

# CM Das launches scheme to provide milk to school kids

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LATEHAR: Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das on Tuesday launched 'Gift Milk' scheme, an initiative under which children studying in government primary and middle schools would get packaged fortified milk along with mid-day meal.

By giving 200 ml of flavoured milk before mid-day meal to school students, the scheme aims at adding nutritional value to the food on offer for the kids.

In the first phase, nearly 10,000 students from 28 schools situated close to the national and state highway in Latehar district will get chilled milk with different flavours on week days. The school children of other districts would also be covered under the scheme soon, officials said.

Launching the scheme in the Maoist-infested Latehar district, the chief minister symbolically handed over milk packs to 20 school children.

Foundation for Nutrition, a National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) initiative, has been entrusted with the task of delivering milk, while the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) is meeting the cost on this ambitious project from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund.

As per the MoU, the NDDB will ensure milk supply to the schools in deep freezers and the milk has to be consumed within two hours after delivery.

Launching the scheme, the chief minister said, "Malnutrition is a big threat for the all-



Chief minister Raghubar Das launching the 'Gift Milk' programme for school children, in Latehar on Tuesday.

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## ACTION PLAN

- 10,000 school children to be covered in first phase.
- 28 government schools located close to highways in Latehar selected.
- 200 ml of packaged milk to be provided before mid-day meal.
- Milk will have five flavours on different days.
- National Dairy Development Board to ensure supplies in freezer vans.
- REC to fund the initiative from CSR funds.

round development of state. It is not only affecting the health of pregnant women, but children too are suffering from nutrient deficiency. 'Gift Milk' is part of our initiative to provide healthy food to the people of our state."

"People should come together to end deaths caused by malnutrition in the society. We have decided to celebrate 2018 as Nirogi Baal Varsh (Healthy Children Year)," he added.

Das further called upon the people of Jharkhand to create a demand for Medha, Jharkhand's own dairy brand, to support local

milk producers. "Presently, we are importing milk products worth over Rs 400 crore annually from other states. This should be stopped so as to promote local dairies."

Jharkhand agriculture minister Randhir Singh, development commissioner Amit Khare, the NDDB chairman Dilip Rath were present on the occasion.

Most of the schools selected for the first phase of Gift Milk project were situated near the highways in Chandwa, Latehar, Manika and Garu blocks of the district, officials said.