

Press Release

Water conservation projects of Vedanta Iron Ore Karnataka continues to promote Agriculture across Chitradurga

~Vedanta Iron Ore Karnataka Business provides agricultural assistance and helping to create Livelihood opportunities across Chitradurga district under ALOP project.

Chitradurga, 19th September, 2020: Vedanta Iron Ore Karnataka under its umbrella program – Alternate Livelihood Opportunity Project (ALOP) is providing agriculture assistance and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the communities around. Recently company has initiated Water conservation measures at Bheemsamudra village and Muthugaduru through desilting of village Ponds with aim to mitigate the water crisis in Chitradurga District and create adequate irrigation facilities for revival of Agriculture. This project was initiated in association with Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) in order to improve the fertility of the Agriculture land and to infiltrate the water in designated tank areas that will thereby increase the ground water table. Vedanta Iron Ore Karnataka through ‘Desilting of Village Ponds’ so far, has benefitted over 271 families from Chitradurga.

Under this initiative a cumulative of 20000 CMT has been excavated at Bheemsamudra and Muthugaduru villages to enhance the capacity of water reservoirs. The excavated silt is effectively utilized for improving the soil fertility of nearby Agricultural land under cultivation and for embankments. Villagers appreciated Vedanta for taking up such an initiative in this drought stricken area and are extremely hopeful of enhancement in crop yield in the seasons to come.

Expressing her views Ms. **Leena Verenkar, Group CSR Head- Vedanta Resources Limited** said "At Vedanta we are fully committed towards Socio-Economic upliftment of communities through our structured CSR Interventions. We strive hard to expand the reach of our CSR programs to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the communities around by creating conducive environment through extending the required support in order to contribute towards fulfilment of the larger vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat"

Speaking about this Initiative **Mr. Krishna Reddy, Director- Vedanta Iron Ore Karnataka** said "*At Vedanta, we are profoundly engaged in meaningful, wellbeing driven initiatives that impact lives and pave way for the holistic development of our communities. In line with our philosophy of ‘Growing along with the community’ which is entrenched in our day-to-day operations, we feel that it is our collective responsibility to give back to the society.*"

Beneficiary Farmer Mr. **Jayanna** from **Muthugaduru village** said, "*I did apply silt in my maize farm. Maize crops are lush green and showing good growth. I feel that the water holding capacity of both my farm and plants have increased compared to before and the land has become smooth for the cultivation. I thank the Vedanta Group for this much needed intervention which will be helpful for farmers in long run and also the BAIF team for implementing this activity in our village.*"

Farmer **Basavarajappa S Hanumantappa Gowdru, Nellikatte village** Said *“I applied the silt to my Arecanut farm. And it will help in maintaining the fertility of soil for the next five years and no fertilizers needed to the Arecanut plants. My yield has been almost doubled. Earlier my yield was 6 quintal and now I’m getting around 12 quintals of yield. I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards Vedanta Iron Ore Karnataka for such useful initiatives in order to enhance our farm yields and also the BAIF team for implementing this activity in our village.”*

ALOP is a continuous project which mainly focuses on education on improved development in farming and the creation of alternate enterprises for sustainable livelihood which includes activities such as Community mobilization, Training and capacity building, Promotion of Horticulture plantation, Establishment of Cattle breeding centers etc. The projects has reached out to over 802 families across the state over last several years.

About Vedanta Cares

Vedanta is committed to reinvest in the social good of its neighbourhood communities and the nation. The Group’s flagship CSR project, Nand Ghar, is a network of model anganwadis where the thrust is on inclusive development of women and children at the grassroots level. The Group CSR initiative comprises of seven key verticals – Education, Healthcare, Water and Sanitation, Sustainable Livelihood, Skilling, Sports & Culture and Employee Volunteering. Vedanta Foundation, a philanthropic initiative of Vedanta Group is focused on skill development and vocational training programmes for the underprivileged to make them employable. A key healthcare speciality CSR project is the Balco Medical Center, a 200-bed state-of-the-art Cancer care hospital located in New Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The company supports grassroots level sports through their Football academies in Goa and Udaipur.

About Vedanta Limited

Vedanta Limited, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Limited, is one of the world’s leading Oil & Gas and Metals company with significant operations in Oil & Gas, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper, Iron Ore, Steel, and Aluminium & Power across India, South Africa, Namibia, and Australia. For two decades, Vedanta has been contributing to India’s growth story, currently contributing 1 percent of India’s GDP. The company is among the top private sector contributors to the exchequer with the highest ever contribution of INR 42,560 Crore in FY 2019. Governance and sustainable development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety, and environment and on enhancing the lives of local communities. The company has been conferred the CII-ITC Sustainability Award, the FICCI CSR Award, Dun & Bradstreet Awards in Metals & Mining, and certified as a Great Place to Work. Vedanta Limited is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange in India and has ADRs listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

For more information please visit www.vedantalimited.com

About Sesa Goa Iron Ore Business

Sesa Goa Iron Ore Business of Vedanta Limited is engaged in exploration, mining, and processing of iron ore. The company was founded in 1954 as Scambi Economici SA Goa and acquired by Vedanta. Since then, it has grown to be one among the top low-cost producers of iron ore in the country. During 1991-1995, it diversified into the manufacture of pig iron and metallurgical coke. It has also developed indigenous and environment-friendly technology for producing high quality metallurgical coke. Sesa Goa Iron Ore also has a 60 MW power plant that produces clean power by using the waste heat recovery from its coke ovens and blast furnace gas. Sesa Goa Iron Ore operations in India are in Goa & Karnataka.

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