



NLR India Foundation

**27 Years of Legacy: Transforming Lives
Through Prevention, Care & Compassion**



#untilnoleprosyremains

NLR INDIA FOUNDATION

27th Foundation Day

24th April 2026

Juniper, India habitat Centre, New Delhi

27 Years of Legacy: Transforming Lives Through Prevention, Care & Compassion

NLR India celebrated its 27th Foundation Day on 24th April 2026 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, marking 27 years of dedicated service towards a leprosy-free and inclusive society.

The event was graced by Her Excellency, Ms Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Nepal and Bhutan, as the Chief Guest. It brought together distinguished guests, health experts, partners, and community members to reflect on progress in prevention, care, rehabilitation, and dignity for persons affected by leprosy. A total of 79 participants attended the event.



The inaugural session commenced with a floral welcome of guests on dais. The dignitaries present on dais were Her Excellency, Ms Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Nepal and Bhutan; Dr. Anil Kumar, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GoI); Dr. Lily Gangmai, Chief Medical Officer, Central Leprosy Division (CLD), MoHFW, GoI; .. Dr. Badri Thapa, Team Lead, Communicable Diseases, WHO India; Dr. Liesbeth Mieras, Senior Medical Advisor & Researcher, NLR International; . Ms. Nirmala Gupta, Chair, Board, NLR India Foundation and Dr. Ashok Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NLR India Foundation.



After the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, Ms. Nirmala Gupta delivered the welcome address highlighting NLR India's dedicated efforts over the last 27 years towards

ending the transmission of leprosy. She reaffirmed the organisation's continued commitment to the cause.

Dr. Liesbeth Mieras emphasised that although the number of persons affected by leprosy may be small, the disease disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable communities. She highlighted the importance of the "3 Is" — Investment, Innovation, and Involvement of persons affected by leprosy — along with the "3 Ps" — Prevention, Perseverance, and Partnership — and the "3 Cs" — Commitment, Collaboration, and Compassion. She stated that bringing these elements together is essential to interrupt the transmission of leprosy.

After this, Dr Ashok Agarwal presented the key highlights of the journey of NLR India. Describing the model of operation, he said that NLR India acts as a bridge between the community (persons affected by leprosy, skin NTDs, and disabilities) and the government. The services provided/facilitated by NLR India to the persons affected by leprosy, skin NTDs, and disabilities are: 1. Health, 2. Livelihood, 3. Education, 4. WASH, and 5. Empowerment. NLR India supports the government system through innovations, capacity building, and monitoring for strengthening programme/services related to the persons affected by leprosy, skin NTDs, and disabilities.



Following this, a person affected by leprosy, Ms. Bhimwati, a resident of a leprosy colony, shared her life experience and the challenges of growing up in a family affected by leprosy and how NLR India empowered her with hope, confidence, and dignity. She requested all for creating a society which persons are known by their abilities, not by their disabilities.

Dr. Badri Thapa appreciated the efficient and impactful work being carried out by NLR India in the fight against leprosy.

Dr. Lily Gangmei also acknowledged NLR India's significant contribution to the continued success of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP).

Dr. Anil Kumar, in his address, stated that NLR India has been a supportive and reliable partner, consistently extending valuable support whenever required.

Later, Dr. Rup Narayan Bhattacharya was felicitated as the NLR India Champion 2026 for his outstanding contribution in the field of Leprosy Reconstructive Surgery. He was honoured by the Ambassador, the board chair and the CEO with a shield, shawl and appreciation certificate. .

"My struggle should not become my children's future. I want to see them accepted, respected, and given every opportunity to achieve great things in life." — Bhimwati

NLR India has conducted a study on compassionate training in Bokaro, Jharkhand. The study is completed. The report was released by the guests on dais.

In her address as the chief guest of the event, *Her Excellency Ms Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Nepal and Bhutan* said that *reaching the last mile is difficult, but not impossible. With compassion, partnership, and determination, we can ensure no one is left behind.* She also appreciated the good work being doing by NLR India in the field of leprosy.

Dr. K. K. Upadhyay, Managing Trustee, Board, NLR India Foundation, delivered the vote of thanks and expressed sincere gratitude to the Chief Guest, distinguished dignitaries, partners, and participants for making the celebration meaningful and successful.



Technical Session I: Compassion Study Dissemination

The technical session on Compassion Study Dissemination was organised to share evidence on how compassion-based healthcare can improve the lives of persons affected by leprosy. It presented key study findings, encouraged expert dialogue, and highlighted the role of compassion in reducing stigma, improving provider behaviour, restoring dignity, and enhancing patient wellbeing. The session also emphasised integrating compassion training into mainstream health systems through



practical and scalable approaches for long-term impact.

The Session brought together eminent public health leaders, researchers, and development practitioners to discuss the role of compassion in improving healthcare delivery for persons affected by leprosy. The session was chaired by Dr. Sunil Dogra, PGI Chandigarh and Dr. Lalit Kant, Independent Consultant, Infectious Diseases.

The presentations were delivered by Dr. Arup Chakrabarty, NLR India Foundation, on the background, objectives, and methodology of the study, followed by Dr. Ashok Agarwal, CEO, NLR India Foundation, who presented the key findings and implications. Reflections from experts and practitioners were shared by Ms. Tripti and Mr. Eishan Sharma from Piramal Foundation.



Technical Session II: Apps. for prevention and access to Govt. schemes

The Session focused on the use of digital innovations to strengthen leprosy prevention and improve access to welfare services for persons affected by leprosy and disabilities. The session was chaired by Dr. Harpreet Singh, ICMR, and Co-Chair by Dr. Lily Gangmei, CLD, and Dr. K. Sachdeva, Trustee, Board, NLR India Foundation.



Mr. S.K. Kaw, Paramarsh Informatics Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. Arup Chakrabartty, NLR India Foundation, presented the LPEP App, Pratirodh, designed to support contact tracing, data management, and interruption of disease transmission. Experts appreciated its potential to improve efficiency, accountability, and decision making, while recommending integration with existing government platforms.

Mr. Ajit Negi, Microware and Dr. Pradeepta Kumar Nayak, NLR India Foundation, presented the Sarkari Yojana Mobile App, developed to help persons affected by leprosy and disabilities access relevant government welfare schemes. The session highlighted the importance of user-friendly, multilingual, and integrated digital solutions to ensure better outreach, inclusion, and service delivery.



PEP++ Study – Update

The PEP++ Study Update session focused on advancing evidence-based strategies for the prevention and interruption of leprosy transmission. The session was chaired by Dr. Anil Kumar, Principal Advisor, NCDC, MoHFW, GoI, with co-chairs Dr.

Liesbeth Mieras, NLR International, Dr. Jugal Kishore, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Delhi and Dr. Ananta Khurana, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi.

Dr. Ashok Agarwal, NLR India Foundation, presented the study overview, highlighting that PEP++ is a multi-country study being implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Brazil. In India, the study is being conducted in Fatehpur and Chandauli districts of Uttar Pradesh. He also shared updates on study progress, acceptance rates, early learnings, and expected results by November 2026.



Dr. Praveen Suthar, NLR India Foundation, presented field learnings on contact listing, screening, drug administration, consent procedures, and operational innovations. Discussions also highlighted the use of GIS technology and the strong potential of the study to strengthen prevention efforts and support the interruption of leprosy transmission.



Strategic Consultation on LPEP App., Service Accessing App. and Compassion Study

The Strategic Consultation Session on the LPEP App, Service Accessing App, and Compassion Study focused on strengthening leprosy services through digital innovation, evidence-based interventions, and compassionate healthcare practices. The session was chaired by Dr. Sudarsan Mandal, Sr. CMO (HAG), NCVBDC, MoHFW, Government of India, with co-chairs Dr. Archana Singal, Trustee, Board, NLR India Foundation, and Dr. Rashmi Shukla, National Programme Officer, WHO Country Office.



The consultation brought together State Leprosy Officers and State Leprosy Consultants from Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam to discuss the application of digital tools for quality screening, improved follow-up, and better access to welfare services for persons affected by leprosy and disabilities.



The session also highlighted key learnings from the Compassion Study and emphasised the growing importance of digitalisation under the National Strategic Plan and Road Map for Leprosy 2023–27. Experts appreciated the practical value of the apps developed by NLR India and discussed their potential integration into state and national programmes to improve service delivery, monitoring, and patient-centred care.



Panel Discussion: Accelerating Prevention of Leprosy through participation of Persons Affected by Leprosy

The panel discussion on advancing leprosy prevention through meaningful participation highlighted the critical role of persons affected by leprosy as partners in programme design and implementation. The session was chaired by Dr. Ritu Ghosh, GPZL, with co-chair Prof. Abhisek Thakur, Vice Chairperson, Board, NLR India Foundation. The discussion emphasised that participation must go beyond tokenism and be embedded across all levels—from awareness and early detection to service delivery and decision-making. Experts highlighted persistent challenges such as stigma, delayed detection, and limited system integration, while reinforcing the principle of “Nothing for us without us.”

Practical examples from organisations and powerful lived-experience testimonies demonstrated how engagement of affected persons strengthens programmes, improves early detection, and reduces stigma. The session concluded with a strong call to institutionalise participation, recognise affected persons as leaders, and integrate their contributions into national programmes for sustainable impact.





Following the session, representative of Association of People with Leprosy (APAL), Mr Govind Swamy, addressed the gathering. He emphasised the need of collaboration for raising the voice of the affected. He said that APL will continue to work with NLR India for betterment of lives of persons affected.

Dr Sajjad Alam from Bokaro, said that the compassion study was very useful and health staff attending the training were benefitted with the training.



Closing the meeting, Dr Pravin Kumar delivered the vote of thanks. He thanked all for their active and insightful participation.



Annexure 1: 27th Foundation Day Agenda

NLR India Foundation Day 2026 


27 Years of Legacy: Transforming Lives Through Prevention, Care & Compassion

24TH APRIL 2026 | JUNIPER HALL, INDIA HABITAT CENTER, NEW DELHI

Agenda (Tentative): Inaugural Session

Time	Activity	Speaker/ Facilitator
09:30 – 09:35 AM	Welcome	NLR Representatives
09:35 – 09:41 AM	Lighting of the Lamp	Distinguished Guests & NLR Representatives
09:41 – 09:44 AM	Welcome Address	Ms. Nirmala Gupta , Chair, Board, NLR India Foundation
09:44 – 09:47 AM	Address by NLR International	Dr. Liesbeth Mieras , Senior Medical Advisor & Researcher, NLR International
09:47 – 09:54 AM	Key Highlights of NLR India (2025)	Dr. Ashok Agarwal , CEO, NLR India Foundation
09:54 – 09:59 AM	Story of a Leprosy - Affected family member	Ms. Bhimwati
09:59 – 10:02 AM	Address by Special Guest	Dr. Badri Thapa , Team Lead, Communicable Diseases, WHO India
10:02 – 10:06 AM	Address by Guest of Honour	Dr. S. V. Gitte , Deputy Director General (Leprosy), Central Leprosy Division, MoHFW, GoI
10:06 – 10:10 AM	Address by Guest of Honour	Dr. Anil Kumar , Principal Advisor, MoHFW, GoI
10:10 – 10:17 AM	Felicitation of NLR India Foundation Champion	Dr. Rup Narayan Bhattacharya , Professor & HOD, Plastic Surgery, R. G. Kar Medical College, Kolkata
10:17 – 10:21 AM	Release of report of Compassion Study	Guests on dias
10:21 – 10:27 AM	Address by the Chief Guest	Her Excellency Ms. Marisa Gerards , Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Nepal and Bhutan
10:27 – 10:30 AM	Vote of Thanks	Dr. K. K. Upadhyay , Managing Trustee, Board, NLR India Foundation
10:30 – 11:00 AM	High Tea	

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Agenda (Tentative): Technical Sessions

Technical Session I: Compassion Study Dissemination

11:00 – 11:45 AM
Chair: Prof. (Dr.) **K. Srinath Reddy**, PHFI
Co-Chairs: Dr. **Sunil Dogra**, PGI, Chandigarh; Dr. **Atul Ambekar**, A.I.I.M.S, Delhi; Dr. **Lalit Kant**, Independent Consultant, Infectious Diseases

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Background, Study Objectives & Methodology	Dr. Arup Chakrabarty & Mr. Anil Kumar , NLR India Foundation (NLRIF)
11:15 – 11:35 AM	Key Findings and Implications	Dr. Ashok Agarwal , NLRIF
11:35 – 11:40 AM	Reflections from Experts and Practitioners	Ms. Tripti / Mr. Eishan Sharma , Piramal Foundation
11:40 – 11:45 AM	Chairs' Remarks	Session Chairs

Technical Session II: Apps. for prevention and access to Govt. schemes

11:45 – 12:30 PM
Chair: **Rajsekhar K.**, CTQ, NIMS Hyderabad
Co-Chairs: Dr. **Harpreet Singh**, ICMR; Dr. **Lily Gangmei**, CLD; Dr. **K. Sachdeva**, Trustee, Board, NLRIF

Time	Topic	Speaker
Tea Break 03:15 – 03:30 PM		
Panel Discussion: Accelerating Prevention of Leprosy through participation of Persons Affected by Leprosy		
03:30 – 04:30 PM Chair: Dr. V. R. R. Pemmaraju , Sasakawa Health Foundation Co-Chairs: Dr. Ritu Ghosh , GPZL; Dr. Abhisek Thakur , Vice Chairperson, Board, NLRIF		
Panellists		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Jayashree P. K., IBAS Global Dr. Vivek Pai, Bombay Leprosy Project Mr. Shubhojit Goswami, TLMTI Ms. Sanjeeta Gawri, NLR International 		
04:30 – 05:00 PM Vote of Thanks & Event Conclusion: Dr. Pravin Kumar , Head of Programmes, NLRIF		

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PEP++ Study – Update

12:30 – 01:15 PM
Chair: Dr. **Anil Kumar**, Principal Advisor, NCDC, MoHFW, GoI
Co-Chairs: Dr. **Jugal Kishore**, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Delhi; Dr. **Liesbeth Mieras**, NLR International; Dr. **Ananta Khurana**, Dr. **Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital**, Delhi

Time	Topic	Speaker
12:30 – 12:45 PM	Study Overview	Dr. Ashok Agarwal , NLRIF
12:45 – 01:00 PM	Field Learnings	Dr. Praveen Suthar , NLRIF
01:00 – 01:15 PM	Discussion & Chairs' Remarks	Participants and Chairs

Lunch Break
01:15 – 02:15 PM

Strategic Consultation on LPEP App., Service Accessing App. and Compassion Study

02:15 – 03:15 PM
Chair: Dr. **Sudarsan Mandal**, Sr. CMO (HAG), NCVBDC, MoHFW, GoI
Co-Chairs: Dr. **Archana Singal**, Trustee, Board, NLRIF; Dr. **Rashmi Shukla**, WHO

Discussion Themes

- Application of LPEP App for quality screening and improved follow-up
- App. for accessing services by the persons affected by leprosy & disabilities
- Making use of learnings from Compassion Study

Participants: State Leprosy Officers (SLOs)/ State Leprosy Consultants (SLCs)

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Annexure 2: Participants of the event

**NLR India Foundation Day 2026
27 Years of Legacy: Transforming Lives Through Prevention, Care &
Compassion**

**24TH APRIL 2026
JUNIPER HALL, INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI
Attendance Sheet**

	Name	Designation/ Institute/ Company
1	Ms. Marissa Gerards	Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Nepal and Bhutan
2	Dr. Abhishek Thakur	Vice Chair, Board, NLRIF
3	Mr. Achin	Paramarsh
4	Mr. Adil	Goonj
5	Mr. Ajay Kumar	Bokaro
6	Mr. Ajit Negi	Microware
7	Dr. Anil Kumar	State Leprosy Officer, Jharkhand
8	Dr. Anil Kumar	Principal Advisor, Govt of India
9	Dr. Archana Singal	Trustee, NLRIF
10	Dr. Badri Thapa	WHO
11	Ms. Bhimvati	Leprosy colony
12	Mr. Bhuvneswar Mahato	Chas, Bokaro
13	Mr. Eishan Sharma	Piramal
14	Dr. Gopal Agarwal	Govt of Haryana
15	Mr. Govind Swamy	APAL
16	Ms. Jayshree PK	IBAS, Bangaluru
17	Dr. K.K. Upadhyay	Managing Trustee, NLRIF
18	Dr. Karuna Kaur	CLD
19	Dr. Kuldeep Singh Sachdeva	Trustee, NLRIF
20	Dr. Lalit Kant	Independent consultant
21	Dr. Lily Gangmai	Chief Medical Officer, CLD, Govt of India
22	Dr. Mansi Verma	CLD
23	Dr. Deepak	PATH
24	Dr. Nidhi Sharma	State Leprosy Officer, Madhya Pradesh
25	Dr. Nilaykant	Medical Officer, Bokaro
26	Ms. Nirmala Gupta	Chair, Board, NLRIF
27	Dr. Pankaj Bhuyan	State Leprosy Consultant, Assam
28	Mr. Pawan Pathak	Microware
29	Ms. Priya	Leprosy colony
30	Mr. Puneet Raman	PUM

31	Ms.Quba Ansari	Dy Coordinator, ILEP
32	Dr. Rajeev Tandon	
33	Dr. Rajesh Raju	STO Haryana
34	Dr.Rajsekhar K	Chief Technology Officer, NIMS, Hyderabad
35	Mr.Ranjeet Pathak	Govt of Jharkhand
36	Dr. Rashmi Shukla	WHO
37	Dr.Ritu Ghosh	GPZL
38	Dr. Rup NBhattacharya	HoD, RG Kar Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata
39	Mr.S.K. Kaw	Head, Paramarsh
40	Dr.S.P. Sood	
41	Dr. Sajjad Alam	DLC, Bokaro
42	Ms. Shaesta Feroz	
43	Mr.Sharad Malhotra	
44	Dr.Shintoo Doomra	State Leprosy Officer, Delhi
45	Ms.Shobha	Leprosy colony
46	Mr.Shubhojit Goswami	TLMTI
47	Dr.Soumitra Pramanik	West Bengal
48	Dr. Sudarsan Mandal	Senior Chief Medical Officer, NCVBDC, Govt of India
49	Dr. Sunil Dogra	President, IAL
50	Dr.Sweta Rana	CLD
51	Ms Sweta Yadav	ADRA
52	Dr.Tarannum Ara	State Leprosy Consultant, Delhi
53	Ms. Tripti Mishra	Piramal
54	Dr. Vijaylaxmi Godara	State Leprosy Officer, Rajasthan
55	Dr. Vivek Pai	Director, Bombay Leprosy Project
56	Mr.Ajay Thakural	Senior Human Resource Officer, NLRIF
57	Mr.Amit Jain	Manager - Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning , NLRIF
58	Mr.Anil Kumar	Coordinator, BPS-N
59	Mr.Arpit Sharma	IT Consultant, NLRIF
60	Dr.Arup Chakrabartty	State Programme Lead, West Bengal & National Research Coordinator, NLRIF
61	Dr.Ashok Agarwal	CEO, NLR India Foundation
62	Dr.Chandramani	State Programme Lead, Bihar
63	Mr.Gyan Sankar	Research Assistant, BPSN
64	Ms.Jyotika Ranta	Admin Officer
65	Dr.Liesbeth Mieras	Senior Medical Advisor & Researcher, NLR International
66	Mr.Mervyn V. Basil	Fundraising & Communication Officer, NLRIF
67	Dr.Neha Singh	State Programme Lead, Delhi
68	Mr.Nitesh Kumar	Finance Officer, NLRIF
69	Dr.Pradeepta K. Nayak	National CBR Coordinator, NLRIF
70	Mr.Pransu Rana	Manager Data, IT & GIS, NLRIF
71	Dr.Praveen Suthar	Coordinator, PEP++
72	Dr.Pravin Kumar	Head of Programme, NLRIF

73	Ms.Ruchi M. Sagar	Finance Manager, NLRIF
74	Ms.Sanjeeta Gawri	Global Lead, Policy Engagement, NLR
75	Mr.Shambhu Kumar	Research Assistant, BPSN
76	Ms.Urmila Kumari	Colony Coordinator, NLRIF
77	Mr.Rakesh	
78	Mr.Ramesh	
79	Mr. Puneet	ANI

