



SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Monthly Report

To

Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation

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

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

- 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

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, and others. Their involvement exemplified the community's solidarity and dedication to addressing the adversities confronted by the residents of the leprosy colony.



A delegation from the APAL's State Committee in Odisha convened with Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi

A delegation from the APAL's State Committee in Odisha convened with Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Tuesday to address the dire circumstances of the numerous leprosy victims in the state. The delegation emphasized the urgent need for the government to improve living conditions for these individuals due to insufficient medical facilities and healthcare, resulting in severe hardships for many patients.

The delegation informed the Chief Minister that there are over 50 leprosy patient colonies in the state, lacking essential amenities such as clean drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate housing. They stressed the necessity for the government to promptly address these issues and provide improved living conditions for the affected individuals.

Financial constraints prevent many patients from obtaining proper treatment, and the delegation requested the government to offer free medical care and financial assistance to these individuals. Furthermore, they urged the implementation of welfare schemes specifically benefiting leprosy patients and their families.

Assuring the delegation of the government's commitment to improving the lives of leprosy patients, Chief Minister Manjhi instructed concerned officials to promptly address the raised concerns. He also announced the government's ongoing efforts to develop a comprehensive plan for improved healthcare facilities and support for leprosy patients statewide.

The meeting, attended by various officials and members of the APAL's State Committee concluded with the representatives expressing gratitude to the Chief Minister for his swift response and assuring their support in implementing the proposed welfare schemes.



राज्य कुष्ठ रोग संगठन के प्रतिनिधियों ने की मुख्यमंत्री मांझी से मुलाकात

लाखों कुष्ठ पीड़ितों की दयनीय और हृदय विदारक स्थिति से कराया अवगत

भुवनेश्वर। सुपुत्र राज्य सरकार के उप मुख्यमंत्री जितन मंजु, राज्य कुष्ठ रोग संगठन के महासचिव राजेश्वर मंडल, उपस्थित विभिन्न मंत्री और सदस्य विभिन्न मंत्री के स्वयंसेवा से प्रभावित, मुख्यमंत्री मंडल चर्चा करते हैं कि कुष्ठ रोग संघ, ओडिशा राज्य सरकार के उपस्थित से मुलाकात कर संगठन को 10 सूची बुनियादी मंत्री बार्ड। वर्तमान में राज्य में 86 कुष्ठ (कलिसी) को खतरा एवं भयावह स्थिति, 7 कुष्ठ अस्पताल, 4 कुष्ठ अस्पताल, राष्ट्रीय हिंदू कुष्ठ निवारण संघ, ओडिशा राज्य सरकार को कुष्ठ रोग विभाग के प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों एवं पदाधिकारियों द्वारा वर विमोचन तकिके



रोगियों का पता चला और 50 प्रतिशत हरिजन अधिकांश रोगियों का पता चला। इस लंबे समय से संगठन में जुड़े हुए हैं और कुष्ठ रोग संगठन को और से विभिन्न अवसरों पर राजस्थान और विधानसभा के पेश में भाग लेते रहे हैं। कुष्ठ रोग राज्य को प्रमुख समस्या है। 10 सूची बुनियादी मंत्री में 86 कुष्ठ कलिसी को स्थायी स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों को निर्धारित करने स्थिति 2008-07 में 2014 तक विभिन्न कुष्ठ का स्वास्थ्य विभाग। प्रशासनिक ने राज्य में कुष्ठ रोगियों को दयनीय एवं हृदयविदारक स्थिति को खतरा खतरा दुःख भयावह स्थिति है। खतरा हो मुख्यमंत्री को अभिवादन में एक उच्च स्तरीय समिति का गठन किया जाएगा जिसमें 86 कुष्ठ

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.

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.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare
President, APAL