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# IITBBS Express

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# National Seminar on 'Energy Access and Security in Emerging Energy Transition'

Indian Energy Congress, in association with IIT Bhubaneswar and NIST University, Bhubaneswar organised a two-day national seminar on "Energy Access and Security in Emerging Energy Transition" on 17th and 18th March 2025. The seminar, held at IIT Bhubaneswar, brought together leading experts from academia, industry, and government to discuss critical aspects of renewable energy, energy storage, and policy frameworks.



Inaugurating the seminar, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, emphasized the need to translate theoretical discussions into tangible benefits for society. He stressed upon the “Net Zero Energy” in the modern world and has outlined the efforts of IIT Bhubaneswar towards achieving this ambitious goal. Citing the historical impact of semiconductor technology, he highlighted the shift toward real-world implementation of research to address energy management and sustainability.



Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, stressed the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern technology like Artificial Intelligence for effective energy transition.



Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra, Founder Director of NIST University, Berhampur, highlighted the necessity of collaborative efforts to overcome challenges in the shift to renewable energy. Prof. P.K. Parhi, Secretary General of the Indian Energy Congress, reiterated the organization's commitment to uniting energy researchers and addressing global energy challenges. Prof. S.R. Samantaray, Head of the School of Electrical and Computer Science at IIT Bhubaneswar and Organising Chair of the Seminar, discussed the critical role of energy storage and electric vehicles in the evolving energy landscape.

Dr. Pravakar Swain, President, Indian Energy Congress also spoke on the occasion. Er. Pabitra Mohan Sahoo, Treasurer, Indian Energy Congress proposed a vote of thanks.

Distinguished speakers Dr. M. V. Rao, Chairman, West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission, Shri Mahesh Das from GRIDCO, Mr. Kedar Pandu, MD, OPGC, Prof. A.K. Tripathy, Ex. DG, CPRI and Mr. P. K. Patnaik, Director OPTCL, shared insights on various aspects of Energy Access and transition. Besides several insightful talks by eminent academicians and practitioners in this field, the two-day seminar also witnessed impactful industry-academia deliberations. Two eminent international speakers from Germany, Prof. Xinliang Feng, Director, Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics, Germany and Prof. Thomas Heine, Technical University, Dresden, Germany also addressed the audiences and shared their experiences and insights. Prof. Feng discussed on 'Building a Sustainable Future with Organic 2DCrystals'. Prof. Heine presented on 'Organic 2D Crystals as Energy Materials'.

Prof. Samantaray, Prof. Umapasanna Ojha, Prof. S. K. Panda, Dr. Venugopal Arumuru and Dr. Chandrasekhar Perumalla from IIT Bhubaneswar coordinated the event.

# International Women's Day Celebration

IIT Bhubaneswar organized a function to mark International Women's Day. The Women Welfare Committee (WWC) of the Institute organized the event in a grand scale. Ms. Rukmini Panda, State Head, Breakthrough Odisha, who is a distinguished social activist and esteemed researcher, graced the occasion as the chief guest.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar said: "Participation of girls and women in different fields of the society can boost women empowerment in a large way. In this context, the Institute is taking affirmative steps towards increasing the participation of the girl students. Similar measures are also being planned to enhance the representation of women in the workforce of the Institute." He also added, "With a view to make the girl students independent, the Institute has taken initiatives to make them learn basic skills like cycling, which will make them confident."

In her address, Chief Guest Ms. Panda highlighted that International Women's Day, rooted in the early 1900s struggle for equality, has grown into a global movement shaping history and policies. She noted India's progress from early reforms to tackling issues like gender-based violence and leadership representation. Urging the students, she emphasized the need to commit to advancing women's rights, ensuring inclusive opportunities, and empowering future generations to drive change.



Dr. Manaswini Behera, Chairperson, Women Welfare Committee spoke on the various activities being taken up by the Committee to ensure the wellbeing of the female members of the Institute. Dr. Prama Bhattacharya, Member Secretary, WWC, proposed a vote of thanks.



The winners of various competitions held earlier in the month were handed over prizes on the occasion. The students and residents of the Institute performed various cultural programmes to enthrall the audience.



As part of the International Women's Day Celebration, the Women Welfare Committee, in collaboration with Souls for Solace, organised a Self-Defence Camp on 5th March 2025. This camp aimed to equip the female members of the Institute with essential self-defence techniques to enhance their safety and confidence.

# Smart Grid Workshop



The 4th National Workshop on Recent Developments in Smart Grid Technologies (NWSGT-2025) held during 7th and 8th March 2025 in the School of Electrical and Computer Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar. The workshop focused on the major theme of "Electric Mobility and Smart Grids".

Shri Trilochana Panda, Managing Director of GRIDCO, Chief Guest and Prof Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, Guest of Honour, addressed the inaugural function and thrusted on various aspects of the emerging Smart Grid and EV technologies. Prof. S.R. Samantaray, Coordinator of the programme delivered the inaugural address and said that this is the 4th Edition of the NWSGT, which is continuing since last 11 years at IIT Bhubaneswar. Prof V Pandu Ranga, Dean (CE) presided over the meeting. Prof C. Perumalla, Co-coordinator, proposed a vote of thanks.



The valedictory function was graced by Shri B.B. Mehta, Director, SLDC, OPTCL as the Chief Guest. The event included Keynote addresses and demonstrations on emerging trends in EV charging systems, Vehicle-to-Grid and Grid-to-Vehicle interactions, Protection and Control Systems for the smart grid including renewables, EV and storage, energy management systems for the evolving microgrid and smart grids etc. The workshop attracted a large participation including industry and academia.

# DRDO Technology Management Team visits SECS, at IIT Bhubaneswar



A high-profile meeting between the DRDO delegation and IIT Bhubaneswar's team of professors, led by Prof. S. R. Samantaray, HoS, SECS, was held on 24th February 2025 to review the ongoing projects from ECS cluster.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Lal Chand Mangal, Director General-Technology Management, DRDO, and was attended by Dr. Jagannath Nayak (Director, CHES, DRDO), Dr. Kannadasan (Director- Technology Management, ECS, DRDO), and three other senior officials from the Head Quarter of DRDO. Teams from various DRDO laboratories, including DEAL Dehradun, IRDE Dehradun, CHES Hyderabad, and LRDE Bangalore, participated virtually. Dr. Mangal conducted an in-depth review of ongoing projects at IIT Bhubaneswar, emphasizing that DRDO expects tangible products and technologies rather than just research outputs, aligning with national defence mandate of "Make in India". He commended projects that are ahead of schedule and suggested bringing industry on board to realize the research into products. The DRDO team presented insights on the existing Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across India and how to proceed for establishing the CoE at IIT Bhubaneswar identifying new verticals on emerging domains.



# Workshop on “Enhancing Resilience & Reducing Vulnerability: Bridging Policy, Practice and Evidence”

On 4th February 2025, the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management, IIT Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the Department of Economics, University of Bath, UK, organized a one-day international workshop titled “Enhancing Resilience and Reducing Vulnerability: Bridging Policy, Practice and Evidence.” The workshop brought together distinguished experts from policy, practice, and academia to exchange knowledge and promote collaborative action on disaster vulnerability and resilience (DVR).

The inaugural function included brief speeches by Dr. Sitakanta Panda, Assistant Professor, SHSSM, IIT Bhubaneswar, and convener of the event, along with Professor Ajit Mishra, University of Bath, who served as a mentor. Dr. Panda emphasized the need for research-informed, evidence-based policymaking to strengthen disaster preparedness, while Professor Mishra discussed existing research and the potential for collaboration between policymakers, practitioners, and academics.



The Chief Guest, Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Odisha, discussed government initiatives in disaster management for the agriculture sector. Dr. Kamal Lochan Mishra, Executive Director of OSDMA, addressed policy challenges, while Ms. Sabarmatee, Padma Shri awardee, stressed improving policies for identifying and supporting vulnerable households.

Other notable speakers included Dr. Arabinda Mishra, Chairperson, Development and Environmental Futures Trust (DEFT), Bhubaneswar, and Ms. Abha Mishra, State Head, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Odisha, who addressed the practical challenges faced by agencies and social sector practitioners in implementing resilience-building initiatives and enhancing community participation.





The academic session featured insightful talks by Professor Basanta Kumar Pradhan, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai; Professor Sarit Kumar Rout of IIPH; and Prof. Jaya Krushna Panigrahi, who discussed research-driven strategies for optimizing disaster resilience policies for Odisha.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 125 attendees and aimed to integrate policy insights, ground-level practices, and academic research to address the challenges of vulnerability and resilience. It explored critical questions such as identifying vulnerable households, aligning policies with ground realities, enhancing community participation, and bridging the gap between research and practice – a step toward developing inclusive and sustainable strategies to address the complex challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

## Public Lecture on “Anti-corruption strategies: How ‘not to fight’ corruption”

The School of Humanities, Social Sciences & Management, IIT Bhubaneswar, hosted a distinguished public lecture by Professor Ajit Mishra, Head of the Department of Economics, University of Bath, UK, on 3rd February 2025.

Professor Mishra's lecture, titled “Anti-corruption strategies: How ‘not to fight’ corruption,” explored the economic theory of corruption using insights from game theory, economic history, and political economics. He analyzed anti-corruption policies from a principal-intermediary-agent perspective and discussed strategies to reduce public sector corruption.

The session began with an introduction by Dr. Sitakanta Panda, Assistant Professor, SHSSM, followed by a felicitation from Dr. Amrita Satpathy, HoS in-charge.



# Graduate Engineer Trainee Bootcamp

IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park, in collaboration with Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd. (IMFA), has successfully conducted the Graduate Engineer Trainee (GET) Bootcamp, a five-day capacity-building programme aimed at enhancing the technical expertise of young engineers. The programme was launched on 11th March 2025.



The intensive programme was designed to provide hands-on learning and industry insights in critical domains such as Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, Mining Methods, and Renewable Energy Integration in Industrial Plants.

With a focus on bridging the gap between academic knowledge and industry applications, the bootcamp offered a unique platform for GETs to enhance their technical skills, gain industry exposure, and explore sustainable solutions to modern industrial challenges.

## Team Knocksoniacs Impress at SAE eBAJA 2025

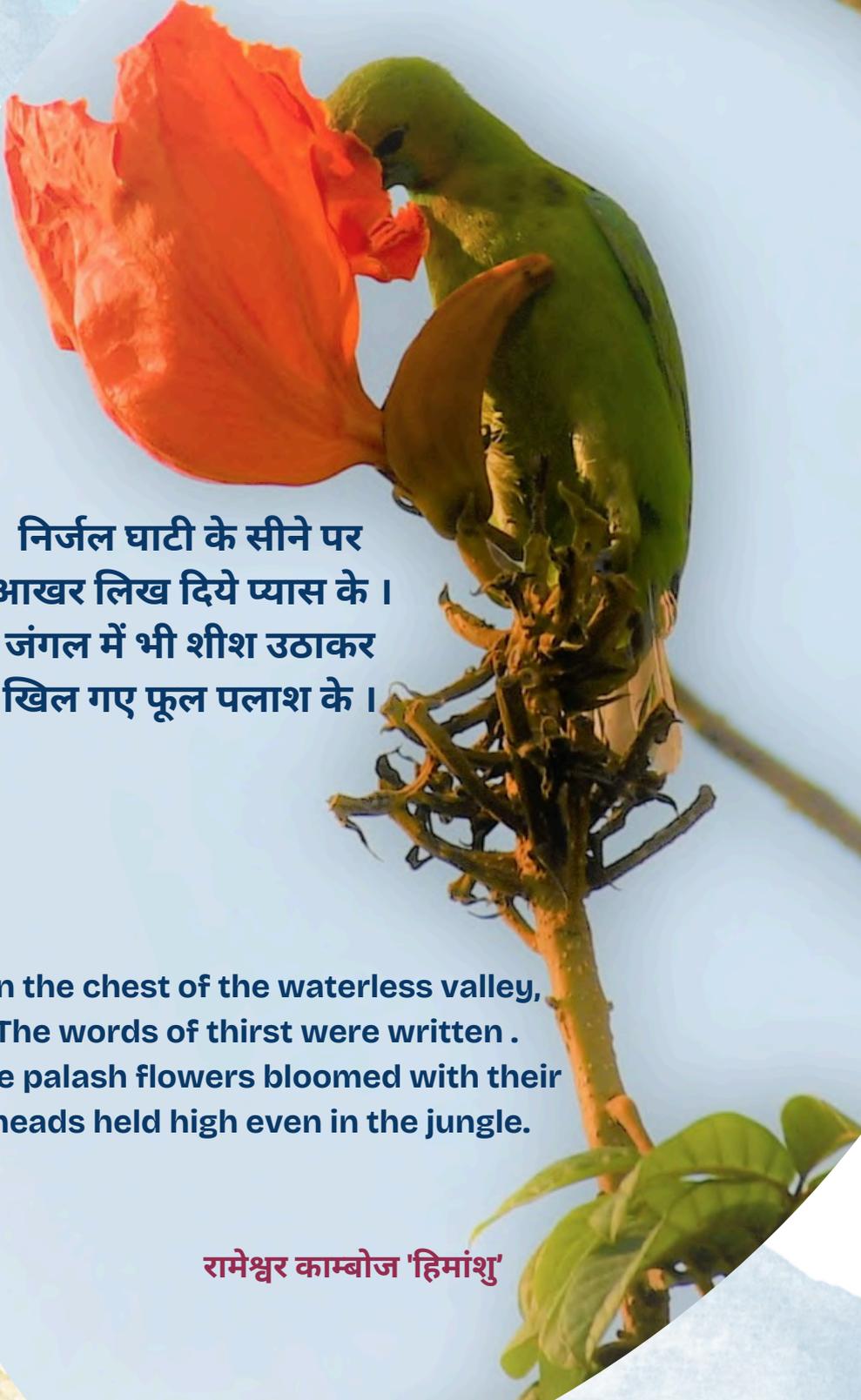
Knocksoniacs, the Motorsports Club of IIT Bhubaneswar, delivered a strong performance at SAE eBAJA 2025, concluding on 23rd February. The team achieved a remarkable 100 kg weight reduction in their vehicle and successfully cleared the mechanical inspection. While an electrical testing issue limited further progression, they secured an impressive 35th rank in the final standings.



# Dola Utsav & Holi

Dola Utsav, Holika Dahan and Holi were celebrated with pomp and ceremony in IIT Bhubaneswar Campus.





निर्जल घाटी के सीने पर  
आखर लिख दिये प्यास के ।  
जंगल में भी शीश उठाकर  
खिल गए फूल पलाश के ।

On the chest of the waterless valley,  
The words of thirst were written .  
The palash flowers bloomed with their  
heads held high even in the jungle.

रामेश्वर काम्बोज 'हिमांशु'

Picture Credit: Snigdha A. Sanyal