

# Nabarangpur: Lack of roads cripples healthcare



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nabarangpur, April 14:** Development has stalled for hundreds of villages in the district, cut off by poor or non-existent roads. In emergencies, residents are forced to carry patients to hospitals on slings or makeshift cots, highlighting the stark lack of basic infrastructure.

In as many as 259 villages in the district, the situation is so dire that even motorcycles cannot reach them—let alone ambulances. Pregnant women, new mothers, and critically ill patients are often carried on cots or on shoulders to the nearest motorable road, laying bare the severe gaps in rural infrastructure.

During monsoon, 124 villages become completely cut off due to muddy and uneven terrains, while 135 villages remain beyond the reach of ambulance services throughout the year.

Block-wise data underlines the scale of the crisis: Five villages in Papadahandi, 38 in Tentulikhunti, three in Nandahandi, 27 in Jharigaon, 42 in Raigarh, 14 in Chandahandi and two in Umerkote have no motorable roads.

The administration has set up nine maternity waiting homes, each with six beds, to support expectant mothers from remote areas. However, repeated demands to increase bed capacity from 10 to 15 have yet to be addressed.

Women from inaccessible regions are brought to these centres days before delivery to ensure safer childbirth. Despite such measures, poor connectivity continues to weaken healthcare outcomes.

The situation is further compounded by a shortage of doctors and specialists. Even where medical facilities exist, delays in reaching out to the

patients raise concerns about the effectiveness of healthcare services in the district.

Although multiple government schemes and grants target rural development, gaps in implementation—particularly in road infrastructure—remain evident. Many affected villages are located in forest areas, where road construction faces administrative and legal hurdles. Experts, however, question whether these challenges justify prolonged deprivation of basic services.

They call for a coordinated approach, including special policy measures and simplified clearances for road construction in forest regions. Expanding mobile medical units and organising regular health camps in remote pockets are also seen as critical. Incentives to attract doctors to underserved areas have been suggested.

“Roads are not merely a means of transport; they are lifelines,” observers say, warning that without connectivity, development efforts will continue to fall short.

When contacted, District Rural Development Agency Chief Development Officer Biranchi Narayan Darwan said road projects are progressing despite challenges related to forested areas. He noted that securing forest clearance in Papadahandi block remains difficult, while road works in Tentulikhunti block are nearing completion.

## Youth suffers fall, dies during Chadak festival

**MALKANGIRI:** A tragic incident occurred in MPV-36 village under Manyamkonda panchayat in Kalimela block of Malkangiri district, where a young man died after falling from a date palm tree while performing rituals associated with Chadak Puja. According to reports, Chadak Puja is observed in several Bengali-inhabited villages of the district during the last week of the Chaitra month. As part of the ritual, devotees offer prayers near date palm trees and pluck dates to offer to Goddess Kali and Lord Shiva. The individual who climbs the tree to collect the dates observes a day-long fast and participates in the ritual as an act of devotion. While the festival was underway Tuesday, a youth climbed a date palm tree to pluck the fruits in MPV-36 village. Another young man was also attempting to climb the same tree. However, neither of them was using any safety equipment such as ropes or protective gear. After collecting the dates, the youth slipped while descending the tree and fell to the ground, losing consciousness. Villagers immediately rushed him to the Kalimela Community Health Centre, where doctors declared him dead. Following the incident, the Chadak Puja celebrations in the village were halted, and a pall of grief descended over the area.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## 2-tonne ganja haul seized in Gajapati

POST NEWS NETWORK

**R Udayagiri, April 14:** Gajapati police have seized over 2,010 kg of cannabis estimated to be worth ₹2 crore from a dense forest, marking a major breakthrough in their anti-drug drive.

The seizure comes days after IPS officer Rakesh Kumar Sahu took charge as the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of R Udayagiri. Since then, he has intensified operations against illegal cannabis trade while tightening law and order, putting organised smuggling networks under pressure.



Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Sahu raided a forest near Bimanpur village under Kirama panchayat Monday. During the operation, officers uncovered a large cache of cannabis hidden in and around an abandoned house.

The contraband had been

buried in pits 4-5 feet deep and concealed in plastic drums and tin containers to avoid detection. Police later recovered the stock and packed it into 67 plastic sacks for weighing, which totalled 2,010 kg.

The accused fled the scene before police arrived. An investigation is underway to trace those involved.

Police said traffickers are increasingly using remote forest areas, caves and underground pits to hide cannabis before transporting it to other states. Efforts are ongoing to identify and apprehend those linked to the illegal trade.

## 11-ft crocodile found dead in Hansua River

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rajnagar, April 14:** A crocodile measuring 11 feet 3 inches in length was found dead in the Hansua River in Rajnagar area of Kendrapara district, forest officials said Tuesday.

The carcass was spotted floating near Sanaor Monday evening, following which local residents alerted the Forest department. A team reached the spot by boat, retrieved the dead reptile and later transported it to the Rajnagar range office for examination.

According to officials, the crocodile was missing its left limb, indicating it may have died following a territorial fight with another crocodile. Such incidents are more likely during the breeding season, which has recently begun.

A four-member team led by veterinary officer Dr Prakash Kumar Jena conducted an autopsy. Preliminary findings suggest the animal had died around eight to 10 days ago and the carcass had begun to decompose.

Forest authorities said further investigation is underway to confirm the exact cause of death.

## NIT Rourkela gets nat'l quantum nod



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, April 14:** The National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela has secured national recognition at the Annual Quantum Conclave 2026 for advancing quantum education initiatives.

The honour was conferred by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, following a technical review of the institute's Minor Degree in Quantum Technology. The committee endorsed both the curriculum and a proposal to establish an undergraduate quantum technology laboratory under the National

Quantum Mission. The recognition was presented during the conclave held at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay April 10-11, where Prof JP Kar received the award on behalf of the institute.

The Minor Degree programme is jointly offered by the Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Computer Science & Engineering, underscoring an interdisciplinary approach to emerging technologies.

NIT Rourkela is among 23 institutions selected nationwide under the National Quantum Mission to set up quantum teaching laboratories. The initiative aims to provide students with advanced theoretical knowledge and practical exposure in quantum science, aligning education with future technological demands.

The conclave brought together scientists, policymakers, startups and academic leaders, highlighting India's growing push in quantum technologies.

## TEACHERLESS FOR A DECADE Sanskrit school in deep crisis

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, April 14:** A government Sanskrit school at Vedvyas in Rourkela has been functioning for the past 10 years under the sole supervision of a Grade-IV employee, raising serious concerns over the quality of education for its 180 students.

The Gurukul Vedvyas Government Sanskrit School, established in 1965, offers education from Class VI to Class X, combining traditional Vedic studies with upper primary and secondary-level curricula. However, the institution has been operating without a permanent headmaster or appointed teachers for over a decade.

As a result, students, around 90 per cent of whom belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories, are reportedly being deprived of proper academic instruction. Local residents and students have alleged that the absence of qual-



ified teaching staff has severely disrupted the learning process.

Despite its recognition as a prominent government educational institution in the Vedvyas area, the prolonged shortage of teachers has undermined students' fundamental right to education. Intellectuals and community members have also pointed out that the situation amounts to a blatant violation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Students from distant areas enrol in the school with the aim of gaining knowledge in Vedas and Upanishads and securing a better future. However, sources say the institution has failed to meet these expectations due to the lack of proper teaching personnel.

Locals and students have demanded immediate intervention by the authorities, urging the appointment of permanent teachers to restore normal academic functioning.

When contacted, District Education Officer Muralidhar Behera said that no government approval has yet been received for teacher recruitment in Sanskrit schools. “Once approval is granted, necessary teachers will be appointed in the school,” he said. He added that if the Grade-IV employee currently managing the school submits a written report highlighting the issues, deputation teachers may be assigned temporarily based on necessity.

## Historic 'Para Bhadi' in Ganjam fading into oblivion

AN INQUIRY REVEALED THAT A PERSON HAS ALLEGEDLY FRAUDULENTLY SECURED A LAND TITLE IN HIS NAME FOR THE GOVERNMENT LAND WHERE THE PIGEON LOFT STANDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Ganjam, April 14:** The historic “Para Bhadi” or pigeon loft here, believed to be around 400 years old, is now in a dilapidated condition due to lack of maintenance, raising concerns over the loss of a rich heritage structure.

Once a vital communication hub, the structure served as a pigeon post centre from where hundreds of trained pigeons carried messages across long distances and reliably returned to their nests. The nearly 50-foot-tall monument houses more than 700 pigeonholes and stands as a reminder of the Nizam, British and Dutch eras.

Historical records indicate that the pigeon postal service at the site began in 1604 under the rule of the Hyderabad Nizam. The British later continued the system from around 1770. The pigeons were capable of delivering messages over distances as far as 1,075 km, including routes between Ganjam and Madras.

Specialised training was imparted to the pigeons for message exchange, often lasting up to four months. A dedicated staff member from the police department was appointed to oversee the operations and the



pigeons were trained rigorously for a period of four months.

The pigeon postal service played a crucial role during World War II, when conventional communication systems were disrupted. At a time when Ganjam served as the district headquarters, the pigeon loft functioned as a key medium of inter-regional communication among the provinces.

However, after India's independence and with the spread of modern technology, the service gradually ceased operations. Due to lack of maintenance, the structure now lies abandoned.

Despite its historical significance, the structure now faces neglect, with locals urging authorities to take immediate steps for its preservation.

A major dispute has also emerged over the historic site. An inquiry revealed that a person has allegedly fraudulently secured a land title in his name for the government land where the pigeon loft stands. Former Deputy Speaker Ramachandra Panda has written to the Chief Minister, urging that the land be restored as government property to protect the heritage site. Recently, Ganjam Collector V

Keerthi Vasan visited the site. A team of experts from IIT Madras also conducted an inspection. A detailed project report (DPR) is now being prepared for the development of the site.

The Collector said that the historic Potagarh will also be developed along with the pigeon loft. Proper conservation and recognition of the historic pigeon loft as a tourist destination could give Ganjam's heritage a new identity.

Local residents and intellectuals have demanded immediate restoration of the heritage structure.

**MCL MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)  
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**NOTICE**

“All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in), respective subsidiary Company ([MCL, www.mahanadicoal.in](http://MCL.www.mahanadicoal.in)), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>”

R-5295

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**OF**  
**M/S EVOS BUILDCON PRIVATE LIMITED**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE**

This is to inform the general public that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha has granted Environmental Clearance for a Residential Apartment Building Project to be developed by M/S EVOS BUILDCON PRIVATE LIMITED. The project is proposed to be developed over Plot No-1005/2186 & 1005/2187 under Khata No- 1288/1748 situated at Mouza-Sankarpur, Tahasil- Puri Sadar No-606, District- Puri, Odisha.

A copy of the Environmental Clearance granted vide EC Identification No. EC25C3801OR5434701N dated 08.04.2026 is available for reference with the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha and the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB). The same may also be accessed on the official websites of the respective authorities.

The environmental clearance has been granted under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

**For M/s Evos Buildcon Private Limited**  
**Kalinga Keshari Rath (Managing Director)**  
**Authorized Signatory**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender No.: MCSW-HIR-TRUCK-26-27-05  
Name of the Work: HIRING OF TRUCK/TRAILER (CAPACITY: MINIMUM 09 MT AND ABOVE AS PER RAILWAY DEMAND) FOR TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS FROM ANYWHERE TO ANYWHERE OF VARIOUS UNITS OF INDIAN RAILWAY FOR CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.

Advertised Value: ₹ 72,60,000/-, EMD: ₹ 1,45,200/-, Period of Completion: 12 Months.

Bidding start date: 16.04.2026, Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 30.04.2026.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/ POH-II/Mancheswar/ PR-40/R/26-27

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender No.: MCSW-PVCflooring-26-27-02  
NAME OF WORK : PVC FLOORING WORK IN RAILWAY BG COACHES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF 48 (FORTY-EIGHT) MONTHS.

Advertised Value : ₹ 2,01,79,200.00, EMD : ₹ 4,03,600.00, Period of Completion : 48 Months.

Bidding Start Date : 10.04.2026.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 24.04.2026.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH-II), PR-27/R/26-27 CRW/Mancheswar

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No. 02/ET/SPB/ENGG/ 2026-27, Dtd.: 08.04.2026  
e-Tender No. 01-eT-SDENC-SBP-26

Name of the Work: CONSTRUCTION OF TRACKSIDE DRAIN FROM JT 25 (CLOSED LEVEL CROSSING) TO HKG END ALONG HIW SIDING FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF SAMBALPUR YARD UNDER SECTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ BARGARH ROAD.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 1,09,63,823.94, Bid Security: ₹ 2,19,300/-, Completion period of the work: 03 months.

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 04.05.2026.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-41/R/26-27 Sambalpur