

12th & 13th Combined Convocation

IIT Bhubaneswar organised its 12th and 13th Combined Convocation on 28th December 2024. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Govt. of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered the Convocation address. Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India; Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India and Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India were the Guests of Honour. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Singh, Chairman, Board of Governors (BoG), IIT Bhubaneswar presided over the Convocation. Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar presented the Convocation report and awarded the degrees to the students.





Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Minister Shri Pradhan said: "IIT Bhubaneswar should strive to become an institute of Knowledge, Research and Innovation. Being graduates of IIT, they should make efforts towards becoming job creators rather than being job seekers. They should make themselves ready to be contributors in Industrial Revolution 4.0. The educational institutions and faculty members should work towards redefining the attitude and aptitude of the students towards entrepreneurship." He said that the research of the country should move beyond academic publications and achieve global benchmarks in terms of innovation and entrepreneurial acumen. "IIT Bhubaneswar and its students should work towards boosting the start-up and entrepreneurial ecosystem to enhance the growth process of Odisha by 2036 and of the country by 2047," he added.



In his address, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood said stressed on knowledge creation through research and innovation to become globally competitive. Collaborative partnerships between academia and industry, fostering a multi-disciplinary approach, funding and investment in groundbreaking research and cutting-edge infrastructure and a skilled and diverse workforce are imperative for the development of research ecosystem. He mentioned about the Anusandhan Research Foundation (ANRF) and its objective.



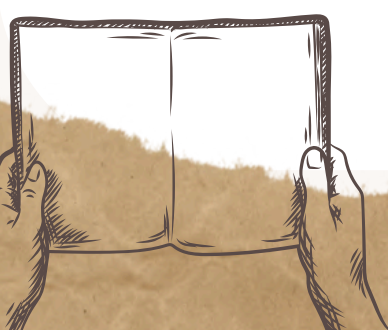


Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty said that human knowledge and human competence is irreplaceable even in the age of artificial intelligence and machine learning. The youth of the country have the potential to innovate, and they should utilise this power towards the development of the country, he added.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Abhay Karandikar appreciated IIT Bhubaneswar for becoming a hub of cutting-edge research and innovation. He mentioned that while the country has taken a giant leap in the field of science and technology to make a mark in global map, India has become the 3rd largest in terms of start-up ecosystem in the world which showcases the innovation and entrepreneurial prowess of the country. The youth of the country should take the cue and work towards contributing in making India leader in the field of research and innovation.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar presented a detailed report on various efforts and achievements of IIT Bhubaneswar. He said, "Since its inception in the year 2008, IIT Bhubaneswar has traversed a long way. In recent years, it has aligned itself with the NEP 2020 initiative towards the Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision. We are working with the motto: Follow no one, But learn from Everyone, and Acknowledge it too. Follow no one means Be Original, Learn from Everyone means Be open to feedback and criticism, and Acknowledge it too – means duly acknowledge others contributions in your achievements." He shared the key milestones of IIT Bhubaneswar's journey towards excellence in research, academics and entrepreneurship.

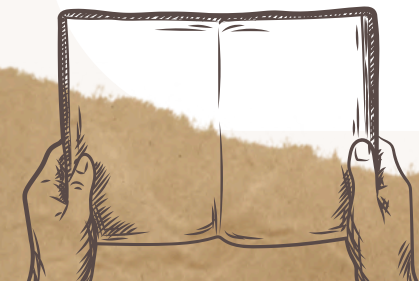


Dr. Rajendra Prasad Singh, Chairman, Board of Governors (BoG) motivated the students and said that with its cutting-edge facilities and focus on innovation, the institute empowers graduates to lead in transformative technologies while upholding environmental sustainability and cultural values. He stressed upon finding simple solution to every complex problem.



During this Convocation, the Institute conferred degrees on 1388 students for the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24. Out of these students, 8% are PhD, 19% M.Tech, 14% M.Sc, 14% Dual degree (B.Tech and M.Tech) and 45% B.Tech.

For the year 2022-23, the President of India Gold Medal was awarded to Shri Harsh Singh Jadon of the Computer Science and Engineering for the best academic performance among all the B.Tech students. For the year 2023-24, the President of India Gold Medal was awarded to Shri Arnav Kumar Behera of the Computer Science and Engineering.





Education Minister interacts with Entrepreneurs



Hon'ble Minister visited the groundbreaking Industry-Academia Research and Innovation Center on Silicon Carbide and interacted with the semiconductor researchers. He also visited the Research and Entrepreneurship Park and interacted with the Start-ups incubated under IIT Bhubaneswar on 28th December 2024.

Meeting on “Exploring Pathways & Prospects for the Future of Research in India”



An Interaction Meeting on “Exploring Pathways and Prospects for the Future of Research in India” with Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India was successfully organised by Department of Science & Technology, GoI, Anusandhan Research Foundation and IIT Bhubaneswar on 28th December 2024. The dignitaries addressed the queries of the faculty members, deans and Vice Chancellors from various institutes across Odisha.



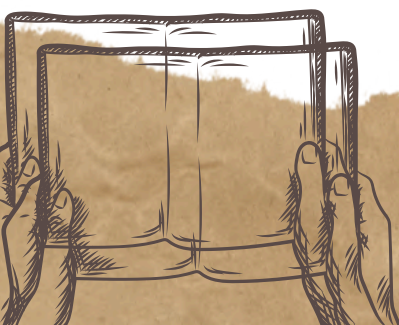
Yuva Sangam 2024

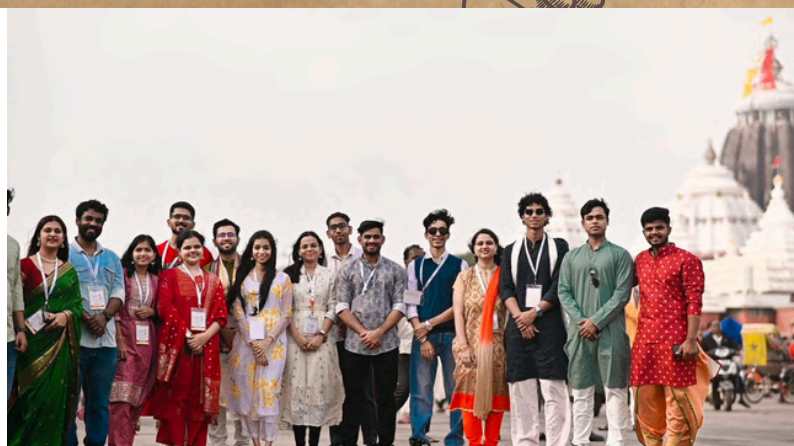


The Yuva Sangam initiative stands as a true testament to India's unity in diversity. With boundless enthusiasm and hope, the youth delegation from IIT Bhubaneswar set off on a journey to Maharashtra, eager to immerse themselves in a rich cultural exchange on 28th November 2024. On the same day, IIT Bhubaneswar welcomed the youth delegation from Maharashtra. This journey was not merely a voyage but an extraordinary effort to unite the youth of India and acquaint them with the nation's cultural, historical, and technological treasures.



The delegates had the privilege of meeting the Honorable Governor, who shared inspiring thoughts about India's rich diversity, cultural heritage, and the responsibilities of the younger generation. This dialogue left a lasting impression on the hearts of the participants. At the same time, the delegates explored the cutting-edge research centers and laboratories of IIT Bhubaneswar. The technological brilliance and innovative spirit of the institution motivated the youth to envision new horizons and pursue their dreams with renewed vigor.

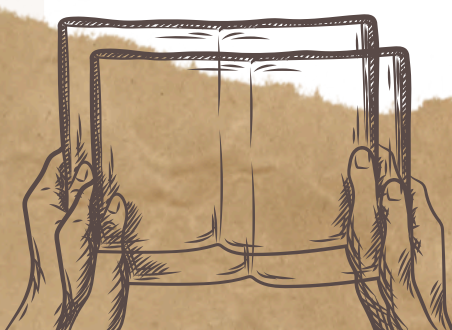


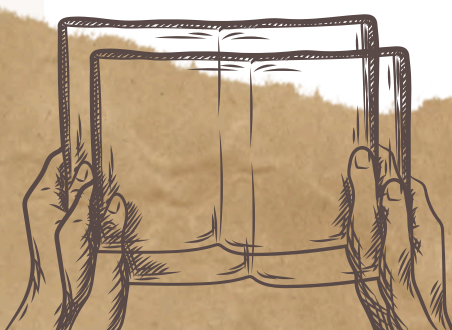


Odisha's historical and natural landmarks unfolded stories that left the participants spellbound. The magnificent Sun Temple at Konark, the sacred Jagannath Temple in Puri, and the peace-inspiring Dhauli Shanti Stupa conveyed messages of faith, compassion, and resilience. The serene Mangalajodi wetlands offered a priceless connection with nature, showcasing biodiversity and tranquility. Each location resonated deeply with the delegates, enriching their understanding of Odisha's legacy.



The vibrant traditions of Odisha captivated the delegation at every step. The electrifying Gotipua dance performances, the exquisite applique artistry of Pipili, the maritime museum's historical exhibits, and the rich narratives of the tribal museum painted a vivid picture of Odisha's cultural essence. The bustling stalls of Ekamra Haat showcased Odisha's colorful handicrafts, adding an unforgettable charm to the cultural experience.



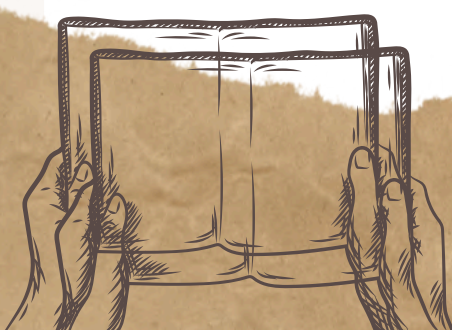




Visits to institutions like the Skill Development Institute, IMMT, and CTTC highlighted Odisha's strides in modern technology and skill development. At Ravenshaw University, engaging discussions and immersive learning experiences inspired the delegates to explore new possibilities in education and innovation, further broadening their horizons.



The warmth of Odisha's hospitality touched every heart. From conversations with villagers to savoring traditional Odia cuisine and sharing stories around a bonfire, the delegates experienced a sense of belonging that strengthened bonds of friendship and mutual respect. These moments brought to life the true essence of people-to-people connection.





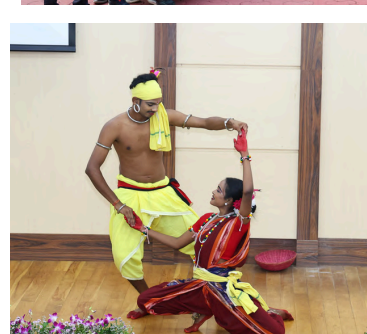
A visit to Infosys showcased Odisha's progress in technological innovation and offered glimpses into the future possibilities of a digital world. Cultural performances and the farewell ceremony brought the journey to an emotional close, leaving behind memories etched in the hearts of all participants. This journey was a celebration of India's diversity and unity, a reminder of the strength that lies in embracing our differences.

Yuva Sangam was not just a journey but a confluence of ideas, cultures, and hearts. It offered the youth a chance to witness India's diversity up close, forge new friendships, and develop fresh perspectives. This expedition symbolized unity, respect and mutual trust.





During this period, delegates from Odisha visited Maharashtra, where they were hosted by IIM Mumbai. The week-long event featured a series of cultural interactions, learning sessions, and explorations, including visits to some of Mumbai's landmark monuments. Participants also had the opportunity to savour authentic Maharashtrian cuisine, enhancing their understanding of the state's culinary traditions.





Smart India Hackathon



The Grand Finale of the 7th Edition of Smart India Hackathon was held from 11th to 13th December 2024. IIT Bhubaneswar was the nodal agency for the event and IIT Bhubaneswar Research & Entrepreneurship Park (IITBBS REP) hosted the 2-day Hackathon (Software Edition), which was aimed at nurturing creative mindset and problem-solving ability among students. Smart India Hackathon is a flagship programme being organised by the Innovation Cell of Ministry of Education and AICTE under the aegis of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

Prior to the nation-wide inauguration, the programme was inaugurated locally at IIT Bhubaneswar by Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, in the presence of Shri Dipan Sahu, Assistant Innovation Director, MoE's Innovation Cell, & AICTE; Prof. Rajesh Roshan Dash, Dean (Student Affairs), IIT Bhubaneswar; Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar, IIT Bhubaneswar and Dr. Soobhankar Pati, CEO, IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park.





During the valedictory ceremony held on 12th December 2024, the top performing teams from different problem areas were provided with a cash prize on Rs. 1 lakh each. Shri Kamaljit Das, Joint Secretary to Govt, CAO Startup Odisha, handed over the awards to the winners, in the presence of Shri Dipan Sahu, Assistant Innovation Director, MoE's Innovation Cell, & AICTE; Mr. Shivendra Mani Tripathi, Regional Coordinator MoE Innovation Cell and Dr. Soobhankar Pati, CEO, IITBBS REP.

The details of the winning teams are:

1. Refrriranger: Innovating for Sustainability: Driving Smart Resource Conservation
2. Hacktivists_24: Tackling drug trafficking on Telegram and WhatsApp
3. TRA1LF1NDERS: Identifying the end receiver of cryptocurrency transactions
4. Matrix Infinity: Real-Time Disaster Information Aggregation Software
5. Pratishtha & Mad Astra (Joint Winners): Predicting Aluminium wire rod properties with AI

A total of 180 students in 26 teams participated in the hackathon, tackling real-world problem statements provided and judged by experts from Godrej, NDRF, NCB, NALCO. These organizations sought innovative, implementable solutions to critical challenges they face.

On behalf of IITBBS REP, Shri Sakti Swarup Pati, Incubation & Partnerships Head and Ms. Shabina Khatoon, Programs & Operations Head coordinated the 2-day programme.



IIT Bhubaneswar celebrates Constitution Day



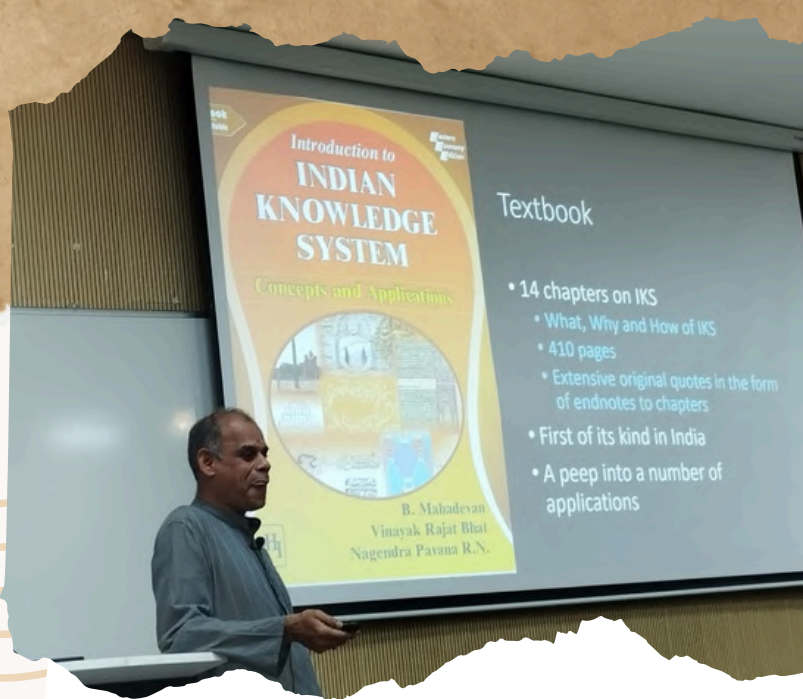
IIT Bhubaneswar joined the Nation in celebrating the Constitution Day of India with the theme of the year 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhimaan'. As part of the celebrations, the Institute organised a talk titled 'Constitutional values and India Today' by Prof. Satya Narayan Misra, Professor Emeritus on 26th November 2024. In his talk, Prof. Misra delved into the various aspects of Indian Constitution and showed new perspectives to the members of the Institute. Dr. Vijayakrishna Kari coordinated the programme.

Earlier in the day, the Preamble of the Constitution of India was read by the members of the Institution, in the presence of Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director and Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar of the Institute.



To celebrate 75 years of Constitution of India, Essay Writing and Painting Competitions were also organised among the students of Kendriya Vidyalaya-IIT Bhubaneswar by the Institute on 23rd and 24th November 2024. More than 100 students of the school participated in these competitions. The prizes were handed over to the winners on 26th November 2024. On this occasion, Dr. R. Venkat Raghavan from School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management, addressed the students on Importance of Constitution Day. Dr. Suvradip Mullick, Faculty Advisor-Socio Cultural, Students' Gymkhana coordinated the programme.





Talk on Indian Knowledge System

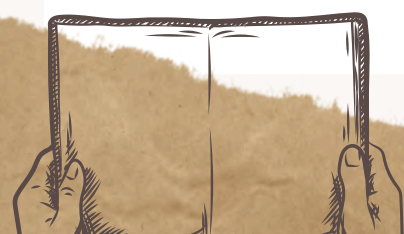


IIT Bhubaneswar organised a talk titled 'Treasure in the Wooden Box: Indian Knowledge Systems (Overview and Relevance)' by Prof. B. Mahadevan (Ex-Professor IIM Bangalore) on 27th November 2024.

The objective of the talk was to formally introduce the notion of India Knowledge System (IKS) and bring to the fore some snippets of IKS. It briefly highlighted several notable contributions made by Indian society in areas such as Mathematics, Astronomy, Town Planning, Metals and Metalworking, Health, and Public Administration, to name a few. He highlighted various ancient creations such as: •The Grand Anaicut (Kallanai Dam) in Tamil Nadu is the world's oldest "still in use" dam and is also credited with being the fourth oldest dam in the world; Nellaiappar Temple built in 700 CE, in which a cluster of 48 pillars were carved from a single stone, and they surround a central pillar and 161 pillars in total that make a unique musical sounds. these monuments are the testament of the ancient engineering prowess of India.

The presentation by Prof. Mahadevan explored the Indian Knowledge System, showcasing its vast historical depth across various fields. He presented examples ranging from ancient mathematics and astronomy (including Diophantine equations and number systems) to architectural marvels (like the Jaisalmer Fort and Konark Sun Temple) and metallurgical achievements (such as Wootz steel). His talk also highlighted IKS's contributions to irrigation, water management, and the construction of assembly halls. He also discussed the decline of IKS due to historical events and colonial policies, emphasizing the need for its preservation and revival.

Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar, faculty members, staff and students of the Institute attended the talk and interacted with the speaker. Dr. Viajyakrishna Kari, Professor-in-Charge (Seminar) coordinated the programme.



कोहरा ओढ़े टहल रही थी झील पे गहरी खामोशी
फिर सूरज ने धूप बिछाई तब कुछ ठहरी खामोशी
.....
सुबह के मंज़र झुलस गए हैं शाम की झीलें सदियों दूर
हिज़्र की धुन पर रक्खस-कुनॉ है गर्म दो-पहरी खामोशी

ख्वाजा तारिक उस्मानी

*Deep silence was walking on the lake covered with fog.
Then the sun shone and then there was some silence.
The morning scenes have been scorched,
the evening lakes are centuries away
The warmth of the afternoon is dancing on the tune of separation.*



Picture Credit: Dr. Manas Jyoti Kashyop

