

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
SRI.A.S.N.M.GOV.T. COLLEGE (A), PALAKOL
CELEBRATION OF “WORLD LEPROSY DAY”
ON 30-01-2021

History:

In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January every year, i.e., Mahatma Gandhiji's martyrdom day, as Gandhiji was deeply committed to the cause of leprosy. To commemorate the anti-leprosy day, Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaigns (SLAC) are being organized since 2017 in order to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons suffering from leprosy. During SLACs, nationwide Gram Sabhas in villages across the country are organised in cooperation and coordination with allied sectors of health department. Appropriate messages from District Magistrates and appeals from Gram Sabha Pramukhs (Heads of Village councils) **to reduce discrimination against persons affected with leprosy** are read out; pledge is taken by all Gram Sabha members to reduce the burden of disease in the community, and felicitation of persons affected with leprosy is done. Village community is encouraged to participate in these meetings, and school children are encouraged to spread awareness about the disease through plays, posters etc.

In the year 2021 too, the States were requested to organise SLACs (Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaigns) on 30th January. The focus of SLACs this year was to make the community aware about the importance of early detection of leprosy followed by complete treatment in order to prevent physical disabilities. SLACs were conducted this year starting from 30th January to 13th February 2021.

The following activities were performed by states/ UTs during SLACs:

1. Appeals from Gram Sabha Pramukh / Members of the Panchayati Raj Institutes / Medical officers were made to remove stigma and discrimination against persons affected with leprosy.
2. Street plays were enacted by school children. Other cultural programs were held to disseminate educative messages about leprosy.
3. Question Answer sessions were held involving Frequently Asked Questions.
4. Banners and posters carrying important messages on leprosy were displayed at high visibility places to promote Information, Education and Communication (IEC) about the disease.
5. Leprosy messages were also disseminated through Public Address Systems at some places.
6. Three Short Films (TVCs) on leprosy, developed by Central Leprosy Division, were run through multimedia devices in meetings, and other relevant gatherings held during SLACs.
7. A pledge was taken by community members not to discriminate against persons affected with leprosy.
8. Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) activities were conducted at many places, wherein leprosy affected persons were provided self-care kits, Microcellular rubber (MCR) footwear etc.
9. Besides, in connection with the commemoration of world NTD (Neglected Tropical Diseases) Day, 2021, Qutab Minar was illuminated as a part of global activity. Over 50 monuments across the world were illuminated on NTD day. Leprosy happens to be one of the NTDs in India. Banners related to leprosy were also displayed, along with other NTDs, at the illuminated Qutab Minar.

Our Department of Zoology Celebrated “**World Leprosy Day**” on **30-01-2021** in Sri. A.S.N.M. Govt. College(A), Palakol,W.G.Dt.

