



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर  
Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar

Press Release

**IIT Bhubaneswar celebrates International Women's Day**

**Bhubaneswar, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar has 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 said : "International Women's Day, rooted in the early 1900s struggle for equality, has grown into a global movement shaping history and policies. From securing rights to tackling deep-rooted inequalities, the fight for women's empowerment continues. The more than a century's journey of the women's movement has resulted in commendable achievements in promoting women's rights and advancing gender equality, leaving an undeniable mark on history and shaping the future. In India, it has evolved from early reforms to addressing challenges like gender-based violence, economic participation, and leadership representation." She urged the students: "As we celebrate the International Women's Day with the themes #AccelerateAction and #ForALLWomenandGirls, we must reaffirm our commitment to advancing women's rights, ensuring inclusive opportunities, and empowering future generations to redefine power structures and drive change."

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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025. This camp aimed to equip the female members of the Institute with essential self-defence techniques to enhance their safety and confidence.

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.

-----