

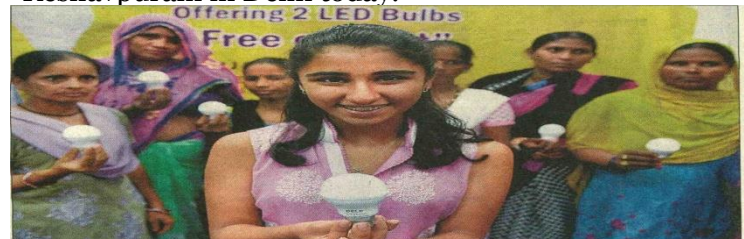
## Energy Efficiency Champions: Meera

**Meera Vashisht**, a 13-year old girl living in Sugarland, Texas, USA, studying in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Sartartia Middle School. She was working on a science project in her school in Texas Last year when she first heard about the Indian Government's move to replace each of the 77 crore existing incandescent bulbs with power saving light emitting diode(LED) ones. Meera, who was born and brought up in America and is a seventh grader student began thinking harder: would it be really possible for India's underprivileged to replace their incandescent bulbs with LED lamps that are over seven times as expensive?

The 13-year old got down to drafting a letter which she sent out approx 500 letters to "random people that she could find in her family phone book", explaining the government's objective of reducing greenhouses as well as taking electricity to the poorest villages in India and asking for donations that would enable her to distribute LED bulbs. The problem however, as she pointed out in the letter, is that although the government was subsidizing the cost of outreach of the poorest sections of the society where the maximum impact will be felt. Meera's letter was a plea for donations that would enable her to distribute LED bulbs on her visit to India. "Electricity is empowerment. In rural areas, it helps kids study after dusk, it helps ease the workload of people, it improves agricultural output", she explained to her potential donors.



Meera has collected \$2,079.51 or approximately Rs.1,40,000, with which she purchased 1850nos. 7W LED bulbs from Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), the implementing agency for the UJALA programme and distributed them to the residents of JJ clusters in Keshavpuram in Delhi today.



US-born Meera Vashisht distributes LED bulbs to underprivileged people in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

### US girl lights up lives in Delhi

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** A 14-year-old girl from America has raised Rs 1.4 lakh through crowd-funding to distribute energy efficient bulbs to underprivileged sections in India. Meera Vashisht, a girl of Indian origin living in Houston, who learnt about India's 'Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all' (UJALA) programme while working on her 7th class science project, collected \$2,079.51 with the help of her parents, reaching out to 500 people in her vicinity in Houston, Texas (US). She purchased LED bulbs from the Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), the implementing agency for UJALA, and distributed them to residents of JJ clusters in Keshavpuram in New Delhi on Wednesday, it added. Six hundred families will benefit from the 1,800 LED bulbs bought from the funds collected by Vashisht. "LED bulbs use less than half the energy of an incandescent bulb and runs for over 7-8 years. I am very happy to have been able to carry out the distribution of LED bulbs and hope to inspire young minds across the globe for working towards energy efficiency," she said. Project Manager of UJALA scheme in Delhi, Jitender Kohli, said: "It is inspiring to see the young generation taking lead in conserving the environment." The UJALA programme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has already distributed 12.60 crore LED bulbs across India, which is leading to a daily energy savings of about 4.46 crore kWh and resulting in avoidance of about 3,278 MW of peak demand, he added.

## Teen raises funds to distribute free LEDs

**New Delhi (PTI):** Teenager Meera Vashisht, an Indian origin girl living in the US, has raised around Rs 1.4 lakh through crowd funding to distribute LED bulbs to underprivileged sections in India.

Vashisht, who learnt about India's 'Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all' (UJALA) programme while working on her 7th class science project, collected USD 2,079.51 with the help of her parents and reached out to 500 people in her vicinity in Houston, Texas (US), the Power Ministry said.

She purchased LED bulbs from the Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), the implementing agency for UJALA, and distributed them to residents of JJ clusters in Keshavpuram in New Delhi on Wednesday, it added. Six hundred families will benefit from 1,800 LED bulbs to be provided under the UJALA scheme from the funds collected by Vashisht.

"LED bulbs use less than half the energy of an incandescent bulb and runs for over 7-8 years. I am very happy to have been able to carry out the distribution of LED bulbs and hope to inspire young minds across the globe for working towards energy efficiency," she said.

Vashisht also believes that her effort will result in

Meera purchased bulbs from the Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), the implementing agency for UJALA, and distributed them to residents of JJ clusters in Keshavpuram in New Delhi

lighting up 46 houses for one year, reducing electricity bills by Rs 2,500 and most importantly there will be significant reduction in CO2 emissions every year, the Ministry said.

Under UJALA, over 12.60 crore LED bulbs have already been distributed across India, which is leading to a daily energy savings of about 4.46 crore kWh and resulting in avoidance of about 3,278 MW of peak demand, it added.

Through the scheme, the estimated cumulative cost reduction of bills of consumers, per day, is Rs 1794 crore and is part of the governments efforts to spread the message of energy efficiency in the country.



US-born Meera Vashisht holds LED bulb with beneficiaries at a junction where she distributed LED bulbs to underprivileged people in New Delhi on Wednesday.