



Kusunpur Set to Become Odisha's First Smart Village | Odisha | 19 Mar 2026

Why in News?

Kusunpur village in Kendrapada district of **Odisha** is set to become the state's **first smart village** under a mission-mode initiative launched by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, marking a major step toward technology-driven and sustainable rural development.

Key Points:

- **Project Launch:** **CSIR**, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, initiated the smart village project for Kusunpur, aligning with the broader vision of a **"Viksit Bharat @ 2047"**.
- **Vision & Objective:** The project aims to bring **modern technologies** and **scientific solutions** to rural life, improving quality of life and supporting sustainable, resilient village development.
- **Implementation:** The initiative includes collaboration between **CSIR research institutions**, local administration, and implementation partners to introduce practical solutions.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Planned interventions include **climate-resilient buildings**, community toilets, and comprehensive village planning through CSIR-CBRI support.
- **Mission Mode Approach:** Multiple CSIR research institutions collaborate to implement **practical, scalable solutions** across various sectors.
 - CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee
 - CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar
 - CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CEERI)
 - CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST)
 - CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC)
 - CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI)
- **Rural Empowerment:** The project is expected to enhance **self-reliance, sustainable agriculture practices**, and **quality of life**, potentially serving as a **model for other rural areas** in the state and across India.

Read More: [CSIR, Viksit Bharat @ 2047](#)

15th Century Odisha Rulers' Inscriptions Found in Guntur Temple | Odisha | 19 Mar 2026

Why in News?

A **15th-century inscription** linked to the **Gajapati rulers of Odisha** has been discovered on a stone pillar at the **Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple** in Ramchandrapura Agraharam, **Guntur**, highlighting strong historical ties between Odisha and the Andhra region during the late medieval period.

Key Points:

- **Discovery of Inscriptions:** The inscriptions were found in a **temple complex in Guntur district**.
- **Link to Odisha Rulers:** The inscriptions are associated with the **Gajapati dynasty of Odisha**.
 - The **Gajapati rulers** were powerful kings who controlled large parts of eastern and southern India during the medieval period
- **The Rulers:** The inscriptions are attributed to the reign of **Gajapati Kapilendra Deva** (the founder of the Gajapati dynasty) and his son **Purushottama Deva**.
- **Language & Script:** The inscriptions are carved in **Medieval Odia** and **Telugu** scripts, reflecting the linguistic synthesis of the region during that era.
- **Content:** One inscription records the **grant of land** and villages to the Malleswara Swamy Temple for its daily rituals and maintenance.
 - The **second inscription** details a **remission of taxes** for the local weaving community (Kaikala) and merchants, a common administrative practice to ensure loyalty in newly conquered territories.
- **Date:** The epigraphs are dated to the **Saka Era**, corresponding to the mid-to-late 15th century (approx. 1460-1480 CE).
- **Significance:** Confirms that Odisha rulers had **political control over parts of present-day Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Use of **multiple scripts (Telugu and Odia)** shows **linguistic and cultural interaction**

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