



Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation  
*Restoring Dignity*

# Togetherness turns Challenges to Triumphs

Annual Report 2022-23







*Youth from various background performing together during national youth festival in New Delhi.*

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*Featured on the front cover- S-ILF's beneficiaries (clockwise from top left): Divya Rajak (S-ILF Scholar- Physiotherapy); Mr Parikshit Mahto (S-ILF beneficiary- Livelihood); Ms Suhani Jadhav & Ms Pratiksha Sul (S-ILF Scholars and participants-regional youth festival); Women of Choudwar Leprosy colony, Cuttack, Odisha (S-ILF beneficiaries- Livelihood) and Mr Dominic Chario (S-ILF beneficiary- Livelihood).*

*Back cover: Mr Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination along with ASHA workers during flip-chart distribution on Leprosy in Ranchi, Jharkhand.*





*Ms Pratima Sethi is a resident of Jagannath Leprosy Colony, Bhubaneswar. With S-ILF's livelihood support, she now runs a betel and tea shop.*



## About

### Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF)

India declared itself as having eliminated Leprosy as a public health concern in 2005 when it brought down the prevalence of Leprosy to less than one new case per 10,000 population. This benchmark set by WHO, indicated a level of prevalence at which the disease ceases to be a public health concern.

While India celebrated the achievement of elimination of leprosy as a public health concern, Mr Yohei Sasakawa, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy elimination and Chairman of the Nippon Foundation was quick to realise that his mission of eliminating leprosy would not be over unless stigma against people affected by leprosy was eradicated and they were reintegrated into society. He compares the fight against leprosy to the two wheels of a motorcycle. The front wheel being the medical and the rear being the socioeconomic development of leprosy-affected persons. He therefore took two visionary steps: facilitating the setting up of the National Forum of Leprosy Affected People (now renamed as Association of People Affected by Leprosy)- an association of persons affected by leprosy living in colonies across the country so that they could work together to lead the fight for acceptance in society and their inclusion in the welfare schemes of the government; and two, setting up of a foundation that would facilitate the economic empowerment of leprosy affected people so that they could move out of the demeaning dependence on alms and begging and begin to earn their livelihood with dignity. The latter, Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) was instituted in November 2006 and works towards mainstreaming persons affected by leprosy and their families through socioeconomic empowerment, thereby restoring dignity to their lives. Ensuring equal social, economic and cultural opportunities for those affected by leprosy is a means of combating stigma and discrimination against those affected by the disease.

*S-ILF has been able to reach out to more than 3050 beneficiaries of livelihood projects in around 300 Leprosy colonies across 18 states in the country; provided opportunities for higher professional education to scholars (178- HHDLS Scholarships, 193- Nursing); skilling courses in retail, electrical and hospitality for high school drop-outs for around 850 youth and more than 400 children benefit through After School Learning Centres (ASLC), which run from within the colonies across 11 locations in the country. Through its various awareness campaigns around Leprosy, it has reached out to more than three million people. S-ILF has also reached out to around 11,000 residents of various Leprosy colonies through its humanitarian aid program. S-ILF works in close collaboration with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) for the implementation of its programs.*







*Women beneficiaries receiving their grant letters for livelihood projects in Chowdwar Leprosy colony, Cuttack, Odisha*

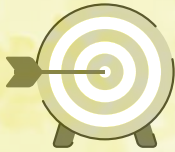




## VISION

To integrate Leprosy-cured persons and their families into main-stream society by ending the discrimination faced by them.

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## MISSION

To end stigma against the disease and ensure equal social, economic and cultural opportunities to those affected by Leprosy and their families.

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## GOALS

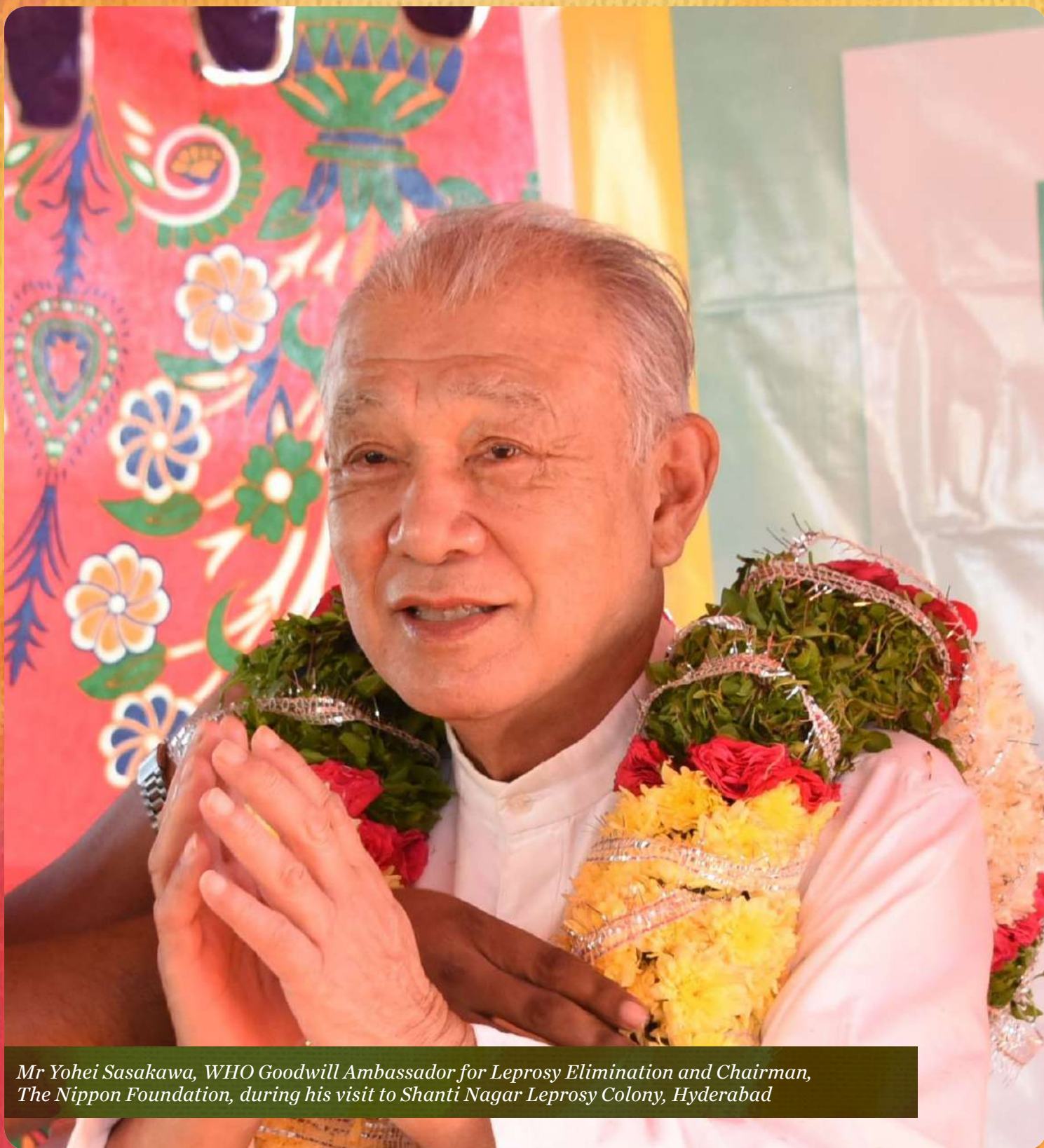
- To increase social acceptability of Leprosy-cured persons and their families through dissemination of scientific information;
  - To create increased awareness about the disease;
  - To bust myths in people's minds about Leprosy.
  - To create conditions that will enable them to have equal access to economic and educational opportunities.
- 



## STRATEGY

- Providing support- financial and technical for setting up micro-enterprises for self-employment and empowering persons affected by Leprosy to access government welfare schemes;
- Providing access to vocational training and higher education through scholarships;
- Addressing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues in Leprosy colonies for improvement in overall quality of life;
- Creating awareness about Leprosy among all sections of society to fight stigma and discrimination;
- Engaging with opinion and policy makers for the rights and inclusion of persons affected by Leprosy.





*Mr Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and Chairman, The Nippon Foundation, during his visit to Shanti Nagar Leprosy Colony, Hyderabad*



## Our Guiding Light— Our Patron

### In conversation with Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman— The Nippon Foundation

**Interviewer:** After three years, the COVID pandemic is finally subsiding. Please summarize your thoughts on leprosy elimination activities during that time.

**Mr Sasakawa:** First of all, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all of you at S-ILF, led by Chairman—Mr Tarun Das, on behalf of persons affected by leprosy in the midst of the COVID pandemic. When the pandemic broke out, it was a very difficult situation with the entire nation in lockdown. But S-ILF wanted to see what could be done for the colonies, which were badly affected by these circumstances, and you were quick to carry out relief activities, such as collecting donations and providing food aid. I cannot thank you enough for your efforts. For my part, even after the lockdown was lifted, I was unable to make on-site visits, which I found very frustrating. On the other hand, it was because of such restrictions that social networking and webinars really came into their own and we saw how anyone with a smartphone could play a media role. As you know, The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Health Foundation began a “Don’t Forget Leprosy” campaign that continues to this day, which aims to ensure that leprosy and the needs of those affected by it are not overlooked.

**Interviewer:** We can now start thinking about a post-coronavirus approach. What sort of activities are you planning in India?

**Mr Sasakawa:** Last November, I visited India for the first time in three years to attend the 2nd Global Forum of People’s Organisations on Hansen’s Disease and the 21st International Leprosy Congress. I was also able to resume field visits, such as going to a colony in Jharkhand. When I visited S-ILF office, I also discussed future leprosy elimination activities with CEO— Mr Gaurab Sen. As you know, India has set an ambitious target to make the country free of leprosy and leprosy-related stigma by 2030, under the strong leadership of Prime Minister, Mr Narendra

Modi— a point I confirmed with the Prime Minister when he visited Japan for the funeral of late Prime Minister, Mr Abe. Now that the coronavirus has subsided, we need to focus more on early detection and treatment activities, which were unavoidably disrupted at the height of the pandemic, and on ending the stigma and discrimination symbolised by the existence of discriminatory laws. Unfortunately, there are still about 100 discriminatory laws against leprosy in India, both nationally and in more than 25 states and territories, and their repeal is an urgent task. We need to create an inclusive society where everyone, including persons affected by leprosy, can thrive in the post-COVID era.

**Interviewer:** What do you expect from S-ILF and the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL)?

**Mr Sasakawa:** The contribution of persons affected by leprosy will be essential in achieving the ambitious goal of freeing India from leprosy and its associated stigma by 2030. APAL has worked to improve the lives of persons affected by leprosy and has secured special pension payments in some states. S-ILF, meanwhile, promotes social participation through vocational training, educational support and awareness-raising. I hope that APAL and S-ILF will continue to work closely together to realize a leprosy-free India.

**Interviewer:** Finally, what is your message for the S-ILF team?

**Mr Sasakawa:** The three years of the COVID pandemic were very difficult, but once again I would like to express my gratitude and my respect to all of you for the dedication and commitment you have shown. I look forward to visiting India again this year and working alongside you for a leprosy-free India. What we achieve against leprosy in India will have a global impact, so let us redouble our efforts.





*S-ILF chairman, Mr Tarun Das with S-ILF staff in New Delhi.*



## Message from the Chairman

- 1. Eradicate Leprosy in India by working together with officials and other agencies.**
- 2. Integrate persons with Leprosy background with others.**
- 3. Train persons from Leprosy colonies to have skills which provide employment.**
- 4. Provide Livelihood assistance to enable them to earn a living and live in dignity.**

These are some of the S-ILF's objectives carried out with all seriousness and sincerity. To this end, the group of people leading S-ILF has been expanded. The Committee Structure ensures decentralised working in close harmony with the CEO and team. And, this is an ongoing process of work to make S-ILF more effective.

Partnerships become important. S-ILF-APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) grows stronger. The S-ILF-CII Partnership has brought Industry support. The S-ILF-Young Indians (YI) partnership has promoted integration. More is yet to come.

We have a new CEO who is leading the work with full dedication, supported by a team of executives at headquarters and zonal teams spread through the States.

S-ILF will work to expand its reach and continue to make a real difference. This is one continuing commitment. As a result, each year, S-ILF's work grows because there is much to do, and speed is of the essence.

The Inspiration, leadership and vision came from our Patron, Sasakawa-san but the work on the ground in India has to be, and is being, done by the S-ILF team which includes the Sasakawa Health Foundation and The Nippon Foundation, who are part of the S-ILF family.

**Tarun Das**

*Chairman, S-ILF*





*Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Patron, S-ILF, sitting with S-ILF's outgoing CEO Dr Vivek Lal and his successor, Mr Gaurab Sen at S-ILF's head office in New Delhi.*



## From CEO's Desk

I would like to begin by paying tribute to our long-time ally and APAL member, Mr. G. Venu Gopal, who passed away after battling long with ailing health on April 30, 2023. He was a brave voice for people affected by Leprosy. We will miss him greatly.

When I joined S-ILF in 2020, I immediately became an integral part of framing the next five years' strategy for the organisation. With guidance and direction from our patron, Mr Yohei Sasakawa, and the Board of Trustees, chaired by Mr. Tarun Das, I was given the task of expanding S-ILF's presence on the field. I am happy to see the plans we drafted on paper unfolding at the grass-roots level and bringing about changes in the lives of people affected by Leprosy and their family members.

S-ILF is among those few organisations that has expanded its work beyond one geographical area. Since its inception, S-ILF has provided assistance to the needs of the colonies in all 18 states under APAL. However, the approach was adjusted to establish zones and optimize efforts effectively, resulting in coverage of 10 states under five zones with regional offices and field staff. This year, the Board has approved the creation of two new zones to extend coverage to the South and East regions of the country.

In this year, I saw my responsibilities increase from being the Program Head to the CEO. Although I enjoy being in the field, the new role has been a special one for me. My long-time colleague and close friend, Dr Vivek Lal, was the CEO when I joined S-ILF. My team rallied behind me, and the support from the Board made this transition easy. Throughout the year, S-ILF has been involved in numerous global events, including the 21st International Leprosy Congress and the 2nd International Symposium on Leprosy at the Vatican.

We've begun the year by creating an alumni group of our scholars from various Leprosy colonies. During a daylong leadership workshop in our Youth *Samagam* Programme, these young minds had an opportunity to interact with industry professionals from the Young Indians (YI). Now, every state has its youth core committee, and the national core committee represents them at forums. The youth from Leprosy colonies have interacted with youth from mainstream society through residential

programmes- youth festivals at national and regional levels, we fostered inclusion between youth from Leprosy colonies and mainstream society, erasing stigma and discrimination.

Our Livelihood vertical has seen an increase in providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. This year, our programme has reached 257 new beneficiaries with 189 sustainable livelihood projects across five zones. We are thankful to our donors, Bajaj Auto Ltd. and Tata Steel Foundation, for supporting projects in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, respectively.

Our education programme has continued to impact the lives of the youth in Leprosy colonies. This year, we have supported 70 students.

The online process for selection interviews has made our education programme more approachable, easy and transparent.

We are happy to announce that a new dedicated programme for the welfare of children is starting in this year. This will help hundreds of children from unprivileged backgrounds through extracurricular activities such as sports, dance & music.

As part of our humanitarian aid programme, we provide daily necessities to people during emergencies. Our Telemedicine and Ulcer care facilities provide medical care to people from Leprosy colonies. To make a positive impact on the lives of people affected by Leprosy, we have constructed and repaired toilets in various Leprosy colonies.

We are also humbly thankful for being bestowed with many awards and recognitions this year, which you will find in this report. I hope you find this report interesting enough to read.

With each passing year, S- ILF reaches new highs. With the help of APAL, field staff and our partners we've been able to solve a lot of problems in the field. I'm grateful for the trust shown in us by our donors and partners.



# Our Board



**Mr Tarun Das**

*Chairman  
Former Director General  
Confederation of Indian  
Industry (CII)*



**Ms Syeda Bilgrami Imam**

*Former Executive Creative  
Director  
J Walter Thompson (Central  
Asia) & Member, National  
Commission For Minorities,  
Govt. of India*



**Mr Tatsuya Tanami**

*Special Advisor, The Nippon  
Foundation &  
Managing Director- Centre for  
Human Rights, Education &  
Training, Japan*



**Ms Rathi Vinay Jha**

*Former member of Indian  
Administrative Service,  
Chairperson, Plan India*



**Mr Seturaman  
Mahalingam**

*Former CFO & Executive  
Director  
Tata Consultancy Services,  
Global*



**Prof Takahiro Nanri**

*Executive Director  
Sasakawa Health Foundation,  
Japan*



**Dr Derek Lobo**

*Former Regional Advisor for  
Leprosy,  
World Health Organisation*



# Our Advisory Members



**Mr Baijayant Panda**  
*National Vice President,  
Bhartiya Janta Party &  
Former Member of Parliament*



**Mr Dinesh Trivedi**  
*Former Member of Parliament*



**Mr Keiji Nakajima**  
*Chairman, Nakajima  
Consultancy Services LLP*



**Ms Kiran Pasricha**  
*Former CEO, Ananta Aspen  
Centre*



**Ms Maya Ranavare**  
*President, APAL India*



**Ms Nandini Sanjiv Rawal**  
*Executive Director- Blind  
People's Association, India*



**Dr Parvinder Sohi Behuria**  
*Chairperson, Quality  
Review Board for Chartered  
Accountants in India*



**Mr Ravi Singh**  
*Secretary General & CEO,  
World Wide Fund for Nature-  
India (WWF-India)*



**Ms Seema Arora**  
*Deputy Director General  
(DDG), CII*



**Ms Supriya Banerji**  
*Former Deputy Director  
General (DDG), CII*



# Our Advisory Members



**Mr Suresh Prabhu**  
*India's Sherpa to the G7*



**Mr Sushanta K Sen**  
*Former Deputy Director  
General (DDG), CII*



**Mr Vagvathalli Karsappa**  
*Former President, APAL India*



**Mr Vipin Sondhi**  
*Former MD & CEO Ashok  
Layland*



**Dr Y S Rajan**  
*Indian Scientist*



# S-ILF Committees

S-ILF dreams of an inclusive society, where people from different spheres of society come together to build a similar consciousness. This reflects in S-ILF's core practice as well. S-ILF's board has constituted various committees handling its verticals. These committees, headed by a chair/ co-chair and supported by members with expertise in the field and subject matter, report to the Board of Trustees (BoT) and provide suggestions and recommendations. This has brought more clarity to S-ILF's approach and each vertical is now given the time and focus it deserves. The following committees are in force:

1. **Program:** The committee oversee the major programs of S-ILF, namely Livelihoods and Education. The projects under the program are responsible for supporting most of the direct beneficiaries. The committee is chaired by Dr Derek Lobo and co-chaired by Mr Vipin Sondhi. Other committee members are Mr Tatsuya Tanami, Mr Sushanta Sen, Mr Sougata Roy Choudhury and Ms Maya Ranavare. The committee also had Late Mr Venugopal as a member.
2. **Communications & Advocacy:** The committee looks after the awareness and advocacy projects. Chaired by member, BoT, Ms Syeda Bilgrami Imam, the committee has Mr Keiji Nakajima, Ms Seema Arora, Ms Maya Ranavare, Ms Anamika Mishra and Mr Aniruddha Roy as its members.
3. **Humanitarian Aid:** Constituted after the Covid pandemic, the committee manages the projects under this head. Mr Sushanta Sen chairs the committee. Other members include Prof Takahiro Nanri, Dr Parvinder Sohi Behuria and Ms Sarbani Chakraborty.
4. **Children's Development:** The recently created vertical's committee is chaired by Ms Kiran Pasricha. Prof Takahiro Nanri and Ms Maya Ranavare also joined as the committee members.
5. **Human Resource:** The HR Committee is responsible for matters related to human resources. Ms Supriya Banerji is the current Chair of the committee. Mr Tatsuya Tanami and Mr S Mahalingam are the members.
6. **Finance:** Finance Committee oversees the organisation's financial matters. The committee is chaired by Mr S Mahalingam. Prof Takahiro Nanri, Ms Rathi Vinay Jha, Mr Ravi Singh and Dr Parvinder Sohi Behuria are the members of the committee.
7. **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** Responsible for addressing and resolving complaints related to workplace harassment, discrimination, or any form of misconduct, ICC is established in compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013. The committee is chaired by Ms Rajni Sharma. Ms Charu Gaba and Mr Gaurab Sen are other members. Ms Rumjhum Chatterjee is the external member.

**S-ILF's Chairman Mr Tarun Das is a part of all the above committees except the Internal Complaint Committee. CEO, Mr Gaurab Sen presents before all the above committees.**





*Mr Gaurab Sen, CEO, S-ILF on his visit to  
S-ILF's Zone-3 (Bihar & Jharkhand)*

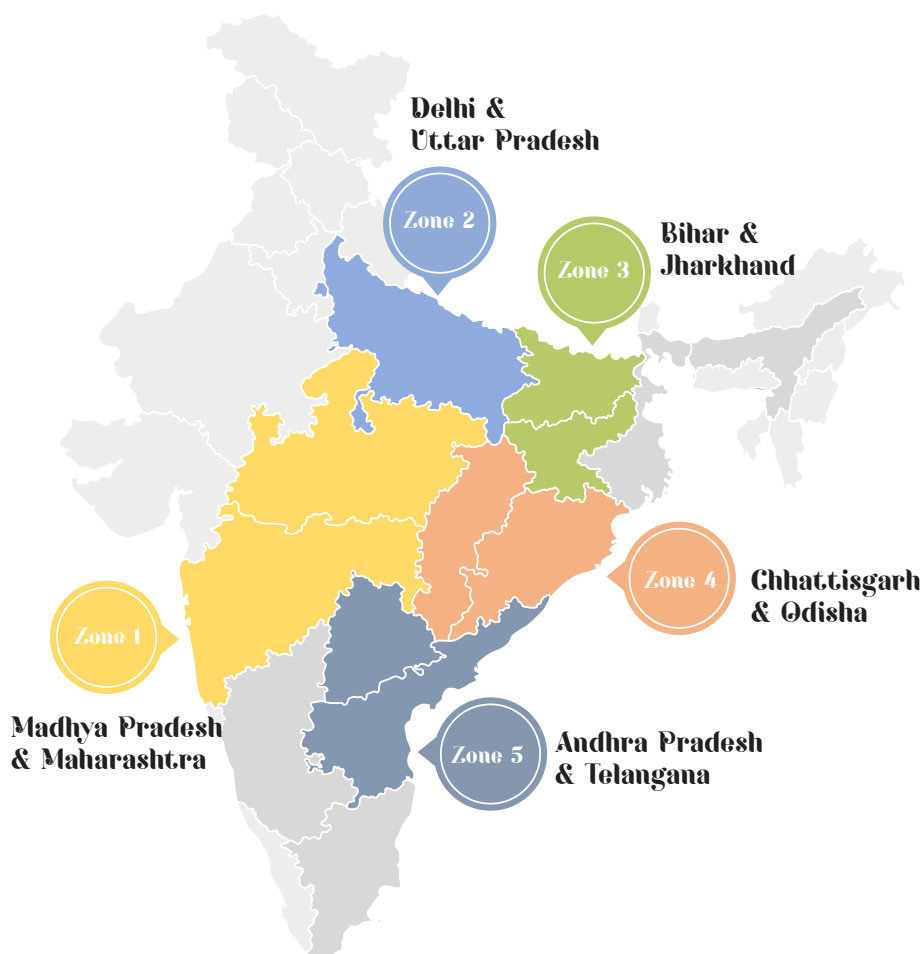


## S-ILF ZONES

### Reaching closer to the ground

Till 2020, S-ILF was operating from Delhi head quarter. The need for obtaining regional presence was felt from long and during the tough times of Covid 19, it was inevitable that S-ILF had to come to the ground to serve the community.

S-ILF has so far made five zones covering the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. The zones are looked after by the respective Zonal Program Co-ordinators. The first zonal office was opened in Nashik for the states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to be followed by second in Jamshedpur for Bihar & Jharkhand. Two more zones covering the states of Assam, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal will be created in next FY.







*Alumni meet- Delhi Chapter*



# Highlight of the Year

## Alumni Network

Since 2012, S-ILF has supported more than 1,300 youth from Leprosy colonies across the country to pursue higher professional education. These S-ILF scholars are in dignified jobs and well established. With an aim to mobilise the alumni as Champions in Leprosy arena, S-ILF initiated a platform where these scholars come together to form Youth Leadership Councils (YLCs) at state levels. The Leadership Council is a diverse, youth-driven group that stands to uphold leadership, promote change, and will raise awareness about Leprosy at local, state and national levels. S-ILF has initiated the creation of alumni networks across the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

More than 500 scholars have been trained in the day-long workshops for leadership skills and sensitised to the cause of Leprosy in these states. The program is supported by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) through their regional chapters and Young Indians (YI). Apart from establishing interaction with the industry, the platform provides for peer-learning.

Among these young leaders, a national chapter was also formed on S-ILF's Foundation Day in November 2022. The national chapter is a high committee of nine scholars from various Leprosy colonies, who will represent the community at various fora.

Such initiatives are important to enable equal social, economic and cultural opportunities for them as laid down in the United Nation's Principles and Guidelines for eliminating discrimination against Persons affected by Leprosy and their families.















Supported By SILF

सैफी स्टेशनरी



U/5 MCD बैक लैप्रोसी कॉम्प्लेक्स, ताहिरपुर, दिल्ली-110095

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Ms Momina Saiqi, a resident of Tahirpur Leprosy complex, New Delhi, in front of her stationary & general store, supported by S-ILF.



# Livelihood

## An attempt to restore dignity

S-ILF livelihood program aims at initiating, strengthening, and scaling up livelihood activities through financial, technical, and capacity building support to ensure quality of life of people living in Leprosy colonies.

S-ILF actively facilitates beneficiaries to take informed decisions. The support continues at all stages of project development, ranging from awareness generation and mobilisation, business orientation, feasibility study and market survey. The aim is to build capacity and ensure sustainability of the enterprise.

### Overview

Since program inception, 860 microenterprises in different sectors (agriculture, animal husbandry, processing, manufacturing, retail, livestock and services) across 18 states have been rolled out and over 3,050 beneficiaries have been directly benefitted.

During the year, **260 new livelihood projects were sanctioned**. This was provided to 354 **direct beneficiaries** (including 162 females) across 60 colonies in 40 districts of 11 states





## Capacity Building of Beneficiaries

The following training programs related to livelihood support were conducted during the year:

- Two days Entrepreneurship Development workshops organised in Andhra Pradesh (48 participants); Chhattisgarh (35 participants); Jharkhand (50 participants); Maharashtra (104 participants); Odisha (45 participants); Uttar Pradesh (88 participants); and West Bengal (29 participants).
- Module training on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) was organised for the livelihood beneficiaries of Pandharpur and Sangli colonies in Maharashtra. A total of 29 beneficiaries attended these two workshops.

## Empowerment through Self Help Groups (SHGs)

- Capacity building of 60 SHG members of the Leprosy colonies in Bokaro, Jamshedpur, Lucknow, Pandharpur and Sangli on entrepreneurship development.
- Trained and engaged SHG members in envelope making in Uttar Pradesh. The group made 5,000 envelopes, which S-ILF used in its stationary.











*S-ILF and Bajaj Auto Ltd supported Masala making project in Solapur, Maharashtra*



# Bajaj Auto Ltd

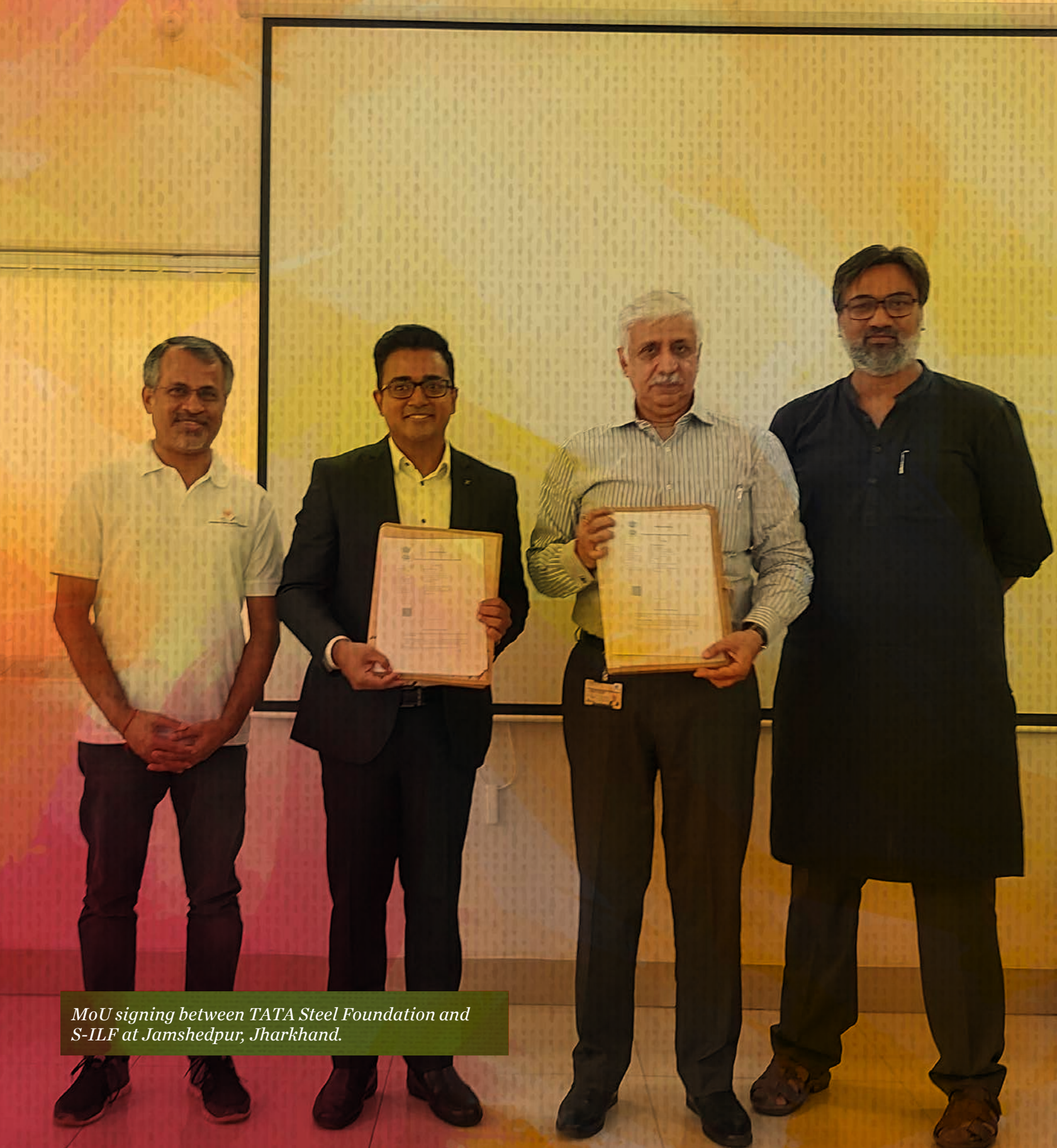
## Sustainable Livelihood Project

In phase-1 last year, Bajaj Auto Limited supported S-ILF to implement a livelihood project in nine colonies across four districts of Maharashtra, India. The project successfully supported 108 beneficiaries (71 males and 37 females), benefiting their families to earn a dignified income.

Bajaj Auto Ltd further supported S-ILF to implement the project for 108 more beneficiaries in six more colonies in the districts of Nashik, Sangli and Solapur in Maharashtra. Phase-2 witnessed livelihood support entailed training on entrepreneurship development, business planning, marketing and financial assistance in the form of seed money. Small-scale businesses including vegetable-selling, grocery-shop, construction, food stalls etc were established. Begging was significantly reduced through this intervention. The project aimed at creating a colony development fund (CDF) to be used as a revolving fund for support to other residents and overall development of colony. Socioeconomic rehabilitation through provision of livelihood support has positive impact on the life of persons affected by leprosy and their families, enabling dignity, demonstrated through weaning from such practices as begging. CDF helps to bring ownership and ensure sustainability of efforts.







*MoU signing between TATA Steel Foundation and S-ILF at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.*



# Tata Steel Foundation

## supported project

There are 20 leprosy colonies in total at Jamshedpur, situated in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. With the support of Tata Steel Foundation, TSF's Sabal Swabalamban project S-ILF implemented 14 livelihood projects in 7 colonies of Jamshedpur, Jharkhand in FY 2022-23. These projects supported 29 beneficiaries (25 females and 4 males). Livelihood support necessitate training on entrepreneurship development, marketing, planning and implementation of the small scale business and financial assistance in the form of seed money.

In collaboration with TSF we have supported small scale businesses like Piggery, goatary, scrap dealing, Poultry farming, clothier and cosmetic store etc







*S-ILF supported poultry farm project in Asha  
Vihar Leprosy colony, Jharia, Dhanbad, Jharkhand*



# Stories from the Field

## Case Study 1 – Sanjeev Viswakarma

**Colony– Ashadeep Leprosy Colony, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh**

Sanjeev Viswakarma is a 40 years old man lives in Ashadeep Colony, Bhilai situated in Chhattisgarh. He lives there with his old parents, wife and two sons, he is a person with disability. His sons are studying in 9th and 7th class respectively. His wife is a house wife (35years old). She also does some tailoring work at home. His father and mother were leprosy affected and they sell broom in the market.

Mr Viswakarma has completed 12th standard in Commerce. After that he was working in a tailor shop and was earning little amount. In the year 2013 he opened his own tailor shop (small) and supplement his family income, but he did not have all the required material.

Mr Pramit Nag (Zonal Program Coordinator) visited Ashadeep Colony and during his visit he talked to Mr Viswakarma. He found out his requirement and he counselled him about entrepreneurship. As Mr Viswakarma was willing to grow his business but financial constraints stopped him. So, he requested the ZPC to help him somehow.

He was guided and his proposal was approved this year. He received Rs 49,830 for the sports cloths-tailoring shop. Now he is very happy that his business grew and is earning a handsome amount. For the transformation of shop and earning he has expressed his gratitude to Sasakawa- India Leprosy Foundation.





## Case Study 2 – Jonnada Ravi

### Colony-New colony, Narava, Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh

Mr Jonnada Ravi was born to leprosy affected parent. With no work, no money and no food, the child was enrolled in an orphan school and got his basic education there. His mother was taking care of him. She worked as a daily labour for cleaning vessels in hotels and save the money to support her child with meagre 50 rupees a day. Those money was not sufficient to take care of the family expenses. Her husband was also addicted to alcohol.

Meanwhile Ravi completed his 4th class, after the school was closed due to non-availability of Christian funds. However, with support from some donors, he completed class 5th to class 10th education in same district & place i.e., Leprosy Hospital related School by name “Sadhu Sundar Singh Public School”. After that he joined in Intermediate course and discontinued due to family instability. A local vocational training centre encouraged him to do a vocational course i.e., Welding & Fabrication. That is the main turning point of his life. Then his focus shifted to the welding course. He joined in a workshop to learn the welding course as a labour.

But even after completing an ITI diploma, he got no work for six months. He joined a fabrication workshop as apprentice in Vijayanagaram but for next four years, he was not promoted and remained a helper due to his social status. Before S-ILF, he purchased a small welding cutting machine and ran a small cutting business, earning Rs 200 to 300 per day. Work was hardly available for a fortnight a month. After marriage, this income proved to be insufficient to bring enough food on the table.

One fine day S-ILF’s zonal staff visited this colony and met Mr Ravi in colony. He applied for S-ILF’s livelihood project to expand his business. S-ILF supported some livelihood projects in his colony. Mr Ravi was one of the beneficiaries. He received Rs 50,000 to expand the business. He purchased Steel welding machine, cutting machine and drilling machine. The business boomed and he started earning Rs 500 to 750 daily. Sometimes he received big orders and earned Rs 3000 a day too. Although the working days have increased to three weeks a month, he is still thinking to purchase more machines and workers to find ways to fetch work in lean days. Now he takes care of both his parents. This makes Ravi happy. He states with a grim smile: even my shop is running well and my business is earning good, I don’t want to ask my mother to stop earning. I know what joy it brings, when a dignified income comes home!





## Case Study 3 – Shahnawaz

### Colony- Kushth Ashram, Double Phatak, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

Shahnawaz is a resident of Kusht Ashram Committee, Double Phatak, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. He studied till class 6th. However, he is well-equipped with life skills. He lives with his family consisting of his parents, and four sisters. His father is a person with disability and both of his parents were involved in begging. Shahnawaz used to work as a labour in factories of Moradabad. But during the covid restrictions, his engagement got disrupted. Disappointed with the lack of opportunities he kept looking for jobs and at times did some odd jobs as and when available that included machine operator or labour at factories in Moradabad. He was looking for some sustainable livelihood. He had some prior experience of working at a café dealing with single-window kiosks.

Shahnawaz attended an EDP conducted in Lucknow in April 2022 and shown interest to initiate a customer centre point.

A detailed proposal was drafted and submitted for approval. Finally seeing the viability of the project, panelists selected the proposal for support.

Shahnawaz received financial assistance of Rs 50,060 which he spent on the procurement of a printer, computer, iris scanner, fingerprint scanner, registration with the Bank of Baroda, shop rent etc.



He initiated the shop on the roadside close to the colony where the railway colony is also located. Shahnawaz is offering his services to people living in the area. On enquiring about the earning. He commented that he is earning Rs 700-1000 as a profit on a daily basis. His major profit margin is coming from the financial transactions that he is doing on behalf of the associated bank i.e., Bank of Baroda. His other services include making of PAN cards, Aadhaar card corrections and new Aadhaar card making, Voter ID cards, E-Sharam Cards, Online challan payments, driving appointments, print out, recharge, APS Withdraw/Aadhaar Payment etc. With time he has developed a decent network in the Railways and flight booking too. He has clients from other locations apart from Moradabad.

His earnings have eased his as well as his family members' lives. Earning has made him self-reliant. As a payback gesture, he is training two youths from the colony in the same trade. Shahnawaz has made good progress in terms of the business and has developed the business further in accordance with the business plan. The project has enhanced the income of Shahnawaz. He has started inspiring the educated youth from colonies in UP especially those who are in his touch from UP and Chhattisgarh to initiate similar projects. Some of the members of the colonies are taking technical assistance from Shahnawaz to initiate a similar project.







*S-ILF's nursing scholar- Ms Arunjoti Sahoo is now a nursing tutor in Puri, Odisha.*



# Education

## Bridging the gap

Ensuring access to education is essential to lay the foundation on which children of families affected by Leprosy can build a better and more secure future. Often, due to discrimination and exclusion, children from families affected by Leprosy are constrained by poor economic situation and unable to continue or pursue secondary and higher studies. Further in most of the cases they are the first-generation learners, who do not get proper guidance from their families. Recognising a strong need for vocational training among the youth, S-ILF is running various educational activities to cater to the educational needs of children residing in Leprosy colonies.

### HiWell – Digitalising the Leprosy Colonies

The digital medium opens up opportunities for leisure, recreation and learning that may not be easily accessible in the offline world, particularly for marginalised and excluded communities. An increased and more effective use of digital technology results in developing a level of digital skills that will be essential for everybody in today's increasingly digitised world. Teaching with technology engages students with different kinds of stimuli involve in activity-based learning. S-ILF has initiated an innovative teaching method that attracts children towards education/ learning in our After School Learning Centres (ASLCs). When children are given opportunities in digital technology, their learning and exposure increases many folds. The opportunities are endless! S-ILF brought Hole-in-the-Wall Learning Stations along with Digital Learning Program for residents of Shri Ramavtar Kushth Colony, Indore with support from NIIT Foundation. Bridging the digital divide for marginalised children between 6 to 14 years, Hole-in-the Wall learning stations provide solutions in the areas of elementary education, life skills and computer literacy. Hole-in-the-Wall program is a special arrangement of combination of different subjects like mathematics, science, languages, general knowledge and digital skills which are pre-set in a non-invasive computer device available for access anytime students wish to use. For the elderly, S-ILF runs certificate courses in basic digital learning under Digital Learning Centres (DLCs). The core agenda of this program being to promote digitally-enabled sustainable growth in

the colony for a larger good and provide impetus to Honourable Prime Minister's dream of 'Digital India'. Over 80 students in the age group of 6-14 are getting the benefits from the Hole-in-the-Wall program and 230 trainees have got trained in various courses from the DLC centre.





## After School Learning Centres (ASLC)- Enabling all-round development of Students

Children in colonies find difficulty in coping with curriculum and to understand what is taught in regular school. Some parents send their children to tuitions while most cannot afford to do so. When the child repeatedly fails in examination, the parents pull out the child from school assuming the child is with low intellectual capacity. In some cases, academically sound children have poor study habits due to peer group influence while others drop out or miss school due to the callous nature of their parents. After School Learning Centres (ASLCs) provides them an opportunity to bridge the gap and develop a habit of regular studies. ASLCs assist children in their school homework, tuition support and when required remedial classes. Apart from academics, these centres enable allround development of children through encouragement of sports and extra-curricular activities. S-ILF is running ASLCs in the leprosy colonies of Indore, Ujjain, Dhar, Barwani (Madhya Pradesh); Navajeevanpur, Kalyanpur in Bankura and Kharagpur in West Midnapore districts (West Bengal); Solapur (Maharashtra) and Ranchi, Dhanbad (Jharkhand) and Rourkela (Odisha). S-ILF's ASLCs are catering to approximately 400 students in these 11 colonies. During the Covid pandemic, in order to ensure continuity of studies, teachers of ASLCs gave assignments through WhatsApp messages and stayed connected with students.





## His Holiness Dalai Lama - Sasakawa Scholarship Program (HHDL-S)

His Holiness Dalai Lama - Sasakawa Scholarship Program was initiated in 2015 to provide financial assistance for higher professional education for children from families affected by Leprosy residing in nine states: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This was the 7th year of the flagship program. We received application from 177 candidates, out of which, based on merit, 27 were selected. Till now 178 scholars have been enabled to undertake higher professional education leading to better employment opportunities.

## Nursing Scholarships

S-ILF initiated Nursing scholarship program in 2011 to cater to the strong desire expressed by students from Leprosy colonies. Students wanted to pursue nursing so that they could look after their family as well as the other community members. From 2011, S-ILF has provided scholarship to 193 students from families affected by Leprosy residing in 14 states of India. Total 787 applications have been received under this scholarship program which shows that there is a strong desire to become health care professionals in Leprosy colonies. 63 scholars have completed their course where 58 have been placed successfully and 5 are pursuing their higher studies.



## ONE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

S-ILF initiated a One Year Scholarship Program for the youth who are neither interested in 2-4 years courses, nor in short term vocational courses. Newer courses such as cosmetology, yoga, VFX were promoted last year through One Year Scholarship. 11 students were provided support to pursue these courses.







*S-ILF scholar Ms Priyanka Set has completed her GNM and is now working as a nurse in a reputed hospital of Bhubaneswar.*



# Stories that Inspire

## Ambika

### One year Scholarship

Ambika, born and brought up in Simonpur Leprosy colony, Puralia, West Bengal.

Her grandparents and father were affected by leprosy which made them relocate to a leprosy colony. The disease and the isolation restricted economic opportunities for them and Ambika's parents struggled to make both ends meet. Her father tried multiple small businesses in the hope of better earnings but could not succeed. The family was mostly dependent on her mother who worked as a cook.

As a child, she studied in a leprosy charity school till 4th grade and had limited exposure to quality exposure. She soon moved to a government school where her peers called her residence 'Rog-Padha' and this stigma was a deterrent to her self-confidence.

She tried to deal with the stigma by sensitizing her peers but her efforts were often unsuccessful. After her 12th, she joined college but dropped out due to depression and financial constraints. At this juncture, she felt her career had come to a halt but S-ILF's aid came as a ray of hope. She got to know about S-ILF's one year diploma scholarship from her neighbor - Urijeet Mahto. This inspired her to transform her hobby of Yoga into a full-time career. The diploma was an opportunity to earn a livelihood and complete her dream of teaching Yoga to young students.

Ambika's inspiration to propagate Yoga was deep-rooted in the negativity or stress she saw in her surroundings and the leprosy colony. After her certification in Yoga, Ambika works as a personal trainer along with teaching yoga at a school. With this powerful medium, she has touched many lives and also spreads awareness on leprosy along with Yoga. She has achieved financial stability and currently earns ~ Rs 15,000 per month. She is able to support her family and is proud of how far she has come.

Talking about her initial journey, Ambika says that a diploma was far-fetched without S-ILF and considers the scholarship as a pivotal support. S-ILF helped her re-start her career at a critical stage. She also narrates the changes that S-ILF has brought in the colony. She is grateful that S-ILF enables families affected by leprosy to educate their children and acts as a way to reduce disparity. She strongly believes in the ideology of the foundation and actively advocates livelihood/education programmes being run by S-ILF.

S-ILF is happy to be associated with beneficiaries like Ambika who are changing the perspective around leprosy and continue to serve the community. We recognise the ambition of youth in leprosy colonies and their hopes of pursuing higher education. Providing them a launchpad and pave a path for them into universities or formal jobs is our mission.





## Mukesh Dubey

### Scholarship for Hotel Management

Meet Mukesh Dubey, resident of Motipur leprosy colony, Bihar. He shifted to this colony with his family when his father was diagnosed with leprosy. Due to lack of access to treatment and late detection, his father's hands and feet were partially impaired. The colony had other patients or previously affected people who had accepted their plight and were oblivious to the world outside the colony.

But, the despair did not weaken Mukesh's willingness to succeed. His father was educated too and soon after his treatment, started teaching in the leprosy colony. His mother too served as a 'sevika' in a local anganwadi. His parents sent Mukesh and his elder brother to a boarding school till 8th class where they only studied with other leprosy affected children.

For their matriculation, however, they studied in an English medium school and this was no less than a dream for them. Soon, they realized that their identity was a social barrier. They could never reveal their true identity or residence.

Around the same time, Mukesh heard about S-ILF as he saw other students receive scholarships. He then started dreaming of higher education and was motivated to secure good grades. Unfortunately, while Mukesh was focusing on studies, his brother got diagnosed with a serious kidney ailment. To support his treatment, the family took loans and Mukesh started working alongside school. He could not prepare for his engineering entrance but then decided to pursue Hotel Management with the help of HH Dalai Lama-Sasakawa Scholarship. With his determination, he cracked the scholarship interview and was thrilled to start his course after the scholarship was offered.

Mukesh says completing Hotel Management was unachievable without the financial assistance provided by S-ILF. His alternative plan was to directly take up a job after school as his family was facing severe financial stress. The scholarship was life-altering for him as the course opened up new horizons for him and helped him get a job with

Carnival Corporation. He now travels to countries like Norway, Portugal, Spain etc. with a salary of Rs 49,000 per month. With the help of this job, he is now able to re-pay the loans taken by his family and in future, wishes to build a new home for his parents. He also wants to contribute back to the leprosy colony by contributing money for basic necessities and infrastructure.

As a beneficiary of S-ILF's educational support program, he feels that the continued efforts of S-ILF are shifting the paradigm and helping students take big leaps. He says that the financial assistance was also coupled with regular follow-ups and counseling which kept him going. For him, S-ILF was synonymous to hope and acted as a stepping stone in his journey. He also advises other students in leprosy colony to be sincere and urges them to stay focussed on education.

S-ILF is committed to ensuring a secure future for more beneficiaries and giving them a chance to pursue rewarding professional avenues. The success of Mukesh is a testimony to the unexplored talent and growth potential in leprosy colonies of India. With the help of education, we are all set to light the spark and give a platform to such youngsters. This is a significant step towards a dignified life that many people affected by leprosy across India dream of.





## Seema Sahu

### Nursing Scholarship

Seema Sahu was born and brought up in Swami Vivekanand leprosy colony, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh. Her father moved to this colony when he was diagnosed with leprosy at a young age of 13. Due to the stigma of leprosy & low treatment options, he left his family and hometown and shifted in the colony. Seema recollects the struggles of her father and how he became a part of the rejected community.

Seema's parents & other residents of leprosy colony were reliant on begging for survival. Her parents were untaught & her father's body was affected due to leprosy. Despite the shame relation with begging, her parents were forced to do it. Seema always kept her head high & being action oriented.

Seema went to a boarding school which is especially for leprosy colonies students. She was extraordinary in her academic achievements. She dreamt a fixed job but as her school was almost completed, financial difficulty kept bothering her. Her family did not have any source of income, savings to support her higher education. During this crisis her cousin introduced her to S- ILF and encouraged to apply for a scholarship.

In 2014, she secured the S-ILF Nursing Scholarship and started her course nearby. Seema could not afford basic expenses, for that she completed her friends' projects to earn some extra income for stationery, etc. This was her first close interaction with mainstream society but she failed to find a dignified place for herself and faced discrimination. Her friends isolated her after meeting her parents or visiting her home. Seema knew that she had to fight to gain both acceptance and financial stability.

After graduating from nursing, she worked in a private job from which she had took break due to her father's ill health. She had to leave her job to take care her father. As her father was recovering, she dreamt to work with AIIMS. She studied for 4 months and got selected for the Critical Care Unit at AIIMS, Raipur. Her first pay cheque of more than Rs 50,000

was a victory for her. Her struggles set an example for all leprosy colonies. She helped her family to get out of the trap of begging. Now she is supporting her younger sister for pursuing higher studies in pharmacy and nursing. Seema shared about S- ILF's role in pursuing her nursing even when she was financially low. She highlighted that

S- ILF is helping the families and future generations of leprosy affected families by educating them. Her family feels that S- ILF sparked hope in the entire colony, where every child feels positive about the future. At the same time, S- ILF takes huge pride in the success of bright beneficiaries like Seema. Now Seema is giving medical help, career counselling and propagating awareness to the community on grassroot level.





Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation  
Restoring Dignity

सासाकावा इंडिया लेप्रोसी फाउंडेशन  
मुपत नेत्र जांच एवं मोतिपाबिद का शोध

सहायक हस्पताल। आई केयर आई हॉस्पिटल

शनिवार, 11 जून 2022 साप्ताहिक (10 बजे)

सासाकावा इंडिया लेप्रोसी फाउंडेशन, दिल्ली

श्री गुरुदेव गुरुदेव  
गुरुदेव गुरुदेव  
गुरुदेव

Eye check-up camp at Tahirpur Leprosy complex organised  
by S-ILF with support from ICARE Eye Hospital, Noida



# Humanitarian Aid

## Serving the needs

People living in Leprosy colonies are disproportionately at risk of experiencing humanitarian crisis. They have reduced capacity to manage and respond to emergency and crisis situation (impacts of Covid) due to low socio-economic resilience and limited access to the services and infrastructure. Humanitarian Aid wing at S-ILF, emerged as a separate unit within the organisation in year 2020, to deal with the crisis and challenges arising due to the covid pandemic and to respond to the needs of the residents of the Leprosy colonies. Relief programs such as healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), natural calamities and emergencies were initiated based on needs assessment. In the year 2021-22, S-ILF continued its humanitarian aid efforts to the residents of the Leprosy colonies across various states.

## Football coaching

S-ILF explored the possibility of getting youth involved in football training as a part of sports for youth development. S-ILF availed the services of a certified coach, who was hired with the help of the Indian Youth Soccer Association.

Training of youth has been started in Tahirpur Leprosy complex, New Delhi, from May last year. 30 youths in the age group of 7-15 years are participating in the coaching classes. S-ILF also arranged exposure visits for the team to live football tournaments.





## Emergency relief

During the year, storm accompanied by heavy rains affected many houses in the district of Sangli in Maharashtra. Providing support under essential supplies, roof sheds were provided to five households in the Lal Nagar colony, Sangli which were damaged by the storms.



## Medical support

- **Ulcer care:** Ulcer care dressing support started in Tahirpur Leprosy Complex, Delhi, in collaboration with Hope Foundation. The dressing support is provided to over 100 patients on a daily basis – five days a week.





- MCR Footwear:** 40 customised MCR footwear distributed in Shri Vivekananda and Ashadeep Leprosy colony in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh in the presence of the District Leprosy Officer in August 2022. This was done in partnership with The Leprosy Mission Trust of India (TLM TI). 58 MCR footwear distributed in Ganga Kust Kalyan Samiti, Raipur in September 2022, in the presence of District leprosy officer.



- Eye care:** S-ILF conducted eye care camp in Delhi in June 2022 in collaboration with ICARE eye hospital. 64 patients have received consultation from an ophthalmologist. 29 patients have been provided with spectacles; 7 patients diagnosed with cataracts & offered free treatment from the ICARE eye hospital. In Chhattisgarh, eye check-up camps were organised in collaboration with MGM eye institute, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The camps catered to the residents of Tisrapara leprosy colony, Champa, Ganga Kust Kalyan Samiti, Raipur, Diprapara Leprosy colony, Durg in Chhattisgarh as well. 112 patients were consulted. 35 patients referred to MGM eye institute for cataract operation; 32 successfully operated. 9 patients provided with spectacles.





- **Tele-medicine:** An MoU was signed with Springer Healthcare Pvt Ltd (eNext ICU) for tele-medicine. Total 391 patients were given consultation through 72 OPDs in the Leprosy colonies of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.





## Infrastructure support

S-ILF staff during their field visits observed that in many colonies, toilets are not in good shape and need renovation. With the aim of improving living standards in Leprosy colonies, S-ILF initiated an endeavour to develop or make existing infrastructure better in the colonies. During the year, we renovated toilets in Balangir in Odisha and Purnea in Bihar. New community toilets were built in the Leprosy colony of Saharanpur and storage rooms with almirah were built in Leprosy colony of Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh.

Water tanks with water pumps were installed in the Leprosy colonies of Indore, Madhya Pradesh and in new colony, Vijayanagram in Andhra Pradesh.

After school learning centre (ASLC) roof and floor were also renovated at Nabajibanpur colony in Bankura, West Bengal.



Before

After







*Young S-ILF scholars during the Alumni meet in Raipur.*



# Communications & Advocacy

## Changing Mind-sets

S-ILF is working towards making an inclusive society- a society without stigma & discrimination

### AWARENESS PROGRAM

Lack of awareness has led to myths and misconceptions about Leprosy. S-ILF strives continuously to eradicate stigma and discrimination through increased awareness in various sections of society. We work with multiple stakeholders like school and college students, medical professionals, lawyers, social activists, policymakers, corporates and media persons to raise awareness. Stigma against Leprosy affects every facet of human life.

#### College sensitisation

During the year, S-ILF organised awareness sessions in 17 colleges in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. The workshops were attended by more than 2,700 students and faculty members. The interactive sessions comprised a presentation on demystifying Leprosy and covered the medical, socio-economic, and legal issues. The participants took an oath to end stigma and committed to taking the initiative forward.





### Young Partners Program

S-ILF started its Young Partners Program to reach out to the students of classes 8th to 12th in government and private schools. We organised awareness sessions in 5 schools in the states of Delhi, Jharkhand and Odisha. Around 800 students and teachers attended these sessions, and at the end of which Leprosy champions were identified in these educational institutions.



### Corporate Sensitisation Program

S-ILF has an MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to spread awareness about Leprosy and help create an enabling environment for persons affected by Leprosy and their families. Under this partnership, S-ILF has sensitised more than 750 corporates so far.



S-ILF organised sensitisation sessions for Young Indians (YI) earlier this year. S-ILF invited their regional office bearers to share insights of the industry with our scholars during Alumni meets. The guests joined the pledge to raise awareness about Leprosy.

Our Foundation Day 2022 event was graced by the presence of Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Executive Vice Chairman- of TVS Supply Chain Solutions. Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General- CII honoured us as the Chief Guest of the national youth festival, on the occasion of Anti-Leprosy Day in January 2023.





## EVENTS & SESSIONS

### Independence Day

Independence Day was celebrated with great pomp and show at our After School Learning Centres (ASLC). Children from the colonies in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal prepared cultural presentations. Colony residents and S-ILF staff connected to these physical events online.



### Foundation Day

S-ILF celebrated its 16th Foundation Day in November 2022. The national chapter of S-ILF's alumni network was felicitated at the event by the Chief Guest, Mr R Dinesh, President of CII and Executive Vice Chairman- TVS Supply Chain Solutions. Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General- CII also shared the stage. Ms Maya Ranavare, President, APAL graced the occasion with her presence. The event was attended by CII staff, residents of Leprosy colonies of Delhi and scholars from across India. Children from the Leprosy colony sang the Leprosy song, prepared by S-ILF.







Youth from various backgrounds during youth festivals. Each mix team represents a colour.



## Youth Festivals

The Youth Festivals are designed with a clear intent to “celebrate inclusiveness” in a fun-filled, learning atmosphere, where everyone interacts as equals. The festival seeks to provide an opportunity for the youth from different colleges to interact with the youth from leprosy colonies by participating in common creative activities such as dance, drama and music. The common platform encourages bonding between the youth and empathises with the ones denied an equal opportunity. This interactive festival transforms youth from non-leprosy backgrounds into goodwill ambassadors fighting the stigma against leprosy.

After a hiatus of two years, S-ILF resumed its flagship youth event- the youth festivals. The zonal youth festival was organised at Oriental University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh from 15th to 17th October 2022. 45 students from S-ILF's education program and 45 students from the colleges of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra participated in this three-day residential event. This unique event received an encouraging response and was extensively covered by mainline media.

Similarly, a National Youth Festival was organised from 27th -30th January 2023 in Delhi-NCR in which 70 scholars from S-ILF's education program and 70 Students from various colleges/universities from across India participated. The grand finale took place at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi on the occasion of Anti-Leprosy Day. Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General- CII gave away the prizes to the winning teams at the finale. Moved and impressed by the camaraderie and the confidence among all young performers, the Chief Guest Mr Chandrajit Banerjee emphasised the need for organising such events in the future for the youth, to bridge the gap and end the age-long discrimination.













# Testimonial



*I heard about the Youth festival from S-ILF staff when they came to my college for a sensitisation session on Leprosy. They said that it is a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity. So, when I got the opportunity, I immediately volunteered myself. Those three days became the best time of my life. I went with my classmates, but when I reached the event venue, I was asked to join a team with completely unknown faces. I knew no one in my team. It was so disheartening seeing my friends go to other teams. But as the day ended, I made so many new friends. I am still friends with my team members and we have made a WhatsApp group to be in touch. Many of my friends are from a Leprosy background, but that does not matter now. They are my friends, that's it.*

**Shatakshi.**

Teerthankar Mahaveer University, Moradabad



*This would be a very special event for me. I enjoyed every part of these three days. One of the most remarkable aspects of the youth festival was the emphasis on inclusivity and diversity. People from various geographies, cultures and walks of life came together, creating a vibrant atmosphere where different perspectives were celebrated. It was heartwarming to witness the exchange of ideas and the forging of new friendships among the participants. The mentors were exceptionally talented and shared their skills and experiences, motivating us to create an impossible act in just two days! I went to the stage for the first time and my team won in the theatre category! I learned valuable lessons about teamwork and trust, which will undoubtedly shape my personal and professional development.*

**Yunus Sheikh.**

S-ILF Scholar- Law



*"First of all, I would really like to thank the Sasakawa- India Leprosy foundation for giving this opportunities to different students from different universities. This foundation gives a lot time to built into discussion and interactivity. Outstanding cross-cultural mix of participants. This real life experience influenced me in a very good way. I have attended a lot of events and this one has by far been the best one! I could tell that every single detail has been taken care of and the organisation was spotless and seamless. Thank you for a very fruitful event, energy and coordination! Looking forward to seeing you again, with more fun, entertainment and knowledge."*

**Riya Kukreja.**

Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune



*"I am delighted to share my testimonial about S-ILF's youth festival I attended. It was an extraordinary event that left a lasting impact on my life. The festival brought together young people from diverse backgrounds, fostering a sense of unity, creativity, and inspiration among all participants. The energy at the festival was palpable from the moment I arrived. S-ILF had meticulously planned an array of activities and practice sessions that catered to a wide range of interests and talents. From talent nights to folk dance to theatre to interactive discussions and fun sessions, there was something for everyone. Thank you so much for this opportunity."*

**Ankita Bhuparia.**

Central University of Rajasthan, Kishangarh





*“Mother Teresa famously used to say that “None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.” I saw this truth unfolding in front of me during this fest. We all were students of various institutions. I never thought that I would see myself as a part of the change. We all were together for three straight days, Practicing together, eating together and staying together. I made many friends during this event and I am still in touch with them. This event has left me with so many great memories. Thank you S-ILF for giving me this chance. I will miss these days.”*

**Paulina.**  
S-ILF Scholar- Nursing



*“When I first came to this youth festival, I didn’t know. It’s going to be so beautiful and memorable. It was a wonderful experience loved being a part of this youth festival. When I first got a call from S-ILF to mentor a group of youth from a Leprosy background, I was a bit hesitant, although I know Leprosy is not a serious disease nowadays and it’s curable as well. My hesitation went away when I saw the previous fests’ videos on their YouTube channel. It seemed to be a fun event. I was one of the eight mentors from different parts of the country. Everyone was a professional like me, but we were not teachers, we were ‘mentors’ to a group of young people whom I never met before. But we made it and my team presented a beautiful folk dance with just two days of practice. Thank you so much S-ILF for introducing me to the beautiful friends and lovely people of my life through this Event.”*

**Ms Antima Soni.**  
(Dance and theatre artist) Mentor- Regional Youth Fest, Indore



*“The best experience of my life! This is the place where we can explore ourselves inside out. A platform where we can share our ideas openly and frankly with others. The best part was socialising with new people. I never met them before, but when the event ended, I was a friend of all! It was hard to distinguish between the Leprosy or non-leprosy backgrounds. Everyone was young. They all were equally excited as I was. I made a lot of good memories with my team members. The cherry on top was that my team won the finale in the theatre category. I enjoyed it a lot and learned a lot here. Thank you for making me part of this change. Thank you S-ILF Family.”*

**Ms Pooja Malviya.**  
(Theatre professional) Mentor- National Youth Fest, New Delhi



*“Hosting the S-ILF’s regional youth festival on the campus of Oriental University, Indore was an incredible experience that left a lasting impact on everyone involved. I witnessed firsthand the power of bringing young people together in a vibrant and inclusive environment. The festival provided a platform for youth to showcase their talents and passions. The three days event witnessed mesmerising performances and an unlikely bond between youth from Leprosy backgrounds and mainstream society. The energy and enthusiasm that filled the air were contagious, creating a sense of unity and celebration among attendees.*

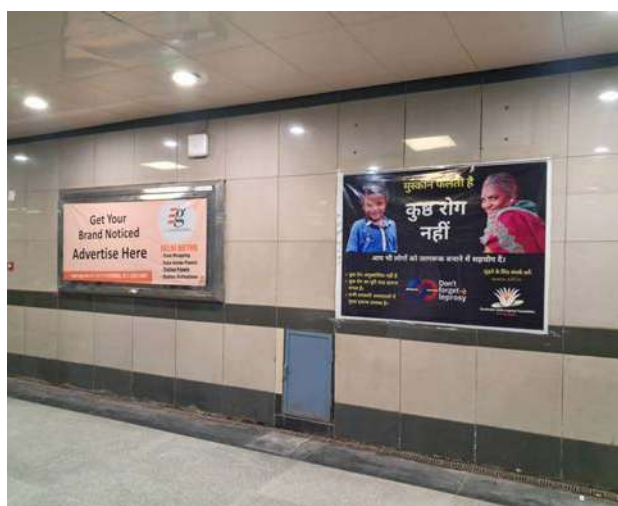
*The festival would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of S-ILF staff and OU faculty members. Their tireless efforts in planning, coordinating, and executing the event ensured that every aspect ran smoothly, creating a seamless and enjoyable experience for all participants.”*

**Prof (Dr) Neetesh Jain.**  
Dean- Pharmacy, Oriental University, Indore



## DMRC Campaign

S-ILF ran an awareness campaign with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) from 21 January to 31 January 2023 on the occasion of Anti-Leprosy Day. The campaign aimed to disseminate accurate information on leprosy among the general public. Banners with messages on Leprosy were put up at 10 major metro stations on various lines in Delhi. A footfall of approximately one million people was recorded during this campaign period. This was the second such campaign which S-ILF organised with the help of DMRC.

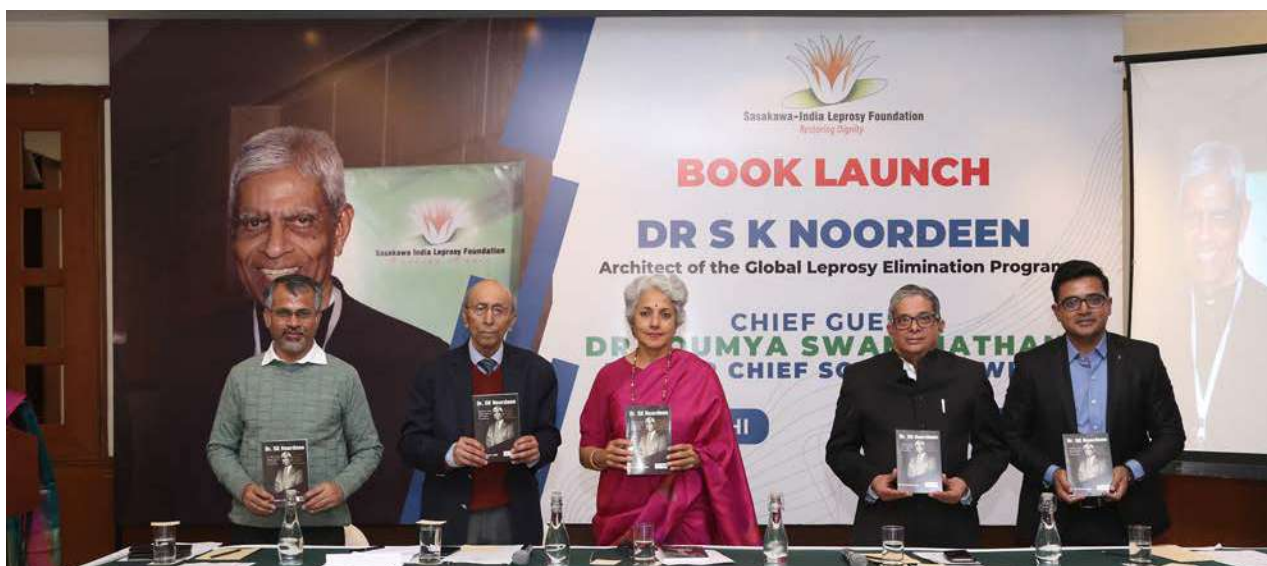




## Book Launch

A book on S-ILF's Chairman Emeritus Late Dr S K Noordeen, Former Director of the WHO's Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy was launched in February 2023. Dr Noordeen also served as S-ILF's Chairman from its inception in 2006 to 2016.

The book, written by Dr Noordeen's close colleague and S-ILF's BoT member- Dr Derek Lobo, talked about his life journey from a small village of India to leading one of the World Health Organisation's global programmes. The book was released by Dr Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist, WHO in New Delhi. Friends and wellwishers of S-ILF joined the event and collected their copies as well.







*Youth Samagam is an initiative by S-ILF to bring youth from various backgrounds to a common platform for idea exchange.*



## New Initiative: Youth Samagam

Youth are effective harbingers of change in social attitudes and behaviours, not only as future leaders of the country but also as public awareness campaigns. We believe that each child has the potential of becoming a brand ambassador for the removal of the stigma against leprosy forever and for the formation of a more inclusive society.

S-ILF aims to bring this energy from various parts of the country to a platform via different projects to see this formation happen soon. Samagam, meaning congregation, is a collective program of all youth-related projects, S-ILF runs. From forming alumni groups at state and national levels to representing youth from Leprosy backgrounds at various fora to felicitate a dialogue between them and the industry. From sensitising young minds in colleges and schools to organising residential events to bring them close to youth from various backgrounds. From organising Youth Panchayats in the colonies to engaging Youth on Social media to discuss relevant topics. S-ILF is exploring ways to bring young minds from various geographical locations together to make a path for an inclusive society.

S-ILF has sensitised more than 25,000 students from various schools and colleges across India since 2014. One common component of these sensitisation workshops is taking an oath not to discriminate or stigmatise the Leprosy affected person and their family persons. Also not to use any derogatory words for a disease or a patient. S-ILF is proud to see many champions from these institutions taking up the fight against Leprosy through their extracurricular activities or in their personal capacities.

We hope that Youth Samagam will witness many more minds joining the pool and bringing a change in the mindset of the society to make India free of Leprosy, free of stigma and discrimination.







*Mr Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, among the participants from 20 countries at 2nd Global Forum in Hyderabad.*



# International Events

## 2nd Global Forum

The 2nd Global Forum of People's Organizations on Leprosy took place in Hyderabad, from 6th to 8th November 2022. With S-ILF's support, Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative organised three days event as part of its "Don't Forget Leprosy" campaign. Around 100 people from over 20 countries took part in the Global Forum, including representatives of 20 People's Organisations and nine supporting organisations. The forum received support from the beauty pageant winners, Ms Letícia Cezar da Frota, Miss World Brazil and Ms Pragnya Ayyagari, Miss Supranational India.

Mr Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination also attended the forum. Mr Sasakawa, together with The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Health Foundation made up the strategic alliance known as the Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative.

The program included sessions on capacity building, forming good partnerships, and achieving inclusion, with participants sharing best practices, while on the final day, 18 organisations introduced their activities.

The forum's conclusions and recommendations, representing the collective voice of People's Organisations around the world, were presented on the opening day of the International Leprosy Congress (ILC) by APAL's president, Ms Maya Ranavare, with translatory support by S-ILF staff.





### 21st International Leprosy Congress (ILC)

The International Leprosy Congress (ILC) is an important event held every 3–4 years in various parts of the world and brings together key stakeholders in the field of leprosy. The last ILC was held in Manila, Philippines in 2019. In 2022, India got the honour to hold the ILC in Hyderabad.

S-ILF participated in the 21st ILC in Hyderabad. Eight staff members presented papers on the topics of empowerment, livelihood, higher education, humanitarian aid, partnerships and stigma during the three days event.

S-ILF CEO Dr Vivek Lal was a member of the ILC's Coordination Committee and also co-chaired a session on Epidemiology: Migration & Networking





## 2nd International Symposium on Leprosy, Vatican

The 2nd International Symposium on Leprosy was organised at Vatican. Sasakawa Leprosy Initiative and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development organised this symposium. S-ILF CEO Mr Gaurab Sen was invited by the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF) to Vatican to attend the symposium. The two-day symposium brought together health and human rights experts, NGOs, religious organisations, persons affected by Leprosy to discuss what actions are needed to achieve the goal of “zero leprosy” and realise a society in which no one is left behind. Mr Sen was a part of the panel discussion and spoke about S-ILF’s experience on the ground towards empowerment of the persons affected by leprosy through education & livelihood support.







*S-ILF team along with APAL leadership interacting with residents of Leprosy colony in Maharashtra.*



## Connected to the Roots (S-ILF in field)















*S-ILF Patron Mr Yohei Sasakawa, S-ILF CEO- Mr Gaurab Sen and APAL President, Ms Maya Ranavare meeting Shri Hemant Soren, Chief Minister of Jharkhand and Shri Banna Gupta, Health minister of Jharkhand, in Ranchi.*



# Partnerships

## Together for the cause

We at S-ILF believe that the fight against Leprosy cannot be waged alone or in silos. To end stigma and discrimination we have been working with partners at all levels to make every effort count- be it on the field for program implementation, at policy level or in spreading awareness. Our partners have been constant companions all these years. We would like to acknowledge those, without whom, this year would not have been as great.

### Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL)

APAL is the national networking organisation of persons affected by Leprosy. Founded in 2006 with active encouragement and help from The Nippon Foundation, Japan, APAL is an essential part of Mr Sasakawa's vision of mainstreaming the affected population and their families to restore dignity. APAL provides a platform for persons affected by Leprosy to discuss their issues and take up matters pertaining to their rights and entitlements at various levels of State and Central Government. To mention a few, issues pertaining to their land rights, pension, and specific schemes for persons with disability, human rights issues, education and employment, housing, sanitation etc. Currently, the APAL head office is in Hyderabad and the leaders have respective state forums to address the issues of their communities.

*So many things that have deeply impressed me are how S-ILF resides in the fabric of so many youths' lives. The organisation's play in helping build better futures for persons affected by Leprosy, their families, and their communities is a source of pride and purpose for supporters.*

*The affected persons living in Leprosy colonies are in poor and non-hygienic conditions due to lack of basic civic amenities. They were unaware of the human rights, and benefits of Government schemes. Even basic social entitlements like ration cards, voter id, disability pension etc were unknown to them. Both S-ILF and APAL are making great changes in the leprosy communities and making better living conditions by creating new initiatives of livelihood and education supporting projects for youth and implementing them successfully.*

*As a President of APAL and on behalf of people affected by Leprosy, I thank Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation for its tireless efforts and for providing all useful services to persons affected by leprosy to restore their respect and dignity.*

**Ms Maya Ranavare**  
President, APAL







*Mr Dharmendra Mandal from Jagannath Leprosy colony, preparing food items for his food stall in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. His livelihood project is supported by S-ILF.*



# Donors, Supporters & Partners



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YOUTH  
AGAINST LEPROS



# NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

ORGANISED BY



Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation



FOLK DANCE

THE

VENUE

GAUTAM BUDDHA UNIVERSITY  
GREATER NOIDA  
DATE 27-29 JANUARY 2023

*A young college participant at the national youth festival in New Delhi.*



# Media – S-ILF in Public Eye

## S-ILF inaugurates 'Youth Samagam' to create an Alumni network

### ● Of Youth from Leprosy background

**Raipur, May 09:** Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), an organisation dedicated to the social and economic empowerment of persons affected by Leprosy and their families has initiated the creation of alumni networks of the youth from leprosy background. One such network has been formed in Chhattisgarh. Since 2012, S-ILF has supported more than 80 youth from Leprosy colonies in the state to pursue higher professional education. Several of these S-ILF scholars are now doing jobs in reputed organisations and are well established. Seeing their mainstreaming and the potential to influence other youth from leprosy background, S-ILF has initiated



a new platform where these scholars come together to form Youth Leadership Council. More than 40 scholars joined the day-long training workshop to hone up their leadership skills and came to a befitting end through a cultural event which was put up by the scholars. The program held in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and provided an opportunity for the scholars to interact with industry. The dignitaries present at the event included Mr Tarang Khurana, Regional Chairman (Eastern region) Young Indians-CII, as the Chief Guest and Dr

Vivek Lal, CEO, S-ILF. The event was organised at Hotel Simran International, Raipur.

The Youth Leadership Council is a diverse, youth-driven group that stands to uphold leadership, promote change, and will raise awareness about leprosy in local, state and national level. The aim being to end stigma against Leprosy & ensure equal social, economic and cultural opportunities through their networking among people affected by Leprosy and their families. S-ILF would continue to support the setting up of alumni networks across other states in the country.

## Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) inaugurates "Youth Samagam" to create an Alumni network of Youth from Leprosy background

Hyderabad:

Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), an organisation dedicated to the social and economic empowerment of persons affected by Leprosy and their families has initiated the creation of alumni networks of the youth from leprosy background. One such network has been formed in Delhi. Since 2012, S-ILF has supported more than 100 youth from Leprosy colonies in the state to pursue higher professional education. Several of these S-ILF scholars are now doing jobs in reputed organisations and are well established. Seeing their mainstreaming and the potential to influence other youth from leprosy background, S-ILF has initiated a new platform where these scholars come together to form Youth Leadership Council. Around 50 scholars joined the day-long training workshop to hone up their leadership skills and came to a befitting end through a cultural event which was put up by the scholars. The program held in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and provided an opportunity for the scholars to interact with industry. The dignitaries present at the event included Mr Anuj Singal, EC member YI Delhi and CII member as the Chief Guest and Dr Vivek Lal, CEO, S-ILF. The event was organised at Indian Social Institute, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

The Youth Leadership Council is a

diverse, youth-driven group that stands to uphold leadership, promote change, and will raise awareness about leprosy in local, state and national level. The aim being to end stigma against Leprosy & ensure equal social, economic and cultural opportunities through their networking among people affected by Leprosy and their families. S-ILF would continue to support the setting up of alumni networks across other states in the country.

About Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF)

Instituted in November 2006, Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) works towards mainstreaming persons affected by leprosy and their families through socio-economic empowerment, thereby fighting stigma and restoring dignity. Our area of focus is:

- Providing technical and financial support for setting up micro-enterprises enabling self-employment
- Providing access to vocational training and higher educational opportunities
- Empowering persons affected by leprosy to access government welfare schemes
- Creating awareness about leprosy among all sections of society
- Engaging with opinion and policy makers for the rights and inclusion of persons affected by leprosy



Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), has initiated the creation of alumni networks of the youth from leprosy backgrounds. One such network has been formed in Delhi. The Youth Leadership Council is a diverse, youth-driven group that stands to uphold leadership, promote change, and will raise awareness about leprosy at local, state, and national levels.

## Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) inaugurates "Youth Samagam" to create an Alumni network of Youth from Leprosy background

**Pune:** Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), an organisation dedicated to the social and economic empowerment of persons affected by Leprosy and their families has initiated the creation of alumni networks of the youth from leprosy background. One such network has been formed in Maharashtra. Since 2012, S-ILF has supported around 100 youth from Leprosy colonies in the state to pursue higher professional education. Several of these S-ILF scholars are now doing jobs in reputed organisations and are well established. Seeing their mainstreaming and the potential to influence other youth from leprosy background, S-ILF has initiated a new platform where these scholars come together to form Youth Leadership



Council. Around 40 scholars joined the day-long training workshop to hone up their leadership skills and came to a befitting end through a cultural event which was put up by the scholars. The program held in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and provided an opportunity for the scholars to interact with industry. The dignitaries present at the event included Mr

Ravi Agarwal, Chapter Chair, Young Indians-CII, Pune as the Chief Guest and Dr Vivek Lal, CEO, S-ILF. The event was organised at Hotel Quality Inn Mart, Sangamwadi, Pune.



## SILF educates youth from Leprosy colonies for jobs with startups with support from CII

● Youth Against Leprosy National Movement is aimed towards the youth of India to fight stigma against Leprosy ● 40 selected students from various colleges and Leprosy colonies participated in the Youth Festival ● S-ILF, under its education programme has trained 1000+ students ● Most of the students have opted for training as career option to fight against the society stigmatising Leprosy patients

**Mumbai, 14th Jan:** Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) today organised 'Youth Against Leprosy', a National Youth Festival to raise awareness about leprosy amongst the younger generation. The Youth Festival was inaugurated in the India Institute Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mumbai. It was inaugurated by Mr. Chandragiri Bhanu Lal, CII, who was the Chief Guest at the event.

The Youth Leadership Council is a diverse, youth-driven group that stands to uphold leadership, promote change, and will raise awareness about leprosy in local, state and national level. The aim being to end stigma against Leprosy & ensure equal social, economic and cultural opportunities through their networking among people affected by Leprosy and their families. S-ILF would continue to support the setting up of alumni networks across other states in the country.

Leprosy is a disease caused by a bacteria and is completely curable through treatment available free of cost by the government. There is no place for stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

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## SILF educates youth from Leprosy colonies for jobs with startups with support from CII

PTI / Jan 31, 2023, 17:56 IST

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TOI  
Survey calls for harnessing technology to achieve...



New Delhi (India), January 31: Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) today organized 'Youth against Leprosy', a National Youth Festival to raise awareness about leprosy amongst the younger generation. The Youth Festival was



## SILF educates youth from Leprosy colonies for jobs with startups with support from CII

PTI | Updated: January 31, 2023 18:00 IST

New Delhi (India), January 31: Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) today organized 'Youth against Leprosy', a National Youth Festival to raise awareness about leprosy amongst the younger generation. The Youth Festival was organized at the India Islamic Cultural Centre in New Delhi. It was graced by Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII, who was the Chief Guest at the event. The 9th Youth against Leprosy (YAL) Event function was a finale of National Youth Festival, 2023 which saw the participation of colleges from all over the India that undertook the program and training. The festival witnessed widespread participation of youth that engaged in creative activities to make the event a success.

S-ILF's annual youth festival provides a platform for young people from non-leprosy backgrounds (students from different colleges / universities) to mingle and interact with youth



## SILF educates youth from Leprosy colonies for jobs with startups with support from CII

Updated: 31/01/2023

New Delhi (India), January 31: Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) today organized 'Youth against Leprosy', a National Youth Festival to raise awareness about leprosy amongst the younger generation. The Youth Festival was organized at the India Islamic Cultural Centre in New Delhi. It was graced by Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII, who was the Chief Guest at the event. The 9th Youth against Leprosy (YAL) Event function was a finale of National Youth Festival, 2023 which saw the participation of colleges from all over the India that undertook the program and training. The festival witnessed widespread participation of youth that engaged in creative activities to make the event a success.



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## India accounts for 57% of leprosy cases globally

India accounts 57% of leprosy cases globally where 121 countries account for 40% of cases. WHO is working tremendously to eliminate leprosy, in fact 31 countries have recorded 0 leprosy cases whereas 30 countries recorded less than 10 cases nationally. Only Brazil, India & Indonesia are such countries which have recorded more than 10000 cases of leprosy.



ET HealthWorld

Updated On Feb 7, 2023 at 06:17 AM IST



Mumbai/ Delhi : 6th February 2023: In the light of the World Leprosy Day, industry veterans gathered at an event for the launch of the book - Dr S K Noordeen: Architect of the Global Leprosy Elimination Program. The book has been

authored by Dr Derek Lobo, Member, Board of Trustees, Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF). Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Former Chief Scientist, World Health Organisation (WHO) was the chief guest at the event.

Sharing his thoughts on the book authored by him, Dr Derek Lobo said, 'Dr.SK Noordeen was a very humble person, with a constant focus

THE HANS INDIA

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## S-ILF educates youth from leprosy colonies for jobs with startups

The Hans India

Hans News Service | 1 Feb 2023 12:52 AM IST



### HIGHLIGHTS

Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) organised 'Youth Against Leprosy', a National Youth Festival to raise awareness about leprosy amongst the younger generation



S-ILF educates youth from leprosy colonies for jobs with startups

BW WEL BEING

HOME MIND BODY SOUL PERSONAL SPACE WORKPLACE GRUBS VIDEO

## SILF Aware Youth About Leprosy, Aims To Eradicate The Stigma

The event engaged the college youth that have been involved through its various programs, through an event focused on mobilising and driving awareness amongst the young citizens.



Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation  
Restoring Dignity

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By The CSR Journal - January 11, 2023

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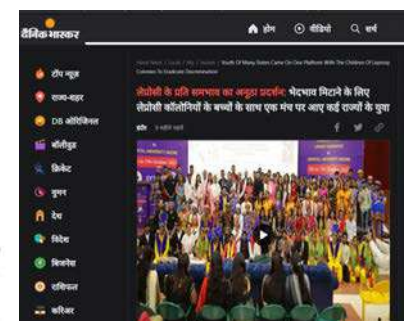
Admissions Open for 2023-24

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S-ILF's annual youth festival provides a platform for young people from non-leprosy backgrounds (students from different colleges / universities) to mingle and interact with youth from leprosy background. These interactions are aimed to bust myths and create social bridges among college youth regarding leprosy. Youth Festival helps to bridge the 'us versus them' divide. It engages the college youth that have been involved through its various programs, through an event focused on mobilising and driving awareness amongst the young citizens. It is aimed at eradicating the stigma against leprosy through collaborating with different colleges/ educational organisations.



S-ILF educates youth from leprosy colonies for jobs with startups









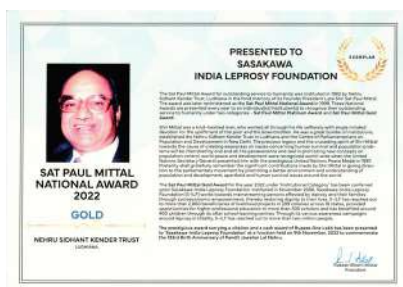






# Awards & Recognition

S-ILF has been recognised and accredited for its work, culture and transparency. This year, S-ILF has been certified by Great Place To Work under small organisation category for 2022-23. S-ILF has also received the Maharashtra CSR Award at 11th India CSR Awards 2022 for the livelihood projects, supported by Bajaj Auto Ltd in Maharashtra. S-ILF has been awarded by Sat Paul Mittal Awards under the Gold category for Institutions. S-ILF Received a Certificate of Merit by World CSR day, in an event at Mumbai. S-ILF has also received appreciation from National Health Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for managing awareness material to break myths around Leprosy during India International Trade Fair- 2022.







*Dance and theatre professionals as 'mentors' for young participants during national youth festival in Delhi.*



# Engage with Us

S-ILF is committed to the socio-economic empowerment of persons affected by Leprosy and their families residing in Leprosy colonies. This is an important tool for combating stigma and discrimination against the disease.

**There are various ways in which you could contribute to the cause.**

- a. Reduce vulnerability to poverty through support of sustainable livelihoods
- b. Support for higher professional education to children from families affected by Leprosy
- c. Support for vocational training to youth
- d. Support for disability prevention activities such as ulcer care and provision of customised footwear
- e. Support for infrastructural development through improved access to quality water and sanitation
- f. Become an Ambassador for the cause- It's EASY



**End Discrimination  
focus on abilities of  
affected individuals  
rather than  
disabilities**



**Acknowledge  
Persons affected  
by Leprosy as equal  
members of the  
society**



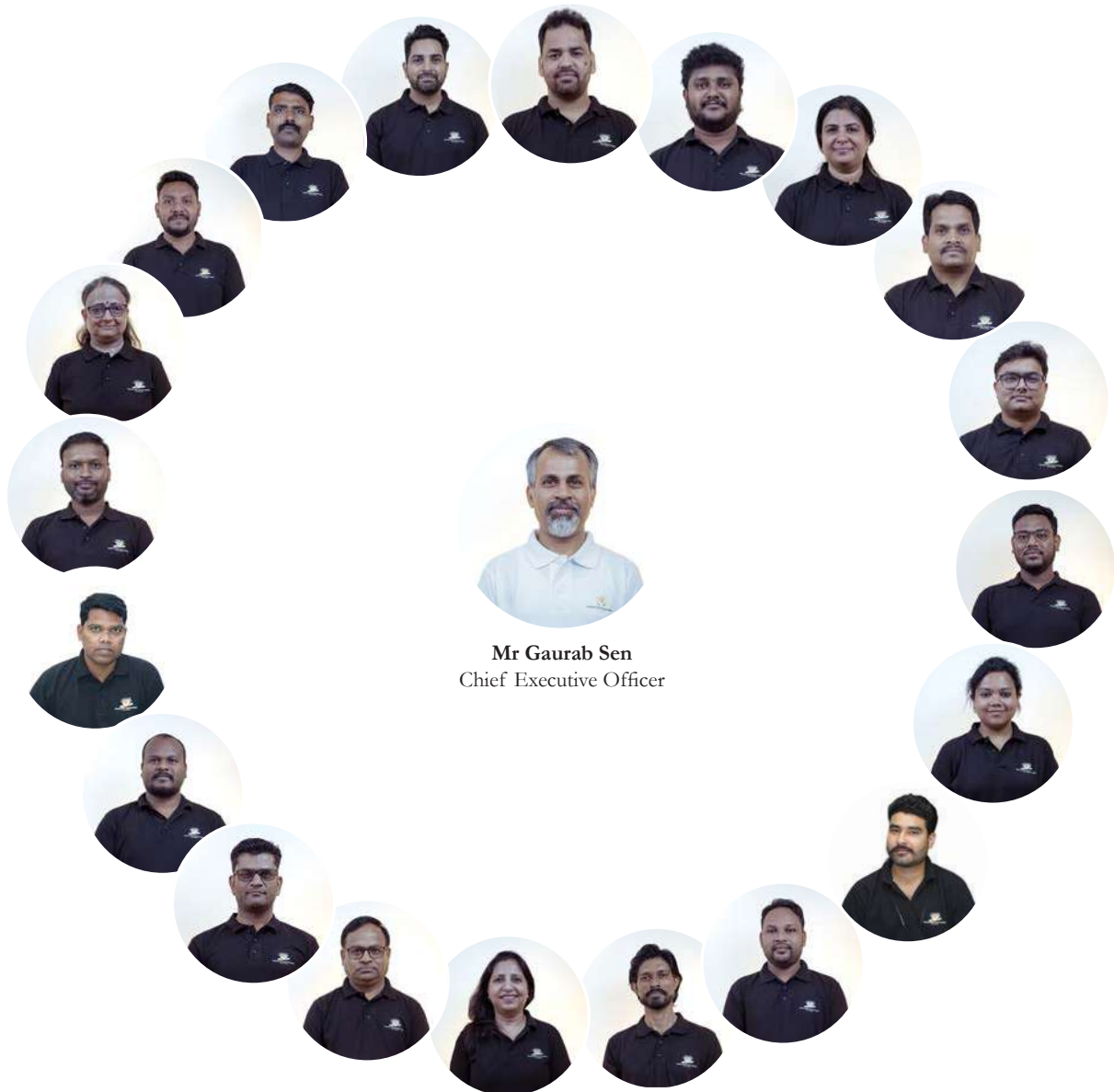
**Spread the word-  
'Leprosy is curable'**



**You can bring  
a significant  
change through  
partnership!**



## Our Team



**Mr Gaurab Sen**  
Chief Executive Officer

**From Top (clock wise) in alphabetical order-**

Aftab Pasha, B Shyambabu Naidu, Charu Gaba, Ganesh Prasad Dhuriya, Gourav Kumar Jha, Jatin Singh, Mallika Shaw, Mohit Sharma, Pramit Kumar Nag, Praveen Kumar, Rajni Sharma, Ram Autar, Sachin Kumar Patidar, Samuel Hansda, Sandeep Sambhaji Kamble, Shubhendra Sachan, Sujatha Krishnamachari, Swarup Ranjan Chhatra, T Irudaya Kumar, Tanzeel Ur Rahman Khan



# Passing the Baton



## Dr Vivek Lal

### CEO

*(till November 2022)*

Dr Vivek Lal served as the Chief Executive Officer of S-ILF from June 2020 till November 2022. His leadership brought a new era of development in the organisation and its work. He worked extensively on bridging the gap between the organisation and the colonies due to Covid. S-ILF emerged with strength, dedicated to the cause of social and economic rehabilitation of persons affected by leprosy. With great sensitivity and understanding, he developed a five-year strategy along with his colleague and friend, Mr Gaurab Sen. This has enabled effectiveness of our programs and rendered sustainability to our efforts. The Board of Trustees bid him farewell, with Mr Yohei Sasakawa leading the team in appreciation. We are thankful for his contribution and wish him good luck for his future endeavours in WHO.



## Mr Gaurab Sen

### CEO

*(December 2022 onwards)*

Mr Gaurab Sen, who was heading programs since 2020 took over the responsibilities of the new CEO in December 2022. Mr Sen possesses more than 20 years of experience in the development sector in India, along with experience working in the United Nations regional office in Bangkok for a short span. He possesses a Master's degree in Linguistics from Assam University & an LLM degree in Human Rights Law from Viadrina European University, Germany. Equality issues have been the soul of his work and he has worked with different marginalised groups like persons with disabilities, Adivasis, women, and survivors of human trafficking in different parts of India. With his enthusiasm and deep roots in the field, we are confident that S-ILF will rise to newer heights under his leadership.





### Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation

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Phone: +91-11- 2460 3439/40



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