**ANTI LEPROSY DAY 2018**

Anti Leprosy Day (Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi) 2018 will be celebrated all over India on Tuesday, 30th of January

**What is special on Anti Leprosy Day 2017:**  
On this occasion, a campaign named as the ‘Sparsh’ Leprosy Awareness Campaign, is being organized in all the Gramsabhas throughout the country by Central Leprosy Division, Directorate General of Health Services Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is to pay homage to the Bapu by giving place to the leprosy affected people in family and society. This awareness campaign includes the following important information about leprosy to help leprosy affected people:

* Free of cost multi drug therapy is available at all government dispensaries, health centres and hospitals to provide complete treatment to the leprosy affected people.
* This facility is given to all the leprosy affected people because only timely treatment prevents disability (caused by leprosy).
* Some important symptoms of leprosy are like light color patches, redness, swelling and nodule formation over the skin. Person, who notice any of the above symptoms, must contact his/her nearest government dispensaries, health centres and hospitals in order to get early treatment and remain away from disability.

**About Anti Leprosy Day (Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi)**

30th January, the Martyrdom Day of the great person Gandhi Ji, is celebrated every year as the Anti Leprosy Day all over the India in order to re-memorize his selfless efforts and care for the people affected by the infectious disease leprosy (also known as the Hansen’s disease). It is celebrated to understand the real need to fight against the leprosy. Anti-Leprosy Day campaign is celebrated in the schools premises by showing the presentation as well as movie to the students to aware them towards the much infectious disease Leprosy.

Anyone can be affected with this disease, so the day is celebrated to make aware the people about the scientific reasons of leprosy as well as its medical cures. It would be celebrated at the same day at 30th of January in the year 2014 in order focusing on the attention of people and their awareness about this air-borne disease. The day is also celebrated in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi who had tried very much for the eradication of leprosy. Several programmes are organized at this day all across the India to share the message with people to fight against leprosy and let them know that the disease is completely curable.

According to the report it has been noted that there is a mark reduction in the disease rate as the Government of India has made available the multi-drug Leprosy treatment (NLEP-National Leprosy Eradication Program) free of cost at all government health centers all over the India. Leprosy is the oldest recorded diseases in the world which is an infectious chronic disease which targets affecting the nervous system (specially the nerves of the hands, feet and face). The diseased patients were nursed by the Mahatma Gandhi Ji at the Sabarmati ashram.

A free check-up camp is organized at the anti leprosy day celebration for the leprosy patients at each health centers which effectively changes the attitudes of people towards the disease. It is a disease caused by the bacteria (Mycobacterium laprae), it is not the hereditary disease, so it is fully curable by the regular and adequate treatment which is very necessary to cure the disease and prevent its disabilities. The Government of India has made a plan to completely eradicate it from the India by the distant goal named Leprosy Elimination Target. Variety of leprosy control activities has been launched by the World Health Organization for further reducing the disease worldwide.

The celebration of the day targets to aware people about disease myths such as it is not spread by simply touching affected person.

**Objectives of Celebrating Anti Leprosy Day**

* To raise the leprosy awareness among people.
* To offer help to those affected by disease through the regular and free of cost treatment they need.
* To make the diseased person psychologically strong and help them to cope up with physical impairments of skin sores and nerve damage.
* To ascertain that all affected persons are getting the necessary treatment, rehabilitation and care or not.
* To estimate the marked decrease or increase in the rate of spreading disease.