

Rotary



lepra

We will beat leprosy together

LEPROSY VIEW

A collaborative newsletter brought to you by Lepra and the Rotary Clubs of Delhi South, New Delhi, Delhi Southend, Regency Next and Stratford UK.

Meeting Rotary connections in Bangladesh

As Lepra's new CEO, I was delighted recently to have the opportunity to visit Bangladesh and learn first-hand about our work there, as well as meeting our teams and the people we support who are affected by leprosy or lymphatic filariasis.



It was a truly unforgettable experience and I was privileged to meet so many inspirational people doing so many inspirational things.

I was invited to attend and speak at the District Rotary Conference in Dhaka where I talked about Lepra's budding partnership with the Rotary Club in Bangladesh, and how we can

work together to make leprosy a disease of little consequence.

It was an honour to have that opportunity, and I met with many Rotarians who have been instrumental in forging the partnership. Now it is time to deliver against the priorities identified. There is lots to do, but we are backed up by strong will, commitment and

passion – three factors that I know will be the grounds for a successful partnership!

Find out more about our work in Bangladesh here:

[How we are helping people with Leprosy in Bangladesh | Lepra](#)

Lepra at the Volunteer Expo!

Lepra's Fundraising Partnerships Manager, Abi Wells attended the May 2022 Volunteer Expo with Himanshu Jain of the Rotary Club of Stratford.

Lepra is honoured to work alongside many Rotary clubs in the UK, in India, and in Bangladesh, raising awareness and vital funds.



Rotary's global reach and long history of supporting disease prevention and control, enables our partnership to reach a uniquely informed and receptive audience at the conference.

Vital to the success of the partnership's work in India, is an awareness of the physical, psychological and social issues faced by millions of people. As a forgotten disease, Rotary have

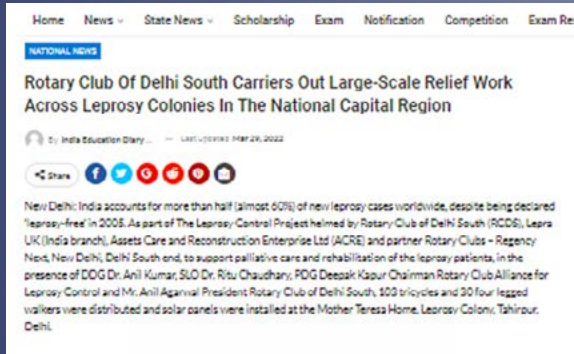
the ability to bring leprosy to the forefront of people's collective consciousness. Information sharing across Rotary's vast network is a powerful tool in the fight against leprosy and even simple actions such as signing up to Leprosy View, and sharing our important message, can have a powerful and long term impact.

The conference also gave the partnership a great opportunity to speak with potential volunteers and new organisational partners, keen to join Lepra's fight for the health and well-being of the world's most vulnerable people.

If you can help, in any capacity, please do get in touch. Thank you for helping us spread the word that with Rotary's support, we will beat leprosy.

In the Media

Raising awareness of the Leprosy Control Programme and the impact of our work is vital to our key objectives. Here we highlight recent media coverage.



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Leprosy Control Project

Special Event at the Missionaries of Charities Mother Teresa Home, Delhi

The Rotary Clubs of Delhi South, New Delhi, Regency Next, New Delhi, Delhi Southend and Stratford UK are working with Lepra and Assets Care and Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd (ACRE), to achieve leprosy control in India by bringing about systemic, sustainable change by reducing transmission through early case detection.

Together with their partners, the Rotary Club of Delhi South held a special event at the Missionaries of Charities Mother Teresa Home, Delhi delivering support to people affected by leprosy, and providing long-term care and rehabilitation services. With funding from Leprosy Control Project partner ACRE, mobility aids were distributed including 103 tricycles and 30 four-legged walkers. The event also marked the installation of solar panels.



The full-day event was a great success with over 100 people affected by leprosy and their families attending. Bringing the community together helps to build much-needed

confidence and address the challenges related to rehabilitation and recovery. **Gangapuri attended the event where he rode a tricycle. Here he tells us his story:**

"I am Gangapuri, I am 60 years old and from Hyderabad. After I was diagnosed with leprosy, I faced severe prejudice and discrimination. People I met wouldn't give me tea or take my money (or they used to wash it and then take it) and they didn't allow their children next to me.

I travelled to Andhra and to Ahmedabad but went back home because I missed my home. I was prescribed some medicine for two years but there was no improvement. Not knowing where to get further treatment, I came to Delhi in 1980. I came alone and then I fell ill with a lot of problems with my leg. I had ulcers that deteriorated so much that my leg became disfigured.

I am happy I came to Delhi because I received treatment and was saved. If I had stayed in Andhra I would have died because in my village no one would come near me or treat me."

Holistic Health Camp for Active Case Finding and Sight Tests

As part of our continued campaign to actively find undiagnosed cases of leprosy, a holistic health camp was organised by the Rotary Club of South Delhi for children living in the economically weaker sections of Munirka and Vasant Vihar, Delhi.

256 children aged between 5 and 16 years attended the Munirka Community Centre where they received eye tests, glasses where needed and took part in leprosy screening.

During the health camp, 115 children were checked for the signs and symptoms of early leprosy, 256 children had their eyesight tested, 13 pairs of glasses were prescribed, and 44 medical prescriptions were dispensed.

We are grateful for the support of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, All India Institute Of Medical Science, for providing the eyesight screening; Velocity International for providing eyewear frames; doctors from

Delhi Government SLO Office and Rotary Leprosy Control Project Team for helping with the active case finding and to Dr Vaneeta who kindly sponsored the refreshments for all the children.



The Leprosy Control Project

Rotary Delhi

The objective of the **Leprosy Control Project** is to create a robust system which supports the control of leprosy, from awareness raising to rehabilitation, whilst putting leprosy firmly on the healthcare map of India. **Help us raise awareness of leprosy by watching and sharing the Leprosy Control Project video!**

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Our thanks to all Rotarians

We remain tremendously grateful for the help and support all Rotarians give towards our work to beat leprosy. Without your invaluable commitment to help fight disease and unite communities who are adversely affected, we would not be able to support the most vulnerable people in the world today.

We thank you for your unwavering support of this global humanitarian cause.

Did You Know?

In the UK

1 in 4

adults do not know that leprosy still exists.

Follow the Science

Lepra publishes **Leprosy Review**, an open-access peer-reviewed journal. The journal covers all aspects of leprosy including research on the medical, physical and social aspects, with information relevant to leprosy control. The journal is free to access via the [website](#).

LeprosyReview

Established in 1928



STAY UP TO DATE!

Stay up to date on our project work by signing up to our monthly Lepra emails.

Email Rotary@Lepra.org.uk with your full name and email address, and we will add you to our distribution list.

Rotary Action Group for Leprosy

Would you like to be involved in the new Rotary Action Group for Leprosy? We are looking for members to help us to drive this partnership forward and ensure that fighting this neglected tropical disease becomes a global priority. For more information, or to join RAGL, please email AbiW@lepra.org.uk.

Find out more with Lepra News

To find out more about Lepra's work, take a look at our quarterly newsletter! Click here: www.lepra.org.uk/news/article/lepra-news-summer-2022



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Lepra, 28 Middleborough, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TG
01206 216 700 - www.lepra.org.uk - lepra@lepra.org.uk
Registered charity number: 00213251 (England and Wales) SCO39715 (Scotland)

