

Vedanta Ltd successfully concludes women's day celebration

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LANJIGARH, 12 MARCH

Vedanta Limited (Lanjigarh unit) concluded the biggest ever International Women's Day celebration in Kalahandi district which was over 10 days and involved over 3,000 women of 60 villages.

The celebrations were conducted for the women to increase and develop their network with each other, to share their experiences and success stories as key learnings and be a source of support.

An intensive two-day training programme was conducted for 36 Child Care Centre teachers in aligning them in best practices on child care and teaching skills.

Mr. Rakesh Mohan, COO, Vedanta Limited (Lanjigarh unit), said, "We are delighted



to be part of this community that works and lives with us here in Kalahandi. Each year, our extended family and all our employees take this opportunity to celebrate women, their contributions to our economy, community and our lives".

Out of the core villages around Vedanta Lanjigarh, five Sarpanch heading the panchayat are women.

The senior-most woman leader of Vedanta, the CSR Head, felicitated the eminent women who have brought change and development in the Kalahandi district. Among them were Ms. Banadana Naik, Inspector in-charge, Ambodala police station and Ms. Kumudini Mishra - Micro Planning & Livelihood Expert from District Planning & Monitoring Unit.

Cultural programs like Odissi dance, Sambalpuri dance, Adivasi dance, singing, a skit on women and its development, stalls with games, food, Dhokra Art and Saura Art (Tribal Painting), exhibition cum sale of SHG products and sand art being showcased along with free health check-up camps set up by Vedanta Hospital.

There was also a unique experience sharing session where local women from the Self Help Groups, various beneficiaries from projects including Dhokra Art and Tribal Painting, Shiksha Sambal spoke to the audience about how these programs benefitted them, their lives and stories which were well received by the audience.

Kabita Bhoi from Bani-panga village, studying in 8th standard under Vedanta's

Shiksha Sambal project, spoke about children's will for studying and how Vedanta's intervention has resulted in more teachers joining the Bani-panga High School. Jasoda Behera from Jodabandh village, who runs a paper plate making business successfully said, "Vedanta supports and involves us in income-generating activities which have made me and others like me self-employed and financially independent."

Ms. Bhawani Pattnaik - District Consumer Court Magistrate, Kalahandi, Mrs. Swapanarani Sahu - renowned National Odissi dancer with her team and Ms. Kusuma Manjari Praharaj - Child Development Program Officer, Lanjigarh, Mr Sridhar Pesnia - President, Lanjigarh Anchalik Vikash Parishad and others were present.