



## Mid-day Meals Update

**Bangalore:** Currently, this program serves food to 1,20,000 children in 426 schools. The aim now is to cover 250,000 hungry children in the district and make Bangalore and its rural districts hunger-free, for which an additional kitchen infrastructure is being set up in Vasanthapura on Kanakapura Road, South of Bangalore,



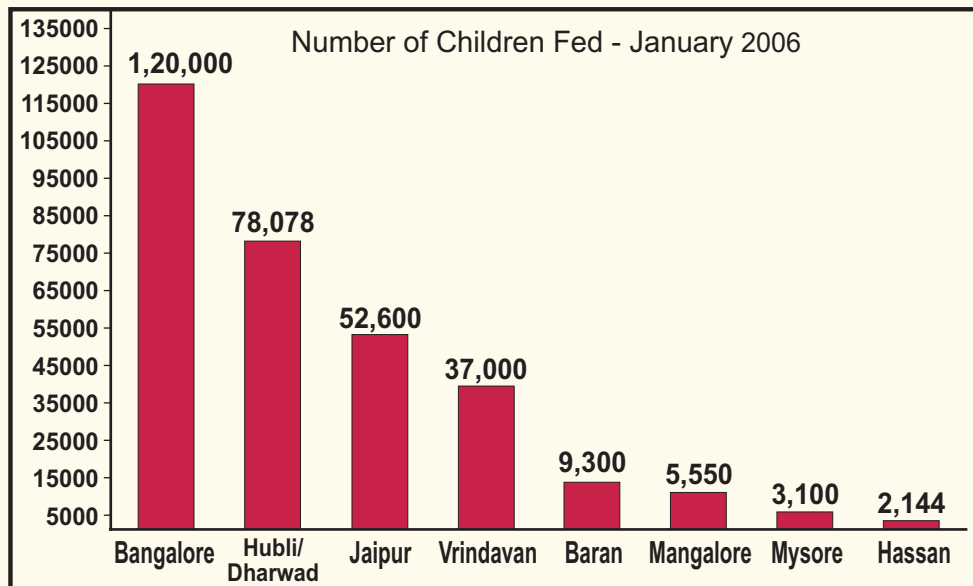
which is expected to serve 100,000 children in 650 schools in the vicinity.

**Hubli-Dharwad:** The Akshaya Patra program has been scaled up to feed 78,078 children in 250 schools in and around Hubli-Dharwad districts.

The blueprint for a new kitchen designed to serve 100,000 children is ready for implementation on a plot of land allotted by the Government of Karnataka.

Construction is expected to start soon, once all the approval processes are completed.

**Vrindavan:** In Vrindavan, the Foundation is currently serving 37,000 children in 292 government schools including 28 anganwadis. A spanking new kitchen facility, highly aesthetic but functional, is nearing completion and is expected to be formally dedicated to the nation by the end of March 2006.



### Govinda, Head, TAPF, Jaipur

A commerce graduate from Seshadripuram College, Bangalore, Govinda was a small time businessman and he now heads the Akshaya Patra facility in the Pink City, Jaipur. The city with a high tourists inflow also attracts a horde of celebrities to the Akshaya Patra facility and Govinda has his hands full taking care of them. It is to the credit of Govinda and his team members that special kiosks have been set up in the city to provide food to daily wage laborers at nominal rates. Govinda aspires to make Jaipur hunger-free by serving unlimited food to 200,000 children in and around the city, up from the current 50,000 plus.

### Nirmal Pant, Head, TAPF, Mangalore

Nirmal is a mechanical engineer from IIT, Kanpur. After a short stint at Infosys Ltd., he is currently in charge of the Akshaya Patra Foundation's operations in Mangalore, Nirmal is keen to scale up the feeding program and cover more children. To start with he would like to adopt all underprivileged schools in Mangalore so that the literacy levels go up and children get the benefit of education.

### Y N Sheshadri, Head, TAPF, Mysore

Armed with a degree in electrical engineering from the Regional Engineering College, Nagpur, Sheshadri started his career as a lecturer in Malnad College of Engineering, Hassan, before joining Infosys Technologies Ltd., Bangalore as a software engineer and now he oversees the operations in Mysore. His immediate agenda is to ensure the completion of the new kitchen facility at Mysore which has the capacity to cook food for 50,000 children.

### Karunya Sagar, Head, TAPF, Hassan

Young and energetic, Karunya Sagar studied two years of civil engineering course at M.S.Ramaiah College, Bangalore and now heads the Akshaya Patra initiative in Hassan. Although his program is only feeding 2,144 children currently, the roadmap for the future is to serve more number of children through a dedicated kitchen facility, expected to come up on a 6-acre plot in Hassan. Karunya Sagar hopes to adopt all government schools in the city and make it hunger-free as soon as feasible.



## People Power

### Inspired Leadership spurs growth

#### C C Das, Program Director, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)

C C Das completed his B Tech at the College of Engg., Thiruvananthapuram and worked in the chemical industry in Mumbai as a design engineer. After the inception of the Akshaya Patra program, he became involved as the Program Director bringing his experience of the catering industry as well as his fund-raising expertise to the mid-day meal program. He now spearheads all activities of the Akshaya Patra Foundation and has been particularly successful in raising funds in the international market. In this current year, he hopes to build a presence for Akshaya Patra in Orissa and is also looking forward to setting up an office in Boston, USA, to tap the huge potential of private funding bodies.

#### Janardana, Program Co-ordinator, TAPF, Bangalore

Ensuring that food for 120,000 children is cooked on time to exacting standards and there is no slip up in the quantity or quality is Janardana's key responsibility as the Chief of operations in Bangalore. With over 10 years of work experience in Big Blue IBM, this Bachelor of Technology from the reputed Regional College of Engineering, Trichy, has been monitoring the cooking processes since the last three years, with a keen eye for details. Janardana aspires to raise the bar for the noon meal program's hygiene and cleanliness, on par with the international standards.

#### Yogesh K P, Head, TAPF, Hubli-Dharwad

Young and energetic, Yogesh is presently heading the Akshaya Patra Foundation's rapidly expanding program at Hubli-Dharwad districts, where a large kitchen infrastructure is coming up to cater to the nearby towns and villages. Yogesh has been largely responsible for experimenting with different kinds of South Indian cuisine, in a bid to bring variety into the menu for children. By the time the next academic year commences, Yogesh hopes to see a fully functional big kitchen, extending the mid-day meal facility to underprivileged children in all the five talukas of Hubli-Dharwad district.

#### Vinod R, Head, TAPF, Vrindavan

Vinod is a diploma holder in Telecommunication & Systems Engineering and has worked as a senior sales officer in Mafatal Intex. Currently overseeing the noble hunger-eradication program of Akshaya Patra in the holy city of Vrindavan, Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh, Vinod is also active in raising awareness about the project and seeking support in the echelons of power, specifically in UP. The immediate task on hand is to ensure that the state-of-the-art kitchen in Vrindavan is used fully to feed 1,00,000 children.



**Jaipur:** Akshaya Patra celebrated its first anniversary in the Pink City in December 2005. Having successfully completed one year of operations in Rajasthan, it was time to celebrate. The celebrations had dignitaries such as the CM of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundara Raje, Minister of Education, Sri Ghanshyam Tiwari, the Chairman of Johari Dalam Sohanlal Charitable Trust, Chandanmal Baid, and many senior officers from the government of Rajasthan.

## Capsule

### Free meals for Moms

Nutrition is an essential component of prenatal care in women. A healthy diet contributes to a successful pregnancy by reducing complications and promoting adequate foetal growth and development. Research has proved that poorly nourished women are more likely to give birth to small and unhealthy babies, and the malnourishment continues even after the child is born.

Conscious of the poor health status of pregnant and nursing women, particularly from the economically weaker sections of the society, The Akshaya Patra Foundation has decided to extend its mid-day meal facility to women.

The program for expectant mothers was first implemented in Baran district in Rajasthan and is now being offered to women in Bangalore as well. For which, the Foundation has tied up with the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) to facilitate the distribution of wholesome meals to 3000 pregnant and nursing mothers, to start with. This program has already commenced.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated the mechanized kitchen, which is perhaps the biggest kitchen facility in Rajasthan dedicated entirely to the service of underprivileged children.

Another interesting development at Jaipur is the lateral growth of the program to provide meals to daily-wage laborers at subsidized rates of Rs 4 per plate. Nutritious food, mainly rotis and subzi, are given away to these people at specially erected pandals in many parts of the city. Currently around 100 laborers visit these kiosks every evening for partaking the meals.

Again in the backward district of Baran, the Akshaya Patra program also serves wholesome free meals to nursing mothers and pregnant women, besides deprived children.

In rest of the cities such as Mysore, Hassan and Mangalore, the feeding activity is continuing without significant addition to the number of children being fed.

### James Bond in Jaipur

Hollywood actor Roger Moore better known for his role as James Bond, and his wife who were in India a month ago, visited the Akshaya Patra facility in Jaipur. Mr. Moore tasted the salt used in the kitchen for its iodine content and announced that Akshaya Patra gets 10 on 10.



## Vidya Akshaya Patra

### Scholarships for the talented



In Bangalore: Under the auspices of Vidya Akshaya Patra, a range of educational incentives are being offered in schools already covered by the mid-day meal program. With an ongoing partnership with Pratiksha Foundation and Sarojini Damodaran Trust, scholarships for students intending to continue their higher studies were distributed during a well-attended ceremony in the ISKCON multi-vision theatre, Bangalore, on 29th October 2005. Scholarships of Rs 2,500/- each were awarded to 500 meritorious students who had cleared the State Board 10th examinations in the year 2004-05 with a high first division.

Honorable Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, B Ramalinga Reddy presided over the function. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister assured of government support for the educational initiatives taken up by the Foundation. The scholarships were sponsored by Pratiksha Foundation and Sarojini Damodaran Trust. T M Vijaya Bhaskar,

Secretary, Department of Education, was also present on the occasion.

In Mysore: Students of government schools from Mysore city and nearby districts, who had secured distinctions in the State Board (SSLC) examinations for the year 2005, were given scholarships to pursue higher studies. N R Narayana Murthy, Chief Mentor and Chairman of Infosys Technologies, distributed the scholarships of Rs 2,500 each to 100 students at an awards ceremony organized at the Infosys campus in Mysore on 25th December 2005. In all, 50 boys and an equal number of girls received the scholarships.

T.V. Mohandas Pai, Trustee of The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Stoka Krishna Das, Head of The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Mysore, Nagendra Kumar, Nodal Officer of Education Department, E. Nanjappa, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Prof. Srinivasa Kulkarni, Scientist, California Institute of Technology, US and Ramdas Kamath, Trustee of The Akshaya Patra Foundation were present on the occasion. The Pratiksha Foundation has donated Rs 2.5 lakh towards scholarships.



## Tastes of India

### Food fiesta for fund-raising

A two-day celebration of Indian cuisine showcased scrumptious delights from across the country at the ISKCON temple premises in Bangalore on December 31st, 2005 and January 1st, 2006. An annual fundraiser for the much-acclaimed mid-day meal program, Akshaya Patra, the food festival was inaugurated by popular National award winning Kannada actress, Tara.

The fourth edition of the gourmet festival had more than 56 mouth-watering dishes from kitchens across India. And for the first time in four years, the festival was



built around the theme of ancient rivers of India. Time-tested recipes from regions around major rivers were made available to visitors in an unlimited buffet spread.

Dilruba tandoori, una paneer from the Jhelum-Sutlej-Beas region competed with warqui parathas, sultani dal, and kachu pathar jhol from the Brahmaputra-Ganga-Yamuna basin. This side of Vindhya had the famous appam and kadala curry of Kerala vying with Mangalore kadabu, mattu gulla gazi and an assortment of dosas. Besides, there were finger-licking chaats and delicious sweets as well.

More than 4,800 visitors took part in the festival.

## Help, Anyone?

Fifteen-year-old Vijayakumar is a 10th grader in Corporation High School, Marappanpalya, Bangalore. With a chronically ill mother to take care of an elder sister to be married off and memories of a father who died of tuberculosis, Vijayakumar is carrying enormous responsibility on his frail shoulders at a very young age. What is sustaining him is the nutritious meal that he gets to eat in school, during lunchtime, provided by the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

He is brilliant in studies, a fact that all his teachers vouchsafe, but with no means to pursue higher education. Fondly cherishing a desire to become a doctor, he says, "I will then be able to cure my mother. My father died because we did not have enough money for his treatment."

Fear is writ large on his face at the thought of, "what next?" He would be lucky if he could get into one of the

colleges run by the city corporation as all educational institutions run by the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike are served free, wholesome meals by The Akshaya Patra Foundation. But if he does not, for some reason, then what happens? Vijayakumar dreads to think of the vicious cycle.

Since he belongs to the SC/ST category and is also a merit student, admission into a college may not be too difficult. What is required is a kind-hearted Godfather to support his fees, books, and other incidental expenses.

Anyone interested in helping Vijayakumar can contact:

Mr. Veerabadihah (school teacher)  
on +95-8162 2271013 or send an email to  
infodesk@akshayapatra.org



## Akshaya Arogya

### Becozinc distribution to supplement nutrients

Governed by the belief that good health is an integral part of the all-round development of children, the Akshaya Patra Foundation offers medical assistance.

In the last quarter of 2005, the Foundation received 150,000 Becozinc multivitamin capsules worth Rs 60 lakhs from Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad. These capsules were administered to students in the age group 6-14 in primary schools under the noon meal program in rural and urban areas of Bangalore during the month of December.



Around 255,881 Becozinc tablets have been distributed in 227 schools in Bangalore so far. Another 20 schools are yet to be covered.

Two rounds of training on how to administer the tablets were conducted by the Foundation in collaboration with The District Institute of Education Research & Training, Govt of Karnataka. The heads of the educational institutions were briefed by the State Asst. Nutrition Officer and Dr. Diwakar of M.S. Ramaiah Medical College.



### Children speak



"Before coming to school, sometimes I get to eat what my mother has brought from other houses. I don't like it much. I come to school and eagerly look forward to the 12.30 bell. I know I will get fresh food. I can eat lots of rice, sambar with vegetables and curds daily."

**Nagma Banu, Government Urdu Higher Primary school, Malleswaram, Bangalore**



**In Jaipur:** Scholarships for deserving students keen on continuing their higher studies were distributed during a ceremony to mark the first anniversary of The Akshaya Patra Foundation in Jaipur in December. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan Vasundara Raje Scindia and Hon'ble Minister for Education graced the occasion. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari distributed scholarships of Rs 2,500 each to 100 students from 16 schools. The scholarships were sponsored by Johari Dalam Sohanlal Baid Charitable Trust, Mumbai.



### Training the Trainers

A teachers training program for 50 teachers from Gulbarga district was organized in partnership with Sri Kottala Basaveshwara Bharatiya Shikshana Samiti (Hyderabad Karnataka Abhivruddhi Vibhag). Under the stewardship of the Director of the Regional Institute of English, Bangalore, Mrs. Gayatri Devi Dutt, a 13 days residential training course was conducted for school teachers, both men and women, at the University Training campus, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore, in the last week of October. C V Thirumala Rao co-ordinated the program.

### Orienting the school Head Masters

As per the advise of the Commissioner of Public Instruction, Kolar District (said to be the least performing district in SSLC Board examinations in 2005) 246 High schools were adopted by Vidya Akshaya Patra. Two rounds of orientation programs on School Improvement Plan were organized for 300 headmasters of the High Schools of Kolar district at Kolar Gold Fields. This was held in partnership with the Zila Panchayat, TAPF and State resource unit of the Education Department.



## VIPs Come Calling

"I request you to provide mid-day meals for all govt schools in Bangalore. I appreciate your work."

**Ramalinga Reddy**  
Minister for Primary & Higher Education,  
Government of Karnataka



Roger Moore and his wife in Jaipur during his campaign to promote use of iodine in salt — "Akshaya Patra gets 10 on 10 for the iodine content in the salt used for cooking. This is indeed a great cause."

**Roger Moore, Hollywood Actor**  
better known for his role as James Bond



"This is a yeomen service rendered. I must congratulate all those who are working for the program and wish them all success in this endeavor."

**Naveen Kumar**  
Director General, Doordarshan



"I am impressed by the Akshaya Patra program. Hygienic and nutritious food is provided to children. This system may please be implemented in Rajasthan state also."

**Moolchand Meena, MP (Rajya Sabha)**



"Akshaya Patra is a very very good program."

**Sri Sri Ravishankar**  
Founder Director, Art of Living Foundation