

Debate Competition – International Women’s Week Celebration-2026

As part of the International Women’s week celebrations at IIT Bhubaneswar, the Women Welfare Committee organized an engaging and thought-provoking **Debate Competition** on the topic: **“Ensuring women’s rights requires transformation in the social mindset, not just legislation.”**

The debate witnessed enthusiastic participation from the IIT Bhubaneswar fraternity. Participants presented well-structured arguments supported by strong reasoning, real-world examples, and impactful perspectives. The competition featured compelling speeches, sharp rebuttals, and insightful counter-arguments, making the session intellectually stimulating and engaging for the audience.

Throughout the debate, participants discussed various dimensions of women’s rights, highlighting how deeply rooted social stereotypes, cultural norms, and biases continue to shape the lived experiences of women. While the importance of laws and policies was acknowledged, several speakers emphasized that true and lasting change can only occur when society collectively transforms its mindset toward gender equality.

One of the notable points of discussion during the debate was the recent discourse around the Chief Justice of India’s stance on menstrual leave, which sparked thoughtful conversations about policy, workplace equity, and the broader social attitudes surrounding women’s health and rights.



The judges, Dr. Sreetama Misra and Dr. Ashna Jacob from School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management, IIT Bhubaneswar appreciated the participants for their clarity of thought, confidence, and ability to critically examine complex social issues. They also suggested that participants could further refine their arguments by supporting their points with relevant case studies and by structuring their responses in a clear flow of **statement, example, and assertion** to make their arguments more impactful and persuasive. The session concluded with valuable remarks from the judges, highlighting the importance of constructive dialogue in fostering awareness and social change.

After careful deliberation, the winners of the debate competition were announced:

First Prize: *Kushagra Singh* (1st Year, B.Tech.) and *Saswati Soumya Mohapatra* (PhD)

Second Prize: *Mayuk Doshi* (1st Year, B.Tech.) and *Ahana Kar* (1st Year B.Tech.)

The event concluded on a celebratory note with the announcement of winners, followed by refreshments provided to all participants and attendees. The debate served as a meaningful platform for exchanging ideas and reflecting on the collective responsibility of society in ensuring true gender equality.