

# Orissa Today

People's Voice

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## **International Women's day celebrated at IIT Bhubaneswar**

Bhubaneswar: On the eve of International Women's Day, on 8th March, IIT Bhubaneswar Women Welfare Committee (WWC), organized a thought provoking session at its campus today. This year's theme for the International Day, "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world", celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs Rajita Kulkarni, President of World Forum for Ethics in Business & President Sri Sri University graced the occasion as Chief Guest via video conferencing. Adv. Snehanjali Mohanty, Senior Member State Commission for Women Odisha attended the event in person as the Guest of Honour. The event was presided over by Prof. R.V. Raja Kumar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. R.V. Raja Kumar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar spoke about the need to bring awareness about making gender parity as a culture in the society. He mentioned that in old civilizations like India, women with motherhood has a status equivalent to a goddess. But the contrasting distortions that exists in the society on gender front, like elsewhere in the world camouflages this virtue. Of all the issues, the long term issues of female infanticide and harassment at workplace are inhuman and the society needs to come out of these barbaric practices at the earliest. Lack of parity on several fronts including access to education, more because of backwardness of the mind-set of the society continues to be of concern even today. He lauded the decision by the Ministry of Education (MoE) to increase the supernumerary seats for women candidates to at least 20% has certainly raised the women student percentage from the paltry 8 % to 20% in the academic year 2020-'21. It would certainly enhance the hopes to find several women in important positions in different walks of life, in the near future.

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