



# IIT Bhubaneswar celebrates 18<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day



IIT Bhubaneswar has celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Hon'ble Minister, E&IT, Health & Family Welfare, and Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of Odisha, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Shri Saroj Patnaik, Chairman, Patnaik Group of Industries and Trustee, Rabisons Foundation, was the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Minister Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, lauded that "IIT Bhubaneswar is deeply involved in high-end research, innovation, and exchange of ideas with industry, and is now moving decisively towards becoming a Power Semiconductor Hub.



With Odisha selected as a Semiconductor Hub, major projects including a SicSem Semiconductor Unit, SDM Park, and Namo Semiconductor Lab, are strengthening academia-industry collaboration. Alongside, focused investments in Artificial Intelligence, data centres, and GPUs will position Odisha as a leading technology and innovation ecosystem, contributing to a self-reliant India and the vision of a developed India by 2047."

Addressing the gathering, Shri Saroj Patnaik said: “Technology is rapidly transforming society, from healthcare to energy, and institutions like IIT Bhubaneswar are at the forefront of this change. While AI and automation are redefining jobs, they are also creating new opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation. I encourage students to leverage IIT Bhubaneswar’s research ecosystem, take informed risks, and build solutions that drive India’s industrial and social progress.”



At the outset, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, delivered the welcome address. He briefly traced the birth of the Institute and the history of the IIT Bhubaneswar campus. “IIT Bhubaneswar has evolved into a vibrant campus centred on learning halls, advanced research, and innovation-driven education.

The research and entrepreneurship park being constructed by IIT Bhubaneswar in the third phase and Odisha Government’s 223-acre semiconductor and electronic system design manufacturing park slated to come up next to the campus will strengthen industry– academia collaboration significantly and contribute meaningfully to the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision,” he said. He also thanked Shri Saroj Patnaik for his transformative donation of Rs. 25 crore to the institution, to promote the use of AI and other technologies for the benefit of people, and to provide scholarships to meritorious underprivileged students.



During the occasion, Hon'ble Minister Dr. Mukesh Mahaling visited various key Research & Development facilities of the Institute, including Research & Entrepreneurship Park, Silicon Carbide Research and Innovation Center (SiCRIC), Virtual and Augmented Reality Center of Excellence (VARCoE), Robotics Labs, and Active Learning Classrooms.



Prof. Rajesh Roshan Dash, Dean (Student Affairs), proposed a vote of thanks. Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar of the Institute, was also present on the occasion. In the evening, a grand cultural programme by the students and members of the institute was organized, which showcased the spirit of enthusiasm and vigour.





# IIT Bhubaneswar Commissions Indigenous Digital Substation with Centralized Monitoring and Protection System



IIT Bhubaneswar has successfully developed and commissioned an advanced digital substation equipped with a Centralized Monitoring and Protection (CPM) system at its 33/11 kV campus substation, marking a significant milestone in indigenous power system innovation. The system will enable real-time monitoring and protection of the Institute's entire electrical distribution network. The newly developed digital substation was inaugurated by Shri Vishal Kumar Dev, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy and E&IT Department, Government of Odisha, in the presence of Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar on 10th February 2026. Other dignitaries present on the occasion included Dr. Satyapriya Ratha, IAS, Managing Director, GRDICO; Prof. S. R. Samantaray, Project Investigator, and Mr. Rutupurna Mansingh, Deputy General Manager (Electrical), GRIDCO. It is worth noting that the project was undertaken as a demonstration initiative under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) of the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bengaluru, within the Ministry of Power, Government of India. The project was led by Prof. S. R. Samantaray, Department of Electrical Engineering, School of Electrical and Computer Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar





The objective of the project was to design, develop, and demonstrate a Centralized Protection and Monitoring (CPM) system for a distribution substation, including integration of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs). Notably, this initiative represents one of the indigenously developed digital substation frameworks in the country, leveraging intelligent merging units that eliminate the need for conventional physical Intelligent Electronic Devices (IEDs) within the substation

As part of its future-ready architecture, the system also lays the foundation for the development of a Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS) embedded within the CPM framework, enabling enhanced grid intelligence, flexibility, and reliability. The commissioning of this digital substation reinforces IIT Bhubaneswar's commitment to advancing smart grid technologies, indigenization of power system solutions, and sustainable energy infrastructure aligned with national priorities.



# IIT Bhubaneswar and GMRICS–GMDC Sign MoU to Strengthen Research and Capacity Building in Mining and Earth Sciences



IIT Bhubaneswar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat Mineral Research Industrial Consultancy Society (GMRICS), a research society established by the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC), to foster long-term academic and research collaboration in the areas of geology, mining, mineral exploration, and allied earth sciences. The MoU was formally signed on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 by Prof. Dinakar Pasla, Dean (Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy), IIT Bhubaneswar, and Dr. D. K. Sinha, CEO, GMRICS/GMDC. The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. R. K. Singh and Dr. Bankim Chandra Mahanta from the School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences; Dr. Srikant Gollapudi, Professor-in-Charge (Career Development Cell), IIT Bhubaneswar; Lt. Gen. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma (Retd.), Head (Project Planning & Administration)–Odisha; Shri Janardan N. Dave, General Manager (Power); Shri Rajeev Parekh, Deputy General Manager (HR) from GMDC; and members of GMRICS.





Under this five-year agreement, the two institutions will establish a strategic partnership in research, education, and training, with emphasis on collaborative research projects, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and skill development in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

GMRICS, which undertakes advanced research in geology and mining—including mineral reserve assessment, identification of mineral-rich zones, market research, and database development—will provide opportunities for industrial training, internships, field-based research, and hands-on exposure for students of IIT Bhubaneswar. Students may pursue research leading to B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Tech., and Ph.D. degrees on topics relevant to exploration and mining activities.

As part of the collaboration, experts from GMRICS/GMDC and its associated centres, such as the International Centre of Excellence in Mining Safety and Automation (iCEM) and the International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Technology (iCREATE), will deliver specialised lectures, training programmes, and practical demonstrations for students and faculty. IIT Bhubaneswar, an Institute of National Importance, will contribute its academic and research expertise in geology, mining and mineral engineering, critical minerals, analytical chemistry, and geophysical surveys. The collaboration will also focus on joint research initiatives in critical mineral exploration, particularly in regions of strategic importance such as Gujarat and Odisha, including deposits like Ambadongar (REE) and Ambaji (Cu-Pb-Zn).

This collaboration is expected to strengthen industry-academia engagement, advance applied research, and contribute to sustainable mineral development and human resource capacity building in the mining and earth sciences sector.



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



The second edition of 'Pravaah'-the combined Cultural and Technopreneurship Annual Festival of IIT Bhubaneswar was inaugurated in a grand way on 5 th 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 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 6th 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 7th February, a Guest Talk by Mr. Sujeet 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 भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar 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.



# IIT Bhubaneswar offers tribute to Pulwama Martyrs on Black Day



IIT Bhubaneswar joined the nation in observing the Black Day on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026. To mark the occasion, the Socio-Cultural Council, IIT Bhubaneswar, organized a candle march in solemn remembrance of the martyrs of the Pulwama attack. Students gathered to pay heartfelt tribute to the 40 CRPF personnel who laid down their lives in the tragic terrorist attack in 2019. The march served as a powerful reminder of their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the nation. We honor their bravery and pledge to remember their sacrifice always.



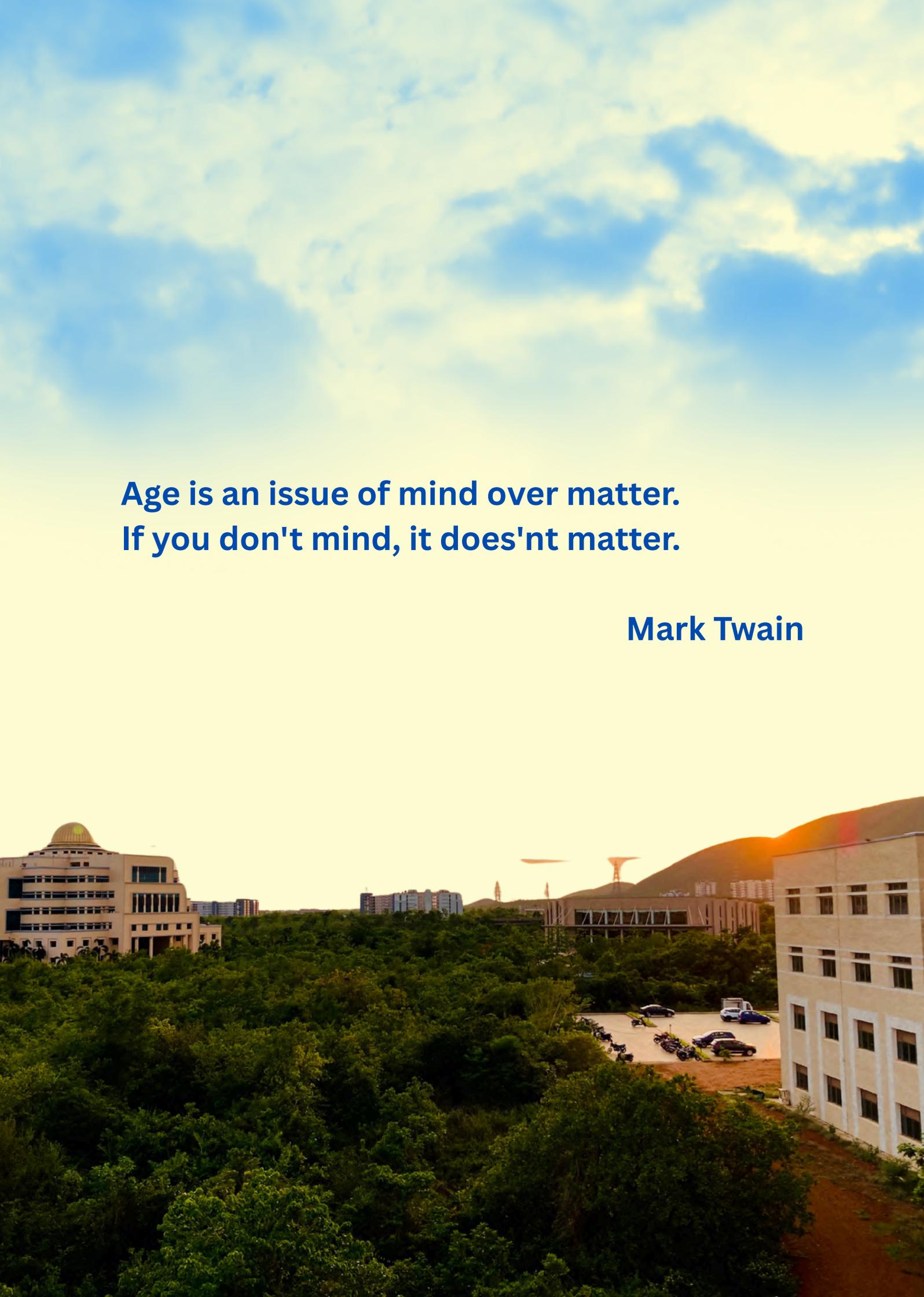
# Aanand Kids Sports Activity-Spardha

Aanand Kid's Activity Centre conducted Spardha-3 from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Spardha is the annual sports and cultural contest conducted by the centre. It gives the kids a chance to break from their daily routine and apply themselves to various creative activities. The competitions included colouring, drawing, English short story writing, track-and-field events (like 100m sprint, lemon-and-spoon race, 3-legged race).



This year, for the first time, badminton and dance competition were also included. Some of the events such as the 3-legged race and group dance were open to parents too. More than 40 children, ranging from 4 to 14 years, registered for various events and participated enthusiastically in different events. Some of the parents also showed great sporting spirit and participated in the events. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony on 15th February. Team Aanand gratefully acknowledges the able support it received from parents, gymkhana staff and the house-keeping staff in conducting the event.





**Age is an issue of mind over matter.  
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.**

**Mark Twain**