

Challenges in Implementation National Leprosy Eradication Programme, India

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Outline of presentation

1- NLEP Goals , Epidemiological Trends and Status

2- Programme Activities

3- India COVID 19 Response in context with NLEP

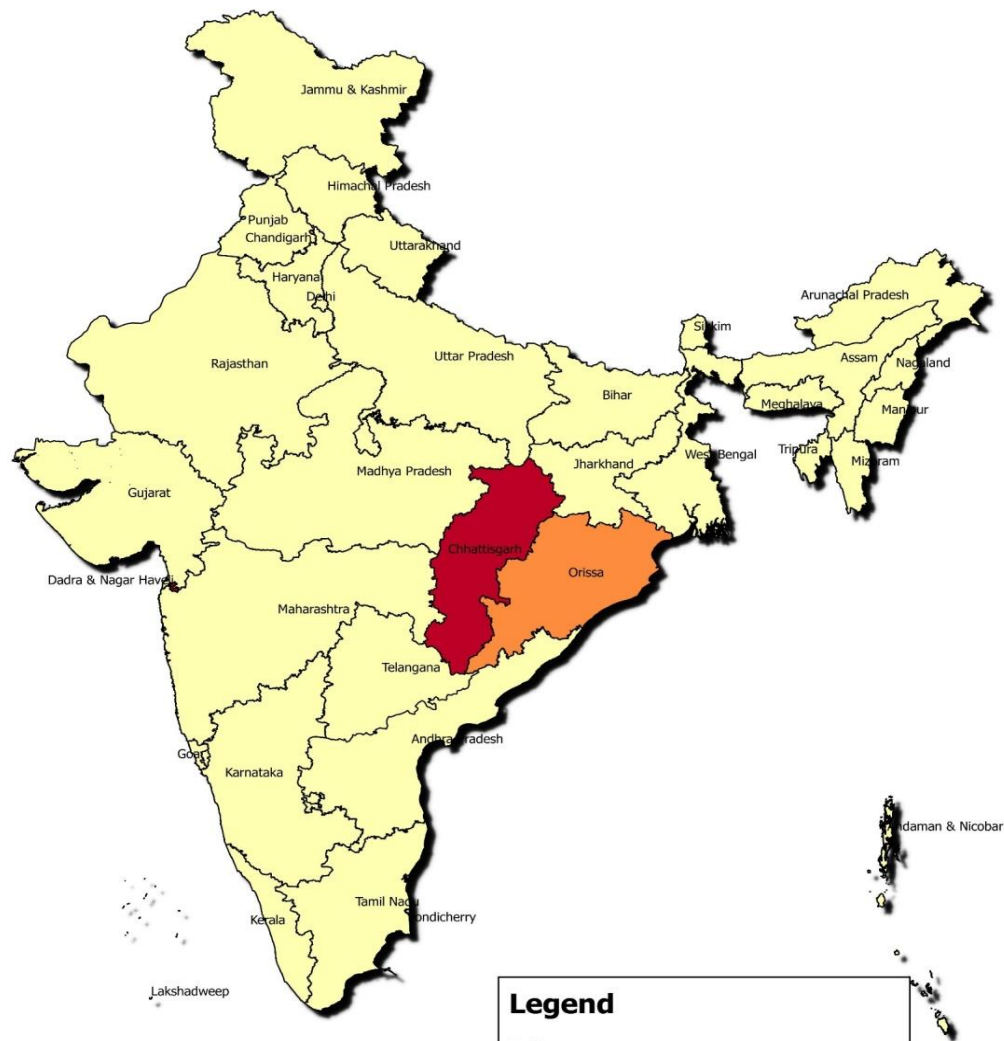
4- Challenges in Implementation

Goals of NLEP Epidemiological trends and Status

- To reduce Prevalence rate to less than 1/10,000 population
- To reduce Grade II Disability % < 1 among new cases at National level
- To reduce Grade II disability cases < 1 case per million population at National level.
- Zero disabilities among new paediatric cases.
- Zero stigma and discrimination against person affected by leprosy.

Stratification of States/UTs as per Prevalence Rate per 10,000 Population as on 31st March 2020

National Leprosy Status-India



- ANCDR - 8.13 per 100,000 popn.
- Prevalence Rate (PR) - 0.57 per 10,000 popn.
- Child proportion - 6.87 %
- Grade 2 Disability proportion- 2.41%
- G2D rate- 1.96 / million population.

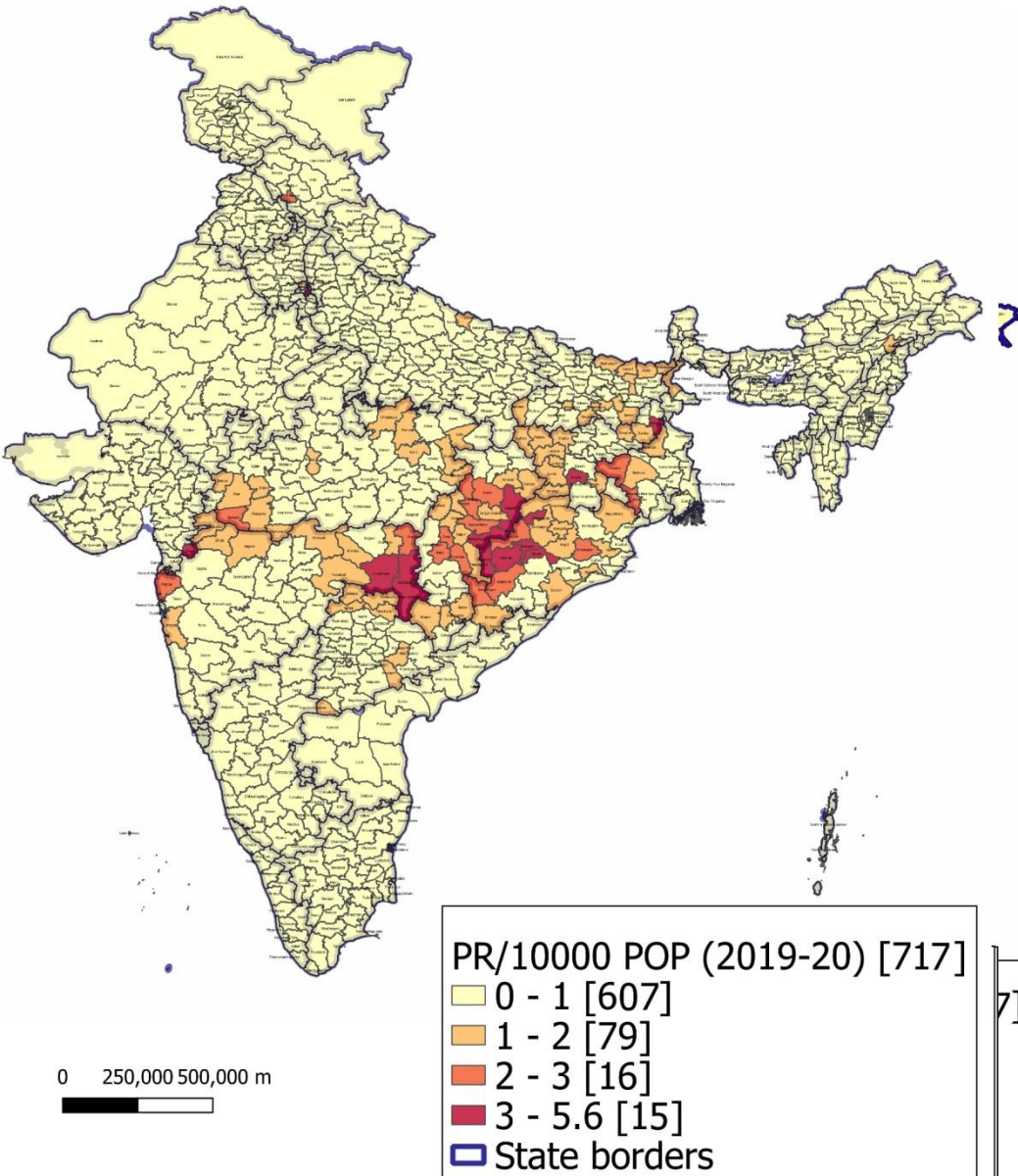
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Prevalence Rate 2020 [36]

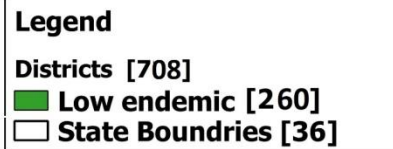
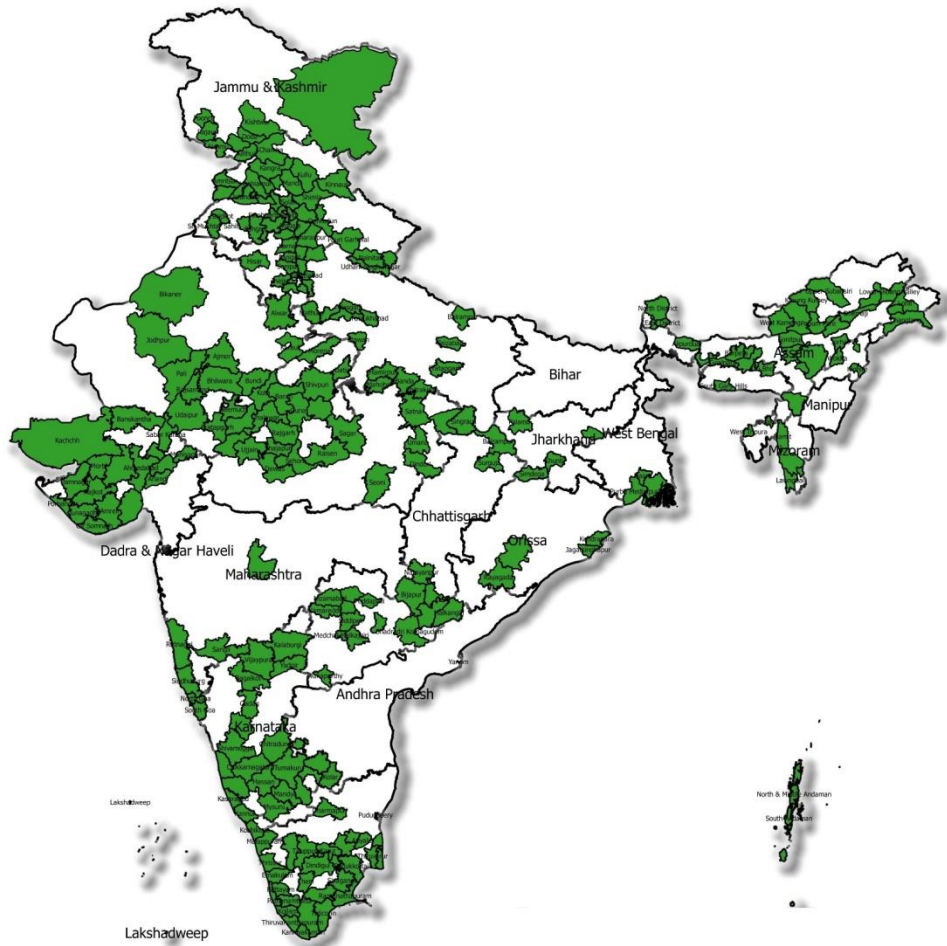
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Leprosy Status at District Level



Indicators	% out of total number of Districts in the country
ANCDR <10 per 100,000 Popn.	77%
G2D among new cases per 1 million Popn.	59%
Child Rate 1 per 100,000 Popn.	85%
PR <1 per 10,000 popn.	85%

Low endemic District by State/UTs (NLEP)



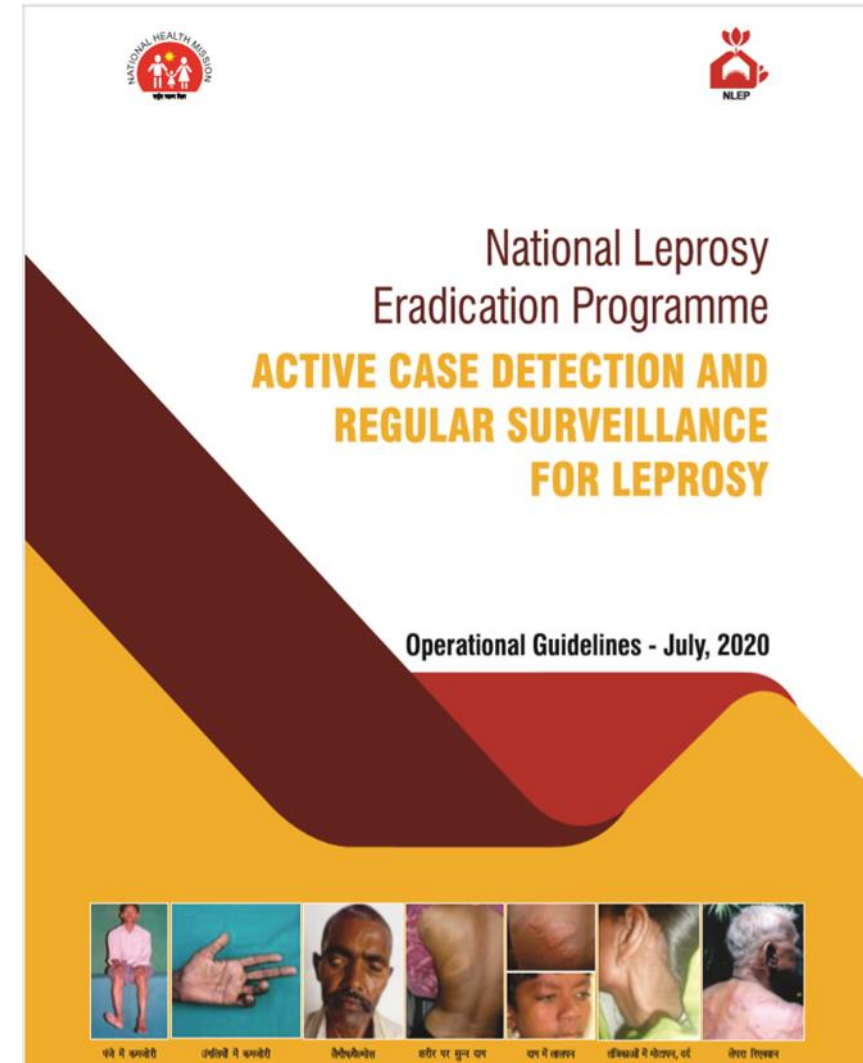
Prioritization of Districts based on Stratification

Endemicity	Percent out of total number of districts
High endemic	118 (17%)
Moderate endemic	206 (29%)
Low endemic	260 (36%)
Sporadic	124 (18%)

Programme Strategies

Active Case Detection and Routine Surveillance (ACD&RS)

- Operational guidelines introduced in July 2020 for early case detection and regular surveillance.
- Sensitization meeting was held on virtual platform with all State Nodal Officers.



Programme Strategies- Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign

- Nationwide Gram Sabhas organized on Anti Leprosy Day, i.e. 30th January with the help of PRIs & VHSCs.
- Different themes for different years
- Introduction of Sapna mascot in 2018
- Role plays on Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to leprosy in 2019 & 2020
- Participation of Persons affected by leprosy
- Q & A sessions
- IEC activities in urban areas
- Awareness through messages



स्पर्श कुष्ठ जागरूकता अभियान – 2020

“कुष्ठ के विरुद्ध, आखिरी युद्ध”

30 जनवरी (कुष्ठ रोग उन्मूलन दिवस)



पंजे में कमजोरी उंगलियों में कमजोरी आँख बंद करने में परेशानी शरीर पर सुन दाग दाग में लालपन अथवा सूजन तंत्रिकाओं में मोटापन, दर्द अथवा झुनझुनाहट लेपरा रिएक्शन

इनमें से कोई भी चिन्ह हो तो तुरंत जाँच करवाये!
सभी अस्पतालों में जाँच व उपचार (एम. डी. टी.) मुफ्त उपलब्ध है

राष्ट्रीय कुष्ठ उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार



Programme Strategies

- Post Exposure Prophylaxis in form of Single Dose Rifampicin (SDR) to close contacts
- Case management and record maintenance
- Detailed investigation of all Grade II Disability
- Distribution of Self Care kits and MCR footwear
- RCS (Re-constructive Surgeries)
- Capacity building of Human Resources (HR)
- IEC and counselling

Programme Strategies- NIKUSTHA

- Implementation of online reporting system with Patient tracking mechanism (Nikusht) for improved monitoring and supervision.
- Around 1,255 nodal persons for data management at district level, from 33 States/UTs have been trained for entry into NIKUSTH.

Steps towards convergence

- Leprosy screening included in RBSK and RKSK (0-19 yrs of age)
 - Take proactive measures to ensure implementation
 - Referral of suspects
 - Confirmation diagnosis
 - Treatment
 - Prompt Reporting
- Leprosy screening inclusion in RKSK
- Population (30+) based screening under Ayushman Bharat
- Include screening for leprosy under NUHM to cover slum areas and peri urban areas



Challenges

1. Operational

- Human resources capacity and motivation
- Programme management capacity and poor infrastructure
- Referral services and linkages
- Sustain the level of elimination
- Misinterpretation on elimination and eradication of leprosy
- Improve recording, notification and epidemiological survey
- Regular logistic issues
- Strengthen institutional capacity
- Coordination and establishment of partnerships
- Empowerment of various stakeholders

Challenges

2. Technical

- Continued occurrence of new cases
- Quality of care
- Early detection of cases
- Laboratory services
- Control of contacts

Challenges

3. Social/economical/cultural challenges

- Stigma
- Difficulty of integrating persons affected by leprosy and their acceptance in the community
- Low knowledge of the population about the disease - changing health-seeking behaviour
- Access to health-care services/leprosy services

India's response to COVID 19 & NLEP-Steps taken

- 1. MHA order (15th April 2020)- All health services are deemed essential and need to be functional across the country.**
- 2. Issue Advisory on COVID 19**
- 3. Prepared and circulated Differential Strategy for NLEP Based on Three Zone Classification (Containment zone, Buffer Zone, Areas beyond buffer zone)of the Districts during COVID-19 Pandemic.**
- 4. High level review of programme**
- 5. Review of NLEP via VC**
- 6. Continuous interaction with States via VC, telephonic , email etc.**
- 7. Tracking of MDT Treatment of Migrant labors**
- 8. Ensured availability of MDT stock & Management**

COVID 19 related NLEP Challenges

- **Surveillance**
- **Limited manpower availability - Diversion in COVID19 activities - esp. frontline health workers**
- **Continued increase in COVID 19 cases -Urban to Rural area**
- **Extra burden on Health Facilities- OPD Non COVID Patients**
- **Patient refuse to visit Health Facilities due to COVID 19**
- **Migration and Reverse Migration**
- **Management of lepra reaction and regular follow-up**
- **Follow-up of 'under treatment' patients and RCS patients**
- **Counselling services, Monitoring and Supervision**
- **Non-COVID services such as IEC campaigns, meetings of the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees.**

THANKS