



until
No Leprosy Remains

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JOURNEY TOWARDS ZERO LEPROSY

Vol. 03; Issue 11; July. - September 2025

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer, NLR India

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to share the key achievements of NLR India from July to September 2025. This quarter, we actively contributed to the Central Leprosy Division's national roadmap workshop, supporting efforts to interrupt leprosy transmission. We celebrated the outstanding academic achievements of four girls from Jeevan Deep Leprosy Colony, New Delhi, who received bicycles donated by Oracle, and supported Suraj from Srinivasapuri Colony, New Delhi with a stroller, improving his mobility.

Our teams conducted health education sessions with Tata Power Mobile Health Units, trained 797 health staff across five states, and organized self-care camps in leprosy colonies to promote hygiene, disability care, and mental well-being. The Compassion Training Project and BPS-N research made significant progress, strengthening stigma free care and psychological support.

We empowered persons with disabilities through forums, aids and appliance camps, and access to essential services, while strengthening self-help groups for sustainability. Next quarter, we will support drafting district-level plans, improve NLEP (National Leprosy Eradication Programme) implementation, and develop a resource directory. Together, we can create a society of dignity, inclusion, and hope.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ashok Agarwal

Chief Executive Officer, NLR India

Key Meetings & Highlights (National/State Level)

A workshop was conducted by the Central Leprosy Division (CLD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), in New Delhi, on 23 July 2025. The workshop was attended by all State Programme Leads (SPLs), along with the Head of Programme (HoP) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NLR India. The objective of the workshop was to develop state-level roadmaps for achieving interruption of leprosy transmission. NLR India staff actively contributed by providing constructive inputs and suggestions to support the development of these roadmaps.



On 24 September 2025, four girl students from Jeevan Deep Leprosy Colony, R.K. Puram, New Delhi, were provided with bicycles donated by Oracle. These girls had secured the highest marks in classes 9 to 12 among students living in the colony. The parents of the students, the colony head, and all residents expressed great happiness and took pride in the girls' achievements and conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to Oracle and NLR India Foundation for the support.



Suraj, a young boy from Srinivasapuri Leprosy Colony, New Delhi, has a disability that severely limits his ability to walk independently. Due to the family's poor economic condition, his parents were unable to afford a stroller for him. NLR India, in collaboration with Goonj, arranged a stroller to support Suraj's mobility. The family was deeply moved by this gesture and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to NLR India and Goonj for their collective efforts.



NLR India participated in community awareness activities in areas served by Tata Power. During August, September, and October, NLR India staff visited Tata Power's Mobile Health Units at 15 locations across Delhi. As part of these visits, health education sessions were conducted focusing on leprosy, including its signs and symptoms, modes of transmission, and prevention. Informational brochures were distributed to community members to reinforce key messages. In addition, Tata Power Mobile Health Unit staff were also sensitised on leprosy to strengthen early identification and referral within the community.



District-Level One-Day Workshop on Advocacy and Reducing Social Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and Persons with Disabilities was organised in Aurangabad on 18 September 2025. The workshop aimed to raise awareness, build solidarity, and strengthen local networks to address stigma and social exclusion. Participants included Local Forum members from all blocks, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) members, Self-Help Group (SHG) members, peer supporters, community representatives, and government officials. The workshop featured discussions on the challenges faced by persons affected by leprosy, along with sharing of lived experiences and testimonies. Interactive sessions focused on policies, rights, and available support services. Stakeholders expressed their commitment to promoting inclusive practices. The workshop concluded with a collective pledge to work together towards a society free from stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion.

▶ The Institutional Ethics Committee of the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences has approved the research protocol for the Basic Psychological Support for NTDs (BPS-N) project. This project will be implemented in Garhwa & Palamu districts of Jharkhand state of India. Following concurrence from the CLD and the National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC), the Mission Director (MD) of the National Health Mission (NHM), Jharkhand, has granted administrative approval.

Project staff for the BPS-N project have been selected by NLR India and GLRA India and their training completed. Based on state-level data on the burden of leprosy and lymphatic filariasis, blocks for project implementation have been identified.

The Project Manager and district psychologists have been appointed, and recruitment of Research Assistants is currently underway. One year of patient data has been collected, and eight blocks have been finalised for implementation of the BPS-N project.

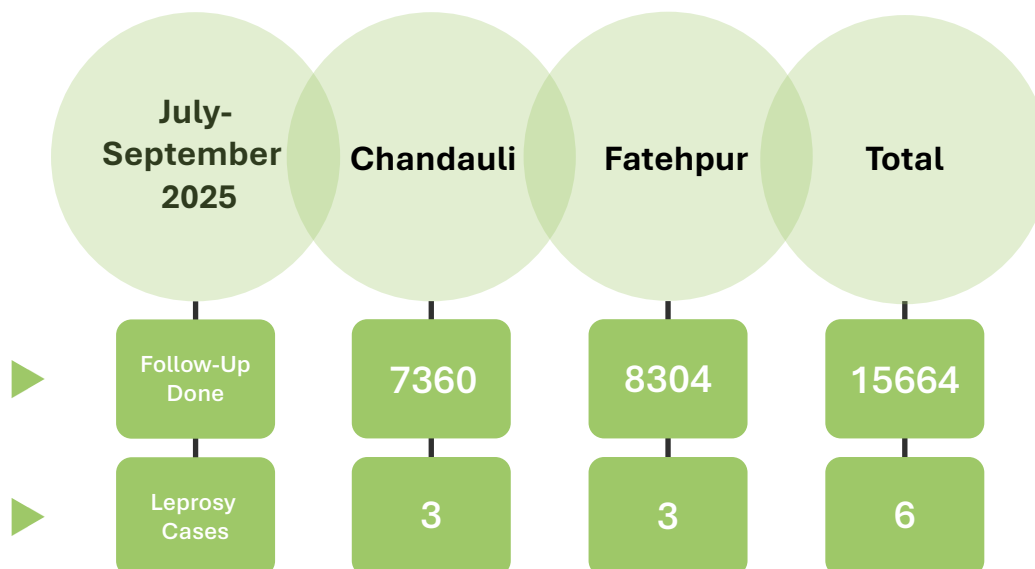


Leprosy Post Exposure Prophylaxis (LPEP) App scale-up trainings were conducted in previously unreachable control clusters across Howrah and Paschim Bardhaman districts of West Bengal. During August and September 2025, 12 training sessions were organised, training 453 participants, including Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and supporting staff. The trainings strengthened operational knowledge, digital data management, and effective field-level implementation of the App.

The Compassion Training Project in Bokaro focused on consolidation, follow-up, and endline data collection activities during the quarter. As part of these efforts, the project developed a 10-Point Compassion Charter, summarizing key learnings from the training sessions, which was designed to be displayed on healthcare workers' desks as a daily reminder to provide compassionate and stigma-free care. Research Assistants were trained in endline data collection, and piloting of Focus Group Discussion and In-Depth Interview tools with persons affected by leprosy led to refinements that improved clarity and cultural relevance. Quantitative endline data collection for 80 patients was successfully completed, marking a key milestone in assessing the impact of the compassion training on healthcare practices



Under the PEP++ project the follow up of the persons who received medicine is underway. Following is the update on follow-up progress and new leprosy cases identification during July -September 2025:



HEALTH

Key Updates

Training/Capacity building (CB):

Training and capacity building of health staff is a key intervention of NLR India. During the quarter from July to September 2025, trainings were organized in Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. A total of 797 health staff were trained, including 122 medical officers and 675 General Health Care (GHC) staff, during the third quarter of 2025. The training sessions covered topics such as leprosy (technical and programmatic aspects), leprosy prevention, Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) guidelines, and disability care.



Helpline

NLR India is implementing a unique patient follow-up project, where counselors contact patients currently undergoing treatment-fortnightly and those who are Released from Treatment (RFT)-quarterly. Line lists of patients are received from multiple districts (currently 19 districts). Feedback received from patients is shared with the respective districts for necessary follow-up. During the quarter from July to September 2025, a total of 41 index cases were registered at the helpline center, which operates from Jaipur, Rajasthan. Counselors made 477 follow-up calls to these clients to monitor their disease condition and address any additional concerns or challenges they faced.

Self-Care Camps in Leprosy Colonies

Self-Care Camps were organized across leprosy colonies in Bihar (Patna, Nawada, Bhojpur), Rajasthan (Jaipur), Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh (Shikohabad, Badaun, Kasganj, and Varanasi). A total of 73 participants attended these camps, receiving practical training on self-care techniques, including protection and care of anaesthetic hands and feet to prevent injuries and burns. Essential self-care materials such as cotton, bandages, antiseptic creams, betadine/savlon, tubs, scrubbers, and oil were provided. During the camps, Sessions on WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) were also organized emphasizing the importance of hygiene and sanitation. Participants were also informed about social welfare schemes, stigma reduction, and mental well-being support. The camps assessed the extent to which individuals were accessing government welfare services to enhance overall care and inclusion.



EMPOWERMENT

Aids and Appliance Assessment Camps

In collaboration with ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), assessment camps for aids and appliances were organized in three blocks of Aurangabad, Bihar. NLR India Foundation facilitated the mobilization of persons with disabilities to attend the camps and provided technical support during the assessment process. Following thorough evaluations, a total of 38 men and women were selected to receive appropriate aids and appliances to support their mobility and daily living needs.



In the third quarter, NLR India with support from the members of Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), helped Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in getting the following benefits

Support Facilitated:

BENEFIT	NUMBER
UDID Cards	56
Ration Cards	12
Disability Certificates	88
Disability Pensions	43
MGNREGA Cards	6
Railway Passes	7
Motorized E-Rickshaws	43

These benefits were made available through active coordination with district government officials, stakeholders, and the Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Coordinators.

Naruar Divyang Self-Help Group, Naruar (Varanasi district), has been granted financial support under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The group received a revolving fund of ₹30,000, aimed at enhancing income-generating activities and group sustainability. Additionally, a separate grant of ₹2,500 was provided to the group specifically for the purchase of a box and carpet, supporting the group's operational and meeting infrastructure.



Upcoming Priorities (Next Quarter)

- Supporting government in drafting the district specific strategic plans
- Supporting states in better implementation of NLEP
- Developing the resource directory of schemes

DONATE



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