

## [Hackathon on VR, AR begins at IIT](#)

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A three-day conclave and Hackathon on ‘Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)’ organised by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar in association with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and State Government began at IIT BBS campus here on Friday.

STPI DG Omkar Rai, Electronic and Information Technology Secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra and IIT BBS Director Prof RV Raja Kumar attended as guests and inaugurated the programme.

Prof Kumar emphasised the importance of new age technologies such as AR and VR, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of things (IOT) and 5G communication, in the Digital India dream, today. He acknowledged the support from Susmita Bagchi and Subroto Bagchi of the Odisha Skill Development Authority for joining hands together with the institute for creation of Center of Excellence in AR-VR (VARCoE) at the institute.

The VARCoE focuses on creating an ecosystem for carrying out R and D in AR-VR, immersive visualization and applications, giving impetus to skill development, manpower creation through innovative education program and foster technology incubation and entrepreneurship. Among others, Prof PK Sahu, Prof M Sabarimalai Manikandan, Manas Panda and Prasant Biswal were present.