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A Quarterly Newsletter of **Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II**

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EDITORIAL



Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
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From Project Director's Desk

We are still in the most challenging phase of human civilization and coping with the invisible virus. On this backdrop ensuring smooth management of forest and livelihood activities for the community has become the order of life. Harnessing the nature with all scientific approach and engaging the community in their most uncertain period of livelihood has posed many new challenges in forest management. In case of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project which has the mandate of ensuring livelihood of its community stakeholders, followed this situation very diligently and handled the evolving situation with proper planning and integrated initiative of Government of Odisha to ensure the restoration of livelihoods of the forest fringe communities in a sustainable manner so far. It's encouraging that OFSDP managed to maintain the forest regeneration works in the entire uncertain period during the financial year of 2020-21 and all 12 Forest Divisions integrated its forestry management works and plantation programmes and ensured the synergies with other Line Departments of the State.

At this point let me reiterate that Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) has made its sincere endeavour to initiate periodic monitoring at VSS level, FMU level, DMU level and PMU level to keep track of the progress of project components. Following this practice, all the DMUs have organised Annual Review Meeting – Sameekshya 2020-21 to expand the interdepartmental coordination and forge the synergy of convergence for the larger benefit of the forest dwellers.

In this issue of the quarterly newsletter of Banayana, there is a special feature on field level monitoring by joining hands with different institutional stakeholders at district level. As all the divisional units completed their DMU level Sameekshya, a mandate carried by OFSDP, this created a synergy of institutions to carry the convergence work swiftly in the ground.

There are also various reports of OFSDP participation in Kalinga Herbal Fair 2020-21, convergence programmes and special reports from DMUs which are highlighted in this issue to bring wellbeing of the community as the priority of all our project plans and implementation strategies.


Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS

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SYNERGY OF INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMMES

PRIMARY TAKEAWAYS OF DMU LEVEL SAMEEKSHYA

“The current financial year of 2020-21 has been very challenging, particularly in the context of implications and consequences of COVID-19 pandemic. Due to Pandemic COVID-19, livelihoods of the poor and marginalized communities including the forest fringe communities have been affected to a great extent. The peak season of harvesting and gathering of forest produces have been interrupted due to pandemic situation. OFSDP, Phase-II under the aegis of Forest and Environment Department, Government of Odisha proactively responded to the situation by addressing the issues with a set of immediate, medium and long term initiatives, aimed at providing financial support to the forest fringe communities by implementing labor intensive forestry programmes. All the 12 Divisions of OFSDP-II have remarkably rose up to occasion and ensured implementation of targeted activities in all the project villages as per the OFSDP-II mandate. Despite the challenging period, all the Forest Divisions under OFSDP managed to maintain the coordination and synergy at ground level in a responsible manner. Forest play a pivotal role in survival and progress of the human race. Due to over increasing human population ever growing requirement, Forest Management is quite challenging. For collective protection, management and restoration of forest resources active participation of the forest fringe communities is the need of the time. Keeping in view active participation of the communities in protection and management of forest resources, OFSDP has emphasized on constitution and reconstitution of VSS bodies, involvement of SHGs for holistic development of forest resources as well as augmentation of socio-economic status of forest fringe dwellers.

OFSDP-II prioritizes on restoration of degraded forests through JFM mode and assigned Forest areas to VSSs to augment the regeneration status of forests with the support of project functionaries. OFSDP-II has also adopted different site specific plantation models under ANR and AR.

For the year 2020-21, Sameekshya Meetings were organised at the Divisional level to assess the synergy of institutional programmes at field level and further scope of convergence with other line Departments and to help the community in augmenting the benefit of the flagship programme in collaboration with the local administration. The Sameekshya meetings of OFSDP-II are organized at Divisional level to disseminate the project objectives and sensitize the local administration and other institutional stakeholders at large to leverage benefit from the integrated planning. Synergy of all the institutions channelized to positively impact the livelihood of the forest fringe communities by undertaking and provisioning community programmes under convergence. PMU, OFSDP has ensured that all the convergence programmes are planned and proposed at the community level during the Micro Plan preparation stage. The line departments also get an opportunity annually to get reviewed their involvement with a large chunk of their stakeholders and beneficiaries of their development programme i.e forest fringe communities. Some selective successful programmes of integration were also discussed at different divisional management units to enable cross learning and emulating as far as possible.

GLIMPSES OF DMU LEVEL SAMEEKSHYA MEETING



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Ahamallik DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Dehenkanal DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Baripada DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Jharsuguda DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Boudh DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Subarnapur DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Karanjia DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Rairangpur DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Ghumsur (S) DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Ghumsur (N) DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Sundergarh DMU



Sameekshya: 2020-21 at Sambalpur DMU

OFSDS PARTICIPATED IN STATE LEVEL KALINGA HERBAL FAIR 2021

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) participated in the 13th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair - 2021 organized by State Medicinal Plant Board, Government of Odisha from 16th March to 22nd March 2021. The exhibition-cum-sale counter in the 13th Kalinga Herbal Fair – 2021 had witnessed participation of seven Territorial Forest Divisions of OFSDP-II and AJY projects of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society. The OFSDS stall was visited by Hon'ble Minister of Forest & Environment, Shri Bikram Keshari Arukh and Dr. Mona Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department on the inaugural day of the Kalinga Herbal Fair.

This was for the first time in OFSDP, Phase-II VSS members took part in the Kalinga Herbal Fair. As this was a special Fair with a thrust on Herbal products, organic produces and wellness activities, VSSs were chosen from the identified Herbal Cluster of OFSDS as per the direction of the Project Director. This time, major thrust was given to introduce the products of Self-Help Groups operationalized under OFSDP-II and AJY herbal clusters only.

The OFSDS ensured display of project activities and achievements in the exhibition. As many as 15 SHGs operationalised under Ama Jangala Yojana, OFSDP-II, participated in the event. Total 28 members of 15 Self Help Groups representing the Vana Surakhya Samitis of OFSDP-II and AJY Divisions viz. Athamallik, Baripada, Rairangpur, Jharsguda and Phulbani, under OFSDS took part in the Herbal Fair during the seven days' exhibition.

Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS, PCCF and Project Director, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society joined the valedictory session of the Kalinga Herbal Fair 2021 as Guest of Honor. He visited the OFSDS stall and interacted with the SHGs and VSS members and encouraged them to utilize this exhibition as a platform to augment their livelihood options by selling their herbal and organic produces under the patronage of OFSDS.



Hon'ble Minister Forest and Environment, Govt of Odisha visiting the stalls of OFSDP & AJY and interacting with the participants at Kalinga Herbal Fair - 2021



PCCF and Project Director OFSDS visiting the stalls of OFSDP & AJY and interacting with the participants at Kalinga Herbal Fair - 2021



Following the COVID-19 protocols, a large section of public visited the OFSDS stall and appreciated various Herbal and Wellness products sold by OFSDS SHGs in different categories like Health Care, Wellness, Grocery Products, Natural and Forest Products etc. The forest fringe community groups sold record number of products in this Mela and the overall sale was very encouraging for the participants and all stakeholders. Social distancing and adequate measures of sanitization and hygiene was ensured in OFSDS stalls during the fair.

The SHG started fish farming during July and August, 2019 rainy season in Nagaon pond close to the village, taking lease from the Gram Panchayat for a period of five years @ Rs.8,500 per year. Initially Rs.12,000 was spent by the group towards the cost of lease and pond clearance. Subsequently 20,000 fish fingerlings namely Rohi, Bhakur, Grass Crop, Silver Crops were collected from Chiplima Government farm and reared in the same pond. Meanwhile the SHG also applied for subsidy based Pisciculture from Fishery Department meant for SHG members amounting to Rs.1,50,000/- per Ha. Cost related

to fingerlings, food, iron net, lime, fertilizer and transportation worth Rs.25,060/- was borne by Fishery Department. The fish collection/ harvesting cost was Rs.10,000/-. Hence the total cost Rs.47,060/- has been spent for Pisciculture during the year. Finally, the sale proceed of fish was worth Rs.60,000/- (4 qntls @Rs.15,000/- per qntl). Hence the net profit for the year was Rs.13,000/-.

It is a united effort of a group of tribal women. Apart from their regular monthly savings this profit will help growing their group fund. In future they will be able to plan from their own sustainability by increasing the productivity. All the members have now started vegetable cultivation like brinjal and ladies finger in a common land of one acre and earned profit of Rs. 5,500/- investing Rs.3,300/-. They have also participated in the Adivasi Mela-2020 at Bhubaneswar with their produces like handmade *badi* and *papad* investing Rs.3,130/- and earned a profit of Rs.2,020/-. Above all, the group has established linkages with Fishery Department, Mission Shakti (OLM), OFSDP/ Forest Department, Gram Panchayats, Markets, etc., and helped building confidence in working as a group.



OFSDS Team receiving Best Stall Award in Government category of Kalinga Herbal fair 2021 from the Chief Guest



Progress of OFSDP Activities in last quarter

Under the component of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), plantation programmes have been taken up in all the 403 VSSs of Batch-III and Batch-IV. Preparatory works for ANR without gap plantation in 17730 ha of degraded forest and AR plantation in 2873 ha areas of Batch-III VSS and Batch-IV VSS have been completed in the last quarter. AR plantation including Fuel Fodder plantation (1529 ha.), NTFP (1299 ha) and other block plantation (45 ha) and total 94, 62, 530 number of seedlings have been raised in the Hi-Tech and other nurseries to meet the plantation requirements.

Among the 403 VSSs of Batch-III and Batch-IV, Drainage Line Treatment (DLT) of the micro catchment area undertaken in both assigned areas under JFM Mode and adjacent areas under Non JFM Mode for improving the soil moisture regime of the area. In last quarter DLT in JFM mode have been taken up over 502.25 ha area and DLT in non-JFM mode taken up in 251.13 ha area. In last quarter, Fire Line Construction has been completed in 399.5 Rkm of Batch -III and 172.43 Rkm of Batch -IV VSSs respectively. During last quarter of 2020-21, demarcation and pillar posting of the area assigned to 281 VSSs of Batch-III and 122 VSSs of Batch-IV have been completed.

Under the Livelihood component of the project, the creation and establishment of 3 number of Sal leaf

Product Clusters is under progress in Baripada, Karanjia and Rairangpur Forest Divisions of Mayurbhanj District. Product Mapping, identification of beneficiaries, formulation of business plan for the Sal Leaf Product Clusters have been completed. Cluster Buildings in all three sites are in completion phase and the process of procurement of machinery is under progress during the last and current year.

Similarly, the raising of Farm Forestry plantations over 2151 ha under various models (Mixed, Timber, Pulpwood, NTFP – Horticulture) 7,03,646 number of seedlings raised in the project nurseries and 8,06,039 number of seedlings are to be procured from the line department and organisations.

Under Community Development component of the OFSDP II, one multi-purpose community building “VSS cum IGA Building” is being constructed in each VSSs. Till end of March, 2021, a total of 691 buildings have been constructed and construction of rest 489 buildings is in progress and expected to be completed shortly.

In addition to this community development works to the tune of Rs.2,662.79 Lakhs have been taken up through inter-sectoral convergence with other line departments up-to March, 2020-21, benefitting about 1,75,833 beneficiaries from the project villages.

Convergence initiatives under OFSDP-II during 2020-21

DEPARTMENT WISE CONVERGENCE REPORT FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

Row Labels	Number of Beneficiaries	No. of Households covered	Amount of Convergence (Rs. in Lakh)
Panchaytiraj & Drinking water	74096	24003	1,500.82
Forest & Environment	14182	5420	195.16
Fisheries and ARD Department	11563	6592	172.77
Soil Conservation Dept.	714	346	150.11
RD Dept.	278	67	150.00
Health & FW Dept.	58660	28772	117.70
Women and Child Development	1386	1219	91.56
Horticulture Dept.	5908	5871	77.83
Water Resource	484	192	64.79
Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment	3354	2513	39.57
SC & ST Dev. Dept.	843	493	19.99
Ministry of Rural Development	339	90	10.70
Education	174	64	5.12
Skill Development	623	601	3.61
Dept of Youth Services & Sports	94	94	1.20
Department of Health & Family welfare	726	293	0.97



Row Labels	Number of Beneficiaries	No. of Households covered	Amount of Convergence (Rs. in Lakh)
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural GAS	84	84	0.75
Dept. of Industry	31	31	0.39
Dept. of Energy	7	7	0.35
Bank (Skill development)	1733	1541	42.08
Corporate	91	126	11.89
NGO (Capacity building)	463	375	5.44
Grand Total	1,75,833	78,794	2,662.79

DMU wise convergence report

DMU WISE CONVERGENCE REPORT FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

Name of DMU	No. of VSS Covered	No. of H.H Covered	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount of Convergence (Rs. in Lakh)
Athmallik	75	4026	5546	241.50
Baripada	75	25611	65086	365.43
Boudh	46	1218	2625	89.10
Dhenkanal	85	9816	14754	417.09
Ghumsur (N)	49	2711	5718	279.43
Ghumsur (S)	45	5511	22325	206.02
Jharsuguda	80	10239	16247	166.84
Karanjia	59	3425	7765	133.01
Rairangpur	80	5561	13809	273.55
Sambalpur	145	7406	15859	282.20
Subarnapur	50	1388	4217	65.59
Sundargarh	91	1882	1882	143.03
Grand Total	880	78,794	1,75,833	2662.79

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Sustainable Activities undertaken by VSSs in OFSDP-II

Hudisahi Vana Surakshya Samiti under Kaptipada FMU of Baripada Forest Division is located 22 kms away from Kaptipada in Mayurbhanj District. The VSS consists of 114 numbers of households. All the families belong to Scheduled Tribe community and they are primarily forest dependent. Out of 114 households, 111 families are Below Poverty Line (BPL). After the intervention of OFSDP-II project in this VSS area, most of the members of the VSS are participating in all types of works under taken by the project. Both male and female members of the VSS have been actively participating in VSS meetings. Sustainable Management of Forest has been initiated in the VSS assigned area under the project. Activities like 20 ha. of Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) with gap plantation,

fire line creation over 2km and 15 numbers of LBCD construction under Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) component have been taken up in the VSS assigned area in the financial year 2020-21. Besides the above, one VSS-cum-IGA Facilitation Centre has been constructed in the village. The VSS members are protecting the forest area of 63 ha. since 2003.

With the implementation of OFSDP-II, the people of the VSS are mobilized by both project and departmental staff through community mobilization and awareness meetings. During micro planning, the VSS members pursued for a community mandap for the village. As part of the convergence initiative, the BDO of Kaptipada, C.D Block, who heads the Block Level Advisory Committee



(BLAC) was appraised and Rs. 2 lakh was sanctioned for construction of a Community Mandap in the village. Similarly, the Project Administrator, ITDA, Kaptipada allocated funds of Rs 3.0 lakhs for construction of boundary wall and Puja Mandap for Jahira development (sacred grove) for which the credit goes to the PNGO and Forest Department staff for the initiative they have taken. Moreover, Project staff of OFSDP-II pursued electrification of Households under the existing plan and Energy Department activated electricity connection to 65 families of the VSS. Further, individual Household toilets were constructed for 60 Households in the village under Swachh Bharat Mission by the Block authorities under inter-sectoral convergence.

After implementation of OFSDP-II, it is observed that the community members of Hudisahi VSS of Kaptipada Range are now fully sensitized to prepare a road map for their local development. Through mobilization process, VSS members are now capable of identifying their basic requirements on health, sanitation, accessibility, livelihood and other infrastructures which is helping the project in particular and other line departments in general to prepare an integrated action plan for the communities in the localities. Active involvement of the VSS members is also helping the FMU staff for protection, development and management of forest. Holistic development of the village is due to the intensive efforts of the project staff and the villagers admire the initiative taken by OFSDP.



Plantation work Hudisahi VSS, Baripada



VSS building of Hudisahi VSS, Baripada



Progress of LBCD work of Hudisahi VSS Baripada



ROWHS Hudisahi VSS, Baripada

CONVERGENCE SUCCESS STORY

ROAD CONNECTIVITY IN VSSs/VILLAGES OF BOUDH THROUGH CONVERGENCE WORKS UNDER OFSDP-II

The first phase intervention of OFSDP-II was commenced in 20 nos. VSS of Boudh FMU under Boudh Forest Division from December 2018. As per Micro-plan of all VSSs of Batch-I of Boudh FMU, the year wise convergence activities were taken up and executed with

the help of different Line Departments of Boudh and Harbhanga Block. Since most of the villages are situated in interior pockets of forest area, the road connectivity was not available and in some cases conditions of the roads were quite wretched. So, the villagers were facing



difficulties to access institutional facilities and movement was difficult in rainy season. In order to overcome such situation, top most priority was given by OFSDP for development of road connectivity to the VSSs/villages through convergence with the Line Department. The project staff included the road connectivity work in the Micro plan and projected in the Palli Sabha & Grama Sabha of the concerned village and got approval for execution of work. Accordingly, road connectivity work to various VSSs/villages taken up and completed with the help of PRI institutes. Basically, development of Kucha Road, Murum

Road & Cement Concrete road were all possible because of the implementation of MGNREGS & GGY Scheme of the Govt in many VSS areas. Around 1611 people of 11 VSSs are benefitted for easy access to the institutional facilities of the Govt. and for their day to day movement in the locality. This was all possible due to active participation of the VSS members and handholding support of OFSDP-II project staff, which could bring confidence on the VSS members that due to intervention of the project staff, road connectivity could be available to the village.



Kuchha road built in Gundisar VSS



Metal road built in Santum VSS



Kuchha road built in Berdabri VSS



Concrete road built in Nuapada VSS

Details of the road connections developed in Boudh Division through convergence work

Sl. No.	Name of the VSS	Type of Road	Name of the Scheme	Cost of the work (in Lakh)	No. of House Hold benefitted	No. of beneficiary benefitted
1	Anamunda	Kucha Road	MGNREGS	2.00	42	125
2	Birnarsingpur	CC Road	GGY	2.00	44	88
3	Barpadar	Metal Murum	MGNREGS	4.00	27	83
4	Beredabari	Kucha Road	MGNREGS	4.62	39	144
5	Bijapadar	Kucha Road	MGNREGS	4.95	16	48



Sl. No.	Name of the VSS	Type of Road	Name of the Scheme	Cost of the work (in Lakh)	No. of House Hold benefitted	No. of beneficiary benefitted
6	Goundisor	Kucha Road	MGNREGS	1.50	33	118
		CC Road	GGY	1.00		
		CC Road	GGY	1.40		
7	Jhankarpada	CC Road	GGY	3.20	68	268
		Metal Murum	MGNREGS	1.00		
8	Nuagad	Kucha Road	MGNREGS	0.50	32	78
		CC Road	GGY	1.00		
		CC Road	GGY	1.50		
9	Nuapada	CC Road	GGY	4.00	52	119
10	Santum	Kucha Road	MGNREGS	2.00	89	147
		CC Road	GGY	1.50		
		Metal Murum	MGNREGS	4.00		
11	Sunajhari	Kucha Road	MGNREGS	1.00	104	393
Total				41.17	546	1611

Snapshots of Income Generating Activities and other convergence works in various divisions of OFSDP



Groundnut seed distribution under Convergence activities in Dhubunend VSS in Sundergarh Division



Implementation of Mo Bagicha in convergence with Horticulture Dept. at Hatikote VSS of Baripada Division



IGA activities undertaken by Delgan SHGs for preparation and sale of Badi



Capacity building of members of Pandkilam VSS under IGA activities undertaken in Jharsuguda Division



PARADIGM SHIFT OF LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES: SUCCESS STORY OF GHUMSUR(SOUTH) DIVISION

Adoption of New Technology: Making Khali to Paper Plate

The village Thanapalli under Motabadi Gram panchayat of Buguda Block of Ghumsur South Forest Division has 82 Households. The village belongs to a Homogeneous Community called Sauntia (SC). There are six numbers of Women SHG functioning in the VSS. During the regular VSS meeting and the micro plan process, it was observed that the women SHG groups were involved in collection of Sal leaf and were preparing khali. They were depending on the local vendor to sale those khali. It was also observed during the FGD (Focus Group Discussion) that each house hold is getting nearly 10,000 rupees as additional income by selling sal plate per season. The bundle with Sal khali is having 80 nos of khali which can be sold in the market at 50 rupees per bundle.

Procurement of Sal leaf and preparation of Khali is a seasonal work and SHG members are giving lots of effort to have the additional income. They consulted with the FMU stake holders to get a paper plate machine for making good quality paper plate to fetch some more benefit in the market.

Considering the livelihood aspects of SHG members and their active support to Forest and Environment Department in forest protection, Ghumusur (South) DMU Chief Sri Satyanarayan Behura has provided one paper plate machine to Maa Kali SHG group for value

addition to their effort. The machine was procured and installed at the IGA Building and SHG members were trained by the PNGO on preparation of paper plate.

Initially the project has provided financial support to purchase raw materials of 1800 numbers of paper plate which was prepared and sold in the local market @ Rs.2/- per each plate and got profit of Rs.3600/- during the month of December 2020. After that the group has withdrawn Rs.20, 000/- from their own saving and purchased paper plate raw materials of 10000 from Berhampur market @Rs.1.60/- per plate. A total cost of Rs.17, 000 was invested by the group in this project work. At present the group is manufacturing 7000 numbers of paper plates and rest are under progress. The paper plates are now sold in the market @Rs.2.50 per plate. The Group members are feeling very comfortable for using this machine and making 200 to 300 numbers of paper plates daily.

Now the SHG members are making a smooth transition to adopt new technology and work automation with the continuation of traditional method. With the handholding support of OFSDP Project, the community group is confident to make a sustainable livelihood of Paper plate making, which is a transitional shift from their Sal leaf plate making work.



VSS members engaged in Sal leaf making showing their skills in paper plate making



Meeting of the General Body of OFSDS

The 31st meeting of the General Body of OFSDS was held through Video-Conference on 24th March 2021. The Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Govt of Odisha reviewed the activities of OFSDP and AJY. PCCF & PD, OFSDP presented the achievements of OFSDP and AJY during the year 2020-21. He also presented the work programmes and financial budget of OFSDP and AJY for the year 2021-22, which were discussed and approved in the meeting.

Divisional Level Review Meeting organized through Video Conference:

A meeting to review the progress of work in the OFSDP, Phase-II project divisions was convened on 10th March 2021 at NIC, Bhubaneswar through video conferencing. The meeting was Chaired by PCCF and Project Director, OFSDP.

PD, OFSDP urged all the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs for optimal utilization of the resources of the project for the timely implementation of project activities.

All OFSDP-II project components targets vis-à-vis achievement were discussed in detail with the DMU Chiefs. Project Director emphasized that DMUs should ensure active involvement of VSS in nursery raising and plantation activities.

OFSDS Stall adjudged as the Best Government Exhibition Stall in Kalinga Herbal Fair 2021

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society was adjudged as the best stall in the Government category at the 13th Kalinga Herbal Fair 2021. Under the aegis of OFSDS, community members representing VSS and SHGs of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project and Ama Jangala Yojana participated first time in this specialised Health and Wellness Fair. As many as 15 SHGs of AJY and OFSDP-II, participated in the event. State Programme Manager – Knowledge Management, Publicity and Publication of OFSDP received the First Prize from the Chief Guest during the valedictory session of the programme.



DFO Review meeting organized through Video Conference at NIC, Bhubaneswar



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