



HIGHLIGHTS

2024/2025



END LEPROSY,
END SUFFERING

FOREWORD



Dear Well-wishers,

It is with deep gratitude and immense pride, NLR India presents the highlights of its work during the year April 2024 – March 2025.

The year provided us the opportunity of not only strengthening our support for the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) through different innovations, pilots and technical assistance in implementing the National Strategic Plan (NSP) but also add credentials to our organization.

NLR India Foundation has also been able to serve in two additional states Assam and Madhya Pradesh for strengthening coverage of Leprosy Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (LPEP). NLR India Foundation has been recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India (GOI). We are also proud to state our collaboration with the Delhi University and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

It is a pleasure to release this report on the occasion of our 26th Foundation Day.

This milestone is not just a celebration of time, but a testament to the tireless efforts of every individual and organisation that has stood by our side in this journey.

The path we have travelled has been marked by challenges, but also by profound moments of hope and change.

We believe, time has come for going all out to eliminate leprosy and mitigate its suffering. NLR India Foundation will continue to work towards the goal.

We firmly believe, no person affected by leprosy should ever feel abandoned or alone.

Thanks to the unwavering support from government, different development partners, our donors, volunteers, and communities which has enabled us to make some contribution for the cause of leprosy. We also thank the media for covering articles on leprosy and disabilities.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the role played by my NLR India Foundation team and my co-board members.

Warm regards,

Nirmala Gupta
Chairperson, Board, NLR India Foundation

PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS

NLR India Foundation continued its regular support to the implementation of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) in six states namely Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in close co-ordination and guidance of the Central Leprosy Division (CLD) and the State Leprosy Offices through development and implementation of the state strategic plans.

Some key contributions have been described below.

OPERATIONS STARTED IN TWO NEW STATES

NLR India has done pioneering work in field of prevention of leprosy. It conducted a study on feasibility of preventive therapy with Single Dose of Rifampicin (SDR) at Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Based on its findings, the Government of India launched it as a component of NLEP in year 2018. The programme is being implemented in varying degrees across the country. NLR India in its endeavor to support in improving the SDR coverage, has chosen two additional states- Madhya Pradesh (MP) & Assam. In these states, NLR is supporting the government in strengthening the activities related to SDR administration by building capacity of health staff, data analysis and other technical assistance. Multiple meetings with State & District Leprosy Officers of these two states have been conducted. A very encouraging result has been witnessed in MP, wherein the number of districts implementing SDR increased from 36 to 47 (out of 51) within six months.

PEP APP RCT COMPLETION

To improve the Single Dose Rifampicin Post Exposure Prophylaxis (SDR-PEP) delivery system for leprosy contacts particularly its quality, NLR India Foundation developed a mobile application to streamline contact screening, data recording, reporting, and stock management. A cluster-randomized controlled trial (c-RCT) was conducted in West Bengal (16 Oct 2023 to 15 Oct 2024), followed by a post-intervention study (Nov 2024–Jan 2025) assessing the App's effectiveness in intervention clusters versus paper-based methods in control clusters. Data from 320 index cases and 11,138 contacts were analyzed. The App ensured quality implementation of LPEP, proper consenting, screening, evidence-based supervised drug administration, easy referral and follow-up, error free data collection, faster reporting, and improved data security in App-using blocks. Although the App initially took more time per contact, but it is more cost-effective and reduced manual workload. Qualitative feedback highlighted benefits such as minimized errors, paperless reporting, Rifampicin dosage guidance, and easier follow-ups. Stakeholders recognized the App's potential to improve programme quality and trust in healthcare delivery. While differences in implementation remain, the App shows strong promise for enhancing LPEP efficiency and supporting leprosy elimination in India.

PEP ++ FOLLOW UP STARTED

The PEP++ study is a cluster-randomized controlled trial assessing an enhanced post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) regimen to prevent leprosy among close contacts of confirmed cases. While the current single-dose rifampicin (SDR-PEP) offers ~60% protection overall, it is only 24% effective for household and blood-related contacts. To address this gap, PEP++ introduces a more robust regimen—three 4-weekly doses of rifampicin and clarithromycin—expected to provide up to 90% protection.



ASHA worker using PEP app



PEP ++ follow up

The study is being conducted in Bangladesh, Brazil, India and Nepal. In India the study is being implemented in Chandauli and Fatehpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. By May 2024, drug administration was completed in 60,570 close contacts of 3,748 index cases. It was followed by blanket administration of SDR. Clusters were identified using GIS mapping, focusing on areas with at least three leprosy cases within 300 meters. A total of 92,905 blanket contacts were administered SDR. Follow-up for detection of breakthrough cases amongst contacts i.e. contacts who have broken through the protection provided by the preventive therapy namely PEP++ (intervention arm) or SDR (control arm), has begun in January 2025. Diagnostic confirmation of breakthrough cases is being conducted through qPCR ensuring unbiased results, rifampicin resistance is also being tested amongst the breakthrough cases. Findings of the study are expected by the end of 2026.

LAUNCH OF STUDY TO MAKE THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS MORE COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS THE LEPROSY AFFECTED

Compassion is essential in healthcare, enhancing social connections and improving care quality and patient outcomes. Compassion-based programmes like Compassion-Based Cognitive Training (CBCT) promote empathy, mindfulness, and emotional wellbeing. Studies show such training increases self-compassion, happiness, and reduces stress. For health care providers, it strengthens job satisfaction, social bonds, and lowers burnout. We are conducting a study in Bokaro, Jharkhand to know the extent compassion training that specifically addresses stigma, improves compassion and quality of care offered by health care providers to persons affected by leprosy and other stigmatizing health conditions.

This before-after mixed-methods study follows three phases: Exploration, Intervention, and Implementation. In the Exploration phase, patients, families, and health care providers shared perspectives on compassion through focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Data collection included 68 quantitative and 61 qualitative interviews, along with one FGD. Analysis was completed in August



Counselling provided by NLR
India colleague



Self Care camp

2024, informing training module revisions. The Intervention phase developed three modules—Facilitator’s Guide, Medical Officers’ and Paramedical Workers’ Self-Help Guides. They were piloted in December 2024 and currently being translated into Hindi. The Implementation phase involves training 80 doctors and paramedical staff at PHCs, assessing effectiveness, and making the module available online. The first training of doctors ended in March 2025 for around 20 participants. The program is set to foster a compassionate healthcare environment, with follow-up and evaluation ensuring long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

LOCAL FORUM

NLR India has been working on an innovation that promises inclusive development, self-help, self-reliance, sustainability. As a part of its social mobilization, institution building and community engagement strategy, NLR India has been forming local forums. The people affected by leprosy and disabilities, government officials, Panchayati Raj representatives, and other local leaders are forming their local forums for discussing the local issues and solutions, reviewing the affected persons’ development and access to social welfare services, and doing joint plans. In 2024, NLR India has facilitated the local development actors to form 38 local forums in six states. They are gradually changing the scenario by raising their awareness, planning actions, taking efforts, monitoring and review of the progress. A structured and new mechanism is evolving in the direction of inclusive development.



Persons affected by leprosy at a colony in Varanasi



Training of selfcare in Aurangabad, Bihar

RIFAMPICIN STOCK MANAGEMENT TOOL

The Rifampicin Stock Management Tool is an Excel based application designed to manage and track the stock of rifampicin at block, district and state levels. It facilitates easy monitoring of stock movement, including new supply, SDR (Single Dose Rifampicin) administration, and provides online reporting and real-time stock updates. This tool ensures efficient tracking of rifampicin inventory to maintain an adequate stock supply for leprosy prevention.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

NLR India always puts efforts to disseminate its learning through scientific publications. In the last financial year, the following articles were published. A report has been published that describes key learning from our different projects.

Articles published/in press

- Nayak PK, Mackenzie CD, Agarwal A, van Wijk R, Mol MM, et al. (2025) A new guide for basic psychological support for persons affected by neglected tropical diseases: A peer support tool suitable for persons with a diagnosis of leprosy and lymphatic filariasis. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 19(1): e0011945. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0011945>
- Agarwal A, Meena SN, Ritu KM et al (2025). The Unique Leprosy Helpline in India. Indian J Lepr. 97: 53-55

RIFAMPICIN STOCK MANAGEMENT

DATA ENTRY

ONLINE REPORTING FORM

SAVE PD

DASHBOARD

West Bengal	<div>SUMMARY</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>2-6 years</td><td>6-8 years</td></tr><tr><td>Purulia</td><td>150 mg</td><td>300</td></tr><tr><td>Purulia Sadar</td><td>Opening Balance</td><td>20</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>15 October 2024</td><td>Total new supplies</td><td>30</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>25 November 2024</td><td>Total SDR administered</td><td>30</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Total Expiry/ Discarded</td><td>10</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>All- 150, 300, 450 & 600 mg</td><td>BALANCE of Rifampicin</td><td>10</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Alert messages</td><td>BALANCE of Rifampicin (in days)</td><td>6 days</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">100 mg : Enough stock available (13 days)</td><td>Monthly requirement</td><td>51</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">600 mg : Less stock alert (3 days)</td><td>Quarterly requirement</td><td>152</td><td>3</td></tr></table>		2-6 years	6-8 years	Purulia	150 mg	300	Purulia Sadar	Opening Balance	20	3	15 October 2024	Total new supplies	30	8	25 November 2024	Total SDR administered	30	5	2	Total Expiry/ Discarded	10	1	All- 150, 300, 450 & 600 mg	BALANCE of Rifampicin	10	4	Alert messages		BALANCE of Rifampicin (in days)	6 days	13	100 mg : Enough stock available (13 days)		Monthly requirement	51	1	600 mg : Less stock alert (3 days)		Quarterly requirement	152	3
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Rifampicin Stock Management Tool



Team NLR India collecting data

- Hinders, D.C., Taal, A.T., Lisam, S. et al. The PEP++ study protocol: a cluster-randomised controlled trial on the effectiveness of an enhanced regimen of post-exposure prophylaxis for close contacts of persons affected by leprosy to prevent disease transmission. *BMC Infect Dis* **24**, 226 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-024-09125-2>
- Jain A, Chakrabartty A, Nayak PK, Agarwal A (2025). Unmet needs of households and people living in leprosy. *Leprosy Review*. In Press

Reports published

- NLR India Foundation. (2024). Evaluation of NLR India Projects (1st ed.). NLR India Foundation.
- NLR India Foundation. (2024). Needs Assessment in Leprosy Colonies in India (1st ed.). NLR India Foundation.

NEWSLETTER

NLR India issues quarterly newsletters depicting its work. The newsletters were widely shared and received encouraging feedback.

FOUNDATION DAY EVENT 2024

This was a very important moment when we shared and celebrated our work of 25 years. Prior to the event, we evaluated our entire work done over the years following a scientific methodology. The event of two days drew around 100 guests and witnessed lot of sharing of learnings, discussions and recommendations. Kindly find the evaluation report in our website: <https://nlrindia.org/>



NLR India newsletter



NLR India 25th foundation day celebration

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

ENGAGEMENT WITH IGNOU

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is the largest open learning university in the world, providing flexible education to millions of learners worldwide. IGNOU hosted a live show on its Gyan Darshan YouTube channel, focusing on leprosy. Dr. Ashok Agarwal, the CEO of NLR India, was invited to share his expert knowledge on the subject. With his extensive experience, Dr. Agarwal discussed the facts, myths, and treatments related to leprosy. This live show was a great resource for students and anyone who wants to learn more about the disease. It is a step towards breaking leprosy stigma and discrimination, and improving awareness, sensitivity, empathy and inclusion. NLR India Foundation will work with IGNOU to expand on its collaboration for amplifying the reach of leprosy knowledge far and wide and engagement of students and others as the voices of leprosy.

ENGAGEMENT WITH DELHI UNIVERSITY (DU)

Delhi School of Social Work (DSSW), University of Delhi, is a leading educational institution in India offering education and training in social work. NLR India started providing specialised training on leprosy to the final year Master of Social Work (MSW) students at DSSW. The training sessions started with a 3-hour in-person orientation of the students on leprosy. It was followed by five weekly virtual sessions. The students gained crucial knowledge and practical skills related to leprosy prevention, care, treatment and support, myths, stigma, discrimination, psychosocial support, and how the social workers can contribute to positive changes in the lives of persons affected by leprosy. The students were also connected through WhatsApp for on-going



IGNOU engagement



Session conducted at DU

clarification. This has helped the students in important ways including empathy, sensitivity and compassion. Few of them may decide to take up leprosy as their career. They can definitely serve as mentors for other students. NLR India will work towards strengthening this collaboration over the years.

COLLABORATION WITH SANGATH

Mental health and wellbeing are of critical importance for all, especially for the most vulnerable people. NLR India has been working with the stigmatized, discriminated, ignored, and excluded people who suffer from multi-dimensional poverty, various mental health issues. While NLR India has its own innovations and pathbreaking approaches, it works with government and looks for collaboration with likeminded organisations. NLR India signed an MOU with Sangath, an internationally reputed NGO that is committed to improving mental health and has received international recognition for its research and intervention programmes. Sangath and NLR India will jointly explore the mental health needs of persons with disabilities and skin NTDs, and identify the opportunities for intervention, research, advocacy and awareness.

COLLABORATION WITH BRIJDD

BRIJDD and NLR India signed an MOU to guide their collaborations to enhance access to high quality care and advance universal health coverage especially for the last mile. BRIJDD is an innovative consulting firm that partners with leading organisations and communities to tackle unsolved problems, transform lives, and drive equitable growth. They will undertake implementation of action and innovations to improve access to care for citizens; and collaborate in the areas of digital transformation, technology, data synthesis, artificial intelligence, and impact focused actions, especially around accelerating last mile impacts of NLR India's beneficiaries.

IMPACT

NLR India has bridged important gaps and ensured that people with leprosy and disabilities are informed, empowered and enabled to benefit from self-care, self-help, self-reliance, and sustainable development of the government schemes/services, and support from society, community and their individual and collectivised commitment, compassion and empathy. By multi-stakeholders' engagement, community-based rehabilitation, and human-rights based approaches, NLR India has made a difference since 1999.

NLR India contributed to fulfilment of the unmet needs of the leprosy affected persons on issues around awareness, abilities and access to health services. NLR India not only provided care and support for management of leprosy and disabilities, but also collaborated with the government for quality coverage and implementation of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) and other health services. The support included training and capacity building of the health staff and strengthening healthcare schemes. The four models of disability care, developed by NLR India, have been contributing to regular selfcare practices, and prevention of disabilities, and ulcers from worsening. NLR India's innovative helpline (VIKALP) and facilitation of urban leprosy programmes contributed to better connection and access of the affected who were marginalised and excluded for long.

Some of NLR India's critical contributions to inclusive development happened after the launch of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016.

NLR India's work and impact are as below:

- 12,200 health staff trained on leprosy, and NLEP
- 6650 health staff provided handholding support
- 4025 health staff trained on selfcare
- 5760 ASHAs trained on leprosy and selfcare
- 6383 affected persons trained on selfcare



Mobile tailoring classes at
Aurangabad, Bihar



Training for ASHA workers
organised in West Bengal

- 11,731 affected persons accessed services of health camps, assistive devices and reconstructive surgeries
- 4,766 other services like disability pensions, accessed by the affected persons
- 38 local forums formed where affected persons, service providers and community leaders meet periodically, review and plan further progress
- 5,181 education support provided to family members of the affected persons
- 1,111 affected persons and family members including women trained on vocational skills
- 450 adolescents guided on LSE and SRH
- 992 index cases tracked and counselled through call centre
- 387 affected persons provided BPS
- 60,540 close and community contacts of leprosy affected screened and medicated with Single Dose Rifampicin (SDR) and PEP++ regimen
- 92,973 blanket contacts administered SDR under PEP++
- 11,731 leprosy affected attended health camps, received assistive devices and underwent reconstructive surgeries (consolidated data)
- 440 community-based organisations (CBOs) including organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) formed and capacitated

NLR India worked for inclusive and sustainable development. It continues its work with government for taking over its models, but empowers and enables the leprosy affected persons on self-care, self-help, self-reliance and sustainability. Moreover, there are about 614 community volunteers who worked for the cause. These volunteers and the CBOs constitute a great strength in implementation in NLR India's work.

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT

SIRO RECOGNITION UNDER DSIR

NLR India Foundation has been successfully registered with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India in March 2025. NLR India Foundation is now recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO).

NLR India is committed to scientific excellence. As an evidence-based organization, we conduct groundbreaking research to enhance the quality of life for individuals affected by leprosy, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and disabilities.

Achieving SIRO (Scientific and Industrial Research Organization) recognition will further strengthen our credibility. It will enable us to access funding from government bodies like the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other key public and private donors who prioritize research and development. SIRO recognition is a significant milestone in our journey towards innovation and impact.

CONSTITUTION OF RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

NLR India has established a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) to guide and strengthen its research initiatives, particularly in areas related to leprosy, other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), and disabilities. Comprising six members from government bodies, academia, and health-focused organizations, the RAC supports the development of a focused research strategy aligned with National Leprosy Eradication Programme, allied programmes and donor priorities. The RAC advises on annual research planning, promotes

an integrated approach to NTDs, and identifies capacity-building opportunities for staff. It reviews research proposals, and facilitates partnerships for impactful research. The committee meets at least twice a year.

Members of the Research Advisory Committee are as below:

1. **Chairperson: Dr. Vishwa Mohan Katoch**, President, JIPMER, Puducherry; Editor, Indian Journal of Leprosy; Former Secretary of Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI
2. **Vice Chairperson: Dr. Anil Kumar**, Principal Advisor, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Govt of India and former Deputy Director General- Leprosy, Central Leprosy Division, MoHFW, GoI

Members:

1. **Dr. Ranganathan Rao Pemmaraju**, Programme Advisor (Medical Issues), Sasakawa Health Foundation, New Delhi
2. **Dr. Atul Ambekar**, Professor, National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) and Department of Psychiatry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
3. **Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa**, Professor and Head, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, AIIMS, New Delhi
4. **Dr. V. Vivek Pai**, Director, Bombay Leprosy Project, Mumbai, Maharashtra
5. **Dr. Ashok Agarwal**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NLR India – Secretary & Convener

Coordinator: Dr. Arupkumar Chakrabartty, National Research Coordinator, NLR India Foundation

CONSTITUTION OF IT (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY) ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

NLR India wants to scale-up its contribution for interruption of leprosy transmission and mitigation of suffering of the leprosy affected in India by developing low-cost, effective and sustainable IT based models/ solutions for early detection, treatment, support and prevention of leprosy, and management of suffering of the disabled.

In this effort, it has established an IT Advisory Committee (ITAC) to help NLRIF carve out a niche for itself on digital interventions for leprosy, allied skin NTDs and disabilities.

The ITAC will be supported in its role and functions by the NLR India's Team, under the guidance of the CEO, NLR India, and the Head of Programme, NLR India acting as the focal point/ coordinator of the Committee.

Members of the ITAC are as below:

1. **Chairperson: Dr Rajsekhar K:** Chief Technology Officer, NIMS, Hyderabad
2. **Vice Chairperson: Dr Harpreet Singh:** Scientist, Division of Development Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India
3. **Vice Chairperson: Dr Suresh Munnuswamy:** Dean and Professor, School of Digital Health, MRV- Hyderabad; Founder and Director, Hi Rapid Lab

GREAT PLACE TO WORK

NLR India earned the prestigious "Great Place to Work" certification, a testimony to our positive workplace culture and employee satisfaction. This certification reflects our commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and growth-oriented environment for our team. By prioritizing employee wellbeing and professional development, we continue to build a strong, motivated workforce dedicated to our mission. Being recognised as a Great Place to Work reinforces the values that drive our organization and helps us attract passionate individuals to further our prime cause of eliminating leprosy and mitigation of suffering in India.



NLR India is a Great Place To Work



Dr Pradeepta Kumar Nayak, has been selected by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as special monitor for leprosy

SPECIAL MONITOR ON LEPROSY IN INDIA

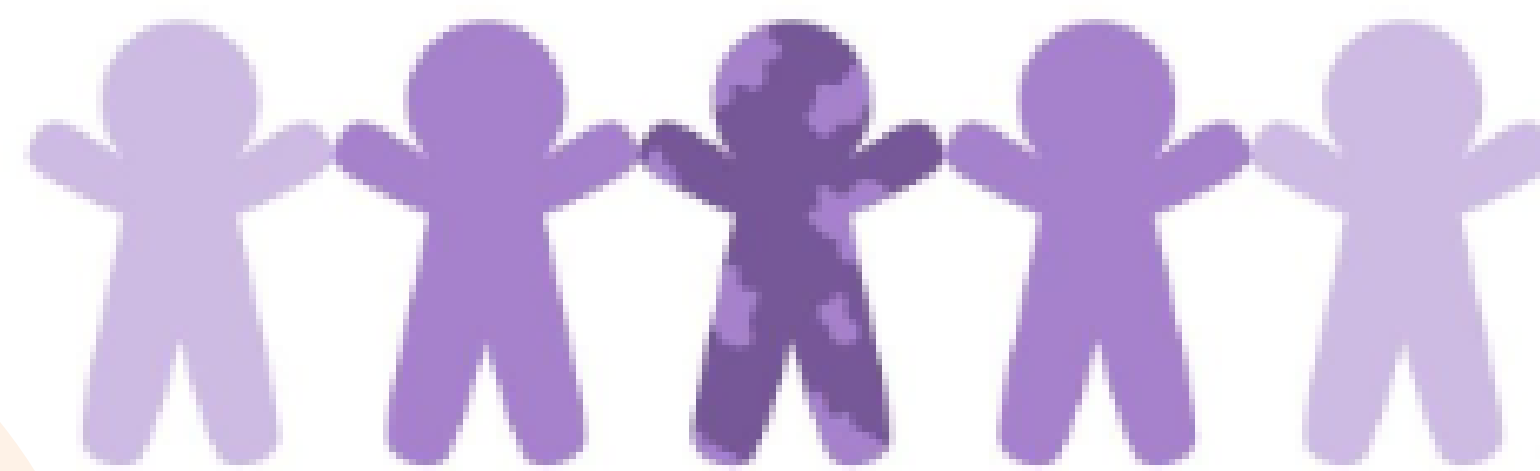
Dr Pradeepta Kumar Nayak, National Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Coordinator has been selected by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India as its Special Monitor (for the thematic area of leprosy). Special Monitors of the NHRC function as the eyes and ears of the Commission. As the Special Monitor (Leprosy), Dr. Nayak has been making field visits to 'examine, monitor, evaluate, advise and report' on human rights-based approaches, activities, good practices, and human rights violations. He conducts visits and provides advice on the actual and emerging issues from the perspective of human rights. He collects information, conducts research, and makes recommendations to NHRC. NLR India is thankful to the NHRC for its sensitivity to leprosy and creating a new position so that the neglected leprosy is not neglected anymore.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- NLR India's impactful work was featured across various media platforms, highlighting its commitment to empowerment of the persons with leprosy and disabilities, raising awareness and sensitivity about leprosy.
- On World Disability Day, Down To Earth published an article highlighting NLR India's Community-Based Disability Inclusive Development (DID) project in Bihar. The project has improved mobility, with 72% of beneficiaries reporting improved income.
- NLR India was featured in Manav Adhikar: Nayi Dishain, a publication by the National Human Rights Commission of India. The article "Divyangta aur Kusht Rog" raised awareness about the rights of persons affected by disabilities and leprosy.
- Further, NLR India was covered in the 76th episode of the Health Wealth podcast of India Today, where experts discussed leprosy's ongoing impact in India. The episode highlighted NLR India's efforts and impact.

Indian Express published an NLR India article, "Mahatma

From identifying the early symptoms to completing the treatment and preventing transmission, five lesser-known facts about leprosy in the country

 Share

BREAKING NEWS



Article published by India Today



Article published by The Indian Express

Gandhi’s vision of a leprosy-free India is attainable”, written by its CEO Dr. Ashok Agarwal. The article called for action from the government, affected individuals, healthcare professionals, NGOs, donors, the media, and society at large.

PLAN 2025-26

In this section, we mention the key innovations/ developments/ events.

SKIN APP

AI-Enabled Skin NTDs Diagnosis Project: NLR India Foundation is working towards the Indianization and validation of the WHO AI-enabled Skin NTDs App to enhance early detection of skin-related Neglected Tropical Diseases (sNTDs) in India.

In response to the open call for proposals from ICMR, our team submitted a comprehensive project proposal titled “AI-enabled digital health tool for improving detection of skin NTDs” in March 2025. The proposal integrates insights from the Kenya WHO Skin App validation study.

Our proposal outlines a broad-scale, multi-phase validation of the WHO Skin App—customized for Indian skin tones and disease presentation—across 12 districts in six high-burden states. The study will employ mixed methods, incorporate AI model refinement, and conduct economic evaluations through intervention-control comparisons.

We have formalized and planned for partnerships with WHO Global, WHO India, Central Leprosy Division, Presidency University, Health Technology Assessment (HTA) India, and the Indian Association of Leprologists. This strategic collaboration will ensure methodological robustness, contextual adaptation, and potential national scalability of intervention.

This initiative marks a pivotal step towards transforming sNTD diagnosis in India, aligning with national goals for leprosy transmission interruption and establishing India as a global leader in AI-assisted digital health for NTDs.

ROLL OUT OF PEP APP

The App will be finalized based on the study findings and recommendations of the stakeholders. A detailed roll-out plan will be developed. It will be implemented in close collaboration with the Central Leprosy Division (CLD) and different state leprosy officers in West Bengal and beyond. The roll-out activities may involve conducting state and regional workshops.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY AND APP

A Mobile App is being developed by NLR India for facilitating delivery of social, educational and livelihood services to the vulnerable populations, especially persons with disabilities including leprosy. This App will be developed as per a directory of government schemes which NLR India will finalise soon. The affected people will be able to get all relevant information about the schemes and services and find a link for an online application to access their rights and entitlements.

EVENT AT INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTER

On 5th May 2025, NLR India will be conducting a panel discussion on leprosy at the India International Center (IIC) to inspire a call to action by leading voices for elimination of leprosy and mitigation of suffering of the affected. The event is one of the invited sessions which IIC organizes for its thousands of members who are prominent citizens of India and other guests. The event should help in amplifying the effort to address leprosy.

UGC COURSE

After its work with universities, especially Delhi University, and the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), NLR India now plans to work with the University Grants Commission (UGC). NLR India-UGC collaboration is aimed at raising awareness, formalizing some courses on leprosy, disabilities, human rights, and disability-centric inclusive and sustainable development.

AI-ENABLED NATIONAL HELPLINE ON LEPROSY

The unique leprosy helpline established by NLR India Foundation has been recognized by the CLD as a best practice and recently an article has been published in a peer-reviewed journal. NLR India Foundation will work towards making it AI-enabled to serve a wider population in a cost-effective manner. The proposal is ready, we are looking for a donor.

CHALLENGE

The big challenge being encountered by NLR India Foundation is the lack of adequate financial resources to carry out efforts towards achieving interruption of leprosy transmission and mitigation of suffering. We hope the need for greater investment on leprosy will be recognized by different donors and philanthropists.



To know more about our work,
kindly scan the QR code

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