

# How Vedanta's medical heroes are transforming rural healthcare in Kalahandi

PBD BUREAU

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ONCE synonymous with famine and neglect, Kalahandi is witnessing a quiet healthcare revolution, led by Vedanta Aluminium's medical interventions. Across 120 villages, the company's initiatives are bringing accessible, quality healthcare to thousands who once had to travel miles for basic treatment. In 2024 alone, over 1 lakh people benefited from Vedanta's health programmes.

At the core of this transformation is Vedanta Hospital in Lanjigarh, which sees nearly 60,000 patient visits annually. Staffed by eight dedicated doctors, the hospital offers round-the-clock care to tribal and rural populations. Its services include general medicine, physiotherapy, maternal health, and special-

ized treatments — making it one of the most well-equipped facilities in the region.

A key highlight is its free cataract surgery programme, conducted in collaboration with Jagannath Netralaya, Bhawanipatna. In 2025, the hospital completed 250 cataract surgeries, bringing the total to over 1,500 — restoring vision and dignity to elderly patients. The hospital also operates a free ambulance service, bridging the gap between remote villages and timely care.

"Our doctors are more than caregivers — they are a lifeline," said Dr Amit Kumar, Chief Medical Officer at Vedanta Hospital. "Their commitment and compassion bring hope where it's needed most."



Vedanta is also contributing to India's digital healthcare mission, supporting the pilot for National Digital Health Cards. It has been designated an Employers' Utilization Dispensary under the ESIC Scheme, offering affordable care to workers and their families.

Beyond the hospital, Vedanta runs Mobile Health Units (MHUs) that visit 65 villages monthly, offering check-ups, early disease detection, and referrals. These units are crucial in the fight against tuberculosis (TB). As part of the Nikshay Mitra initiative, the company distributes 300+ nutrition baskets monthly to TB patients to aid recovery.

The healthcare drive also includes monthly multi-specialty camps, disability support camps, and preventive health campaigns focusing on sanitation, hygiene, and awareness. Over 80 people with disabilities have received mobility aids and medical consultations in the past year.

"In a region like Kalahandi, our role

extends beyond treatment. We are a source of trust and reassurance," said Dr Nasreen Ali, Paediatric Specialist at Vedanta Hospital.

The company's support also extends to Maa Santoshi Jan Kalyan (MSJK) Hospital in Bankakundru, around 25 km from Lanjigarh. Once a lone facility serving a few villages, it now reaches 300 villages across 15 Gram Panchayats, serving 25,000 people annually.

"Providing care in such remote areas is more than a job — it's a calling," said Dr Samarendra Patra, who has served at MSJK Hospital for seven years.

Together, these efforts reflect Vedanta's holistic approach to rural healthcare — blending clinical excellence with deep community outreach to build healthier, more resilient futures for the people of Kalahandi.