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IITBBS Express

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Vol. 31: Published on 15.07.2025



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Odisha's First GenAI Hackathon

IIT Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with Jazzee, has organized Odisha's first GenAI Hackathon, titled “Trillion Dollar Opportunity 2025”, a pioneering initiative aimed at empowering student innovators in the field of Generative AI from 3rd to 5th July 2025. Held in the campus of IIT Bhubaneswar, this event brought together aspiring developers, researchers, and AI enthusiasts from across the nation to address real-world challenges using cutting-edge AI technologies. Out of the 126 teams (447 students) who applied online, only 11 elite teams (40 students) made it to the grand finale at IIT Bhubaneswar.



The opening ceremony was graced by Prof. V. Pandu Ranga, Dean Continuing Education at IIT Bhubaneswar, Dr. Ranjan Kumar Pradhan, Director at OTR-FINE, Prof. Prasant Kumar Sahu from IIT Bhubaneswar and Mr. Suchit Mishra, Founder & CEO of Jazzee.



With 48 hours of non-stop coding, expert mentorship, and high-impact problem solving, the hackathon offered a launchpad for breakthrough ideas that could shape the trillion-dollar GenAI landscape of the future. This landmark event positioned IIT Bhubaneswar at the forefront of AI innovation and entrepreneurship in the state and beyond. Out of all teams, the winners were:

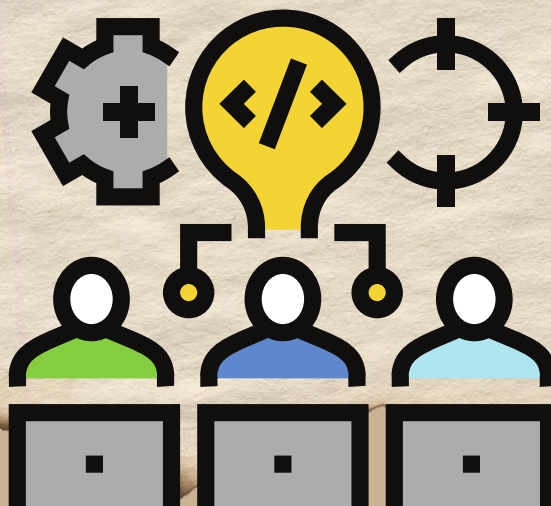
1st Prize: Team Evolve AI – Rachit Goyal, Mukul Garg, Kushagra Kataria from Chitkara University, Punjab, and Moksh Kulshrestha from Chitkara University – ₹50,000

2nd Prize: Team AlphaQ – (Achyut Mukund, Akshat Majila, Satyam Jha) from Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai along with Ronit Raj from IIIT Gwalior – ₹30,000

3rd Prize: Team K2013 – Anay from IISER Berhampur along with (Samarth Sharma and Khwahish Vaid) from Seneca Polytechnic – ₹20,000



The valedictory ceremony was graced by Prof. Jaideep Talukdar, Vice Chancellor, Silicon University; Prof. Debi Prosad Dogra, HoD, CSE, IIT Bhubaneswar and Prof. Prasant Kumar Sahu, IIT Bhubaneswar who inspired and encouraged the participants with their words of wisdom. This hackathon marked a defining moment for AI-driven innovation in the country



FDP on The Power of Gender Equality

A five-day programme titled 'Power of Gender Equality' was held from 30th June to 4th July 2025 in the campus, in collaboration with the Heartfulness Institute, Hyderabad. This FDP is convened and coordinated by Dr. Debasree Purkayastha, Dr. Sreetama Misra, Dr. Manaswini Behera from IIT Bhubaneswar, and Dr. Sushama Viladkar from the Heartfulness Institute. The FDP was designed and mapped with the objectives of United Nations Sustainability Development Goal (SDG)-5.



The inaugural session was graced by Chief Guest Mrs. Shruti Karmalkar, Advisor to Residents' Clubs; Prof. P. Hemalatha Reddy, Associate Director (Faculty Development Program) from the Heartful Campus; Prof. Rajesh Roshan Dash, Dean of Student Affairs, IIT Bhubaneswar; Prof. Sumanta Halder, Head of School, School of Infrastructure; and Dr. Amrita Satpathy, Head of School, School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management. Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar was also present on the occasion and inspired the participants.

The programme aimed to sensitize participants to gender issues and promote inclusive practices. The inaugural addresses highlighted how pervasive gender discrimination is and how it affects people of all genders, also pointing out the misuse of technology in spreading such biases. The dignitaries stressed the need for inner transformation through practices like meditation as a way to drive social change. Through expert talks, interactive workshops, and case studies, the programme created space for discussions on breaking stereotypes and fostering equal opportunities, emphasizing the importance of gender equity in academia and beyond.



The five-day programme brought together a distinguished group of speakers from academia, healthcare, law, and social sectors, including experts from IITs, the Heartfulness Institute, Delhi Technological University, MIT World Peace University, and others. Each session offered insightful presentations followed by interactive discussions, covering key topics such as gender equity, the POSH Act 2013, legal aspects of discrimination, and strategies for empowerment.

One of the highlights of the event was the panel discussion on “Gender Equity or Gender Equality – Where Should We Lead Towards?”, which helped clarify pressing issues and proposed actionable steps aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5. To complement the intellectual engagement and explore the rich cultural heritage of Odisha, participants visited the Konark Sun Temple and Chandrabhaga beach, enriching the experience with cultural immersion.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session on July 4, featuring an Odissi dance performance by the Parampara Club (IIT Bhubaneswar) and an address by Mr. Gandharba Behera of the Heartfulness Institute. His reflections emphasized the deeper impact of the programme—fostering meaningful connections, personal transformation, and a renewed commitment to gender justice. Participant feedback highlighted the event’s success in blending thought leadership with inner reflection, marking not an end but a continuation of a shared journey toward equity and inclusion.



AICTE QIP PG Certification Programme on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence

AICTE has started a hybrid mode six month PG certification programme for the academic development of faculty members belonging to core engineering disciplines to enhance the knowledge and their skill set in the emerging areas. As part of this programme, the School of Mechanical Sciences and School of Electrical and Computer Sciences of IIT Bhubaneswar started the offline session of the interdisciplinary PG certification programme on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence from 23rd June to 4th July 2025.



The program was inaugurated by Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, and Prof. V. Pandu Ranga, Dean-Continuing Education. Around 50 faculty members from various states across India had attended this programme, part of first offline mode. The programme will continue in online mode till December 2025 and finally the candidates will attend the offline program in the campus for another two weeks to complete the physical exams.

Best Student Presentation Award

Mr. Rakesh Nandan, a PhD scholar of School of Mechanical Sciences, received the Best Student Presentation Award at the International Conference on Thermal Engineering and Applications (ICTEA 2025) held in Bucharest, Romania. He is working on Hybrid Heat Sinks for Thermal Management under the supervision of Prof. Mihir Das and Dr. Venugopal A.



This study presents a novel hybrid cooling solution for electronic devices by integrating a Phase Change Material (PCM) filled heat sink with forced convection. To further enhance its cooling capacity, the geometry of the conventional fins of the heat sink is strategically modified to maximize heat dissipation and improve PCM utilization. The proposed design effectively manages the heat generated by high-performance processors in computers and workstations, ensuring that their operating temperatures remain within safe limits.

Launch of 'Mother's Touch'



'Mother's Touch' – a warm and welcoming eatery, specially created for students who miss the comfort and care of home-cooked meals, has been launched on 12th July 2025. Inaugurated by Mrs. Shruti Karmalkar, this heartfelt initiative is a joint venture by a group of ladies residing in the campus premises.



Mother's Touch offers a rotating menu with something new every day – ranging from wholesome breakfast items to evening snacks, bakery treats, chaat, sweets, and refreshing beverages.

“The kingfisher rises out of the black wave
like a blue flower, in his beak
he carries a silver leaf. I think this is
the prettiest world—so long as you don’t mind
a little dying, how could there be a day in your whole life
that doesn’t have its splash of happiness?”

“The Kingfisher” by Mary Oliver



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