



GREEN  
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FUND



## ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Year-End Issue

ISSUE 2 | JULY 2025 TO DEC 2025

Wishing our well-wishers a 2026 of stronger shores, greener coasts  
and continued partnership in building a climate-resilient future.

*Happy New Year!*

### ECRICC Makes Waves at International Coastal Clean-Up Day

In September, ECRICC made a significant impact during the International Coastal Clean-up Day, showcasing a suite of forward-looking initiatives.

A key highlight was the signing of a tripartite MoU to establish Odisha's first crab hatchery in Paradeep, a collaboration between the states's Fisheries Department, the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), and the ECRICC project.

The hatchery aims to produce one million quality crab seeds annually.



A coffee table book titled 'ECRICC Odisha: Restoring Ecosystems, Securing Livelihoods,' which chronicles the project's journey was also launched. Furthermore, four women grassroots climate champions leading ecological restoration and climate adaptation in their communities were felicitated for their exceptional work.

A public exhibition stall demonstrating ECRICC's activities engaged visitors, showcasing the project's commitment to building ecological and community resilience along Odisha's coast.



### ECRICC Featured in Global Documentary with 'Game of Thrones' Star Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

UNDP Goodwill Ambassador and acclaimed 'Game of Thrones' star Nikolaj Coster-Waldau has spotlighted the climate resilience interventions of the ECRICC initiative. The project is featured in the second season of the documentary series 'An Optimist's Guide to the Planet,' which premiered globally in October this year, highlighting ECRICC's transformative mangrove restoration efforts.



Filmed in Kendrapara district, the documentary follows Coster-Waldau as he engages with local communities who have been displaced by rising sea levels and coastal erosion. The episode captures how women and men in these vulnerable regions are not just rebuilding their lives but are leading ecological restoration on the ground. Their work in planting and restoring mangrove forests, a natural coastal defense system, stands as a testament to community-driven climate adaptation.



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## DISTRICT DIARIES

### ECRICC introduces Seaweed Farming in Ganjam and Puri

In a first for ECRICC Odisha, sustainable seaweed farming has been successfully commissioned in the Ganjam and Puri districts. The pilot initiative was launched in December 2025 in Langaleswar village in Ganjam's Bahuda block and Arkhakuda and Sipakuda villages in Puri district.



A total of 16 farmers from Ganjam and 50 farmers from Puri were equipped with hands-on training from Brahmakamal Research LLP, focusing on practical skills such as raft installation, seedling management, and sustainable cultivation of the native species *Gracilaria verrucosa*. The initiative plans to scale up and cover 70 farmers in the two districts in the first phase.

This launch marks a strategic step toward diversifying incomes and building climate-resilient livelihoods under the ECRICC project.



### Rojalin Behera's Grassroots Fight for Climate Resilience in Puri

A science graduate from the coastal village of Silari in Puri district, Rojalin Behera, found her pathway to create change by becoming a climate champion under the ECRICC project.



Rojalin Behera

Since joining in February 2023, she has been a vital link between her community and government resources, turning her academic knowledge into practical, climate-resilient action. Through intensive training in System of Rice Intensification (SRI), she has mobilized farmers and Self-Help Groups across five villages.

Her measurable impact spans several key areas. In agriculture, she has helped 250 farmers obtain soil health cards, supported 136 with drought-resistant seeds and linked 16 households to the PM-KISAN scheme. In horticulture, she facilitated betel vine support and distributed coconut plants to 90 families. Additionally, she organized livestock vaccination and insurance for 400 animals.

Rojalin also extends her influence beyond farming. She leads climate-awareness campaigns in schools and her community, promoting tree plantation and energy conservation.





## DISTRICT DIARIES

### Ornamental Fisheries Boost Coastal Income in Balasore

In Balasore district, a quiet revolution is taking shape in the community backyard tanks, where ornamental fish farming is creating sustainable livelihoods. Under the ECRICC project, 78 community members including 75 women from seven Self-Help Groups, are building economic resilience through aquaculture.



The initiative follows a strategic hub-and-spoke model, combining small-scale backyard breeding units with centralized facilities for technical support and marketing. Since stocking began in August 2025, participants have already bred over 14,500 juveniles and sold more than 1,000 ornamental fish, generating crucial supplementary income.

The beneficiaries have also mastered sustainable practices like zooplankton culture and earthworm farming, reducing feed costs and enhancing self-sufficiency.



### Young Media Professionals Experience ECRICC's Climate Action On Ground

Students from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal, took part in a two-day media exposure visit to Kendrapara to observe on-ground activities under the Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC) project.

The visit, organized by ECRICC project, offered an immersive look into community-led climate resilience and ecological restoration.



The students interacted with women climate champions who shared how sustainable agricultural practices and mangrove restoration activities are transforming local livelihoods and toured a meta nursery in Bhitarkanika. The young journalism professionals also saw the saltwater crocodiles and creek restoration efforts during a guided boat tour.

The experience underscored the power of community-led climate adaptation, equipping future media professionals with impactful narratives on resilience and restoration in coastal Odisha.





## ROUND-UP



Officer Trainees of the Odisha Administrative Service (2022 Batch) visited ECRICC project sites in Puri and Kendrapara to understand community-led, climate-resilient development practices.



A national workshop was held in Bhubaneswar for ECRICC implementing teams from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra to strengthen collaboration and knowledge sharing.



ECRICC Odisha participated in World Aquaculture 2025 in Hyderabad and presented its sustainable mud crab farming approach during MPEDA's session.



A training session was conducted for 120 Master Trainers on Coastal Ecology Management and Monitoring in collaboration with the Chilika Development Authority.



A climate change workshop was conducted for Odisha journalists in collaboration with the Odisha State Pollution Control Board and Odisha Women in Media to enhance their understanding and reporting on the ECRICC project's climate-resilient coastal initiatives.



IIT Bhubaneswar conducted a technical training on geospatial monitoring of coastal ecosystems using remote sensing and drone technologies.



The Odisha team undertook a field exposure visit and technical training on crab hatchery and production at RGCA.



Technical training on "Breeding & Culture of Ornamental Fisheries" was conducted for potential farmers and project staff under the ECRICC Project.



ECRICC Climate Champions were felicitated at the Odisha Environment Congress.



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