

A two-day installation and training programme for a Sanitary Napkin Making Unit was organized on 6–7 May 2026 at Penthakata in Puri district, Odisha, under the Dissemination and Social Diffusion (DSD) initiative of the National Innovation Foundation–India (NIF).

The programme aimed to promote livelihood generation and enhance menstrual hygiene awareness among women from the predominantly migrant fisherman community in the region. Around 60 women participated in batches and received hands-on training in operating the sanitary napkin manufacturing unit—an innovation developed by grassroots innovator Abdul Gaffar Sheikh. The training also included guidance on hygienic usage and safe disposal practices.

In addition, awareness sessions were conducted to highlight the health risks associated with the use of unhygienic menstrual alternatives. Participants were encouraged to adopt the initiative as a means of improving health, dignity, and economic independence, with implementation support from Gopabandhu Seva Parisad, the project’s local NGO partner.

