

A Fresh Start, New Opportunities - 2024

Dear friends,

I want to extend my warmest wishes for a prosperous new year to each one of you. Every new year is like the beginning of a new chapter, filled with fresh opportunities and challenges. The past year is history now, we faced obstacles, adapted to changes, and achieved significant milestones that will forever be part of GLRA India's legacy. I am deeply grateful for your unwavering dedication and pursuit of excellence, which has been a driving force behind our success.

Wishing you all an incredible year ahead.

Shibu George - Interim CEO

Special Day

World Leprosy Day 2024 - The theme is 'Beat Leprosy'



World Leprosy Day is observed every year on the last Sunday of January to focus on the important mission of eliminating the stigma

associated with the disease and upholding the dignity of those affected by it. The theme for this day highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that combines medical advancements to tackle the social and psychological challenges that come with leprosy. The year's theme goal is to envision a future where leprosy is eradicated, and this day encourages global unity towards achieving this objective, marking a significant step towards building an inclusive world.

"Voices of Empathy" Podcast series, a new beginning!



SCAN HERE!

Discover the heart of social impact with GLRA India's new podcast series, "Voices of Empathy."

Uncover stories, struggles, and solutions surrounding our

thematic priorities ie; Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Disability Inclusion, and Humanitarian crises. Join us on a journey of awareness, education, and advocacy through insightful discussions and personal narratives. Scan the QR code to listen now! Your support matters—share, subscribe, and be a part of the change. Together, let's amplify empathy and understanding

NEWS

Healthcare for Truckers at Yeshwantpur, Karnataka



GLRA Rehabilitation Fund and Apollo Tyre Foundation in a joint venture for enhancing the health-seeking behaviour of truckers and allied populations. GLRA India team visited one of the Healthcare centres at Yeshwantpur, Bengaluru on January 8th, 2024 with a mission to connect with local stakeholders and to learn the best practices. The centre contributes to the community's well-being, especially the long-halted truck drivers in the trans-shipment areas.

Participation in the IAL, Conference, Bangalore

The Indian Association of Leprologists (IAL) has convened its 32nd Biennial National Conference of Leprosy in collaboration with Vydehi Institute Of Medical Sciences And Research Centre, Bengaluru with a theme on "Leprosy Free India - Way Forward". The conference provided a vital platform for all stakeholders and experts to deliberate on strategies that find ways for Leprosy eradication.



On behalf of ILEP India, Dr. Srilekha Penna delivered a convincing presentation titled 'How to choose the best case finding approaches based on the endemicity of a region.' Dr. Penna's insights into tailoring case-finding strategies to regional nuances added valuable perspectives, contributing to the conference's objectives.

GLRA India participated in the event, represented by the communication team, and showcased our commitment to advancing the dialogue on leprosy eradication through communication channels. This two-day event facilitated knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices, and strategic insights, collectively paving the way for a leprosy-free future in India.

GLRA Champions in TB-Free Panchayat, Gurugram, Haryana



Project NAIDISHA at Gurugram made a noteworthy impact at the health camp in Daulatabad on December 22, 2023, organized by the District Health Department. As part of the TB Free Panchayat campaign, launched by the Honorable Prime Minister on the occasion of World TB Day 2023, the project team, alongside the government medical team, Dr Sukhbir Singh, Dr Kanika, and Dr Keshav Sharma, actively participated

in TB screening campaign. A total of 57 presumptive TB cases were notified, sputum samples were collected for testing, and X-rays were taken X-ray by using a Medanta hospital mobile van. The Government and GLRA's commitment to public health shines through, contributing significantly to early tuberculosis identification and prevention.

Empowering Communities: Village Health & Sanitation Committee led cleaning drive, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

Project WaSH My EYES, GLRA's flagship initiative, organized a community-driven WASH practising camp in the district of Sitapur. The camp aimed to involve the VHSCs and educate them on hygiene, water usage, and sanitation practices. Attendees engaged in discussions on government schemes, disease prevention, and the indispensable role they can play in improving the community's WASH practices. Disease prevention and control measures for Lymphatic Filariasis, Leprosy, and related eye complications were discussed, emphasizing the need for awareness and to address the associated stigma. Post camp, the inspired VHSC members arranged a vigorous cleanliness drive in the village, actively translating the acquired knowledge into tangible community practices. This concerted effort, within the broader framework of Project WaSH My Eyes, is steering the community towards a healthier life.



Youths committed against Gender-Based Violence in Limbi, Madhya Pradesh



St. Augustine Social Service Society (GLRA partner NGO) recently led an impactful session on gender-based violence at the Government High Secondary School, Limbi, Pati. Engaging 88 students, the initiative delved into critical topics such as gender rights, violence against women, and societal gender norms. The program's highlight was the establishment of a dedicated youth club committed to combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and championing inclusivity. Expert-led sessions on gender equality and violence against women not only raised awareness but also cultivated empathy.

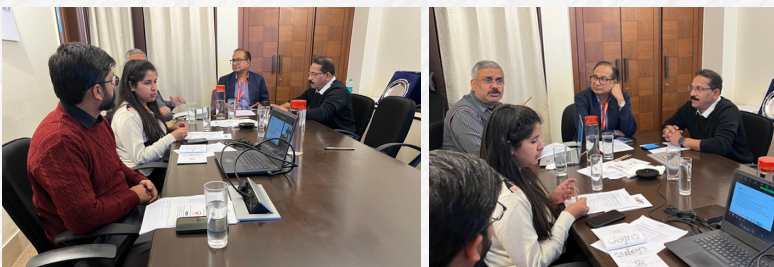
Encouraging critical reflection on ingrained gender norms, this commendable initiative strives to challenge biases and foster a more equitable and inclusive society.

Paving the Way for Urban Health Equity in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh

GLRA India through Project Axshya Plus, Ratlam embarked on a transformative drive towards improving urban health by addressing socioeconomic disparities. The team targets urban slums, to break barriers faced by low-income populations' access to healthcare affordability, transportation, and awareness. In densely populated urban areas, the transmission of Tuberculosis is a pressing concern and the reasons are many, from poor urban planning to a shortage of well-trained healthcare professionals. Through coordinated efforts with urban health bodies, the team brings essential TB care services to doorsteps, offering household contact screening, IGRA testing, and TB preventive therapy. The initiative witnessed a positive impact as communities gained access to comprehensive healthcare in their urban landscape.



ILEP India - Strategy Meeting: Progress and Plans



GLRA India participated in the ILEP India Meeting on December 6, 2023, bringing together CEOs from member organizations. The ILEP India coordinator and the Deputy ILEP India Coordinator shared the progress and future strategies. In 2023, the ILEP member organizations together made significant strides in leprosy work in India. The CEOs and ILEP India Coordinator have discussed potential challenges and opportunities, setting the tone for collaborative planning. The draft activity plan for 2024 is more focused on interrupting leprosy transmission in line with

ILEP's mandate, the national strategic plan, and the global leprosy strategy. CEOs actively participated in crafting a forward-looking approach, reflecting ILEP India's commitment to a leprosy-free world. The outcomes of this meeting will guide ILEP India's contributions in 2024, reinforcing our collective dedication to interrupting the transmission of leprosy in India.

Nourishing Lives: Ek Pahal Health Camp Creates Healthier Futures for Women, Gurugram, Haryana

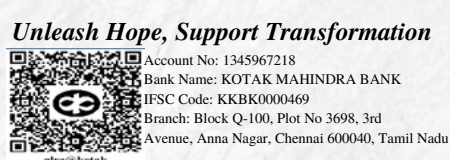
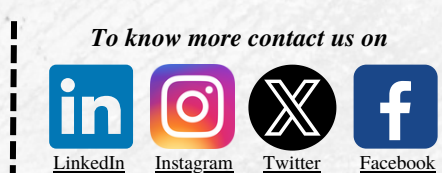


Artemis Hospital and GLRA India joined for the transformative "Ek Pahal Nirog Bharat Ki Aur" Women Nutrition & Supplement Support Health Camp on December 18th, 2023. The camp attracted 200 women and girls, striding significantly towards a healthier India. Ms. Shalini Kanwar Chand, Artemis Hospital's Chairperson, graced the occasion, distributing supplement support to women attendees. Expert gynaecologists provided personalized health consultations. The camp's holistic approach included hygiene kits containing sanitary napkins, hand towels, sanitisers, and more. Beyond healthcare, it became a joyous celebration of well-being. Join us in the collective "Ek Pahal" journey towards a "Nirog Bharat Ki Aur" – a resounding step towards a healthier India for all.

Case Story

A Triumph Over Adversity

Once again GLRA's efforts paved the way for someone in a remote village in the district of Malda, West Bengal. Anahita's (name changed) life transformed, with timely support. Mother of a family of six surviving on her son's meagre income, she battled blurred vision, watery eyes, and impaired near and distant sight for six years. Unaware of her ailment due to financial constraints, she found hope at a meeting organized by GLRA India under the project WaSH MY EYES. After a screening, counselling, and referral, she underwent a successful cataract surgery at R.N. Roy Rural Hospital and now she can manage to support her son for daily living. GLRA's assistance, including financial help for transportation, motivation, and hospital support, paved the way for her renewed vision. Anahita is now joyous, enabling her to see clearly and resume daily tasks effortlessly.



Designed and Curated by Shabinda Rahman- Communications & PR Officer (with the support from the Communication Department - Ms Geetanjali Kaushik - Manager PR & Communications)

