

M S P L N E W S B U L L E T I N

# MINDS AND METTLE



VOLUME 24 | NO. 2

JUL - DEC 2020

## BATTLING COVID

FOR OUR

*Communities*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- INCOME TAX AWARD
- ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR EMPLOYEE'S CHILDREN
- COVID-19 CONTROL MEASURES
- 'FERRATING' NEW WAYS TO SAVE OUR PLANET!
- PAINTING THE TOWN GREEN

# BEING THERE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

It's been nearly a year since the novel coronavirus hit our country. Several measures were taken across the globe to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, daily life was disrupted in unprecedented ways and wearing a mask and social distancing became the new normal.

We continue to take stringent measures to keep the virus at bay, and over the last few months, ensured our neighbours and the communities around us are taken care of too. As the pandemic restrictions were lifted slowly and steadily, the country also witnessed a steady increase in COVID-19 cases. From the cities, the virus began spilling over to the rural parts of our country where a whopping 65% of the country's population resides. Most rural villages lack up-to-date information and awareness on the ongoing pandemic is limited.

We decided to act and provide support to these communities through

**mask and sanitiser distribution drives as well as awareness programs.**



## HALAVARTHI VILLAGE

While the pandemic continues to rage on, life is also getting back to normal - a majority of the population has gone back to work, and business establishments have reopened. However, the need to be vigilant and take care of oneself is still critical. Hence, increased protection while going out is essential and in order to diminish the spread of the virus MSPL Limited, Hospet, distributed masks in July 2020 at Halavarthi village.

**We collaborated with Halavarthi's Gram Panchayath, youth group and village leaders to distribute 4,000 masks for the entire village. A total of 501 families benefitted from the program.**



## 2 KANIVIHALLI & SHRUNGARATOTA VILLAGES

To stem the spread of COVID-19 in our adopted villages, Kanivihalli and Shrungaratota, we carried out awareness programs on the importance of social distancing, health and hygiene, regular washing of hands, usage of face masks and the COVID-19 symptoms to look out for.

**The MSPL CSR team, in collaboration with local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and villagers also distributed 1,700 facemasks to SHG members and their families in the two villages. 340 families benefitted from this distribution drive.**



## 3 HOSAHALLI & HOSALINGAPURA VILLAGES

The most crucial factor in preventing the spread of the virus locally, is to empower villagers with the right information and help them take precautions as per advice issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

To help disseminate the important information effectively, we teamed up with the village leaders and SHG members of Hosahalli and Hosalingapura to bring more awareness amongst the locals about the virus. They were apprised on the effectiveness of masks and how they help prevent the spread of airborne infectious germs that are released through coughing, sneezing and even talking.

**We also distributed 1,251 face masks to the SHG members and their families,** further enhancing our close bonds with our surrounding communities.



## COVID-19 AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR SHGS

Self Help Groups are part of a successful, growing social development movement in rural India. What began as small savings and credit groups that helped empower underprivileged rural women, has evolved into one of the world's largest institutional platforms of the poor. Today, there are over 6.5 million SHGs and more than 70 million members.

*WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN IMPORTANT IN THE PROGRESS OF SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES. IN THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES, WHEN WE ARE ALL UNITED IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 VIRUS, THESE WOMEN'S GROUPS ARE PLAYING A CRITICAL ROLE.*

**Mr. Junaid Ahmad**

World Bank Country Director for India

To help in the process of generating awareness among SHG members, we displayed educational banners for the women at Kanivihalli, Danapura, Hosahalli, Hosalingapura, Kidadal, Basapura and Hospet. The awareness program emphasised on the importance of social distancing, regular hand wash and use of face masks. The display included the list of COVID-19 symptoms, the dangers of social gatherings, events and spitting in public places during the pandemic. The Smt. Padma Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) Hosalingapura Sub Health Centre has also imparted knowledge on the virus to the women.

**A total of 190 women benefitted  
from the program.**



## SAFE RATION SHOP INITIATIVE

Across the country, the Government has set up ration shops for essentials to reach the less privileged population, especially in rural regions. During the pandemic, it became necessary to not only ensure rural populations are supplied essential commodities, but to make sure it is done in a safe and organised manner.

In our adopted village of Halavarthi, the ration shop is accessed by inhabitants of 3 villages, Belavinal, Kunikeri Tanda as well as Halavarthi. The ration shop has an Aadhar enabled biometric system, which requires everyone to provide their fingerprint to collect their provisions.



To ease the process and avoid transmission of the disease, we helped assist our Government by providing awareness on social distancing and the benefits of face masks and sanitisers. We supplied the ration shop with 15 litres of sanitiser as well as 100 masks.



The program was attended by the Distributor, Mr. Durugappa Koudi, village leader, Mr. Hanumanta Koudi and Mr. Raghavendra Badiger of MSPL.

# FLASHBACK: THE YEAR SO FAR

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR EMPLOYEE'S CHILDREN



The employees at MSPL are our extended family, and when their children accomplish great things, we too at the Company are immensely proud of their achievements. Here are two bright children who have done extremely well in their education this year.



KUM. PRANAVA SINGHAL

Kum. Pranava Singhal, son of Mr. Praveen Singhal, VP (Power), MSPL Limited,

**has ranked First in Karnataka and secured an All India Rank of 103 in the recently concluded IIT JEE Advanced Exam.**

Kum. Pranava, an alumnus of the National Public School, HSR Layout, Bengaluru, was the head of the Science &

Math club in his school and participated in several science competitions.

He has bagged several awards for the school in interschool events, including at the prestigious coding event, the HP CodeWars. He was also awarded the Best Outgoing Student at his school.

He is passionate about physics and plans to pursue Electrical and Electronics Engineering at IIT Bombay to develop the technology of the future that can revolutionise the world.

Pranava strongly believes in protecting the environment and is excited about the future of renewable energy. He is multi-talented, and his diverse interests include music and dance. He plays the Bamboo Flute, has his own YouTube channel where he uploads self-produced Electronic Music, and practices Breakdance and Tutting. He is enthusiastic about Yoga and Calisthenics to stay healthy.



KUM. NAGASHIVA P.

Kum. Nagashiva P, son of Shri P. Venkateswararao, Asst. General Manager, Vyasanakere Iron Ore Mine

**has achieved a score of 97.67% in his second year studying Commerce for the academic year 2019-20. He is the First ranker in his college,**

Sri Guru PU College, Harihara Road, Hosapete, and the **Second topper for Bellary District**. He has big dreams of becoming a Chartered Accountant.

We wish these two bright stars, nothing but great success in their future!

## INCOME TAX AWARD

A company with strong values and commitment to the nation is only possible if the leadership is equally strong, committed and honest.



Therefore, it comes as no surprise that our beloved Chairman and Managing Director,

**Shri Narendra Kumar A. Baldota,**

**was awarded by the**

**Central Board of Direct Taxes,**

**Ministry of Finance, Government of India,**

**with a Platinum Certificate**

**in recognition of his valuable contribution towards Nation Building.**

We are proud of his contribution to the nation, and most importantly, to the company and its people.

## A STRIKING TOURNAMENT!

At the Pellet Plant, we organised a Carrom competition as part of our employee engagement initiatives. This competition was inaugurated by Mr. Krishnamoorthy, Vice President - Pellet Plant, who wished the participants well, encouraging more people to play the "very popular Tabletop Game, commonly enjoyed by many families, including children". The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants as well as onlookers.



The winners of the friendly competition are:

1st Winner | **Mr. Theerttha Prasad**

2nd Winner | **Mr. Sharan**

3rd Winner | **Mr. Ravi Vadeyer**



## LEARNING TO TREAD LIGHTLY

Carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions associated with all of the activities of a person or entity, like a building, corporation, country and so on. This includes the direct emissions produced as a result of fossil fuel combustion and indirect emissions that arise from electricity used to produce the goods and services we consume.

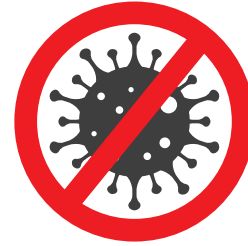
By ensuring a minimal carbon footprint, individuals as well as businesses can help mitigate the effects of climate change and global warming on the planet significantly. In fact, a recent study has shown, a reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions can help prevent up to 3 million premature deaths yearly by the year 2100.

In order to create awareness on the procedures, strategies and benefits of Energy Auditing and carbon footprint reduction among MSPL employees, a training session was organised. The session included reviewing our carbon footprint as well as adopting energy conservation at the Corporate office as well as the Gases, Mines, IGIOM and Pellet plants.



**Mr. Mallikarjun Kambalyal, an ISO Certified Energy Auditor from M/s Sunshubh Renewable & Research Centre, Hubli, and Mr. H K Ramesh, GM CSR, conducted the training on carbon footprint and energy conservation. 74 employees participated and benefitted from the training.**

# COVID-19 CONTROL MEASURES



## AT VIOM

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the early days, the Vyasankere Iron Ore Mine had been shut from 28 March 2020 to 8 June 2020, as per the Central Government's orders.

Upon the reopening of VIOM, all the recommended guidelines to practice safety in the time of a pandemic, were enforced and periodically updated as the Government of India and Karnataka issued new norms, and gradually lifted the lockdown in phases.



## AT IGIOM

The COVID-19 outbreak had turned lives and business operations upside down when it first hit. At IGIOM, **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** were prepared to enable a smooth return to the mine in the midst of the pandemic.

The SOPs are broadly based on government guidelines that were formulated for those resuming work.



**These SOPs are being strictly followed by all the stakeholders including employees, contract workers, vendors, suppliers, service providers, representatives of ore buyers/transporters and other visitors. In doing so, the spread of the virus can be handled and work can be carried out in a safe manner.**



All precautionary measures are being ensured at IGIOM so that employees as well as contract workers feel safe and secure at the workplace. These SOPs will be reviewed and revised, as per the updated statutory as well as company guidelines.



	2020	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Avg. Wind Speed (km/hr)		2.82	3.10	2.68	2.66	2.74	3.02
Min. Temp. (°C)		21.00	19.00	19.90	18.00	19.00	20.60
Max. Temp. (°C)		37.00	30.00	30.00	31.50	30.10	30.90
Total Rainfall (mm)		145.00	48.20	183.90	105.90	2.40	1.80

# FLASHBACK: THE YEAR SO FAR

## AT PELLET PLANT

In light of the devastating effects of the pandemic across the globe, we put in place a series of SOPs as precautionary measures at the Pellet Plant. Strict adherence to these SOPs has proven effective. Our steps towards the safety of our employees include:

**Thermal screening** carried out at the gate for everyone entering and leaving the plant

**Masks** are made compulsory for all

**Daily sanitization** of plant area, work desks, canteen, DHC and other areas

**Foot pedal operated sanitizers** placed at strategic locations across the plant

A '**Sanitizing Siren**' is set off every two hours to ensure employees regularly sanitize their hands

All **visitors/drivers (non-routine)** are thermal screened and given sanitizers, and must fill **self-declaration forms** at the security department

All **vehicles entering the premises** are sanitized and fumigated thoroughly

**Canteen timings** have been extended to facilitate social distancing

**PPE** including gloves, masks, goggles and face shields are being provided

**Regular medical check-ups** are carried out for employees

New employees or workers have to submit **COVID-19 negative certificates** prior to joining

**COVID-19 awareness sessions** are conducted regularly, videos on the topic are played in the canteen televisions and awareness banners are displayed at prominent locations of the plant



# 'FERRATING' NEW WAYS TO SAVE OUR PLANET!

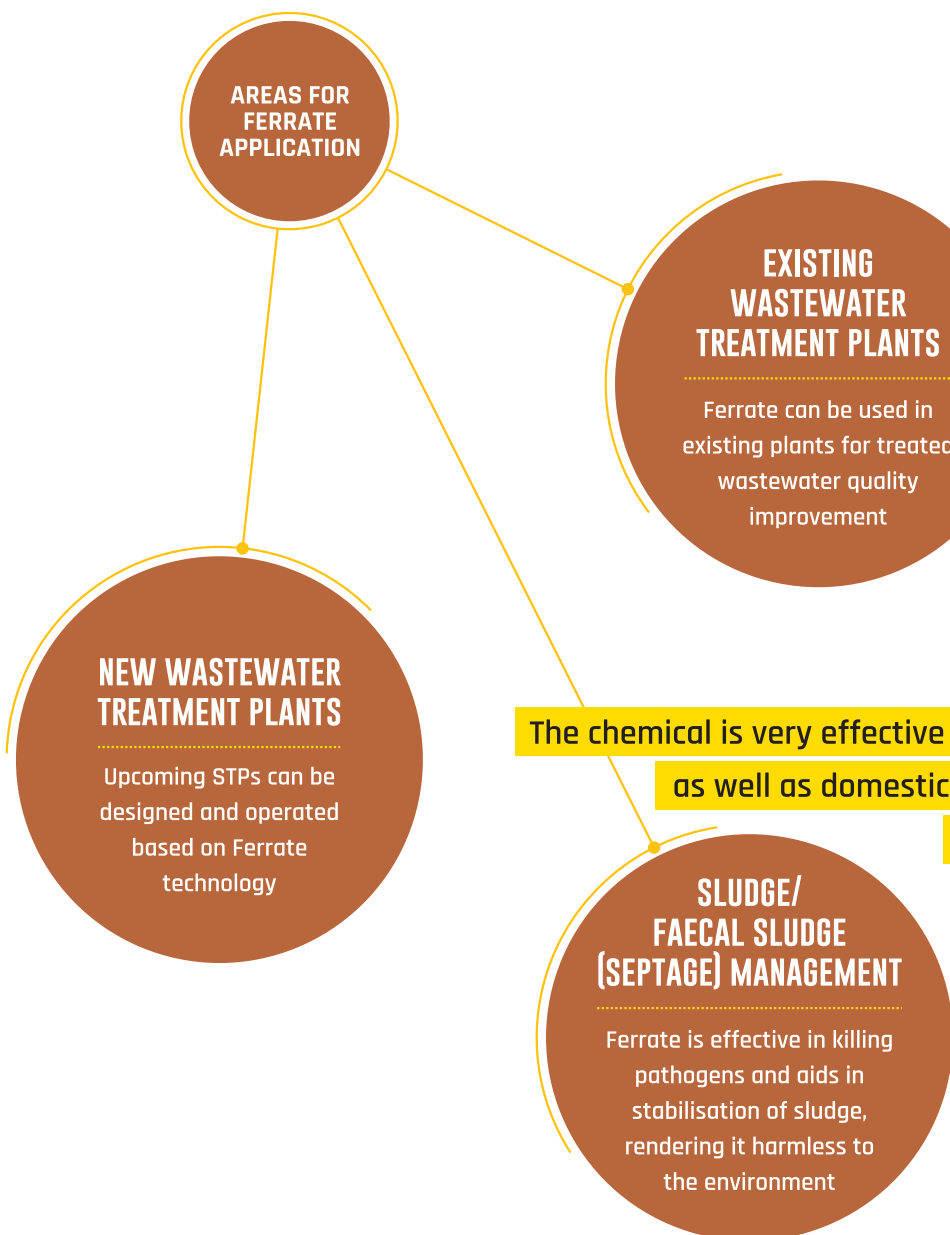
On 2 November, the Baldota group incorporated a new company, Baldota Envirocare Private Limited (BEPL).

To bless and celebrate this endeavour, a pooja was performed at the new premises, and was inaugurated virtually on 27 December by our CMD, Shri Narendrakumar A. Baldota, along with Mr. Rahul N. Baldota and Mr. Shrenik N. Baldota.



BEPL focusses on environmental friendly solutions for wastewater and biosolids treatment and has developed the revolutionary, multifunctional compound,

## FERRATE



The chemical is very effective in the treatment of industrial as well as domestic water, and performs through coagulation, disinfection and oxidation of wastewater.



## CELEBRATIONS AT MSPL

### 1 INDEPENDENCE DAY

On Independence Day, we had a flag hoisting ceremony followed by a speech by **Mr. Sridhar Pabbaraju, VP, GECPL**. The program was carried out responsibly with proper social distancing norms and masks.



A very good morning to you all and I wish you, your families, all my colleagues and the respected Baldota family a very Happy Independence Day.

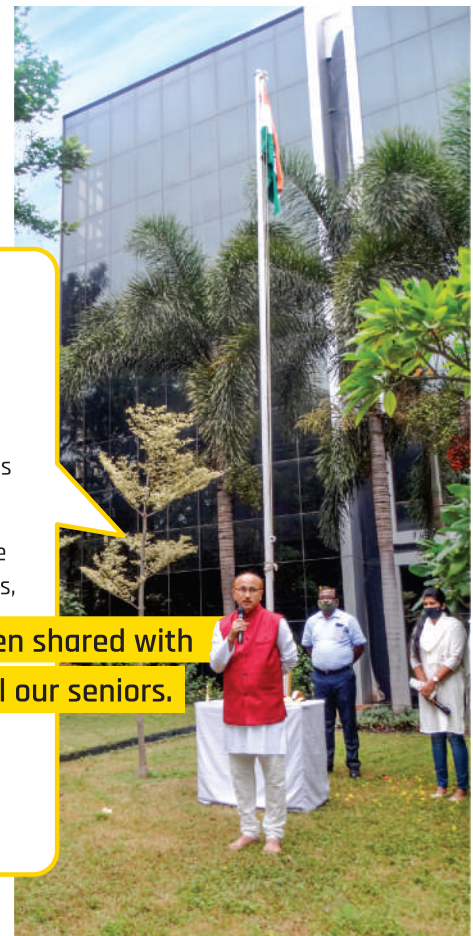
On this occasion I would like to convey that whatever we do, in our jobs and in other activities, if we do them with immense commitment and dedication that is the best service that we can do for the nation.

In these challenging times, I request all of you to be safe, stay healthy and take good care of yourselves, as well as your families. And like our ED Sir always says,

**we all need to, always, inculcate the best values that have been shared with us by our elders and our honourable Founder Chairman and all our seniors.**

Values are very important, and we need to be very committed to these values. I once again wish all of you a very happy Independence Day and a great day.

MR. PABBARAJU'S INDEPENDANCE DAY SPEECH



### 2 GANESH FESTIVAL

The Vyasanakere Iron Ore Mine celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi on 22 August 2020. While it was attended by only a few devotees due to the pandemic, it was still a grand success with the Gana Homa being performed by Smt. and Shri P. Venkateswara Rao, Asst. General Manager - Mines. All the recommended safety guidelines including social distancing, usage of masks and sanitizer were followed by the attendees.

The immersion ceremony of the Shri Ganesha idol was carried out in a simple manner on the eleventh day at the backwaters of the holy Tungabhadra dam.

### 3 VISHWAKARMA POOJA

In Hinduism, Lord Vishwakarma is known as the divine engineer of the world. He is celebrated on Vishwakarma Jayanti by not just the engineering and architectural community, but also by all professionals. On this day, it is customary for craftsmen to worship their tools in his name.

MSPL performed a Vishwakarma Pooja at the MSPL Pellet Plant's workshop and was presided over by Mr. Krishnamoorthy, Vice President, Pellet Plant, along with staff.



**4r FOUNDER'S DAY**

On the birth anniversary of our Founder Chairman, Shri Abheraj H. Baldota we held a celebration honouring his legacy.

On the occasion, Shri Krishnamoorthy, Vice President, Pellet Plant, addressed employees on

**how anything can be achieved if there is a goal in place, the importance of honesty and truth, the need to love the work, and how it is important to work hard.**

He concluded by reiterating that if we continue to perform at our best, our Founder Chairman will always be witness to our triumphs.

FLASHBACK:  
THE YEAR SO FAR

5 KARNATAKA RAJYOTSAVA

Karnataka Rajyotsava is also known as Karnataka's Formation Day or Karnataka Day. Celebrated on 1 November of every year, it marks the day in 1956 when all the Kannada language-speaking regions of South India were merged to form the state of Karnataka.

At the Pellet Plant, to celebrate this special day, we organised a 'Cook with Fire' competition.

Traditional, makeshift 'stoves' were laid out for the participants with bricks and firewood, with all utensils and raw material provided.



On the occasion of Karnataka Rajyotsava Mr. Krishnamoorthy, Vice President - Pellet Plant, performed a puja for Bhuvaneswari Devi and sang the song "Huttidare Kannada Nadalli Hutta Beku" while explaining its beautiful meaning to all those in attendance. Accordingly, the "Nalapaka" function was inaugurated by Ms. Sutapa, AVP - HR. This wholesome activity was enjoyed by all in attendance including Mr. Rajesh Bontu, AVP - Pellet Plant, Mr. Rakesh, DGM - HR and Mr. Thomas M A - Manager Admin.

6 DIWALI

This year's Diwali celebration too was carried out following the proper social distancing norms, on 14 November 2020 at the Corporate office. **The puja was performed by Mr. Siddalingaiah, VP Treasury along with his wife Smt. Gouramma.**

All our employees dressed up in their best ethnic wear and looked radiant and happy, making the celebration a wonderful occasion. It was perfectly complemented by the beautiful rangolis created by the women employees of our office.





WINNERS  
OF THE  
NALAPAKA  
COMPETITION

1ST  
MRSS

Mr. Santosh Hosalli  
Mr. Shrikanth Angadi  
Mr. Veeresh

2ND  
RMHS

Mr. Vinay Kumar K  
Mr. Moula Hussain  
Mr. Basavaraj T

3RD  
EHS

Mr. Cheluvraj Odeyar  
Mr. Dasharath  
Mr. Hanumantha

## 7 CHILDREN'S DAY



We celebrated Children's Day on 30 November 2020 at the Corporate Office with Chief Guests, Smt. Poornima Krishnamoorthy and Smt. Dr. Pallavi Amarnath.

**A drawing competition** was held for the children based on the different age categories. **A Memory Game** was also conducted for higher primary age children along with a game of **'Housie Housie'** with parents and children together.

The evening concluded with prizes being distributed to competition winners and all children who were present for

the evening received return gifts. **The prize distribution ceremony** was carried out by our guests Ms. Sutapa Adhikary, AVP HRD, Mr. Vivek Joshi, VP Corp Audit, Mr. J L Sinhari, VP, F&A, Mr. Praveen Singhal, VP, Wind, and Mr. Ravi Gudi, AVP, Commercial.

The evening was greatly enjoyed by the Baldota Group employees, whose children and spouses participated enthusiastically in the program held at the corporate office cafeteria, followed by snacks.





## 3 DASARA

This Dasara marked our first virtual celebration in the New Normal. The pooja was held on 24 October 2020 at the Corporate office premises, maintaining all the pandemic protocols and social distancing norms, but was also live streamed for those who could not attend. Directors of MSPL attended the pooja virtually so as to eliminate the need for travelling. The celebration concluded with sweets distribution for all of the employees of Baldota Group.



## 9 AYUDHA POOJA

On 24 October 2020, the Pellet Plant celebrated Ayudha Pooja. This day is celebrated as part of the nine-day festival, Navratri, where our instruments and tools are worshipped. The pooja was performed by Mr. Krishnamoorthy, VP Pellet Plant, and his wife, Smt. Poornima Krishnamoorthy and was attended by the staff and employees of the plant.



## 10 RMHS NEW MACHINE POOJA

The RMHS area at MSPL's Pellet Plant acquired machinery in the form of a new Wheel Loader L&T 9020.

To give the machine an auspicious beginning at the plant, a pooja was carried out on 19 September 2020 by the plant's VP, Mr. Krishnamoorthy, along with the staff and employees.



## I RUNNING FOR A CAUSE



### I FOR THE GIRL CHILD

In honour of International Girl Child Day, a Girl Child Day Run Marathon was held on 18 October 2020 at Joladarashi Gudda, Hospet. Participants rose early to join the marathon to help raise awareness on the importance of protecting the girl child.

**A total of 41 Baldota group employees along with their children and spouses participated with great enthusiasm in the marathon. Some of them participated in the run, while the others joined the bicycling event.**

Mr. K Prabhudevappa, ED CC, Mr. Venugopal M, VP IT, Ms. Sutapa Adhikary, AVP HRD, Mr. Ramesh H K, GM CSR, Mr. Mruthunjaya, DGM CC and Mr. Thomas M A, Stayfit Organiser, distributed the medals and certificates on 28 November 2020 at the Corporate Office. At the event, Mr. Madhusudhan K. shared a few words on the importance of health and fitness.



## 2 FOR THE AIRFORCE

A virtual Run/Ride to celebrate and honour our outstanding Indian Air Force was held on 11 October 2020 at 06.30 AM in Kamalapur, near Hampi.



**47 members from the Baldota Group along with their children and spouses participated in this marathon, where they could either choose to run the marathon or take part in bicycling.**

Medals and certificates for the marathon participants were distributed at the Corporate Office on 23 November 2020 with Ms. Sutapa Adhikary, AVP HRD, Mr. Bharat Savla, GM F&A, Mr. Vivek Joshi, VP Audit, Mr. Ravi Gudi, AVP Commercial, Mr. Pravin Yeshwant Manchalwar, VP M & L, Mr. Madhusudhan K, VP Mines & CC, and Mr. Jawahar Lal Sinhari, VP F&A, taking part in the ceremony.



# GIVING BACK AS WE MOVE FORWARD

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - A REAL CASH COW

The MSPL Self Help Group program has bettered the lives of several women in our adopted villages.



The story of Kotamma D and her journey towards making her family more financially independent is an inspiring one, and illustrates the power of SHGs in turning around the lives of countless rural women in the country.

Kotamma, wife of Eranna D, hails from Kanivhalli village and has 2 daughters. Kotamma and her husband have 1.5 acres of dry land and 30 cents of irrigation land, and to support the family they also worked as labourers in fields as daily wagers. In her search to help the family rise out of poverty, she began looking at opportunities to get financial help and begin her own business. It was at this time that she joined the SHG, Shri Guru Kottureshwara, run by MSPL Limited and was guided by Mr. Shambulingaiah of the CSR team.

Through the SHG, Kotamma got a revolving fund of INR 20,000 in 2014. She used the money to invest in a cow, which went on to give her a yield of 180 litres per month at INR 28 per litre. Her income began growing steadily

with INR 5,040 coming in for the milk and INR 2,000 from cow dung. With some of it going towards fodder for the cattle, the family managed a monthly profit of INR 6,000, and savings from not having to purchase milk daily, anymore. She has also managed to clear the revolving fund received from her SHG.

Kotamma says the greatest joy she has received from this venture, is its growth from 1 cow to gaining 14 calves (10 female and 3 male). The cattle have all earned her family a decent income through milk, and have cut

costs for fertilizers as they could now use the dung from their cattle. However, due to the restricted space around their home and shortage of fodder, they sold 6 cows for a total of INR 1,20,000 and cow dung for INR 50,000. With good earnings, the family ensured one of their daughters got married post her education and the other is currently pursuing her college degree.

The family income has multiplied, and today Kotamma's family is living comfortably and proudly.



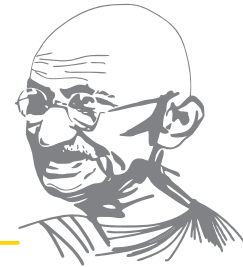
*KOTAMMA SAYS SHE OWES IT ALL TO THE SHG AND THANKS MSPL LIMITED FOR BRINGING THE SYSTEM TO HER VILLAGE AND HELPING HER, AND WOMEN LIKE HER, UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF SAVING MONEY AND INVESTING INTELLIGENTLY TO LIVE A LIFE OF DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE.*

## EMPOWERING THROUGH SKILLS & EDUCATION

### SPECIAL CLASSES FOR SSLC STUDENTS

65% of the country's population is still living in villages and the rural hinterlands. As more than half of the population of the country lives in villages, rural development is an eminent factor for the development of our economy. With young minds hailing from these regions, it is becoming increasingly more important that quality education reaches them to ensure our country strides successfully into the future.

Rural Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) students often lack the means to a proper schooling, with limited accessibility to mainstream themselves into the country's economy. In order to give them more opportunities to do so, we at MSPL have initiated special coaching classes in 7 villages around our operations.



*MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO, MAHATMA GANDHI HAD SAID THE REAL INDIA LIES IN THE VILLAGES. HE IS ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE SAID, "THE FUTURE OF INDIA LIES IN ITS VILLAGES".*

This year, the program has benefitted 164 students

and the villagers, school management committees and the Education Department have all shown their support and gratitude towards our endeavour.

#### VILLAGE-WISE SSLC RESULTS - 2019-20

Name of the Village	Distinction	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	Fail	Total
Halavarthi	2	12	11	1	13	39
Basapura	1	8	3	6	2	20
Danapura	1	20	2			23
Hanumanahalli	4	9	2		1	16
Kanivihalli	1	17	3	1	2	24
Shrungaratota	8	18			1	27
Kidadal		1	3	4	7	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>164</b>



## TESTIMONIAL



My name is Suchitra S S. My father is a taxi driver in Hospet and we live in Galemmanagudi village. I have completed my 10th standard from the Government High School at Danapura, but had been facing difficulty with the subject, Science. I looked for extra classes for the subject to help with the topics covered at school to no avail.



*I heartily thank MSPL for arranging these special classes and all the other social interventions in our villages.*

There were no tuition centres near my village and travelling to Hospet was not an option as it would become too expensive for my family.

Hearing about my predicament, my seniors and teachers suggested I attend the free special classes organised by MSPL Limited. Mr Shambulingiah visited our school and enrolled interested students for these special classes, and I signed up immediately.

I signed up for 4 months of special classes from November 2019 to February 2020. There were days when I would walk 1 km in the evening just to attend the classes organised at Hanumanahalli between 6 to 7.30 pm.

**The classes helped me increase my knowledge in Science, English and Math, all of which contributed to helping me score good marks in the annual exam. The teachers were very knowledgeable and helped us clear our doubts and also provided useful notes to prepare for the exams.**

My preparation for the exams through the special classes aided me in scoring 563 on 625 (90.08%).

I believe financial status is not what matters for educating oneself, but real dedication towards studies, determination and proper guidance from devoted tutors help secure good marks. My parents are happy for my achievements, and I have big dreams to clear the IAS exam in the future.



## DRIVING THE FUTURE

As part of our skilling initiatives, the MSPL CSR team has been working tirelessly to equip the youth of our adopted villages with the right skills and knowledge to be more employable. Our progress in these endeavours is best witnessed through the many success stories such as that of **Ittangi Shervali**.

Ittangi is from Hanumanahalli village and his family has suffered through several hardships as he and his five siblings lost their father, the sole provider in the family, very early in life. To tide them over, they all worked hard in the fields around their village as daily wagers, but it was always difficult, and the income earned was barely enough.

Jobless at 23 years old and looking for any opportunity to earn and grow, he became aware of MSPL's many social interventions in his village.

By broadening his horizons, he realised he wanted to become an entrepreneur in the transportation field. Through the Tourism Department, Government of Karnataka, he was able to apply for the subsidy loan scheme in 2018 and purchase his own car. Today, Ittangi is paying back his loan through an EMI scheme and earns a respectable salary of over INR 25,000.



The free driving classes that were being offered by us interested him, and with the encouragement of Mr. B M Nagaraj, MSPL CSR team, he signed up for the lessons. Through the program he learned to drive and received his driver's license.

Soon Ittangi was driving as a means of earning, and more opportunities began arriving, slowly increasing his income to INR 7,000. He used his spare time to also join the computer course organised for unemployed youth by MSPL.

His family is independent, comfortable and he can't thank MSPL enough for helping him get his life on track with the driving lessons, as well as the computer classes.



## COMPUTING A BRIGHT FUTURE

A major challenge that the youth living in a developing country like India face on a regular basis, is the difficulty in getting the right employment opportunities. In spite of some of them being educated, they fail to get a job due to the lack of many necessary skills, including the knowledge of computers.

To solve the issue and to turn these people into potential candidates for different jobs, **MSPL provides computer training for these youth to gain digital knowledge.** In support of this program, on 5 November 2020, we inaugurated a computer training centre for unemployed youth at Ukkadakeri, Hospet. **70 students** from Ukkadakeri, Banadakeri, S L Chowki, Chitrakeri and Parvathi Nagar of Hospet have enrolled for the training program.

Local leaders Mr. Kanakappa, Mr. Rudrappa, Mr. Markandeppa, Mr. Maradi Gangappa, Mr. Katigi Ramakrishna, the Youth Group and Mr. H K Ramesh, GM, CSR from MSPL, were present. The program will be carried out batch wise, with social distancing and sanitisers provided, to avoid transmission of COVID-19.



## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

India is a young country aspiring to grow. While the primary and upper primary education is free in India for the underprivileged, a significant number of rural children drop out of school or college and discontinue their studies due to their socio-economic background and lack of opportunities.

Girl children especially miss out on the benefits of an education in remote parts of the country. This results in school and college dropouts of students who are otherwise talented and meritorious.

**MSPL is supporting talented students in their education. As a part of promoting education and in order to support talented girl children hailing from rural areas, we have started the Scholarship Program for the year 2020-21.**

A total of **86 girl students** from Hanuamanahalli, Danapura, Galemmanagudi, Siddapura, Halavarthi, Belavinal, Jaisingpura, Kanivihalli, Basapura, and Kidadal have benefitted from this program.



## A STITCH IN TIME...



### 1 TAILORING TRAINING

Securing a job in the formal sector for the underprivileged with a lack of adequate education is a tough task. And for them to find a source of income that can sustain their families is becoming increasingly harder for them. Rural communities, especially rural women, find themselves inept at supporting their family due to absence of professional skills.

With the motto of economic empowerment of rural women through vocational skills, MSPL has initiated tailoring training at Hospet, Siddapura, Hanumanahalli and Kidadal villages. The training helps rural women gain economic independence and increases their standard of living through self-employment.



 132 women have joined the tailoring program,

### 2 MEN'S GARMENTS STITCHING CLASSES

With the increasing demand for tailored men's clothing, especially for uniforms, ethnic wear and other clothing, we realised our tailoring training centres were not equipped to teach the trainees about men's garments.

To broaden the skillset of these tailoring teachers, as well as the trainees, the MSPL CSR team introduced men's tailoring experts to train the teachers on the same.





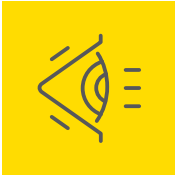
which we plan to carry out in batches to facilitate social distancing and avoid transmission.



Through this program, we also hope to introduce these teachers to the training pool so as to expand and scale up our skilling program.

Currently, we have got on board 8 teachers for the men's garment stitching classes.

## PRIORITISING HEALTH & WELLBEING



### CREATING A 'SEE' CHANGE

Recent studies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, has led to the government estimate that by the end of 2020 there will be approximately 8.25 million people with a cataract problem in India. As per the National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB) data, cataract continues to be one of the leading causes of blindness in India. Nearly 63% of blind individuals is because of cataract issues.

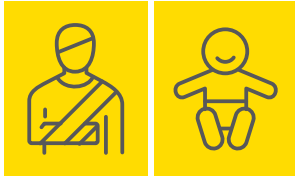
Given this alarming scenario and in an effort aimed at wiping out cataract and defective vision, MSPL Limited has resumed conducting eye camps for the communities around our operations while taking protective measures against COVID-19 by ensuring social distancing, hand sanitisation and the use of face masks.

**In collaboration with Ashwini Eye Hospital, Hospet, we conducted eye screening camps** at Danapura, Siddapura, Hosahalli, Halavarthi, and Hanumanahalli villages. During the camp, the appropriate medication was prescribed, along with face masks and hand sanitisers for the patients.

Most of the patients are senior citizens and women, and we also ensure they undergo blood pressure and diabetic screening. From this drive, 14 affected individuals were referred to the primary health care centre at Mariyammanahalli for further checkups.



**A total of 380 villagers were screened, 116 referred for further treatment and 72 villagers underwent surgeries. Dr. Shrinivas Deshpande and Dr. Disha screened the villagers.**



## ORTHOPAEDIC AND PAEDIATRIC CAMPS

The medical community is working day and night to find a cure for COVID-19. With all attention diverted to this cause, a large number of aging villagers as well as young children are not able to get the care they need for other ailments.

Hence, with the objective to create awareness among villagers about the diseases related to bones and joints, orthopaedic related issues and their preventive measures, paediatric infections and basic hygiene, MSPL organised health camps at Hanumanahalli, Jaisingpura and Kidadal village.

**320 villagers benefitted from the orthopaedic and paediatric camps. During the camp we also distributed sanitisers for the ASHA workers and Anganwadi teachers. 54 health workers benefitted from the program.**

Our CSR staff has ensured social distancing, availability of sanitisers and face masks, and thermal screenings for the beneficiaries at the camp venue.



## GYNECOLOGY CAMPS

Menstrual hygiene is one of the most important, yet neglected, health issues in the developing world. In India, approximately 70% of all reproductive diseases are caused by poor menstrual hygiene. A UNICEF study revealed that 10% of Indian women believe that menstruation is a disease.

Limited access to information, as well as cultural taboos and social stigmas attached to menstruation have had a negative impact on the lives and health of millions of girls and women. With an aim to equip women with knowledge about their personal health, give them better access to health facilities and create awareness about hygienic living, we organised a gynecology camp at Danapura and Galemmanagudi villages.

Dr. Manjula, Primary Health Care Centre, Mariyammanahalli, screened the villagers. The camp was held with all precautionary measures against COVID-19 in place.



**A total of 182 women benefitted from the health camp.**



## GENERAL HEALTH CHECKUP CAMP

MSPPL carries out health camps in the rural areas around our operations, where people are neither able to afford medical treatment nor have any basic knowledge regarding health and hygiene.

Through these camps, villagers are made aware on the various health issues.

In an effort to diagnose basic health problems and illnesses of villagers, along with the support of the Gram Panchayath of Kanivihalli, we organised a health camp at Kanivihalli village on 21 November 2020.

**Dr. Rajesh B R, MBBS, MS Surgery, screened villagers and spread awareness on health and hygiene among the villagers.**

During the camp, Mr. Chandrappa, Mr. Erappa, Mr. Kotrappa, village leaders of Kanivihalli, health workers and staff nurse were present.



As a part of the camp, we also distributed sanitiser for 6 health workers of Kanivihalli village. Our CSR staff has ensured social distancing, thermal screening, availability of sanitiser and face masks at the camp venue to avoid the transmission of COVID-19.

**103 villagers benefitted from the health program.**



## VIRTUAL ORAL CANCER SCREENING AND TOBACCO CESSATION COUNSELLING

In India 80% of oral cancer is directly attributed to the use of tobacco. More than 32% of our rural population are tobacco users, who have close to no awareness on the harms of tobacco use and the preventive steps and recognition of early stages of oral cancer. Early detection gives us the chance to reduce mortality rates; for which virtual screening helps in identifying lesions in a cost-effective manner.

As a part of our health initiatives, MSPL in association with the Indian Cancer Society, Bengaluru, is organising Virtual Oral Cancer Screening and Tobacco Cessation Counselling camps at Kidadal, Halavarthi, Basapura and Belavinal villages.

We are currently carrying out surveys in 4 villages. The survey data is categorised as high risk, medium risk and low risk. Those falling under the high risk category will be treated by the Indian Cancer Society. Medium and low risk patients will be counselled and provided with medicine and awareness to stop using tobacco and its products.

A total of 7,169 villagers from 4 villages will benefit from this camp.



## PAINTING THE TOWN GREEN

### A PLANTATION DRIVE



Emphasising on the importance of reaching out to others in need of help,  
The best way to find yourself is to lose

We are strong believers of this statement and volunteering for the benefit of our society not only benefits underprivileged communities but is also mentally rewarding for the volunteers.

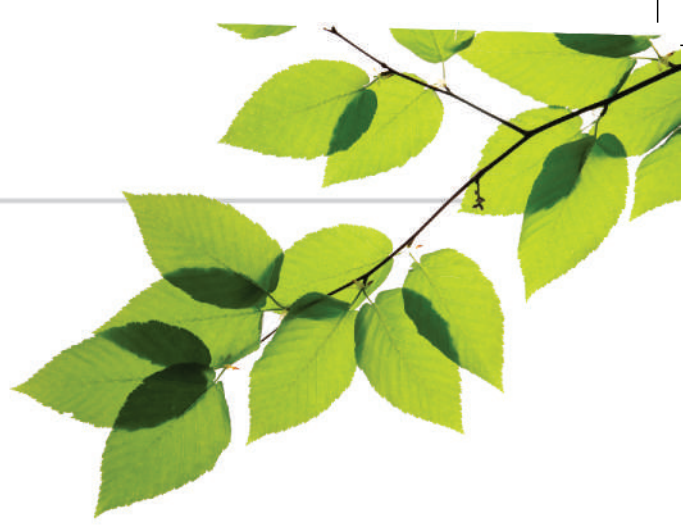
An increasing number of corporates, these days, are introducing employee volunteering initiatives in an earnest attempt to keep staff engaged and aligned with the objectives of the company, while supporting the community at large.



MSPL Limited Hospet organised a CSR program by engaging its employees at Hospet, Hanumnahalli, Halavarthi, Hosalingapura, Siddapura and Venkatagiri village to carry out a plantation drive in these localities. We have also engaged VIOM, Corporate employees, Gases, IGIOM and Pellet plant employees for the plantation drive.

During this period, we have done 7 employee CSR activities where 87 employees participated and planted 250 plants at the villages.

Philanthropic activities such as employee volunteering for our CSR programs often result in building the morale of employees and connects the company more closely with the community.



Mahatma Gandhi had once rightly stated,

yourself in the service of others.



## 2 ROAD SIDE PLANTATIONS

With an aim to increase green foliage and in order to save our environment,

**MSPL Limited has planted more than 1,073 saplings**

during the reporting period in collaboration with the Gram Panchayath, City Municipal Corporation and local leaders at Kidadal, Koppal and Hospet.

# #ThanksToMining OnlineClasses



From web-cameras to computers, mics to mobile-phones and from servers to routers,  
**Mining is the backbone of everything**

that makes e-education possible. In fact, if not for mining, even Google, the greatest modern guru, would find it hard to throw up a single result, as there would be no internet.

Without mining, it would be impossible to conceive our daily life or a sustainable future. Mining is responsible for powering human progress. The Baldota Group has been leading by example by mining and processing iron ore responsibly for nearly six decades and still continue to learn and adopt emerging green technologies, processes and practices.



BALDOTA  
WE ARE LIFE

Baldota Enclave, Abheraj Baldota Road, Hosapete 583203, Karnataka, India | [www.baldota.co.in](http://www.baldota.co.in)