

Press Release

Vedanta brings affordable & clean energy to 25 villages in Lanjigarh

- 25 villages with no or unreliable electricity get solar lanterns as a replacement to kerosene lamps
- 100 households get fuel-efficient stoves to reduce firewood usage for cooking
- Reduced Carbon Dioxide emissions by more than 6 lakh kgs

Bhubaneswar, Odisha; 25th August, 2021: Vedanta Aluminium & Power Business, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added aluminium products, has introduced solar lighting and fuel-efficient cooking stoves to 25 villages in Lanjigarh, Odisha. This project has a two-fold objective – reduce emissions arising out of using traditional fuels and methods, and improve collective health status of local communities.

850 households across 25 villages have been covered under the clean lighting initiative, and 100 households from 6 villages have made the switch to fuel-efficient *chulhas*. The initiative has reduced CO₂ emissions from these activities by more than 6 lakh kgs.

The identified 25 villages in Kalahandi district are very remote and had no or unreliable electricity, which made carrying out household chores and studying at night almost impossible for women and children. They had to rely on kerosene lamps, with each household consuming nearly 2 litres of kerosene every month, which emitted a lot of smoke and posed many health hazards. The shift to solar lamps benefitted children and women the most, as it provided extra 3-4 hours of study time post sunset and more time for women to complete household chores in the night. Besides aiding in conservation of green cover, the initiative has reduced respiratory risks for women and children by reducing indoor pollution. It also increased income of local shopkeepers, by allowing them to operate late into the evenings and at night.

Earlier, the local communities relied on traditional *chulhas* for cooking, which resulted in more firewood consumption and more smoke. A single household used to consume as much as 200 kgs of firewood each month, discharging ~380 kgs of CO₂ per month. The transition to the fuel-efficient cooking stove in these households is expected to reduce CO₂ emission by at least half, and mitigate health risks for women, who were severely affected by smoke inhalation to breathe easy.

Speaking about this initiative, Mr. GG Pal, Dy. CEO – Alumina Business, Vedanta Ltd., said, "Through our community development initiatives, we are working to improve the quality of life of our local communities. We are working with the locals to replace kerosene lamps with solar lamps and traditional *chulhas* with fuel efficient ones, to bring about a significant improvement to their health and transformation in their ways of life. With the primary objective of providing basic amenities and ensuring better health, we are also reducing carbon footprint through various economically viable ways."

Kudunji Majhi, resident of Belamba village, who has a solar lamp and fuel efficient *chulha* at her house adds, "Earlier my kids had to depend on kerosene lamps to study in the evening hours



due to erratic electricity supply. Thanks to Vedanta's intervention, we now have a solar lamp which not only helps my children study for longer hours in the evening, but also helps me do my household work easily at night."

Vedanta is the largest producer of aluminium in India and remains the premier manufacturer of metallurgical grade alumina. The company operates a 2 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) capacity alumina refinery in Lanjigarh (Kalahandi district, Odisha), India since 2007 and an associated 90 MW captive power plant. With its world-class Aluminium Smelters, Alumina Refinery and Power Plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.

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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 significantly to nation building. Governance and sustainable development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety, and environment. Giving back is in the DNA of Vedanta, which is focused on enhancing the lives of local communities. Under the aegis of Vedanta Cares, the flagship social impact program, Nand Ghars have been set up as model Anganwadis focused on eradicating child malnutrition, providing education, healthcare, and empowering women with skill development. Vedanta and its group companies have been featured in Dow Jones Sustainability Index 2020, and were conferred Frost & Sullivan Sustainability Awards 2020, CII Environmental Best Practices Award 2020, CSR Health Impact Award 2020, CII National Award 2020 for Excellence in Water Management, CII Digital Transformation Award 2020, ICSI National Award 2020 for excellence in Corporate Governance, People First HR Excellence Award 2020, 'Company with Great Managers 2020' by People Business and certified as a Great Place to Work 2021. 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 log on to <https://www.vedantalimited.com/>

About Vedanta Aluminium Business:

Vedanta Aluminium Business, a part of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of Aluminium, producing almost half of India's aluminium or 1.96 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) in FY21. Vedanta is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. With its world-class Aluminium Smelters, Alumina Refinery and Power Plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow. For more information, please log on to <https://vedantaaluminium.com/>

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