



## Press Release

### **Vedanta celebrates ‘Sakhi Day’ on International Women’s Day**

- **Health & nutrition programmes impacted over 11,000 women and adolescent girls**
- **Mobile Health Vans travelled to remote locations emphasizing on health & sanitation for women**

**Mumbai, India: March 12, 2015:** Vedanta, India’s largest diversified natural resources company, with operations across zinc, lead, silver, oil & gas, iron ore, copper, aluminium and commercial power, celebrated ‘Sakhi Day’ on International Women’s Day. The Vedanta group companies conducted a series of awareness programmes on health and nutrition benefiting over 11,000 women and adolescent girls.

The celebrations included 19 health camps in various rural locations around the business operations and 9 Mobile Health Units travelling in remote locations, with the focus of treating women and creating awareness on the importance of health & hygiene practices. The group wide celebrations were across the states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Goa and Punjab.

In Rajasthan, Vedanta’s group company in oil & gas, Cairn India benefited over 3750 women and adolescent girls in the Barmer district with a week long campaign by 6 Mobile Health Vans. Multi events organised included health camps with gynaecologists and awareness campaigns in collaboration with the Women & Child Development Dept., Integrated Child Development Scheme and the District health department, of Barmer.

Vedanta’s group company, Hindustan Zinc celebrated the ‘Sakhi Day’ by organizing a Mega Health Camp for the women in 7 locations of its operations in Rajasthan, benefiting about 2000 women. A series of tests to check Haemoglobin levels, Blood Sugar, Bone Mineral Density and BMI were followed by the distribution of medicines for iron and calcium deficiencies.

In Chhattisgarh, Vedanta's group company in Aluminium, BALCO, organised day long celebrations in collaboration with the Dondro Gram Panchayat, the BALCO hospital and BALCO's corporate social responsibility department. Attended by almost 300 women, the camp saw held a fully equipped medical health van with capability for early diagnosis of cancer as well as a health lab for undertaking any pathological tests at the site. The event also created awareness and counselled women on cervical cancer, dietary recommendations and family planning.

In Odisha, Vedanta organized a maternal health camp at Jharsuguda with an awareness session on nutrients and availing medication, followed by a health check-up and nutrient supplements to about 70 women of Bhurkamunda and Bhagipalli, villages. The weeklong campaign was run by the Vedanta CSR team, women employees at Vedanta and the Board of Directors of Subhalaxmi Cooperative. The event also felicitated Vedanta's over 200 women employees. In the Lanjigarh block of Odisha, Vedanta's event was attended by over 250 women, who were educated on literacy rates, child discrimination, female foeticide and empowerment through entrepreneurship projects. The event also had a medical health center for treatment and consultation, while a Mobile Health Unit catered to about 60 women from 12 villages.

Vedanta's iron ore business in Goa, held health awareness and check-up camps in partnership with the Integrated Child Development Services. While a Mobile Health Unit covered 3 villages, at Community Medical Centres at 5 villages, women were diagnosed and administered treatment for health problems. The 'Sakhi day' celebrations also created awareness on self-defence and women's safety, benefitting about 130 women.

In Tamil Nadu, Vedanta's copper business unit organised an event for the 'Sakhi' women self-help-groups, which saw participation from over 2200 women, and felicitation of the women achievers. A Mobile Health Unit at the event was availed to all Sakhi members with a special focus on pregnant women and adolescent girls. **Speaking at the event, Ms. Roma Balwani, Group President, Group Communications, Sustainability & CSR, Vedanta stated,** "We, at Vedanta have always strived to encourage a healthy environment in communities around our business operations. By empowering and benefiting women, through health camps, we aim to benefit our societies and the future generation. We will continue to remain committed to the cause of empowering women."

In Tamil Nadu, Vedanta's group company, MALCO Energy celebrated the Sakhi Day with 800 women from self-help-groups and the company's women employees. A talk on the importance of hygiene and nutrition, the need for physical, mental and financial well-being of women and awareness on various diseases that affected women was addressed.

Vedanta's operations in Punjab, **Talwandi Sabo Power Limited**, celebrated the day with medical camps in four villages, Raipur, Chehlawali, Manbibriyan and Satta Singhwala for the women, consulting and treating over 350 patients. The company also installed two incinerators in government schools of Mansa for safe disposal of sanitary napkins, benefiting over 1100 girl students.

### **About Vedanta**

Vedanta is a diversified natural resources company, whose business primarily involves exploring and processing minerals and oil & gas. The Company produces oil & gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, aluminium and commercial power and has a presence across India, South Africa, Namibia, Ireland, Australia, Liberia and Sri Lanka.

SesaSterlite Limited (SSLT), formerly Sesa Goa Limited, is the Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc, a London-listed company. Sustainability is at the core of SSLT's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety and environment and on enhancing the lives of local communities. SSLT 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 further information, please contact:**

Roma Balwani

President - Group Communications, Sustainability & CSR

Tel: +912266461000

[gc@vedanta.co.in](mailto:gc@vedanta.co.in)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Disclaimer**

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" – that is, statements related to future, not past, events. In this context, forward-looking statements often address our expected future business and financial performance, and often contain words such as "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "should" or "will." Forward-looking statements by their nature address matters that are, to different degrees, uncertain. For us, uncertainties arise from the behaviour of financial and metals markets including the London Metal Exchange, fluctuations in interest and or exchange rates and metal prices; from future integration of acquired businesses; and from numerous other matters of national, regional and global scale, including those of a political, economic, business, competitive or regulatory nature. These uncertainties may cause our actual future results to be materially different that those expressed in our forward-looking statements. We do not undertake to update our forward-looking statements.