

December, 2025

IN FOCUS



VISIT OF LTIMINDTREE GLOBAL ESG HEAD



Ms. Archana Sahay, Global ESG Head, **LTIMindtree**, visited the MSF Zonal Office in Balangir, where she launched the Special Edition Newsletter of the Integrated Village Development Program. The publication highlights the progress, impact, and key interventions implemented across Gudvella, Paikmal, and M Rampur blocks. The launch was carried out in the presence of Mr. Jitender Ghangas, Associate Director – ESG & Sustainability - LTIM, and Mr. Devi Prasad Raiguru, Senior Manager, marking an important milestone in recognizing the collaborative efforts and achievements under the program.

MOU SIGNED WITH KIIT AND KISS DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY



Mahashakti Foundation signed an MoU with **KIIT Deemed to be University** and **KISS Deemed to be University** to collaborate on establishing localized Farmer Organization Incubation Centres (FOIC) and strengthening enterprise development. The partnership outlines joint work on entrepreneurship training and establishing incubation structures to support farmer collectives. The ceremony was convened in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT DU; Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, KIIT DU; Dr. Prashanta Kumar Routray, Registrar, KISS DU; Pinaki Nandan Pattnaik, Dean School of Leadership, KIIT DU, Mr. Jugal Kishore Pattnayak, Managing Director, Mahashakti Foundation and Dr. Debasish Mohapatra, Professor KSRM and Coordinator School of Leadership KIIT DU.

FIELD VISIT CONDUCTED BY HDFC PARIVARTAN CSR LEADERSHIP



Mr. Chandan Kumar Nayak, CSR Manager, **HDFC Bank Parivartan**, visited Project Chirantan fields in Dhenkanal for a two-day review across Bhuban and Kankadahada blocks. He observed key interventions including the Farmers' Field School, Azolla Village, SHG-led Jhain Moong, mushroom & Badi enterprises, the Hi-Tech Nursery, water conservation structures, solar-based micro-irrigation systems, vermiculture units, cluster vegetable cultivation, and Automatic Weather Station sites. He interacted with women's groups and project teams to assess progress and shared recommendations on strengthening local branding of products.

MAHASHAKTI PARTICIPATED IN ODISHA VIKASH CONCLAVE 2025



Mahashakti Foundation participated in the Odisha Vikash Conclave 2025, organized by **CYSD** as one of the collaborators for the track "Community-Led Monitoring and Social Accountability (PRI)". Our Director of Operations, Mr. Mohan K Baliyarsingh, joined the "Climate Smart Panchayat" as a panelist, which explored how local governance plays a decisive role in climate action and risk preparedness. Several community members from our field areas also participated in the session, sharing grounded perspectives on managing climate stresses at the grassroots.

LTIMINDTREE TEAM CONDUCTS THREE-DAY FIELD VISIT



A three-day field visit was conducted by the **LTIMindtree** team to review the progress of the Integrated Village Development Program implemented across M.Rampur, & Gudvella blocks. The visit included the formal inauguration of the Block-Level Science Exhibition and Digi Pathshala at Duta High School, M Rampur, enhancing academic learning for rural students. The team also reviewed key interventions such as the Model Nursery at Gudvella, Model Village Chandanpinda, a renovated Anganwadi Centre, poultry units, new farm ponds, school sanitation improvements, orchard plantation with solar irrigation, and additional Digi Pathshalas at Rusuda Ashram School and Biramunda UP School.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AWARENESS PROGRAMME ORGANIZED



Mahashakti Foundation, in collaboration with **Vedanta-VGCB**, conducted a Menstrual Hygiene and Health Awareness Programme at Visakha Government Junior College. A total of 128 students participated in the session, which aimed to raise awareness about menstrual health, hygiene practices, and the importance of maintaining personal well-being during the menstrual cycle. The programme was graced by Smt. K. Vijaya, Principal of the College, and Smt. Jhansi Laxmi, Resource Person, addressed the students and shared valuable insights on adopting healthy menstrual practices.

NABARD CGM VISITS BANANA CSS INITIATIVE IN BALANGIR



A field visit by Mr S.K. Talukdar, CGM-NABARD, was conducted to the Banana Cluster at Mahimunda village, Balangir district. The cluster is developed under the Central Sector Scheme of the government of India, supported by **NABARD**. The visit was also accompanied by Mr Niranjan Bhuyan (DGM - NABARD), Mr Ananta Patnana (AGM - NABARD), and Dr Vivek Kumar Nayak (DDM - NABARD, Balangir). The officials interacted with the farmers, reviewed the progress of the Banana Cluster Development initiative, and appreciated the collective efforts taken to strengthen farmer income and promote sustainable horticulture practices in the region.

FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING ORGANIZED FOR ARTISANS



A Financial Literacy Training Program was organized for a total of 25 artisans supported by **TPCODL** at the Samridhhi Cluster, Balianata. Key topics such as managing income and expenses, preparing household budgets, distinguishing between needs and wants, the importance of digital payments, and awareness about loans, SIPs, mutual funds, gold investments, and savings were covered. Essential guidelines for preventing cybercrime were also discussed. The session was conducted in an interactive manner, during which real-life examples were shared by the participants, and the practical knowledge provided was widely appreciated.

SR. IAS OFFICIAL REVIEWS MSF INTERVENTIONS IN GUDVELLA



During his visit to Gudvella Block in Balangir, Sr. IAS Vineel Krishna Ravela, **Joint Secretary, Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India**, reviewed ongoing social development initiatives of Mahashakti Foundation along with district and block officials. He visited field interventions supported by **LTIMindtree, Reliance Foundation, and NABARD**. The visit was accompanied by ADM Sri Bijayananda Sethy, PD Sri Tarani Suna, CDAO Sri Dharendra Singh Bariha, DDH Sri Sudesh Kumar Choudhury, AHO Ms. Geetikrishna Naik, DPM Ms. Nilima Kujur, DPC Sri Anil Dahanga, BDO Sri Gureswar Bhoi, and BPM Sri Tirthaba Bag.

PROJECT SAKHYAM LAUNCHES 15-DAY ANIMAL HEALTH CAMP



Project Sakhyam, supported by **Jindal Stainless**, marked the commencement of a 15-day Animal Health Camp aimed at improving livestock health and supporting rural households. A total of 6 health camps have been completed in 4 GPs covering 1152 households & 2848 animals. The vaccination drive was conducted in the presence and supervision of Dr. Partha Sarthi Jena, Block Veterinary Officer, Danagadi, whose technical guidance ensured effective implementation of the activity, strengthening animal health, reducing disease risks, and enhancing the livelihood security of rural communities.

LTIMINDTREE FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATED AT IVDP LOCATIONS



The **LTIMindtree Foundation Day** was celebrated across Paikmal UP School, Durga Madhab High School - M Rampur, & Jamut Government Higher Secondary School, Gudvella. At Paikmal, 212 students participated in debate & quiz, and prize distribution ceremony was attended by BEO Mr. Adan Suna, Ex-ABO, Shri Premananda Barik, and CRCC Paikmal. At M Rampur, 282 students took part in quiz, debate, singing, and prize distribution programmes. At Gudvella, various competitions, including dance, song, debate, painting, and quiz, were held with participation from students of Class 9 to +2 First Year, graced by Chief Guest Shri Bhabsingh Majhi, Sarpanch of Jamut GP.

ORIENTATION AND INTERACTION SESSION ORGANIZED FOR GETs



Project Shakti, supported by **Hindalco Industries Limited**, recently conducted an orientation and interaction session for Hindalco's Graduate Engineer Trainees (GETs), offering an overview of the project's objectives, scope and enterprise development approach. The GETs visited the field to observe ground-level implementation and engaged with various SHGs to study their enterprise models. The exposure offered them practical insights into SHG functioning and the role of capacity building, government convergence as well as market linkages in micro-enterprise development.

2-DAY WORKSHOP ORGANIZED FOR SUBHALAXMI UDYOGINI PROJECT



A two-day Business Development Plan Workshop was held at Hotel Apurva in Bolangir under the Subhalaxmi Udyogini Project, supported by **Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business**, Jharsuguda. The workshop brought together field staff and Board Members of Subhalaxmi Cooperative to discuss goal setting, operational planning, and systems development for effective cooperative management. Representatives from MFIs shared insights on field operations, loan management, documentation, and digital payment systems. The participants also collaborated on developing Subhalaxmi's business plan, organizational structure, and loan product design.

FIELD VISIT BY PRADAN TO APC PROJECT FIELD



The Professional Assistance For Development Action (PRADAN) team visited the **APC Project** field, supported by the Government of Odisha, in Dhadlomunda village and engaged with the Shree Radharani Producer Group during the Cauliflower Cluster visit. The visiting team included Mr. Ajit Naik (State Head), Mr. Satish Patnaik (Zonal Head), along with other team members from PRADAN and DRDA. The interaction focused on crop performance, good agricultural practices, and irrigation planning, while reinforcing the importance of collective action and strengthened Producer Group systems for better livelihood outcomes.

VEGETABLE CLUSTER DEVELOPED UNDER PROJECT CHIRANTAN



A model vegetable cluster is being developed at Mahapatreswar Water User Group under Project Chirantan, supported by **HDFC Bank Parivartan**, with the aim of strengthening sustainable agriculture and improving farmer livelihoods. The initiative includes the supply of high-quality vegetable seeds, preparation and use of organic manure, installation of solar fencing to prevent crop damage, promotion of azolla and vermicompost production, and the establishment of a hi-tech nursery for continuous seed and sapling availability. Through these integrated interventions, farmers are increasing productivity & progressing toward improved incomes and resilient community development.

VEDANTA VGCB INITIATIVE DRIVES SPORTING EXCELLENCE



Project Yuva, supported by **Vedanta VGCB**, a unit of Vedanta Group, has brought national recognition to Queen Mary Girls High School as the students secured second place overall at the Open National Wadoki Karate and Kung-Fu Championship 2025 held in Hyderabad. Through the project, 373 girls have been receiving free karate training since 2023 and this year, 30 students represented the school at the national championship and returned with an exceptional tally of 60 medals. In Kata, the team secured 17 Gold, 10 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals, while in Kumite, they earned 8 Gold, 17 Silver, and 5 Bronze medals.

CONVERGENCE PROGRAM ACROSS TPCODL PROJECTS



A convergence program was organized at the Adhikaar Centre in Kankadahada, Dhenkanal, bringing together three key projects - Adhikaar, Aarogya, and Vidya, supported by **TPCODL**. The objective was to strengthen interlinkages among these projects to enable the teams to work collectively towards shared goals. The event was graced by representatives from TPCODL, Mahashakti Foundation, Leora Foundation, and Shree Jagannath Hospital. The session highlighted the specific focus areas of each project: Aarogya on health awareness and services, Vidya on women's education, and Adhikaar on facilitating access to government entitlements and social security benefits.

UTEIVALLEY FPO AGGREGATES 253 QUINTALS OF MAIZE



A maize cluster covering 100 acres of land has been established by Uteivalley FPO in Jhaliaguba and Ambagoan, M. Rampur, promoted by Mahashakti Foundation under the Government of India's Central Sector Scheme for promotion of 10,000 FPOs, supported by **NABARD** - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Following the harvest, the FPO facilitated the aggregation and procurement of 253 quintals of maize, which was supplied to Krishna Mill, Kantabanji, thereby strengthening price realization and enhancing producer-level income outcomes.



SUCCESS STORY



WOMEN FARMER ACHIEVES SUCCESS THROUGH OKRA CULTIVATION

Ms. Soudamini Pradhan, aged 39, lives in Basiapada village under Birsingharh Panchayat in Jujomura block. She completed her education up to Class 10 and is a single parent caring for her 13-year-old daughter, who is currently in Class 9. After the passing of her husband, she has been independently managing both her household as well as the farmland that supports their livelihood. The sudden shift from shared responsibilities to single-handedly running the family placed significant pressure on her, but she continued to rely on agriculture as her primary source of income. Her engagement with community groups gradually opened the door to new opportunities that could strengthen her agricultural work.

Soudamini is an active member of the Maa Jhadeswari Producer Group. Through this platform, she was selected for support under the APC Project, supported by the Government of Odisha, which had converged with the Horticulture Department to promote vegetable cultivation among small and marginal farmers. As part of this initiative, she received 250 grams of okra seed, which she decided to cultivate on 50 decimals of her land. The seed distribution took place at a crucial time in the agricultural calendar, enabling her to plan and prepare her land without delay. She completed the plantation within a month, ensuring proper spacing and seed placement to achieve healthy crop establishment.

Once the crop cycle began, she followed all required field practices with consistency. This included regular weeding to prevent nutrient loss, regular irrigation to maintain soil moisture, careful monitoring for pest infestation, and appropriate use of organic or recommended inputs whenever required. Her disciplined approach helped her manage the field effectively even without additional labour support. Because of her timely interventions and the suitability of the crop to local conditions, the okra plants performed well throughout the season.

At harvest, Soudamini produced more than 11 quintals of okra. She sold the produce in the local market at fair prices and earned over ₹29,000 during the season. This income was significant for her household, enabling her to meet daily needs, manage school-related expenses for her daughter, and reduce the financial pressure she had been facing. For a single parent managing limited land resources, this outcome was both encouraging and stabilizing.

The experience has strengthened her confidence in vegetable cultivation and increased her interest in continuing similar crop cycles in the coming seasons. Her progress has gained attention within the village, and other women are now approaching her to understand the process and consider taking up similar livelihoods under Producer Groups. Her case demonstrates the practical impact of timely support, convergence initiatives, and consistent field-level effort, showing how even a modest intervention can contribute meaningfully to improving the lives of smallholder women farmers.

SUCCESS STORY



MUSHROOM CULTIVATION BOOSTS RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN BALANGIR

Rural livelihoods in Balangir district continue to depend primarily on agriculture, a sector marked by low productivity, seasonality of income, and limited avenues for diversification. In response to these persistent challenges, Mahashakti Foundation introduced a community-based mushroom cultivation initiative in Gudvella block under its Diversifying Rural Income & Women Entrepreneurship (DRIWE) theme, implemented as part of the ISRRRC project supported by **Reliance Foundation**. The intervention aims to expand income opportunities for rural households while strengthening women's participation in local enterprise development. The program focuses on practical training, input support, and continuous technical guidance, enabling women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to adopt a low-cost, climate-resilient, and nutrition-rich livelihood option that can generate returns throughout the year.

The initiative currently covers four villages across three Gram Panchayats of Gudvella block, engaging 10 SHGs and more than 100 women beneficiaries. With technical support, 900 mushroom beds have been prepared using locally available materials, and SHG members have been trained in all essential stages of cultivation, including spawn inoculation, moisture management, harvesting, and post-harvest handling. Early results have been encouraging, with 27 kilograms of fresh mushrooms harvested to date.

The implementation process also highlighted several operational challenges. For many SHG members, mushroom cultivation was a new activity, necessitating repeated hands-on demonstrations and close follow-up. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity affected the growing environment, bringing attention to the need for improved low-cost structures. Market access remains a concern due to limited aggregation capacities and the absence of structured linkages. Additionally, dependence on external spawn suppliers caused delays in bed preparation during the initial phase.

Despite this, the initiative has shown strong potential to evolve into a scalable, women-centric livelihood model. The next phase of the program will focus on developing village-level mushroom clusters, strengthening collective marketing, and connecting SHGs with FPOs and local retail markets to improve price realization. Plans are underway to explore a low-cost spawn production unit within the block and integrate mushroom cultivation into broader livelihood diversification efforts.

The mushroom cultivation initiative in Gudvella block demonstrates how targeted grassroots interventions, supported by active community participation and institutional guidance, can broaden livelihood opportunities for rural women. With continued hand-holding support and enhanced market linkages, the involved SHGs are positioned to progress toward self-reliant micro-enterprise development.

