





मंत्री स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण व रसायन एवं उर्वरक भारत सरकार

Minister
Health & Family Welfare
and Chemicals & Fertilizers
Government of India

## MESSAGE

I am happy to know that Global Appeal for Year 2025 to End Stigma and Discrimination against persons affected by leprosy is being organised on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 at Bhubaneswar.

Under the Leprosy Eradication Programme, Government of India has been making efforts to educate the people and train the health workers to tackle Leprosy. Treatment for Leprosy is available free of cost in all health facilities of the Government.

If leprosy is treated early, the person can lead a normal healthy life. Delayed treatment may lead to disabilities. People should learn to recognize signs and symptoms of leprosy and voluntarily come forward for diagnosis and treatment.

We recognize that leprosy is not just a health issue, it is also a social issue. Stigma and discrimination hinder progress toward eliminating the disease and violate the rights of those affected.

People must not hesitate to seek treatment. Let us help each other stop stigma and discrimination. We must join hands together and work in a mission mode to contain transmission of leprosy. We have to pledge ourselves to work towards a world without leprosy.

Together, let us raise awareness, dispel misconceptions and ensure that no one affected by leprosy is left behind.

(Jagat Prakash Nadda)