



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	4t February 2026
Reporting Period	January 2026

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

- APAL President Ms. Maya Ranavare participated in the National Symposium on “Involving Dermatologists as Key Stakeholders to Achieve the Goals of a Leprosy-Free India,
- APAL’s State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Balaji Sewarth Vinod Foundation and with the support of the Sahayog Leprosy Eradication Association, organized a Ration Kit Distribution and Dressing Support
- APAL State Committee, Maharashtra, conducted an official planning and coordination meeting with the Hon’ble District Collector, Kolhapur
- The APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh was represented by Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of APAL, at the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) Meeting
- Mr. Jitendiran, APAL’s State Coordinator and President of the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, met and received a goodwill gesture from Co-Director Dr. Rajratna Ratnamala Trimbak Waghmare.
- APAL’s State Committee members, Mr. Jawahara Paswan and Mr. Zainuddin, participated in the District Co-ordination Committee Meeting of SLAC and LCDC – Round 2, held under the esteemed chairmanship of the Honourable District Collector
- APAL’s State Committee, in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, conducted a program on the occasion of World Leprosy Day in front of the District Collector’s Office
- On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, APAL, in collaboration with D.Y. Patil College of Physiotherapy, organized a physiotherapy camp at Swadhar Nagar Colony, Kolhapur

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APAL President Ms. Maya Ranavare participated in the National Symposium on “Involving Dermatologists as Key Stakeholders to Achieve the Goals of a Leprosy-Free India,” held on 10–11 January 2026 at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Deonar, Mumbai.

During the symposium, she met Dr. Sunil Gite, DDG, and held discussions on strengthening collaboration and advancing rights-based and inclusive approaches for persons affected by leprosy.



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APAL’s State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Balaji Sewarth Vinod Foundation and with the support of the Sahayog Leprosy Eradication Association, organized a Ration Kit Distribution and Dressing Support Program for families affected by leprosy in Indore district. Under this initiative, ration kits were distributed to approximately 250 registered leprosy-affected families, providing much-needed relief and food security.

In addition to ration support, dressing kits and essential medical materials were supplied to the Dressing Center, along with necessary equipment for two dressing centers, to ensure continuous and proper treatment and care for patients.

The program was attended by the daughter of Shri Vinodji Agrawal along with her staff. Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, Secretary of APAL, and representatives of the Sahayog Leprosy Eradication Association—Mr. Raju Rathod, Ms. Sarita Dhundhle, Mr. Heera Bhandari, Mr. Gopal Shinde, and Mr. Rajaram Malviya—were also present. Members from various leprosy colonies and ashrams actively participated, making the program meaningful and impactful.



APAL State Committee, Maharashtra, conducted an official planning and coordination meeting with the Hon'ble District Collector, Kolhapur

On 19th January 2026, APAL, along with the APAL State Committee, Maharashtra, conducted an official planning and coordination meeting with the Hon'ble District Collector, Kolhapur, Shri Amol Yedge, at the District Collectorate, Kolhapur. The meeting was held in the context of the implementation of the SPARSH and KUSUM (Kushthamukt Surakshit Maharashtra) programmes under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP).

During the meeting, comprehensive information regarding the Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL) was presented, including its mandate, organizational structure, ongoing initiatives, and community-led interventions. The role of APAL in leprosy awareness, stigma reduction, early detection, treatment adherence, and social rehabilitation was explained in detail.

The discussion focused on planning coordinated activities, strengthening district-level convergence between the administration and community-based organizations, and enhancing effective implementation of the SPARSH and KUSUM programmes in Kolhapur district. The Hon'ble District Collector appreciated the efforts of APAL and emphasized the importance of collaborative action for achieving programme objectives



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The APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh was represented by Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of APAL, at the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) Meeting held on 22 January 2026 under the aegis of the State Health Department, Andhra Pradesh, in connection with the SPARSH Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC). The meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare, Shri Veerapandyan, and attended by the Director of Health Services, Dr. Padmavathi, the Additional Director (Leprosy – Andhra Pradesh), representatives of ILEP, and members of various voluntary organizations. On behalf of the APAL State Committee, Mr. Prakash presented the ground realities, challenges, and priority needs of persons affected by leprosy, emphasizing the importance of inclusive and rights-based approaches in programme planning and implementation.

During the meeting, APAL highlighted key concerns, including the need to move beyond treating persons affected by leprosy merely as beneficiaries, to actively involving them in decision-making processes, integrating lived experiences into SPARSH awareness activities to address stigma, ensuring strong government monitoring of private NGOs, and developing a clear, time-bound action plan for rehabilitation and livelihood support. The Hon'ble Commissioner and the Director of Health Services positively acknowledged these inputs and assured due consideration while strengthening SPARSH implementation. The meeting marked a significant step in amplifying the collective voice of persons affected by leprosy at the state level. It reaffirmed APAL's critical role in policy dialogue and programme execution



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Mr. Jitendiran, APAL's State Coordinator and President of the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, met and received a goodwill gesture from Co-Director Dr. Rajratna Ratnamala Trimbak Waghmare. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the status of leprosy in Maharashtra, with a focus on treatment, rehabilitation, and the social and economic empowerment of persons affected by leprosy. Special emphasis was given to removing misconceptions in society, ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment, and strengthening public awareness efforts.

The discussion also covered the programs planned for World Leprosy Day. Mr. Jitendiran highlighted that the objective of these initiatives is to create greater public awareness, strengthen coordination between government and voluntary organizations, and promote a positive message regarding the rights and dignity of persons affected by leprosy. Dr. Rajratna Ratnamala Trimbak Waghmare appreciated the efforts of the organization and shared information about government initiatives aimed at eradicating leprosy, while expressing commitment to future collaboration for more effective



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APAL's State Committee members, Mr. Jawahara Paswan and Mr. Zainuddin, participated in the District Co-ordination Committee Meeting of SLAC and LCDC – Round 2, held under the esteemed chairmanship of the Honourable District Collector (DC) at the DC Conference Hall on 27/01/2026. The meeting was conducted in the presence of key district-level leadership, including the President and Vice President of Jila Parishad, DDC Sir, CS Sir, ACOMO Sir, and senior officials from various departments. The session aimed at reviewing progress, strengthening coordination, and planning effective strategies for the implementation of SLAC and LCDC initiatives at the district level.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Health, Education, and Rural Development departments, including the DLO, DTO, DEO, DSE, DPRO, representatives from JSLPS, APAL, DPC, the District Epidemiologist, and all MO In-Charge (MO I/C) officers. During the discussions, APAL representatives actively contributed to deliberations related to programme implementation, inter-departmental coordination, and community-level impact. The participation of APAL's State Committee reinforced the organisation's commitment to collaborative governance and effective district-level action for inclusive and sustainable development.



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APAL's State Committee, in collaboration with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, conducted a program on the occasion of World Leprosy Day in front of the District Collector's Office. The program focused on the long-pending demand for the rehabilitation of residents of the Indiranagar Leprosy Colony and the protection of their fundamental

human rights. Participants highlighted the need to ensure dignity, equality, and inclusion for persons affected by leprosy in mainstream society.

During the program, representatives raised key issues related to social security, housing, healthcare facilities, and livelihood support for people affected by leprosy. They urged the district administration to take immediate and concrete steps to address these concerns and implement sustainable rehabilitation measures, emphasizing that leprosy-affected persons deserve a life of respect, safety, and equal opportunities.



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On the occasion of World Leprosy Day, APAL, in collaboration with D.Y. Patil College of Physiotherapy, organized a physiotherapy camp at Swadhar Nagar Colony, Kolhapur, intending to improve the physical well-being of persons affected by leprosy. Qualified physiotherapists and students provided basic assessments, mobility guidance, and physiotherapy support to help prevent disability and manage existing physical challenges.

Alongside the camp, an awareness session on self-care practices was conducted, with a special focus on ulcer prevention and ulcer care. Participants were educated on daily self-inspection, wound cleaning, protective measures, and the importance of regular care to avoid complications. The session encouraged individuals to take active responsibility for their health, promoting dignity, independence, and long-term well-being



Jawahar Ram Paswan
President APAL