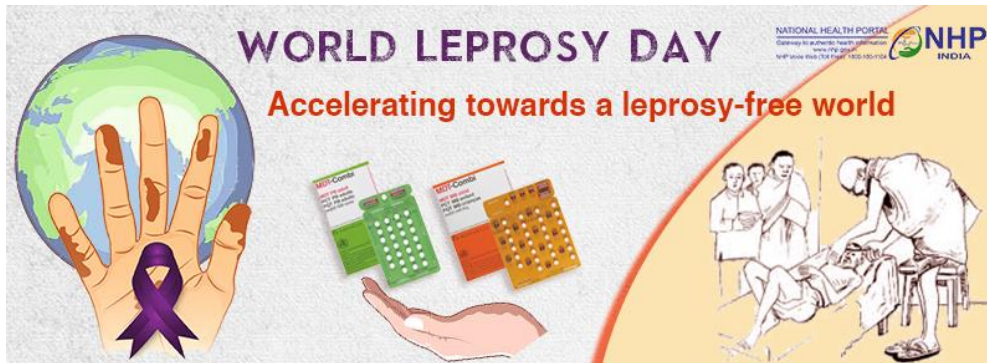


World Leprosy Day 30.01.2021



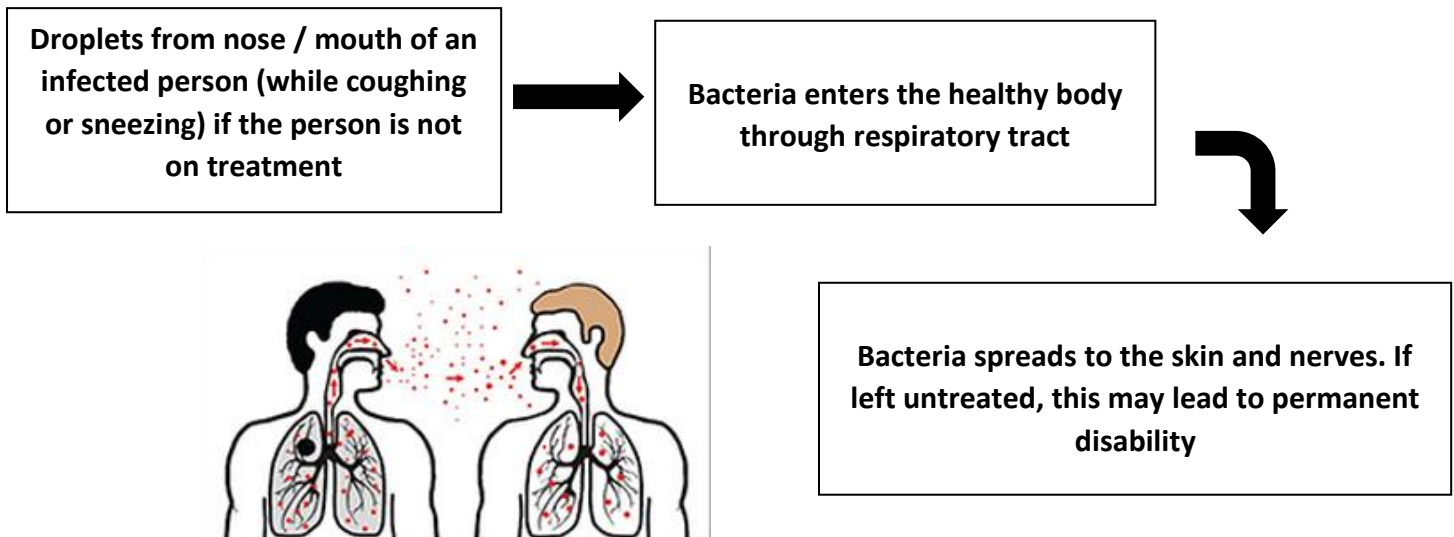
World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January every year. This enhances our continuous effort to eliminate/eradicate this debilitating disease at the earliest from India. According to WHO, India has the highest number of leprosy cases on the world- 120,334 (2017-18).

What is Leprosy (Hansen’s Disease)?

- Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a bacillus, *Mycobacterium leprae* (M. Laprae).
- The disease affects our skin, nerves, upper respiratory tract and eyes.



How Does Leprosy Spread?



Symptoms of Leprosy:

- Patches on skin and loss or decrease of sensation in the skin patches
- Numbness or tingling in hand or feet
- Weakness of hands, feet or eyelids
- Swelling or lumps in the face or earlobes
- Painless wounds on hands or feet.



What to do if symptoms appear?

- Do not ignore the symptoms, early diagnosis is essential for complete recovery
- Visit nearest health centre or dispensary
- Free treatment of Leprosy is available at govt. health facilities.



Take Away Message:

- ✓ Leprosy is curable with MDT (multi drug therapy) which, if taken regularly, ensures complete cure of leprosy, prevents deformities and stops transmission to other individuals.
- ✓ Leprosy is not hereditary; it does not transmit from parents to children.
- ✓ Leprosy does not spread through causal touch like shaking hands or playing together or working in same office.
- ✓ Leprosy is not the result of past sins or immoral behaviour. It is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- ✓ Please give due to respect to the persons affected with Leprosy so that they live a dignified life in our society.

