



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर
Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar

Press Release

Indian Strings Meeting 2025 in Bhubaneswar
IIT Bhubaneswar organizes Public Lecture by Padma Bhushan
Awardee Prof. Ashoke Sen

Bhubaneswar, 14th December 2025: The Indian Strings Meeting (ISM) 2025, an international conference on string theory and high-energy physics, was jointly organised by IIT Bhubaneswar and NISER Bhubaneswar from 9th to 14th December 2025. The long-running biennial meeting brought together over 200 researchers from India and abroad for invited talks, discussions and poster sessions on cutting-edge developments in string theory, quantum field theory, gravity and related mathematical structures.

A major highlight of ISM 2025 was a public lecture by Padma Bhushan Awardee Prof. Ashoke Sen (ICTS–TIFR, Bengaluru), one of the world’s leading theoretical physicists on 13th December 2025 at IIT Bhubaneswar, for college and school students, faculty, and conference participants. Speaking on “String Theory and Its Many Manifestations”, Prof. Sen offered an accessible overview of string theory, explaining why the subject is actively studied and how its different formulations—ranging from perturbative strings to dualities, branes, and holography—emerge as consistent facets of a deeper underlying framework. He highlighted the unifying ideas that connect these seemingly diverse manifestations and discussed their potential implications for fundamental physics. The lecture provided students and teachers with a rare opportunity to hear one of the world’s leading theoretical physicists, generating strong engagement from the audience.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar reminded the audience that “the development of scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform” is one of the duties of Indian citizens as per Article 51A (h) of the Constitution. Hence, all of us should be aware of elements of a scientific method, namely – observation, explanation in terms of a theory, and verification of the theory using an experiment. Thus, theory has a central role in scientific method. It reveals the unity underlying seemingly diverse observations. It has a qualitative part which involves logical reasoning using concepts and then a quantitative part which involves equations. The equations are useful for making predictions regarding various happenings.

About 750 participants from local schools, Colleges, educational institutions in Bhubaneswar and several Indian and foreign participants of ISM 2025, together with faculty and students of IITBBS and NISER attended the event.

Organisers noted that ISM 2025 served as an important platform for scientific exchange and for strengthening national and international collaborations in theoretical physics.
