

minds AND **mettle**



MSPL NEWS BULLETIN

JAN '15 - MAR '15

VOLUME 19 - NO. 3



Celebrating Mother's Day, the Baldota way

Celebrating Mother's Day, the Baldota way



A scintillating performance by children to mark Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated with pomp and splendour on the birthday of Late Smt. Vasanti Devi Baldota, on 2nd February 2015, at PDIT College grounds, Hosapete. It was attended by her family members and the employees of the Baldota group.

The main event was preceded by a logo contest, a singing competition, and an essay competition. All these saw the enthusiastic participation of everyone alike.

The event was held mainly to honour every mother. As part of the celebrations, Dr. Sulochana and Ms. Madhu Jain were honoured as the oldest mothers of the Baldota group, and Ms. Farida Begam and Ms. M.R.K. Rekha were honoured as the youngest mothers.

Mr. Sathya Praveen bagged the first prize for the logo competition, from among the 63 participants. The winning logo was unveiled and it received great appreciation.

Ms. Ankita Kuntal, Ms. Nadidata Natesh, Ms. K. Jyothi, and Ms. Akastha Joshi were the winners of the essay competition and Ms. Sanjana Pathak and Ms. Geeta Navali bagged the prizes for the singing competition.

The main attraction of the event was the screening of the short



Playback singer Mr. Hemanth Bidare's superb musical performance



film, as a tribute to Late Smt. Vasanti Devi Baldota. The film showed her family members and her dear ones, paying tribute to the much loved and revered figure. It also brought out her qualities as an excellent mother and wife – a warm-hearted and influential person, who would always bring joy to those around. It portrayed the many challenging facets of motherhood, and how tactfully she had managed it all, thus becoming the guiding spirit not only to her family, but also to the entire company.

The highlights of the event were as follows:

- Hollow man show
- Balloon dance
- Stand-up comedy show by Mr. Ramesh
- Live concert by playback singer Mr. Hemanth and team
- Dance performance by Team Sizzlers, Bengaluru
- Dance performance by the children of the Baldota family

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rahul Kumar N. Baldota, Joint



■ Mr. Shrenik Baldota, Joint Managing Director, MSPL Limited, paying rich tribute to Smt. Vasanti Devi Baldota

Managing Director, MSPL Limited, paid tribute to the Late Smt. Vasanti Devi Baldota and described her as the most responsible and praise-worthy person in the family. Her care, compassion, and love shaped the family values and he vividly recalled her service, leadership, support, and the bond she shared with everybody.

Mr. Shrenik Kumar N. Baldota, Joint Managing Director, MSPL Limited, recounted his personal and jovial moments with his grandmother, and spoke of how badly he misses her. Mr. Shrenik's words were very touching and they deeply moved the audience.

The well-organised event has indeed left an indelible impression on the entire staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rahul Baldota said: "We all can be seen celebrating grandfather's birthday as Founder's Day at official functions, but grandmother, as we call her- 'Bai' has been the anchor in the house. It is a proud moment for me and for all of us celebrating her day as Mother's Day. To tell you something about her – she had just passed sixth and married a barrister. So you can imagine the difference. Whatever grandfather was, I think it was because of Bai; the support she gave, she kept the family together, and she took care of everything. In terms of values, the tremendous values she brought to the family and the whole group was a culture by itself, and it was amazing.

During my student days in Mumbai, sometimes in the evening we would go out for a late night movie, and it would end around midnight. At 12:30, she would still be at the balcony, waiting for me to come home. Who would do that? Only a mother. That instilled a sense of time in all of us. Although she was not very



Mr. K. Sathya Praveen receiving the prize from Smt. Chitra Baldota for the award-winning design of thematic logo for Mother's Day that was used on the occasion in all publicity materials

educated, she was an engineer, she was a doctor, if there was any work at home, a plumber, a carpenter, or an electrician. It was her idea that always worked – and she was always there to do it.

There was a sculpture in the intersections of Mumbai that said, 'The child gives birth to a mother.' Normally we say that the mother gives birth to a child. When a woman gives birth, she understands the full nature of motherhood. As parents, it's



■ An entertaining Hollow Man show captivated the audience



Mr. Narendra Kumar A. Baldota giving away prizes to Ms. Nandita Natesh, Ms. Ankita Kuntanal, Ms. Jothi, Ms. Akshata Joshi, and Ms. Sanjana Pathak

our duty to make sure that we walk the talk with our kids. My request to all of you is in the formative years, please give the right values to them, by walking the talk. They will dream big, the world is so big for them to achieve whatever they want, but values are what we have to create in them.”

Mr. Shrenik Baldota added: “Thayi’, ‘Amma’, ‘Avva’. To me, she is Bai. Rahul and I also called her Bai. She has been a mother for the whole Baldota family. It is an honour and delight to celebrate her birthday as Mother’s Day.

My grandma, Bai, was a very simple person. She was so humble that nobody ever asked about her. All mothers are like that. Nobody ever asks about them. They are taken for granted. She is put last because she does everything with love and never asks for anything in return. That is exactly who Bai was.

When my father arrived to Hosapete, he had no friends and had a very low-paying job. She had confidence in Father, that enforced and inspired him to come here and work. She was extraordinary and her support never wavered. She was very courageous, kind, and friendly. She always upheld her values and faced all difficulties, big or small, and never backed out. She was balanced, patient, and transformed everything she had, to love. Not all of us are so. Bai was all about peace and harmony. She was a quiet person, but when she spoke, she was effective. She was never judgemental, and her only goal in life was to keep the family happy and prosperous. All this is in the nature of the mother.

A father can never achieve what the mother accomplishes. That is Bai. And I salute her for who she was and what she has made us today.”

A special movie was made to honour the memory of Smt. Vasanti Devi Baldota. The film was screened on the occasion, as a tribute to her. In the film, Mr. Narendra Kumar Baldota, Chairman and Managing Director said: “Bai was a great person. She always wished well for me and loved me. Whenever I progressed, or got a medal or an award, she would be so happy. Chitra was like a daughter to her. She was unique and amazing.”

Ms. Chitra Baldota gratefully acknowledges Smt. Vasanti Devi Baldota’s positive influence in her life, by saying: “She prioritised my education, and saw that I was educated, even after I got married. I completed my 11th standard and diploma because of her. She said that she couldn’t complete her studies and that was the reason she encouraged me to do so.”

In the film, Mr. Rahul Baldota said: “She made sure that we all had our meals together, even if one of us was travelling, or came home late. The whole idea was to sit down and

communicate and share, so that differences are resolved.”

Ms. Laveena Baldota added: “When I got engaged, Rahul told me that Bai was the most important person in his life and that I should care for her, always. She was so full of love that she welcomed me with open arms. She became one of my favourite persons. I miss her.”

Mr. Shrenik Baldota had this to say: “She always believed that children should be first and satisfied. They come above everything else. She encompassed how to make a family good and beautiful, how they could sail through their highs and lows together, and why personality did not matter. It was all about how we can bring harmony, joy, and manufacture love.

She gave me the whole dimension of how a human being should grow up, survive, and pursue one’s passion.

After 19 years of boys, when Pari was born, the joy in her eyes was so complete that we had such a beautiful daughter. Pari was the apple of her eye. Pari lived up to all of that because she is an angel.”

Ms. Vaamaa Baldota shared her fond memories of the great lady by saying: “Chacha was her favourite, but when I was born, I became her favourite. Chacha and I always argued about that. I would sleep holding her hand, and she would calm me when I had bad dreams. I’ll always miss her.”

Ms. Veda Baldota summarised her affection for Smt. Vasanti Devi Baldota with the following reminiscence: “I miss you dadi, Karmaditya. When I was tired after studying, I would cry, and she would calm me and tell me not to study. Hearing that would make me laugh. I miss you Dadi.”

And finally Mr. Jyotirmay had this to say, “When everyone troubled or fought with me, she would always take my side and support me.”



Playback singer Ms. Anupama Bhat singing melodious Kannada songs



A view of the mass gathering of employees on the occasion

Business Performance Highlights



Mining Performance Report

A number of initiatives were taken up by the Mining Division with an aim to maximise productivity and improve performance. Several process tweaks and tune-ups have helped enhance managerial efficiency, consequently leading to improved coordination, better working environment, and reduced time and cost. Furthermore, with the introduction of new and innovative practices in place of traditional procedures, we have witnessed a considerable increase in the overall speed and efficiency of existing operations.

As a result of these measures and enhancements, an increase in OMS was recorded by VIOM, signifying improved utilisation of manpower resources. Through effective application of machinery and proper allocation of necessary inputs, we were able to substantially increase the average output per machine-hour, in comparison to the previous data. Furthermore, consistent and proper daily planning, along with reduced idle hours have helped bring down HSD consumption dramatically, indicating enhanced efficiency and workflow process. There has also been a considerable increase in the production per working day while compared to the previous year, and for the first time this year, the development target was achieved well before the target date, with VIOM always attaining the production target. By utilising available waste rocks at Iyli Mines for R&R works, we were able to bring about substantial reduction in cost compared to other mines, and also drew appreciation from various inspecting agencies. With all these and more, we have successfully set a new benchmark in performance and productivity lowest cost and 3rd Prize won by FICCI with regard to the mining activities undertaken by MSPL. These achievements also serve as indicators of the efficiency with which the plant currently operates.

Good Earth Chemicals Performance Report

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REVIEW 2014-'15 (TILL JAN '15)				
Product	Sales Volume		Revenue	
	Budget (in Tons)	Achieved (in Tons)	Budget (₹ in Lakh)	Achieved (₹ in Lakh)
PSS	23.68	7.53	75.16	23.50
SS	0.44	1.19	0.55	1.42
Projects	1225.00	408.00	286.67	77.54
Total			362.38	102.47

Numerous initiatives and new installations were carried out by GECPL during the year 2014–2015. From water treatment plants to patented chemicals, our commitment to quality and innovation has enabled us to serve a number of prestigious clients across the nation.

We successfully installed a 30 KLD sewage water treatment plant for Tata Power at Kalyan, operating on the innovative PSS technology. The project aims to remove contaminants from waste water, to produce an environmentally-safe stream of fluids that can either be disposed off or reused to serve other purposes. We were also successful in setting up effluent water treatment plants



of 100 KLD for Akshaya Patra at Hubli and Lucknow. The plants were commissioned by Akshaya Patra as a part of their 'Go Green' initiative in order to address concerns of odour and hygiene, and to promote water-recycling. Furthermore, we provided our in-house mining group with two state-of-the-art water treatment RO Plants as an initiative to provide safe and quality drinking water in support of the various social programmes adopted on-site.

Apart from implementation of water treatment plants, we had also partnered with Shahi Exports in delivering a solid waste treatment solution for odour elimination. Likewise, we had also served customers such as ITC, Taj Group of Hotels, Sea Food Industry, Quality Foods Exports, and Navodaya Hospitals by supplying patented chemicals to successfully resolve odour related issues.

Shipping Performance Report



During the financial year 2014-'15, a total of 26 fixtures were set up, out of which 50% were voyages and the remaining were time charters. Furthermore, we have included 11 new charterers in our client list for the year. We saw a 19% hike in our Indus vessel rate against the average Baltic Index P3, which was pegged at 6,428 compared to our rate of 7,945 during the financial year. Apart from the shift in trend, the Indus fleet utilisation rate stood at a healthy 90% in comparison to the

dry bulk market utilisation rate of about 85%. The number of off-hire days for the financial year 2014-'15 was calculated to be 145.55 as on 28th February 2015. During the year, we stemmed a total of 22 bunker stems, out of which 19 were fixed to lift HSFO at an average rate of USD 508 PMT per stem. All outstanding payments from charterers were cleared with the exception of Guodian Shipping, with whom we have started discussions to settle the due amount of USD 58600.

Wind Divison Performance Report



We have been able to achieve great progress on the CDM front owing to our partnership with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since 31st December 2012, MSPL has registered seven Wind Projects as part of the UNFCCC's CDM activity at the following locations:

- 125 MW Wind Power Project in Karnataka
- Green Energy to Grid at Dhule, Maharashtra
- Emission-free Electricity Generation at Harihar, Karnataka
- 30 MW Wind Power Project at Surajbari, Gujarat
- 10.4 MW Wind Power Project at Tiwari, near Jodhpur district in Rajasthan
- 13.75 MW Wind Power Project at Bellary and Davangere districts in Karnataka
- Renewable Energy Project at Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh

Baldota Group views the Wind power Project as an invaluable contribution towards developing a safer, cleaner, and sustainable environment, fuelled by renewable sources of energy. With Wind Projects generating enough electricity every year equivalent to 428,347 tons of Carbon Dioxide without any emission to the atmosphere, wind energy can be seen as a viable alternative to curb climate change and drastically reduce the expulsion of Green House gases.

Honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi inaugurated the Renewable Energy (RE) Global Investors' Meet on 15th February 2015, inviting participation in the form of funds and resources to propel India's ambitions of RE growth. The project would include almost 1,00,000 MW installation in solar power and 50,000 MW in wind power within a time span of seven years. This bold and ambitious meet was received with such enthusiasm that investment commitments for 2,60,000 MW have already been received from Indian and overseas investors.

However, the power generation capability and performance of Wind Parks are being weighed down due to inconsistent wind across India, slashing plant load factor at most of the Wind Farms by 3-4% compared to the previous years. Dr. Gomathinayagam, Director-General of National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), Chennai, and Shri. Bhoopathi, Additional Director, Wind Resource Analysis Unit, confirmed that the inconsistencies and abnormalities can be attributed to the El Nino effect in the wind circulation pattern, and would remain strong throughout the year, across the globe.

Pellet Plant Report



PELLET PRODUCTION

Pellet production for the financial year (April 2014–February 2015) stood at 5,81,169 MT, in comparison to the previous year (April 2013–February 2014) production accounting for 5,46,324 MT. The aggregate increase in production was pegged at 5.99% from the information made available till date.

PELLETS PRODUCT SALES

Even though the financial year saw an increase in production, the sales figures saw a drop in numbers when compared to the previous year. As per the latest reports, pellet product sales during the financial year (2014-'15) dropped to 5,53,071.04 MT (April' 14 -March' 15), whereas the previous financial year (2013-'14) saw a healthy sale of 5,84,162.37 MT of pellet products.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-'15

- By continuously monitoring the coal pumping flame stability, we were able to bring about considerable improvements in pellet quality and productivity
- The accretion build-up was drastically reduced by exercising better control over the IOF blend, flame stability, and pumping pressures invariably

ENERGY CONSERVATION

An energy audit was carried out at the Pellet Plant by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute, Bengaluru), during April 2013. The audit primarily aimed at understanding energy consumption at various stages of production and identifying energy-intensive processes that needed regulation and re-engineering. The audit was carried out across the entire pellet plant jointly by MSPL and TERI, after which a number of steps and energy-saving measures have been put in place since April 2013.

As per the latest records and statistics, total savings per year amounted to a sum of ₹156 lakhs against the actual investment of ₹141 lakhs. The net profit of ₹15 lakhs signify the effectiveness with which the corrective measures are being followed and put in practice.

FURNACE OIL SAVING

In addition to the above, the New Burner Management System for Travelling Grate was installed and commissioned in December 2013. By installing the new BMS system, average FO savings were calculated to be at 1.414 Kg/MT, amounting to ₹ 450 lakhs, with an actual pellet production of 7.94 lakhs MT (Production considered from December 2013 to February 2015).

Gas Division Performance Report

During the year 2014 -'15, we saw a considerable rise in the diesel prices severely affecting our logistics cost. The exorbitant hike in liquid sourcing prices has also affected the gas business adversely, resulting in additional monthly cash outflow to the tune of six lakh rupees. The BOO plant located at SAIL has been operating only at 20% capacity, due to periodic disruptions caused by the prevailing raw material issues. To make matters tough, the entry of multiple, small, unorganised players into the market has also paved way for unhealthy competition. With the leading steel manufacturer in Bellary sector stalling expansion plans and relocating to a new region, fabrication jobs at site have been reduced to almost 10%. A rise in power cost at Maharashtra has also impacted the cost of production drastically.

However, a number of measures have been taken to reduce logistics cost and curb expenses so as to pull the business out of the ongoing financial turmoil. Distance covered by trucks for local deliveries are being monitored, and steps have been taken to limit avoidable expenditure. Gas is now being refilled at local filling stations to meet the depot requirements. In spite of the rise in competition, we have marginally increased the prices to selective customers and adopted measures to eliminate those sales which fail to contribute to the fixed cost.

CSR News and Reports

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

180 saplings were planted in commemoration of World Environment Day on 5th June, 2014. The event was held at Koppal in association with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and the Department of Public Instruction.

FREE NOTEBOOKS DISTRIBUTION

1,30,000 notebooks were distributed to more than 22,000 students from 96 schools, during the event held at Venkateswara Kalyana Mantapa, Hosapete, on 8th July 2014.

DRINKING WATER PLANTS

Three reverse osmosis water treatment plants were installed at Kanvihalli, Kalhally, and Hosanangapur to provide safe drinking water and to promote better health, benefiting more than 1,000 families.

MEASURES TO REDUCE SCHOOL DROPOUTS

19 school dropouts from various adopted villages were provided motivation and support to rejoin school and enrol for exams.

AVENUE PLANTATION (ROADSIDE PLANTING)

1,780 plants and trees were planted in and around Hosapete to promote a clean and green environment.

TAILORING CLASSES

Four tailoring centres were set up during the year, to impart vocational training to more than 104 women, helping them earn a better livelihood.

SEWING MACHINE DISTRIBUTION

17 sewing machines were distributed to women who completed their tailoring classes and wished to pursue the same as a profession. The event saw participation from Gram Panchayat members, villagers, and school teachers of Ingaligi village.

FREE LPG CONNECTIONS

186 LPG connections were provided to various SHG members, helping women cook easier, save fuel, and prepare tastier food.

INSTALLATION OF BIOGAS PLANT

A Biogas plant was installed at Kanvihalli, helping reduced dependency on trees as fuel for cooking.

PRESSURE COOKER DISTRIBUTION

204 families from adopted villages across Hosanangapur, Hosalli, Basapur, Kidadal, Danapur, Kanvihalli, and Srungarthota, were provided free pressure cookers. They were educated about the uses and benefits of pressure cookers, the most important one being the conservation of LPG.

D.A.R.E. (DEFENSE AGAINST RAPE AND EVE-TEASING)

Self-defence workshops were organised by UCCA, Mumbai (Unarmed Commando Combat Academy)-trained Ms. Vaamaa

Baldota to provide insights and ways by which women can protect themselves from harassment, crime, and exploitation.

SAPLINGS DISTRIBUTION FOR KITCHEN GARDEN

2,969 farmers were handed over saplings of various species of Sapota, Mango, Guava, Coconut, and Lemon, in order to promote the concept of kitchen garden within the regions of Kanvihalli, Danapur, Basapur, Kidadal, and Srungarthota.

CSR LIVE WEEK, MUMBAI

We actively participated in the CSR Live Week Exhibition held at Mumbai on 27th and 28th August 2014, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable development through sustainable business practices. The event, co-sponsored by JSPL and Canara Bank, served as a platform to showcase various social initiatives, and thereby nurture quality partnerships between Indian corporates and various NGOs.

FREE TUITION CENTRES

127 students are being trained free of cost, at various tuition centres set up across Danapur, Hanumanhalli, Kanvihalli, Srungarthota, Halvarthy, and Basapur. The centres are of great benefit to the poor, needy, and underprivileged students of government-run schools in rural areas. Out of the 127 students, 11 students are school dropouts who have been given financial assistance by MSPL to appear for the exams this year.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMPUTERS AND SANITARYWARE AT GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Computers and sanitaryware were provided to three government primary schools located at backward areas within Shankernagar Camp, G.G. Camp, and Nagappa Camp. The event was held in the presence of Block Education Officer and VP-Mines, helping more than 100 students to have a better future and cleaner learning environment.

DONATION OF BLOOD COLLECTION MONITORS

During the year, two blood collection monitors were donated to the blood bank run by the Red Cross in Koppal.

FREE CANCER DETECTION CAMP

599 people from the districts of Bellary and Koppal participated in this year's Free Cancer Detection Camp held in association with the Indian Cancer Society, Mumbai. The camp seeks to create a cancer-free society, promote early detection, and to provide treatment to the underprivileged.

CAPACITY BUILDING MEET FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SDMC MEMBERS

A training session on capacity building was conducted at Kidadhal village to improve the quality of education and enhance literacy within the region. Parents, SDMC, GP, and educational departments actively participated to ensure better education and improve social awareness.

Other News

Petrography Training

A training programme on petrographic identification of rocks was conducted from 23rd March to 28th March 2015. The sessions were presided over by Dr. K.N. Rao, Retired Director, Geological Survey of India, an expert with more than 30 years of experience in geological mapping and petrographic studies. This programme sought to enhance existing knowledge and skill with which one can infer the mineral content and chemical composition contained within various types of rocks.

MSPL has been organising the training programme consistently for more than two years, helping geologists analyse and understand minerals qualitatively as well as quantitatively. It is an important tool to help confirm the rock type, mineral association, and to identify other relevant characteristics as required by the operating domain. Furthermore, the training session has also made it possible to better ascertain Rare Earth Elements carrying minerals which generally occur in micron size particles and can only be identified using a microscope.



Chandi Homa

The employees of Gadag Gold Project contributed and performed Chandi Patha and Nava Chandi Homa at Dattatreya Temple, from 24th February to 26th February, 2015. Dr. Meda Venkataiah, Executive Director, MSPL, along with his better half participated in the ceremony on 26th February. Several employees and their families were also present at the venue to pay tribute to the deity and participate in the blissful ritual held to please Goddess Durga.



Mr. N. Pany addressing the students

Enlightening students of Global Business School, Hubli

Top officials of Baldota Group maintain relationships with top institutions to tap talent for strategic positions in the Group.

Mr. N. Pany, VP, HR, was the chief guest at the Global Business School, Hubli's Annual Function 'Bhumika', held on 28th March 2015. It was an occasion to honour the student for overall

leadership with a gold medal, toppers in streams such as Marketing, Finance, and HR with gold and silver medals, and toppers in various sports events.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. N. Pany gave a realistic scenario of work place issues and enlightened them on the concepts of employability of students after graduation, expectations of employers on managers in the ever-changing economic situation, gaps between academic study of business, and the realities of businesses. The students and parents received well about the wisdom of words on leadership and resource management.

Successful Jaipur Foot/Limbs Camp Benefits 282 Differently Abled

Hosapete, February '14: Hosapete-based MSPL Limited, in association with Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samiti (Jaipur Foot) organised a free Jaipur Foot/Limbs and Calipers camp at Hosapete from 11th to 14th February 2015, to help differently abled persons in and around Hosapete and Koppal. This camp has been organised at Hosapete for the fourth time taking the number of beneficiaries to 1,125 persons.

282 people benefited from this camp and Jaipur foot, calipers and crutches, wheel chairs and tricycles were distributed at the hands of Mr. Manjunath Ganesh Bhat, Chairman, Pragati Krishna Grameen Bank, Ballari; Mr. P. Sasi Bhushan Rao, Superintending Engineer, T.B.Board, Hosapete; Mr. B. Rudresh, Environment Officer, KSPCB, Koppal; and Mr. Anil Surana, Facilitator, Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samiti, Bengaluru Chapter. In the camp, 113 limbs, 122 calipers, 11 crutches, five tricycles, two wheelchairs, and 10 walkers were distributed.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Manjunath Ganesh Bhat, Chairman, Pragati Krishna Grameen Bank, Ballari, said: "MSPL Limited is doing laudable work by actively involving itself in the cause of women empowerment, support to education, environment protection, and health and sanitation programmes. It is gratifying to note that, many socially relevant programmes have been implemented by Baldota Group on its own inspiration and instilling the will power in people with disabilities to play active roles in society". He recalled how the famous dancer Ms. Sudha Chandran, who had met with an accident and had developed Gangrene in her leg, overcame the disability with the help of a prosthetic 'Jaipur Foot' by becoming one of the most highly acclaimed dancers of the Indian subcontinent. "These camps bring dignity and remove inferiority complex", he said.

Mr. B. Rudresh, Environment Officer, KSPCB, Koppal, appreciated MSPL Limited for having fine-tuned the mindset of people of Hosapete towards human and environment protection and development. He admired the company's efforts in environment protection by planting 18 lakh trees. He complimented the company for the efforts to give new lease of life for the differently abled people with necessary support. He had special appreciation on the true spirit of afforestation and effective measures to protect the environment.

Mr. P. Sasi Bhushan Rao, Superintending Engineer, T.B. Board, Hosapete, said that the activities of the company are building confidence of the differently abled, and are indeed noble efforts. He lauded the efforts in this direction, and wished the company a long life to serve the people.

Mr. Anil Surana, Facilitator, Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur (Bengaluru Chapter), said that the four camps sponsored by Baldota Group at Hosapete have benefitted 1,125 people. The current focus of the camps is the people who have developed Gangrene due to diabetes and accidents. He expressed his joy as he assisted Pritviraj, a 12-year-old boy, to fulfil his wish to swim with the artificial limbs. The Samiti's mission is to help disabled people to become self-sufficient. Spearheading these camps, Mr. Narendrakumar Baldota, Chairman & Managing Director, MSPL Limited, said that the group had done substantial contribution in the field

of education, healthcare, sanitation, women empowerment, environment protection, and public infrastructure projects. He said he is keen to start yoga camps to people of Hosapete, as he has felt that it is the need of the hour.

People from Ballari, Sandur, Kudligi, Hagaribommanahalli, Hoovina Hadagali, Koppal, Belgaum, and Bijapur, took benefit of the camp.

The famous Jaipur Foot is one of the best examples of Indian innovation, and barefoot engineering has helped several lakhs of victims of accidents across the world to walk again. Physically impaired people were fitted with a customised Jaipur Foot, developed by its unique and well-designed moulds. In the function, it was a joy to see the physically impaired people walking without support. After fitment, they will be able to ride a bicycle and work in the fields, factories, shops, and offices. It greatly suits agricultural workers also.

Training updates

- Dr. Meda Venkataiah, Executive Director, Mines, was the speaker at International Conference of Mineral Processing Technology organised at A.U. College of Engineering, Vishakhapatnam, under aegis of the Andhra University and the Indian Institute of Mineral Engineers, Vishakhapatnam, with a theme of 'Growth and Sustainability of Mineral Industry' from 12th to 14th March 2015
- Pellet Plant employees underwent a programme on Improving Manufacturing Productivity: Step by Step techniques on 30th Jan 2015 at CII Naoroji Godrej Centre for Excellence, Mumbai
- Mr. Srinivas, Deputy Director of Factories and Boilers was one of the main speakers on 'Safety measures to be followed while working' attended by Pellet Plant employees on 23rd Jan 2015 at OPJ Centre, JSW, Toranagallu. Mr. Hanumanth Rao, Health Specialist, and other safety professionals also spoke on the occasion
- Our employees of Pellet Plant and Gas Division underwent a training on 'Contract Labour Management' with a special emphasis on Contract Workmen Compliance laws. The training was organised by People Management Services at Dharwad on 4th Feb 2015
- The officials of Pellet Plant, Gas Division, Mines and Corporate office attended a conference at Hubli, organised by the NIPM on Gen Y HR Technology – Aspirations & Challenges aimed to enhance the advanced management techniques to enrich the profession and foster Industrial Growth from 12th to 13th Feb 2015
- Corporate office officials underwent a training on "Combat Frauds through proactive Fraud Preventive Strategy" as part of Fraud Risk Management, organised by Institute of Accounting & Investigate Audit at Bengaluru on 26th Feb 2015. Mr. Vinod Khurana, Executive Director, Institute of Intellectual Property Research & Development, was the key speaker.
- lyli Mine employees attended a programme on Miner's Health on Preventive measures in combating Occupational Health Hazards and disease in Mining & Mineral Industries organised at KGF by the National Institute of Miners Health. Mr. G.S. Ravindra, Assistant Director, NIMH KGF, and Laxmi Narayana, Director of Mines Safety, Ballari, were the key speakers



Some of the differently abled who benefitted from the camp

ME & MC Week 2014-'15

Mr. Rahul N. Baldota, President, ME & MCA and JMD, MSPL Limited, delivered the Presidential address and he formally handed over the flags and the Rolling Shield to Chettinad Cement for being the host for the ME & MC Week next year.

Mr. Baldota said, "I am delighted to be here to preside over the prize awarding ceremony for ME & MC in Hosapete, held under the auspices of the Indian Bureau of Mines, Bengaluru. The ME & MC week has been celebrated since 1998. The objective of this celebration is to educate people working in the mining industry about the protection of the environment, to spread awareness about protection of the environment, to encourage systematic and scientific development of minerals, to promote awareness about conservation of minerals, and to

promote efforts towards rehabilitation of workers of closed mines and their families. IBM came into existence in 1948 as a consequence of the recommendation under National Mineral Policy Conference, purely as an advisory report, but has now emerged as a premier national organisation. It has a dual role to fulfil. First, enforcing of statutory provisions and engaging in various developmental activities.

With the expansion of the mining industry and changing scenario in the liberalisation policy, there has been a paradigm shift in the role of IBM. The mandate of IBM has since been revised to include promoting systematic and scientific development of mineral resources, conservation of minerals, and protection of mines' environment. It also participates



Mr. S. Tiu, Controller of Mines (SZ), IBM, and Mr. B. Ram Mohan, Convenor, ME & MCA, Regional Commissioner, IBM, visiting Baldota Group CSR stall along with Mr. Rahul Kumar N. Baldota, Joint Managing Director, MSPL Limited

actively in minimising the adverse impacts of mining on the environment. It has been successful in inculcating a sense of responsibility towards the environment in the mining fraternity. I hope and wish that IBM continues to play a pivotal role in resolving the continual issues for the improvement of performance of the Mineral industry.

Mining is in the core of development. The Mining industry is a major force in the economy, occupying a primary position as the start of the resource chain. The Indian mining and mineral sector holds huge potential for all stakeholders, including the government and the community. With the right kind of support, the potential of the mining sector of India can be unlocked, which could add a huge amount of GDP and create lakhs of jobs over the next 10-15 years. It would also make a substantial impact on mineral-rich States of the Nation. The Prime Minister has come out with an agenda – 'Make in India' which is required because that is how jobs will be created, and for that to happen, we have to mine in India. To achieve this, action is required in key areas: increasing enhanced resources to exploration, faster clearance, and use of better technology for increasing sustainable production, infrastructure building, and skill development. The Indian government too has initiated several measures to reform the mining sector and recently brought out some mining ordinances. These ordinances are paradigm shifts in the way resources will be exploited in the future. The ordinance gives a lot of importance to transparency, which is excellent. But what has happened in the mining industry? In the last five years, this was necessary. But whether it will really add up to exploration and bring out better minerals and more production, only time will tell.



Mr. Rahul Kumar N. Baldota, Joint Managing Director and President, ME & MCA, addressing the gathering



VIOM employees performing mime



MSPL employees and kids performing cultural activities



VIOM receiving the 1st prize under Group 3 Iron ore, 'A' Team



lyli Mine receiving the 2nd prize under Group 5 iron ore, 'C' Team



Releasing the documentaries on iron ore mining and CSR activities of the contestants



Group Photo along with cultural activity team

The new ordinance, there are major factors which happened: first of all, most of the mining areas that are working for more than 50 years will come to an end by 2020. What are the repercussions of this? You'll see that the steel sector is going to be affected, but where is the resource going to come for them? What happens to the labour force who are working in all these mines?

Second, they are classified into notified and non-notified minerals, brought about a mining lease; prospecting licence and mining lease. Now unless the areas are sorted into G1 and G2 categories, they would not be put to auction. It is the responsibility of the State to do the exploration.

Mining activity in most parts of India has literally come to a standstill with the various orders of the Supreme Court. Contributions of the Mining industry towards GDP has fallen drastically in the last few years. From a major exporter, India has now become an importer of iron ore. The Mining industry is facing severe criticism on several issues. The industry is partly to be blamed for this. Their greed has led them to do things that resulted in the present situation. This has not only led to stoppage of mines and loss of employment to lakhs of people, but also left an indelible blemish on the industry and the people directly involved in it. Gandhi said, "The Earth provides enough for man's need, but not enough for man's greed," but the never-ending greed of a few is totally paralysing the industry. It is limping and may take some more time to come to come back to normal. Mining has to be carried out systematically and scientifically, keeping in mind the intergenerational equity and should not waste or destroy national resources, but should increase its usefulness so that we hand over to our next generation, that prosperity amplified many fold. Even though there are several economic benefits that may be gained by the community being around a mining area in terms of business and employment, the Mining industry has always been at the receiving end. This industry has to work towards sustainable mining and in the direction of educating the stakeholders of the benefits of mining to society and the nation in general and people living around it in particular. This has to be done collectively in an organised manner, taking all the industry together. We at MSPL strongly believe in the importance of environmental conservation and are committed to sustainable growth. This has been demonstrated by the focus on systematic and scientific mining, the use of latest technology for environmental upgradation, planting 1.8 million trees in our areas, and zero waste mining. For MSPL, conservation of environment is a constant focus and the endeavour to conserve and propagate the judicious use of natural resources."

The prizes for the competitions held between 9th February 2015 and 14th February 2015 were declared during the ceremony. The winners were selected after the panel visited the contestants' respective mines, during which each mine was graded based on certain parameters. Vyasanakere Iron Ore Mine bagged the 1st prize, and MSPL Limited's CSR programmes won the prize in the CSR category.

Guests were entertained during the gala with cultural programmes by the MSPL employees and kids. The festivities included a solo prayer dance, an environment theme dance, a mime show with a theme of the harmful effects of pollution, a fusion dance by kids, and light music performances. The programmes were well-organised and beautifully choreographed, making the event a memorable one.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. K. Madhusudhana, Vice President, Mines, MSPL Limited.

Sports News

Staying Fit is not a destination. It is a way of life.

Hampi Marathon

25th January 2015 – a day that got us all pumped up for the 'Go Heritage Run' at Hampi, organised by MSPL. The tiring, yet fun-filled run took the 300 participants, which included students and kids, from and to Monolithic Nandi, opposite the Virupaksha Temple. Among these 300 were 63 of our employees, crossing the finishing line. It was indeed a marathon to remember!

Survival of the Fittest – Inter-Unit Table Tennis Tournament 2015

MSPL 'Stay Fit' organised a Table Tennis Tournament on 14th March 2015 at the Corporate Office, which drew players from the Mine, Corporate Office, Pellet Plant, and Shipping divisions.

The tournament saw the veterans and first-timers alike lock horns with a lot of enthusiasm, with the audience cheering for each point. The closely fought matches ended with Mr. G. Seshasai winning the final, beating Mr. Ravi S. Patil in straight sets.

International Women's Day

A mother, wife, sister, or daughter: A woman, whatever role she plays, is indeed an epitome of wisdom, tenderness, and love. We at Baldota Group, recognising and respecting these roles that women play, celebrate International Women's Day every year. As it landed on a Sunday this year, the celebration of womanhood was held on 14th March at the Baldota Park, with the Baldota Ladies Club members and women staff invited for an afternoon of fun and frolic, away from the din of daily life. A variety of competitions, including Bomb in the City, Word Game, Balloon Game, Passing the Ball, and quiz, were some of the activities which made it an extremely interesting and enjoyable day.

Dr. Sulochana, Blood Bank; Mr. Pany, VP (HR); and Ms. Rekha Madhusudan, Secretary of Ladies club, were the guests of honour at the function. They shared their thoughts and also distributed prizes to the winners in the various competitions.

A sumptuous lunch was also served at noon, which left all participants hungering for more such lively programmes.



Mineral Process Development at MSPL

On invitation of Mineral Processing Technology 2014 (MPT-14), Dr. Meda Venkataiah made presentation titled "Mineral Process Development at MSPL".

In his presentation he enumerated the growth of the company from manual mining in the 80's to the establishment of Pellet Plant. He also emphasised on the development of R&D at MSPL and production of value added iron ore products.



Dr. Meda Venkataiah addressing the gathering



BALDOTA
WE ARE LIFE

There is a bit of us in every adventure

From scaling the Everest to setting foot on the moon, adventures of exploration and discovery have dominated the human imagination across time. Deep down, we've always known that adventures are what transform mere existence to a life well lived.

At Baldota Group, for more than 50 years we have explored, mined, and processed iron ore, the key ingredient of steel - a metal that

**makes adventures
more achievable and
life more exciting.**

www.mspllimited.com