



IIT Bhubaneswar hosts ‘Design for Bharat Youth Innovation Challenge (Odisha Zone)’

IIT Bhubaneswar successfully hosted the ‘Design for Bharat Youth Innovation Challenge (Odisha Zone) on 6th January 2026, organized under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India’ along with the state-level exhibition at its campus, celebrating creativity, innovation, and youthful ingenuity from across Odisha. The event formed part of the larger national “Design for Bharat 2026” initiative under MY Bharat, aimed at empowering youth through innovation and leadership for a Viksit Bharat 2047. The event was graced by Shri Shivaji Murlidhar Kharat, State Director, My Bharat, Odisha, who attended as the Chief Guest. The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, in the presence of Prof. Arun Kumar Pradhan, Competition Nodal Officer (CNO), Design for Bharat Youth Innovation Challenge (Odisha Zone). Dr. Divyansh Patel and Dr. Manas Ranjan Pattnayak meticulously oversaw the overall coordination of the event, ensuring its seamless execution and successful completion. Dr. Manas Ranjan Pattnayak served as the inaugural event host, steering the proceedings with poise and enthusiasm.



In Odisha, 84 participants registered for DFB’26, resulting in 16 team submissions, of which 15 were evaluated. Seven teams were shortlisted for the State Round, and three were recommended from IIT Bhubaneswar for the national-level exhibition. The state-level exhibition featured 15 teams from across Odisha showcasing innovative prototypes aligned with the Design for Bharat vision. Following rigorous jury evaluation, seven teams were recognised as meritorious innovators, with three declared excellent for their creativity, societal impact, and technical novelty. The top team will represent Odisha at the National Design for Bharat Showcase at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 12 August 2026, in the presence of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Addressing the gathering, Director Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar highlighted that “innovation is research multiplied by commercialisation” and emphasised interdisciplinary collaboration and effective communication as key drivers of meaningful innovation.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director expressed his pleasure at IIT Bhubaneswar organising the Design for Bharat – Youth Innovation Challenge and commended the rich diversity of academic backgrounds represented by the participants. He clarified that “innovation is research multiplied by commercialisation,” emphasising that research without the potential for commercial application cannot be termed innovation. Highlighting the importance of collaboration, he noted that innovation thrives when individuals from different disciplines work together, supported by strong communication skills that enable ideas to be understood beyond one's own academic domain. Chief Guest Shri Shivaji Murlidhar Kharat lauded the enthusiasm and commitment of the youth and underlined MY Bharat's role in providing platforms that connect young innovators with national opportunities and mentorship. He encouraged the participants to continue refining their ideas beyond the competition and to see themselves as active contributors to India's development journey towards 2047.

The event concluded with the announcement and felicitation of the meritorious and excellent teams, followed by an interaction between the dignitaries, jury members, and participants. The felicitation ceremony was graciously hosted by Dr. Divyansh Patel, who conducted the proceedings with great enthusiasm and professionalism, ensuring the event was both engaging and memorable for all the attendees. The Design for Bharat Youth Innovation Challenge (Odisha Zone) at IIT Bhubaneswar marked a significant step in positioning Odisha's youth as key stakeholders in shaping a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable future for the country.



IndiaAI Conclave on Democratising AI Resources



The IndiaAI Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, hosted the Conclave on Democratising AI Resources Working Group Meeting in Bhubaneswar, marking the inauguration of the Regional AI Impact Conference, Odisha from 18th to 20th December 2025.

The high-level meeting brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and academics to deliberate on equitable access to AI resources, including data, compute infrastructure, skilling, and sectoral deployment. The outcomes will feed into the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi.

Highlighting the academic perspective, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, emphasized the role of premier institutions in democratizing AI by enabling reliable access to authentic information and building diverse, inclusive datasets reflecting India's languages and geographies. IIT Bhubaneswar's participation underscored the importance of academia in shaping responsible, people-centric AI aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047.



Galaxy S23

IIT Bhubaneswar in 58th Inter IIT Sports Meet and 30th Inter IIT Staff Sports Meet 2025



The Inter IIT Sports Meet and Inter IIT Staff Sports Meet 2025 were hosted by IIT Hyderabad, IIT Madras, and IIT Tirupati with great enthusiasm and a strong spirit of sportsmanship, bringing together student and staff teams from various IITs across the country. The events served as an excellent platform to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and inter-institutional friendship among participants. Our Institute actively participated in multiple sporting events such as Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, Chess, and swimming. The team displayed commendable effort, discipline, and dedication throughout the tournament. A key highlight of the Students' Sports Meet was securing 3rd place in the March past, led by Mr. Ajay Kumar Nidamanuri. This reflects the team's coordination and commitment. Although the Institute did not secure a position on the victory podium in other sporting events, the overall performances demonstrated significant growth, resilience, and competitive spirit. The institute achieved an overall ranking of 17th in the Students' Sports Meet, showing a notable improvement compared to the previous year's ranking of 21st position.

In the Staff Sports Meet, the institute achieved notable success. The Badminton team secured 1st Runner-up position, winning the Silver Medal. The team members were Dr. Divyansh Patel, Dr. Saket Dubey, Dr. Soumya Prakash Dash and Shri Prakash Chandra Muduli. In Athletics; a Bronze Medal was earned in the Discus Throw event by Dr. Sandeep Kumar Samal. These achievements highlight the dedication and sporting excellence of our staff members. The Institute achieved an overall ranking of 8th in the Staff Sports Meet, reflecting encouraging progress in performance. Overall, the Inter IIT Sports Meet and Inter IIT Staff Sports Meet 2025 provided a valuable and enriching platform that strengthened sporting skills, teamwork, and the spirit of a healthy and active sporting culture among both students and staff within the institute.



IIT Bhubaneswar receives award for developing satellite-based technology for Bauxite prospecting and exploration in Odisha

Dr. Ashim Sattar, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar was awarded for developing satellite-based technology for Bauxite prospecting and exploration in Odisha published in Journal of Geochemical Exploration, at the 4th Odisha Mining and Infrastructure International Conference 2026. The event was graced by Shri. Sampad Swain, Industries & Skill Development Minister, Government of Odisha.



Dr. Ashim Sattar and his research group including the lead author of the paper Mr. Susovan Layek, successfully identified potential bauxite depositional sites at a regional-scale across the Koraput and Rayagada districts of Odisha using advanced hyperspectral satellite remote sensing. The study integrated hyperspectral satellite data, field surveys, geochemical and petrographic assessments, and laboratory spectral studies. Together, these techniques provide a robust framework for first-order mapping of potential bauxite deposits. This pioneering study marks the first large-scale remote sensing-based assessment of bauxite zones in Odisha.

Bauxite, the primary ore of aluminum, is a critical raw material for industries such as aerospace, construction, and packaging. With the global aluminum market projected by Credit Suisse to face a supply shortfall by 2030, ensuring a stable domestic supply has become a strategic priority for India. Odisha holds an estimated 2.3 billion tonnes of bauxite reserves, accounting for over 50% of India's total resources. However, much of this mineral lies in challenging terrains of the Eastern Ghats, making traditional exploration time-consuming, expensive, and environmentally intensive.

Using hyperspectral imaging, the IIT Bhubaneswar team leveraged the concept of spectral signature which is a distinctive pattern of electromagnetic response of earth materials to detect potential bauxite-bearing zones across two districts of Odisha. This technique can offer a cost-effective, rapid, and eco-friendly approach to support sustainable mineral exploration in Odisha and beyond.

The findings are expected to support the mining industry and policymakers in identifying potential Bauxite exploration zones, optimizing resources, and minimizing environmental impacts. This initiative lays the foundation for next-generation mineral mapping and sustainable resource management in Odisha.

Interactive Session with Acharya Prashant on Truth Without Apology

IIT Bhubaneswar hosted an enriching interactive session with Acharya Prashant – renowned Vedanta exegete, philosopher, bestselling author, and social reformer—on the theme “Truth Without Apology.” The programme was organized by Counselling Service Team (CST) of the Institute on 13th January 2026.



The programme began with the felicitation of Acharya Prashant by Prof. Rajesh Roshan Dash, Dean (Student Affairs) and other esteemed members of the Institute. This was followed by a thought-provoking panel discussion, where Acharya Prashant highlighted the importance of understanding the mind, making conscious decisions, and choosing the right career path with clarity and awareness.

The session concluded with a highly engaging interactive dialogue with students and faculty, where participants actively shared questions and reflections, making the interaction insightful and impactful.



**One machine can do the work of 50 ordinary men.
But, no machine can do the work of one
extraordinary man.**

Elbert Hubbard

