

# OUR VOICE



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## Pathways to Climate-Resilient and People-Centric Development

As Odisha moves steadily toward its centenary in 2036, the state faces a defining moment: how to balance economic aspirations with ecological integrity and social justice across its diverse coastal, tribal, and agrarian geographies. Increasing climate extremes, environmental degradation, and extractive development pressures have made it clear that a new, landscape-based development paradigm is no longer optional but essential.

In this backdrop, the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Odisha Vikash Conclave (OVC) 2025 was held on 26-27 November 2025, themed 'Pathways to Climate-Resilient and People-Centric Development' in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, UNFPA & 45+ like-minded organizations. Since its inception in 2016 under the banner of the Odisha Development Initiative (ODI), the Conclave has evolved into a flagship platform for collective dialogue, convergence, [read more](#)



## Youth Power and Collective Action Shine at International Volunteers Day

The 17th International Volunteers Day, themed "Solidarity Through Volunteering," was observed with great enthusiasm at CYSD, Bhubaneswar. The event brought together young volunteers from the National Service Scheme (NSS) and representatives from more than ten organizations, creating a vibrant platform for reflection on the role of volunteerism in social transformation. During the event, 15 state-level volunteers were felicitated for [read more](#)

## Collective Action for Sustainable Farming: Gurjibhata's Transformation

Gurjibhata village, located 18 km from Titilagarh block in Balangir district, Odisha, has long faced harsh climatic extremes and acute water scarcity, making agriculture a risky livelihood. Most households depend on farming, cultivating brinjal, tomato, okra, and seasonal vegetables. Earlier, farmers followed scattered and

unscientific sowing practices, depended on distant nurseries, and suffered frequent crop losses due to diseases like wilt, poor-quality seedlings, delayed transplantation, and rising input costs. These challenges kept incomes low and confidence fragile, especially among small and women farmers [read more](#)



## Access to information and services can empower women toward self-reliance

Amaravati Toika, a 55-year-old woman farmer from Dumburi village of Nilamguda G.P spent most of her life dependent on traditional cotton cultivation. With one acre of land, her family earned nearly ₹20,000 annually, which was insufficient to meet household needs. Despite years of hard work, rising input costs, climate risks, and limited access to information kept her trapped in low-income farming. [read more](#)



## From Orchards to Agency: Women Driving Sustainable Agriculture in Keonjhar

The WADI Project in Kolimati village of Keonjhar has emerged as a strong model of women-led agricultural empowerment, supported by the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Department of Horticulture as the nodal agency and CYSD as the facilitating agency. Designed to enhance the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers, the project focuses on fruit orchard development while placing women at the center of planning, decision-making, and farm management. This approach has transformed orchards into spaces of both economic growth and social change. [read more](#)

## Community Paramedics bringing healthcare to the home

N. Buddamma, an 80-year-old elderly woman, is a resident of the Sikharchandi Slum area of Bhubaneswar, has been living alone without any family support. With no one to care for her or guide her, she struggled to manage her health and daily needs. Due to her age and isolation, Buddamma rarely visited medical facilities and was unaware of her high blood pressure, and over time, her condition worsened without treatment or monitoring. Under the Health & Wellbeing of the Marginalized Urban Community project, four young women from the Sikharchandi Slum were trained as paramedics to provide basic healthcare services within their own community. [read more](#)



## Photo Gallery



## From Homemaker to Micro-Entrepreneur: Sukanti Mohanta



Sukanti Mohanta's journey reflects how targeted livelihood interventions can empower rural women to achieve economic independence. A resident of Gojapathar village in Keonjhar district, Sukanti lived in a joint family that relied mainly on small-scale vegetable cultivation for household consumption and limited local sales, with little awareness of income opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors. [read more](#)

## Rising of Dragon Fruit Farming in Keonjhar: Women Turning Innovation into Empowerment



In the Saharapada block of Keonjhar district, five women from Talapada village have created a powerful example of women-led agricultural innovation. As members of the Maa Taratarini Producer Group, they were earlier engaged in vegetable cultivation mainly for household use and limited local sales. Income was modest, and growth opportunities were largely unknown. [read more](#)

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