeting with optimism that tangible steps would soon be taken to grant the Home Pattas and enhance the overall living conditions in the colony.



State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana, in partnership with the Share the Vision Khammam organization, conducted a significant distribution of essential provisions

On the 18th of September 2024, the State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana, in partnership with the Share the Vision Khammam organization, conducted a significant distribution of essential provisions to impoverished families impacted by leprosy in the Badradi district of Kothagudem. The initiative focused on two prominent communities: Karunambika Leprosy Colony and Singareni Leprosy Colony. The distribution event supplied crucial rations to 100 families affected by leprosy, ensuring the fulfilment of their basic needs.

The operational oversight was led by the organization's Director, Narayana Rao, and General Secretary Paul, ensuring the aid reached those most in need. The event was graced by esteemed guests who supported and motivated the cause. Magdalene Sister, Clara Sister, and APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, Mr. Ramesh, were in attendance, alongside Raju, the President of the Colony. Their involvement underscored various stakeholders' collective commitment and dedication in aiding marginalized communities. On behalf of the people affected by leprosy, APAL conveyed profound appreciation to the representatives of the Share the Vision organization for their humanitarian aid. Special recognition was extended to Mr. Ramesh for his consistent commitment to the well-being of individuals affected by leprosy and their families, acknowledging his pivotal role in upholding these essential support systems.



State Committee of APAL in Gujarat conducted an educational program at the Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh. The aim was to enlighten third-year B.Sc Nursing students from KD Hospital, Ahmedabad

On September 18th, the State Committee of APAL in Gujarat conducted an educational program at the Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh. The aim was to enlighten third-year B.Sc Nursing students from KD Hospital, Ahmedabad. The event focused on imparting crucial information about leprosy, a disease that continues to impact numerous individuals across the country. Under the guidance of program administrator Shula, students were educated on various aspects of leprosy, including the disease's nature, wound care, and the importance of specialized footwear such as MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) chappals for patients. This knowledge is essential for managing leprosy-related complications, especially for individuals suffering from nerve damage and ulcers.

The session also addressed the availability of medicines, government schemes, and treatment options for leprosy, ensuring that students grasped both the clinical and social dimensions of the disease. Furthermore, students were briefed on the challenges encountered by individuals living with leprosy, particularly the hardships they face despite ongoing efforts to enhance their quality of life. They were informed about the

activities within the leprosy colony, shedding light on the continuous support and rehabilitation efforts. This visit not only enriched the students' medical knowledge but also fostered a deeper understanding of the human and social aspects of leprosy care.

APAL expressed gratitude to APAL's State Committee in Gujarat, Mr. Narsimhulu, and Mr. Vijay Kumar for their remarkable intervention and initiative to contribute meaningfully to the community's awareness.



State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, known as SAMUTHAN, submitted a significant application to the Chief Minister of Bihar

On the 19th of September 2024, the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, known as SAMUTHAN, submitted a significant application to the Chief Minister of Bihar. The application specifically addresses two pressing issues encountered by the leprosy community in the state: the necessity to increase the leprosy pension and to resolve the persistent land problems in Bihar's leprosy colonies. These longstanding challenges have significantly impacted the livelihoods and overall well-being of individuals residing in the leprosy colonies, making this submission a crucial stride towards enhancing their living conditions.

Madam Usha, a key figure in spearheading this initiative, has been a staunch advocate for the cause. Not only does she serve as a dedicated member of the Inner Wheel Club of Patna, but she also holds the position of District President of the Janata Dal-United (JDU). Her dual roles afford her the platform and influence to champion the needs of marginalized communities such as those affected by leprosy. During the submission, Madam Usha pledged to facilitate a meeting with the Chief Minister, bringing the issues of the leprosy community directly to his attention. Her unwavering commitment and active engagement inspire hope that the grievances of these communities will finally receive the attention of the highest echelons of state governance.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to the State Committee in Bihar and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, for his tireless advocacy on behalf of persons affected by leprosy. Mr. Sah's unwavering commitment to raising awareness, fighting stigma, and improving the lives of those impacted by the disease has been instrumental in fostering change in the region.



The APAL State Committee in Telangana, in conjunction with the HP Shakti Ladies Club, recently undertook a commendable initiative to distribute food grains to 85 families affected by leprosy

On 19th September 2024, The APAL State Committee in Telangana, in conjunction with the HP Shakti Ladies Club, recently undertook a commendable initiative to distribute food grains to 85 families affected by leprosy residing in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This altruistic endeavour sought to address the daily needs of the community, ensuring that individuals grappling with the social and economic challenges associated with leprosy received vital provisions for their sustenance. The event not only provided tangible assistance but also infused a sense of hope and relief among the families, underscoring the values of empathy and unity.

The successful execution of the distribution event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of esteemed colony leaders, namely M. Samuel, V. Dominic, Sk. Rahemathulla, Ch. Mallaiah, and M. Chakali, who played pivotal roles in orchestrating and facilitating the seamless allocation of resources within the colony. Their unwavering dedication to the welfare of the affected families exemplifies the shared commitment of local leaders to uplift their community. APAL expressed profound appreciation to the HP Shakti Ladies Club for their invaluable service, acknowledging their significant contribution to enhancing the lives of individuals impacted by leprosy.

Special recognition was also extended to Mr. Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, whose active involvement and steadfast dedication to the cause were instrumental in the success of this initiative. Mr. Ramesh's resolute commitment to aiding individuals affected by leprosy mirrors the fundamental principles of APAL, which revolve around advocacy, empowerment, and support for those confronting social ostracism due to the disease. His endeavours, in conjunction with the collaboration with HP Shakti Ladies Club, have positively influenced the lives of the families in Shanthinagar Colony, fostering dignity and optimism for a brighter future.



A delegation led by Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, visited the office of the Additional Director of Health Services (ADHS) in Sangli, Maharashtra

On 19th September 2024, a delegation led by Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, visited the office of the Additional Director of Health Services (ADHS) in Sangli, Maharashtra. The delegation included members of the Maharashtra State Committee team of APAL and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana. The purpose of the visit was to address the challenges encountered by leprosy patients, particularly related to the Municipal Pension Scheme. Timely disbursement of these pensions is crucial for the basic needs of many individuals affected by leprosy, and any delays or issues have resulted in significant hardships.

Maya Ranavare, a staunch advocate for the rights of leprosy-affected individuals, articulated these concerns to Dr. Shivaji Aldar. She emphasized the importance of punctual pensions and other essential support systems. The meeting also delved into various other issues affecting leprosy patients in the region, such as access to healthcare services, rehabilitation, and social inclusion. Dr. Shivaji Aldar displayed a positive response and a profound understanding of the challenges faced by the community.

APAL, in conjunction with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Aldar for his warm hospitality and commitment to addressing the raised concerns. His receptiveness to dialogue and willingness to collaborate in resolving these issues has instilled hope in the leprosy-affected community, reinforcing their faith in a more inclusive and supportive healthcare system.



APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with members of the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, visited several key leprosy colonies

APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with members of the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, visited several key leprosy colonies in the state to address pressing issues faced by residents. Their visit to Lalnager Colony, Meghjbhaiwadi Colony, and Ambewadi Colony marked a crucial step in understanding the specific challenges experienced by persons affected by leprosy in these areas. During the visit, they engaged in in-depth discussions with the colonies' local committees, focusing on the immediate concerns that needed attention and resolution.

One of the primary issues raised during these interactions was the land-related problems that persisted in the colonies. Many residents, who are persons affected by leprosy, continue to face uncertainty around land ownership, making it difficult for them to secure their homes and build stable lives. The discussions revealed how the lack of clear land titles and the ongoing disputes over land rights are affecting the community's access to basic infrastructure, services, and long-term stability. Maya Ranavare and the APAL

delegation listened carefully to these concerns and reassured the residents that they would advocate on their behalf at both state and national levels to seek viable solutions to the land disputes and ensure better living conditions for the leprosy-affected community in Maharashtra.

The visit not only served to highlight the issues but also reinforced APAL's commitment to empowering persons affected by leprosy and ensuring that their voices are heard in the fight for land rights and social justice.



APAL State Committee in Bihar, represented by Mr. Ramesh Prasad, Mr. Ram Barai, and Mr. Kamlesh, held an important meeting with Harjot Kaur Bamhra, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department in Bihar

On 20th September 2024, the APAL State Committee in Bihar, represented by Mr. Ramesh Prasad, Mr. Ram Barai, and Mr. Kamlesh, held an important meeting with Harjot Kaur Bamhra, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department in Bihar. This meeting, which took place at the Social Welfare Department office in Patna, aimed to raise awareness about the numerous challenges faced by leprosy-affected individuals living in Bihar. The delegation presented the difficulties and hardships these individuals endure, emphasizing the lack of adequate financial support and resources necessary for their daily lives.

During the meeting, the APAL representatives discussed the Bihar Shatabdi Leprosy Welfare Allowance, expressing concerns about its inadequacy compared to the support provided in other states. They highlighted how leprosy-affected persons in other regions receive higher pension benefits, which greatly aid in improving their living conditions. By sharing these examples, the delegation underscored the urgent need for Bihar to increase its welfare allowance to ensure that those affected by leprosy in the state receive the support they deserve. To formalize this request, the APAL committee members submitted a memorandum, urging the state to enhance the existing pension scheme for leprosy patients, aligning it with the standards of other states across India.



President of APAL, and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, recently held a meeting with Honorable MLA Annasaheb Bansode, Pimpri Vidhan Sabha

On 22nd September 2024, Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, recently held a meeting with Honorable MLA Annasaheb Bansode, Pimpri Vidhan Sabha, to address the pressing issue of rehabilitating leprosy patients residing in the impoverished urban leprosy colony situated in Niradhar Nagar, Pimpri, Pune-411018. This colony has been home to leprosy patients who have been marginalized by society and their families for over 50 years. Despite the provision of basic amenities such as electricity, water, and roads by the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), the residents continue to grapple with significant challenges due to their economic vulnerability and social exclusion.

During the meeting, the delegation, led by Maya Ranavare, emphasized the plight of the 33 families living in the colony. Each household has been issued photo passes by the PCMC, and house leases have been applied to their homes, providing a certain degree of security. However, these families, predominantly reliant on daily wage labour, continue to face hardships stemming from financial instability and inadequate housing. Ranavare and the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana sought MLA Annasaheb Bansode's assistance in ensuring the residents are relocated to a more dignified and suitable location.

The delegation also informed the MLA that they had previously submitted a letter to the PCMC Commissioner on March 17, 2023, urging action on the rehabilitation matter. The Commissioner had referred the issue to the Town Planning Department, but unfortunately, no report has been received so far. The meeting with MLA Bansode aimed to secure his support in expediting the process and ensuring that the concerns of the leprosy patients are promptly addressed, allowing them to live with dignity in Pimpri.



president of APAL, took part in the BIAnnual National Disability Network Meeting conducted in Delhi

On 23rd September 2024, Maya Ranavare, the president of APAL, took part in the BIAnnual National Disability Network Meeting conducted in Delhi. This significant gathering was dedicated to shaping the future of disability advocacy in India. Ranavare made substantial contributions to the key deliberations, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities encountered by individuals with disabilities.

During her address, she underscored the imperative of incorporating individuals affected by leprosy into disability organizations. Ranavare highlighted the considerable social stigma often faced by those affected by leprosy, emphasizing the necessity of their inclusion in these groups to facilitate their reintegration into mainstream society with dignity. Her contributions underscored the broader movement toward inclusivity, advocating for a collective endeavour to ensure that all individuals with disabilities,

including those impacted by leprosy, are accorded equal opportunities and respect in Indian society.



Department of Peddambar Peta Primary Health Centre (PHC), recently organized a successful health camp

On 23rd September 2024, The State Committee of the APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Health Department of Peddambar Peta Primary Health Centre (PHC), recently organized a successful health camp in the Shanthi Nagar Colony. The primary objective of this camp was to deliver essential health and ulcer care services to individuals affected by leprosy, as well as to provide medical assistance to the residents of the area. Alongside ulcer care, general medicines were also distributed to the attendees, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.

APAL extends sincere appreciation to the committed members of the medical department for their invaluable contributions on behalf of the individuals affected by leprosy. Special recognition is extended to Dr. Durgadevi, the Medical Officer of the Bastidawakhana at Peddambar Peta PHC, for her dedicated efforts in ensuring the success of this camp. APAL also expresses gratitude to DPMO Shanthiraj, Sister Vanaja Garu from Peddambarpet, and Mr. Ramesh for their significant roles in the seamless execution of the camp. Their collaborative endeavours have substantially benefited the community, particularly those affected by leprosy, by facilitating access to essential healthcare services.



APAL's State Committee in Karnataka, accompanied by women affected by leprosy from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony, visited the local Primary Health Center (PHC) to address a critical need for regular health and ulcer care services

On 24th September 2024, APAL's State Committee in Karnataka, accompanied by women affected by leprosy from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony, visited the local Primary Health Center (PHC) to address a critical need for regular health and ulcer care services. During the visit, the group met with the medical officer to formally request the health department's continued support in providing essential healthcare to individuals affected by leprosy. These services, especially ulcer care, are vital for maintaining the health and dignity of the community. The engagement was a proactive step towards ensuring that the health needs

of the community are met consistently and that individuals affected by leprosy do not face neglect in accessing medical care.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to the medical department of the PHC for their positive response to this important request. The willingness of the health officials to listen to the concerns of the community and commit to providing regular healthcare services is a significant achievement. Special recognition must also go to the women from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony and the Karnataka State Committee for their tireless efforts. Their rights-based approach to securing healthcare services is a testament to the power of collective advocacy and determination. By standing up for their rights and working directly with local health authorities, they have paved the way for more sustained and reliable care for persons affected by leprosy in their community.

This initiative highlights the importance of grassroots advocacy and the impact it can have on bringing about change in healthcare delivery. The visit not only resulted in a commitment from the PHC to provide much-needed health services but also reinforced the message that persons affected by leprosy have the right to equitable, accessible healthcare. APAL is proud of the collaborative efforts that led to this positive outcome and looks forward to continued engagement with the health department to ensure that these services remain consistent and effective. This victory, led by the women of Vijaypur and the Karnataka State Committee, is a shining example of how a rights-based approach can yield tangible results for vulnerable communities.



APAL's State Committee in Haryana, in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, recently carried out a compassionate initiative aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy at Rohtak Kusht Aashram

On 27th Sep 2024, APAL's State Committee in Haryana, in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, recently carried out a compassionate initiative aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy at Rohtak Kusht Aashram. They distributed MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear, which is essential for the protection and comfort of those suffering from leprosy-related foot issues, to all the inmates in the colony. In addition to this, necessary medicines were also provided to ensure the ongoing treatment and care of the residents. This initiative reflects APAL's continued dedication to improving the lives of people affected by leprosy.

APAL expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the Leprosy Society for their invaluable support in making this event successful. The organization also extended special thanks to the members of the State Committee in Haryana for their tireless efforts and dedication in organizing and executing the initiative. A special note of appreciation was given to Mr. Govinda Swamy, whose contributions were instrumental in ensuring that this distribution

reached those in need. His efforts were a testament to the spirit of community and care that defines APAL's mission.



Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in conjunction with leaders from various leprosy colonies in Bhimavaram, undertook an initiative to address the inadequate infrastructure in their communities

On the 28th of September 2024, Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in conjunction with leaders from various leprosy colonies in Bhimavaram, undertook an initiative to address the inadequate infrastructure in their communities. They presented a memorandum to the government authorities outlining the critical issues affecting their living conditions. The memorandum underscored the urgent requirement for enhanced drainage systems, consistent power supply, access to clean water, sanitation, and proper CC roads within the colonies. Recognizing the gravity of these issues, Mr. Prakash and the colony leaders advocated for immediate government intervention to improve the lives of people affected by leprosy in the area.

The authorities, including Mr. K. Ramachandra Reddy, Municipal Commissioner of Bhimavaram Municipality, sanitation officers, deputy engineer, electrical engineer, and water section officer, responded affirmatively and promptly by visiting the colonies (New Jyothi and Krupa Colonies) and surrounding areas to firsthand assess the situation. During their visit, they observed unhygienic drainage systems, irregular power and water supply, and the poor condition of the roads. The officials also engaged with the colony residents, discussing the daily challenges they faced and potential improvement solutions. Following a comprehensive assessment, the authorities assured the residents that improved living spaces and surroundings would be provided as soon as possible, instilling hope for a better quality of life among the colony's inhabitants.

APAL expressed their sincere gratitude to the authorities for their immediate response and commitment to enhancing conditions in Bhimavaram's leprosy colonies. Special recognition was extended to Mr. Prakash and the APAL State Committee of Andhra Pradesh, whose efforts were pivotal in realizing this success. Their dedication and perseverance culminated in a positive outcome, ensuring that the needs of the leprosy-affected community were acknowledged and addressed.



On 1st October, a detailed inspection was carried out by the authorities of the Municipal Corporation of Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh

On 1st October, a detailed inspection was carried out by the authorities of the Municipal Corporation of Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh, revealing critical issues in local infrastructure that were directly affecting the residents' quality of life. The inspection focused on several major areas, including drainage, electricity, and road conditions, all of which were found to be in need of urgent attention.

Key Findings and Challenges

1. **Drainage Obstruction:** The drainage systems were significantly obstructed by overgrown vegetation and accumulated debris. This blockage resulted in unsanitary conditions, posing health risks for the residents. The poor drainage infrastructure had led to stagnant water, which can be a breeding ground for various diseases and exacerbate sanitation challenges in the community.
2. **Unreliable Electricity Supply:** The electricity supply in the area was found to be inconsistent, further complicating the daily lives of the residents. This unreliability in electricity service impacted not only residential comfort but also limited the functionality of other critical services that rely on stable power.
3. **Access to Clean Water:** Access to clean and potable water was sporadic, adding to the daily hardships faced by the community. Inadequate water supply is a major concern in any community, as it affects health, sanitation, and overall quality of life.
4. **Damaged Roads:** The roads within the locality were in a state of disrepair, making transportation difficult and posing safety hazards, especially during the rainy season when potholes and uneven surfaces become even more problematic.

Community Engagement and Immediate Response

During the inspection, municipal officials engaged directly with the colony's residents, enabling them to understand the specific challenges the community was facing. This direct interaction was instrumental in identifying actionable steps to address these pressing issues, which had long been overlooked. The government representatives committed to prioritizing these issues and addressing them promptly, which instilled a renewed sense of hope and reassurance among the residents.

Government Actions and Intervention

Following the inspection, the government took decisive actions to address the identified infrastructure issues. Some of the key steps included:

- **Clearing Vegetation and Debris from Drainage Systems:** Efforts were promptly initiated to clear the overgrown vegetation and debris from the drainage systems, improving sanitation and reducing health risks associated with stagnant water.
- **Planning for Essential Service Enhancements:** Plans were laid out for further improvements in essential services, which included stable electricity supply, consistent access to clean water, and the repair of damaged roads. These plans aim to bring long-term relief to the community.

Acknowledgment of Advocacy and Community Impact

The Andhra Pradesh Association of Leprosy-Affected (APAL), alongside community leaders, expressed their gratitude for the timely intervention by the government. Mr. Prakash and the APAL State Committee of Andhra Pradesh received special commendation for their persistent advocacy efforts, which were crucial in ensuring that the voices of the leprosy-affected community were heard and addressed.

Conclusion

The collaborative efforts between APAL, colony leaders, and the government mark a meaningful step toward improving living conditions for a historically marginalized community. The interventions not only addressed immediate infrastructure issues but also highlighted the power of community advocacy in driving positive change. This initiative represents a significant accomplishment in enhancing the well-being of the residents, setting a foundation for continued support and development in the area.



Report on Cleanliness Intervention Led by Mr. Someshwar Dubey at Gandhi Gram Ashram, Mothipur on 1st October 2024.

Introduction Mr. Someshwar Dubey, the State Coordinator of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), has taken a significant step in advancing the well-being of the residents of Gandhi Gram Ashram in Mothipur. Recognizing the vital role of a clean and hygienic environment for the health and morale of the community, Mr. Dubey spearheaded a cleanliness intervention aimed at revitalizing the neglected areas of the Ashram. This report outlines the details and impact of the initiative led by Mr. Dubey.

Background The Gandhi Gram Ashram in Mothipur is home to residents affected by leprosy, many of whom face socio-economic challenges. Over time, the condition of the Ashram had deteriorated due to neglect, resulting in the accumulation of litter, debris, and overgrown vegetation. Understanding the unique challenges faced by the residents, Mr. Dubey aimed to empower them through active participation in the cleanup effort, fostering a sense of unity and responsibility.

The Cleanliness Initiative The initiative, organized by Mr. Dubey, involved mobilizing the residents to engage in a comprehensive cleanup of the Ashram. The intervention included:

- **Removing debris** and accumulated waste from common areas and living spaces.
- **Clearing overgrown vegetation** to improve accessibility and aesthetics.
- **Restoring hygiene** across the premises to promote a healthier living environment.

The entire process was community-driven, with Mr. Dubey leading by example and inspiring others to take part. The residents of the Ashram showed remarkable enthusiasm and commitment, contributing their efforts to transform their living conditions.

Community Response and Participation The response from the residents was overwhelmingly positive. Demonstrating a strong sense of solidarity, they joined Mr. Dubey in working diligently to achieve the shared goal of a cleaner and more habitable space. This collaborative effort not only addressed the physical neglect of the Ashram but also boosted the morale of the community, giving them a sense of pride and renewed ownership over their surroundings.

Outcomes and Impact The successful completion of the cleanup initiative resulted in multiple benefits:

- **Improved Living Conditions:** The Ashram's environment was significantly cleaner and more sanitary, reducing potential health risks associated with unkempt spaces.
- **Empowerment and Unity:** The residents experienced a heightened sense of community and empowerment, realizing the power of collective action.
- **Inspiration for Other Communities:** The initiative served as a model for other leprosy-affected communities, demonstrating that impactful change is possible through collaborative efforts.

Conclusion: Mr. Someshwar Dubey's leadership in organizing the cleanliness drive at Gandhi Gram Ashram highlighted the importance of community involvement in overcoming local challenges. His approach underscored the value of self-reliance and collective action, showing that even the most marginalized groups can make meaningful progress when united by a common purpose. This intervention not only enhanced the physical conditions of the Ashram but also strengthened the residents' resolve to maintain a dignified and healthy living environment.



In furtherance of this initiative, Councilor Vijender Reddy distributed essential ration supplies to the residents of Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony

On the 1st of October 2024, the Children of Deccan Foundation organized a special event to commemorate the International Day of Older Persons. Malkanna, the Foundation's Chairman, spearheaded the program to recognize and provide assistance to the elderly population. In furtherance of this initiative, Councilor Vijender Reddy distributed essential ration supplies to the residents of Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony, highlighting the Foundation's dedication to assisting underprivileged communities, particularly those who have been marginalized due to age, health, or social circumstances.

Apart from Malkanna and Councilor Reddy, the event witnessed the participation of other prominent figures. Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, and Samuel, the leader of the Colony, lent their support to the cause. At the same time, Pooja played a pivotal role in ensuring the seamless execution of the program. Collectively, they emphasized the significance of providing care and resources to the elderly and vulnerable populations,

advocating for the dignity and rights of older persons and individuals affected by leprosy, especially those contending with illnesses and residing in challenging conditions.



State Committee in Haryana, in partnership with the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club in Rohtak, conducted a compassionate distribution drive in all leprosy colonies throughout the state

On the 2nd of October 2024, in observance of Gandhi Jayanti, the APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Haryana, in partnership with the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club in Rohtak, conducted a compassionate distribution drive in all leprosy colonies throughout the state. This initiative encompassed the distribution of MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear, essential for individuals affected by leprosy, as well as the provision of food grains to the residents, ensuring their comfort and well-being.

The event underscored the benevolent endeavours of the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club members, whose invaluable support significantly contributed to the success of the initiative. The festivities within the colonies cultivated a sense of inclusivity and concern within the leprosy-affected community, epitomizing the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, who ardently advocated for equality and dignity for all.

APAL expresses profound gratitude to the Rotary Club members for their altruistic service. Special acknowledgement is also extended to Mr. Govind Swamy and the executive members of APAL for their devoted and proactive contributions to the community. Their relentless efforts persist in uplifting the lives of individuals affected by leprosy, promoting dignity and solidarity within society.



State Committee in Telangana, in partnership with the LEPRASociety, hosted a significant Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) Camp

On 3rd October 2024, On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi, the APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Telangana, in partnership with the LEPRASociety, hosted a significant Disability Prevention and Medical

Rehabilitation (DPMR) Camp. This event took place at Shanthi Nagar Colony in Rangareddy District, demonstrating a strong commitment to social welfare and community health. The primary objective of the camp was to address the medical requirements of individuals affected by leprosy, providing a platform for disability prevention and rehabilitation. With the collaboration of local stakeholders, this endeavour exemplified Gandhiji's vision of equality, health, and inclusion for all, particularly for marginalized communities.

The camp received substantial support from Mr. M. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, whose leadership and dedication played a crucial role in its success. Under his guidance, the DPMR Camp offered essential medical services, rehabilitation support, and preventive care to those in need. Through the partnership with the LEPROA Society, a renowned organization in the leprosy and healthcare field, APAL's State Committee ensured that individuals affected by leprosy in Shanthi Nagar Colony received appropriate treatment and support. This initiative not only advanced the well-being of the community but also furthered the mission of raising awareness about leprosy and preventing disabilities associated with the disease.



In collaboration with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, the APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh orchestrated a Health Screening Camp

On 3rd October 2024, In collaboration with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, the APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh orchestrated a Health Screening Camp at the Ananth Sayanam, Jyothi, and Anand Leprosy Colonies in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The camp aimed to deliver vital health services to individuals affected by leprosy, with a focus on ulcer care, eye care, and the provision of aids and appliances. Moreover, essential medications were distributed to enhance the residents' quality of life. A significant outcome of the camp was the identification of a pressing need for a Reconstructive Surgeon (RCS) to manage complications arising from leprosy, as three new cases requiring specialized reconstructive surgery were identified. These individuals also required MCR (Microcellular Rubber) footwear and various aids to facilitate their daily lives. The primary objective of the camp was to provide comprehensive healthcare, ensuring that those affected by leprosy receive the necessary support to improve their overall well-being.

APAL expresses sincere gratitude to Dr. Jerry and the entire team from the Schieffelin Institute for their exceptional services during the camp. Their dedication and medical expertise significantly alleviated the suffering of those impacted by leprosy, particularly in the Leprosy Colonies, where their compassionate care has brought renewed hope to the

residents. APAL also acknowledges and deeply appreciates the substantial contributions of Mr. Sayilu, Mr. Prakash, and Mr. Danunjay Naidu from the APAL State Committee. Their relentless efforts in organizing and coordinating the camp were pivotal to its success, ensuring that the affected individuals received the care and support they needed. Their commitment to the cause of leprosy care and rehabilitation has had a profound impact on the community, fostering a sense of hope and empowerment among those affected by the disease.



This compassionate initiative took place at Santhi Nagar Colony, a locality where many individuals impacted by leprosy reside. During the event, essential supplies such as food grains, clothes, and blankets were distributed to 100 people

On 4th October 2024, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with Sai Seva Samiti, organized a significant humanitarian effort aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy in Hyderabad. This compassionate initiative took place at Santhi Nagar Colony, a locality where many individuals impacted by leprosy reside. During the event, essential supplies such as food grains, clothes, and blankets were distributed to 100 people, helping to alleviate some of the hardships they face in their daily lives. Volunteers from Gandhinagar, Musheerabad, and Secunderabad came together for this noble cause, ensuring that those in need received the necessary resources to improve their quality of life.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to Sai Seva Samiti for their invaluable service and dedication to supporting individuals affected by leprosy. Their active involvement in the distribution of essentials is a testament to their commitment to community welfare and service. Additionally, APAL would like to offer special thanks to Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator for Telangana, for his continuous and significant contributions to this cause. His tireless efforts in coordinating such initiatives have been instrumental in ensuring that those affected by leprosy receive the care and assistance they need. This collaborative endeavor highlights the importance of unity in service, bringing hope and relief to a vulnerable community.



APAL State Committee, led by State Coordinator M. Ramesh, orchestrated a significant humanitarian endeavor aimed at providing assistance to families impacted by leprosy in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This endeavor, which entailed the distribution of essential groceries

On the 5th of October 2024, the APAL State Committee, led by State Coordinator M. Ramesh, orchestrated a significant humanitarian endeavor aimed at providing assistance to families impacted by leprosy in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This endeavor, which entailed the distribution of essential groceries, was executed in collaboration with the Society of Rural Development (SRD), an organization dedicated to uplifting underprivileged communities and ensuring access to necessities for those in need. The initiative served as a crucial support system for these families, who often encounter social stigma and economic hardships due to their condition.

The teams from APAL and SRD distributed food supplies to 28 families, ensuring that each household received adequate rations to sustain them. This distribution of groceries not only addressed immediate needs but also represented a compassionate gesture that underscored the commitment of APAL and SRD to the welfare of leprosy-affected communities. Through such outreach, M. Ramesh and the team aimed to provide relief and demonstrate solidarity with individuals affected by leprosy, reinforcing a sense of dignity and inclusion within the broader community.

This collaborative initiative underscores the impact of organizations like APAL and SRD in rural and marginalized areas. By addressing food security concerns for these families, APAL's State Committee and its coordinator are contributing to a broader societal objective of breaking the cycle of neglect and stigma often associated with leprosy. Through these actions, they aspire to create a more inclusive and empathetic society, paving the way for a future where all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, can access basic resources and lead dignified lives.



Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, representing the APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, and his team from the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), formally submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad district

On October 5, 2024, Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, representing the APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, and his team from the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), formally submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad district under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. This initiative is aimed at providing permanent housing for 627 families residing across 16 leprosy colonies within the district. The PMAY scheme, a flagship program of the Indian government, is dedicated to offering affordable and safe housing for underprivileged citizens. Through this application, APAL seeks to ensure that these families, many of whom have faced social stigma and economic

challenges due to their conditions, can access secure and dignified living conditions, a fundamental need and a long-overdue right.

The application underscores the urgent need for permanent housing for these communities, which have often been marginalized and lack adequate access to basic amenities. By facilitating this process, Mr. Tiwari and APAL aim to uplift the affected families, offering them a stable foundation that fosters self-reliance and a sense of belonging within society. It is anticipated that the Deputy Commissioner will respond positively, recognizing the importance of inclusive development. If successful, this endeavour will not only enhance the living standards of these families but also reaffirm their rightful place in society, reinforcing the government's commitment to social equity and housing for all.



In Gandhi Gram Post Ashram, Motipur, there is a group of 40 leprosy patients, all of whom are ration cardholders and depend on assistance to obtain essential rations

On 7th October 2024, In Gandhi Gram Post Ashram, Motipur, there is a group of 40 leprosy patients, all of whom are ration cardholders and depend on assistance to obtain essential rations. These individuals, due to their particular circumstances, receive their ration supplies based on verification of identification by Vikas Mitra, a community-level facilitator appointed to assist marginalized groups. Unlike the standard procedure for ration distribution, these ration cardholders are exempt from the usual KYC (Know Your Customer) process, as their identification and entitlement verification rely solely on Vikas Mitra's confirmation. While effective for these patients, this setup deviates from the broader ration distribution system.

To formalize this arrangement and ensure its continuity, all the cardholders recently submitted a memorandum through the M.O. and B.D.O. (Block Development Officer) of Motipur. The initiative was spearheaded by Someshwar Dubey, APAL's State Coordinator in Bihar, who advocated for the interests of the leprosy-affected group. This memorandum seeks official recognition of the current distribution method, enabling them to continue accessing rations without the need for KYC. In response, local authorities have pledged to forward the memorandum to the district administration. Any requisite directives will be

issued at the district level to institutionalize this arrangement, thereby ensuring uninterrupted access to essential rations for these patients.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the distinguished privilege of serving as the chief guest at the 150-year celebration of The Leprosy Mission

On the 7th of October 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the distinguished privilege of serving as the chief guest at the 150-year celebration of The Leprosy Mission (TLM) in Maharashtra. This significant event, hosted at the historic HIL project, brought together prominent dignitaries from Maharashtra and Karnataka, underscoring TLM's pivotal role in combatting leprosy in India. Mrs. Ranavare's presence underscored her dedication to health initiatives and advocacy for the well-being of communities affected by leprosy. In her address, she lauded TLM's relentless efforts over the past 150 years, highlighting the remarkable accomplishments that have positively impacted numerous lives and advanced leprosy awareness, treatment, and rehabilitation.

The event was graced by key TLM members and government officials, including the Additional Joint Secretary of Maharashtra and Dr. Kanule, whose collective support has been instrumental in advancing the mission's objectives. Senior TLM leaders, Ms. Tina and Dr. Jaya Deepa, also played a pivotal role in the festivities, showcasing the organization's extensive influence and sharing compelling narratives of resilience and recovery among patients. Their presence alongside the TLM teams from Karnataka and Maharashtra symbolized a unified front, collaborating closely with government representatives to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating leprosy and ensuring the social and economic inclusion of affected individuals.



APAL's State Committee in Telangana in collaboration with Sri Sharada Seva Trust organized a heartwarming initiative to distribute essential commodities

On 13th October 2024, APAL's State Committee in Telangana in collaboration with Sri Sharada Seva Trust organized a heartwarming initiative to distribute essential commodities (ration) to 50 leprosy-affected families residing in the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony. This charitable effort reflects the trust's ongoing commitment to uplifting marginalized communities and supporting those in need.

The ration distribution was led by the Chief Trustee, P. Sharada Garu, along with other dedicated members of the trust, including Sri Lakshmi, Prasulamba, Bhavani Prasad, Thyagaraju, Dakshina Murthy, and Praveen. Their active involvement made the event meaningful and impactful for the beneficiaries.

Mr. Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, also graced the occasion with his presence. He praised the Sri Sharada Seva Trust for extending assistance to these disadvantaged communities. He expressed gratitude on behalf of people affected by leprosy living in the colonies, emphasizing how such acts of kindness foster a sense of belonging among residents.

Several elders from the colonies, including Mr. Samel, V. Dom Nik, Rahimatullah, J. Pullaiah, and Amrut Raj, participated in the event, adding a sense of community and solidarity. The trust members responded positively to the feedback and reinforced their commitment to continuing such initiatives in the future.

The event not only provided essential support to the leprosy-affected families but also highlighted the importance of compassion, care, and unity in addressing social challenges.



Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently participated in the ILEP Advisory Panel Meeting

On 14th October 2024, Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently participated in the ILEP Advisory Panel Meeting, in Ethiopia where she contributed valuable insights representing the voice of individuals impacted by leprosy. The meeting facilitated strategic discussions among international stakeholders working toward the elimination of leprosy-related discrimination and the enhancement of healthcare access. Maya's participation underscored APAL's commitment to amplifying the concerns of those directly affected and promoting inclusive policies in global forums.

During her visit, Maya also engaged with the Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL). This interaction provided a unique opportunity to exchange experiences, share best practices, and strengthen collaboration between the organizations. The organizations emphasized the importance of empowering individuals affected by leprosy through community-led initiatives and capacity-building programs. Their discussions laid the foundation for deeper partnership in advocacy efforts across borders.

In addition, Maya had a meaningful meeting with Dr. Alice Cruz, the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and family members. As a gesture of appreciation and to highlight APAL's achievements, she

presented Dr. Cruz with APAL's Annual Report for 2023-2024. The report encapsulates the organization's efforts, challenges, and successes over the past year, reflecting its dedication to improving the lives of people affected by leprosy through advocacy, education, and outreach. This interaction reinforced the shared commitment to advancing human rights and ensuring no one is left behind in the fight against leprosy.



State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar recently conducted a humanitarian initiative at Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram, Motipur, Muzaffarpur. The organization distributed essential general medicines

On 16th October 2024, the State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar recently conducted a humanitarian initiative at Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram, Motipur, Muzaffarpur. The organization distributed essential general medicines to individuals affected by leprosy residing in the ashram. This outreach reflects APAL's commitment to improving the health and well-being of marginalized communities, particularly those battling leprosy, who often face social and medical neglect.

The provision of these medicines is crucial, as many residents struggle with limited access to healthcare. Beyond managing the effects of leprosy, the initiative aimed to address common ailments, thereby ensuring a holistic approach to their health. The gesture was well-received by the ashram's residents, reinforcing the importance of community support in empowering individuals affected by this stigmatizing disease. APAL's efforts not only provided medical relief but also brought hope, dignity, and solidarity to the people of Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram.



Maya Ranavare participated in a working session with ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) member organizations in Ethiopia

On 17th October 2024, Maya Ranavare participated in a working session with ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) member organizations in Ethiopia, along with the German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association and The

Leprosy Mission. This educational meeting aimed to review, discuss, and align the activities implemented by both organizations toward combating leprosy and its associated challenges.

During the session, Maya contributed by engaging in discussions on best practices, monitoring ongoing projects, and identifying areas for improvement. The collaborative nature of the meeting highlighted the importance of multi-organizational efforts to enhance healthcare delivery, promote social inclusion, and reduce the stigma associated with leprosy. Her involvement reflects a commitment to strengthening partnerships and supporting the global goal of eliminating leprosy through awareness, early intervention, and effective program implementation.



Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), honoured Dr. Sahir Pal, the Civil Surgeon of East Singhbhum, along with District Leprosy Prevention Officer

On 17th October 2024, During a ceremony, Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), honoured Dr. Sahir Pal, the Civil Surgeon of East Singhbhum, along with District Leprosy Prevention Officer Dr. Mrityunjay Dhauriya and District Leprosy Consultant Dr. Rajiv Lochan Mahato.

This recognition also included the participation of heads of various leprosy ashrams. The medical professionals were acknowledged for their exceptional efforts in healthcare services and were presented with plants as a symbol of appreciation. Their noteworthy initiative in ensuring the regular operation of a Mobile Medical Unit, which provides essential medical care to patients residing in leprosy ashrams every Thursday, was particularly highlighted. The ceremony underscored the positive impact of their dedication and emphasized the importance of such initiatives in enhancing the well-being of people affected by leprosy.



Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, recently visited the Chanpatiya colony in Bihar to conduct a survey of the living conditions in the area

On 22nd October 2024, Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, recently visited the Chanpatiya colony in Bihar to conduct a survey of the living conditions in the area. What he discovered was deeply concerning. The colony, which consists of 45 houses, is predominantly in a state of disrepair. An alarming 35 of these homes have broken asbestos roofs, creating significant safety hazards for the residents. The dilapidated conditions highlight the urgent need for intervention, as families struggle to find adequate shelter in an environment that should be a source of security and comfort.

In light of these pressing issues, APAL is taking decisive action to support the community. Next month, we will be mobilizing resources to provide assistance through the involvement of investors, facilitated by the generous efforts of Sister Alexandra. This initiative is designed to enhance the living conditions for families in Chanpatiya by supplying safer and more durable roofing materials. Sister Alexandra's support is not only pivotal in securing the necessary funds but also symbolizes a collective commitment to rebuilding this community. Through these efforts, we aim to restore a sense of security and dignity to the residents, helping them regain hope for a better future.



K. Anusuya, the initiative aimed to provide essential support and care to those in need. The team distributed blankets to 25 families

On October 22, 2024, APAL, in collaboration with its State Committee in Telangana (SLAP_TS), made a significant impact in the lives of leprosy-affected families in Balaji Nagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, Hyderabad. Under the leadership of State Coordinator Maniyada Ramesh and committee member K. Anusuya, the initiative aimed to provide essential support and care to those in need. The team distributed blankets to 25 families, ensuring warmth and comfort during the cooler months, which is particularly crucial for vulnerable populations.

In addition to the blankets, the team organized a heartfelt lunch for the families, serving delicious biriyani that not only nourished but also uplifted spirits. This gesture of kindness was met with gratitude and joy from the residents of the colony, fostering a sense of community and solidarity. APAL expresses its heartfelt thanks to the Telangana State Committee for their dedication and tireless efforts, with special recognition to Maniyada Ramesh and K. Anusuya for their unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of those affected by leprosy. Their contributions are a testament to the power of compassion and community action in making a difference.



The State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar, in collaboration with the Government, successfully organized a UDID (Unique Disability ID Card) camp

The State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar, in collaboration with the Government, successfully organized a UDID (Unique Disability ID Card) camp on 25th October 2024 at Chauradano Block, East Champaran, Bihar. This initiative aimed to streamline the process of obtaining UDID cards, which serve as a vital tool for persons with disabilities to access various government benefits, schemes, and entitlements. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation, ensuring that individuals affected by leprosy were able to apply for their UDID cards with ease.

APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to the Government for its valuable services and cooperation throughout the event. The smooth execution of the camp was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the Bihar State Committee of APAL. A special note of appreciation goes to Mr. Brij Kishore for his unwavering support and commitment to the welfare of persons affected by leprosy. His active involvement was instrumental in ensuring that the camp reached those in need, furthering APAL's mission of empowering marginalized communities through improved access to essential services.

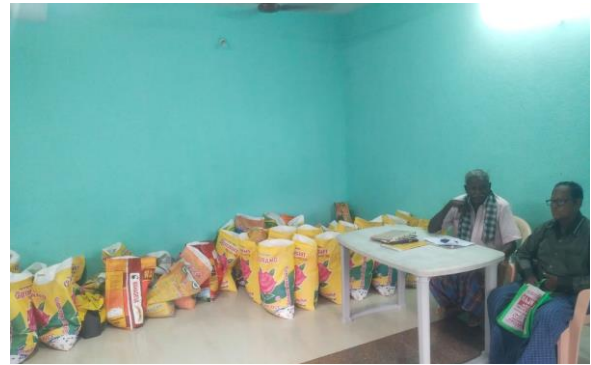


Recently, the Tamil Nadu state committee, in partnership with generous contributors, distributed essential food grains to 55 families residing in the Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony

On 29th October 2024, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with local donors, has taken meaningful steps to support families impacted by leprosy. Recently, the Tamil Nadu state committee, in partnership with generous contributors, distributed essential food grains to 55 families residing in the Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalur, Tamil Nadu. This initiative reflects APAL's ongoing

commitment to improving the lives of individuals affected by leprosy, ensuring they receive vital support during challenging times.

APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to the donors for their invaluable contributions, which have made a significant difference in the lives of these families. The organization also offers special thanks to Mr. A. Rajendiran, the State Coordinator of APAL, for his dedicated efforts in mobilizing and coordinating this initiative. His active involvement and commitment to the leprosy community have been instrumental in the success of this program. Through such collaborative efforts, APAL continues to foster hope, dignity, and empowerment among individuals affected by leprosy.



On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, the APAL State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the NGO Khushiyon Ke Pal, undertook the distribution of ration kits to 62 families

On 29th October 2024, On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, the APAL State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the NGO Khushiyon Ke Pal, undertook the distribution of ration kits to 62 families affected by leprosy. The beneficiaries were associated with the Sant Dnyaneshwar Seva Samiti and Sai Ram Kusht Seva Samiti, both situated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. This initiative was designed to foster joy and ensure that these marginalized families could celebrate the Festival of Lights with dignity and happiness.

The event was attended by colony residents and various dignitaries, including Sarang, the Secretary of APAL, as well as Raju Rathore and Gopal Shinde from the Sahayog Kusht Nivaran Sangh. Their participation significantly enhanced the occasion, as they not only distributed the kits but also engaged with the residents, thereby promoting a sense of community and inclusion. Such initiatives reflect the unwavering commitment of these organizations to uplift underprivileged sectors of society, ensuring that no individual is overlooked during the festive season.



The APAL Executive Committee and the Sasakawa Health Foundation convened a productive meeting in Delhi on October 31, 2024

The APAL Executive Committee and the Sasakawa Health Foundation convened a productive meeting in Delhi on October 31, 2024, to discuss future activities and initiatives aimed at the socio-economic empowerment and welfare of persons affected by leprosy and their families. The session focused on strengthening ongoing support for the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and evaluating future plans to uplift leprosy-affected communities.

Both organizations expressed their satisfaction with the coordination and structure of the meeting. They commended APAL for its dedicated service to the leprosy community, noting the significant impact these efforts have had on the quality of life for affected individuals. APAL authorities, in turn, provided a comprehensive overview of the current situation within leprosy colonies, shedding light on the unique challenges faced by those affected by the disease and their families.

In conclusion, the meeting highlighted a shared commitment to advancing the welfare of leprosy-affected persons through collaborative planning and continued support.



The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana, in collaboration with the Better Life Charitable Trust, recently extended much-needed support to leprosy-affected families in Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Colony.

On 2nd November 2024, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana, in collaboration with the Better Life Charitable Trust, recently extended much-needed support to leprosy-affected families in Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Colony. In a compassionate effort to improve the well-being of these individuals, APAL, with the support of the Trust, distributed essential food grains to families struggling with the impact of leprosy. This initiative directly relieved 25 families in the area, ensuring they had access to basic food supplies to help alleviate some of the hardships they faced.

Under the committed leadership of Maniyada Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL, the food grain distribution was organized with care and efficiency. Maniyada Ramesh's involvement was pivotal in ensuring the families received the aid smoothly and without delay. By addressing the critical needs of these affected families, APAL and Better Life Charitable Trust reinforced their commitment to improving the lives of marginalized communities, offering them dignity, respect, and hope.

APAL expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Better Life Charitable Trust for its essential role in making this event possible. This collaboration exemplifies the impact that coordinated efforts between organizations can have, especially for communities impacted by diseases like leprosy that often lead to social and economic exclusion.



Recently, the state committee of APAL in Telangana collaborated with the Realine Club to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need. Together, they organized a food distribution

On 8th November 2024, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) has been steadfast in its mission to support individuals affected by this stigmatized disease, advocating for their rights and well-being. Recently, the state committee of APAL in Telangana collaborated with the Realine Club to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need. Together, they organized a food distribution event at Santosh Nagar colony in Hyderabad, where essential food grains were provided to 31 persons affected by leprosy. This initiative was aimed at addressing food insecurity and offering relief to those who often face social and economic challenges due to their condition.

APAL expressed deep gratitude towards the Realine Club for their invaluable contribution to this cause. Their support has been a beacon of hope and compassion for individuals facing health and social challenges. The club's commitment to aiding the most vulnerable segments of society exemplifies true humanitarian service and community solidarity.

I'd like to thank Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, the state coordinator of APAL in Telangana, for his dedicated and active involvement. His leadership and tireless efforts played a crucial role in coordinating this event, ensuring that the beneficiaries received the assistance they needed. The collaboration between APAL, the Realine Club, and Mr. Maniyada Ramesh is an inspiring example of how collective efforts can uplift communities and bring positive change to those often overlooked.



A significant medical camp was organized in Madhya Pradesh, held at the Arunodaya Leprosy Ashram in Indore

On October 11, 2024, a significant medical camp was organized in Madhya Pradesh, held at the Arunodaya Leprosy Ashram in Indore. This event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh and collaboration with Dr.

Nandlal Punjabi. The camp aimed to provide comprehensive health services to the ashram residents, ensuring that their medical needs were addressed without any financial burden. Throughout the day, participants received free blood pressure and blood sugar tests and other essential health check-ups. Additionally, the camp extended its services to treat common ailments such as fever, pain in the hands and feet, body aches, and other health concerns, distributing free medication to those in need.

The event was well-attended, drawing the participation of key members from both APAL and APAL's State Committee. Present at the camp were Mr. Sarang, APAL's Secretary, alongside other active members like Mr. Raju Rathore, Mr. Gopal Shinde, Ms. Rekha Bhuria, Ms. Sarita Dhundhle, and Ms. Meera Chauhan. Their involvement underscored a collective commitment to enhancing the well-being of the residents and fostering a sense of community and support. The initiative addressed immediate health needs and reinforced these organisations' ongoing dedication to improving the quality of life for individuals affected by leprosy and related health issues.



The APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Samarpan Foundation Trust, successfully organized a two-day medical camp aimed at providing essential healthcare services to the residents of leprosy colonies

The APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Samarpan Foundation Trust, successfully organized a two-day medical camp aimed at providing essential healthcare services to the residents of leprosy colonies. This initiative was part of APAL's ongoing efforts to support marginalized communities and ensure their access to medical resources. The first camp took place on November 10, 2024, at the Raja Bhoj Leprosy Colony in Khanpura, followed by a second camp on November 11, 2024, at the Anand Nagar Leprosy Colony in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

During these medical camps, comprehensive health checks were conducted, including blood sugar level tests, blood pressure monitoring, and general blood tests. The medical team ensured that the residents were examined for common health concerns and provided with appropriate treatment. In addition, medicines were distributed to patients suffering from ailments such as colds, coughs, fevers, headaches, and other minor illnesses. The camps proved to be highly beneficial, with a total of 145 patients from both colonies receiving medical attention and medication. This initiative not only addressed immediate health issues but also reinforced the commitment of APAL and the Samarpan Foundation Trust to improve the well-being of communities impacted by leprosy in the region.



State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) conducted an important meeting with local committee members and the Computer Centre Management Committee at Jamuria Leprosy Colony and Kankar Danga Leprosy Colony

On November 11, 2024, the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) conducted an important meeting with local committee members and the Computer Centre Management Committee at Jamuria Leprosy Colony and Kankar Danga Leprosy Colony in Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal. This gathering served as a platform for open dialogue on pressing issues faced by individuals affected by leprosy in these colonies. The meeting brought together representatives, community leaders, and members to address the challenges of day-to-day life, the condition of facilities, and the overall well-being of residents.

During the discussions, participants highlighted the current living conditions, including access to basic healthcare, sanitation, and educational opportunities. Concerns about adequate housing, reliable food supply, and consistent medical support were prominent topics. The local and state committee members exchanged views on the gaps in current provisions and the urgent need for improved support from authorities and non-governmental organizations.

A major part of the meeting focused on formulating practical and sustainable solutions through future activities. Proposals included enhancing the capacity of the computer centers to offer skill development courses that would empower community members, especially the younger generation, to achieve greater economic independence. Participants also discussed advocating for policy changes to ensure better living standards and expanded healthcare access. The APAL leadership emphasized the importance of continued unity and collective action to amplify their voices and bring about meaningful change.



Mr. Rasul Mullah, serving as the State Coordinator of the Association of People with Disabilities (APAL) in Maharashtra, played an active role in the Consultation on the Status of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Maharashtra

Mr. Rasul Mullah, serving as the State Coordinator of the Association of People with Disabilities (APAL) in Maharashtra, played an active role in the Consultation on the Status of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Maharashtra. This significant event, held on November 13, 2024, at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, was orchestrated by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP). The event was further supported through partnerships with Mahatma Gandhi Seva Sangh and the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, creating a collaborative platform for stakeholders committed to the advocacy and empowerment of individuals with disabilities.

During the consultation, Mr. Mullah contributed valuable insights regarding the current challenges and opportunities faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Maharashtra. His participation underscored the essential work of APAL in addressing the systemic gaps that hinder full inclusion and equal rights. By drawing attention to the importance of policy implementation and social support systems, Mr. Mullah emphasized a roadmap for enhancing accessibility and ensuring comprehensive protection of the rights of PWDs. The gathering brought together policymakers, activists, and community leaders who collectively sought practical solutions to drive legislative and societal changes, with Mr. Mullah's contributions marking a pivotal voice in the discourse.



A complimentary medical camp was organized early in the day at the Indira Leprosy Ashram in Jhotwara, facilitated by the generosity of M/s Shri Krishna Kripa Jewelers, Jaipur

On Monday, 18 November 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with Jaipur, Rajasthan, engaged in a significant act of service through the efforts of Samarpan Chal Chikitsalya Seva, in partnership with Rashtriya Seva Bharti. This initiative was focused on providing assistance to the residents of the city affected by leprosy. Following their successful outreach in Madhya Pradesh, this dedicated team arrived in Pink City with a steadfast commitment to alleviating the challenges faced by this marginalized community.

A complimentary medical camp was organized early in the day at the Indira Leprosy Ashram in Jhotwara, facilitated by the generosity of M/s Shri Krishna Kripa Jewelers, Jaipur. The aim of this initiative was to deliver essential medical services, including wound cleaning, dressing, and minor surgical procedures. Comprehensive health assessments, such as blood pressure monitoring, diabetes screenings, and thorough blood tests employing advanced technological methods, were also performed to ensure comprehensive care.

In addition to these medical services, experienced healthcare professionals provided individualized consultations, prescribed medications, and administered necessary injections to the patients. The camp further addressed broader health and welfare requirements by distributing sanitary pads to women and offering assistive devices to individuals with disabilities. This comprehensive approach exemplified the spirit of compassion and communal support, significantly impacting the lives of those present at the event.



A notable act of compassion and community service occurred under the auspices of the APAL State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local humanitarian organizations. This initiative involved the distribution of essential goods to 25 families

On 19 November 2024, a notable act of compassion and community service occurred under the auspices of the APAL State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local humanitarian organizations. This initiative involved the distribution of essential goods to 25 families residing in the Santhosh Nagar Leprosy Colony of Pasumamu, reflecting a steadfast commitment to uplifting marginalized communities. The event underscored the importance of providing support to those in need, fostering inclusivity and solidarity.

The initiative was further enhanced through the involvement of LB Nagar Sai Devotees, who contributed their support to this commendable cause. Under the leadership of Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, the careful and efficient distribution of essential items took place. Notable contributors such as Yam Janardhan Rao, Suresh Chandra, and Geeta played significant roles in ensuring that the outreach effort was both meaningful and impactful.

This initiative exemplified the power of collaboration between community-focused organizations and dedicated individuals. By addressing immediate needs and instilling hope among vulnerable families, APAL and its partners reaffirmed their commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of leprosy-affected communities while promoting the core values of humanity and compassion.



Executive Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a significant meeting at the Kinder Kabli Hotel in Delhi. The gathering brought together key members of the committee to discuss pressing issues concerning persons affected by leprosy in India

On 22nd November 2024, Executive Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) convened a significant meeting at the Kinder Kabli Hotel in Delhi. The gathering brought together key members of the committee to discuss pressing issues concerning persons affected by leprosy in India. During the meeting, the participants analyzed the current living conditions of individuals impacted by the disease, highlighting challenges such as social stigma, limited access to healthcare, and inadequate livelihood opportunities.

The discussions also focused on identifying actionable solutions to improve the quality of life for affected individuals. Key proposals included enhancing awareness campaigns to reduce discrimination, advocating for better government support, and creating sustainable livelihood programs. Additionally, the committee deliberated on future activities and strategic plans to empower individuals affected by leprosy. These plans aim to foster community development, ensure equal opportunities, and advocate for their rights at local and national levels.

The meeting underscored APAL's commitment to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by persons affected by leprosy and emphasized the importance of collective efforts to achieve a more inclusive and equitable society.



State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana actively participated in a significant meeting organized by the Welfare of Disabled Department. The event, held at the Commissionerate Building, Nalgonda X Road, Hyderabad

On November 22, 2024, the State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana actively participated in a significant meeting organized by the Welfare of Disabled Department. The event, held at the Commissionerate Building, Nalgonda X Road, Hyderabad, was chaired by Smt. B. Sailaja, Director & Commissioner, Welfare of Disabled Department, Telangana, and Muthineni Veerayya, Chairman of the Telangana State Disabled Co-operative Society. The meeting brought together representatives of various disabled associations across the state to discuss pressing concerns and future initiatives.

State Coordinator of APAL, Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, represented the organization and played an active role in the discussions. The meeting's agenda focused on the celebration of December 3rd - International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The primary topic of discussion was organizing sports competitions to mark the occasion and promote inclusivity and empowerment.

The meeting also served as a platform to address the challenges faced by disabled individuals in Telangana. Participants engaged in group discussions, where representatives from different associations highlighted specific issues affecting their communities. Mr. Ramesh contributed by sharing insights into the unique struggles faced by people affected by leprosy, advocating for greater inclusion and support for this marginalized group. The collective effort of all associations aimed to bring these concerns to the forefront and seek actionable solutions from the authorities.



Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), participated in an important meeting in Delhi with the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Mr. Yohie Sasakawa.

On 22nd November 2024, Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), participated in an important meeting in Delhi with the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Mr. Yohie Sasakawa.

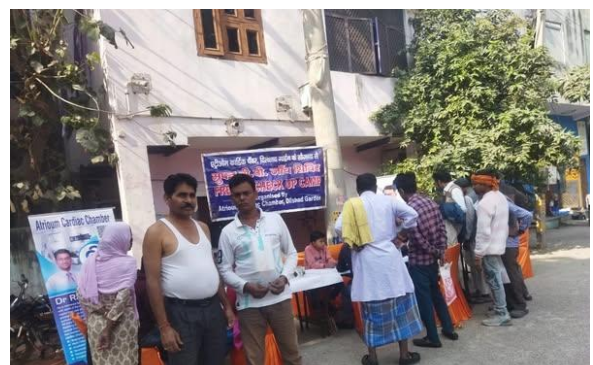
The discussions focused on advancing efforts to eliminate leprosy through enhanced services, innovative interventions, and sustainable, long-term solutions. Mrs. Ranavare emphasized the importance of community-based approaches and the empowerment of individuals affected by leprosy to achieve a leprosy-free world. The collaboration highlighted the commitment of stakeholders to address challenges and ensure equitable access to care and support.



The APAL State Committee in Delhi, in collaboration with the Atrium Cardiac Chamber Organization, successfully organized a health camp at the Tahirpur Kusth Ashram

On 24th November 2024, The APAL State Committee in Delhi, in collaboration with the Atrium Cardiac Chamber Organization, successfully organized a health camp at the Tahirpur Kusth Ashram, providing much-needed medical services to the residents affected by leprosy. The health camp offered free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, and heart health, ensuring that the marginalized individuals living at the Ashram received essential healthcare services. This initiative was part of APAL's ongoing efforts to support people affected by leprosy and improve their quality of life through accessible healthcare services.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Atrium Cardiac Chamber Organization for their invaluable contribution to the event. Their expertise and dedication in providing health checkups to those in need made a significant difference in the lives of the residents, ensuring that their health concerns were addressed with compassion and professionalism. APAL also expresses sincere thanks to the RWA President, Shri Girdhari Lal, for his support in organizing the camp, and to General Secretary Shri Vijay Kumar and Secretary Shri Arjun Ram for their leadership and coordination throughout the event. Their collective efforts were instrumental in making the health camp a success, benefiting not only those affected by leprosy but also their families.



A comprehensive free medical camp was successfully conducted in Shanti Nagar, Pedda Amberpet, APAL's state Committee in Telangana organized in collaboration with Ashrayam Hand of Hope

On 26th November 2024, A comprehensive free medical camp was successfully conducted in Shanti Nagar, Pedda Amberpet, APAL's state Committee in Telangana organized in collaboration with Ashrayam Hand of Hope. The event was spearheaded by Dr. Anand

Diwakar, Anil, and local councillor Vidya Vijayandar Reddy, to provide essential medical services to the community. More than 220 individuals benefited from complimentary health screenings, which encompassed blood tests, blood pressure assessments, glucose tests, X-rays, electrocardiograms (ECGs), and eye examinations. Furthermore, 60 patients received free prescription glasses, addressing significant vision-related concerns. Team leader Janga Jayaraju underscored the camp's vital role in fulfilling the healthcare needs of the local population.

The camp featured an extensive range of medical services, including X-rays, ECGs, dental assessments, and the distribution of free medications. A dedicated team of medical professionals, comprising Dr. Bharat, Dr. Mani Verma, Dr. Karasma, Dr. Manojna, and Dr. Sridhar, contributed their expertise to ensure the provision of comprehensive care. Paramedical staff and laboratory technicians, including Kusuma, played a crucial role in performing tests, while pharmacists Swami, Samuel, Narasimha, Ravi, and Subrahmanyam efficiently managed the distribution of medications.

The event also witnessed the active involvement of community leaders and volunteers, such as APAL's President Maya Ranavare, APAL's Treasurer Prakash Done, APAL's State Coordinator Maniyada Ramesh, Colony President Samuel, Damini, and Ch Mallaiah, who collaborated diligently to ensure the camp's success. This initiative highlighted the significance of accessible healthcare and community engagement in enhancing the well-being of residents in Shanti Nagar.



APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) President Maya Ranavare, accompanied by APAL's Advisor Mr. Uday Thakar and the President of Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, Mr. Jitendra Chouvan, recently met with Amdar Mr. Prashant Thakur, MLA of Panvel, as well as a newly elected MLA in Maharashtra

APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) President Maya Ranavare, accompanied by APAL's Advisor Mr. Uday Thakar and the President of Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, Mr. Jitendra Chouvan, recently met with Amdar Mr. Prashant Thakur, MLA of Panvel, as well as a newly elected MLA in Maharashtra. This significant meeting was a step towards strengthening the dialogue for the empowerment and welfare of individuals affected by leprosy in the state. The MLAs welcomed the delegation warmly and commended their efforts to uplift marginalized communities through advocacy, awareness, and collaborative initiatives.

During the meeting, Mr. Prashant Thakur took the opportunity to congratulate APAL's President, Maya, for receiving the prestigious Wellesley Bailey Award. This recognition of Maya's dedication and contributions to the leprosy-affected community added a celebratory note to the proceedings. The MLAs acknowledged her achievements as a testament to resilience and leadership in overcoming challenges associated with leprosy, which has often been stigmatized in society.

The discussion focused on laying down a roadmap for socioeconomic empowerment of persons affected by leprosy. Both MLAs expressed their commitment to supporting initiatives that aim to reduce stigma, enhance livelihoods, and improve access to healthcare and education for leprosy-affected individuals. The collaboration emphasized utilizing innovative and inclusive methods to create sustainable opportunities for this community. By leveraging the resources and influence of public representatives, combined with the grassroots efforts of organizations like APAL and Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, the meeting marked an essential step in building a future of dignity and equality for all.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), recently participated in a significant meeting organized by the Bombay Literacy Project in Mumbai

28th November 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), recently participated in a significant meeting organized by the Bombay Literacy Project in Mumbai. The event brought together key stakeholders, including Dr. Vivek Pai, to discuss critical issues affecting the leprosy community and those living in leprosy colonies. The discussions focused on the ongoing challenges faced by individuals affected by leprosy, such as stigma, social exclusion, and lack of access to education and employment opportunities. Strategies to enhance literacy and education within these communities were central to the dialogue, with participants emphasizing the importance of collective efforts to drive meaningful change.

During the meeting, Mrs. Ranavare was lauded for her remarkable contributions to the leprosy community, particularly her recent recognition as the recipient of the prestigious Wellesley Bailey Award from The Leprosy Mission (TLM) International. This global honor highlights her tireless advocacy, leadership, and dedication to improving the lives of those affected by leprosy. Participants congratulated Mrs. Ranavare on this significant achievement, acknowledging her as a source of inspiration for many. The meeting concluded with the formulation of future activities aimed at addressing the issues discussed, including initiatives to promote literacy, raise awareness, and develop sustainable solutions for the welfare of the leprosy-affected community.



In collaboration with representatives from NTPC, the Leprosy Society distributed ulcer kits and tubs to 40 individuals affected by leprosy

On Thursday, 28th November 2024, a noteworthy demonstration of compassion and community support occurred across three leprosy colonies in Khammam: Premasamajam Leprosy Colony, Dr. Hanson Leprosy Colony, and Emmanuel Leprosy Colony. In collaboration with representatives from NTPC, the Leprosy Society distributed ulcer kits and tubs to 40 individuals affected by leprosy. These essential supplies were presented by Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, which underscores the organization's commitment to aiding marginalized communities. The occasion was marked by heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the residents of the colonies, who appreciated the efforts of the Leprosy Society and NTPC in addressing their medical and personal care needs.

In a similar vein, 30 individuals residing in two colonies—Singareni Leprosy Colony and Karunambika Leprosy Colony—in Kothagudem also received ulcer kits and tubs. This initiative exemplified the sustained dedication of the Leprosy Society to provide assistance to those impacted by this condition. The residents, who frequently confront stigma and lack of resources, expressed their appreciation for the supplies, which will significantly enhance their quality of life and assist in managing their health. The partnership with NTPC was a crucial element of this endeavor, illustrating the efficacy of collaborative efforts in promoting social welfare.

These initiatives emphasize the significance of collective action in addressing the needs of vulnerable communities, thereby offering them dignity, care, and hope.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the APAL, recently visited the Ulhasnagar colony to assess and engage with the local community

29th November 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the APAL, recently visited the Ulhasnagar colony to assess and engage with the local community. During her visit, she focused on the Education and Livelihood Program, a key initiative aimed at empowering the underprivileged residents of the colony. Mrs. Ranavare interacted with the beneficiaries of the program, highlighting the importance of skill development and accessible education to enhance their socio-economic conditions. Her discussions emphasized APAL's commitment to bridging educational gaps and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities in marginalized communities.

As part of her visit, Mrs. Ranavare also held a comprehensive discussion about the pressing problems faced by the Ulhasnagar colony. She addressed issues such as inadequate housing, lack of proper sanitation, and irregular water supply, which have been long-standing challenges for the residents. The visit also included inputs and active participation from the Maharashtra Sangathan team, who played a vital role in facilitating

communication between the community and APAL. Together, they explored actionable solutions and strategies to address these challenges, reaffirming their dedication to improving living conditions and fostering a sense of unity and empowerment among the colony's residents.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the All People's Action League (APAL), recently visited the Saikushth Colony located near Haji Malang in Kalyan

On 29th November 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the All People's Action League (APAL), recently visited the Saikushth Colony located near Haji Malang in Kalyan. Her visit was part of her ongoing commitment to addressing critical community issues and advocating for the rights and well-being of marginalized populations. Accompanied by members of the Maharashtra Sanghatna team, Mrs. Ranavare engaged with the residents, focusing on their pressing concerns about education, livelihood, and land rights.

During her visit, Mrs. Ranavare held in-depth discussions with the community members regarding the persistent challenges they face. A significant point of concern raised was the uncertainty surrounding the ownership and security of the colony's land. Residents expressed their fears about potential displacement and the lack of clarity in land ownership documents. The APAL President listened attentively, offering insights and assuring the community of her organization's unwavering support in advocating for their rights.

Education and livelihood were also prominent topics of discussion. Mrs. Ranavare emphasized the importance of empowering the residents through access to quality education and sustainable livelihood opportunities. She highlighted the need for collaboration between the community, local authorities, and advocacy groups to address these challenges holistically. Her visit included a walkthrough of the colony, where she observed the living conditions and interacted directly with residents to understand their day-to-day struggles better.

Mrs. Ranavare's visit to the Saikushth Colony not only brought much-needed attention to the residents' concerns but also reaffirmed APAL's commitment to championing social justice and equality. Her engagement with the community has sparked hope for constructive resolutions and tangible progress in improving the quality of life for the residents.



An impactful initiative took place in Devanagari Colony and Devpalli Colony near Ditch Pally, where 134 ulcer kits and tubs were distributed to individuals affected by leprosy.

On Sunday, December 1, 2024, an impactful initiative took place in Devanagari Colony and Devpalli Colony near Ditch Pally, where 134 ulcer kits and tubs were distributed to individuals affected by leprosy. The APAL State Committee in Telangana organized this charitable effort in collaboration with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) under the auspices of the Leprosy Society. The event was marked by the active participation of M. Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator, who emphasized the importance of engaging directly with the community.

The primary objective of the distribution program was to address the essential medical and hygiene needs of residents grappling with the challenges posed by leprosy. The provision of ulcer kits is critical for preventing complications and enhancing the quality of life for those impacted by this condition. This initiative exemplified a profound sense of solidarity and compassion, illustrating the collaborative efforts of organizations and individuals committed to supporting a marginalized population.

Residents from both colonies expressed their sincere gratitude to the officials from NTPC and the representatives of the Leprosy Society for their invaluable support. Their expressions of appreciation highlighted the significance of such initiatives in enhancing their daily lives and instilling a sense of hope and dignity. This partnership is a compelling testament to the effectiveness of community-driven efforts in addressing vital health and social challenges.



APAL and APAL's State commity in Telangana, in collaboration with representatives of the Leprosy Society distributed MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear free of cost to individuals affected by leprosy

On 3rd December 2024, on the occasion of World Disability Day, APAL and APAL's State commity in Telangana, in collaboration with representatives of the Leprosy Society distributed MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear free of cost to individuals affected by leprosy in Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony, Rangareddy District.

The distribution was conducted in the presence of Dr. Paparao, the District Leprosy Officer (DLO). Other participants included Sulochana, Paramedical Officer (PMO); Yadagiri, Laboratory Technician (LT); Baburao from the Leprosy Society (Physiotherapist); and V. Shantiraju, Deputy Paramedical Officer (DPMO).

The event was also contributed by Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, as well as colony elders Pullayya, Pentayya, Aziz, Prameela, and other residents of the colony.



APAL's State commity in Telangana, in collaboration with the District Leprosy Referral Center (DLRC) in Nallakunta, Hyderabad

On Tuesday, 03/12/2024, APAL's State commity in Telangana, in collaboration with the District Leprosy Referral Center (DLRC) in Nallakunta, Hyderabad, observed World Disability Day. The event was organized by the Leprosy Society in collaboration with local health authorities.

During the event, Dr. Muralidhar, District Medical Officer (DLO) of Hyderabad, distributed MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear and ulcer care kits free of cost to leprosy patients. The initiative aimed to support their mobility and health needs.

The program was presided over by Project Officer Kameshwar Rao and attended by several dignitaries, including Dr. Vanitha, Paramedical Officer (PMO) of Hyderabad, Maniyada Ramesh State Coordinator of APAL, Baburao, Physiotherapist, and U. Shivamma, Counselor.

They joined leprosy patients in celebrating World Disability Day, fostering inclusivity and spreading awareness about the challenges faced by differently-abled individuals.



Ms. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), participated in this significant event NLEP National Review Meeting

Ms. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), participated in this significant event NLEP National Review Meeting for High Endemic states on 4th & 5th December 2024. . Her involvement reflects APAL's ongoing commitment to supporting the rights, rehabilitation, and empowerment of individuals impacted by leprosy. By attending this high-level review meeting, Ms. Ranavare represents the voices of those affected and underscores the importance of community-led initiatives in shaping national strategies for leprosy eradication.

Her participation also highlights the collaborative efforts between government authorities, health organizations, and advocacy groups like APAL. Through such platforms, Ms. Ranavare continues to champion inclusivity and equity in healthcare policies, ensuring that marginalized communities receive adequate attention and support. This meeting serves as an opportunity to review progress, discuss challenges, and strategize actionable solutions for high-endemic states across India.



Huge congratulations to Ms. Keroline Bhengra Executive Member of APAL for receiving the prestigious "LEPROSY CHAMPION" 🏆 award

Huge congratulations to Ms. Keroline Bhengra Executive Member of APAL for receiving the prestigious "LEPROSY CHAMPION" 🏆 award in recognition of her tireless contributions to leprosy-affected communities. This distinguished honor was conferred by the Government of Chhattisgarh and presented by the Chief Minister on December 8, 2024. Ms. Bhengra's dedication and relentless efforts in advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy have made a profound and lasting impact on the community. Her work stands as a beacon of hope and transformation, breaking barriers and fostering inclusivity for those often marginalized.

On behalf of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Chhattisgarh for recognizing Ms. Bhengra's exceptional service. This acknowledgment underscores the importance of continuous support and empowerment for leprosy-affected individuals. A special thank you to Ms. Keroline Bhengra for being an unwavering role model. Her commitment, courage, and leadership inspire not only the leprosy community but also society at large, paving the way for a future where dignity and equality are upheld for all.



A meeting of the APAL's State Committee in Bihar was convened on December 11 to discuss various administrative and organizational matters.

A meeting of the APAL's State Committee in Bihar was convened on December 11 to discuss various administrative and organizational matters. The meeting witnessed active participation from all key members, who engaged in detailed deliberations on the pressing issues concerning the state unit's leadership and its future direction. The primary agenda was the election of the Bihar State Coordinator, a pivotal role that ensures the smooth functioning and coordination of activities across the state.

After thorough discussions and consideration of the organizational timeline, the committee unanimously passed a resolution to hold the election of the Bihar State Coordinator in January. This decision reflects the committee's commitment to maintaining transparency and upholding democratic values within the organization. The proposed timeline is aimed at ensuring adequate preparation for a fair and efficient election process. The meeting concluded with members expressing optimism about strengthening the organization under new leadership.



Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, actively participated in the dissemination event for the pilot study titled "Leprosy and Migration in India"

On 12th December 2024, Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, actively participated in the dissemination event for the pilot study titled "Leprosy and Migration in India." This event was conducted to share the findings of the research, which was carried out from March 2021 to March 2024. The program brought together various stakeholders, including representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) India, ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations), and Change Scape.

During the event, Maniyada Ramesh contributed by highlighting the challenges faced by people affected by leprosy, especially those who have migrated to urban areas in search of

livelihood. His insights from Telangana provided valuable perspectives on how migration impacts access to healthcare, social protection, and sustainable living for those affected by the disease. Through his active participation, he emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach among government bodies, NGOs, and communities to ensure that individuals affected by leprosy are integrated into mainstream society with dignity and support.

This event underscored the commitment of APAL and its representatives, like Maniyada Ramesh, to addressing the systemic barriers faced by people affected by leprosy and advocating for inclusive policies.



Madhusudan Tiwari, Secretary of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, accompanied by Samuel Ji, conducted a significant visit to four leprosy colonies

On December 12, 2024, Madhusudan Tiwari, Secretary of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, accompanied by Samuel Ji, conducted a significant visit to four leprosy colonies in Jharkhand: Angarpathra Leprosy Colony, Tetulmari Leprosy Colony, Gandhigram Leprosy Colony, and Jamadobha Leprosy Colony. The visit aimed to assess the current living conditions of the residents and review ongoing initiatives to enhance their quality of life.

During the visit, the leaders interacted with new livelihood beneficiaries who had recently received support under various government schemes. They engaged in in-depth discussions to understand the beneficiaries' work experiences, evaluate the impact of the assistance provided, and review the benefits and projects they were involved in.

The visit also included direct interactions with the residents of these colonies to understand the challenges they face in their daily lives. Residents openly shared their concerns, and the leaders assured them of their commitment. The focus was on fostering mental and physical well-being, promoting social inclusion, and creating better resident employment opportunities.

This visit served as a platform to review the progress of government schemes implemented in these colonies and identify areas for improvement. It also emphasized the need for corrective actions to ensure sustainable development and a brighter future for the residents of these communities.



The meeting was honoured by the presence of Shri Bharat Ji, a senior officer of the Railways, accompanied by his colleagues. It was attended by local village leaders and community members

On 12th February 2024, a notable public meeting was convened at the Gandhigram Kusth Ashram, facilitated by the dedicated efforts of the State Committee of APAL in Bihar, under the initiative of Mr. Someshwar Dubey, the State Coordinator. The meeting was honoured by the presence of Shri Bharat Ji, a senior officer of the Railways, accompanied by his colleagues. It was attended by local village leaders and community members. The primary objective of the gathering was to explore avenues for socio-economic empowerment and self-reliance for the ashram residents.

The discussions during the meeting primarily focused on the provision of sustainable livelihood opportunities for both men and women in the village. Key activities identified included tailoring, broom-making, and the establishment of nurseries for tree planting. These professions were recognized as viable options for job creation and financial independence for the community. The collaborative efforts emphasized the necessity of involving both genders in productive activities to promote inclusive development. Shri Bharat Ji and his team assured the attendees that the projects, supported by government schemes, would commence in January 2024, thus laying the groundwork for systematic implementation and long-term impact.

In addition to planning future initiatives, an immediate act of benevolence was executed during the meeting. Winter blankets were distributed to 50 families present, addressing their urgent need for warmth and comfort amid the harsh winter conditions. This gesture was met with gratitude from the residents and exemplified the commitment of APAL and its partners to the welfare of the leprosy-affected community.

The event highlighted the importance of self-reliance and community-driven development in villages such as Gandhigram. By providing essential opportunities and resources, the efforts of APAL's State Committee and its supporters are significantly contributing to the establishment of a foundation for dignity, empowerment, and enhanced living standards for the community.



The Karnataka State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with the Nandadeep Charitable Trust, organized a significant event in Mahatma Gandhi Colony

On 13 December 2024, the Karnataka State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with the Nandadeep Charitable Trust, organized a significant event in Mahatma Gandhi Colony, Vijayapur, aimed at supporting and promoting the education of children and youth from families affected by leprosy. During this event, 50 students, spanning primary school, high school, and college levels, were presented with essential educational materials, including books, pens, and examination pads. This generous provision empowers these students to engage with their education with renewed confidence and enthusiasm.

The distribution of these materials was made possible through the generous contributions from the Nandadeep Charitable Trust, whose dedication to social welfare has provided hope and inspiration to numerous individuals.

APAL expresses its sincere gratitude to the trustees for their support, highlighting the critical role of community collaboration in fostering the socio-economic empowerment of individuals and families impacted by leprosy.



A significant event was organized at the Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony with the intent of providing support to individuals affected by leprosy.

On December 14, 2024, a significant event was organized at the Pasumamula Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony with the intent of providing support to individuals affected by leprosy. This initiative, facilitated by the APAL's State Committee in Telangana, involved the distribution of essential commodities to 25 leprosy-affected individuals and new clothing to 70 families within the colony. Women received sarees, while men were provided with garments, fostering a sense of joy among the beneficiaries. This commendable program was made possible through the generous contributions of Sai

devotees Mr. Y. Janardhan Rao, Ms. Geetha, and Mr. Suresh Chandra, whose humanitarian efforts were met with widespread appreciation.

The distribution program was conducted with the active involvement of former MLA Jaggareddy, who attended the event as the chief guest, accompanied by APAL's State Coordinator, Maniyada Ramesh Garu. In his address, Jaggareddy underscored the vital role of NGOs, trusts, and other organizations in conducting service-oriented initiatives aimed at uplifting families affected by leprosy. He committed to advocating for an increase in the disability pension to Rs. 6,000 by bringing this matter to the attention of the Chief Minister.

The residents of the colony, including elders Pullaiah, Pentaiah, and Aziz, expressed their profound gratitude towards the donors and organizers for their support. Their heartfelt words highlighted the positive impact of the program and the renewed hope it generated within the community. This event served as a compelling testament to the effectiveness of compassion and collective action in enhancing the lives of marginalized individuals.



The State Committee of APAL in Madhya Pradesh recently engaged in a coordination meeting related to leprosy programs and the welfare of individuals affected by the disease

On 15th December 2024, The State Committee of APAL in Madhya Pradesh recently engaged in a coordination meeting related to leprosy programs and the welfare of individuals affected by the disease. This important event convened key stakeholders, including Dr. Senthilnathan, Deputy Director General (Leprosy) of the Government of India; the Chief Officer of the Leprosy Division; District Leprosy Officers from the Indore Division; as well as representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association (GLRA), and LEPRO. The meeting emphasized collaborative initiatives and strategic methodologies to enhance the quality of life for individuals impacted by leprosy.

APAL was represented by its Secretary, Sarang Gaydhane, and dedicated members Raju Rathore, Gopal Shinde, and Sarita Dhundh. Their involvement underscored APAL's commitment to addressing the needs of communities affected by leprosy in Madhya Pradesh. The discussions aimed to fortify ongoing programs, ensure the effective implementation of welfare schemes, and advocate for the rights and societal integration of individuals affected by leprosy.



APAL's State Committee in West Bengal convened a significant meeting with the Presidents and Secretaries of 12 leprosy colonies within the Paschim Bardhaman district

On 15th December 2024, APAL's State Committee in West Bengal convened a significant meeting with the Presidents and Secretaries of 12 leprosy colonies within the Paschim Bardhaman district. The gathering focused on addressing the pressing challenges faced by these colonies, including issues related to social welfare, housing, and healthcare. Representatives from each colony shared detailed insights into their unique circumstances, fostering a collective understanding of the broader challenges across the district.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to design and implement actionable programs aimed at resolving these issues. The next steps were outlined, emphasizing collaboration between the State Committee, local leaders, and relevant authorities. This initiative marks a progressive step towards improving the living conditions and overall well-being of individuals affected by leprosy in West Bengal.



The APAL State Committee in Bihar convened an important meeting in Areraj Colony to discuss key developments concerning the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

The APAL State Committee in Bihar convened an important meeting in Areraj Colony to discuss key developments concerning the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). They engaged with the mukhiya (village head) and other local officials to review the progress and challenges surrounding the scheme's execution. The committee noted with satisfaction that approval has been granted for the construction of 24 houses in

this region, and the focus of the meeting was to strategize on the practical steps necessary for the successful completion of these homes.

During the discussions, they worked in tandem with local representatives to understand the unique needs of the community and resolve any logistical hurdles. Detailed plans were laid out to ensure the construction of these 24 houses is completed efficiently, adhering to quality standards and cost-effective measures. There was a consensus on maintaining clear communication and accountability throughout the process to prevent any delays or irregularities.

The dedication and cooperation displayed by all participants underscored the importance of this initiative for the betterment of the community. Moving forward, the APAL State Committee is committed to closely supervising the project, ensuring transparency, and addressing any issues that arise. This effort marks a significant step toward providing safe and dignified housing for families in need, and they are determined to see this mission through to its successful completion.



APAL State Committee in Tamil Nadu recently took a significant step towards supporting the health and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy

The APAL State Committee in Tamil Nadu recently took a significant step towards supporting the health and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy. In a dedicated effort, the committee provided essential healthcare services by distributing ulcer care materials and vital medicines in the Vadathorasalur Leprosy Colony. This initiative was aimed at addressing the specific medical needs of those living with leprosy-related complications, particularly chronic ulcers, which require consistent and specialized care.

In addition to medical supplies, the committee also extended support to elderly individuals affected by leprosy, recognizing their vulnerability and the challenges they face. By offering these healthcare services and resources, APAL's State Committee seeks to improve their quality of life, alleviate suffering, and promote dignity among these marginalized members of society. The distribution of medicines and ulcer care materials was conducted in collaboration with local healthcare workers to ensure proper guidance on the use of these supplies.

]

This initiative highlights the commitment of the APAL State Committee to providing sustained care and support to those who have long suffered from the social and physical impacts of leprosy. Moving forward, the committee plans to continue these outreach programs and work towards expanding access to essential healthcare services, ensuring that no one in these communities is left behind.



Ms. Maya Ranavare, in collaboration with Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues at the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and members of APAL's State Committee in Odisha, recently convened a significant meeting with the Social Minister, Chief Secretary, and State Leprosy Officer of Odisha

On 17th December 2024, The President of the Association for Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL), Ms. Maya Ranavare, in collaboration with Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues at the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and members of APAL's State Committee in Odisha, recently convened a significant meeting with the Social Minister, Chief Secretary, and State Leprosy Officer of Odisha. This meeting was designed to promote dialogue aimed at enhancing services for individuals affected by leprosy and their families, with an emphasis on collaborative approaches to effectively address their needs. The discussion highlighted the critical role of partnerships between APAL and the state government in improving healthcare, social protection, and livelihood opportunities for the leprosy-affected community.

During the meeting, representatives from APAL articulated several key concerns faced by individuals impacted by leprosy, including the necessity for improved access to healthcare, disability certification, and social welfare programs. To ensure a thorough understanding and transparency in the discussion, members of APAL presented the government officials with their Annual Report, which comprehensively detailed the organization's activities, achievements, and ongoing initiatives. This report served as evidence of APAL's commitment to the socio-economic empowerment of the leprosy-affected population.]

The meeting included the active participation of Mr. Jawahar Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Prabhakar Sahoo, Executive Member of APAL, both of whom contributed significantly to the discourse. Their involvement reinforced APAL's unwavering commitment to advocating for the rights and dignity of individuals affected by leprosy. This constructive engagement with officials from the Odisha government represents a pivotal advancement towards bolstering collaboration and delivering effective solutions for the leprosy-affected community within the state.



The tireless efforts of Apal India s State Committee in Delhi and Mr. Vijay Kumar, the General Secretary of the RWA Leprosy Complex in Tahirpur, Delhi, a successful camp was organized by Sarvodaya Kusth Ashram.

On 18th December 2024, with the tireless efforts of **Apal India** s State Committee in Delhi and Mr. Vijay Kumar, the General Secretary of the RWA Leprosy Complex in Tahirpur, Delhi, a successful camp was organized by Sarvodaya Kusth Ashram. The event witnessed active participation from the State Leprosy Officer, the District Leprosy Officer (DLO), and other departmental doctors, who played a significant role in ensuring the camp's success.

During the camp, MCR slippers were distributed to members affected by leprosy, addressing their need for specialized footwear to prevent complications. In addition, comprehensive health check-ups were conducted, including blood pressure, blood sugar, and eye examinations. After the screenings, spectacles were distributed to needy individuals, significantly enhancing their quality of life.

All attendees deeply appreciated the commitment and time contributed by the medical team and organizers. The residents expressed heartfelt gratitude to the entire team for their dedication and support, demonstrating a collective effort toward improving the welfare of leprosy-affected individuals



The Executive Committee (EC) members of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor of Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), recently visited several leprosy colonies in Odisha.

The Executive Committee (EC) members of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor of Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), recently visited several leprosy colonies in Odisha. The visit aimed to gain a firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by persons affected by leprosy and their families. The delegation interacted with the residents, discussing their current living conditions and the availability of social entitlements such as disability pensions, housing, healthcare, and educational support. Through these interactions, the team sought to identify gaps and explore viable solutions to improve the socio-economic status of the affected communities.

Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Prabhakar Sahoo, Executive Member of APAL, played instrumental roles during the visit. They engaged directly with the colony residents, listening to their concerns and providing assurance of continued advocacy for their rights. The discussions also focused on enhancing access to essential entitlements and addressing systemic barriers that hinder the well-being of leprosy-affected individuals. Dr. Ranganadh Rao shared insights and strategic recommendations to empower the community and integrate them into mainstream society. This collaborative effort reflects APAL's commitment to fostering dignity and equality for persons affected by leprosy in Odisha and beyond.



APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, has recently distributed food grains and blankets to persons affected by leprosy and their families.

APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, has recently distributed food grains and blankets to persons affected by leprosy and their families. This compassionate initiative, led by the foundation's founder, N. Malkanna Garu, and Chairperson Pandugula Jayasri Garu, underscores their commitment to supporting vulnerable communities. The distribution program is part of a broader effort to uplift individuals affected by leprosy, focusing on their socio-economic empowerment and overall welfare. These collaborative actions have instilled a renewed sense of hope and unity within leprosy-affected communities across Telangana.

Councillor Vidhyavathi Vejender Reddy Garu has been instrumental in connecting these communities to essential government schemes and resources. Working closely with Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's Telangana State Coordinator, she has ensured that the affected individuals are aware of their rights and have access to basic necessities. Their persistent advocacy efforts have brought significant improvements in addressing the pressing needs of these communities, resulting in meaningful welfare programs.

Additionally, Samuel Garu and Puja have made notable contributions by dedicating their efforts to enhancing the living standards of leprosy-affected families. Their collective

endeavours have created a positive impact, empowering individuals to lead dignified lives while promoting their integration into mainstream society. Together, this team continues to make remarkable strides in building a more inclusive and supportive environment for those affected by leprosy in Telangana.



A significant meeting took place at the Leprosy Ashram in Tahirpur, convened at the request of the State Committee of APAL in Delhi and Mr. Vijay Kumar, the General Secretary of the RWA Leprosy Complex.

On December 20, 2024, a significant meeting took place at the Leprosy Ashram in Tahirpur, convened at the request of the State Committee of APAL in Delhi and Mr. Vijay Kumar, the General Secretary of the RWA Leprosy Complex. The Deputy Director General of Leprosy (DDGL) of Delhi, accompanied by key officials from his department, visited the ashram to address the urgent concerns of the residents affected by leprosy.

The discussions primarily focused on the population residing within the ashram and the critical need for consistent medical care, which includes the regular provision of medications and appropriate dressing for leprosy patients. These matters received particular emphasis during the dialogue, indicating the authorities' commitment to enhancing the residents' living and healthcare conditions.

The residents and the RWA expressed their sincere gratitude to the DDGL and the accompanying officials for their visit and for the constructive discourse that suggests actionable steps toward addressing these challenges.



A significant milestone was achieved in Kankar Danga Leprosy Colony, Burnpur, West Bengal, with the inauguration of a new healthcare center.

On December 20, 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in Kankar Danga Leprosy Colony, Burnpur, West Bengal, with the inauguration of a new healthcare center. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Shri B.P. Singh, the esteemed Director-in-

charge of the Burnpur Steel Plant and Durgapur Steel Plant, in collaboration with the State Committee of APAL. This healthcare center is set to play a pivotal role in improving healthcare access for the community.

The new facility will provide essential medical services to residents of Kankar Danga Leprosy Colony as well as those from five surrounding villages, ensuring accessible and quality healthcare for a larger population.

Its establishment underscores a strong commitment to inclusive healthcare, addressing the needs of marginalized and leprosy-affected communities. This collaborative effort marks a significant step forward in empowering these communities with better health infrastructure and support, fostering a positive impact on their quality of life.



APAL's State Committee in West Bengal organized the Sara Bangla Kustha Kalyan Samity Central Committee Meeting at Manipur, Adra, West Bengal.

On 22nd December 2024, APAL's State Committee in West Bengal organized the Sara Bangla Kustha Kalyan Samity Central Committee Meeting at Manipur, Adra, West Bengal. The meeting served as a platform for key discussions on two significant agenda points.

Firstly, detailed plans were discussed for the observance of Anti-Leprosy Day in 2025. The committee emphasized the importance of raising awareness about leprosy, promoting early detection and treatment, and addressing the social stigma faced by affected individuals. Various activities were proposed, including awareness campaigns, medical camps, and community engagement programs, to ensure widespread participation and impact.

Secondly, the committee deliberated on organizational matters to enhance the effectiveness and reach of their initiatives. They reviewed the current structure, identified areas requiring improvement, and proposed strategies for stronger coordination among member organizations. The discussions aimed at building a unified and robust approach to advocating for the rights and welfare of leprosy-affected individuals in West Bengal.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all members to work collaboratively towards these goals, reaffirming their dedication to the cause.



A significant event occurred at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Balajinagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, where essential commodities and blankets were distributed to 53 individuals affected by leprosy.

On Thursday, 26th December 2024, a significant event occurred at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Balajinagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, where essential commodities and blankets were distributed to 53 individuals affected by leprosy. This distribution was conducted under the compassionate leadership of Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator for APAL in Telangana, alongside K. Anusuya, the Vice President of APAL's State Committee, both of whom were present to oversee and support the initiative. The effectiveness of the program was further enhanced by the involvement of Shivarani Madam and Venkateshwari from the Society of Rural Development (SRD), who played a crucial role in organizing the event and ensuring the distribution was executed efficiently.

The elders of the colony, including Samuel Rahimatullah, CH Mallaiah, and Y. Chakali, conveyed their deep gratitude on behalf of the residents, expressing appreciation for the solidarity and commitment demonstrated by the APAL State Committee leadership and the SRD team. The provision of blankets and essential commodities provided substantial relief to the recipients during the colder months, thereby reinforcing the ideals of care and support for the leprosy-affected community. This thoughtful initiative addressed immediate needs and promoted a sense of dignity and inclusion among the residents, inspiring hope and optimism for a more promising future.



Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, General Secretary of APAL, together with the State Committee and leaders from nine leprosy colonies, recently convened with the District Magistrate of Indore to present a memorandum advocating for an increase in social entitlements and disability pensions for individuals who have been cured of leprosy

Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, General Secretary of APAL, together with the State Committee and leaders from nine leprosy colonies, recently convened with the District Magistrate of Indore to present a memorandum advocating for an increase in social entitlements and disability pensions for individuals who have been cured of leprosy. This commendable initiative aims to alleviate the financial difficulties encountered by those who depend on these pensions for their basic needs and overall well-being. The delegation's proactive engagement highlights their commitment to securing dignity and financial stability for individuals affected by leprosy and disabilities.

The advocacy for an increase in these pensions represents a critical and necessary measure towards addressing disparities in social support systems across India. While regions such as Delhi, Telangana, and Haryana provide pensions of Rs 3,000 per month, and Maharashtra offers a disability pension of Rs 2,500 in addition to a municipal

allowance of Rs 4,000, Madhya Pradesh significantly trails behind with a mere Rs 600. In contrast, Andhra Pradesh exemplifies progressive policy by providing a disability pension of Rs 6,000 and additional support for individuals experiencing more than 80% disability. This stark disparity underscores the urgent need for uniform and equitable pension policies that ensure all individuals, regardless of their geographic location, receive adequate financial assistance to sustain a dignified standard of living.

Mr. Gayadhane and his team's efforts are both commendable and serve as a potent call to action for policymakers. By drawing attention to these inequities, they are advocating for the rights and welfare of marginalized communities. Their ongoing dedication is poised to resonate with governmental authorities, encouraging meaningful reforms in pension policies. With sustained advocacy and community involvement, there exists a potential for a more promising future where every individual affected by leprosy and disabilities can live with dignity and financial security.

APAL expresses its gratitude to the District Magistrate for his affirmative response and assurance that he will communicate with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh regarding favourable actions for individuals affected by leprosy.



A distribution program was organized by the State Committee of APAL in Telangana in collaboration with the Grace Service Society Khammam to assist families affected by leprosy in Shantinagar Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony within the Peddambarpet area.

On Saturday, December 28, 2024, a distribution program was organized by the State Committee of APAL in Telangana in collaboration with the Grace Service Society Khammam to assist families affected by leprosy in Shantinagar Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony within the Peddambarpet area. This initiative provided essential items such as 5 kilograms of rice, blankets, sarees, and shirts, thereby benefiting 150 families.

The distribution was managed by Jacob, the President of the Grace Service Society, alongside the dedicated staff of the organization. Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, served as the chief guest for the event. Additionally, Jayashree Raja Garu, the Municipal Chairperson of Peddambarpet, attended to express her support. Esteemed elders from the community, including Y. Samuel, Dominic Rahimatullah, Ch. Mallaiah, Y. Chakali, J. Pullaiah, N. Pentaiah, R. Ramulu, and Azeez, were also present to witness the event.

APAL and the local communities expressed their profound gratitude to the Grace Service Society for their steadfast dedication to enhancing the lives of individuals affected by leprosy. This collaborative initiative exemplified a strong sense of solidarity and compassion for marginalized communities. Special acknowledgement is extended to Maniyada Ramesh for his significant contributions to the distribution efforts.



A significant event took place at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, coinciding with the New Year celebrations.

On December 31, 2024, a significant event took place at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, coinciding with the New Year celebrations. The State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with Teacher Hephshiba Madam and supported generously by Zekaraiah Garu, organized an impactful distribution program that provided sarees to 35 women residing in the colony. This event represented a demonstration of compassion and community engagement, bringing joy and a sense of belonging to the residents.

The distribution program was honoured by the attendance of APAL's State Coordinator, Maniyada Ramesh, whose unwavering commitment to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy continues to serve as an inspiration. Prominent elders from the colony, including Y. Samuel, Rahimatullah, Ch. Mallaiah, and Y. Chakali, also actively participated in the program, underscoring the unity and resilience within the community. The initiative was met with profound gratitude from the residents, marking a memorable commencement to the New Year.



APAL's State Committee in West Bengal organized the Sara Bangla Kustha Kalyan Samity Central Committee Meeting at Manipur, Adra, West Bengal. The meeting served as a platform for key discussions on two significant agenda points.

On 22nd December 2024, APAL's State Committee in West Bengal organized the Sara Bangla Kustha Kalyan Samity Central Committee Meeting at Manipur, Adra, West Bengal. The meeting served as a platform for key discussions on two significant agenda points.

Firstly, detailed plans were discussed for the observance of Anti-Leprosy Day in 2025. The committee emphasized the importance of raising awareness about leprosy, promoting early detection and treatment, and addressing the social stigma faced by affected individuals. Various activities were proposed, including awareness campaigns, medical camps, and community engagement programs, to ensure widespread participation and impact.

Secondly, the committee deliberated on organizational matters to enhance the effectiveness and reach of their initiatives. They reviewed the current structure, identified areas requiring improvement, and proposed strategies for stronger coordination among member organizations. The discussions aimed at building a unified and robust approach to advocating for the rights and welfare of leprosy-affected individuals in West Bengal.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all members to work collaboratively towards these goals, reaffirming their dedication to the cause.



A significant event occurred at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Balajinagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, where essential commodities and blankets were distributed to 53 individuals affected by leprosy.

On Thursday, 26th December 2024, a significant event occurred at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Balajinagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, where essential commodities and blankets were distributed to 53 individuals affected by leprosy. This distribution was conducted under the compassionate leadership of Maniyada Ramesh, the State Coordinator for APAL in Telangana, alongside K. Anusuya, the Vice President of APAL's State Committee, both of whom were present to oversee and support the initiative. The effectiveness of the program was further enhanced by the involvement of Shivarani Madam and Venkateshwari from the Society of Rural Development (SRD), who played a crucial role in organizing the event and ensuring the distribution was executed efficiently.

The elders of the colony, including Samuel Rahimatullah, CH Mallaiah, and Y. Chakali, conveyed their deep gratitude on behalf of the residents, expressing appreciation for the solidarity and commitment demonstrated by the APAL State Committee leadership and the SRD team. The provision of blankets and essential commodities provided substantial relief to the recipients during the colder months, thereby reinforcing the ideals of care and support for the leprosy-affected community. This thoughtful initiative addressed immediate needs and promoted a sense of dignity and inclusion among the residents, inspiring hope and optimism for a more promising future.



Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, General Secretary of APAL, together with the State Committee and leaders from nine leprosy colonies, recently convened with the District Magistrate of Indore to present a memorandum advocating for an increase in social entitlements and disability pensions for individuals who have been cured of leprosy.

Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, General Secretary of APAL, together with the State Committee and leaders from nine leprosy colonies, recently convened with the District Magistrate of Indore to present a memorandum advocating for an increase in social entitlements and disability pensions for individuals who have been cured of leprosy. This commendable initiative aims to alleviate the financial difficulties encountered by those who depend on these pensions for their basic needs and overall well-being. The delegation's proactive engagement highlights their commitment to securing dignity and financial stability for individuals affected by leprosy and disabilities.

The advocacy for an increase in these pensions represents a critical and necessary measure towards addressing disparities in social support systems across India. While regions such as Delhi, Telangana, and Haryana provide pensions of Rs 3,000 per month, and Maharashtra offers a disability pension of Rs 2,500 in addition to a municipal allowance of Rs 4,000, Madhya Pradesh significantly trails behind with a mere Rs 600. In contrast, Andhra Pradesh exemplifies progressive policy by providing a disability pension of Rs 6,000 and additional support for individuals experiencing more than 80% disability. This stark disparity underscores the urgent need for uniform and equitable pension policies that ensure all individuals, regardless of their geographic location, receive adequate financial assistance to sustain a dignified standard of living.

Mr. Gayadhane and his team's efforts are both commendable and serve as a potent call to action for policymakers. By drawing attention to these inequities, they are advocating for the rights and welfare of marginalized communities. Their ongoing dedication is poised to resonate with governmental authorities, encouraging meaningful reforms in pension policies. With sustained advocacy and community involvement, there exists a potential for

a more promising future where every individual affected by leprosy and disabilities can live with dignity and financial security.

APAL expresses its gratitude to the District Magistrate for his affirmative response and assurance that he will communicate with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh regarding favourable actions for individuals affected by leprosy.



A distribution program was organized by the State Committee of APAL in Telangana in collaboration with the Grace Service Society Khammam.

On Saturday, December 28, 2024, a distribution program was organized by the State Committee of APAL in Telangana in collaboration with the Grace Service Society Khammam to assist families affected by leprosy in Shantinagar Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony within the Peddambarpet area. This initiative provided essential items such as 5 kilograms of rice, blankets, sarees, and shirts, thereby benefiting 150 families.

The distribution was managed by Jacob, the President of the Grace Service Society, alongside the dedicated staff of the organization. Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, served as the chief guest for the event. Additionally, Jayashree Raja Garu, the Municipal Chairperson of Peddambarpet, attended to express her support. Esteemed elders from the community, including Y. Samuel, Dominic Rahimatullah, Ch. Mallaiah, Y. Chakali, J. Pullaiah, N. Pentaiah, R. Ramulu, and Azeez, were also present to witness the event.

APAL and the local communities expressed their profound gratitude to the Grace Service Society for their steadfast dedication to enhancing the lives of individuals affected by leprosy. This collaborative initiative exemplified a strong sense of solidarity and compassion for marginalized communities. Special acknowledgement is extended to Maniyada Ramesh for his significant contributions to the distribution efforts.



A significant event took place at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, coinciding with the New Year celebrations

On December 31, 2024, a significant event took place at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony, coinciding with the New Year celebrations. The State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with Teacher Hephshiba Madam and supported generously by Zekaraiah Garu, organized an impactful distribution program that provided sarees to 35 women residing in the colony. This event represented a demonstration of compassion and community engagement, bringing joy and a sense of belonging to the residents.

The distribution program was honoured by the attendance of APAL's State Coordinator, Maniyada Ramesh, whose unwavering commitment to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy continues to serve as an inspiration. Prominent elders from the colony, including Y. Samuel, Rahimatullah, Ch. Mallaiah, and Y. Chakali, also actively participated in the program, underscoring the unity and resilience within the community. The initiative was met with profound gratitude from the residents, marking a memorable commencement to the New Year.



APAL, in conjunction with its State Committee in Bihar, hosted a significant visit from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues

On 2nd January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) is a dedicated organization led by its president, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, who is committed to advocating for the rights, dignity, and socio-economic empowerment of individuals and families impacted by leprosy. APAL prioritizes the elimination of stigma, the improvement of living conditions, and the facilitation of access to social entitlements. The organization actively engages with communities, government entities, and international organizations to fulfill its mission. The State Committees of APAL play a vital role in addressing region-specific challenges, ensuring that every individual affected by leprosy has the opportunity to live with dignity and be integrated into mainstream society.

Recently, APAL, in conjunction with its State Committee in Bihar, hosted a significant visit from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues. The delegation conducted a tour of several leprosy colonies in Bihar, engaging with both the State Committee members and the residents of these communities, which consist of individuals and families affected by leprosy. The visitors interacted with residents to gain insights into

their daily challenges, assess their living conditions, and evaluate the state of infrastructure within the colonies.

During the visit, the delegation identified several critical issues faced by the community, including inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and limited access to essential medical care. They scrutinized the status of social entitlements provided by the Government, encompassing disability pensions, housing schemes, and healthcare services. The interactions with residents and State Committee members underscored the pressing need for increased governmental and societal support to address these urgent challenges.

The delegation's visit emphasized the significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in enhancing the rights and welfare of individuals affected by leprosy, thereby inspiring a renewed commitment from APAL and its collaborators to advocate for transformative change.



A complimentary health check-up camp was organized at the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony, facilitated by the esteemed Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre in collaboration with the APAL State Committee in Bangalore.

On 2nd January 2025, A complimentary health check-up camp was organized at the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony, facilitated by the esteemed Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre in collaboration with the APAL State Committee in Bangalore. This initiative aimed to provide essential healthcare services to the residents of the colony, ensuring they receive timely medical attention and support. The event was highlighted by the presence of Shri Dr. Shailesha Jee Kannura, who conducted patient examinations and provided expert consultations, addressing their health concerns with remarkable dedication.

Key individuals and staff from the health centre played an instrumental role in the success of the event. Shri Raju Anna Magimath attended the occasion, offering support for the initiative. The dedicated team from the Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre, consisting of Mr. Premananda, Kumari Mahadevi, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, Mr. Siddu, and Mr. Neminatha, worked diligently to ensure the efficient operation of the camp. Additionally, Shri Sriram Mali contributed to the coordination and management of the event. Their collective efforts emphasized the significance of community healthcare and underscored the commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals affected by leprosy.



APAL Interaction Meeting in Bihar Focuses on Leprosy Services and Community Welfare**

****APAL Interaction Meeting in Bihar Focuses on Leprosy Services and Community Welfare****

The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened an Interaction Meeting with its State Committee in Bihar, aimed at enhancing leprosy services and addressing the challenges faced by communities affected by leprosy. This meeting provided a forum for comprehensive discussions regarding the current conditions of leprosy communities and colonies in Bihar. Participants articulated insights into the social, medical, and economic challenges encountered by individuals and families impacted by leprosy. The dialogue concentrated on identifying sustainable, long-term solutions to empower these communities, enabling them to live with dignity and integrate into mainstream society.

The meeting was marked by the active participation of several key leaders and advisors. Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, underscored the necessity of inclusive strategies to elevate the status of the leprosy-affected population. Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, emphasized the ongoing need for efforts to enhance healthcare access and facilitate social integration. The event also featured contributions from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation, and Mrs. Michiko Nakajima, who offered valuable international perspectives on advancing leprosy services. Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues, presented significant medical insights, focusing on innovative methods for care and prevention.

This collaborative meeting represented a substantial advancement in addressing the multifaceted issues faced by leprosy communities in Bihar. It reaffirmed APAL's commitment to fostering an inclusive society where individuals affected by leprosy can thrive free from stigma and discrimination. The outcomes of these discussions will inform future initiatives and fortify APAL's mission to transform lives, ensuring the integration of affected individuals into the social fabric with dignity and equality.



In collaboration with its State Committee in Bihar, APAL organized a significant visit to the Missionary Hospital and the Prem Nagar Gaunpura colony in Phulkari, Patna.

On 3rd January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), under the leadership of President Maya Ranavare and Joint Secretary Ramavarai Sah, remains steadfast in its mission to enhance the lives of individuals affected by leprosy. In collaboration with its State Committee in Bihar, APAL organized a significant visit to the Missionary Hospital and the Prem Nagar Gaunpura colony in Phulkari, Patna. This

initiative underscores APAL's ongoing commitment to addressing the pressing issues faced by communities impacted by leprosy while fostering meaningful dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

During this visit, APAL had the honor of hosting Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues. Their participation highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges confronting leprosy-affected individuals. The visit facilitated interactions with residents of the colony, providing a platform to discuss critical issues, including the necessity for improved access roads, housing renovations, and nutritional challenges. These discussions reinforced the urgent need to address infrastructure deficiencies and enhance the overall quality of life within the community.

Furthermore, APAL engaged in constructive dialogues with media representatives, whose role is essential in raising awareness about the realities faced by individuals living with leprosy and the initiatives aimed at supporting these communities. By bringing these issues to the forefront, APAL seeks to secure public and governmental support for the implementation of sustainable solutions. This visit exemplified APAL's advocacy for holistic and inclusive development, striving to ensure dignity and improved opportunities for those affected by leprosy.



Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), accompanied by the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, recently conducted a visit to Mangalgad Hill in Kudus Dashaashram.

On 7th January 2025, Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), accompanied by the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, recently conducted a visit to Mangalgad Hill in Kudus Dashaashram. They were joined by the dedicated representatives of the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana to address a pressing issue impacting the leprosy-affected community residing in this area. The primary objective of their visit was to support and advocate for the rights of these vulnerable families, who currently face the potential threat of eviction as a result of a recent notice issued by the Forest Department.

For the past 35 years, the leprosy patients residing in Kudus Dashaashram have established their lives on Mangalgad Hill. Presently, approximately 50 families, predominantly from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, call this location home. Despite living in modest dwellings with limited resources, these families have exhibited remarkable resilience, dedicating themselves to achieving stability and securing education for their children. The community encompasses individuals of varying ages, from young

children to elderly residents, all of whom have managed to sustain their livelihoods through determination and arduous effort.

In 1991, the government officially allotted this land to the Leprosy Department, acknowledging the necessity for a secure environment for those affected by leprosy. However, the recent eviction notice issued by the Forest Department has cast uncertainty over the future of these families. The visit by Maya Ranavare and the APAL State Committee, alongside representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidot Sanghatana, constituted a significant initiative aimed at advocating for the retraction of this notice and seeking a permanent resolution for the residents of Kudus Dashaashram.

They have appealed to the authorities to reconsider the eviction notice and to recognize the longstanding connection these families maintain with their home on Mangalgad Hill. By withdrawing the notice and facilitating a sustainable resolution, the government can ensure that these families retain their dignity and security. The collaborative efforts of APAL and the Maharashtra Kusht Pidot Sanghatana underscore the imperative of safeguarding the rights of marginalized communities and promoting an inclusive society.



APAL distributed essential food grains and clothing to the residents of the Annai Terissa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalpur.

On 8th January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Tamil Nadu has recently undertaken a significant humanitarian effort through its State Committee. In collaboration with a generous local donor, APAL distributed essential food grains and clothing to the residents of the Annai Terissa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalpur. This initiative aimed to alleviate the hardships faced by individuals affected by leprosy, ensuring they have access to basic necessities and comfort in their daily lives.

APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to the donor whose invaluable support made this distribution possible. The gesture has provided much-needed relief and has been a source of hope and encouragement for the residents. Additionally, APAL gives special recognition to Mr. Rajendran, the State Coordinator in Tamil Nadu, for his unwavering commitment and active involvement in the leprosy community. His dedication to improving the lives of those affected by leprosy has been instrumental in the success of this initiative, reflecting the organization's mission to uplift and support marginalized communities.



APAL proudly announces our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association for Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL), for being awarded the esteemed "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" recognition.

On 10th January 2025, APAL proudly announces our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association for Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL), for being awarded the esteemed "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" recognition. This honour was presented by Additional DSP Rajashree Desai in acknowledgement of Mrs. Ranavare's unwavering dedication and significant contributions to disability advocacy. Over the past twenty years, her relentless commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals affected by leprosy and their families has positioned her as a beacon of hope and a formidable advocate for marginalized communities.

Mrs. Ranavare's journey serves as an exemplary model of inspiration. Her initiatives have not only provided essential support to individuals with disabilities but have also contributed to raising awareness about leprosy, a condition often surrounded by stigma. As a role model, she has illustrated that meaningful societal transformation is attainable through compassion and resilience. Under her leadership, APAL has empowered numerous individuals by equipping them with the necessary resources, support, and dignity that they rightly deserve. The acknowledgement of her work through the "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" award underscores her exceptional service and the profound influence she has exerted on the lives of many individuals.



Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently attended the distinguished Sahu Chhatrapati Foundation program.

On 11th January 2025, Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently attended the distinguished Sahu Chhatrapati

Foundation program. This event commemorated the launch of their annual calendar, a significant milestone that celebrates the foundation's rich cultural heritage and its philanthropic initiatives. The program was attended by several dignitaries, including Shivraj Naikote, the Secretary of the Paschim Maharashtra Devasthan Samiti, alongside other notable guests. Their participation underscored the critical importance of collaboration between cultural and social organizations in promoting community development and support.

In conjunction with the calendar unveiling, Maya Ranavare also visited a local leprosy hospital. This visit emphasized her unwavering commitment to social welfare and the enhancement of the lives of marginalized communities. Accompanied by Shivraj Naikote and other distinguished attendees, Ranavare engaged with both patients and staff, offering words of encouragement and support. The objective of this visit was to raise awareness about leprosy and to highlight ongoing efforts to provide medical care and rehabilitation for those affected. The collaborative endeavors among APAL, the Sahu Chhatrapati Foundation, and the Paschim Maharashtra Devasthan Samiti reflect a shared vision of inclusivity and compassion, aimed at creating a more equitable society.



Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor for Medical Issues at SHF, recently convened with Deputy Director General of Leprosy at the Central Leprosy Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

On 13th January 2025, Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor for Medical Issues at SHF, recently convened with Deputy Director General of Leprosy at the Central Leprosy Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

This meeting, held in Delhi, provided an important platform for constructive dialogue regarding the enhancement of leprosy services nationwide. Furthermore, the team conducted a visit to the Ektanagar Leprosy Colony, where they engaged with the residents to gain insights into their experiences and needs.



State Committee of the Association for the People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana coordinated a significant humanitarian initiative in collaboration with Jacob, President of the Grace Service Society.

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, the State Committee of the Association for the People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana coordinated a significant humanitarian initiative in collaboration with Jacob, President of the Grace Service Society. The program aimed to provide assistance to families affected by leprosy in Parvat Nagar (Borabanda) and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar. With the active involvement of Zahed Sharif (Baba), President of Parvat Nagar, DPMO Simhachalam and DPMO Joseph, essential goods, including ration supplies and blankets, were distributed to 170 families. The beneficiaries comprised 100 families affected by leprosy from Parvat Nagar and 70 families from Rajiv Gandhi Nagar.

The event was graced by the presence of Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, who expressed his support and appreciation for the initiative. Key staff members of the organization, including Muralikrishna Reddy, Satish, A. Manemma, P. Anjamma, Saroja, and Mohan, were integral to the efficient execution of the program. They conveyed their sincere gratitude to all contributors who played a role in ensuring the event's success. The collective efforts of all involved underscored a commitment to compassion and solidarity in addressing the needs of marginalized communities.



The collaboration meeting between the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), and LEPR was convened on 19 January 2025 at the Khagual Leprosy Colony in Patna, Bihar.

The collaboration meeting between the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), and LEPR was convened on 19 January 2025 at the Khagual Leprosy Colony in Patna, Bihar. This significant event gathered key stakeholders and leaders from the leprosy community to discuss initiatives aimed at improving the lives of individuals and families affected by leprosy. The meeting served as a platform to strengthen partnerships and explore collaborative strategies regarding advocacy, healthcare, and social support.

Representatives from APAL's State Committee and leaders from leprosy colonies across the region actively engaged in the discussions. Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, emphasized the importance of empowering individuals affected by leprosy and fostering community resilience. Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, provided insights into ongoing efforts and future plans designed to enhance the quality of life for affected individuals. Representing S-ILF, Mr. Gaurav Sen, CEO of the foundation, highlighted the critical role of sustainable livelihood programs and educational initiatives for communities

impacted by leprosy. Mr. Rajnikanth Singh, State Coordinator of LEPRa, reaffirmed LEPRa's commitment to delivering comprehensive healthcare and support services to those in need.

The meeting highlighted the collective commitment of APAL, S-ILF, and LEPRa to collaborate towards achieving a leprosy-free and inclusive society. Discussions centred on addressing the challenges faced by leprosy-affected individuals, advocating for their rights, and creating opportunities for social and economic inclusion. This collaboration represents a vital step towards ensuring that the voices of leprosy-affected communities are acknowledged and their needs are adequately addressed through unified efforts.



The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently conducted a Nutrition Support Program at Gandhi Kusht Aashram in Jamira, Ara (Bhojpur). This initiative aimed to provide essential foodgrains to individuals affected by leprosy and their families, ensuring they receive adequate nutritional support.

On 20th January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently conducted a Nutrition Support Program at Gandhi Kusht Aashram in Jamira, Ara (Bhojpur). This initiative aimed to provide essential foodgrains to individuals affected by leprosy and their families, ensuring they receive adequate nutritional support. The program is part of APAL's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for people impacted by leprosy and addressing their fundamental needs. The distribution of food grains was met with gratitude and optimism from the beneficiaries, as it alleviated some of the challenges they face in their daily lives.

The program witnessed active participation from key members of APAL, including Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL. Their presence underscored the organization's dedication to standing in solidarity with the leprosy-affected community. The State Committee of APAL in Bihar also played a vital role in organizing and executing the event, ensuring its success. The collective efforts of the APAL leadership and the state team highlighted the importance of community-driven initiatives to empower marginalized groups and foster social inclusion.



The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened a significant meeting with its State Committee in Bihar.

On 21st January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened a significant meeting with its State Committee in Bihar. This meeting served as a platform for meaningful engagement and dialogue among participants regarding the current circumstances encountered by the leprosy-affected community. The committee addressed the challenges and barriers faced by individuals impacted by leprosy, both within designated leprosy colonies and in the wider society. Strategies and measures to confront these challenges were discussed, emphasizing sustainable solutions aimed at enhancing the quality of life and ensuring the comprehensive welfare of the community.

A noteworthy aspect of the meeting was the election of a new management team for the State Committee. APAL extended its congratulations to the newly elected members, underscoring the critical role they will assume in furthering the organization's objectives. The dialogue also focused on the future responsibilities of the committee in promoting socio-economic empowerment and advancing the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy. These initiatives are designed to uplift both individuals and families living in leprosy colonies, facilitating their integration into mainstream society with dignity and respect. APAL reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a more inclusive culture where all individuals can flourish without facing stigma or discrimination.



In a recent initiative, the newly elected APAL State Committee in Bihar organized a Nutrition Support Program aimed at addressing the nutritional needs of those affected by leprosy and their families.

On 21st January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) has once again demonstrated its commitment to the welfare and empowerment of individuals affected by leprosy. In a recent initiative, the newly elected APAL State Committee in Bihar organized a Nutrition Support Program aimed at addressing the nutritional needs of those affected by leprosy and their families. The event was held at the Missionaries of Charity in Prem Nagar, Gonpura, Phulwari Sharif, Patna, and was marked by the active participation of several APAL leaders and members.

During the program, essential food grains were distributed to the beneficiaries, ensuring that their dietary needs were met. The distribution was graced by the presence of Ms. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, whose leadership and dedication have been pivotal in driving APAL's mission forward. Alongside her was Mr. Ramavrai Sah, the Joint Secretary of APAL, who played a crucial role in the planning and execution of the initiative.

The entire state committee came together, contributing their time, resources, and efforts to make this event a success.

This initiative highlights APAL's unwavering focus on addressing the holistic needs of individuals affected by leprosy, beyond just healthcare. By ensuring access to nutrition, APAL continues to promote the dignity and well-being of these individuals, fostering a sense of inclusion and support within the community. The collaborative efforts of the state committee and leadership reflect the organization's dedication to its core values of compassion and service.



APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized an awareness program on leprosy for the nursing students of Choithram Nursing College at Babulpura Kusht Ashram, Bamnaganga, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

On 27th January 2025, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized an awareness program on leprosy for the nursing students of Choithram Nursing College at Babulpura Kusht Ashram, Bamnaganga, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The program aimed to educate future healthcare professionals about the physical, social, and mental consequences of leprosy, emphasizing the importance of empathy and understanding in their approach to treating and supporting individuals affected by the disease. This initiative sought to dispel myths and stigma surrounding leprosy while encouraging students to play a proactive role in its eradication and in improving the quality of life for affected individuals.

During the session, Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, Secretary of APAL, addressed the audience, providing insights into the medical and social dimensions of leprosy. He highlighted how the disease impacts individuals not only physically but also socially and mentally due to the deep-rooted stigma associated with it. He urged the students to approach the care of leprosy-affected individuals with compassion and dignity. The principal of Choithram Nursing College also participated in the event, underscoring the significance of such programs in building awareness among healthcare students. The nursing students actively engaged in the discussion, showing keen interest in understanding the challenges faced by leprosy-affected individuals and ways to support them effectively. This collaborative effort marked a significant step toward fostering awareness and reducing prejudice against leprosy within the healthcare community.



A ration distribution program was conducted in Shantinagar Colony, benefiting 30 families affected by leprosy.

On January 29, 2025, a ration distribution program was conducted in Shantinagar Colony, benefiting 30 families affected by leprosy. This noble initiative was made possible through the generosity of local donor Madam Aruna and her family, who extended their support to ensure that essential supplies reached those in need. Their kindness and commitment to social welfare brought much-needed relief to these families, reinforcing the importance of community-driven humanitarian efforts.

APAL expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Madam Aruna for her invaluable services in supporting persons affected by leprosy. Her compassionate contribution reflects a deep sense of empathy and solidarity with marginalized communities. Additionally, APAL extends special thanks to its State Coordinator in Telangana, Maniyada Ramesh, for his active role in organizing and facilitating the distribution. His dedication and efforts played a crucial part in ensuring the smooth execution of the program, demonstrating the power of teamwork in making a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need.



The celebration of Leprosy Day at Ramnagar Leprosy Colony, Danapur, Patna, was organized under the leadership of APAL's State Committee in Bihar, demonstrating a strong commitment to the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy.

The celebration of Leprosy Day at Ramnagar Leprosy Colony, Danapur, Patna, was organized under the leadership of APAL's State Committee in Bihar, demonstrating a strong commitment to the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy. APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) has been instrumental in advocating for the dignity and social inclusion of leprosy-affected persons, and this event further reinforced their efforts. The program was marked by the enthusiastic participation of residents, healthcare professionals, social workers, and volunteers united in their mission to spread

awareness and dispel leprosy myths. Through various activities, the attendees gained valuable insights into the medical, social, and emotional aspects of the disease, fostering a more compassionate and informed perspective.

A highlight of the event was the oath-taking ceremony, where all present vowed to actively contribute to the eradication of leprosy-related stigma and discrimination. This pledge served as a reminder of the collective responsibility to ensure that individuals affected by the disease receive the respect, care, and opportunities they deserve. The commitment of APAL's State Committee in Bihar to promoting awareness and early treatment was evident in the speeches and interactive sessions held during the event. Participants were encouraged to engage in community outreach and advocacy efforts, emphasizing that leprosy is curable and that those affected should not face social exclusion.

The program also paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi, whose deep compassion for leprosy patients remains an enduring source of inspiration. His philosophy of service and inclusion resonated throughout the event, reinforcing the importance of humanitarian efforts in eliminating prejudice against leprosy-affected individuals. The event concluded with a renewed sense of determination among all attendees to work towards a society where leprosy patients are treated with dignity and are fully integrated into the community. APAL's State Committee in Bihar reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its advocacy and support initiatives, ensuring that awareness and sensitivity toward leprosy remain a priority in public discourse.



APAL's State Committee in West Bengal actively participated in the World Leprosy Day celebrations organized by Milan Sangh in West Bengal.

On 1st February 2025, APAL's State Committee in West Bengal actively participated in the World Leprosy Day celebrations organized by Milan Sangh in West Bengal. This significant event brought together various stakeholders, including persons affected by leprosy, healthcare professionals, and social workers, to raise awareness about leprosy and advocate for the rights and dignity of those impacted by the disease. The participation of APAL's State Committee underscored their commitment to supporting initiatives that promote inclusion, rehabilitation, and empowerment of affected individuals.

During the event, APAL representatives engaged in discussions shared insights on challenges faced by persons affected by leprosy, and emphasized the need for continued efforts in early detection, treatment, and social reintegration. The program included awareness campaigns, cultural performances, and interactive sessions aimed at breaking stigma and fostering a supportive community. Milan Sangh's initiative, in collaboration with APAL, highlighted the importance of collective action in addressing the concerns of those affected by leprosy and ensuring their rightful place in society.



World Leprosy Day was commemorated with great compassion and service at Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh, APAL's State Committee in Gujarat in collaboration with Gateway of Engineering College.

On 3rd February 2025, World Leprosy Day was commemorated with great compassion and service at Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh, APAL's State Committee in Gujarat in collaboration with Gateway of Engineering College. This significant occasion aimed to spread awareness about leprosy and extend support to those affected by the disease. Volunteers, dignitaries, and well-wishers gathered to honour the resilience of leprosy-affected individuals and emphasize the need for social inclusion and care. The event served as a reminder of the collective responsibility to eradicate stigma and uplift the lives of those living in leprosy colonies.

As part of the humanitarian efforts, grocery kits were distributed to leprosy patients and residents of nearby colonies. These essential supplies provided much-needed relief to families facing financial hardships due to social exclusion and limited livelihood opportunities. The initiative was met with gratitude and smiles, as beneficiaries received the kits with heartfelt appreciation. The event not only provided material assistance but also conveyed a message of empathy, reinforcing the belief that those affected by leprosy deserve dignity, care, and equal opportunities in society.



The APAL team, along with WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and his team, visited Jaatna Leprosy Colony and Jagannath Leprosy Colony in Odisha.

On 3rd February 2025, The APAL team, along with WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health

Foundation (SHF), and his team, visited Jaatna Leprosy Colony and Jagannath Leprosy Colony in Odisha.

During their visit, they engaged with the residents, including persons affected by leprosy and their families, to understand their challenges and offer support. As part of their humanitarian efforts, they distributed essential food grains to the families, ensuring they had access to basic necessities



On the special occasion of Montfort's birthday, ST in collaboration with APAL's State Committee in Telangana organized a noble service program to support 100 leprosy-affected individuals across various colonies. As part of this initiative, each beneficiary received 10 kg of rice, ₹500 in cash, and a wholesome lunch.

On 3rd February 2025, On the special occasion of Montfort's birthday, ST in collaboration with APAL's State Committee in Telangana organized a noble service program to support 100 leprosy-affected individuals across various colonies. As part of this initiative, each beneficiary received 10 kg of rice, ₹500 in cash, and a wholesome lunch.

The program was conducted in the following colonies:

Shanthi Nagar Colony

Shanthi Nagar Colony

Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, IDPL

Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Moulali

Mother Teresa Colony, Balaji Nagar

This humanitarian effort aimed to bring relief and joy to those in need, reflecting the spirit of compassion and social responsibility. ST's dedication to serving the less fortunate has been truly inspiring, and this event was a testament to the belief that "Service to humanity is service to God."



In collaboration with Share the Vision, APAL's State Committee in Telangana successfully distributed food grains to 40 families of persons affected by leprosy at Vadrikal Leprosy Colony in Kamareddy District, Telangana.

On 6th February 2025, In collaboration with Share the Vision, APAL's State Committee in Telangana successfully distributed food grains to 40 families of persons affected by leprosy at Vadrikal Leprosy Colony in Kamareddy District, Telangana. This initiative aimed to provide essential support to some of the most vulnerable individuals, ensuring they have access to basic necessities. The event was conducted in the presence of key community leaders and volunteers who played a significant role in making the distribution seamless and effective.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Narayana, Director of the Trust, for his invaluable services in supporting the neediest individuals affected by leprosy and their families. His unwavering commitment to humanitarian efforts continues to bring hope and relief to marginalized communities. Special thanks are also extended to Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, along with Mr. Uppalayya and Mr. Narsaiah, the colony leaders, for their crucial contributions in organising and facilitating the distribution. Their dedication and collective efforts ensured that the aid reached the families most in need, reinforcing the spirit of compassion and community support.



On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, organized a significant awareness program aimed at educating the community about leprosy at Saksh College of Nursing in Miraj.

10th February 2025, on the occasion of World Leprosy Day, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, organized a significant awareness program aimed at educating the community about leprosy at Saksh College of Nursing in Miraj. This event sought to address the stigma associated with leprosy and to foster a comprehensive understanding of the disease, including its causes, symptoms, and available treatments. The program engaged nursing students, faculty members, and community participants, promoting a collective effort to enhance knowledge and sensitivity regarding this important health issue.

The initiative emphasized the critical nature of early diagnosis and the necessity of providing support to individuals affected by leprosy. Through informative presentations and interactive discussions, participants were encouraged to challenge and dispel prevalent myths and misconceptions surrounding the disease. Various educational materials, including posters and formal presentations, were utilized to effectively convey

essential messages. The event underscored the pivotal role of healthcare professionals, particularly nursing students, in advocating for the inclusion and rehabilitation of individuals affected by leprosy.



On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, organized a significant awareness program aimed at educating the community about leprosy at the College of Physiotherapy in Miraj.

On 11th February 2025, on the occasion of World Leprosy Day, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, alongside Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, organized a significant awareness program aimed at educating the community about leprosy at the College of Physiotherapy in Miraj. This event sought to address the stigma associated with leprosy and to foster a comprehensive understanding of the disease, including its causes, symptoms, and available treatments. The program engaged students, faculty members, and community participants, promoting a collective effort to enhance knowledge and sensitivity regarding this important health issue.

The initiative emphasized the critical nature of early diagnosis and the necessity of supporting individuals affected by leprosy. Through informative presentations and interactive discussions, participants were encouraged to challenge and dispel prevalent myths and misconceptions surrounding the disease. Various educational materials, including posters and formal presentations, were utilized to convey essential messages effectively. The event underscored the pivotal role of healthcare professionals, particularly nursing students, in advocating for the inclusion and rehabilitation of individuals affected by leprosy.



In collaboration with Reliable Trust (Khammam), played a pivotal role in organizing a humanitarian relief initiative within the Devapalli Leprosy Colony, located in the Ditchpally area of Nizamabad district.

On 11th Feb 2025, APAL, in collaboration with Reliable Trust (Khammam), played a pivotal role in organizing a humanitarian relief initiative within the Devapalli Leprosy Colony, located in the Ditchpally area of Nizamabad district. This initiative aimed to provide essential support to 150 families by distributing ration supplies, blankets, and sarees to assist them in managing daily challenges.

The distribution program was further enhanced by the participation of Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, who underscored the importance of ongoing support and advocacy for individuals affected by leprosy. The collaborative efforts of APAL, its Telangana State Committee, and Reliable Trust exemplified the effectiveness of unity in addressing social issues and uplifting marginalized communities. The residents of the Devapalli Leprosy Colony expressed profound gratitude, acknowledging the generosity and compassion demonstrated towards them. This initiative serves as a reminder that, through sustained support and collaborative endeavours, significant positive transformations can be achieved in the lives of individuals affected by leprosy, thereby promoting their dignity, well-being, and social inclusion.



The State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with local organizations, conducted an impactful initiative at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony in Peddamberpet.

On Friday, February 14, 2025, the State Committee of APAL, in collaboration with local organizations, conducted an impactful initiative at the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony in Peddamberpet. During this event, Dr. Papa Rao, the District Leprosy Officer, facilitated the distribution of footwear to individuals affected by leprosy.

The initiative received significant support from Sulochana Madam, Project Officer of the Leprosy Society, The event also featured the participation of Dr. Rudramadevi, the District Public Health Officer, and Kameshwar Rao Baburao, Project Officer of the Shanthiraju Leprosy Society.

APAL is thankful to all supporters and special thanks to Maniyada Ramesh APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana for his active contribution to the distribution.



State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Samarpan Foundation Trust, Red Cross Society, and the District Health Department, organized a free health camp on February 15, 2025, at the Sant Dnyaneshwar Leprosy Service Committee.

The APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Samarpan Foundation Trust, Red Cross Society, and the District Health Department, organized a free health camp on February 15, 2025, at the Sant Dnyaneshwar Leprosy Service Committee. This initiative aimed to provide essential medical check-ups and healthcare support to individuals affected by leprosy and the local community. The event was a significant step towards ensuring better health and well-being for those in need, reinforcing APAL's commitment to empowering and uplifting people impacted by leprosy.

The health camp witnessed the participation of APAL's Secretary, Mr. Sarang, Mr. Gopal Shinde, Ms. Sarita Dhundhle, and Pawan Bavne from the State Committee. Additionally, all the ashram residents were actively involved in the camp. A total of 230 individuals benefited from free medical consultations, check-ups, and necessary treatments.



APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra, in collaboration with Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, took a significant step in advocating for the land rights of the residents of the Indiranagar Leprosy Colony in Miraj.

On 21st February 2025, APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra, in collaboration with Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, took a significant step in advocating for the land rights of the residents of the Indiranagar Leprosy Colony in Miraj. On 20th February 2024, members of both organizations and residents of the colony staged a protest in front of the Sangli, Miraj, and Kupwad Municipal Corporation offices, demanding immediate action for the rehabilitation of leprosy-affected families who had been displaced due to the ongoing

demolition of their homes. The protest aimed to bring attention to the long-standing issue of land rights and the urgent need for permanent housing for the affected families, who have been struggling without a place to stay.

During the protest, Mr. Jitendra Chavan State coordinator in Maharashtra presented a formal letter outlining the key demands of the displaced residents. The protestors emphasized that the 28 affected families had been living in Indiranagar for years, and despite multiple appeals, their rehabilitation had not been prioritized. They insisted on an expedited process to provide them with alternative housing under government schemes. The demonstration attracted widespread attention, drawing support from various community members and human rights activists advocating for the dignity and well-being of leprosy-affected individuals.

In response to the protest, the Sangli, Miraj, and Kupwad Municipal Corporation administrations acknowledged the demands and assured the protestors of a positive approach to resolving the issue. Officials confirmed that under the Swachh Miraj Station Road Scheme and the Babasaheb Ambedkar Housing Scheme, the displaced families had already been relocated. They committed to demolishing the remaining western part of the affected area and ensuring the rehabilitation of all affected residents within the next two to three months. The administration urged the protestors to call off the demonstration, assuring them that the process was already in motion and that the authorities were committed to securing permanent housing for the leprosy-affected families. While the intervention and protest marked a crucial step in amplifying the voices of Indiranagar's leprosy-affected community, APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra and Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana pledged to closely monitor the implementation of the promised rehabilitation. They vowed to continue their advocacy until all displaced families receive their rightful homes and are fully integrated into mainstream society with dignity and security.



APAL State Committee in Jharkhand submitted a formal application to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Sub-Divisional Officer (SDM) concerning eviction notices issued to residents of both the Domgarh and BMP Leprosy Colonies.

On 21 February 2025, the APAL State Committee in Jharkhand submitted a formal application to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Sub-Divisional Officer (SDM) concerning eviction notices issued to residents of both the Domgarh and BMP Leprosy Colonies. Additionally, a visit to the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation was conducted to assess applications under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) issued an eviction notice to the Domgarh Leprosy Colony, which necessitated an appeal for intervention. Similarly, the Railway Department notified the BMP Leprosy Colony, prompting discussions with administrative officials regarding potential rehabilitation solutions. A meeting was convened with the Additional District Magistrate (ADM), during which representatives urged the authorities to acknowledge the residents' rights and to refrain from executing forced evictions in the absence of alternative housing options.

Officials at the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation reviewed the status of housing applications, discussing the requisite measures to secure benefits for the affected families. The efforts were led by APAL representatives, including Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan and Jharkhand Leader Madhusudan Tiwari.

Authorities have been urged to undertake appropriate actions, and follow-up meetings are planned to ensure rehabilitation support and long-term housing security for displaced residents.



APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local donors including Marwadi Madam Brandam, recently organized a heartwarming initiative aimed at supporting the underserved. Essential household items were distributed to 32 leprosy-affected families residing in Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony in Peddampet Pasumamula.

On 5th March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local donors including Marwadi Madam Brandam, recently organized a heartwarming initiative aimed at supporting the underserved. Essential household items were distributed to 32 leprosy-affected families residing in Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony in Peddampet Pasumamula. This outreach effort not only provided much-needed daily necessities but also helped restore hope and dignity among the community members during challenging times.

APAL extends its sincere gratitude to the local donors for their generous support and active participation in this noble cause. A special thanks is due to Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, whose leadership and dedicated involvement were crucial to the successful execution of the distribution. His commitment ensured that the assistance reached the families efficiently, making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.



APAL, along with its State Committee in Maharashtra, recently met with Dr. Ramji Adkekar, the Additional Director of Leprosy, Maharashtra State

On 5th March 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) continues its dedicated efforts to address the medical and social challenges faced by individuals affected by leprosy across India. In line with its commitment to ensuring better healthcare and support systems, APAL, along with its State Committee in Maharashtra, recently met with Dr. Ramji Adkekar, the Additional Director of Leprosy, Maharashtra State. The meeting, held at his office, focused on discussing the pressing medical issues faced by persons affected by leprosy and identifying permanent solutions to improve their healthcare access and quality of life.

Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and Mr. Jitedran from the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra led the discussions, highlighting critical concerns such as timely diagnosis, availability of essential medicines, and improved healthcare facilities in leprosy colonies. They emphasized the need for strengthened government intervention to ensure that individuals affected by leprosy receive sustained medical care without facing discrimination or delays. The delegation also explored strategies to enhance rehabilitation programs and community-based healthcare initiatives to prevent further complications among patients.

Dr. Ramji Adkekar acknowledged the concerns raised by APAL and assured his support in addressing them effectively. He expressed his willingness to collaborate with APAL to implement systematic solutions, including improving the distribution of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT), ensuring regular health check-ups, and providing better ulcer care management. The meeting marked a significant step toward bridging the gap between government health initiatives and the needs of leprosy-affected individuals in Maharashtra, reinforcing APAL's commitment to advocating for sustainable healthcare solutions for the community.



APAL, in collaboration with the Karuna Project and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust, celebrated World Women's Day with great enthusiasm at Sanjay Nagar, Borivali, Mumbai

On 9th March 2025, APAL, in collaboration with the Karuna Project and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust, celebrated World Women's Day with great enthusiasm at Sanjay Nagar, Borivali, Mumbai. The event aimed to recognize and honor the strength, resilience, and contributions of women, especially those from marginalized communities. The celebration was marked by inspiring speeches, cultural performances, and interactive sessions that highlighted women's empowerment, gender equality, and the need for continued support in their journey toward a better future.

Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, along with Dr. Farzana Mulla and the residents of the colony, actively participated in the event. Ms. Ranavare emphasized the importance of providing equal opportunities to women, particularly those affected by social stigma and health challenges. Dr. Mulla shared valuable insights on women's health and well-being, stressing the significance of education and awareness in improving their quality of life. The residents also came forward to share their experiences and stories of resilience, making the event more engaging and impactful.

The celebration concluded with a pledge to continue working towards women's rights, inclusion, and empowerment. APAL, the Karuna Project, and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust reaffirmed their commitment to supporting women through advocacy, healthcare, and skill-building initiatives. The event served as a reminder that collective efforts can bring meaningful change and uplift communities, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable society.



On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a special awareness program to highlight the significance of women's empowerment and child protection

On 10th March 2025, On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a special awareness program to highlight the significance of women's empowerment and child protection. The event brought together women from diverse fields, fostering discussions on the challenges they face and the need for collective action to promote gender equality. Through interactive sessions and insightful talks, participants

shared their experiences, emphasizing the importance of education, economic independence, and legal awareness in ensuring women's rights and safety.

Key dignitaries graced the program, including Mr. Ashok Kumar, founder of the Children of Deccan Foundation; Mr. Malkanna, Child Protection Officer; Ms. Mary, a dedicated women's welfare activist and NGO representative and Maniyada Ramesh APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana. They highlighted the urgent need for policies and community initiatives that support women's growth and protect children from exploitation. The event concluded with a strong commitment to continuing efforts toward empowering women and fostering a safer, more inclusive society where every woman and child can thrive.



APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh took a significant step in advocating for the rights of persons affected by leprosy by facilitating their access to biometric ration cards.

On 10th March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh took a significant step in advocating for the rights of persons affected by leprosy by facilitating their access to biometric ration cards. Many individuals affected by leprosy have lost their fingers due to ulcers, making it difficult for them to provide fingerprints, a mandatory requirement for availing government social entitlements, including food security benefits. This long-standing issue has prevented several people from accessing their rightful benefits, leaving them in a vulnerable state. Recognizing this challenge, APAL intervened to ensure that these individuals from Sevada Aashram Machla, Indore, were not deprived of their essential needs due to a technical limitation.

To address this issue, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized a visit to the Collector's Office, taking affected individuals along to advocate for a viable solution. With persistent efforts and dialogue, they successfully convinced the authorities to accept an alternative biometric verification method—iris scanning—for the submission of their Know Your Customer (KYC) details. This breakthrough ensured that individuals who could not provide fingerprints due to their condition were still able to access their ration cards and other social benefits without further obstacles. This initiative not only resolved an immediate issue but also set a precedent for similar cases, strengthening the movement for equal rights and inclusion of persons affected by leprosy in government welfare programs.



APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a significant initiative aimed at supporting education in rural areas.

On 10th March 2025, the APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a significant initiative aimed at supporting education in rural areas. Through the Vidhyadhan Project, study materials were distributed to the students of ZP High School in Pasumamula Village.

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Vijayender Reddy, Counselor of Peddamberpet, who emphasized the importance of education in shaping young minds and the role of community support in fostering academic growth. The Head Master of ZP High School also participated in the program, acknowledging the collaborative effort of APAL's State Committee and the Children of Deccan Foundation in uplifting the students. Additionally, Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator for Telangana, Pooja, Sameera and Sravan have participated.



APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), along with the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, visited the Jeevan Jyothi Society and Vile Parle colony.

On 12th March 2025, APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), along with the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, visited the Jeevan Jyothi Society and Vile Parle colony. During this visit, the representatives interacted with the residents, addressing their concerns and discussing various issues faced by individuals affected by leprosy. The visit aimed to understand the challenges encountered by the community and explore possible solutions to improve their living conditions and access to essential services.

As part of the visit, the delegation also met with officials from the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai. A memorandum was submitted to highlight the urgent needs and demands of

the leprosy-affected community. The memorandum emphasized the necessity for better healthcare facilities, financial support, and rehabilitation programs to ensure a dignified life for those impacted by the disease.

Prominent figures present during this visit included Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, along with Mr. Jitedran and other key members of both organizations. Their participation underscored the collective effort to advocate for the rights and well-being of leprosy-affected individuals, ensuring that their voices were heard and addressed by the authorities.



APAL'S Telangana State Committee,(SLAP-TS) in collaboration with Reliable Trust, organized a significant service initiative at the Hindu Yuvajana Sangham premises in Peddamberpet, Hyderabad. As part of this program, essential supplies, including food grains, shirts, sarees, and blankets, were distributed to 550 families of individuals affected by leprosy.

On 15th March 2025, APAL'S Telangana State Committee,(SLAP-TS) in collaboration with Reliable Trust, organized a significant service initiative at the Hindu Yuvajana Sangham premises in Peddamberpet, Hyderabad. As part of this program, essential supplies, including food grains, shirts, sarees, and blankets, were distributed to 550 families of individuals affected by leprosy. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. T. Ravi, Director of Reliable Trust, and Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, APAL'S State Coordinator in Telangana. Distinguished guests, including Leprosy Medical Officer (SLO) & JD Director John Babu, Pedda Amberpet Municipal Commissioner Ravinder Reddy, and former Councillor Vidya Vijender Reddy, participated in distributing these essential items to the beneficiaries, ensuring that the aid reached those in need.

A total of 550 individuals from 13 different leprosy colonies across Telangana attended the event along with their families. The program was successfully conducted with the support of Hindu Mitra Yuvajana Sangham President Puli Raju, along with members Pasula Raghu, Prashanth Reddy, Itikala Mahender Reddy, and senior members from Nagireddy Colony, who played an instrumental role in the organization. The leaders of the leprosy colonies, along with **Ramesh Maniyada**, extended their heartfelt gratitude to Shri T. Ravi and Reliable Trust for their generous support. This initiative not only provided essential resources to the beneficiaries but also highlighted the importance of social responsibility and compassion in uplifting marginalized communities.



APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, led by State Leader Mohammad Zainuddin and APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, participated in a crucial meeting organized by the SABAL Center, Tata Steel Foundation.

On 19th March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, led by State Leader Mohammad Zainuddin and APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, participated in a crucial meeting organized by the SABAL Center, Tata Steel Foundation. Senior officials and the CSR Head of Tata Steel were present, expressing their commitment to addressing the issues of families of persons affected by leprosy.

Key Discussions are, Importance of Leprosy Colonies – Due to social ostracization and eviction from ancestral properties, colonies became safe spaces where affected persons could live with dignity.

Major Challenges – Social discrimination, lack of electoral rights, economic insecurity, limited education, difficulty accessing government schemes, and inadequate health services.

Proposed Solutions – Increasing social awareness, restoring electoral rights, providing self-employment opportunities, improving access to government schemes, and strengthening healthcare services.

Key Outcomes are that Tata Steel Foundation officials committed to visiting leprosy colonies on 21 March 2025 to understand the ground reality and implement necessary improvements.

APAL, thanks SABAL Center and Tata Steel Foundation for their continued support in empowering leprosy-affected families.



Mr. Jawahar Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary, have actively represented APAL at key national events

On 22nd March 2025, Mr. Jawahar Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary, have actively represented APAL at key national events. Their participation in the National Disability Network (NDN) and NCEPEDPE highlights their commitment to advocating for disability rights and inclusion in policy discussions.

They also attended the prestigious Purple Festival at the President of India's residence, celebrating inclusivity and the achievements of persons with disabilities. Their presence at these significant events reinforces APAL's dedication to strengthening advocacy efforts and promoting a more inclusive society.



APAL Vice President Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan Attended Udayan's Foundation Day

Report: APAL Vice President Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan Attended Udayan's Foundation Day

Date: 25/03/2025 Venue: Udayan Campus, West Bengal

The 55th Foundation Day of Udayan Sanstha was a significant occasion marked by the presence of distinguished guests, including Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL). The event saw the participation of all Udayan family officials, including the Director, Deputy Director, Superintendent, Sapan Da, and other esteemed dignitaries.

During his address, Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan acknowledged and commended the exceptional contributions of Udayan Sanstha towards the welfare of children from families affected by leprosy. He emphasized that the organization has been a beacon of hope for many, providing education, self-reliance, and social rehabilitation opportunities. He lauded Udayan's unwavering commitment to empowering these children and helping them integrate into mainstream society.

Shri Paswan took a moment to highlight the success stories of several individuals who have benefitted from Udayan's initiatives and have now carved a respectable place for themselves in society. Among them were:

Mahesh Gorai – Advocate

Dhan Singh – Successful Businessman

Umesh Gorai – Physiotherapist

Vishal Karmakar – Businessman

Yudhistir Dutta – Businessman

These inspiring individuals stand as a testament to the transformative impact of Udayan's efforts in nurturing talent and fostering self-sufficiency among children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Furthermore, Shri Paswan made a heartfelt appeal to Udayan Sanstha to extend its hostel facilities to accommodate children from other leprosy-affected families in Jharkhand and Bengal. He expressed his confidence that such an initiative would enable more children to receive quality education and uplift their lives. On behalf of APAL India, he assured full support and collaboration in advancing this noble cause.

The event concluded on a positive note with Udayan Sanstha expressing its sincere gratitude to Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan for his presence and unwavering support. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its social service endeavors, ensuring a brighter future for children affected by leprosy.



Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently held its annual meeting in Indore, bringing together key representatives and advocates dedicated to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy.

On 29th March 2025, The APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently held its annual meeting in Indore, bringing together key representatives and advocates dedicated to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy. The meeting served as an essential platform to assess the current living conditions in the leprosy community and identify critical services still required for their well-being and social upliftment.

Among the prominent attendees were Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, Secretary of APAL, and Mr. Satish Chowdary, State Coordinator of GLRA (German Leprosy and TB Relief Association) in Madhya Pradesh. From the APAL State Committee, active participation was seen from Mr. Raju, Ms. Hira, Mr. Gopal, Ms. Rekha, Ms. Sarita, Mr. Rajaram, and Ms. Meera. The discussions focused on addressing key challenges faced by the leprosy-affected community, including access to healthcare, social inclusion, livelihood opportunities, and essential support services.

The meeting reinforced APAL's commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of those affected by leprosy, ensuring they receive adequate support and integration into mainstream society. The collective efforts of the participants highlighted the importance of continued collaboration with government bodies, NGOs, and welfare organizations to bridge service gaps and improve the quality of life for the leprosy-affected community in Madhya Pradesh.



APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra recently visited the Sanjay Nagar colony in Borivali, Mumbai, to engage with the residents and understand their living conditions.

On 31st March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra recently visited the Sanjay Nagar colony in Borivali, Mumbai, to engage with the residents and understand their living conditions. This visit aimed to assess the challenges faced by the leprosy-affected community and discuss potential solutions to improve their quality of life.

During the visit, APAL representatives, along with the colony leaders and community members, engaged in meaningful discussions regarding housing, healthcare, social inclusion, and access to government welfare schemes. Maya Ranavare, a key leader and advocate for the rights of leprosy-affected individuals, actively participated in the meeting, lending her voice to the concerns of the residents. The discussions revolved around improving sanitation, securing financial aid, and ensuring better healthcare services for the community.

The visit by APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra underscored the organization's commitment to empowering people affected by leprosy and advocating for their rights. The interaction not only highlighted the pressing issues faced by the Sanjay Nagar residents but also served as a platform for finding practical solutions in collaboration with local leaders. The committee assured the residents of their continued support and efforts to push for policy changes that would lead to better living conditions for the leprosy-affected community in Maharashtra.