



To  
**Christen Dobson & Michael Clements – Business & Human Rights Resource Centre**

At the outset, we thank you for reaching out and providing us with an opportunity to present JSW Utkal Steel's perspective.

The background to this project and our response is as follows –

- The Government of Odisha had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with POSCO of South Korea in June, 2005 for establishment of a 12 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha with a Captive Port. The Project required 4004 acres of land including 437 acres of private land spreading over eight revenue villages. The Central Government accorded forest clearance in May, 2011. Subsequently the betel vines were removed by the District Administration and IDCO (Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation) which is the agency of the State Government to make the land encroachment-free. The land which was made encroachment-free was handed over to IDCO.
- In 2017, JSW proposed to set up a steel plant over lesser land – (3160 acres) at the same location with the same capacity. In this regard the land requirement has been assessed by MECON, the Central Government agency and approved by IPICOL (Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha). The transfer of forest clearance has been approved by the MoEF&CC (Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change) and subsequently the State Government has also passed the necessary order.  
*(Please note that MoEF&CC is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, coordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies and programs)*
- Out of the total land requirement of 3160 acres only 2.26 Ac is private land. The land owners have already given their consent for handing over the private land with permission from district administration. After the permission to utilize the forest land for establishment of the Steel Plant, from the MoEF&CC, District Administration started the process of alienation of Govt land.
- A special Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package has been framed, over and above the provisions in Odisha R & R Policy. Prior to finalization of the R & R package, public hearings / consultation were carried out in each of the Gram Panchayat<sup>1</sup> offices, which was attended by the local inhabitants and the elected representatives such as member of parliament(MP), member of legislative

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<sup>1</sup> Gram panchayat is a basic governing institution in Indian villages. It is a political institution, acting as cabinet of the village. The Gram sabha work as the general body of the Gram panchayat. The members of the Gram panchayat are elected directly by the people.



assembly (MLA), Sarpanch<sup>2</sup>, Zilla Parisad Member, ward members etc. The package was well appreciated by the locals<sup>3</sup>.

- The name of the people mentioned in the mail, and referred as HRDs are from the village Dhinkia. It may be noted that, only 45 acres of the Government land from village Dhinkia are included in the project as against the total land requirement of 3160 acres. There is not a single displacement from the Dhinkia village. Contrary to the claim of the Dhinkia, the rest of the villages are happy with the R&R and the project activity that would provide socio-economic improvement of the area.
- During the interaction meetings, some of the villagers requested to consider for preferential engagement/employment as per their eligibility and qualification. They also suggested for arrangement of appropriate trainings to upgrade their skill to make them employable. JSW has already started providing employment to the locals in the operating business from the group, although the project activity is yet to start. The project has the potential to generate employment opportunities of around 12000 direct and 45000 indirect employments during the operation phase. As mandated by environment clearance, a green belt of over 33% of the total area will be created.
- It won't be prudent on the part of the company to comment on the police actions which is beyond JSW's control, however it may please be noted that "in any country, whether developed, developing or under developed, nobody has the right to take the law into their own hand, if such a situation arises the police maintain the law and order of the society."
- It may please be noted when an Environment Clearance (EC) is granted it stipulates "Any appeal against this EC shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010." Accordingly, the project EC was challenged and Hon'ble NGT has directed the authority to apprise the EC conditions in light of the seven observations made in the judgement within three months and till such time the EC would remain suspended. Respecting the judicial pronouncements, the MoEF&CC has already stated the process of re-appraisal.

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<sup>2</sup> A sarpanch, gram pradhan, or mukhiya is a decision-maker, elected by the village-level constitutional body of local self-government called the gram sabha in India. The sarpanch, together with other elected panchayat members, constitute gram panchayats and zilla panchayats

<sup>3</sup> Should anyone interested to have the details, please advise and we would be happy to disclose.



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JSW Group has a comprehensive Sustainability Framework. As part of this framework, JSW has policy on Indigenous peoples and Resettlement and commits

- To fair and just compensation that it is paid in full as per agreed timescales;
- Explore all options of additional assistance for those who are physically or economically displaced, placing particular emphasis on any vulnerable groups;
- Provide support and resources to protect vulnerable customs, cultures and traditions;

We remain committed to ensure full compliance to the country's regulation and our stated commitments.

We would also like to highlight that the project activity has received very positive responses amongst the stakeholders and locals alike. A sample of those articles are attached in Annex-1.

Kind Regards

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**Annex -1 : Balanced media coverage of the project activity, links and some articles provided below:**

1. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2022/aug/07/villagers-make-a-u-turn-agree-to-supportjsw-steel-project-in-odishas-dhinkia-2484962.html>
2. <https://ommcomnews.com/odisha-news/ground-breaking-ceremony-of-pellet-plant-for-jsw-utkal-steel-held>
3. <https://hindi.oneindia.com/amhtml/news/bhubaneswar/odisha-villagers-of-dhinkia-uturn-agree-to-support-jsw-steel-project-700791.html>
4. <https://odishabytes.com/bhumi-puja-for-pellet-plant-of-jsw-utkal-steel-performed-in-odishas-jagatsinghpur/>





- The public representatives from the plant site were taken on an exposure trip from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August to the largest single location JSW steel plant at Vijayanagar, Bellary, Karnataka

## Exposure trip to JSW Vijayanagar plant

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
PARADIP, 17 AUGUST:

The representatives of three panchayats—Dhinkia, Nuagaon and Gadakujunga under Ersama block of Jagatsinghpur district—visited JSW Vijayanagar plant where they joined the I Day celebrations with MD Sajjan Jindal and chairperson of JSW Foundation Sangita Jindal.

The 29 member team was led by Dhinkia Sarpanch Kishore Parida, Nuagaon Panchayat Sarpanch Suchitra Mohanty and Gadakujunga Panchayat Sarpanch Kavitha Das.

They got a chance to have first-hand experience of steel making in the plant. They interacted with Mr and Mrs Jindal and also presented idols of the chief deities of Odisha Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra.

Mrs Jindal said, "I am so happy to meet people from coastal Odisha at Vijayanagar".

Kavitha Das said "the experience was amazing. We witnessed first-hand experience of steel making periphery development. We hope that same development would take in Paradip as well."

**The Statesman** Thu, 18 August 2022 <https://epaper.thestatesman.com>





- Flood relief – August 2022

## JSW distributes flood relief

### STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAGAT Singhpur, 23 AUGUST:

Keeping in view of recent flood in Jagatsinghpur, JSW Foundation and district administration distributed a special relief package to the flood-affected areas.

Kujung and Tirtol blocks have been ravaged by the floods. JSW Foundation and district administration distributed 44,928 packets of biscuits, 4,500 packets of Amul (200gm), 4,500 packets of sanitary pads, 22,500 candles, 25,200 matchsticks and 3,500 packets of incense in Tirtol block. Similarly, 55,152 biscuits, 5,540 Amul packets, 5,500 sanitary pads, 27,500 candles, and 24,800 matchsticks, along with 4,500 mosquito coils packets have been provided in Kujung block.

The Foundation and JSW Utkal Steel authorities visited flood-affected areas and interacted with the people. They also met with the District Collector Parul Patawari and assured them all kind of support and assistance.

**The Statesman** 



- Health Camp Mines area: November 29

## Free Mega Health Camp organized by JSW & JCAF

### STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KEONJHAR, 28 NOVEMBER:

JSW and Mumbai based Jagannath Cancer Aid Foundation (JCAF) organized two-day Free Mega Health Camp here in the mining areas. Two health camps, initiated by JSW Foundation, was held on Saturday and Sunday at Nuagaon and Jajang dispensaries respectively.

More than 550 patients from 27 villages attended the health camp and benefited of free health care services.

The camp offered special-

ist consultations, medicines, laboratory investigations, diabetes test, services at free of cost. The cancer specialist Dr Dilip Kumar Kar attended patients and conducted diagnosis. Dr Kar is a cancer and Endocrine surgeon and currently offering his service at Utkal Hospital in Bhubaneswar.

A team of doctors including three general physicians, one gynecologist and one orthopedic specialist offered health services and consultations to patients.

**The Statesman** Tue, 29 November   
<https://epaper.th>

## Mobile Bus Toilet for Women Opens



**Paradip:** A state-of-the-art mobile bus toilet was inaugurated on Friday evening by JSW Foundation for the benefit of women and children at Paradip sea beach. In the inaugural evening, Paradip Port Authority (PPA) Chairman P.L. Haranad has joined as the chief guest and inaugurated this special toilet. Among others, A.K. Bose, Dy.Chairman, PPA, Manish Kumar Gupta, Unit Head, JSW, Prasant Kumar Biswal, CSR Head, JSW Foundation were prominently present. Chief Guest Shri Haranad highly appreciated the efforts of JSW Foundation for establishing such a hygienic mobile toilet at the beach. Finally Pinaki Mohanty, PRO, JSW, Paradip gave vote of thanks.



- Youth from the ISP site offered jobs at JSW March 2023

# JSW conducts bhumi puja for pellet unit of its mega steel plant

## 41 youth get appointment letters

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PARADIP, 17 MARCH:

The ground-breaking ceremony of the pellet plant for JSW Utkal Steel (JUSL) greenfield project coming up at Nuagaon, Dhinkia and Gadakujung panchayats under the Ersama blocks of Jagatsinghpur District was held on Friday.

PRI members and sarpanches of the area were present and expressed their happiness.

The test piling work would commence soon.

Forty one youth from the plant site were offered employment letters for jobs at BPSL (a subsidiary of JSW).

The President and whole time Director of JSW sub-



sidiary BPSL, Anil Singh has been recently appointed as the new project head of the upcoming Greenfield Steel Plant.

Singh underlined the importance of the day and assured expeditious completion of the project with the cooperation of local people.

An alternative livelihoods

program for the economically vulnerable population at the site has been implemented. Between Dec 2022 to March 2023, the program provided alternative livelihood opportunities to 456 individuals across the GPs in form of poultry, goatery, dairy and mushroom cultivation. Overall, the program is expected to benefit a total of 2041 individuals across the landlosing villages by FY 2024-25.

A total of 151 youth have been trained. By the end of FY 2024-25 a total of 440 youth would be skilled.

It is pertinent to note that after POSCO withdrew its proposed mega steel mill project in the same area, the JSW has started work.



- **People at the ISP site villages unhappy over NGT order, March 2023**

## People in neighbourhood of JUSL's steel project at Paradip unhappy over NGT order

**PBD BUREAU**

PARADIP, MAR 24

EXPRESSING anguish over the latest decision of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in which the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been asked to make appraisal afresh of the EAC with regard to the greenfield steel project of JSW Utkal Steel Ltd (JUSL), the people in the neighbourhood of the project site here have appealed to state government to take steps to thwart the attempts of the saboteurs out to upset Odisha's industrial growth roadmap. However, as the fresh appraisal is to be completed in three months by MoEF&CC, the EC will remain suspended till that period only, as per the NGT order.

Notably, the Kolkata bench of the NGT in its recent order has asked the MoEF&CC to take into consideration some other issues before EAC mak-



ing a fresh appraisal for issuing the EC. "We allow these appeals and remit the matter to the MoEF&CC for fresh appraisal and decision by MoEF&CC in the light of above observations which may take place within three months. Till such decision, ECs will remain suspended," the order passed by the NGT Bench headed by Adarsh Kumar Goel.

Apart from significant issue of public hearing, important issue of location of the project close to polluted area, jetty being unnecessarily close to an established port, huge water being taken from the river which may affect drinking

water needs and flow of the river are important issues which need express consideration, the Order said while asking MoEF&CC to go for a fresh decision following fresh appraisal by the EAC.

Some of the villagers in the neighbourhood of this proposed mega steel project told PBD that causing such roadblocks suits only the environment hawks, but dampens the spirit of the local youth and others who were eagerly waiting for this industry to come up without further delay.

People at the JUSL site have already lost sizable betel vines. In such a scenario, delaying project work is going to worsen the sufferings of the locals, said an industry expert. State has lost out on mega investments of steel giant POSCO and aluminium behemoth Vedanta in the past and such development will

not augur well for the investment climate of Odisha, he said.

Lipuna Khuntia of Nuagaon, Ananta Behera of Dhinkia and Chinmay Rout of Gada Kujanga expressed shock at this development and said, "We some ITI pass-outs of the nearby villages are immensely excited to get jobs in this project which offers immense opportunities to local youths. The atmosphere was buoyant in the neighborhood, seeing the rapid development in the project work here, such destructive agendas of saboteurs should not be allowed to succeed."

Stating that small hurdles are part of mega projects, a senior functionary of JUSL informed PBD, "While as many as 41 youth from the site received employment letters on March 17, 2023, thus far over 200 such youngmen have got direct employment in JUSL." In addition, JUSL has also opened up indirect livelihood opportunities to local women SHGs and others, the company official further added.

Statesman, 15 Dec 2021:

## JSW declares attractive special R&R package

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
 PARADIP, 15 DECEMBER

Reaching out to people of its proposed project site area, the JSW, declared its compensation package claiming that it is way above the policy provisions outlined in the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy of the state government.

Project affected people living in villages of Nuagaon, Gada Kujang & Dhinkia gram panchayat, for its Integrated Steel Plant at Paradip will get Rs 17,500 per decimal compensation for betel vines plus Rs 50,000 as bonus and as far as employment is concerned it invited applications from youth.

The company said the package was formulated after extensive discussion with all the stake holders.

"JSW is stepping up CSR activities in the project site for the all-round development of the region," said Mr Ranjan Nayak, COO, JSW Steel operations, Odisha. "We are taking up livelihood of the people from the project villages as a priority area and are coming up with a roadmap to address it," he added.

The VLC engagement process by JSW has received overwhelming response with close to 175 applications from all three GPs - close to 40 applications were received from Dhinkia GP, 100 from Nuagaon

and about. 35 from Gadakujang GP.

► Rs 17,500/- per decimal compensation for Betel Vine Owners + Rs 50,000/- additional bonus

► Rs 2.5 lakh per acre of prawn pond

► All ration card holder families covered in the land losing villages

► Door to door survey for job avenues to eligible youth

Further, process has been initiated for additional engagement of 1000 youth with both technical and non-technical background from the project affected villages.

For loss of betel vines, compensation of Rs. 17500 per decimal has been declared which is almost three times more than the government provision of Rs 6000 per decimal.

For the first time, a differential compensation of Rs. 6000 per decimal is offered to all the old betel vine owners, who ear-

lier received Rs. 11,500 per decimal. For wider and inclusive coverage all the ration card holders in the eight land losing villages - namely Polang, Bayanalakandha, Jatadhara, Nuagaon, Gobindpur, Patana, Dhinkia and Mahala; who have not received betel vine compensation or have not received any labour compensation earlier from erstwhile projects, betel vine labour compensation of Rs 88,000 - Rs 44,000/- as one-time financial assistance after demolition of all betel vines and Rs 44,000/- balance as additional bonus after completion of boundary wall of the entire project area has been offered.

Each family under the Jangal Surakhya Committee will be paid Rs 50,000/- and the

number of the families associated with the Jangal Surakhya Committee will be selected based on the records and proceedings of the committee for past three years.

For the Prawn Ponds with requisite permission from competent authority, a compensation is Rs.2.5 lakh per acre will be provided.

The company said a door-to-door survey in the land losing villages will be carried out to identify one eligible member between the age group of 20-3r yrs from the ration card holder families for engagement .

Company would try to provide direct or indirect engagement to one member from each ration card holding family in land losing villages would be given in any of JSW group companies, associated company or contractors of the plant or project agencies, in a phased manner

It may be noted here that the integrated steel mill of JSW is to come up in the site which had earlier been selected for the POSCO plant which was shelved following stiff resistance by people.



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**Betel vine farmers seek security for JSW supporters after attack**  
**The Indian Express, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2022/jan/03/betel-vine-farmers-seek-securityfor-jsw-supporters-after-attack-2402519.html>

**JSW project gains increasing support in Dhinkia**  
**The Daily Pioneer, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2022/state-editions/jsw-project-gains-increasing-support-in-dhinkia.html>

**JSW Steels Special R&R package brings smile among betel vines farmers**

**India News Diary, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**

<https://indianewsdiary.com/sajjan-jindals-look-east-steel-policy-jsw-steels-special-rr-packages-bring-smile-among-betel-vines-farmers-of-odishas-jagatsinghpur/>

**JSW Steel distributes blankets to poor in Sundergarh**  
**Indian News Diary, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

<https://indianewsdiary.com/jsw-steel-distributes-blankets-to-poor-in-sundargarh/>



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