



# SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

## Monthly Report

To

**Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation**

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| <b>Title of the Report</b> | Monthly Progress Report |
| <b>Name</b>                | Mrs. Maya Ranavare      |
| <b>Date of Submission</b>  | 4 <sup>th</sup> July    |
| <b>Reporting Period</b>    | June 2024               |

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

- 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 Pedit 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

***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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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***

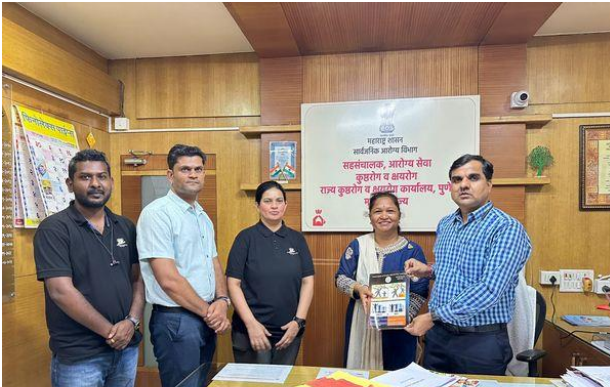
On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024, APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, alongside Dr. Sangli, and teams from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, recently had a significant meeting with the newly appointed State Leprosy Officer of Maharashtra. This gathering was marked 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.



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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.



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



**Mrs. Maya Ranavare**  
**President, APAL**