

VIGILANCE DIRECTORATE
ODISHA, CUTTACK.



PRESS RELEASE

Dt.08.06.2026

MGNREGA ASSISTANT OF PD, WATERSHED OFFICE, BHAWANIPATNA ARRESTED BY ODISHA VIGILANCE WHILE TAKING BRIBE RS.35,000/- IN LIEU OF RELEASE OF BILL AMOUNT UNDER MGNREG SCHEME.

Today i.e. on 08.06.2026, Ms. Priyanka Jena, MGNREGA Assistant, O/o PD Watershed, Bhawanipatna, Dist-Kalahandi has been **apprehended** by Odisha Vigilance for **demanding and taking undue advantage (bribe) of Rs.35,000/- (Rupees Thirty-five Thousand) from a beneficiary in lieu of bill amount (Rs.2.68 Lakhs) released towards execution of Farm Ponds under MGNREG scheme.** But, accused Ms.Jena demanded bribe Rs.35,000/- from the beneficiary towards the bill amount already released in his favour and for clearing the pending bill amount. She also threatened the beneficiary unless the demanded bribe Rs.35,000/- was paid to her, she wouldn't facilitate the release of the pending bill amount. When several approaches made by the beneficiary went unattended, he reported the matter to vigilance authorities alleging harassment by the accused Ms. Jena.

Based on the above complaint, a trap was laid on 08.06.2026, wherein the accused Ms. Priyanka Jena, MGNREGA Assistant was **nabbed** by the team of Odisha Vigilance for **demanding and taking undue advantage (bribe) of Rs.35,000/- (Rupees Thirty-five Thousand) from a beneficiary.** The entire bribe money was recovered and seized from her possession in presence of witnesses. Following the trap, **simultaneous searches have been launched** on the residential house of Ms. Jena at Bhawanipatna and her office room. **Accused Ms. Priyanka Jena, MGNREGA Assistant has been arrested and will be forwarded to the Court.**

In this connection, Koraput Vigilance PS Case No.9 dated 07.06.2026 U/s 7 Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered and is under investigation.