



भारतीयप्रौद्योगिकीसंस्थान (भारतीयखनिविद्यापीठ), धनबाद Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad

For Immediate Release: November 3, 2024

PRESS-RELEASE

Students, faculty members, officers, staff and other campus residents of IIT (ISM) celebrate, Nuakhai Bhetghat, the traditional festival of Odisha with wide range of cultural performances and a feast of traditional cuisine of Odisha.

Students and other campus kids of IIT (ISM) enthralled the audience with the performance of a wide range of traditional Odia dance forms, including Dalkhai, the traditional dance form of tribals of Odisha; Sajani, a dance performed by teenagers; Raserkeli, a Samalpuri dance; Maelajada (Sambalpuri Folk Dance); Nachnia, performed by male artists only; Chutku Chuta, popular in western Odisha; and Bajnia, a rhythm-oriented folk dance at the Penman Auditorium of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad on Sunday evening.

The occasion was Nuakhai Bhetghat, the agriculture festival of the people of Western Odisha meant to welcome the new rice of the season, which was performed at the institute by Juhar Pariwar Dhanbad, a socio-cultural group.

The celebrations began with the greeting of guests headed by Dr. Birendra Kumar Purohit, General Surgeon and Ex CMS in Central Hospital, and Dr. Sujata Hota, Gynaecologist and Obstetrician, who is also CMS (incharge) of Central Hospital. Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM), Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, and Shri Prabodh Pandey, Registrar, IIT (ISM) were also present during the occasion.

A brief prayer was also organized as part of the celebration during which the participants worshipped Maa Samleshwari.

The performance of a wide range of cultural programs, including folk dances of western Odisha, was the main attraction of the celebration.

Dinabandhu Pradhan, Associate Professor of the Department of Mathematics and Computing of the institute, said, "Nuakhai Bhetghat is celebrated on Panchmi tithi of the lunar fortnight of the moth of Bhadrapad every year."

"The traditional festival has special significance for farmers and the agriculture community as the festival celebrates welcome season's newly harvested rice," said Prof. Pradhan, a member of Juhar Pariwar Dhanbad, and added that after the cultural performance a feast of traditional cuisines of Odisha was also organized.

Notably, Juhar Pariwar Dhanbad has been formed for the first time in Dhanbad for all the Odia people that call Dhanbad their home.

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