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PICTURE CREDIT: SOUMYA SATYAKANTA SETHI



# Driving Menstrual Equity: IIT Bhubaneswar Hosts Transformative Conclave on Menstrual Health & Hygiene

A landmark event on menstrual health and dignity unfolded today at IIT Bhubaneswar, where policymakers, public health experts, development partners, and social innovators came together for the Conclave on Menstrual Health & Hygiene 2025, supported by Nexus Select Trust. Held in observance of World Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the conclave emphasized innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable solutions to menstrual challenges in India. The event was organized under the “Project Period: Sanitation, Health & Hygiene, and Environment (SHE)” initiative by IIT Bhubaneswar Research & Entrepreneurship Park, in collaboration with UNICEF, Saukhyam Foundation, Action Lab 2050 Foundation, and the Odisha Menstrual Health and Hygiene Alliance.



The day-long event at the Institute Auditorium was inaugurated by Smt. Pravati Parida, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha. Project CARE, promoting reusable menstrual products among students, was launched with the distribution of eco-friendly pads to women from economically weaker sections from the nearby villages. Smt. Parida also unveiled two Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines donated by Canara Bank to enhance menstrual accessibility on campuses and in public institutions.



Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Minister Smt. Parida urged breaking menstrual taboos and lauded IIT Bhubaneswar for hosting the conclave. She emphasized cultural change, male involvement in menstrual education, improved access to products in schools and workplaces, and the need for sustainable, informed choices.



Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, emphasized that menstrual health is a societal imperative linked to education, equity, and public health. He highlighted IIT Bhubaneswar's role in promoting innovative solutions through its Research and Entrepreneurship Park and 100 Cube Startup initiative. He also noted the institute's provision of two work-from-home days during periods for PhD scholars under supervision.



Dr. Seema Bahinipati, Independent Director, IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the institution's ongoing efforts to foster inclusive health and research innovation.

Ms. Harsha Bharda, Deputy General Manager-ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), Nexus Select Trust and Mr. Willian Hanlon Jr, Chief of Field Office UNICEF Odisha also spoke on the occasion. Among others, Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar, IIT Bhubaneswar; Mr. Nilesh Singh, General Manager (ESG), Nexus Select Mall; Prof. Praveen Bist from Saukhyam Foundation; Ms. Karina Malczewska, Ms Pratibha Singh, Ms. Shipra Saxena and Ms. Astha Alang from UNICEF also graced the programme. Mr. Srustijeet Mishra, Founder, ActionLab 2050 proposed a vote of thanks in the inaugural session.



The conclave featured engaging panel discussions and research presentations on government initiatives and innovative solutions for sustainable menstrual health. Experts from WaterAid India, UNICEF, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, and social enterprises like Padcare Labs and Cresa Pads contributed valuable, action-oriented insights.

The event also saw the launch of Project "Asmita" by WE4YOU Charitable Trust and the announcement of Hackathon themes under Project "PERIOD" by Dr. Soobhankar Pati, CEO of IIT Bhubaneswar's Research and Entrepreneurship Park, and Mr. Surya Kumar Pattanayak, Director, STPI Bhubaneswar. These initiatives aim to foster youth-led innovation in menstrual health.

Dr. Pati concluded with a vote of thanks, highlighting the importance of continued cross-sector collaboration for impactful change.



# IIT Bhubaneswar organizes lecture to mark National Technology Day Celebrations

As part of National Technology Day celebrations, IIT Bhubaneswar hosted a lecture on 'Futuristic Defence Technologies: India towards becoming a World Leader' on 23rd May 2025, delivered by Dr. Binay Kumar Das, Director General, DRDO. This was the 4th lecture in the Distinguished Lecture Series by INAE-Bhubaneswar Chapter, in collaboration with SOA University, IIT Bhubaneswar, NISER, CSIR-IMMT, ICT-IOC Bhubaneswar Campus, and IEEE Bhubaneswar Section.

In his lecture, Dr. Das highlighted how military innovations often drive civilian technologies and emphasized India's potential to lead in futuristic defence amid evolving global warfare, especially post-Ukraine conflict. He focused on AI, autonomous systems, hypersonic weapons, and quantum sensing, while underscoring India's self-reliance efforts through initiatives like DIA-CoE, startup partnerships, and DRDO's TDF scheme.



Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, emphasized that while technology has transformed society and India has advanced in software and systems, the focus must now shift to strengthening components-level technologies, especially in materials science, to achieve global leadership.



Prof. Damodar Acharya, Former Director of IIT Kharagpur, shared that INAE organized the National Technology Day celebrations, featuring expert lectures on technology's impact in areas like nuclear science, AI, space, and defense. He emphasized that these events honor the legacy of the 1998 Pokhran tests and showcase India's growing global stature in science and technology.



Prof. Subhransu Ranjan Samantaray, Head of School of Electrical & Computer Sciences and Secretary, INAE; Prof. Radhakanta Padhi, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Vijayakrishna Kari, Professor-in-Charge (Seminar), IIT Bhubaneswar coordinated the programme.





# 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Microwave, Optical and Communication Engineering

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Microwave, Optical and Communication Engineering (ICMOCE-2025) has been completed during 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the School of Electrical and Computer Sciences. The conference was technically co-sponsored by IEEE (Kolkata & Bhubaneswar Sections) and by Springer. ICMOCE-2025 provided an international forum for the exchange of ideas on state-of-the-art research in microwave, optical & communication engineering.



The first day of ICMOCE 2025 witnessed vibrant participation from over 150 delegates worldwide. The day featured an insightful inaugural session three keynote addresses by eminent professors, a specialized workshop on 6G research, parallel contributory sessions across five technical tracks covering advanced topics in electromagnetics propagation optics artificial intelligence, and biomedical applications. An engaging industry workshop on AI-driven innovation was also held on the occasion.

The second day of ICMOCE 2025 featured keynote addresses by leading experts, followed by parallel technical sessions showcasing cutting-edge research in optical materials, photonic devices, wireless networks, and more. A special session on biosensing applications highlighted the conference's multidisciplinary focus.



The final day of ICMOCE 2025 began with a keynote on error control coding, followed by technical sessions on metasurfaces, AI-driven imaging, optical communication, human-machine sensing, and biomedical innovations. The event concluded with fruitful technical discussions, marking a successful close to the conference.



# Plantation drive to mark World Environment Day

IIT Bhubaneswar, reiterating its commitment towards a clean and green environment, celebrated World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, in line with the theme of the year, 'Putting an end to Plastic Pollution'. To mark the occasion, the Institute initiated a massive plantation drive inside the campus premises and planted around 100 avenue plants, fruit-bearing and flowering plants.



Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar inaugurated the plantation drive. Among others, Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar, K. Rabin Kumar Dora, Superintending Engineer, faculty members, staff and residents of the campus participated in this drive and planted saplings. Shri Kamireddy Visweswara Reddy, Horticulturist of the Institute coordinated the programme.





# Unlocking Brainwaves: An Introductory EEG Workshop



The School of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Management (SHSSM) organized a one-day 'Unlocking Brainwaves: An Introductory EEG Workshop' on Electroencephalogram (EEG) on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The event aimed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of EEG and its applications in research and clinical settings. A total of 35 participants attended the workshop. The event was formally opened in the presence of Dr. Dukhabandhu Sahoo, Head of School, SHSSM, and Dr. Aparna Pandey, Program Coordinator.

The resource person, Dr. Sudhakar Mishra, Post-Doctoral Fellow at IIT Kanpur covered an introduction to EEG, including the basics of EEG, EEG hardware components, and EEG signal processing techniques. His session provided a strong foundation for beginners and clarified the technical nuances of EEG data acquisition.



The workshop also featured an online session conducted by Dr. Pragathi P. Balasubramani, IIT Kanpur. Her talk focused on the applications of EEG in research and clinical diagnostics. Following the lectures, a hands-on session was organized, featuring a live demonstration of EEG recording. Participants were guided through data collection and basic analysis using EEGLAB, enhancing their practical understanding of EEG workflows. Dr. Aparna Pandey proposed a vote of thanks.



“To hear an Oriole sing  
May be a common thing -  
Or only a divine.”

***The Hear an Oriole Sing***  
*Poem by Emily Dickinsonl*



*Picture Credit: Smt. Snigdha A. Sanyal*

HAPPY READING!