

Minutes of a Meeting of the Core Group on Health and Mental Health, held on 22.12.2021 at 11.00 AM in Room No. 508, Manav Adhikar Bhawan To Discuss Issues Relating to Leprosy and Leprosy Colonies

1. **Justice Arun Mishra**, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Human rights Commission (NHRC) chaired the Meeting. List of participants is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

2. **Shri Bimbadhar Pradhan**, Secretary General, NHRC in his introductory address highlighted the importance of the subject and the need for deliberations on the same. He noted with concern that India accounts for 57% of the Global leprosy caseload followed by Brazil and Indonesia. As on date, as per WHO estimate, India has 1,14,451 leprosy patients. India is home to about 750 leprosy colonies where more than 2 lakh people live in marginalised conditions. As of March, 2018, Bihar had the highest (14,388) leprosy patients in the country followed by Uttar Pradesh (12,583), Maharashtra (9,836), West Bengal (9,175) and Chhattisgarh (6,499). He informed that several measures have been initiated to eradicate the leprosy and to integrate the leprosy affected persons with the mainstream society. On 30th January, 2017, an awareness campaign named **SPARSH Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC)** was launched, with an objective to promote awareness and address issues of stigma and discrimination and to encourage leprosy affected persons to come forward for diagnosis and treatment. In 2019, the Parliament has enacted the Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 to remove the leprosy as a ground for divorce. At present with multi drug therapy (MDT) and new therapy approaches, leprosy is completely curable. With these efforts, as on July 2021, 662 out of 705 districts in the country have achieved elimination level.

Shri Pradhan further stated that Mahatma Gandhi had an enduring concern for people affected with leprosy. His vision was not just to treat them, but also to bring them to mainstream society. India has been advised by the WHO to improve strategic intervention to achieve zero case status by screening all contacts of persons affected by leprosy, promoting treatment regimen and by incorporating specific interventions against stigmatization and discrimination. He emphasized that a collective effort is needed to eradicate the curable disease of leprosy.

3. **Justice Arun Mishra**, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC in his inaugural address highlighted that even today when leprosy is completely curable and a person affected by leprosy, no longer remains contagious after receiving first dose of MDT, 97 laws provide for discrimination of leprosy affected persons. A statement containing details of all such

laws is enclosed as **Annexure-II**. Hon'ble Chairperson emphasised that all such discriminatory laws are against the constitutional provisions to prohibit discrimination on the ground of a disease. All these laws therefore, need to be amended or repealed in a time bound manner to end discrimination to persons affected from leprosy. He further stated that we all now know that leprosy is not a hereditary disease. Insanitary conditions, malnutrition and lack of personal hygiene may trigger this disease. Concerted efforts need to be made to remove several myths associated with the leprosy, which are main reasons for discrimination and social exclusion of the leprosy affected persons.

While sharing his experience of visits to leprosy homes, Justice Arun Mishra noted with concern that most of these homes suffer from the unhygienic environment, non-availability of nutritious food and sub-standard housing and sanitary facilities. He suggested that concerted efforts are needed to wean away the leprosy affected persons from begging by providing support for their skill development, vocational training and socio-economic upliftment.

4. Technical session began with a presentation on '**Availability and Accessibility of resources**' by **Ms. Nikita Sarah** from the Leprosy Trust India. Ms. Sarah highlighted the need to provide access to healthcare, emergency medical care, transport and personal protective equipments (PPE) to the leprosy affected persons on a priority basis during the present Covid-19 pandemic. She stated that hospitals in Delhi-NCR and several other States that offer leprosy treatment became out of bounds for the persons suffering from leprosy during the Covid-19 pandemic. She further stated that the medicine stock at the Block level did not reach the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) on time. There had been instances where patients, who had leprosy relapse, could not access a hospital despite waiting for weeks. Some leprosy patients developed muscle contractions due to progression of disease and delayed diagnosis.

5. **Mr. Ashutosh Prabhavalkar**, Head, Leprosy Programme, ALERT- INDIA in his presentation on '**Socio economic conditions of people living in leprosy colonies or outside**' stated that even in the Twenty-First Century, leprosy causes severe distress to persons affected by it due to an unfavourable social environment. He stated that medical problems associated with the leprosy have successfully been handled to a great extent. The persistent stigma and discrimination towards the persons affected by leprosy still pose a great challenge to these persons in leading a dignified life.

6. **Mr. Suresh Dhongde**, Program Manager, Leprosy Mission Trust India who himself suffered from Leprosy when he was in Tenth standard and dropped out of school, in a presentation on "**Mental health and rehabilitation of people affected by leprosy and their families**" shared his personal experiencing of coping with the disease. He explained that issues such as lack of awareness and several myths associated with the disease, lack of adequate number of experts, delay in treatment, uncertainty about the future, mental depression, suicidal thoughts, social discrimination,

unemployment and social exclusion are severely affecting the health and mental well being of the leprosy affected persons during the challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

7. **Dr. Anil Kumar**, Deputy Director General (Leprosy), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that India has the highest burden of leprosy cases (58% of new cases) in the world and also the highest cases of disabilities caused by leprosy. He gave a brief overview, including important milestones, strategies and initiatives of the last five years of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), In the end, he stated that the India has the plan to achieve zero leprosy transmission through activity wise intensive monitoring.

8. In the interactive open house platform, **Sh. Ambuj Sharma**, Special Monitor said that public awareness, early diagnosis, timely treatment, and appropriate rehabilitation are key to eradicate leprosy from India. The need of the hour is to broaden the scope of the coverage of Government healthcare machinery by involving other departments and agencies at the grassroots level like local bodies, PHCs, primary schools *etc.* He stated that as we step in 75 years of independence, NHRC can take a lead in driving the Government to have a specific target based approach towards the whole issue by having a 25 x 25x 25 approach providing for 25% reduction of new cases per year by 2025, 25% coverage of older leprosy patients who need rehabilitation and socio-economic rehabilitation of at-least 25% persons affected by leprosy. The NHRC may take up the matter with the concerned Ministries in the Union Government and the concerned State Government.

Dr Abhijit Das emphasized that most of the Government intervention and schemes are focused on new incidents/cases. Even when the fresh cases of leprosy are low, the residual population of persons affected with leprosy continues to face discriminatory, hostile and inhuman conditions. The Government should therefore consider rehabilitating and socially integrating the persons affected by leprosy.

Dr. Santhosh shared his experience of visiting leprosy rehabilitation colonies in Chennai and Anantpur and drawn attention to the awful condition of these colonies with no washrooms and no regular water supply. He said that since the these colonies were established by the Central Government, the State Government is not funding these colonies anymore, leading to poor infrastructure and lack of basic facilities. He advised that actual utilisation for welfare of leprosy affected persons from Rs.4,000-5,600 provided to ASHA workers by the Government needs to be monitored closely to have a real picture of the impact of these amounts.

In the end, **Shri H. C. Chaudhary**, Joint Secretary, NHRC stated that concept of leprosy colonies originated when the leprosy was considered a highly contagious and non-curable disease. Now when the leprosy is totally curable and patients suffering from it no longer remain contagious after they receive first dose of MDT, residents of these

colonies even when they have been fully cured and family members of the original residents of these colonies who never suffered from the leprosy, continue to suffer discrimination. Concerted efforts are therefore needed to integrate these colonies with the general population.

9. Important recommendations emerged from meeting are as follows:

- (i) The 99 law providing for discrimination of leprosy affected persons, as per details given in **Annexure-II**, need to be amended or repealed in a time bound manner to end discrimination of leprosy affected persons.
- (ii) A Law to provide for substitution of derogatory terms used to describe persons affected by leprosy, right of the person affected by leprosy to access health care facilities for treatment of leprosy and associated complications, confidentiality of their medical and other records, security of tenure, title and ownership of property, right to access and enjoy public goods and services including public transport services, right to employment, freedom to form family and right of access to education needs to be enacted. Such law may also provide for separate parameters for assessing the disability quotient for leprosy affected persons for the purpose of issuing disability certificates.
- (iii) Awareness programs by involving print and electronic media, grass root level functionaries and civil society organisations need to be launched to create awareness among the public that leprosy is fully curable and a person suffering from the leprosy no longer remains contagious after receipt of first dose of MDT and may lead a normal married life, can have children, can take part in social events and go to work or school/college as normal. Awareness program may also highlight that persons affected by leprosy is not required to be sent to any special clinic or hospital or sanatorium and should not be isolated from the family members or the community. The same needs to be included in school curriculum too.
- (iv) Special fact finding surveys among the persons affected by leprosy (those still suffering from the diseases as well as fully cured) need to be undertaken to identify issues related to stigma, discrimination and violation of human rights.
- (v) Periodic surveys need to be undertaken to maintain an updated district-wise database of the leprosy affected persons. Such updated database needs to be prominently displayed on websites of the concerned State Governments and all concerned Ministries in the Central Government. Grass root level organisations, civil society organisations and school children may be involved in such surveys.
- (vi) State may establish a helpline to ensure prompt reporting and medical attention to new cases of leprosy as well as development of acute signs and symptoms of lepra reaction/new nerve function impairment in existing patients.

- (vii) Health care facilities having adequate number of doctors and paramedical staff having expertise and knowledge and an adequate stock of drugs for the treatment and management of leprosy and associated complications including the MDT drugs need to be established. All such treatment and drugs including the correction of leprosy induced deformities through surgical procedures need to be made available free of cost well in time to persons affected by leprosy. Treatment of leprosy should be integrated with general health so that same may be made available in a non-discriminatory manner. The doctors and paramedical staff may desist from any discriminatory behaviour while examining and treating persons suffering from leprosy. Efforts need to be made to provide and expand tele-consultation services through mobile to persons affected by leprosy.
- (viii) The Union and State may endeavour to provide micro cellular rubber (MCR) footwear to all leprosy affected persons free of cost.
- (ix) A special program needs to be initiated to provide counselling of the persons affected from leprosy and their family members, especially children, to help them overcome the stigma and integrate with the society.
- (x) To ensure the persons receives and takes all medications as prescribed and to monitor response to treatment, directly observed treatment (DOT) treatment methodology, similar to one used for treatment of tuberculosis, needs to be adopted for treatment of the persons affected by leprosy.
- (xi) State may ensure home delivery of all essential services, including supply of groceries and medicine to persons severely affected from leprosy.
- (xii) Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare needs to launch a special programme for development of a leprosy vaccine within a specified time frame.
- (xiii) Efforts need to be made to improve healthcare, sanitation, electricity and other civic amenities in leprosy colonies. Property/ tenure rights to the residents of such colonies need to be provided in a time bound manner. No resident of these colonies be removed or evicted without being rehabilitated and adequately compensated.
- (xiv) Serious efforts need to be made by the Union and State/UT Governments to integrate leprosy colonies with the society. All such colonies need to be appropriately re-named to prevent their identification/tagging with the disease. All new leprosy patients need to be treated at their respective homes without shifting them to leprosy colonies.
- (xv) Special programs providing for vocational training, employment benefit, parental leave, health insurance to the persons affected by leprosy and their family

members need to be launched. While implementing employment generation schemes such as MGNREGA, persons suffering from leprosy and leprosy induced disabilities may be given option to undertake home based activities.

- (xvi) States need to provide due attention to ensure that persons affected by leprosy are provided with BPL card, Aadhar Card, Job card and other identity proof on priority to facilitate such persons to avail benefit of Government run welfare schemes including Indira Awas Yojna (AAY), MGNREGA etc. While issuing Aadhar card to such persons iris scan may be promoted as many such persons suffers from the finger impairment.
- (xvii) Special programs needs to be launched to wean away persons affected from leprosy from begging. Such programs may include a lump-sum monthly financial assistance to such persons.
- (xviii) Provisions of section 8 of the Rights of Persons With Disability Act, 2016 providing for protection and safety in situations of risks, armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters to persons with disability need to be extended to all persons affected from leprosy and their family members.
- (xix) Address the gap in the assessment certification and grading because of loss of sensation that is invisible deformity is not taken into consideration while assessing.
- (xx) Chief Secretary of each leprosy affected State/UT and Secretaries in-charge of the concerned Ministries in the Central Government need to review, at regular intervals, the number of persons affected by leprosy in the State/Country and the efforts made for treatment and welfare of the persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

NHRC Officers/ Officials

1. Justice Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson
2. Justice Shri. Mahesh Mittal Kumar, Hon'ble Member
3. Smt Jyotika Kalra, Hon'ble Member
4. Shri Rajiv Jain, Hon'ble Member
5. Shri Bimbadhar Pradhan, Secretary General
6. Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary
7. Shri H. C. Chaudhary, Joint Secretary
8. Dr. M.D.S Tyagi, JD (R)
9. Shri Sudesh Kumar, SRO (R)
10. Ms. Seemi Azam, RO
11. Ms. Aakanksha Sharma, JRC
12. Ms. Saaniya Srivastava, JRC
13. Ms. Lakshmi, JRC

Core Group Members

14. Dr. Abhijit Das
15. Dr. Abhay shukla
16. Prof. T. Sudararaman
17. Dr. Santhosh Kumar Kraleti
18. Dr. K.V. Kishore
19. Dr. Santosh Kumar Sah
20. Prof. Pratima Murthy

Representative from the Ministry

21. Dr. Anil Kumar
22. Sh Sanjay Gupta
23. Dr. Harmeet Singh
24. Dr. Rinku Sharma

Special Invitees

25. Shri Ambuj Sharma
26. Ms. Nikita Sarah
27. Dr. Sujata Satapathy
28. Shri Suresh Dhongde
29. Mr. Ashutosh Prabhavalkar
30. Dr. Rajesh Sagar
31. Ms. Neyamat Singh

Laws Containing Provisions Discriminatory To Leprosy Affected Persons

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
A. LAWS SETTING UP UNIVERSITIES			
1.	Visva Bharati Act, 1951	Section 38 (3) (a) Dismissal or removal from service without holding any enquiry any <i>adhyapak</i> or other member of academic staff suffering from contagious leprosy	Centre
2.	Sri Venkateswara Vedic University Act, 2006	Section 37(1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for election or nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.	State - Andhra Pradesh
3.	Dravidian University Act, 1997	Section 40(1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for election or nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.	State- Andhra Pradesh
4.	Andhra Pradesh Universities Act, 1991	Section 29 (a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for Membership of any of authorities of the University. Section 34 Removal of persons suffering from leprosy from membership of any authority of the University	State - Andhra Pradesh
5.	University of Health Sciences Act, 1986	Section 41(1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for Membership of any of the authorities of the University.	State - Andhra Pradesh
6.	Pondicherry University Act, 1985	Section 27 (1)(a) Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy. Section 36(1)(a) Disqualifications of persons suffering from contagious leprosy for being chosen as, and for being, member of any of the authorities of the University.	Centre

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
7.	Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University Act, 1985	Section 39 (1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for Membership of any of the authorities of the University.	State-Telangana
8.	Telugu University Act, 1985	Section 39(1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for Membership of any of the authorities of the University.	State - Telangana
9.	Alagappa University Act, 1985	Section 7(1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for membership of any of the authorities of the University.	State-Tamil Nadu
10.	Goa University Act, 1984	Section 23(1)(a) Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy. Section 30(1)(a) Disqualifications of persons suffering from contagious leprosy for being chosen as, and for being, a member of any of the authorities of the University.	State- Goa
11.	Mother Teresa Women's University Act, 1984	Section 6(1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.	State - Tamil Nadu
12.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, 1982	Statute 12(a) of the Schedule to the Act Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.	State-Telangana
13.	Bharathiar University Act, 1981	Section 6(1)(a) Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.	State-Tamil Nadu
14.	Tamil University Act, 1982	Section 39(2) Removal of persons suffering from leprosy from membership of any authority of the University.	State-Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
15.	Bharathidasan University Act, 1981	<p>Section 6 (1)(a)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p> <p>Section 49(2)</p> <p>Removal of persons suffering from leprosy from membership of any authority of the University.</p>	State-Tamil Nadu
16.	Sri Krishnadevaraya University Act, 1981	<p>Statute 24(1)(a) of the Schedule of the Act</p> <p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p> <p>Statute 31(1)(a) of the Schedule of the Act</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh
17.	Nagarjuna University Act, 1976	<p>Statute 23(1)(a) of the Schedule of the Act</p> <p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p> <p>Statute 30(1)(a) of the Schedule of the Act</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh
18.	University of Hyderabad Act, 1974	<p>Statute 28(1)(a) of the Schedule of the Act</p> <p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p> <p>Statute 35(a)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh
19.	North-Eastern Hill	Statute 28(1)(a) of the Schedule of the Act	Centre

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
	University Act, 1973	<p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p> <p>Statute 37(1)(a)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p>	
20.	Jawahar Lal Nehru University Act, 1966	<p>Statute 23(1)(a) of the Schedule of the Act</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p> <p>Statute 31(1)(a)</p> <p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p>	Centre
21.	Madurai Kamaraj University Act, 1965	<p>Section 6(1)(a)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p>	State-Tamil Nadu
22.	Osmania University Act, 1959	<p>Section 29(a)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p> <p>Section 34</p> <p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
23.	Madras University Act, 1923	<p>Section 5(2)(a)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p> <p>Section 40</p> <p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p>	State-Tamil Nadu
24.	Banaras Hindu University Act, 1915	<p>Section 12B(1)(a)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for nomination as a member of any of the authorities of the University.</p> <p>Section 32(1)(a)</p> <p>Removal of employees other than teachers of the University by the authority which is competent to appoint the employee, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.</p>	Centre
B.	MUNICIPAL LAWS, INCLUDING PANCHAYATI RAJ ACTS		
25.	Orissa Municipal Corporation Act, 2003	<p>Section 70(3)(b)</p> <p>Disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for election as a Corporator.</p>	State - Odisha
26.	Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981	<p>Section 390</p> <p>Persons suffering from leprosy are prevented entry/expelled in markets.</p>	State-Tamil Nadu
27.	Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976	<p>Section 340</p> <p>Persons suffering from leprosy are prevented entry/expelled in markets.</p>	State-Punjab
28.	Puducherry Municipalities Act, 1973	<p>Section 378</p> <p>Persons suffering from leprosy are prevented entry/expelled in markets.</p>	Centre
29.	Karnataka Municipalities (Regulation and Inspection of Lodging and Boarding	<p>Bye Laws 32(a), (b) & (c)</p> <p>Person suffering from leprosy not to be allowed to be received in the premises or any portion thereof; permitted to enter or occupy the premises or any portion therein; and employed in the business or</p>	State-Karnataka

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
	Houses) (Model) Bye Laws, 1966	assist in carrying on the same.	
30.	Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964	Section 245 Persons suffering from leprosy are prevented entry/expelled in markets.	State-Karnataka
31.	Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1965	Section 15(2)(a) Disqualification for election as a member, if he suffers from leprosy. Section 16(1)(c) Disqualification for being a member, if he suffers from leprosy. Section 287 Persons suffering from leprosy are prevented entry/expelled in markets.	State-Andhra Pradesh
32.	Madras Panchayats Act, 1958	Section 25(2)(a) Disqualification for election or nomination as a member, if he suffers from leprosy. Section 26(b) Disqualification for continuing as a member, if he suffers from leprosy.	State-Tamil Nadu
33.	Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957	Section 414 Persons suffering from leprosy are prevented entry in the markets and expelled therefrom.	Centre
34.	Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955	Section 22(1)(b) Disqualification for being a Member, if such person suffers from leprosy.	State-Telangana
35.	Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954	Section 153(b) Disqualification for election as member or remain a member of the Gaon Panchayat, if he suffers from leprosy.	Centre
36.	Delhi Panchayat Raj Act, 1954	Section 44(4)(c) Disqualification for election or remain a <i>Panch</i> of	Centre

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
		the Circle Panchayat, if he suffers from leprosy.	
37.	Orissa Municipal Act, 1950	<p>Section 16(1)(iv)</p> <p>Disqualification for election as a Councillor of a Municipality, if he suffers from leprosy.</p> <p>Section 17(1)(b)</p> <p>Disqualification for remaining a Councillor of a Municipality, if he suffers from leprosy.</p> <p>Section 306</p> <p>Persons suffering from leprosy are prevented entry in the markets and expelled therefrom.</p>	State-Odisha
C.	LAWS RELATING TO TRANSPORT		
38.	Chennai Metro Railway (Carriage And Ticket) Rules, 2014	<p>Section 7(k)</p> <p>Persons suffering from leprosy are not allowed to travel by the metro railway, unless a closed (non-infective) leprosy patient carrying a certificate from a registered medical practitioner certifying him to be non-infective.</p>	State-Tamil Nadu
39.	Metro Railways (Carriage And Ticket) Rules, 2014	<p>Rule 6</p> <p>Persons suffering from leprosy are not allowed to travel by the metro railway, unless a closed (non-infective) leprosy patient carrying a certificate from a registered medical practitioner certifying him to be non-infective.</p>	Centre
40.	Bangalore Metro Railway (Carriage And Ticket) Rules, 2011	<p>Rule 6</p> <p>Persons suffering from leprosy are not allowed to travel by the metro railway, unless a closed (non-infective) leprosy patient carrying a certificate from a registered medical practitioner certifying him to be non-infective.</p>	Centre
41.	Jammu And Kashmir Motor Vehicles Act, 1998	<p>Stature (10) of the Second Schedule of the Act r/w Section 7(5) of the Act</p> <p>Absolute disqualification of persons suffering from leprosy for obtaining a licence to drive a public service vehicle.</p>	Centre
42.	Inland Steam Vessels (Madhya Pradesh) Rules, 1962	<p>Rule 83</p> <p>Disqualification of person suffering from leprosy for carrying on board any vessel licensed to carry</p>	State-Madhya Pradesh

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
		passengers.	
D.	MARRIAGE LAWS		
43.	Hindu Marriage (High Court of Meghalaya) Rules, 2013	<p>Rule 7(vii)(f)</p> <p>Content of petition for Judicial separation, nullity of marriage and divorce under Sections 9 and 13 of the Act, If the relief is sought in the ground of matrimonial offence, or offences or other grounds- the time and place of the acts of facts alleged with sufficient material particularly but not the evidence by which they are intended to be proved such as for virulent and incurable form the leprosy or venereal diseases in communicable form - when such ailment began to manifest and the nature and the period of curative steps taken.</p>	State- Meghalaya
44.	Family Courts (Patna High Court) Rules, 2000	<p>Rule 7(f)(iii)</p> <p>Every plaint/application for judicial separation shall contain in the case of virulent leprosy or general disease in a communicable form, the time when the disease began to manifest itself, nature of curative steps taken, the name and address of the person or persons who treated such disease,</p> <p>Rule 7(g)(iii)</p> <p>If the petition is for divorce, the matrimonial offence alleged or other grounds upon which the relief is sought with full particulars so far as known to the petitioner, In the case of virulent and incurable form of leprosy or venereal disease in a communicable form, the time when the disease in a communicable form, the time when the disease began to manifest itself, the nature of curative steps taken with the name and address of the person or persons who treated for such disease.</p>	State- Bihar
45.	Jammu And Kashmir Hindu Marriage Act, 1980	<p>Section 13(1)(vi)</p> <p>Allowing dissolution of marriage if the husband or wife is suffering from a virulent and incurable form of leprosy.</p>	Centre
46.	Jammu And Kashmir Hindu Adoptions And Maintenance Act, 1960	<p>Section 18(2)(c)</p> <p>A Hindu wife shall be entitled to live separately from her husband without forfeiting her claims to maintenance, if her husband is suffering from a virulent form of leprosy.</p>	Centre

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
E.	BEGGARY LAWS		
47.	The Rajasthan Rehabilitation of Beggars or Indigents Act, 2012	Section 35 A Beggar suffering from leprosy, instead of being admitted in the Rehabilitation Home, to be sent to the Lepers Asylum as per provisions of the Lepers Act, 1898 (Central Act No. 3 of 1898).	State-Rajasthan
48.	Andhra Pradesh Prevention of Begging Act, 1977	Section 6(a)(i) Recording of being leprosy affected in the inquiry report and will be detained in a leper asylum appointed under Section 3 of the Lepers Act, 1898.	State-Andhra Pradesh
49.	Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Beggary Act, 1975	Section 21(1) Detention of any beggar suffering from leprosy in a leper asylum.	State-Uttar Pradesh
50.	Madhya Pradesh Bhiksha Vrittinivaran Adhiniyam, 1973	Section 26 Any beggar detained in an institution under any order of a magistrate is suffering from leprosy, be sent to a leper asylum.	State-Madhya Pradesh
51.	Goa, Daman And Diu Prevention of Begging Act, 1972	Section 26(1) Any beggar detained in an institution under any order of a magistrate is suffering from leprosy, be sent to a leper asylum.	Centre
52.	Haryana Prevention of Beggary Act, 1971	Section 23(1) Any beggar detained in an institution under any order of a magistrate is suffering from leprosy, be sent to a leper asylum.	State-Haryana
53.	Maharashtra Prevention of Begging Act, 1959	Section 26 Any beggar detained in an institution under any order of a magistrate is suffering from leprosy, be sent to a leper asylum.	State-Maharashtra
54.	Assam Prevention of Begging Act, 1964	Section 24(1) Any beggar detained in an institution under any order of a magistrate is suffering from leprosy, be sent to a leper asylum.	State-Assam
55.	Gujarat Prevention of Begging Act, 1959	Section 26(1) Any beggar detained in an institution under any order of a magistrate is suffering from leprosy, be sent to a leper asylum.	State-Gujarat

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
56.	The Telangana Prevention of Begging Act, 1977	Section 6(6)(a) Recording of being leprosy affected in the inquiry report and will be detained in a leper asylum appointed under Section 3 of the Lepers Act, 1898.	State-Telangana
57.	Bihar Prevention of Beggary Rules, 1954	Rule 6(2)(b) The medical officer shall, where necessary, arrange in the Certified Home, Special Home, or Work House, as the case may be, for any immediate medical treatment of the person found to be contagious leper, pending further orders of the Court.	State-Bihar
58.	Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act, 1945	Section 10A Powers of Magistrate to order indefinite detention of lepers Section 12A Power of Juvenile Court to order indefinite detention of juvenile lepers	State-Tamil Nadu
59.	Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943	Section 9(3)(A) Any detained beggar suffering from leprosy be segregated from other vagrants who do not suffer from leprosy.	State- West Bengal
F.	LAWS REGARDING REPRESENTATION IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS		
60.	Jammu And Kashmir Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Act, 2000	Section 7 (a) Disqualifications for membership of Board, if he suffers from contagious leprosy.	Centre
61.	Hindu Religious Institutions And Charitable Endowments Act, 1997	Section 25(5)(ii) Disqualification for being appointed or continuing as a member of the Committee of Management of any notified Institution, if he is suffers from leprosy.	State-Karnataka
62.	Shri Sanwaliaji Temple Act, 1992	Section 6(3)(iv) Disqualification for nomination as the President or a member of the Board, if he is suffers from leprosy.	State-Rajasthan
63.	Haryana Shri Mata Mansa Devi Shrine Act, 1991	Section 8(b) Disqualification for nomination as the President or a member of the Board, if he is suffers from leprosy.	State-Haryana
64.	Jammu And Kashmir Shri Mata	Section 8(b)	Centre

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
	Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988	Disqualification for nomination as the President or a member of the Board, if he is suffers from leprosy.	
65.	Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institution And Endowments Act, 1987	Section 19(1)(b) Disqualifications for trusteeship of any charitable or religious institution or endowment if he is suffering from leprosy.	State-Andhra Pradesh
66.	Nathdwara Temple Act, 1959	Section 5(2)(d) Disqualifications for appointment as the president or member of the Board if he is suffering from leprosy.	State-Rajasthan
67.	Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious And Charitable Endowments Act, 1959	Section 26(1)(d) Disqualifications for trusteeship of any charitable or religious institution if he is suffering from leprosy. Section 53(2)(f) The appropriate authority may suspend, remove or dismiss any trustee, if he is suffering from Leprosy.	State-Tamil Nadu
68.	Madhya Bharat Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Act, 1953	Section 8(1)(b) Removal of any person suffering from the Chairman or members of the Committee, if he is contagious Leprosy. Section 23(2)(c) Debarment of a person working as Pandas at the Temple, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State-Madhya Pradesh
69.	Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Act, 2008	Section 8(b) Disqualification for nomination as a member of the Board, if he/she is suffering from contagious leprosy.	Centre
G.	LAWS RESTRAINING REPRESENTATION IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS		
70.	Kerala Fishermen Welfare Societies (Determination of Strength of Committees And	Section 6(1)(a) Disqualification for election or nomination as a member of the Committee, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State-Kerala

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
	Conduct of Election) Rules, 1980		
71.	Andhra Pradesh Medical Practitioners Registration Act, 1968	Section 6(b) Disqualification for election or nomination as a member of the Council, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State - Andhra Pradesh
72.	Bye-Laws of Pradeshik Co-Operative Dairy Federation Limited, 1979	Bye-law 32(b) Disqualification for becoming or continuing as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federation, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State- Uttar Pradesh
73.	Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1969	Section 11A(1)(c) Disqualification for being a member of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha, if he is a suffering from leprosy.	State- Andhra Pradesh
74.	Kerala Khadi And Village Industries Board Act, 1957	Section 6(1)(b) Disqualification for appointment or continuing as a member of the Board, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State- Kerala
75.	The Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Ayurvedic & Homeopathic Medical Practitioners Registration Act, 1956	Section 9(2)(a) Disqualification of persons for election as, or for being a member, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State- Andhra Pradesh
76.	Nurses And Midwives Act, 1953	Section 6(c) Disqualifications for election or nomination for being a member of the Council, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State- Kerala
77.	Andhra Pradesh Co-Operative Societies Act, 1964	Section 21(A)(1)(e) Disqualification for being chosen as, and for being a member of the committee, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State- Andhra Pradesh
78.	Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Societies (Forty-fifth	Section 453(1)(c) Disqualifications for continuing as a member of the Committee of Management of any co-operative	State- Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
	Amendment) Rules, 2006	society, if he is suffering from leprosy.	
H. LAWS REGARDING PRISONS/LEPER ASYLUMS			
79.	Delhi Prisons (Treatment Of Convicts Sentenced To Simple Imprisonment, Death, Female Prisoners, Youthful Prisoners, Leper Prisoners And Lunatic Prisoners) Rules, 1988	<p>Section 43</p> <p>Whenever the Medical Officer records that a prisoner is suffering from leprosy and that his separation from other prisoners, is necessary, will transfer the prisoner to a place where there is accommodation for leper convicts.</p> <p>Section 44</p> <p>Any under trial or convicted prisoner suffering from leprosy, shall be confined in a cell but care shall be taken that such confinement is not solitary. A cell or other, compartment occupied by a leper shall be thoroughly disinfected, the floors renewed and the walls re-plastered before any other prisoner is confined in it.</p>	Centre
80.	Andhra Pradesh Habitual Offenders Rules, 1965	<p>Rule 28</p> <p>If a registered offender who is suffering from leprosy desires to be sent to a leper asylum established under the Lepers Act, 1898, (Central Act 3 of 1988) or otherwise, the Superintendent of Police of the district where the registered offender resides or is settled for the time being, may grant him a pass in Form XXI for the purpose of enabling such registered offender to be sent and to reside in such asylum.</p> <p>Such a pass may contain a condition that the holder of the pass shall reside at the asylum for such time as may be specified in the pass or until further orders, and shall not leave the asylum without the sanction of such person as may be indicated in the pass. All orders passed by the Superintendent of Police shall be subject to revision by the District Collector concerned.</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
81.	Kerala Habitual Offenders Rules, 1963	<p>Section 8(xxii)</p> <p>If a registered offender who is suffering from leprosy desires to be sent to a leper asylum established under the Lepers Act, 1898, (Central Act 3 of 1988) or otherwise, the Superintendent of Police of the district where the registered offender resides or is settled for the time being, may grant him a pass in Form XXVIII for the purpose of enabling such registered offender to be sent and to reside in such asylum.</p> <p>Such a pass may contain a condition that the holder of the pass shall reside at the asylum for such time as may be specified in the pass or until further orders, and shall not leave the asylum without the sanction of such person as may be indicated in the pass. All orders passed by the Superintendent of Police shall be subject to revision by the District Collector concerned.</p>	State-Kerala
I. LAWS RESTRAINING PROFESSION			
82.	Telangana Micro Brewery Rules, 2015	<p>Rule 7(ii)</p> <p>Disqualification for grant of licence, if he is suffering from leprosy, where such persons have to handle the stocks of liquor or beer in premises or elsewhere personally.</p>	State-Telangana
83.	Orissa Professional Typists For Civil And Criminal Courts (Registration) Rules, 1981	<p>Rule 6(ii)</p> <p>Disqualification for being registered Professional Typist and for continuance as such if he is suffering from leprosy.</p>	State-Odisha
84.	Orissa (Licensing Of) Deed Writers' Rules, 1979	<p>Rule 5 (f)</p> <p>Disqualification for grant of licence, if he is suffering from leprosy.</p>	State-Odisha
85.	Andhra Pradesh Indian Liquor & Foreign Liquor Rules, 1970	<p>Section 27(iii)</p> <p>Disqualification for grant of licence, if he is suffering from leprosy, where such persons have to handle the stocks of liquor or beer in premises or elsewhere personally.</p> <p>Section 53(2)</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
		Disqualification for employment in any capacity of any person suffering from leprosy for the purpose of sale, import, export or transport of Indian Liquor or Foreign Liquor within or without the licensed premises.	
86.	Bihar Document Writers Licensing Rules, 1968	Rule 4(e) Disqualification for grant of licence, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State-Bihar
87.	Kerala Document Writers' Licence Rules, 1960	Section 7(g) Disqualification for grant of licence, if he is suffering from leprosy.	State-Kerala
88.	Allahabad High Court Rules, 1952	Section 16(2) Disqualification for enrolment as Pleader or Mukhtar, if he is not suffering from leprosy. Section 22 Change of district of enrolment is permission only if the applicant is not suffering from leprosy. Section 23 Enrolment after discontinuing practice is allowed if the applicant is not suffering from leprosy.	Allahabad High Court
89.	Delhi Petty Offences (Trial By Special Metropolitan Magistrates) Rules, 1998	Section 4(4) Disqualification for holding an office as mentioned in sub-rule (2), is suffering from leprosy.	Centre
J.	EXCISE LAWS		
90.	Andhra Pradesh Excise (Grant Of Licence Of Selling By In-House And Conditions Of Licence) Rules, 2005	Section 6 (iii) Disqualification for grant of licence, if he is suffering from leprosy, only in cases where such persons have to handle the stocks of liquor or beer in premises or elsewhere personally.	State-Andhra Pradesh
91.	Tamil Nadu Excise Act, 1971	Section 18(2) Disqualification for employment, either with or without remuneration, of any person who is suffering from leprosy.	State-Tamil Nadu
92.	Pondicherry Excise Rules, 1970	Section 141(16) Discontinuation of licence/permit, if the	Centre

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
		licensee/permit holder is suffering from leprosy.	
93.	Andhra Pradesh Excise (Lease Of Right To Sell Liquor In Retail) Rules, 1969	<p>Rules 7(c)</p> <p>Prohibition of persons suffering from leprosy to enter the place of auction.</p> <p>Section 9(1)(a)</p> <p>Disqualification for grant of lease, if he is suffering from leprosy, who either in the shop, tope, or any place, discharge personally such functions as would entail personal handling of liquor.</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh
94.	Andhra Pradesh Excise Act, 1968	<p>Section 19(2)</p> <p>Prohibition of employment, either with or without remuneration, of any person who is suffering from leprosy.</p> <p>Section 36(1)(h)</p> <p>Penalty upon conviction for employing or permitting employment of a person suffering from leprosy on any part of his licensed premises.</p>	State-Andhra Pradesh
K.	LAWS CURTAILING ENTRY INTO SPECIFIC AREAS		
95.	Madhya Pradesh Gram Panchayat (Regulation Of Slaughter House) Rules, 1998	<p>Section 22(1)</p> <p>Prohibition of entering the slaughterhouse premises, if he is suffering from leprosy</p>	State-Madhya Pradesh
96.	Kerala Places of Public Resort Rules, 1965	<p>Rule 34(6)</p> <p>Every licence granted under the Act shall be subject to prohibition of persons suffering from leprosy inside the licensed premises.</p> <p>If such a person is found in any such premises, the licensee shall immediately report the fact to the nearest Health Officer, Health Inspector or other Officer not below the rank of a Health Assistant of the Health Services Department or to the licensing authority and the licensee shall at his own cost take such steps as may be required by such officer or authority to disinfect the place and to prevent the further spread of the infection.</p>	State-Kerala
97.	Travancore Cochin Public Health Act, 1955	<p>Section 82</p> <p>Person suffering from leprosy not to use public conveyance.</p> <p>Section 83</p>	State-Kerala

Sl. No.	Act/ Rules	Discriminatory Provisions	Centre/ State Act
		<p>Prohibition of persons suffering from leprosy from attending school, college of taking out books or newspapers from public or circulating libraries.</p> <p>Section 84</p> <p>Segregated accommodation for person suffering from leprosy.</p>	
