

NATIONAL LEPROSY IRADICATION PROGRAMME

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- 1955 - The National Leprosy Control Programme (NLCP) was launched in order to control the number of leprosy infections.
- 1983 - the strategies for leprosy control were changed and National Leprosy Eradication Program was launched. In the same year, multidrug therapy was also launched.
- 1991- The World Health Assembly resolved to eliminate leprosy at a global level by the year 2000.
- 1993- In order to strengthen the process of elimination in the country, the first World Bank supported project was introduced in India in 1993 and completed in 2000.
- 2001-2002 - The second World Bank supported project happened
- 2005- The goal of NLEP was declared as elimination of leprosy at the national level.
- 2009 - a special action plan for 209 high endemic districts in 16 states/union territories were made.

- **OBJECTIVES**

- To reduce Prevalence rate less than 1/10,000 population at sub national and district level.
- To reduce Grade II disability % < 1 among new cases at National level
- To reduce Grade II disability cases < 1 case per million population at National level.
- Zero disabilities among new Child cases.
- Zero stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

• STRATEGY

To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the main strategies to be followed are:

- Integrated anti-leprosy services through General Health Care system.
- Early detection and complete treatment of new leprosy cases.
- Carrying out household contact survey for early detection of cases.
- Involvement of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in the detection and completion of treatment of Leprosy cases on time.
- Strengthening of Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) services.
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in the community to improve self-reporting to Primary Health Centre (PHC) and reduction of stigma.
- Intensive monitoring and supervision at Health and Wellness Centers and Block Primary Health Centre/Community Health Centre.

- **Programme components:**

- Case Detection and Management
- Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR)
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) including Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)
- Human Resource and Capacity building
- Programme Management

- **SALIENT FEATURES of the NLEP**

- Leprosy Eradication programme is a centrally sponsored scheme of Government of India.
- NLEP functions under the umbrella of National Health Mission (NHM).
- NLEP follows decentralized health planning and funds are sent to the states through State Health Societies.
- Quality of services and sustainability is the main focus.
- Disability Prevention & Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) is a priority
- Removal of stigma and discrimination is a part of the strategy

- **ACTIVITIES UNDER NLEP**

- Diagnosis and treatment of leprosy
- Capacity building
- IEC and counselling
- Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation
- Supervision and Monitoring
- NGO services under SET scheme
- Prioritization of the Districts to reduce the leprosy Burden

- **NEW INITIATIVES UNDER NLEP**

- ACD&RS (Active Case Detection and Regular Surveillance strategy throughout the year).

- Convergence of leprosy screening for targeting different age groups like under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK: 0-18 yrs), Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakaram (RKSK: 13-19 yrs), and Comprehensive Primary Health Care—Ayushman Bharat (CPHC above 30+ yrs population).

- Timely referral and follow up for treatment completion on time through Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) available free of cost in all public health facilities

- For prevention of leprosy amongst contacts: Post Exposure

- Chemoprophylaxis administration (PEP)

- **AWARENESS ACTIVITIES UNDER NLEP**

- SPARSH - Special Annual Mass Awareness campaigns named Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaigns (SLAC) were launched on 30th January, 2017 i.e., Anti Leprosy Day, to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons suffering from leprosy.
- “Sapna” is a concept (mascot) designed and developed using a common girl living in community, who will help spread awareness in the community, through key IEC messages. Sapna can be local school going girl who is willing to be ‘Sapna’. There can be any number of Sappnas in a village

- **INSTITUTIONS**

- 1955: Central Leprosy Teaching & Research Institute (CLTRI)
Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu)
- 1979: Regional Leprosy Training & Research Institute (RLT&RI)
Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 1977: Regional Leprosy Training & Research Institute (RLT&RI)
Aska, Odisha
- 1984: Regional Leprosy Training & Research Institute (RLT&RI),
Gouripur, Bankura (West Bengal)



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