



**Press Release**

**'Pravaah'-The Cultural & Technopreneurship Annual Fest of IIT Bhubaneswar organised with grandeur**

**Bhubaneswar, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** The second edition of 'Pravaah'-the combined Cultural and Technopreneurship Annual Festival of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar was inaugurated in a grand way on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026. As the institute's flagship celebration, the four-day event 'Pravaah' embodies the seamless confluence of technology, culture, and entrepreneurship, creating a vibrant platform where innovation meets expression, and ideas flow into impact. The theme of this year "Chronicles of Time" takes participants on a journey through eras—reviving the Past with retro aesthetics, engaging the Present with entrepreneurial challenges, and exploring the Future through space and technological frontiers.

Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar graced the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Rajesh Roshan Dash, Dean (Student Affairs), Dr. Santhoshkumar G., Chairperson, Pravaah; Dr. Kodanda Ram Mangipudi, President, Student Gymkhana and Dr. Bankim Chandra Mahanta, Co-Chairperson, Pravaah were also present on the occasion.

Prof. Karmalkar, Director of the Institute said: "Generally, student festivals over the country have been focussing on one of the three elements, namely - technology, culture or entrepreneurship. However, Pravaah is unique in that it fuses or compounds these three elements, creating a high-impact platform aligned with national priorities." Drawing an analogy to happenings in the India Semiconductor Mission, he said that while other states in the country are focussing on elemental semiconductor manufacturing, Odisha is focussing on compound semiconductors, which have certain advantages over elemental semiconductors. He hoped that Pravaah will prove to be the compound semiconductor of student festivals in the country. Pravaah or flow is critical for development; without flow, systems become static, he noted. He expressed happiness over the fact that, this year's Pravaah has seen tenfold increase in registrations compared to last year.

At the outset, Dr. Santhoshkumar G. gave an elaborate introduction to the event. Prof. Rajesh Roshan Dash; Dr. Kodanda Ram Mangipudi and Dr. Bankim Chandra Mahanta also spoke on the occasion and inspired the participants. Mr. Kandula Joji Kumar, Chief Coordinator of the Fest, proposed a vote of thanks.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February, Tech Talk by Dr. Suraj Rengarajan, Managing Director and Principal Technologist, Applied Materials India, enlightened the students, participants of the event, and the members of the Institute. On 7<sup>th</sup> February, a Guest Talk by Mr. Sujeev Kumar, Author of the book "AI on Trial" and Member of the Rajya Sabha provided valuable insights into emerging technologies, policy, and their societal impact. The fest also witnessed high-energy participation through a Data Science Hackathon, General Quiz, Marcatus business challenge, fashion show, startup expo, robo soccer, cultural

performances, an informal night and the commencement of the 51-hour short film competition. The Fest also featured a diverse mix of web and science hackathons, innovation and startup showcases, quizzes, B-plan competitions, guest talks, dance events, IPL auction, street battle, and a DJ and star night, underscoring Pravaah's unique fusion of technology, entrepreneurship and culture. Comedy Night with popular stand-up comedian Pranav Sharma was a major highlight of the Fest.

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