

**DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
HAFLONG GOVT. COLLEGE**

**WORLD  
LEPROSY DAY**



**EDITION-VIII**

**FEBRUARY, 01, 2026**

*United for Dignity*

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the eight edition of our e-magazine! We are thrilled to bring you a collection of engaging stories, insightful articles, and creative expressions. This edition reflects the talent, passion and dedication of our contributors and we hope it inspires and resonates with you.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

The Editorial Team

# MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISOR

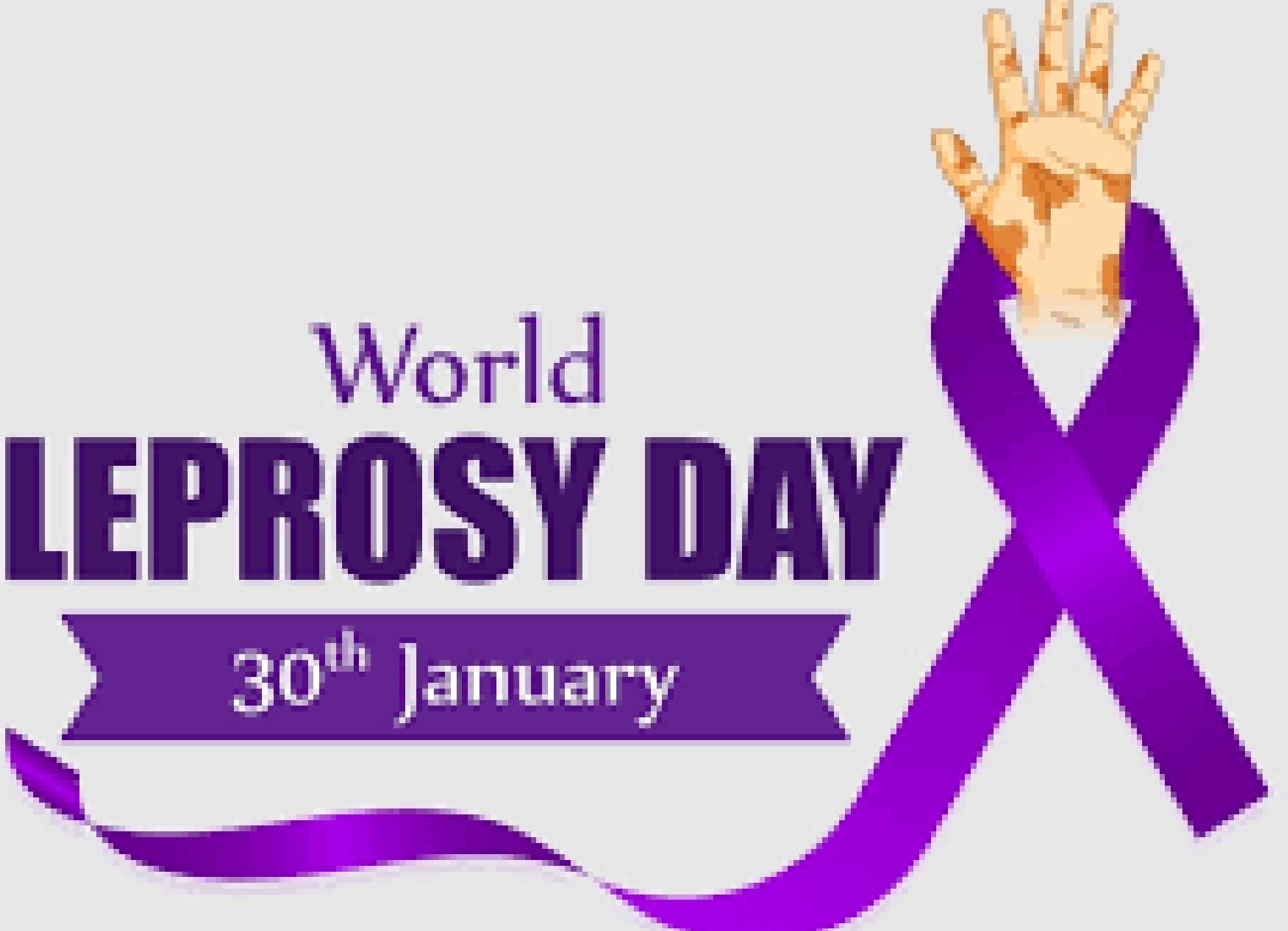
I want to feature on the importance of consistency in achieving success. Often we focus on grand goals and forget that small, consistent efforts lead to significant outcomes. Its okay to stumble but always get back up and continue, consistency lays the foundation for progress. Growth is not about perfection, its about persistence.

Together, we can explore ways to overcome challenges and search our fullest potential.

My best wishes..



Dr Sarbojit Thaosen( Principal i/c)  
Advisor  
E - Magazine  
Department of Zoology



# World LEPROSY DAY

30<sup>th</sup> January

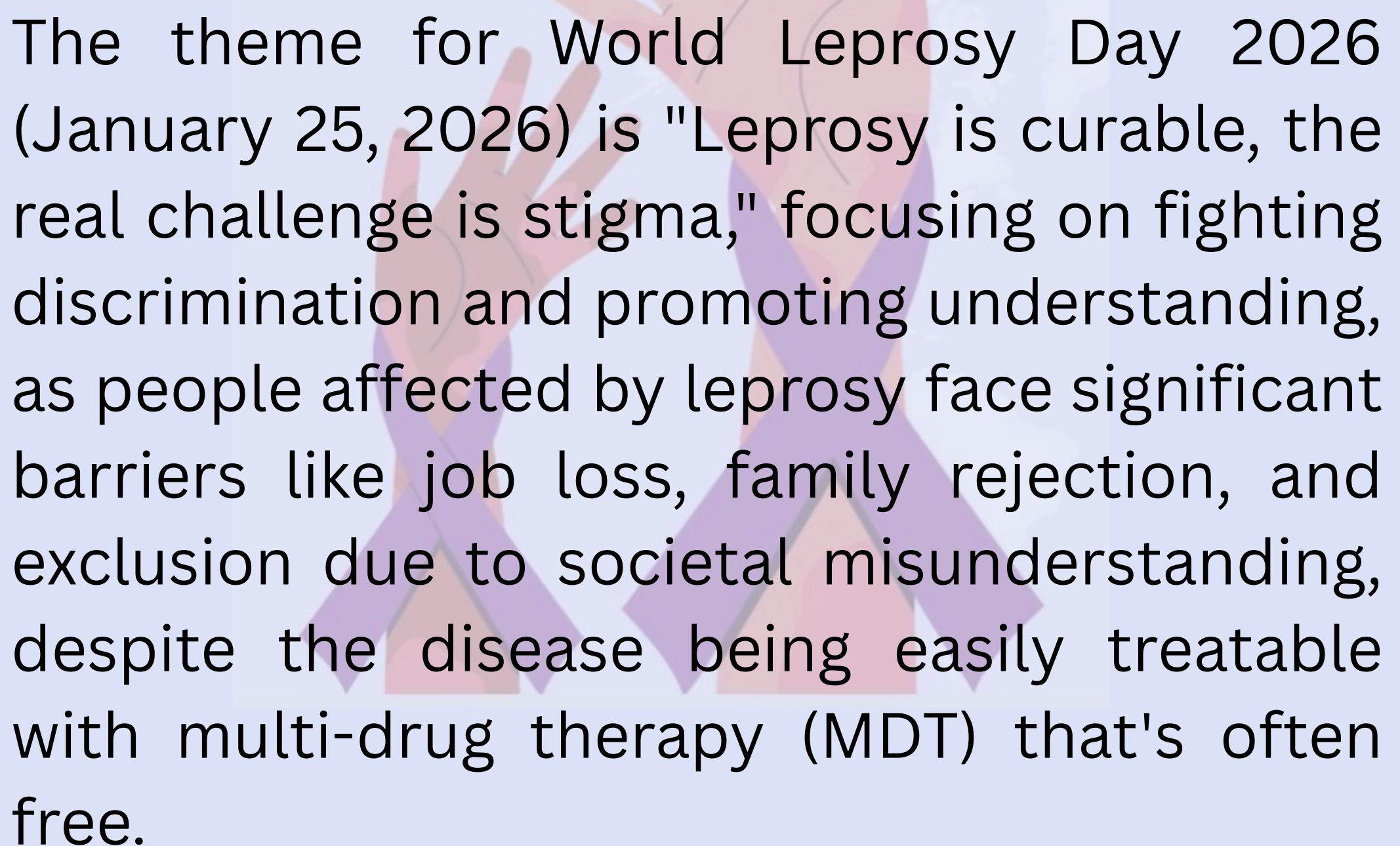
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World Leprosy Day, observed annually on the last Sunday of January, raises awareness about leprosy (Hansen's disease) and fights the stigma surrounding it, emphasizing that it's a curable bacterial disease. Established in 1954 by Raoul Follereau, it honors Mahatma Gandhi's work for those affected and aims to promote the dignity and inclusion of people with leprosy through education, advocacy, and collaborative action and it is celebrated on 30<sup>th</sup> January in India.

Urvash Johari  
FYUG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# **"Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma"**

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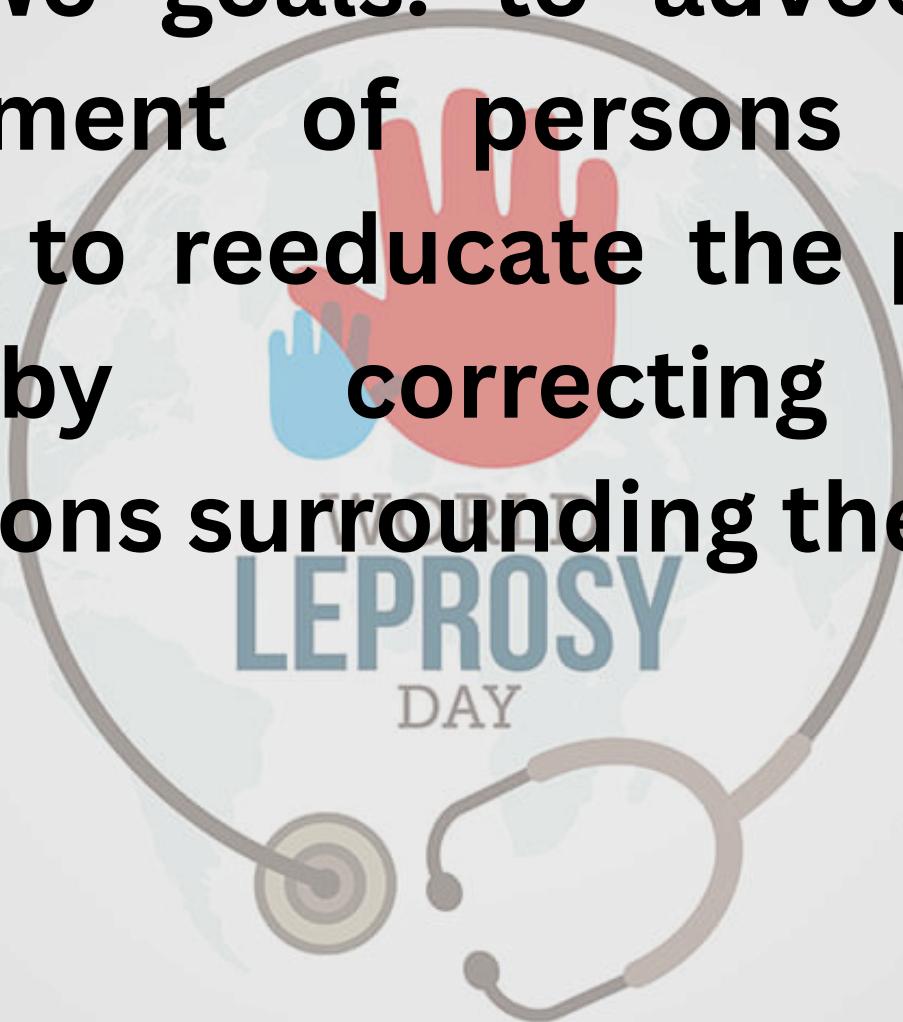


The theme for World Leprosy Day 2026 (January 25, 2026) is "Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma," focusing on fighting discrimination and promoting understanding, as people affected by leprosy face significant barriers like job loss, family rejection, and exclusion due to societal misunderstanding, despite the disease being easily treatable with multi-drug therapy (MDT) that's often free.

**Anubhav Joishi  
FYUG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester**

# Who and When ?

World Leprosy Day was established in 1954 by French journalist and activist, Raoul Follereau. Follereau created World Leprosy Day with two goals: to advocate for the equal treatment of persons affected by leprosy and to reeducate the public about leprosy by correcting historical misconceptions surrounding the disease.

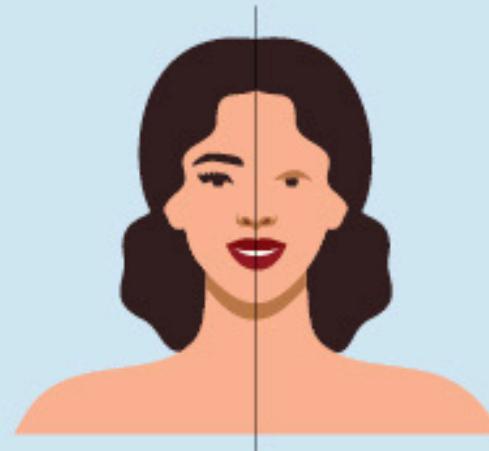


Chinu Sharma  
FYUG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# Symptoms of Leprosy



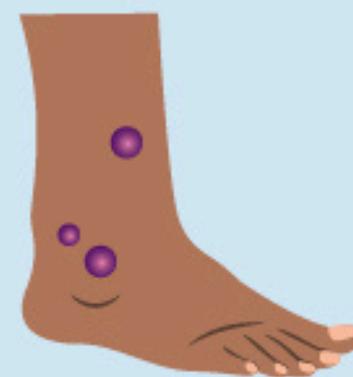
**Patches of discolored, pale, red, thick, stiff, swollen or numb skin**



**Loss of eyebrows or eyelashes**



**Sores on the bottom of your feet**



**Red or purple nodules or lumps**



**Weakness or paralysis**



**Enlarged nerves**



**Vision loss or other eye issues**

# Early Signs of Leprosy: Know the Symptoms

Leprosy, though rare, is a treatable condition when caught early. Recognizing the early signs is crucial for timely intervention.

Here's what to watch out for:



Skin Changes



Numbness



Muscle Weakness



Pain & Tingling



Eye Issues

## Leprosy Frequently Asked Questions

#WLD2020

**Q: Can leprosy be cured?**

**A: Yes, multi-drug therapy (MDT) is used to treat cases of leprosy effectively with minimal side effects.**

**Q: What is leprosy?**

**A: Leprosy is a disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*. It attacks the nerve endings in the hands, feet and face.**

**Q: How is leprosy spread?**

**A: Leprosy is not highly infectious. It is spread through respiratory droplets and requires close and frequent prolonged contact with an affected person. Its transmission is not hereditary.**

**Q: What are the symptoms of leprosy?**

**A: Many experience patches of discolouration, numbness, tingling or weakness of the hands or feet, tender nerves, swelling or lumps in the face.**

# Leprosy Cases



In the last five years (approx. 2020-2025), India has seen a continued decline in leprosy cases, with new detections dropping from around 75,000 in 2021-22 to about 100,000 in 2024-25 (though 2024-25 numbers are higher than previous years like 2021-22), reflecting success in early detection and treatment under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP).

## In Assam

In the last five years (roughly 2020-2025), Assam has seen fluctuating but generally decreasing trends in new leprosy cases, with prevalence rates dropping below the national elimination threshold (under 1 per 10,000) by 2023, though high endemic districts and hidden cases remain a focus, with significant efforts on detection, especially in tea gardens and urban slums, as part of India's National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP).

#NationalAntiLeprosyDay

## In Dima Hasao

Data from the Dima Hasao district health authorities indicate that no new indigenous leprosy cases were found in the district since 2021 up to July 2023. However, a total of three active leprosy cases were identified in the district as of January 2025.

#SwasthaBharat

Paismaidi Thaosen  
FYUG 6<sup>th</sup> semester

# Beliefs in Leprosy

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Leprosy was considered a consequence of sin and was later thought to a certain extent to be inherited. In the Bible, it's often depicted as a symbol of spiritual impurity, while in popular culture it has been associated with horror, isolation, and fear.

## In India

Beliefs about leprosy in India have historically linked it to divine punishment, karma, and sin, leading to intense stigma, social exclusion, and isolation. Despite modern medical cures, deep-rooted cultural beliefs persist, causing fear of contagion (often by touch), shame, reluctance to seek treatment, and discrimination in marriage and social life, though changing perceptions and government/NGO efforts aim to combat this.

**Akhridao Purusa**  
**FYUG 2<sup>nd</sup> semester**