

February, 2026

IN FOCUS



MSF FELICITATED AT PARICHARCHA



During the All Partners Meet of TATA Power Discoms in Odisha, Paricharcha, held in Bhubaneswar, Mahashakti Foundation was felicitated for its significant contribution as an implementing partner for the majority of TPCODL initiatives, including Samridhi and Adhikaar. The felicitation was done in the presence of the CEO, CHRO, and senior leadership of TPCODL, along with other partner organisations.

MOU SIGNED WITH ADITYA ALUMINA REFINERY



Mahashakti Foundation recently signed an MoU with Aditya Alumina Refinery, Kansariguda (Hindalco Industries Limited | Aditya Birla Group) to officially launch Project Udyamee at Tikiri, Rayagada, which will establish a Rural Business Incubation Centre to support entrepreneurship among local youth and women through micro-enterprises in manufacturing, trading, and service sectors, strengthening local livelihoods as well as economic activity in the region. The signing ceremony commenced in the presence of Dr. Mazhar Beig - Unit Head and President, Mr. DEEPAK MOHANTY - Head HR, IR, CSR & OHC; Mr. Tanmaya Mohanty, Department Head - CSR and R&R, and many senior officials from Aditya Alumina.

MOU SIGNED TO STRENGTHEN FARMER LIVELIHOODS



Mr. Jugal Kishore Pattnayak, MD - Mahashakti Foundation, along with Mr. Mohan Kumar Baliarsingh, Director – Operations, participated in the signing of a Tripartite MoU at Paradep with Mr. Soumyasree Omprakash Sahoo, Chief Manager – CSR, Paradep Phosphates Limited, and Utkaldeep Farmer Producer Company. This strategic partnership aims to strengthen farmer livelihoods with a strong focus on women empowerment, capacity building, and sustainable enterprise development. Through institutional linkages, value addition, and scientific and technical support, the collaboration seeks to enable scalable, market-oriented growth.

PROJECT SUBHALAXMI UDYOGINI PRODUCTS FEATURED AT CII EXPO



The stall of Project Subhalaxmi Udyogini at CII Enterprise Odisha 2026 was inaugurated by the Honourable CM, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi. Supported by Vedanta Limited – Aluminium Business, Jharsuguda, the project showcased a wide range of products created by women entrepreneurs, including Terracotta, Sambalpuri handloom, Dhokra and Saura art, honey, and jute-based products. The stall was also visited by Vedanta CEO Shri C. Chandru. Participation in the exhibition provided women entrepreneurs with valuable market exposure, promotional visibility, and direct buyer interactions.

PROJECT SHAKTI PARTICIPATES IN BALANGIR LOK MAHOTSAV 2026



Project Shakti, supported by Hindalco Industries Limited, participated in the Balangir Lok Mahotsav 2026. Saura artisans from Nimpali and members of Subhadra SHG from Jhankarpada jointly exhibited a wide range of products. The stall featured Saura paintings and utility-based art alongside varieties of traditional badi papad and a live Saura tattoo demonstration. The stall was visited by the Joint CEO of ORMAS, Shri Saurav Das, along with other officials, who interacted with the SHG women and encouraged them to expand their enterprises. The participation provided direct market exposure for women entrepreneurs, resulting in total sales exceeding ₹13,000 during the period.

STALL SET-UP AT KRUSHI ODISHA 2026 IN BHUBANESWAR



Mahashakti Foundation participated in Krushi Odisha 2026, held at Biju Patnaik Playground in Bhubaneswar where two dedicated stalls were set up to showcase millet-based value-added products under the Shree Anna Abhiyaan and a range of farm-based agricultural produce promoted through its Farmer-Producer Organisations. Along with product showcasing, soil testing demonstrations were conducted at the stall to create awareness on soil health management, nutrient balance, and scientific farming practices, emphasizing sustainable agricultural productivity.

CHANDANPINDA EMERGES AS CSR MODEL VILLAGE



Chandanpinda village in Madanpur Rampur, Kalahandi, demonstrates the impact of integrated, community-driven development under the Integrated Village Development Program supported by **LTIMindtree**. With 102 households, the village earlier faced water scarcity, malnutrition, weak livelihoods, and limited infrastructure. Convergent interventions across water security, nutrition, education, health, and livelihoods improved quality of life. Strengthened Anganwadi services, backyard nutrition gardens, upgraded school infrastructure, and a women-led poultry enterprise have transformed Chandanpinda into a scalable and replicable CSR Model Village.

PROMOTING BALANCED DIETS THROUGH NUTRI GARDENS



An integrated Nutrition Management Programme is being implemented across six blocks of Balangir district, under the ISRRRC Project, supported by **Reliance Foundation**, to improve household nutrition. The initiative began with nutrition awareness programmes, hands-on training on diversified food baskets, and SHG Melas promoting balanced diets. Complementing these efforts, Nutri Garden kits were distributed to encourage kitchen gardening. So far, 665 households have adopted nutri gardens, cultivating seasonal vegetables and leafy greens, improving access to fresh, nutritious food.

EXPOSURE VISIT OF SHG WOMEN UNDER PROJECT SAKHYAM



An exposure visit was organized for 21 SHG women to a Millet Processing Unit as part of Project Sakhyam, supported by **Jindal Stainless (JSL)**. The visit provided a practical understanding of the complete millet processing cycle, including sorting, de-hulling, cleaning, grading, and hygienic packaging, with a focus on quality standards and value addition for market-ready products. The SHG members also visited the Mission Shakti Millet Processing Unit, where they gained insights into women-led enterprise models, institutional support mechanisms, and livelihood opportunities linked to millet-based value chain development.

PROJECT MONITORING MEETING OF TDF-WADI ORGANIZED



The third Quarter Project Monitoring and Review Committee meeting of TDF-WADI Project, supported by **NABARD**, was convened at Gudvella, with the participation of DDM - NABARD (Balangir), Dr. Vivek Kumar Nayak, and representatives from B OGB, livelihood experts, WADI farmers and FPO members. The meeting reviewed project progress, horticulture and inter-cropping performance, livelihood interventions, revival of washed-out WADIs, the fourth claim request, and upcoming plans. The DDM of NABARD also conducted a field visit to WADI sites at Dulikuna and Bhatrapali villages.

FREE MEDICAL CAMP ORGANISED AT VISHAKAPATNAM



A free medical camp was organised at the Anganwadi Centre, Thomson Street, under Project Arogya, supported by VGCB Port, a unit of Vedanta Group. The camp benefited around 121 community members, providing access to essential healthcare services. Specialist doctors and medical professionals from Apollo Hospitals, representing Gynaecology and General Medicine, conducted consultations and health screenings across age groups. Key services included blood pressure and blood sugar testing, ECG examinations, and the distribution of free medicines. The initiative aimed to improve access to quality healthcare within the community.

TRAINING PROGRAM ON MUSHROOM FARMING CONDUCTED



A village-level training program on Mushroom Farming was conducted at Maa Singhabahini Producer Group, Godloisingh village under the APC Project, supported by the Government of Odisha. Fifteen PG members participated in the session, which focused on Oyster mushroom cultivation, including bed preparation, management practices and necessary precautions. The discussion also covered government scheme linkages, marketing possibilities for fresh mushrooms and initial planning for setting up a group-level mushroom spawn unit.

INAUGURATION OF MANDIA MANDI IN SOHELA



Mahashakti Foundation, under Project Shree Anna Abhiyaan, participated in the inauguration of Mandia Mandi at Dumberpali village in Sohela Block, Bargarh district, in the presence of key officials and stakeholders. The event was graced by Mr. Lochan Charana Majhi, CDAO, Bargarh; Ms. Nitanjali Bisi, BAO, Sohela Block; Mr. B. N. Majhi, TDCC BM, Sambalpur; the Sarpanch of Garvana GP; Mr. Binod Sahu, Secretary, MSF; Ms. Rojaleen Bhuyan; Mr. Abhisekh Singh, DPC, WASSAN; and Mr. Jubak Majhi, DPC, WASSAN. The initiative marked an important step toward strengthening millet marketing systems and improving farmer livelihoods in the region.

PROJECT ADIKALA SHOWCASES CRAFTS AT CHAITI UTSAV



Mahashakti Foundation participated in Chaiti Utsav, Rayagada, representing Project Adikala, supported by Vedanta - Lanjigarh. Over the five-day event, the team engaged with visitors, creating awareness about efforts to revive Saura art and Dhokra crafts through structured training, raw material support, product development, and market linkages. Highlights included a live Dhokra casting demonstration, showcasing the process from clay and wax modelling to the final brass product, and the popular Saura Art Tattoo Stall. This two-year journey of sustained effort now enables artisans to earn ₹15,000+ per month.

SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW with Mr Pinaki Nandan

Dean - Kirt School of Leadership

1. Could you briefly share about KILT School of Leadership's work in supporting incubation centres and enterprise development initiatives?

Our work with incubation centres focuses on closing leadership and execution gaps that often limit venture success. We collaborate closely with the Technology Business Incubator led by Prof. Mrutyunjay Suar, contributing leadership mentoring, strategy design, governance, ethics, and team development through labs and action-learning. Inspired by Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta's vision of education as empowerment, we embed leadership capacity into incubation. In Odisha, many enterprises struggle to scale beyond the early stages. By embedding leadership capacity into incubation, we align with NEP 2020, Startup Odisha, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, creating enterprises that are ethical, resilient, and regionally rooted.

2. What broader role do multi-stakeholder partnerships play in strengthening community institutions?

One of our core platforms for community-level interventions is the Centre for Social Research and Innovation (SRI), which brings together academia, foundations, government, and industry to strengthen institutional capacity through collaboration. This approach reflects Prof. Saranjit Singh's emphasis on systems thinking and academia as a neutral knowledge anchor in development ecosystems. Initiatives like Mission Shakti and NRLM show the power of tripartite collaboration. At the School of Leadership, we strongly believe, "Sustainable community institutions are not built by funding alone, but by shared ownership of purpose and we see partnerships as platforms for co-creation where communities evolve from beneficiaries to co-architects of development ecosystems.

3. What kinds of impact can emerge from locally based enterprise support systems?

Locally based enterprise support systems create economic impact that is inclusive, resilient, and



context-sensitive. They generate employment aligned with local skills, reduce distress migration, and ensure that value creation remains within the community. MSMEs employ over 20 lakh people, largely in micro enterprises, SHG units, forest produce, handlooms, fisheries, and food processing. Mission Shakti-linked enterprises have shown 20-30% income gains alongside stronger financial inclusion and women's decision-making. Beyond income, such enterprises build social capital, leadership, and aspiration, becoming community anchors that strengthen regional resilience and inclusive growth in Odisha's diverse socio-economic landscape.

4. What key areas of engagement are envisioned with Mahashakti through this partnership?

Our partnership with Mahashakti Foundation is envisioned as a capacity-building alliance rather than a transactional collaboration. The focus areas include leadership development for grassroots entrepreneurs, incubation support, mentoring, and evidence-based program design. In Odisha, the partnership will prioritise women-led enterprises, tribal livelihoods, and rural micro-enterprises in sectors such as agri-processing, forest produce, textiles, and services. Aligned with Mission Shakti, NRLM, Skill Odisha, and Startup Odisha, the

partnership aims to move beyond isolated pilots because foundations bring trust and universities bring structure. We endeavour to build institutions and create replicable enterprise-support models rooted in Odisha's socio-economic realities.



5. What pathways can be created for leadership and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level?

Creating pathways for grassroots leadership and entrepreneurship requires early exposure, sustained mentoring, and institutional backing, particularly in states like Odisha where entrepreneurial potential is high but unevenly supported. This belief mirrors Dr. Achyuta Samanta's philosophy that true leadership emerges when education reaches the last mile. His work shows that grassroots empowerment, combined with education and values, creates transformational leaders, not just beneficiaries. Effective pathways include SHG-based enterprise incubation, modular leadership training in local languages, community mentoring networks, digital enablement, and access to patient capital. Odisha's platforms like Mission Shakti, NRLM, Skill Odisha, and Digital India provide a strong foundation that can be strengthened through leadership education. Universities can play a catalytic role by recognising informal leadership and legitimising local entrepreneurs as change agents. By connecting grassroots talent with institutions and markets, we can build pipelines that convert local capability into local leadership, fulfilling Dr. Samanta's vision of inclusive development.

SUCCESS STORY



SAURA ART PROMOTION THROUGH SHG-BASED ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Saura art, a traditional tribal art form of Odisha, carries deep cultural and symbolic significance rooted in the community's social life. Despite its rich heritage, the practice of Saura art has been witnessing a steady decline due to limited market linkage and lack of proper livelihood opportunities for practicing artisans. Recognising both the cultural value and livelihood potential of this art form, Project Shakti sought to revive Saura art by integrating cultural preservation with income generation for rural women. Under Project Shakti, supported by Aditya Birla Hindalco, women from Self-Help Groups of Nimpali village were identified based on their interest and aptitude for Saura art. Through a series of rigorous SHG meetings and focused community engagement processes, potential artisans were mobilised and oriented on the possibilities of reviving the art as a sustainable livelihood option. These interactions helped build collective ownership and encouraged women to view Saura art as a viable economic activity alongside a cultural practice. Project Shakti organised an exposure visit and training program in Kalahandi district, to strengthen both technical skills and market understanding of the artisans. During the exposure, the women gained insights into the symbolism and traditional motifs of Saura art, techniques used by experienced artisans, and emerging market demand for Saura art-based products. The visit proved to be a turning point, motivating the participants and inspiring confidence in their own potential.

The group collectively dedicated three to four hours daily to practising Saura art at the community hall. This regular engagement created a self-learning and peer-supported environment where women exchanged ideas, refined techniques, and improved consistency and quality in their work. They were provided with nearly 80 percent of the required raw materials and close handholding support through alternate-day field visits which focused on technical guidance, resolving challenges faced by the artisans, and monitoring product quality. After a successful phase of self-practice and skill consolidation, the women received an opportunity to showcase their work at a CSR event in Jharsuguda. Alongside displaying finished products, the artisans conducted live Saura art demonstrations, which drew significant attention. The artisans also participated in the five-day Balangir Lok Mahotsav 2026, a district-level exhibition, where they showcased traditional and value-added Saura art products. The participation provided wide visibility and direct market exposure, with total sales of ₹8,000 recorded during the exhibition period. As a result of the intervention, Saura art has been revived as a viable livelihood option, with visible enhancement in confidence and skill levels among SHG women. Community participation and interest in the art form have increased, and initial market linkage opportunities have been established. The future plan includes a three-month advanced training program by a professional resource person, formation of a Producer Group, and convergence with government schemes to support enterprise scale-up and long-term sustainability.

EVENT SNAPSHOTS

This page captures the significant events, milestones, and initiatives undertaken during January 2026, showcasing the impactful work and achievements throughout the month.



The 77th Republic Day of India was celebrated across Mahashakti Project offices, reflecting shared pride in India's democratic values.



Visit to the WADI project was conducted by Shri Biswa Bhushan Mohanty, AGM (RO), Shri Sailesh Acharya, NABCONS, and Dr. Vivek K Nayak, DDM, NABARD, Balangir.



Subhalaxmi Cooperative stall inaugurated at Dulhuli Mahotsav 2026, Jharsuguda, by Shri Suresh Pujari, Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management.



Mr. Jugal Kishore Pattnayak visited Jharsuguda for a two-day Subhalaxmi Udyogini project review, finalising action plans with Vedanta CSR leadership.



Farmers from Danagadi visited Athagarh Farm Enterprise, learning scientific goat management practices and also received African Boer males.



Tripartite MoU signed to introduce Ragi Tikhiri in Hotel Ariyana menu, promoting millets, farmer livelihoods, under Project Shree Anna Abhiyaan.

