



# SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

## Monthly Report

To

Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation

<b>Title of the Report</b>	Monthly Progress Report
<b>Name</b>	<b>Mrs. Maya Ranavare</b>
<b>Date of Submission</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>November 2025</b>

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

- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee in Maharashtra, along with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, jointly visited Sanjay Nagar Leprosy Colony
- APAL, along with Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, met Hon'ble Shri Ram Naik ji
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee, together with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, held a joint meeting and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar Office, Vasai
- Member of Parliament Mr. Naresh Maske Saheb visited the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony in Mulund, Mumbai, upon the invitation of APAL
- APAL President Ms. Maya Ranavare visited the Beauty Parlor Class under the CBVT Project at Richardson Regional Hospital, Miraj.
- APAL, in collaboration with Maharashtra Kushtpidit Sanghatana, met Member of Parliament Mr. Vishal Dada Patil from Sangli District
- APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidot Sanghatana, met today in Panvel, Mumbai
- APAL's President, Ms. Maya Ranavare, along with representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidot Sanghatana and team, met with Dr. Nipun Vinayak, Secretary, Government of Maharashtra (Policy), Health Department.
- APAL, along with APAL's State Committee Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, actively participated in a significant meeting held on 14th November with Dr. Kadambari, Managing Director and Commissioner at Arogya Bhavan, Mumbai
- APAL's State Committee in Delhi, along with the leaders of the leprosy colonies, met and submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble MLA Shri Veer Singh Dhingani ji.

### **The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee in Maharashtra, along with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, jointly visited Sanjay Nagar Leprosy Colony**

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee in Maharashtra, along with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, jointly visited Sanjay Nagar Leprosy Colony to interact with the residents and understand their ongoing needs and challenges. The visit aimed to strengthen coordination among the organizations working for the welfare of persons affected by leprosy and to discuss collective strategies for their empowerment. During the visit, the team met with the community members to review the current status of the colony and identify areas that need immediate attention and support.

A key part of the discussion focused on the registration of the local society to ensure proper recognition and access to government schemes and welfare benefits. The team also emphasized the importance of education for the children of the leprosy-affected families, highlighting it as a powerful tool to break the cycle of stigma and poverty. Plans were discussed to explore educational support programs and linkages with mainstream schools to provide equal learning opportunities. The visit reflected APAL's ongoing commitment to fostering dignity, inclusion, and sustainable development for all persons affected by leprosy in Maharashtra.



### **APAL, along with Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, met Hon'ble Shri Ram Naik ji**

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025, APAL, along with Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, met Hon'ble Shri Ram Naik ji today to discuss ongoing initiatives and plans for the welfare of persons affected by leprosy.

During the meeting, APAL representatives had the honour of interacting with Shri Ram Naik ji, who graciously shared his valuable guidance on strengthening our efforts at both the state and national levels.

APAL also had a meaningful personal conversation with Shri Ram Naik ji, during which he shared his rich experiences and thoughtful insights. His words of encouragement will

greatly inspire and guide us as we continue our mission to improve the lives and dignity of persons affected by leprosy across India.



**The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee, together with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, held a joint meeting and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar Office, Vasai**

The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and its State Committee, together with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, held a joint meeting and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar Office, Vasai. The purpose of the meeting was to bring attention to the issues faced by people affected by leprosy living in Vasai leprosy colonies, particularly those related to housing, welfare schemes, and access to government benefits. The representatives discussed the difficulties faced by the residents and urged the authorities to take necessary action to resolve their long-pending problems.

This joint effort reflects the commitment of APAL and the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana to continue advocating for the rights and dignity of people affected by leprosy. The meeting also served as an opportunity to strengthen coordination with local government officials to ensure that welfare schemes and rehabilitation programs reach the deserving beneficiaries. Both organizations expressed hope that the authorities would take positive steps toward improving the living conditions and social inclusion of the leprosy-affected community in Vasai.



**Member of Parliament Mr. Naresh Maske Saheb visited the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony in Mulund, Mumbai, upon the invitation of APAL**

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025, Member of Parliament Mr. Naresh Maske Saheb visited the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony in Mulund, Mumbai, upon the invitation of APAL (Association of

People Affected by Leprosy). His visit brought great encouragement and hope to the residents of the colony, as it reflected his genuine concern for the welfare and dignity of persons affected by leprosy.

During his visit, Mr. Maske interacted closely with the colony residents, listening to their challenges, needs, and aspirations. He also held a detailed discussion with APAL representatives about the organization's ongoing efforts to improve the living conditions, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities for persons affected by leprosy and their families. The conversation focused on how government schemes and welfare programs could be made more accessible and effectively implemented for those residing in leprosy colonies.

Mr. Maske assured his full support in raising the issues of persons affected by leprosy at appropriate government platforms and promised to work toward ensuring their social and economic inclusion. His visit was a significant moment of solidarity and recognition, reinforcing APAL's mission to advocate for the rights and dignity of every individual affected by leprosy across India.



### **APAL President Ms. Maya Ranavare visited the Beauty Parlor Class under the CBVT Project at Richardson Regional Hospital, Miraj.**

On 12th November 2025, APAL President Ms. Maya Ranavare visited the Beauty Parlor Class under the CBVT Project at Richardson Regional Hospital, Miraj. During the visit, Ms. Soni Gaikwad (CDO) provided complete information about the CBVT project and later guided the President through the training center. She also explained the details of the Mobile Repairing Course being conducted as part of the project.

After the briefing, Ms. Ranavare visited the Beauty Parlor Training Class, where Ms. Soni warmly welcomed her and invited her to motivate the students. Ms. Ranavare introduced herself and delivered an encouraging talk, inspiring the trainees to work with dedication and confidence. She interacted with all the students, shared words of motivation, and appreciated their efforts to learn new skills for self-reliance. Her visit brought enthusiasm and encouragement among the participants, wishing them all good luck for their future endeavors.



**APAL, in collaboration with Maharashtra Kushtpidit Sanghatna, met Member of Parliament Mr. Vishal Dada Patil from Sangli District**

On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, APAL, in collaboration with Maharashtra Kushtpidit Sanghatna, met Member of Parliament Mr. Vishal Dada Patil from Sangli District, Maharashtra, to submit a memorandum regarding the urgent housing needs of persons affected by leprosy residing in Indiranagar Kusht Basti, Miraj. The delegation highlighted that due to the demolition of their earlier shelters near the railway area, many families have been left without homes for several months. Despite repeated appeals to the municipal authorities for rehabilitation, no permanent housing solution has been provided, causing immense hardship to the affected families.

During the meeting, APAL and the Maharashtra Kushtpidit Sanghatna emphasized the need for the government to allocate housing under the Awas Yojana and ensure the inclusion of leprosy-affected persons in mainstream development programs. They requested the honorable MP to take up the matter with the concerned authorities and facilitate early approval of housing plots for the displaced families. Mr. Vishal Patil gave a positive response and assured that he would raise this issue at the appropriate level to ensure justice and rehabilitation for the affected community.



**APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, met today in Panvel, Mumbai**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, met today in Panvel, Mumbai, to discuss important matters concerning the recent government notification on leprosy. During the meeting, Advocate Manoj Bhujbal Saheb, who serves as an advisor to the Maharashtra organization, also participated and provided valuable legal insights.

The discussion focused on the government order that has been recently issued, with particular emphasis on understanding its legal implications and determining the appropriate steps to be taken. Ms. Maya Ranavare, as a woman affected by leprosy and the

President of APAL, expressed several concerns and sought clarification on specific points within the notification.

She raised key questions and observations regarding the leprosy notification. One of the main issues discussed was the referral process, where patients examined by private doctors are referred to government hospitals; however, the procedures for referral and reporting remain unclear. Another concern was about unreported cases, as some patients receive treatment privately without informing authorities, resulting in underreporting and gaps in official data.

Further, there was a discussion on the role of private doctors, as it is uncertain whether they are permitted to prescribe or provide leprosy medicines. Ms. Ranavare also highlighted that notifications from public hospitals are inconsistent and require stronger coordination. Additionally, the lack of a standard operating procedure (SOP) or a sample format for reporting notified leprosy cases was noted as a major issue. The meeting also emphasized the importance of protecting patient rights and human rights, which are currently not being effectively communicated or safeguarded. Lastly, the government instructions in the notification were found to be unclear, creating confusion among organizations and health workers. Ms. Ranavare stressed the need for better clarification and coordination between government authorities and organizations working for persons affected by leprosy.



**APAL's President, Ms. Maya Ranavare, along with representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and team, met on 13th November 2025 with Dr. Nipun Vinayak, Secretary, Government of Maharashtra (Policy), Health Department.**

APAL's President, Ms. Maya Ranavare, along with representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana and team, met on 13th November 2025 with Dr. Nipun Vinayak, Secretary, Government of Maharashtra (Policy), Health Department. Dr. Vinayak attended the meeting as the Chief Guest. During this meeting, the APAL delegation formally submitted a detailed report outlining major concerns regarding the current leprosy notification process in the state.

In the discussion, APAL highlighted that the referral system—under which private doctors are expected to send suspected leprosy patients to government hospitals—remains unclear and poorly communicated. This lack of clarity has resulted in confusion at the field level,

with many patients turning to private treatment without informing authorities. As a result, numerous cases remain unreported, leading to gaps in official government records.

The delegation also pointed out that there are no clear guidelines on whether private medical practitioners are permitted to prescribe or dispense leprosy medications. This ambiguity creates significant challenges for both doctors and patients. Moreover, government hospitals are currently following inconsistent reporting practices, as there is no standardized operating procedure (SOP) or uniform format available for documenting and notifying leprosy cases.

Another major issue raised was the inadequate communication of patient rights. Many individuals affected by leprosy are not properly informed about their entitlements, and certain government directives are vague, leading to practical difficulties for health workers, frontline staff, and organizations working closely with affected communities.

APAL urged the government to address these issues by issuing clear and comprehensive guidelines, developing a unified and transparent notification system, and establishing standard SOPs and reporting formats. The organization emphasized the need for a patient-centered approach that ensures dignity, proper communication, and effective implementation at all levels.

The meeting concluded with a positive response from Dr. Vinayak, who acknowledged the concerns and assured that the Health Department would review the matter and take necessary steps to improve the existing system.



**APAL, along with APAL's State Committee Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, actively participated in a significant meeting held on 14th November with Dr. Kadambari, Managing Director and Commissioner at Arogya Bhavan, Mumbai**

APAL, along with APAL's State Committee Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, actively participated in a significant meeting held on 14th November with Dr. Kadambari, Managing Director and Commissioner at Arogya Bhavan, Mumbai. The delegation discussed key issues concerning the welfare and rights of persons affected by leprosy across Maharashtra. The meeting created an important platform for APAL and the State Committee to voice the needs of the community and highlight ongoing challenges related to healthcare access, rehabilitation, and social protection.

During the discussion, special focus was given to the LCDC Program, its policies, and the functioning of the Coordination Committee. APAL emphasized the necessity of

strengthening program implementation at the grassroots level and ensuring that benefits reach all leprosy-affected individuals without delay. The Commissioner responded positively and appreciated APAL's continuous efforts in Maharashtra. The meeting ended with a shared commitment to work collaboratively toward improved health services, social inclusion, and dignified living conditions for persons affected by leprosy in the state.



**APAL's State Committee in Delhi, along with the leaders of the leprosy colonies, met and submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble MLA Shri Veer Singh Dhingan ji.**

On 17th November 2025, APAL's State Committee in Delhi, along with the leaders of the leprosy colonies, met and submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble MLA Shri Veer Singh Dhingan ji. He kindly assured us that he would fulfill three important demands related to social welfare: Providing drinking water facilities, Construction of a community hall, and Increasing the pension for brothers and sisters affected by leprosy.

During this meeting, all our respected members were present, including: Shri Pradhan Girdhari Lal, Up-Pradhan Gopinath, Shri Arjun Ram (Secretary), Up-Secretary Venudhar Sahu, Treasurer Smt. Maya, Eklakh, Gopal, Mohd. Layak, Bipin, Dayaram, Yunus ji, P.T. Mani, and other members. Two members from Manav Seva Samiti also participated.

**Apal India** extends our sincere thanks to all the participants for their support and solidarity.



Maya Ranavare  
President APAL