



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर

Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar

Press Release

IIT Bhubaneswar Hosts 'Manasvita' Workshop on Student Wellbeing and Resilient Campus Communities

Bhubaneswar, 12th October 2026: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar hosted Manasvita: Building Resilience and Supportive Campus Communities, a two-day capacity-building workshop on Positive Mental Health, Resilience and Wellbeing, on October 11–12, 2026. Organised under the Teacher Connect Programme of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP), in association with the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, the workshop brought together experts and academic stakeholders to deliberate on strengthening student wellbeing in higher education institutions.

The workshop focused on integrating mental health and wellbeing into institutional practices through early identification of concerns, supportive teacher–student relationships, peer mentoring, life skills and sustainable campus-level interventions.

Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, highlighted the role of good campus ambience, human connections and inclusive practices in promoting wellbeing. “Wellness of an individual depends on oneself as well as others. Hence one must consider the wellness of students, faculty, staff and their families, simultaneously,” he observed. Further, he noted that “no two minds are identical,” underscoring the need to remain receptive to different points of view. He highlighted the Institute’s wellness initiatives, namely – transparent criteria for career advancement, decision making considering all stakeholders, promotion of Active Collaborative Learning pedagogy, two-credit course on happiness and life skills, compulsory possession of cycling skill for all students, several women-led clubs for families and an open classroom Chintan Chhaya where students learn and think in the shadow of a tree.

Shri Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, underscored the need to shift from crisis response to prevention and integrate wellbeing into institutional governance. Highlighting the importance of early identification, professional support systems and student participation, he urged participants to take the learnings back to their institutions and contribute to a culture of wellbeing across the higher education ecosystem. “Well-being is not an add-on to education. It is a foundation,” he observed.

Delivering an expert session on Fostering Engaging and Supportive Learning Environments in Higher Education Institutions, Prof. Sudhir Kumar Jain, Former Director, IIT Gandhinagar and Former Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, emphasised the influence of everyday interactions on student wellbeing. “People will become how you treat them,” he stated, highlighting the importance of respectful and supportive teacher–student relationships. He further stressed that institutions could maintain high academic expectations while ensuring fairness, accountability and support for students.

Prof. Mihir Kumar Das, Dean (Student Affairs), IIT Bhubaneswar, made a presentation on the various initiatives being taken up by the Institute towards the wellbeing and mental health of the students, faculty members and even the residents of the campus. Prof. Shyamal Chatterjee, Dean (Continuing Education), also spoke on the occasion and set the context of the workshop.

The workshop featured discussions on building social belonging on campuses, early identification of student concerns, faculty and student roles in facilitating timely interventions, and life skills-based peer mentoring. Experts also deliberated on the prevention of lifestyle-related conditions and non-communicable diseases. A guided visit to student hostels provided participants with insights into campus-level wellbeing practices and the role of residential communities in supporting students.

The second day focused on building sustainable campus wellbeing ecosystems, with sessions on identifying and managing specific learning disabilities, preventing substance use, integrating wellbeing and life skills into curricula, and exploring the contribution of indigenous knowledge, research, innovation and technology to holistic wellbeing.

A key component of the workshop was a group activity on developing and presenting institutional student wellness action plans, involving representatives from the Ministry of Education, mental health experts and IIT Bhubaneswar. The exercise encouraged participants to translate the discussions and learnings into practical interventions suited to their respective institutions.

In the valedictory session, Prof. Shyamal Chatterjee, Dean (Continuing Education), highlighted that student wellbeing is a shared institutional responsibility, emphasising prevention, early intervention, psychologically safe campuses and the integration of wellbeing into curricula and campus practices. He further stressed the need to reduce the distance between teachers and students by fostering friendly, approachable relationships that encourage students to openly share their difficulties. In his concluding remarks, Shri Devendra Kumar Sharma emphasised that faculty members must take personal responsibility for student wellbeing rather than waiting for institutional interventions. He stressed the need to bridge the gap between teachers and students by fostering open, friendly and supportive relationships, and encouraged higher education institutions to prioritise student wellbeing alongside research and teaching. In the end, Dr. Anirban Bhattacharya, Convenor of the workshop, proposed a vote of thanks.

As many as 90 participants from 25 institutions and above 20 experts from across the India participated in this workshop.

Through expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, experience-sharing and institutional action planning, Manasvita highlighted the importance of proactive, inclusive and sustainable approaches to student wellbeing and the development of resilient campus communities.
