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IN FOCUS



MAHASHAKTI FOUNDATION

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

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INDIA



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VANA MAHOTSAV CELEBRATION ACROSS PROJECT LOCATIONS



Under the Integrated Village Development Program, supported by **LTIMindtree**, the 76th Vana Mahotsav was celebrated by Mahashakti Foundation across Paikmal, M Rampur, and Gudvella Blocks in Odisha to promote environmental awareness and encourage tree plantation. On 4th July, events were held at schools in M Rampur and Paikmal, with the participation of 245 individuals and the plantation of over 3,000 saplings. On 7th July, celebrations continued in Jamut village and schools in Gudvella Block, engaging 230 participants and planting 1,700 saplings, including native forest species such as Jackfruit, Karanja, Neem, and Amla. Forest officials, PRI members, and school authorities supported the initiative. The events encouraged environmental awareness and strengthened community engagement, especially among students.

Mahashakti Foundation also celebrated Vana Mahotsav (Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0) at Nuagaon, Saptasajya in Dhenkanal, with the Dhokra artisans of Project Samridhi, supported by **Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd.**

The event witnessed participation from the artisan community, who came together to contribute to the plantation drive. The program was graced by the presence of Mr. Abhimanyu Behera, Sarpanch of Saptasajya Gram Panchayat, and Mr. Laxman Tudu, Samiti Sabhya, who lauded the initiative. In his address, Mr. Behera highlighted the vital role of plantations in environmental conservation and encouraged the community to nurture the saplings as a shared responsibility for a greener future.



MANIKYADEVI FPO SUPPORTS FISH FARMERS IN KALAHANDI



Manikyadevi Fish Producer Company Ltd, based in Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi district, promoted by Mahashakti Foundation under the Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India, supported by **NABARD** - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, provides comprehensive input and output services to local fish farmers. The FPO offers end-to-end support services to local fish farmers, including the sale of fish feed and medicines through an input outlet in Jaipatna market, and the marketing of fish fingerlings and live fish.

NURSERY MANAGEMENT TRAINING HELD AT GHENUPALI



A village-level training program on Nursery Management was conducted at Ghenupali village, Jujomura Block. The training was organized under the APC project, with support from the **Horticulture Department**, government of Odisha, Sambalpur. The session covered topics like the importance of soil-less nurseries, the difference between soil-based and soil-less nurseries, how to manage a soil-less nursery, and how it can be a source of income. The materials used in soil-less nurseries and their benefits were also discussed. A live demonstration of soil-less nursery preparation was done.

AWARENESS SESSIONS HELD ON MENSTRUAL HEALTH & HYGIENE



Under Project "Pehli Udaan", supported by **Vedanta**, Shaktimayee Foundation, conducted sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights and Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health in Lanjigarh block, aimed at fostering a safe, inclusive space where adolescents can openly express themselves, learn, and grow. A body mapping activity was also conducted, which promoted body awareness. The sessions further delved into topics such as bodily changes during adolescence, emotional development, menstrual hygiene, and the importance of understanding rights and making informed decisions.

4,800 SAPLINGS SOLD FROM THE MODEL NURSERY IN M.RAMPUR



Under the Integrated Village Development Program supported by **LTI Mindtree**, the establishment of a Model Nursery in the M. Rampur block of Kalahandi has significantly contributed to enhancing access to quality planting material for small and marginal farmers. This initiative is aimed at strengthening the local agri-value chain. As part of its recent update, the nursery has sold a total of 4,800 saplings, generating revenue of ₹14,400. The crop-wise sales included 2,700 saplings of Brinjal, 1,900 saplings of Tomato, and 200 saplings of Chilli to 38 farmers of the region.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT KHARIF TRAINING FOR SHG



As part of Project Chirantan, supported by **HDFC Bank Parivartan**, a community training session was organized with the Shakti Laxmi Bai SHG at Renandapatana village, Dhenkanal, to facilitate effective and climate-resilient Kharif planning in alignment with the project's long-term objectives. During the session, interactive discussions were held with SHG members to reflect on the crops cultivated during the previous Kharif season and the challenges they encountered, such as pest infestations, low market prices, and prolonged drought conditions.

CLIMATE SMART FPO MEET ODISHA 2025 BY SELCO FOUNDATION



Mr. Mohan K Baliyarsingh, Director- Operations, Mahashakti Foundation, participated as a panellist at the Climate Smart FPO Meet Odisha, 2025, held at Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar. The event was organized by SELCO Foundation to promote climate-smart agriculture and inclusive FPO growth. During the panel discussion, Mr. Baliyarsingh shared insights on adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices, the integration of renewable energy in livelihood models, and the importance of accessible financing options for FPOs. He emphasized the need for grassroots-led solutions to enhance FPO sustainability and market readiness.

STAFF ORIENTATION AND DIP WORKSHOP



A three-day Staff Orientation and Capacity Building Workshop concluded on 27th July 2025 for the staff members of the Project - Improving the Self-Reliance and Resilience of Rural Communities (ISRRC), supported by **Reliance Foundation**, in Balangir. Mr Babuli Charan Sethy - CDAO Balangir, Mr Sudesh Kumar Choudhary - DDH, Dr Satyamaya Satpathy - Senior Scientist Cum head KVK Balangir, Dr Vivek Nayak - DDM NABARD Balangir, Mr Jugal Kishore Pattnayak - MD MSF, Mr Smruti Ranjan Sethi - Director Strategy, were present as the Resource Persons.

ODISHA STATE LEVEL FPO WORKSHOP BY DIGITAL GREEN TRUST



Mr. Smruti Ranjan Sethi, Director-Strategy at Mahashakti Foundation, participated as a panellist in the Odisha State Level FPO Workshop organized by Digital Green Trust at CYSD, Bhubaneswar. He participated as a panellist in the discussion titled "Digitisation and market linkage for FPOs", where he shared insights on how digitisation and structured data practices can enable FPOs to access finance, strengthen market linkages, and adopt sustainable business strategies. The workshop emphasized data-driven decision-making, digital record-keeping, and enhancing transparency in FPO operations.



HEAD CSR - TPCODL VISITED PROJECT ADHIKAAR OFFICE AT DHENKANAL

Mr. Pradeep Ghosal, Head CSR, **Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd**, along with his team, visited the Kankadahada office of Project Adhikaar in Dhenkanal. During the visit, he interacted with the project team, shared valuable suggestions to strengthen the implementation strategy and encouraged the development of the Adhikaar project as a model of excellence. As part of the visit, he also participated in a plantation drive, under their volunteering initiative "Arpan".

RAKHIS HANDCRAFTED BY WOMEN ARTISANS NOW ON SALE

Women artisans trained under Projects Samriddhi, Sanskruti, and Adikala have skillfully handcrafted a distinctive range of eco-friendly Rakhis, incorporating traditional art forms such as Dhokra, Pattachitra, Sabai grass, and Palm Leaf. These Rakhis, created at our training centres, reflect a perfect blend of cultural heritage and environmental sustainability. The collection is available for sale from 28th July to 9th August 2025 at our dedicated stalls near the SOA Admin Office, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, and at Sindhi Market, opposite Old Jeevan Store, Balangir.



200 WADI FARMERS ADOPTED INTERCROPPING PRACTICE

In Dulikana and Gunimunda villages of Gudvella block, WADI farmers under the **NABARD** supported TDF-WADI project have adopted intercropping practices in their orchard plots. Crops such as maize, banana, and cowpea have been cultivated alongside fruit-bearing trees, showcasing effective land utilization. During the current year, around 200 WADI farmers in the block have taken up diverse intercropping activities, growing a variety of vegetables along with millets, groundnuts, and pulses.

FREE HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP ORGANIZED

A Free Multi-Specialist Health Check-Up Camp was organized with the support of **Vedanta - VGCB**, Visakhapatnam, under the Integrated Urban Slum Development Programme at Padmanagar, Visakhapatnam. The camp was attended by specialists in General Medicine and Gynaecology, who provided consultation and diagnosis to the local residents. A total of 114 patients availed themselves of the free health services. Blood samples were collected to screen for diabetes, Hypertension and ECG tests were conducted for patients with suspected cardiac issues. Free medicines were distributed in accordance with the prescriptions provided by the attending doctors. Additionally, patients with serious health conditions received counselling and referrals for further treatment at specialized healthcare facilities.



FARM POND RENOVATION BEGINS IN MADANPUR RAMPUR

Under the Integrated Village Development Program supported by LTIMindtree, farm pond renovation work is in progress at Madanpur Tukuda village at M. Rampur block of Kalahandi. The intervention will benefit 18 households and ensure irrigation across 22 acres of farmland. This initiative aims to enhance water availability during critical periods, supporting improved crop productivity and promoting sustainable rural livelihoods.



TRADING OF BITTER GOURD BY AGRAHICHASI FPO

Agrahichasi FPO, promoted by Mahashakti Foundation with support from NABARD under the Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India, has been actively engaged in the continuous trading of bitter gourd. The FPO has established market linkages with traders across key locations, including Jagdalpur, Bhubaneswar, Balangir, Koraput, Rayagada, and Bhawanipatna. To date, the FPO has traded over 113 quintals of bitter gourd at a rate of ₹40-₹45 per kg, contributing to a total turnover of approximately ₹20 lakhs in the current financial year.



COLLECTOR INAUGURATES TWO AGRO UNITS IN BARGARH

Two significant initiatives were inaugurated in Ambabhona Block, Bargarh, by the esteemed Collector Mr. Aditya Goyal, in the presence of the CDO, CDA, District Agriculture Engineer, BAO, and AAO. The Utkalika Women Agro Producer Company's Vegetable and Agri Products Aggregation Centre was inaugurated at Bhukta, where the dignitaries visited the agri-processing unit. On the same day, the Sobujima Producer Company's Groundnut Processing Unit was inaugurated at Kopasira, further strengthening the agro-value chain in the district.



CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM OF FPOs OF BALANGIR

A three-day residential capacity-building training program was organized by the Horticulture Department at Hotel Bhammar, Balangir, under the State Sector Scheme Support to FPOs. The training was designed for the BoDs and CEOs of 11 FPOs from Balangir district, promoted by Mahashakti Foundation with the support of **NABARD** under the central sector scheme of the government of India, to strengthen their understanding of FPO governance and management. Key guests attending the program include the DDM NABARD, Deputy Director of Horticulture - Balangir, Assistant Directors of Horticulture from Patnagarh and Titlagarh, representatives from the Project Director, Watershed Office and CDAO Balangir, along with a State-Level Trainer from the Horticulture Department as the Resource Person.

SUCCESS STORY



CREATING PATHWAYS THROUGH PATTACHITRA PAINTING

Sandhya Rani Sethi, a 20-year-old resident of Nuagaon village in Odisha, is a shining example of how determination, timely support, and skill development can transform a life. Born into a humble household, Sandhya's life was filled with dreams of higher education and aspirations for a better future. However, in 2016, her world shifted drastically when her father was diagnosed with a chronic illness and could no longer work. The financial burden of the family fell entirely on her elder brother, while her mother, a homemaker, tried to manage the household with minimal resources.

Sandhya, who was still a school-going teenager at the time, had to make a painful decision - to set aside her dreams and instead look for ways to support her family. Her path toward empowerment began when she came to know about the Entrepreneurship Development for Rural Artisans project through a friend and her Master Craft Mentor, Mr. Debendra Behera. The project, supported by **YES Foundation** and implemented by Mahashakti Foundation, aimed to provide livelihood support and skill training to rural women by tapping into traditional art forms such as Pattachitra. With her inherent interest in art and the encouragement of her mentor, Sandhya enrolled herself in the training.

The program turned out to be a turning point in her life. Sandhya received hands-on training in Pattachitra, and learned intricate skills such as figure drawing, brushwork, theme conceptualization, and design innovation. As her skills improved, Sandhya started taking up local orders and small assignments, allowing her to generate a steady income. Within a few months, she recorded a 33% increase in her monthly earnings, easing her family's financial pressures and helping her regain a sense of independence. This additional income made a significant difference, and Sandhya could now contribute toward household expenses and even save a portion for her future. She started guiding a few younger girls in her locality, sharing her learnings and encouraging them to pursue creative livelihoods.

Sandhya's journey is a testament to the power of resilience, opportunity, and community-based support. From a difficult beginning marked by personal loss and financial hardship, she has emerged as a young leader with the potential to impact many lives. Her story is a reminder that true empowerment begins when women like Sandhya are trusted with the tools to build their own futures and the futures of others.

With sustained mentorship and support, Sandhya is well on her way to becoming a changemaker in her own right, a symbol of strength, creativity, and hope for her community.

EVENT SNAPSHOTS

This page captures the significant events, milestones, and initiatives undertaken during July 2025, showcasing the impactful work and achievements throughout the month.



Mahashakti Foundation signed MOU with Reliance Foundation to launch Project Improving the Self-Reliance and Resilience of Rural Communities.



TPCODL supported Coir Craft Project launched in Nimapara, Puri in the presence of Head CSR - Mr. Pradeep Ghosal.



Marigold seeds were distributed to farmers of Lanjigarh block by representatives of OmniActive, Chirasrota FPCL at Lanjigarh.



Project Adikala, with the support of Vedanta has initiated a new batch of the Dhokra cluster with 30 women at Kankeri.



Village level Training on Nursery Management in Jujomura Block, Sambalpur, under the APC Project, supported by Government of Odisha.



Horticulture plantations were carried out over two phases, across 9 Gram Panchayats under TDF-WADI Project in Gudvella.

