

Annapurna Akshaya Patra Yojana

Food is a basic human need. It was observed that there are many people in the city who work hard throughout the day, yet they could not afford food for themselves and their families. Rising demand for food made it a point that people truly needed such kind of a scheme and feeding people was the need of the hour. Apparently this is the reason why Annapurna Akshaya Patra Yojana scheme was given so much attention. The government officials also took note of this high demand therefore at the start of the scheme, they have increased the production of chapattis by 4000 units at one go.

Also it was come into notice during the feasibility study that mass no of people from the poor strata of society were undernourished however they have to indulge in maximum physical labour. Hence not just food at cheaper price but healthy food at cheaper price was the need. Therefore experts and officials were engaged to achieve this aim

Annapurna Akshaya Patra Yojana is a new meal scheme started by Chandigarh administration in Chandigarh union territory. Under this scheme, the government is providing food to poor people at the lesser cost compared to the market. The scheme aims to provide the nutritious diet to needy people in Chandigarh. In this meal package, the government provides food at Rs. 10/- only which includes 6 Chapattis, Sabji, and pickle to poor peoples of Chandigarh. **So far, 8,31,897 food packets** have been prepared and distributed among the masses.

1. **Benefits of food at Rs. 10/- only (6 Chapattis, Sabji, and pickle) to poor peoples**
2. Benefits of nutritious diet to needy people in Chandigarh
3. Clean, hygienic and nutritious food for poor people
4. It has made the people to stay healthy and therefore performing better in their work resulting in better development of the nation.
5. Benefitted large no of poor people who have been struggling to have the food for themselves.
6. So far, 8,31,897 food packets have been prepared and benefitted the masses in large scale
7. The scheme is running in a self sustainable model which is one of its kind in entire country thus setting an example for other organizations, institutions to come forwards and contribute in such noble causes.

There were several challenges and problems that needs to be addressed while implementing this scheme:

1. Huge cost involved for setting up infrastructure and running this scheme
2. Challenge to keep alive this noble scheme by making this model a self sustainable model.
3. Identification of most crucial points and manpower for the distribution of food packets
4. Maintaining the hygiene and the quality of the food because if not maintained, the purpose of entire scheme would fail and instead of enhancing the health factor, it will further deteriorate.

The scheme was implemented with the active support of Labour Department, Health Department, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Sewa Bharti, Chandigarh, Panchkula Gaushala Trust and Market Committee under CSR. Team of experts and officials were engaged to keep a check on the hygiene and the quality of the food.

The first step in implementation was to bring all stakeholders on board. The distribution of Food packets amongst the poor and needy persons is made through five mobile food vans with covered body. Two people in each vehicle is deputed, one is driver and second is helper. The driver at the location get Rs.10/- and issue the Red Cross receipt/token of Rs.10/-. The beneficiaries handover the token/receipt to the distributor/helper and collect their food packet. In this way a proper accountability of the collection will be made. Distribution areas were fixed and two time slots one in the afternoon and one in evening were fixed.

Initially five hundred packets (500) were supplied to each location and was increased gradually as per the requirement/demand of the location. So far, 8,31,897 food packets have been prepared and distributed among the masses. Aim is to reach to every corner of the city and make available food to all the needy people. Contribution towards construction of Steel Fabrication shed of Kitchen amounting to Rs.16 Lakh has been made by the Panchkula Gaushala Trust.

ACTIVE SUPPORTERS

1. Labour Department, U.T. CHD
2. Health Department, U.T. CHD
3. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
4. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
5. Sewa Bharti, Chandigarh
6. Panchkula Gaushala Trust
7. Market Committee

Contribution under CSR: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Company Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited

The machines/vehicles are donated under Corporate Social Responsibility. The total cost of items is Rs.60 Lac (approximate). A sum of Rs.26,39,760/- have been released by Smt. Kirron Kher, MP, Chandigarh for purchase of 5 Vehicles for this project under MPLAD Scheme.

DISTRIBUTION AREA:

AFTERNOON TIME: (AROUND 12 noon to 2.30 PM) (AROUND 1200 FOOD PACKETS)
GMSH-16, Chandigarh, PGIMER, Chandigarh, Red Cross Office, Sector 11, Mandi-26 & Motor Market, Manimajra, Chandigarh and Motor Market, Sector 38 & Sector 48.

EVENING TIME (AROUND 1500 FOOD PACKETS)

- DHANAS (covering EWS Colony & Sabzi Mandi, Dhanas)
- COLONY NO. 4 (covering Industrial Area, Labour Chowk, Colony No.4 and Raen Basera-17)
- RAMDARBAR (covering Labour Chowk, Ramdarbar and Kabaadi Market, Hallomarja)
- MANIMAJRA (covering Labour Chowk, Sabzi Mandi & Motor Market)
- MANDI (covering Sector 26 Mandi, Transport Area & Raen Basera-26).

The scheme is running in a self sustainable model which is one of its kind in entire country. It is achieved by utilization of any govt. resources i.e. through cost recovered by sale of packets and donations.