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Geoenvironment-2026 at IIT Bhubaneswar Focuses on Scientific Landfill Remediation

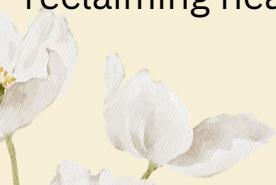


The School of Infrastructure, IIT Bhubaneswar organized the two-day International Workshop on Landfill Mining of Legacy Waste (Geoenvironment-2026) in hybrid mode on 22nd and 23rd May 2026. The workshop focused on addressing environmental and regulatory challenges in legacy waste remediation through landfill mining and biomining. Chief Guest Chanchal Rana, Commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), highlighted the growing challenges of urban waste management and underscored the need for sustainable, affordable, and scalable remediation solutions. Referring to the ongoing Bhuasuni dumpsite project, he stressed the importance of indigenous technologies, scientific waste characterization, and circular economy practices in addressing legacy waste issues.



Shri Debasish Das, Director (Commercial), GRIDCO, Bhubaneswar, also addressed the participants and underlined the significance of sustainable waste management practices and the role of collaborative research in advancing environmental sustainability.

Dr. Usharani Patnaik, Additional Chief Environmental Scientist, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, emphasized the importance of biomining and scientific landfill remediation in sustainable waste management. She highlighted Odisha's progress in legacy waste remediation, noting that 91 out of 102 identified dump sites in the state have already been remediated, reclaiming nearly 350 acres of land.





Delivering the opening remarks, Dr. Mohit Somani, Convenor of the Workshop, highlighted the urgent need for scientific and sustainable landfill mining practices in India, particularly in view of the increasing volume of legacy waste accumulated across urban local bodies. Prof. Rajesh Roshan Dash, Co-Convenor of the workshop proposed a vote of thanks.

A major highlight of the inaugural programme was the unveiling of a book on Landfill Mining, reflecting the growing academic and practical focus on sustainable remediation technologies and practices.



The two-day workshop featured expert talks and technical discussions by distinguished speakers from leading national and international institutions, including the University of Padova, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, IIT (BHU) Varanasi, NIT Trichy, and the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Sessions covered legacy waste characterization, landfill mining, material recovery, site remediation, and sustainable waste management. The workshop brought together municipal officials, consultants, researchers, policymakers, faculty, and students, reflecting IIT Bhubaneswar's commitment to sustainable infrastructure research and environmentally responsible solutions.



Inauguration of 'N Gen Post Office'



IIT Bhubaneswar inaugurated the 'N Gen Post Office' on its campus on 27th May 2026 in collaboration with the Department of Posts, Odisha Circle. The facility aims to provide students, faculty, staff, and residents with easy access to modern postal, banking, insurance, and citizen-centric services. The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Department of Posts, along with members of the IIT Bhubaneswar community.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, highlighted the long-standing need for a dedicated post office on campus. He recalled the challenges of postal delivery in the absence of nearby facilities and appreciated the Department of Posts for establishing the N Gen Post Office. He noted that modern post offices have evolved into technology-enabled service centres offering a wide range of solutions beyond traditional mail services.

Shri Nirmaljit Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Odisha Circle, spoke about the transformation of India Post into a modern service network. He said the N Gen Post Office initiative is designed to engage the younger generation through digital services, customer-friendly infrastructure, and integrated financial and citizen services. He encouraged the institute community to avail themselves of the various schemes and services offered by the Department.



Shri Bamdev Acharya, Registrar, IIT Bhubaneswar, described the inauguration as a significant and much-awaited development for the campus. He thanked the Odisha Postal Circle for establishing the modern facility and expressed confidence that it would greatly benefit students, employees, and residents through easy access to postal and financial services.



Prof. Umaprasana Ojha, Chairman, IIMC, IIT Bhubaneswar, termed the inauguration of the N Gen Post Office a significant and long-awaited development for the institute. He noted that the technology-enabled facility would provide convenient access to a range of postal, financial, and digital services, while its student-friendly features would make it a valuable addition to the campus community.



The N Gen Post Office will offer services such as Speed Post, parcel booking, savings schemes, Postal Life Insurance, Aadhaar-related services, and India Post Payments Bank facilities. Shri Ratan Jana, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Bhubaneswar Division, were also present on the dais. Shri Ratan Jana delivered the welcome address, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Mohan Suna, Deputy Superintendent of Post Offices, Bhubaneswar Division. Shri Satyajit Sarangi, Assistant Registrar, Estate, IMMC & Guest House coordinated the programme.



IIT Bhubaneswar Signs MoU with Odisha CSR Forum to Strengthen Sustainable Development and CSR Initiatives



IIT Bhubaneswar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Odisha CSR Forum to foster collaboration in the areas of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), sustainability, community development, and capacity-building initiatives across Odisha. The MoU was formally exchanged between Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar and Shri Brajendra Kumar Mishra, Convener, Odisha CSR Forum on 25th May 2026, in the presence of Prof. Dinakar Pasla, Dean (Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy) and Prof. Ashis Biswas, Dean (Alumni, Corporate & International Relations); Shri Pradeep Kumar Sahoo, Deputy Registrar (Alumni, Corporate & International Relations) from IIT Bhubaneswar and Shri T.C. Hota from Odisha CSR Forum. The partnership aims to create a collaborative framework for promoting sustainable development and social impact activities by combining the academic and research strengths of IIT Bhubaneswar with the industry and CSR expertise of Odisha CSR Forum.

Under the MoU, both organizations will collaborate on training programmes, workshops, conferences, CSR conclaves, stakeholder consultations, and consultancy projects in CSR, sustainability, ESG, skill development, and social impact assessment. The partnership will also support joint initiatives in education, health, environment, livelihood, rural development, renewable energy, climate action, and community development. Additionally, it will promote student and youth engagement in CSR activities, support scholarships and fellowships, and foster knowledge-sharing and impactful community development interventions across Odisha.

IIT Bhubaneswar Strengthens Menstrual Health Movement Through Innovation, Sustainability and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships



Marking Global Menstrual Hygiene Day 2026, the Odisha Menstrual Health & Hygiene Alliance (OMHH Alliance), led by Aaina, in association with IIT Bhubaneswar Research & Entrepreneurship Park (IIT Bhubaneswar REP), organized a state-level multi-stakeholder dialogue in Bhubaneswar on 28th May 2026, on the theme “Rising Together: Transforming Menstrual Health as a Fundamental Right.” The event brought together representatives from government, academia, civil society, law, development partners, and youth platforms to strengthen collective action for advancing menstrual health as a rights and dignity issue.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, highlighted the Institute’s initiatives in the domain, including Project CARE (Campus Action for Reusable Essentials), the national-level ‘Reflow – Menstrual Health & Innovation Hackathon’, a dedicated menstrual health research repository, and menstrual work-from-home support for female students. He also announced the Institute’s upcoming collaboration with Padcare Labs Pvt. Ltd. for menstrual waste recycling, making IIT Bhubaneswar one of the first IITs to contribute to a circular economy approach in menstrual waste management.





The conclave also witnessed the presence of several eminent dignitaries, including Smt. Shyni S., IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Government of Odisha; Smt. Babita Patra, Chairperson, Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and representatives from Aaina, UNICEF Odisha and other partner organisations.

The Institute also participated in the expansion of 'Happyness For Her', the flagship CSR initiative of Nexus Select Malls in partnership with Saukhyam Foundation. Under the programme, IIT Bhubaneswar students and faculty members were recognised through the CARE Awards for promoting sustainable menstrual practices and peer-led behavioural change on campus, on 26th May 2026.





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A key highlight of the programme was the launch of HEAL (Health. Environment. Active Living.), an initiative focused on menstrual wellbeing, awareness and early intervention for menstrual health concerns. The event also featured discussions on research, policy, sustainability and community engagement, with participation from leading institutions including AIIMS Bhubaneswar, KIIT and Utkal University. On this occasion, Dr. Seema Bahinipati, Dr. Madhusmita Dash, Dr. Debasree Purkayashtha, Dr. Kajari Chatterjee, Dr. Stuti Awasthi, Ms. Sangita Sahu, Ms. Shabina Khatoon, Ms. Geetanjali Suar and Ms. Madhura Sakthivel were felicitated as Project CARE Ambassadors.

Through these initiatives, IIT Bhubaneswar continues to foster innovation, awareness and sustainable solutions, contributing significantly to the broader movement for menstrual health, dignity and environmental responsibility.

IIT Bhubaneswar Launches Blended Mode M.Tech Programme in 'Electric Vehicle Technology' for Engineers working in Industries

IIT Bhubaneswar has launched a Blended-Mode M.Tech Programme in Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology in association with evACAD. Designed for working professionals, the programme offers advanced training in EV systems, battery technology, charging infrastructure, and vehicle integration through a flexible blend of online learning and on-campus immersion. Admission is based on academic background and professional experience, with no GATE requirement.



The multi-disciplinary curriculum is designed to provide comprehensive knowledge in various domains of EVs such as vehicle design, powertrain development, control aspects in EVs, battery design, maintenance and diagnostics, charging technologies and infrastructure etc.

Key Highlights of the Program are as follows:

- Blended Mode M.Tech Degree from IIT Bhubaneswar
- Designed for working professionals
- Weekend live online classes with self-paced learning
- Hands-on projects and industry case studies
- Campus immersion at IIT Bhubaneswar
- Learning support from IIT faculty and EV industry experts

The programme reflects IIT Bhubaneswar's emphasis on combining foundational science with real-world impact, while addressing the growing need of skilled workforce in the Electric Vehicle domain with an industry-oriented learning approach. The programme is scheduled to commence on 24th July 2026, with applications currently open for eligible candidates from industry and related sectors who aspire to advance their careers in EV domain through this innovative and flexible learning model.



Observance of World No Tobacco Day



IIT Bhubaneswar joined the Nation in the observance of the World No Tobacco Day on 31st May 2026, by spreading awareness messages among its students, faculty members, staff and residents of the campus. To mark the occasion, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, administered the pledge to the members of the members of the Institute to say 'NO' to tobacco and 'YES' to healthier lives, cleaner air, and a brighter future. Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar of the Institute also motivated them on this occasion.

Dr. Ram Prasad Padhy Receives Odisha Young Scientist Award 2024

Dr. Ram Prasad Padhy, Assistant Professor in the School of Electrical & Computer Sciences has been selected for the prestigious Odisha Young Scientist Award 2024 in the category of Engineering & Technology by the Odisha Bigyan Academy, Science & Technology Department, Government of Odisha. The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of science and technology through impactful research and academic excellence. Dr. Padhy's achievement reflects IIT Bhubaneswar's continued commitment to fostering innovation, cutting-edge research, and technological advancement.

The IIT Bhubaneswar community congratulates Dr. Padhy on this distinguished honour and wishes him continued success in his future endeavours.





"In the midst of summer, I found there was, within me, an invincible spring."

— Albert Camus

