

SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Monthly Report

To

Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation

Title of the Report	Monthly Progress Report
Name	Mr. Jawahar Paswan
Date of Submission	4 th September 2026
Reporting Period	August 2026

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

- Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with Mahila Commandos, Chhattisgarh, successfully organized a Medical Certificate & UDID (Unique Disability ID) Card Camp
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Medical Department, Government of Odisha, successfully organized a self-care support programme for persons affected by leprosy in Khurda district, Odisha.
- APAL Executive Member Mr. Govind Swamy visited Hind Kusht Ashram and interacted with persons affected by leprosy and their families. During the visit, he met with community members, listened to their concerns, and discussed their needs and challenges
- APAL representatives participated in the APAL Representatives' Workshop on Prevention of Leprosy, held at Hotel Southgate, New Delhi, in collaboration with the NLR India Foundation (NLRIF).
- APAL State Committee in Jharkhand, in collaboration with Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) and Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi, facilitated a study visit to Navjeevan Ashram, Jamshedpur. Prof. Niranjana, along with 10 MBA students from XISS, visited the Ashram to understand the living conditions, challenges, and development initiatives for people affected by leprosy
- APAL President Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan participated in a visit organized under the leadership of Prof. Niranjana Ji of the Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi. A team of 10 MBA students, associated with the TSF team, visited Navjeevan Ashram
- APAL Executive Member Mr. Ramesh Maniyada participated in a state-level meeting with national and state leaders of persons with disabilities, held at Dilsukhnagar under the leadership and chairmanship of Mr. M. Srinivas of JABAB Channel (NPDO).
- With the support of the APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh (SLAP-AP), Chaitanya Kalabharathi, Nandyal, provided bicycles to 10 students from the Gannavaram Leprosy Colony to help them travel to and from school more easily.

- “Encouraging the Participation of People Affected by Leprosy in State and District-Level Forums” was organised under the auspices and support of LEPRO Society at the LEPRO State Office, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- “APAL Delegation Meets Dr. K. Padmavathi, Director of Public Health & Family Welfare, Andhra Pradesh, and Submits Memorandum Seeking Urgent Action on the Issues of Persons Affected by Leprosy and Their Families.”

APAL Treasurer Ms. Kerolin Bhengra, along with the Mahila Commandos, visited the District Jail, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh.

- During the visit, Ms. Kerolin Bhengra interacted with the inmates and shared moments of care, respect and togetherness. On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, she tied Rakhi to the inmates, celebrating

Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with Mahila Commandos, Chhattisgarh, successfully organized a Medical Certificate & UDID (Unique Disability ID) Card Camp

Empowering Lives Through Access to Rights!

On 2 August 2026, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with Mahila Commandos, Chhattisgarh, successfully organized a Medical Certificate & UDID (Unique Disability ID) Card Camp at The Leprosy Mission (TLM) Community Hall, Ghoghranala Leprosy Colony (Wards 12, 13 & 14), Janjgir, Chhattisgarh.

With the dedicated support of the District Hospital Janjgir Medical Team, a total of 170 persons affected by leprosy completed their applications and medical examinations for Disability Certificates and UDID Cards.

The beneficiaries will receive their certificates and UDID Cards soon, enabling them to access government disability pensions, healthcare services, social security schemes, and other social entitlements.

APAL sincerely thanks Mahila Commandos, Chhattisgarh, The Leprosy Mission (TLM), the District Hospital Janjgir Medical Team, and all volunteers for their excellent support and commitment.

Special appreciation goes to Ms. Kerolin Bhengra, Treasurer of APAL, for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and active contribution in mobilizing the community and ensuring the successful organization of this important camp.

Together, we continue working towards dignity, inclusion, equal opportunities, and the rights of persons affected by leprosy.



Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Medical Department, Government of Odisha, successfully organized a self-care support programme for persons affected by leprosy in Khurda district, Odisha.

APAL Strengthens Self-Care Support for Persons Affected by Leprosy in Odisha

On 5th August 2026, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with the Medical Department, Government of Odisha, successfully organized a self-care support programme for persons affected by leprosy in Khurda district, Odisha. The initiative was conducted at Santidan Colony and Bhagabat Colony, with the objective of promoting self-care practices, preventing disability, and improving the health and well-being of people affected by leprosy.

As part of the programme, 20 persons affected by leprosy received essential self-care kits, soaking tubs, water jugs, towels, and MCR footwear. These materials play a vital role in the daily care of insensitive hands and feet, helping to prevent ulcers, infections, and further disability. The programme also emphasized the importance of regular self-care and early management of wounds to enable persons affected by leprosy to lead healthier and more independent lives.

The success of this initiative was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Ms. Jayanti, a committed member of APAL's Odisha State Committee. Her tireless coordination with the Medical Department, community mobilization, and active leadership ensured that the programme reached those who needed it most. Her commitment reflects APAL's vision of empowering persons affected by leprosy to become leaders and advocates within their own communities.

APAL extends its sincere gratitude to the Government of Odisha, especially the Medical Department, for their valuable collaboration and continued commitment to improving the lives of persons affected by leprosy. APAL also expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Jayanti for her outstanding contribution, dedication, and active service to the leprosy community in Odisha. Such collaborative efforts demonstrate the importance of partnerships between government health services and community-based organizations in promoting dignity, inclusion, and sustainable rehabilitation for persons affected by leprosy.



APAL Executive Member Mr. Govind Swamy visited Hind Kusht Ashram and interacted with persons affected by leprosy and their families. During the visit, he met with community members, listened to their concerns, and discussed their needs and challenges

On 11th August 2026, APAL Executive Member Mr. Govind Swamy visited Hind Kusht Ashram and interacted with persons affected by leprosy and their families. During the visit, he met with community members, listened to their concerns, and discussed their needs and challenges. The interaction provided an opportunity to understand the situation of the residents and strengthen communication between APAL and the leprosy-affected community.

The visit reflects APAL's continued commitment to community engagement, empowerment, dignity, and social support for persons affected by leprosy. Mr. Govind Swamy encouraged the community members to remain connected with APAL and actively participate in initiatives aimed at improving their welfare and access to essential support and services.



APAL representatives participated in the APAL Representatives' Workshop on Prevention of Leprosy, held at Hotel Southgate, New Delhi, in collaboration with the NLR India Foundation (NLRIF).

APAL Representatives' Workshop on Prevention of Leprosy – 11 August 2026

On 11 August 2026, APAL representatives participated in the APAL Representatives' Workshop on Prevention of Leprosy, held at Hotel Southgate, New Delhi, in collaboration with the NLR India Foundation (NLRIF). The main objective of the workshop was to understand opportunities for leprosy prevention and identify how APAL can contribute more effectively to prevention activities.

The workshop began with an introduction by Dr. Pravin Kumar, Head of Programme, NLR India Foundation, followed by a presentation on the work of NLRIF by Dr. Ashok Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer, NLRIF. The participants discussed the importance and process of leprosy prevention and the need for APAL's involvement. An advocacy skills session was also conducted by Ms. Sanjeeta Gawri, Global Lead, Policy Engagement, NLR.

Dr. Pravin Kumar explained the different stages of leprosy and discussed its causes, consequences, treatment, possible deformities and disabilities, and the importance of regular self-care. He also explained Single-Dose Rifampicin (SDR) and PEP++ as preventive approaches. He emphasized the important role of APAL representatives in spreading these messages throughout society through different communication methods, awareness activities, community meetings, advocacy and other suitable channels. The aim is to encourage people to recognize leprosy at an early stage, seek timely treatment, prevent complications and promote greater awareness about leprosy prevention.

A major part of the workshop was the group work on APAL's role in the prevention of leprosy. The discussions focused on three important areas: early detection, early and complete treatment, and early administration of preventive medicine. APAL representatives worked in groups to identify their specific roles, how these activities could be carried out at the community level, and what support would be required from government departments, health professionals, NLRIF and other stakeholders.

The group discussions provided an opportunity for APAL State Coordinators and representatives to share their community experiences and develop practical approaches for strengthening prevention. The participants emphasized the importance of active community involvement, awareness, early identification of suspected cases, encouraging people to complete treatment, and supporting the timely administration of preventive medicine. Following the group work, each group presented its recommendations, followed by Q&A, discussion and conclusion, moderated by Dr. Ashok Agarwal and Dr. Pradeepta Kumar Nayak. The workshop concluded with a discussion on next steps and future actions, followed by a vote of thanks.

Lastly, Mr. Pradeepto Naik explained the role and importance of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in addressing human rights-related issues faced by people affected by leprosy. He explained the need to raise and address such issues appropriately and taught the participants about identifying and documenting issues, raising concerns with the concerned authorities, and the methods and procedures for submitting complaints to the NHRC. He encouraged APAL representatives to use appropriate advocacy and complaint mechanisms to address discrimination, denial of rights and other challenges faced by people affected by leprosy.

Overall, the workshop was an important platform for APAL representatives to strengthen their understanding of leprosy prevention, early detection, complete treatment, preventive

medicine, self-care, advocacy and human rights. It also gave APAL representatives a chance to strengthen their collective role in raising awareness, supporting affected communities, and working with relevant stakeholders to prevent and protect the rights and dignity of people affected by leprosy.



APAL State Committee in Jharkhand, in collaboration with Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) and Xavier Institute of Social Service (XIIS), Ranchi, facilitated a study visit to Navjeevan Ashram, Jamshedpur. Prof. Niranjana, along with 10 MBA students from XIIS, visited the Ashram to understand the living conditions, challenges, and development initiatives for people affected by leprosy

On 21st August 2026, the APAL State Committee in Jharkhand, in collaboration with Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) and Xavier Institute of Social Service (XIIS), Ranchi, facilitated a study visit to Navjeevan Ashram, Jamshedpur. Prof. Niranjana, along with 10 MBA students from XIIS, visited the Ashram to understand the living conditions, challenges, and development initiatives for people affected by leprosy. Mr. Jainuddin, APAL State Coordinator in Jharkhand, along with his colleagues, warmly welcomed Prof. Niranjana, the MBA students, and representatives of TSF and shared information about Navjeevan Ashram and the community.

During the visit, the students were introduced to the children studying at the school supported by Tata Steel Foundation. They also visited different parts of the colony and interacted with people affected by leprosy to learn about their lives, experiences, and needs. Prof. Niranjana was highly impressed by the development of Navjeevan Ashram and appreciated the efforts being made for the welfare, dignity, and empowerment of people affected by leprosy. The visit provided the XIIS MBA students with valuable firsthand exposure to community-based development and social inclusion.



APAL President Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan participated in a visit organized under the leadership of Prof. Niranjana Ji of the Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi. A team of 10 MBA students, associated with the TSF team, visited Navjeevan Ashram

On 21 August 2026, APAL President Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan participated in a visit organized under the leadership of Prof. Niranjana Ji of the Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi. A team of 10 MBA students, associated with the TSF team, visited Navjeevan Ashram, Antyodaya Ashram and other institutions where various social initiatives are being carried out successfully. These initiatives include education promotion, de-addiction awareness, prevention of child labour and child marriage, adult education, and prevention of domestic violence. Through regular campaigns and community engagement, the team is making significant efforts towards building a healthy, educated and ideal society.

As part of the visit to Antyodaya Ashram, Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, President of APAL, shared detailed information with the XISS team about the positive changes taking place in the ashrams through the TSF programmes. He also explained issues related to leprosy, its treatment, prevention and the challenges faced by people affected by leprosy, and answered the questions raised by the students. He appreciated the efforts of the TSF team and the institutions working for social development and community welfare.

The visit also provided an opportunity for local stakeholders to share their experiences. The Headmistress of the government school and the Anganwadi worker expressed their views and highlighted the importance of education, awareness and community-based initiatives. Periodic visits by police and administration officials and officers from the District Legal Services Authority also help review and strengthen these programmes. APAL appreciates the efforts of XISS, TSF and all participating institutions in promoting education, social awareness, dignity and an inclusive society.



APAL Executive Member Mr. Ramesh Maniyada participated in a state-level meeting with national and state leaders of persons with disabilities, held at Dilsukhnagar under the leadership and chairmanship of Mr. M. Srinivas of JABAB Channel (NPDO).

On Saturday, 22 August 2026, APAL Executive Member Mr. Ramesh Maniyada participated in a state-level meeting with national and state leaders of persons with disabilities, held at Dilsukhnagar under the leadership and chairmanship of Mr. M. Srinivas of JABAB Channel (NPDO).

The meeting was attended by Hon'ble MLA Shri Sudheer Reddy as the Chief Guest and Hon'ble High Court Advocate Shri Rapolu Bhaskar Rao. The discussions focused on the six guarantees promised in the Congress Manifesto, as well as the effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. Disability leaders shared their concerns, suggestions and recommendations regarding various issues affecting persons with disabilities and advocated for stronger protection of their rights and welfare.

During the meeting, the Hon'ble MLA assured the participants that the issues and concerns raised by persons with disabilities would be discussed in the State Legislative Assembly. Advocate Shri Rapolu Bhaskar Rao also assured the gathering that he would provide free legal advice and guidance to persons with disabilities regarding their rights and legal matters. Mr. Ramesh Maniyada actively participated in the discussions and represented the concerns and rights of people affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities.



With the support of the APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh (SLAP-AP), Chaitanya Kalabharathi, Nandyal, provided bicycles to 10 students from the Gannavaram Leprosy Colony to help them travel to and from school more easily.

On 23rd August 2026, With the support of the APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh (SLAP-AP), Chaitanya Kalabharathi, Nandyal, provided bicycles to 10 students from the Gannavaram Leprosy Colony to help them travel to and from school more easily.

This initiative is a meaningful step towards supporting the education of children from families affected by leprosy. The bicycles will help reduce the difficulties of daily travel, encourage regular school attendance, and provide students with greater independence and confidence in pursuing their education.

APAL–SLAP-AP sincerely appreciates Chaitanya Kalabharathi, Nandyal, for extending this valuable support. This small but thoughtful contribution can make a lasting difference in the students' educational journey and help them move towards a brighter and more hopeful future.



“Encouraging the Participation of People Affected by Leprosy in State and District-Level Forums” was organised under the auspices and support of LEpra Society at the LEpra State Office, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Encouraging the Participation of People Affected by Leprosy in State and District-Level Forums

On 24 August 2026, a programme on “Encouraging the Participation of People Affected by Leprosy in State and District-Level Forums” was organised under the auspices and support of LEpra Society at the LEpra State Office, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The programme focused on strengthening the participation and leadership of people affected by leprosy in State- and District-level forums and enabling them to effectively raise community concerns and advocate for their rights.

Representing APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), Mr. Prakash Done, APAL Secretary, participated in the programme and conducted an awareness and training session for General Committee members and leaders of people affected by leprosy from East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and NTR districts. The session was designed to enhance their knowledge of legal rights, government welfare programmes, social security measures and available support services.

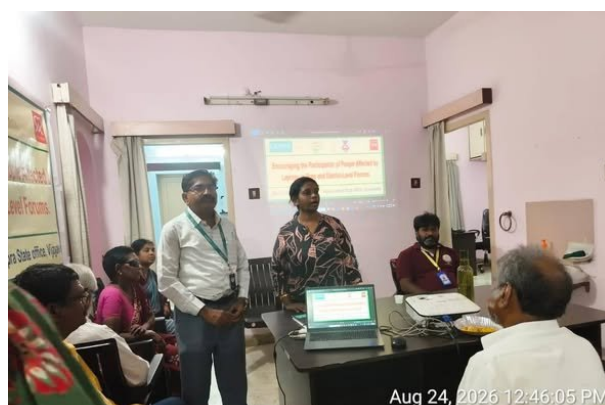
For approximately one and a half hours, Mr. Prakash Done provided a comprehensive orientation on leprosy, the rights of people affected by leprosy, government welfare schemes and social security entitlements. Particular emphasis was placed on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, including provisions relevant to people affected by leprosy, legal protections, safeguards against discrimination, and ways in which individuals can understand and exercise their rights.

The session also covered government pensions and other social security schemes available to eligible persons affected by leprosy. Participants were informed about eligibility requirements, the process of accessing benefits, and the steps they can take when eligible persons are unable to receive their entitled pensions or welfare benefits. They were encouraged to approach the appropriate government departments and officials and follow up systematically to secure their legitimate entitlements.

Special attention was given to the importance of the UDID (Unique Disability ID) Card for persons with disabilities due to leprosy. The participants were explained the need for a UDID Card, its benefits, and its usefulness in accessing various government schemes, disability-related services, social security benefits and legal entitlements.

The General Committee members and leaders were encouraged to take the knowledge gained during the session back to their respective districts and share it with other people affected by leprosy. They were urged to play an active leadership role in helping community members access government schemes, pensions, UDID Cards, disability rights and other legal and social security benefits.

The awareness and training session conducted by APAL through its Secretary, Mr. Prakash Done, was an important step towards strengthening community leadership, increasing awareness of rights and entitlements, and promoting the meaningful participation of people affected by leprosy in State- and District-level forums. The programme reaffirmed the importance of empowering people affected by leprosy to speak for themselves, participate in decision-making processes and work collectively towards dignity, equality, inclusion and access to their rightful benefits.



“APAL Delegation Meets Dr. K. Padmavathi, Director of Public Health & Family Welfare, Andhra Pradesh, and Submits Memorandum Seeking Urgent Action on the Issues of Persons Affected by Leprosy and Their Families.”

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The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL)–India, led by General Secretary Mr. Prakash Done, along with the APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh and senior APAL representatives from different states, met Dr. K. Padmavathi, Director of Public Health & Family Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and submitted a detailed memorandum seeking her kind and urgent intervention to address the long-standing health, social security, livelihood and educational issues faced by persons affected by leprosy (PALs), their families and children across Andhra Pradesh.

The delegation explained that, although leprosy is curable, many persons affected by leprosy continue to experience disabilities, loss of sensation, ulcers, mobility difficulties, poverty, stigma and social exclusion. APAL requested Dr. K. Padmavathi to take appropriate action to strengthen healthcare, ulcer care, MCR protective footwear, disability certification and UDID services, alternative biometric authentication, social-security access, livelihood opportunities, educational support and the overall development of leprosy colonies.

The delegation asked the Director to convene a State-level review meeting with APAL and representatives of persons affected by leprosy, so we can discuss these issues with the concerned departments and develop practical solutions. APAL is willing to work closely with the Government of Andhra Pradesh as a community representative organisation to ensure that persons affected by leprosy receive healthcare, dignity, equality, social security, education, and livelihood opportunities without discrimination. The Directorate's mandate includes public-health services, communicable-disease control and implementation of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme.



APAL Treasurer Ms. Kerolin Bhengra, along with the Mahila Commandos, visited the District Jail, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh.

Raksha Bandhan with a Message of Humanity at District Jail, Janjgir-Champa

On 28th August 2026, APAL Treasurer Ms. Kerolin Bhengra, along with the Mahila Commandos, visited the District Jail, Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh.

During the visit, Ms. Kerolin Bhengra interacted with the inmates and shared moments of care, respect and togetherness. On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, she tied Rakhi to the inmates, celebrating the festival as a symbol of love, respect, protection and human connection.

The visit also included a meaningful plantation activity, where Ms. Kerolin Bhengra and the participants jointly planted a sapling. 🌱 This small but important initiative symbolised hope, growth and a greener future, while encouraging collective responsibility towards the environment.

The programme was a beautiful example of how compassion, inclusion and humanity can bring people together beyond social barriers. APAL is committed to promoting dignity, equality, social inclusion and meaningful community participation.

A heartfelt appreciation to the Mahila Commandos and everyone who supported this meaningful initiative. Together, let us continue to spread love, hope, dignity and humanity.



Happy Raksha Bandhan!



Jawahar Ram Paswan
President APAL