

www.iitbbs.ac.in

# IITBBS Express

Events • Achievements • Expressions

Vol. 49: Published on 24.06.2026



a



PICTURE CREDIT:  
NARASIMA MAHARANA

# IIT Bhubaneswar and CSIR-CBRI Sign MoU to Strengthen Research and Academic Collaboration

IIT Bhubaneswar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CSIR-CBRI), Roorkee, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026 to strengthen collaboration in research, academic exchange, and innovation in building science, civil engineering, sustainable infrastructure, and related fields. The MoU was signed by Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, and Prof. R. Pradeep Kumar, Director, CSIR-CBRI, in the presence of senior officials from both institutions.

The partnership aims to advance research and skill development in areas such as structural and geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, architecture and planning, environmental engineering, disaster mitigation, and sustainable construction technologies. The collaboration will facilitate joint research projects, conferences, seminars, internships, collaborative student guidance, and sharing of research facilities and resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, said that the collaboration would create new opportunities for students, researchers, and faculty members to work on nationally relevant challenges and contribute to the development of resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

Prof. R. Pradeep Kumar, Director, CSIR-CBRI, noted that the partnership would combine the strengths of both institutions to promote high-quality research and innovation in building science and technology.

The MoU will be effective for an initial period of five years and is expected to pave the way for long-term collaboration in research, innovation, and capacity building for the infrastructure sector.



# IIT Bhubaneswar celebrates International Yoga Day with Zeal and Enthusiasm

IIT Bhubaneswar celebrated the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm and fervour. The event was organised under the ambit of the institute's extra-academic activity (EAA) and healthcare units in association with the health club of the campus. This year, the theme for International Yoga Day was 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'!

Prof. Satya Mahapatra, Nagar Sanchalak, Vivekananda Kendra, Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga & Management, Bhubaneswar, graced the International Yoga Day celebration as the Chief Guest and said: "Yoga is far more than a set of physical postures; it is a holistic way of life that integrates physical health, mental well-being, emotional balance, and conscious living. In an era marked by rising lifestyle disorders, stress, and mental health challenges, embracing yoga can empower individuals to take charge of their health, enhance cognitive potential, and lead happier, more fulfilling lives."



At the outset, an array of yoga asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing exercises), and meditation techniques were performed under the guidance of yoga instructors. Participants of various age groups actively engaged in the session, demonstrating their commitment to holistic well-being.

Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar; Prof. Mihir Kumar Das, Dean-Student Affairs; Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar and other senior members of the institute were present on the occasion. Dr. Shantanu Patra, Professor-in-Charge (EAA), coordinated the programme. The event saw an overwhelming response from students, faculty members, officers and staff, as well as members from the campus residents.

Before this, yoga sessions were organised by different residential clubs and the Students' Gymkhana during the week-long celebration.

## Yoga Session by Students' Gymkhana



## Yoga Session by Aanand Kids

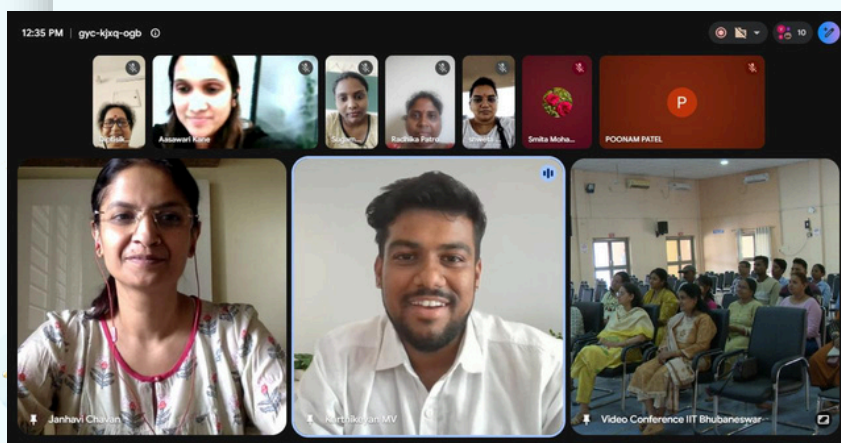


# IIT Bhubaneswar Launches EcoSustain Initiative for Sustainable Menstrual Waste Management



In a significant step towards sustainability and responsible waste management, IIT Bhubaneswar has partnered with PadCare Labs Pvt. Ltd., a social enterprise specializing in menstrual hygiene waste management, to facilitate the scientific collection, recycling, and transformation of sanitary waste into useful products. With this initiative, IIT Bhubaneswar has become the first IIT in the country to collaborate with PadCare.

The EcoSustain initiative was inaugurated on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 by Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, in the presence of faculty members, staff, residents, and representatives from PadCare Labs. Among others, Dr. Seema Bahinipati, Independent Director, IIT Bhubaneswar Research & Entrepreneurship Park; Dr. Remya Neelancherry, Professor-in-Charge (Swachhata); Shri Bamadedv Acharya, Registrar; and Smt. Shruti Karmalkar, President, Residential Clubs, attended the programme. Ms. Janhavi Chavan, Yug Foundation; Shri Karthikeyan MV, Lead - PadCare Housing and Ms. Aasawari Kane, Founding Member, PadCare joined the programme virtually and interacted with the participants.



As part of the initiative, seven PadCare SafeBox units were installed across the Institute's residential complexes on World Environment Day, June 5, 2026. These specially designed units provide a safe, hygienic, and environmentally responsible solution for the disposal of menstrual hygiene products.

Under the partnership, PadCare Labs will provide end-to-end menstrual waste management services, including installation and maintenance of SafeBox units, periodic collection of sanitary waste, and recycling through scientifically validated processes. The initiative also includes awareness and educational programmes on menstrual hygiene and sustainable waste disposal practices. An awareness session conducted during the launch highlighted the environmental challenges of conventional sanitary waste disposal and encouraged residents to adopt responsible waste segregation and disposal practices.



# WASSAN and IIT Bhubaneswar Host Dialogue to Mainstream Agroecological Food Systems in Odisha

Leading academicians, policymakers, and food systems experts gathered at IIT Bhubaneswar on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 for a dialogue on “Enabling Agroecological Transformation: Role of Academia in Mainstreaming Food Systems in Odisha”. Organised by Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) in collaboration with IIT Bhubaneswar under the Green Evolution (GE) initiative supported by Welthungerhilfe, the event explored the role of higher education institutions in building sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems.

The programme featured a welcome address by MV Ramachandraudu, Director, WASSAN, a virtual presentation by Dr. N. Ravisankar, and opening remarks by Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar. Keynote speakers Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Prof. Srijit Mishra, and Dr. Aurobindo Behera (IAS Retd.) underscored the importance of integrating agroecological principles into education, research, and policy.

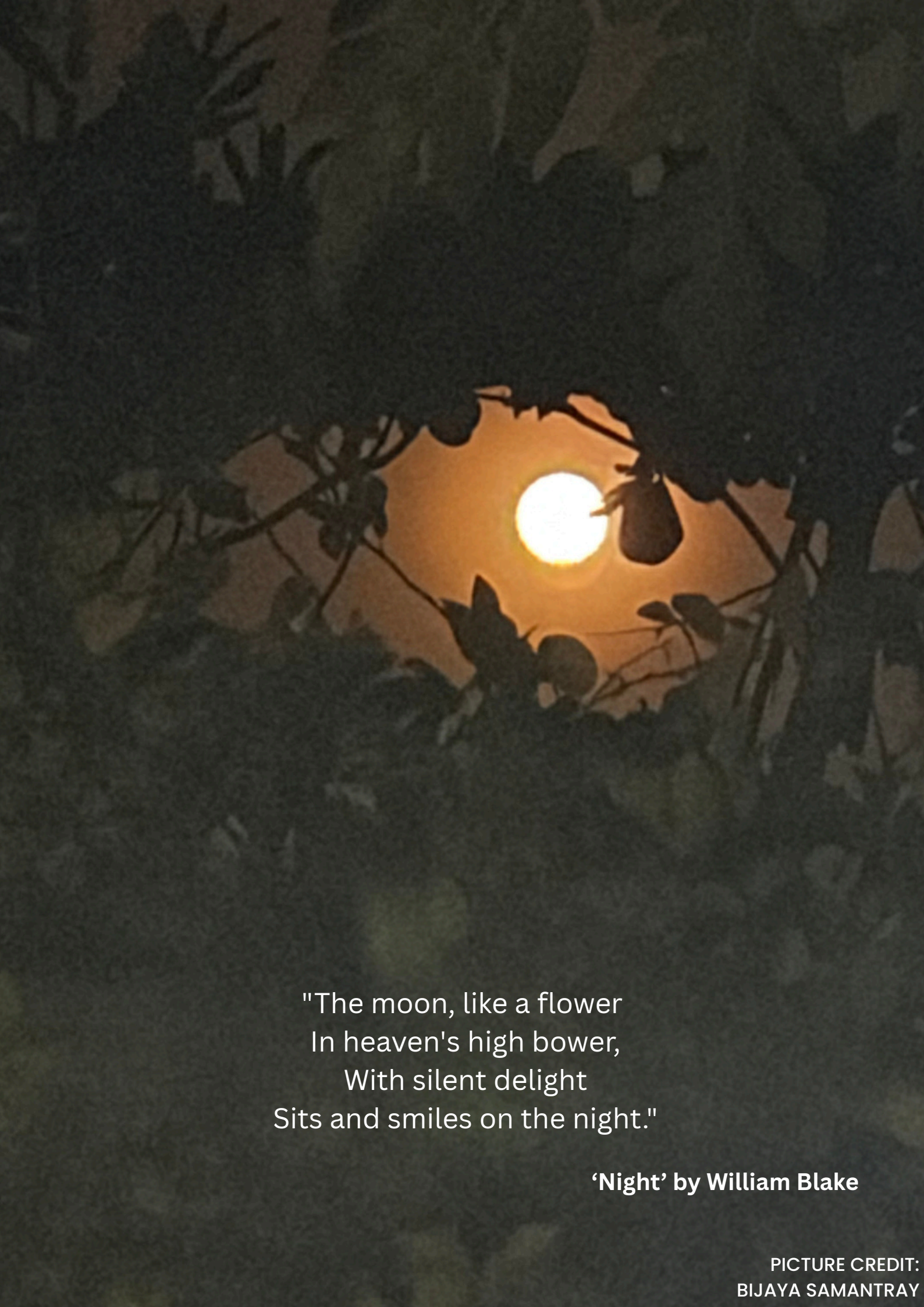
Three thematic roundtables explored agroecology in higher education, policy and institutional support mechanisms, and the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in transforming food systems. Experts from academia, government, research institutions, and industry shared perspectives on curriculum development, institutional frameworks, and scaling agroecological solutions.

Part of the Green Evolution programme across India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, the event is expected to strengthen Odisha’s agroecological transition and promote sustainable and inclusive food systems.



# Raja Celebration



A full moon is seen through a circular opening in a dark, dense canopy of leaves and branches. The moon is bright and glowing, casting a warm light on the surrounding foliage. The scene is set at night, with the dark silhouettes of the leaves and branches framing the moon.

"The moon, like a flower  
In heaven's high bower,  
With silent delight  
Sits and smiles on the night."

**'Night' by William Blake**

PICTURE CREDIT:  
BIJAYA SAMANTRAY