







# Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas

IIT Bhubaneswar joined the Nation in observing Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas, to honour the invaluable contributions of tribal communities to India's rich heritage and their unyielding spirit of resilience.

This day is particularly significant as we pay tribute to the legendary Birsa Munda, the fearless tribal leader, and freedom fighter whose name is synonymous with courage and rebellion. Born on 15th November 1875, Birsa Munda mobilized his community against oppressive colonial policies, advocating for the rights of Adivasis and inspiring a movement for self-reliance, dignity, and justice. His vision for a better future resonates deeply with the values of equality and sustainability.



The observance began with floral tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda on 15th November 2024 by the members of the Institute.





As part of the observance, the Institute set up special selfie points to celebrate the rich heritage and culture of India's tribal communities. Students, faculty members and staff were encouraged to take photos at these selfie points, helping to spread awareness and pride about the contributions of tribal communities. The initiative was a fun and educational way to celebrate the spirit of tribal pride and unity while promoting a deep understanding of tribal traditions.





## Culinary Heritage Day



On 24th November 2024, IIT Bhubaneswar Hostel Council took the initiative to mark this observance in a special way by hosting the Culinary Heritage Day. As part of this initiative, one of the meals served in the mess featured a dish prepared from a recipe usually savoured by the tribal people, highlighting the rich culinary traditions of the indigenous communities.





# MoU signed between GRIDCO and IIT Bhubaneswar



A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between GRID Corporation of Odisha (GRIDCO) and IIT Bhubaneswar to establish a state of the art Testing, Evaluation and Certification facility for Green Hydrogen production, storage and utilization units along with its components. The proposed testing facility will create an eco-system to facilitate the growth of green hydrogen industries and its commercialization. This will also notably enhance the industry-academia interaction meeting the future endeavors of the nation. The center is envisaged to offer consultancy, technical knowhow and R & D solutions to the domain industries. The MoU was signed by Managing Director, GRIDCO, Mr. Trilochan Panda and Dean SRIC, IIT Bhubaneswar Prof. Dinakar Pasla in presence of Prof. S R Samantaray, HoS, School of Electrical and Computer Sciences, Prof. Umaprassana Ojha from IIT Bhubaneswar; and Mr. Uamakanta Sahu, Director, Trading, Mr. Rutupurna Mansingh, DGM (Electrical) and other officials of GRIDCO. This is an initiative of its kind considering the collaboration between Odisha's state nodal agency for Renewable Energy GRIDCO and IIT Bhubaneswar.



# Training on New Technology Initiatives in Rural Roads under PMGSY

The School of Infrastructure, IIT Bhubaneswar has been appointed as the Principal Technical Agency (PTA) for the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha under the most ambitious rural connectivity scheme PMGSY. As part of the responsibilities of PTA, a 5-day Training Programme on “New Technology Initiatives in Rural Roads under PMGSY” was organised during 18-22 November 2024, which was coordinated by Dr. U. C. Sahoo, Dr. S. R. Dash and Dr. Anush K. Chandrappa.



The programme was sponsored by the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. A total of 38 Engineers nominated by NRIDA from 21 states and UT participated in this programme. Inauguration of the programme was graced by Shri B. C. Pradhan, former Consultant Director (Technical) of NRIDA, who stressed on the importance of using new technologies in this field to set new benchmarks.







This programme was intended for capacity building of the Engineers for successful implementation of projects sanctioned under PMGSY with adoption of different new technologies to achieve sustainability in road construction. Interactive lectures were delivered on various technologies such as Cell filled concrete and Panelled concrete pavements, Geopolymer Concrete, Cement Treated Bases, Full Depth Reclamation, Cold mix Technology, Waste Plastic utilization, Geosynthetic Application in Rural roads, utilization of Industrial Wastes in Road Construction, Cement Grouted Bituminous Macadam and Low Cost Surfacing etc. Experts from IIT Bhubaneswar, NIT Rourkela and CSIR-CRRI delivered lectures on these themes. Apart of the technical lectures, there were a few industry presentations, Laboratory and field visits included in this programme. The participants stated their satisfaction on the course content and delivery by the experts. Overall, the programme was organised successfully.





# Study Trip of ITEP Students



As part of the ITEP course Art Education and Creative Expressions, a study trip was organised by the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management on 17th November 2024. The students were taken to visit the Odisha State Museum and Odisha Crafts Museum (Kala Bhoomi), Bhubaneswar. During the tour, students were assigned a project encouraging them to engage deeply with the museum's exhibits. Coming from diverse backgrounds, several students were unfamiliar with the variety of crafts and traditions that exist within their own communities. The museum visit offered an opportunity to explore the richness of Odisha's communities, languages, and art and craft traditions, and they also learned about the role of museums, the types of artifacts they preserve, and the significance of these collections. The trip emphasized how to approach museum visits purposefully, ensuring a deeper engagement with cultural and historical narratives.





As we move our way,  
life entangles everyday.  
We toil and toil,  
yet tougher days seem.

But through snag and haste,  
I have found a way.  
To smile and sing,  
and see beauty in small things.

***The Joy Of Small Things***  
*Poem by joana blumenthal*



*Picture Credit: Anshuman Patnaik*

HAPPY READING!