

PERIOD
JAN-JUNE 2025

NISER NEWSLETTER

Vibes

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

www.niser.ac.in/about/newsletter



TABLE OF CONTENTS

VIBES: VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1
NISER NEWSLETTER

01 **Message from the Director**
Reflections from the Desk of the Director

08 **Awards and Recognition**
Moments That Made Us Proud

02 **Academic Events**
Academic Engagements

12 **Alumni Connect**
From NISER Roots to Global Reach

06 **Research and Discovery**
Charting New Scientific Pathways

13 **In Focus: New Facilities**
Fresh Additions, Bright Futures

14 **Institute Chronicles**
Institutional Highlights & Celebrations

16 **New Members Joined**
Welcoming Our Newest Members

17 **Student Activities**
Vibrant Moments from Student Clubs



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Well-Wishers of NISER,

It brings me great joy to present the January–June 2025 edition of Vibes, our spirited campus newsletter that captures the dynamic energy, accomplishments, and vision of NISER Bhubaneswar.

This half-year has been marked by exceptional academic vitality and institutional growth. A notable milestone was the launch of the Max Planck India Partner Group at the School of Chemical Sciences, in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics in Germany.

Another highlight was the PARAM-2025 Workshop, held in collaboration with IIT Bhubaneswar and the Max Planck Society, marking a strong start to an international partnership. The academic calendar also featured events like NSRP-2025, the NVIDIA Run AI Workshop, and publishing workshops with Springer Nature and Wiley, reinforcing NISER's role as a vibrant center for scientific dialogue.

Our faculty members continue to achieve global recognition. This season, Prof. Subhankar Bedanta joined key IEEE Magnetics Society committees, and Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty received the Samanta Chandra Sekhar Award – 2023 and the 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, along with Profs. Prolay Mal and Sanjay Kumar Swain. Prof. Palok Aich earned a patent for his work on predicting microbes using host metabolites. Dr. Satyaprasad P. Senanayak was named an Emerging Investigator by the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), while Dr. Manjusha Dixit became Lead Guest Editor of Cancer Control. Prof. Himansu Sekhar Biswal was selected for the CRSI Bronze Medal – 2026, and Dr. Bishnu P. Biswal's research received distinction in Macromolecular Rapid Communications. These accolades reflect NISER's growing scientific leadership.

Our researchers continue to advance knowledge, with notable work in advanced materials and crust evolution gaining recognition in top journals. The Rainbow Diet project in Keonjhar is also driving progress in public health.

Our alumni are thriving at leading global research institutes, showcasing the strength of NISER's academic foundation.

We remain committed to outreach through events like National Science Day, teacher workshops, and Vigyan Pratibha, all promoting scientific curiosity and inclusivity.

I thank the entire NISER community for its continued dedication and sincerely appreciate the newsletter contributors for capturing the institute's vibrant spirit.

Prof. Hirendra Nath Ghosh
Director, NISER

ACADEMIC EVENTS

ORGANIZED AT NISER



The School of Chemical Sciences, NISER, in collaboration with IIT Bhubaneswar and the Max Planck Society, organized the **PARAM-2025** Workshop on January 17–18, 2025, to launch the Max Planck India Partner Group. The event focused on advances in reticular chemistry, highlighting synthesis, processability, and applications of advanced materials, while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

The School of Chemical Sciences, NISER, in association with ISRAPS, hosted the **16th National Symposium on Radiation and Photochemistry (NSRP-2025)** from January 23–25, 2025. The event brought together leading researchers and young scholars nationwide to discuss recent advances and foster collaboration in radiation and photochemistry.



The Central Library, NISER, in collaboration with the American Chemical Society (ACS), organized a talk on **Scholarly Publishing in the Age of AI** on 10th February 2025. Delivered by Dr. Ajay Jha, Associate Publisher at ACS Publications, the session explored AI's transformative role in scholarly publishing, covering trends, ethics, and future directions. The event saw active participation from faculty, scientific officers, researchers, and students.

The Outreach Cell of NISER celebrated **National Science Day** on February 28, 2025, with 650 students from 204 government schools across 10 blocks of Jajpur district. The event featured interactive demos, inspiring talks, and hands-on activities to spark scientific curiosity and promote a spirit of inquiry and innovation among young learners.





The Centre for Medical and Radiological Physics, NISER, organized the **Particle Therapy Masterclass (PTMC 2025)** on 7th March 2025. The session focused on the fundamentals, clinical applications, and future potential of particle therapy in cancer treatment, offering valuable insights for students, researchers, and professionals in medical physics.

The NCARE Animal House, under the School of Biological Sciences, NISER, organized a session on **Advancing Cancer Research: Insights and Applications of PDX Models** on 8th March 2025. It highlighted the role of PDX models in studying tumor behavior, treatment response, and their translational value in personalized cancer research.



The School of Computer Sciences, NISER, in collaboration with MPCL, organized the **NVIDIA Run AI Workshop** on 14th February 2025.

The workshop introduced advanced AI tools and technologies, offering hands-on sessions and insights into real-world applications, helping students, researchers, and faculty enhance their skills in AI and accelerated computing.

The Outreach Cell of NISER organized an **Educational Visit** on March 21, 2025, for 255 students from 76 government schools across five blocks of Jagatsinghpur. The event featured interactive demos, talks, and hands-on activities to spark scientific curiosity and foster a spirit of inquiry.

The first **Vigyan Pratibha Teachers' Training Workshop** for 2025–26 was held from 21st to 25th April 2025, with 78 teachers from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana. Representing JNVs, KVs, and AECS, participants engaged in interactive sessions and hands-on activities aimed at enhancing science teaching through the Vigyan Pratibha initiative.



The Central Library, NISER, in collaboration with Wiley and Springer Nature, held an **Open Access Publishing Workshop** on 20th May 2025. Led by Ms. Arunima Aditya, the session covered APC funding, author workflows, manuscript submission, and publishing ethics, helping faculty effectively navigate the evolving Open Access landscape.

As part of National Technology Day 2025, the INAE Bhubaneswar Chapter, along with partner institutes, organized a **Distinguished Lecture** on May 21, 2025. Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman of ISRO, delivered a talk titled "Indian Space Program – Pride of the Nation," highlighting India's achievements and future vision in space exploration.



TALKS & SPECIAL

LECTURES



An Institute Colloquium was held on 25th February 2025 by Prof. Gautier Hamel de Monchenault, Spokesperson of the CMS Collaboration, on **"The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) Odyssey — Run 3 and Beyond."** He highlighted the CMS experiment's key discoveries since the Higgs boson, recent upgrades, major results, and its future plans for the High-Luminosity LHC phase.

The Early Detection Program team from Tata Memorial Centre organized a **Cervical Cancer Awareness Session** on 10th January 2025 at the NISER Health Centre for all female members of the NISER community. The session promoted awareness of symptoms, early detection, and prevention, encouraging proactive women's health.

To mark World Environment Day 2025, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NISER, hosted a panel discussion titled **"How to Beat Plastic Pollution?"** on June 5. Experts explored the environmental, social, and policy aspects of plastic pollution, highlighting sustainable practices and collective action for a cleaner future.

A public lecture by Prof. Anindya "Rana" Sinha was held on 13th March 2025, organized by the School of Biological Sciences (SBS). In his talk, **"Being Macaque: Our Complex Coexistence with Urban and Synurbising Macaques,"** Prof. Sinha explored how bonnet and rhesus monkeys adapt to urban spaces, offering ethno-ethological insights into evolving human-primate interactions in India.

NISER's Outreach Cell organized **'Chemistry is Fun!'** on 28th March 2025 for students and the NISER community. Featuring live demonstrations by Prof. Uday Maitra and Prof. Samita Maitra, the session showcased chemistry as a creative and accessible science, emphasizing safety, curiosity, and hands-on learning.



An invited talk on **“Radiation, Nuclear Energy and Environment”** by Dr. Dinesh Kumar Aswal was held on 6th June 2025 at NISER. Dr. Aswal highlighted nuclear energy as a clean, low-carbon, and reliable source to tackle climate change and improve human development. He discussed radiation safety, critiqued the LNT model, and advocated for the Hormesis model, offering insights into the science, perception, and policy of nuclear energy.



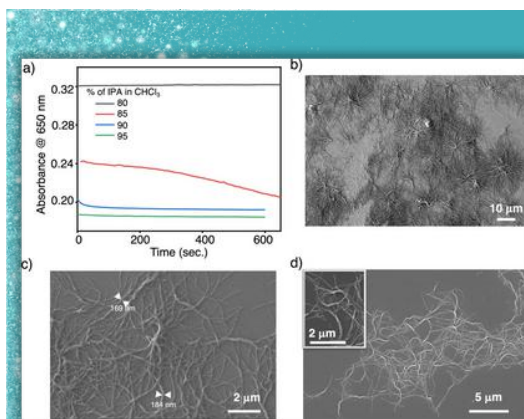
On June 11, 2025, Prof. L. S. Shashidhara, Director of NCBS, delivered a public lecture at NISER titled **“Science Education and Research in Independent India: Less Known Stories, Unimaginable Impact.”** He highlighted the lesser-known contributions of Indian scientists and educators, and how context-driven innovations have shaped India's scientific growth since Independence.



The School of Biological Sciences, NISER, hosted a talk by Prof. Shubha Tole (TIFR) on April 1, 2025, titled **“How Institutions Can Design Strategies to Help Students Navigate Graduate School.”** She emphasized the role of mentorship, support systems, and faculty engagement in enhancing graduate programs and student well-being. Drawing from TIFR and other institutional models, the talk encouraged dialogue on building inclusive, student-friendly, and academically enriching research environments.



RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

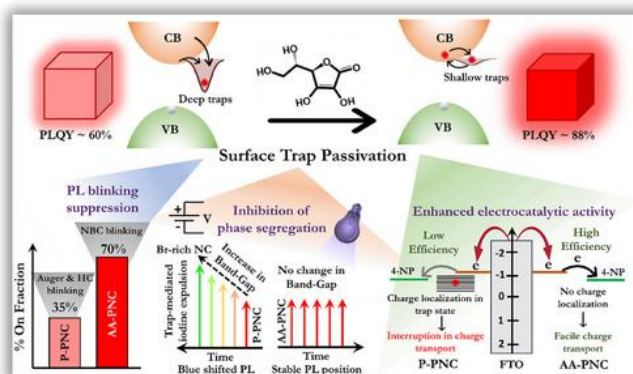


Dendritic Homochiral Superstructures with High Chiro-Optical Response

A team from NISER's School of Physical Sciences, including **Dr. Satyaprasad P. Senanayak** and his students, reported the synthesis of dendritic homochiral superstructures using NIR triimide dyes via secondary nucleation. Published in *Nature Communications*, their study reveals growth from and on seed surfaces, forming $\sim 0.4 \text{ mm}^2$ structures with central superhelices and high chiro-optical response (g-factor ~ 0.6), advancing chiral optoelectronic design.

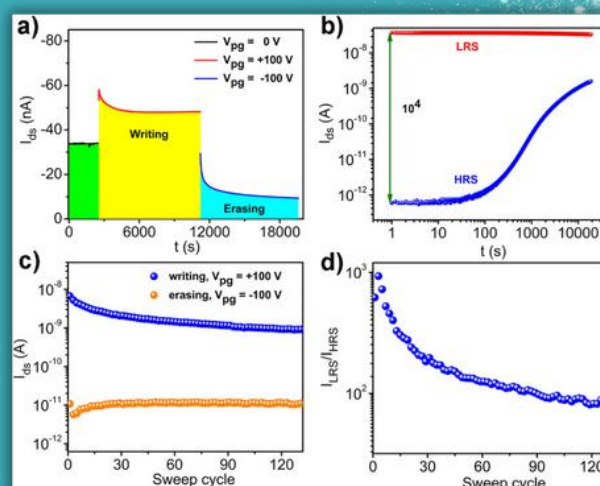
Trap-Passivated CsPbBr₂ Nanocrystals for Stable Optoelectronic Performance

A team from NISER, led by **Dr. Subhadip Ghosh** from the School of Chemical Sciences with Mrinal Kanti Panda and Debopam Acharjee, has shown that ascorbic acid passivation enhances the stability and charge transport of mixed-halide CsPbBr₂ perovskite nanocrystals. Published in *Advanced Functional Materials*, the study highlights their effectiveness in reducing 4-nitrophenol, advancing PNC-based catalytic technologies.



Chiral Organic Ferroelectric for Neuromorphic Memory

A team from NISER's School of Physical Sciences, led by **Dr. Satyaprasad P. Senanayak** with students Mr. Anshuman Sahoo and Mr. Kanha Ram Khator, has demonstrated non-volatile, multi-state memory using a chiral ferroelectric thin film (NMI-RBn). Published in *Advanced Functional Materials*, the work highlights its strong ferroelectricity, high retention, and neuromorphic potential, advancing organic memory device research.



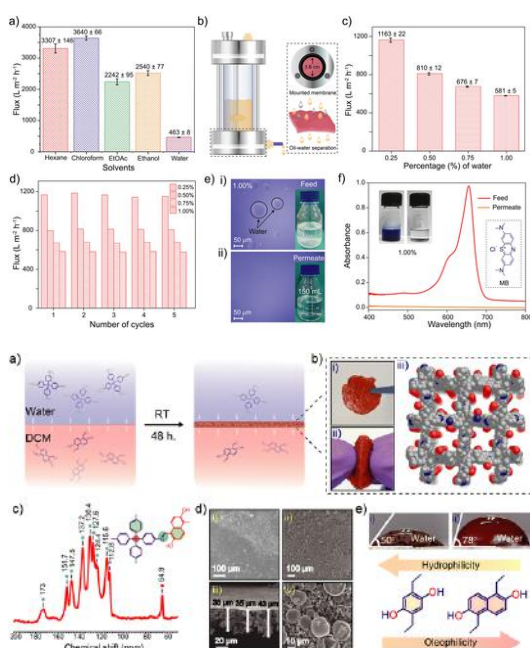
Emergence of Cratons and Earth's Evolving Surface

A multinational team, including **Dr. Priyadarshi Chowdhury** from NISER's School of Earth & Planetary Sciences, has revealed in the ***Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences*** that Earth's continental crust first emerged above sea level between 3.8–2.4 billion years ago as volcanic land. Stable continents began forming around 3.2–3.0 Ga, with significant land expansion driven by plate tectonics and crustal thickening, reaching near-modern levels by 2.5–2.2 Ga.

Rainbow Diet Initiative Brings Nutrient-Rich Tubers to Keonjhar

As part of the **Rainbow Diet** initiative, NISER Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with ICAR-CTCRI and the Keonjhar District Administration, is promoting nutrient-rich indigenous tuber crops from Northeast India in Keonjhar. These pigment-rich crops offer sustainable farming and livelihood options, with health benefits being studied at N-CARE under **Prof. Chandan Goswami** and **Dr. Saurabh Chawla**. Value-added products like pasta and biscuits are being developed to support nutrition programs. The initiative aims to empower the Juang tribe and set up a production center by 2025.

Image Credit: ETV Bharat



Superoleophilic 3D COF Membrane for Efficient Water-in-Oil Demulsification

A team from NISER's School of Chemical Sciences, including **Dr. Bishnu P. Biswal** and his students, has developed a highly efficient superoleophilic 3D covalent organic framework (COF) membrane for the separation of water-in-oil emulsions. Published in ***Chemical Communications***, the research demonstrates a fourfold increase in oil flux and excellent demulsification efficiency, achieved through enhanced oil-wettability and reduced pore blockage. This gravity-driven approach offers a sustainable and scalable solution for oil–water separation, with potential applications in environmental cleanup and industrial wastewater treatment.

Awards & Recognition



**PROF. SUBHANKAR
BEDANTA**

From the School of Physical Sciences, invited to serve on the **Education & Technical Committees** of the IEEE Magnetics Society (Global), recognizing his contributions to magnetism.



PROF. BEDANGADAS MOHANTY

From the School of Physical Sciences has received the **Samanta Chandra Sekhar Award 2023** for outstanding contributions to physics and fundamental research, conferred by the Odisha Bigyan Academy.

PROF. PALOK AICH

From the School of Biological Sciences, NISER Bhubaneswar, has been granted a **patent** for a novel method to predict resident microbes using host metabolites—now translated into real-world use with industry backing.



DR. SATYAPRASAD P. SENANAYAK

From the School of Physical Sciences, has been named an **“Emerging Investigator in Materials Science”** by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), UK, for his impactful research in the field on an international platform.

Congratulations

DR. MANJUSHA DIXIT

From the School of Biological Sciences has been nominated as **Lead Guest Editor** of Cancer Control, a JCR-ranked journal — recognizing her leadership in cancer biology and translational research.



**PROF. HIMANSU
SEKHAR BISWAL**

From the School of Chemical Sciences has been selected for the **CRSI Bronze Medal – 2026**, recognizing his notable contributions to chemical sciences and excellence in research at the national level.



DR. BISHNU PRASAD BISWAL

From the School of Chemical Sciences has been recognized for research featured as a **Top View Article** in Macromolecular Rapid Communications, reflecting its high visibility and impact.

PROF. PROLAY MAL, PROF. BEDANGADAS MOHANTY & PROF. SANJAY KUMAR SWAIN

From the School of Physical Sciences has been recognized as

part of the recipient teams of the **2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics**, awarded to the four major LHC experiments at CERN for groundbreaking discoveries using Run-2 data—highlighting NISER's significant contributions to fundamental physics.



Student Achievements



MS. JOYOTI GHOSH

From SCS, won the **Best Poster Award** at the 16th National Symposium on Radiation and Photochemistry held at NISER, Bhubaneswar.



MR. SAYANTAN MUKHOPADHYAY

From SCS, won the **Best Poster Award** at Main-Group Molecules to Materials conference, held at IIT Bombay.



MS. ANKITA PANDA

From SCS, won the **Best Poster Award** at First Nucleic Acid Therapeutics Meeting – India 2025, held at JNCASR, Bengaluru.



MR. BUDDHADEB PAL

From SCS, awarded the **Best Oral Presentation Award** at the IGP Conference 2025: Sustainable Chemistry III, held at IIT Indore.



MR. MRINAL KANTI PANDA

From SCS, won the **Best Poster Award** at the Inter IISER-NISER Chemistry Meet held at IISER Pune.



MS. RUPALI P. CHHATOI

From SPS, won the **Best Oral Award** at CRNAFP-2025 held at F. M. University, Balasore.



MR. SOUBHAGYA DASH

From SPS, won the **Best Poster Award** at the CRNAFP-2025 held at F. M. University, Balasore.



MS. SUPRIYA SAMAL

From SBS has received the **Appreciation Award** at EVOLVE 2025, 1st Annual Meet of the Indian Society for Extracellular Vesicles.



MR. SMARAN BANERJEE

From SBS, won the **Third Prize** in a photography competition at EVOLVE 2025, held at AIIMS, New Delhi.



MR. ADITHYAN PUTHUKKUDI

From SCS, won the **Best Poster Award** at AMEES-2025, held at IIT Bhubaneswar.



MR. SANKALPA N. PANDA

From SCS, won the **Best Oral Presentation Award** at AMEES-2025, held at IIT Bhubaneswar.



MR. DIPANSU D. BEHERA

From SCS, won the **Best Poster Award** at AMEES-2025, held at IIT Bhubaneswar.



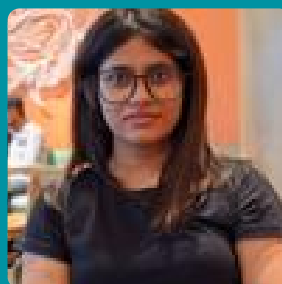
MR. BIPLAB K. MANNA

From SCS, won the **Best Poster Award** at AMEES-2025, held from 16th to 18th May 2025 at IIT Bhubaneswar.



MS. SWARNA PRAVA DAS

From SEPS, awarded the **Meteoritical Society Travel Award** to attend the 87th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society held in Perth, Australia.



MS. SUBHASMITA SWAIN



MR. SOURADEEP DUTTA

From SBS awarded **Explorer's Club Grant** for study on impact of noise on Ensiferan communities in Eastern India.



MR. SRINIVAS C. L.

From SBS has been selected for the **DBT Khorana Scholarship Award 2025** for research on game theory and behavioural evolution.

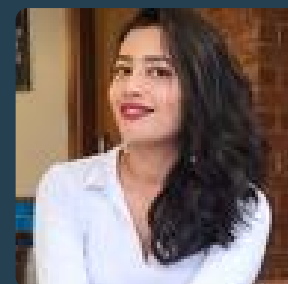


DR. ANKIT KUMAR PANDA

Researchers from the School of Physical Sciences and the School of Chemical Sciences have been honored with the **HBNI Outstanding Doctoral Students Award 2024** for their exceptional breakthroughs and significant contributions to their respective fields.



DR. PROTTAY DAS



DR. PRAJNASHREE PANDA



MR. SAWAN KUMAWAT

From SPS won the **Best Oral Presentation (Experiment) award** at the Asian Triangular Heavy Ion Conference (ATHIC) 2025 held at IISER Berhampur. The award, jointly shared with Kyungrim Woo (Pusan National University), was sponsored by the Journal of Subatomic Particles and Cosmology (Elsevier) and carried a €150 prize. Sawan's talk, "Study of Exotic Resonances in pp Collisions with ALICE at the LHC", highlighted resonance production in high-energy proton-proton collisions, while Kyungrim presented on ALPIDE Telescope development and testing at PF-AR, KEK.



MR. SATISH CHATURVEDI

From the first batch of M.Sc. Medical and Radiological Physics won the **Best Oral Presentation award** at the 18th Annual Conference of the Association of Medical Physicists of India (Northern Chapter), held at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon. His talk, "Dosimetric Verification of Installed Segmented Treatment Table (STT) in Eclipse 16.1 Treatment Planning System (TPS) for Enhanced Dynamic Wedge (EDW) using Linear Diode Array", focused on verifying treatment planning techniques to ensure precise and effective radiation therapy delivery.



MR. DIPTANIL ROY

Our former Integrated M.Sc. student from the School of Physical Sciences, NISER, received the **Merit Award** at the RHIC-AGS Users' Meeting, Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA. The award honored his Ph.D. research on heavy-flavor-tagged jets in heavy-ion collisions and his key contributions to the STAR and sPHENIX experiments at Rutgers University, USA. This recognition highlights the global impact of research contributions originating from NISER alumni.



Young Scientist Award – Odisha Bigyan Academy



Institute Colloquium by CMS Collaboration Spokesperson



Breakthrough Prize trophy for the ALICE Collaboration



Remembering Dr. R. Chidambaram



HBNI's First Convocation Ceremony

ALUMNI CONNECT



Image Copyright: 2025 Lester Cohen

DR. RAJULA SRIVASTAVA

an alumna of the Integrated MSc programme (2012–2017) from the School of Mathematical Sciences has been awarded the **Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize 2025**. Her remarkable contributions to mathematics reflect the academic excellence nurtured at NISER and serve as an inspiration to the entire community.

DR. APRAMITA CHAND

former Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of Chemical Sciences, NISER, and currently Assistant Professor at IIT Kharagpur, has been honored with the **Young Scientist Award – 2023** by the Odisha Bigyan Academy, Government of Odisha. This recognition highlights her outstanding contributions to scientific research and innovation.



DR. AKASH KAITHAL

an alumnus of the Integrated MSc program (Batch 2017) from the School of Chemical Sciences at NISER has been appointed as an **Assistant Professor** in the Department of Chemistry at IIT Roorkee. His achievement reflects the academic excellence and impactful journey of NISER graduates.

DR. SESA KISHAN

an alumnus of the Integrated MSc program (Batch 2018), School of Chemical Sciences, NISER, has founded his pharmaceutical brand – **Dr. Sesha Kisan Pharma**, envisioned as a “World of Unlimited Healthcare.” The venture is committed to delivering innovative, high-quality medicines and advancing healthcare.



RESEARCH OUTPUT-2024-INDEXED IN SCOPUS



Publications Indexed

661 ↑

Total as on 1st July 2025
5,678



Citations Received

26,409 ↑

Total as on 1st July 2025
1,74,641



H-Index

156 ↑

As on 1st July 2025
158

IN FOCUS NEW FACILITIES



Installation of Gamma Chamber GC-5000 at CMRP

A state-of-the-art Gamma Chamber GC-5000 has been installed at the Centre for Medical and Radiological Physics (CMRP), developed with the support of colleagues from the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT). This advanced irradiation facility features 16 Cobalt-60 radioactive sources arranged in a cylindrical geometry, offering an irradiation volume of 5000 cc. The sources possess a total activity of approximately 14 kCi and emit gamma rays with an average energy of 1.25 MeV, making the unit well-suited for high-precision experimental work.



The GC-5000 is equipped with a built-in timer that provides precise control over irradiation durations, ranging from as little as 6 seconds to as long as 1 hour, and delivers a maximum dose rate of 0.9 Mrad/hour. This installation significantly enhances the hands-on learning experience for M.Sc. Medical and Radiological Physics students, enabling them to carry out at least three sets of in-house experiments as part of their academic curriculum. The facility also offers faculty and researchers a robust platform for conducting controlled irradiation studies under safe and reproducible conditions.

Beyond academics, the Gamma Chamber offers extensive research and practical applications, including studies on the biological effects of ionizing radiation, radiation chemistry of novel compounds, and radiation hardness of materials. It also supports medical sterilization, food preservation, and industrial radiation processing, making it a valuable facility that bridges scientific research, technological innovation, and real-world societal benefits.



INSTITUTE CHRONICLES



Republic Day Celebration

With patriotic fervor and spirited pride, NISER joyfully commemorated India's 76th Republic Day by grandly hoisting the national flag on campus.

The vibrant celebration began with the ceremonial flag-raising, followed by an inspiring address from the Director. As part of the occasion, the institute proudly recognized and celebrated the unwavering commitment of its scientific, administrative and technical staff. Honors were bestowed upon six employees in recognition of their outstanding service and dedication to the institute. The awardees — *Mr. Prasanna Kumar Muduli (SO-C)*, *Mr. Pradeep Kumar Mishra (AO-II)*, *Dr. Jitendra Narayan Dash (SA-E)*, *Mr. Alok Kumar Jena (Technician-F)*, *Mr. Biplab Kanungo (Assistant-A)*, and *Smt. Smruti Kanungo (Assistant-A)* — have demonstrated a deep commitment to their roles.



Swachhata Pakhwada

From March 11–24, 2025, the Swachhata Hi Seva Committee led a vibrant Swachhata Pakhwada campaign with street plays, quizzes, debates, and a Cycle Rally for the Save Daya River initiative. An impactful outreach in Padanpur Bhoi Sahi and thought-provoking art sessions promoted hygiene, sustainability, and better waste management.



A Flute Recital by Pandit Pushparaj Koshti

On April 8, 2025, SPICMACAY NISER hosted a soulful Surbahar recital by Pt. Pushparaj Koshti, creating a rare meditative atmosphere. Shri Tapas Kumar Das accompanied him on the Pakhawaj. The evening offered a serene immersion into the depths of Indian classical music.



NISER Sports Day

The 2nd NISER Sports Day, held on January 26, 2025, brought together the entire NISER community in a spirit of unity and fun. Designed to ease stress and foster camaraderie, the event featured friendly matches among students, staff, faculty, and families. With a focus on participation over competition, activities ranged from Basketball, Cricket, and Football to Painting, Musical Chairs, Tug of War, and a Marathon, ensuring everyone had a role to play.

The campus was filled with energy and enthusiasm as students, faculty, and staff participated in races and team games. The day celebrated togetherness, sportsmanship, and the joy of community bonding beyond roles and routines.



International Day of Yoga Celebration

The 11th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great enthusiasm at NISER on June 21, 2025. The event highlighted the holistic physical and mental benefits of yoga through guided sessions of asanas and pranayama. Faculty members, staff, students, and their family members actively participated, embracing the spirit of well-being. The celebration underscored the NISER's commitment to promoting a healthy and balanced lifestyle within its community. The strong turnout and active involvement reflected the growing awareness and appreciation for yoga across the NISER community.



3rd P K Parija Lecture in Life Sciences

NISER hosted the third P. K. Parija Lecture in Life Sciences, featuring Prof. Shubha Tole from TIFR Mumbai. In her talk, "The Circuits of Sensation," she discussed how the cerebral cortex forms from neural stem cells, focusing on key regulators and modern techniques in brain development.



Utkal Dibasa Celebration

The 90th Utkal Dibasa was celebrated at NISER with traditional performances and speeches, honoring Odisha's rich cultural heritage and uniting the community in tribute to the state's legacy and progress. The event reflected the spirit of pride and unity among students, faculty, and staff.



Observance of Fire Service Week

NISER observed Fire Service Week 2025 from April 14–20 under the theme “*UNITE TO IGNITE: A FIRE SAFE INDIA*,” promoting fire safety through mock drills, lift training, Power Yoga, and creative competitions. A special talk by Shri Manoranjan Bhol and the presence of Dr. Sudhanshu Sarangi, IPS, added significance, with strong participation from the NISER community reinforcing a culture of safety.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS



DR. ANAMAY GURUNATH TENGSE

Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Sciences joined on June 05, 2025.



DR. ABHISHEK SAHU

Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Sciences joined on June 10, 2025.



DR. PRERONA CHATTERJEE

Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Sciences joined on July 17, 2025.



MR. VADDI DEVI PRASAD

Scientific Assistant - B (Civil) at the Institute Works Department joined on March 10, 2025.



MR. AJAY KUMAR KAR

Scientific Assistant - B (Mechanical) at School of Physical Sciences joined on April 24, 2025.

**WELCOME
TO THE TEAM**



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



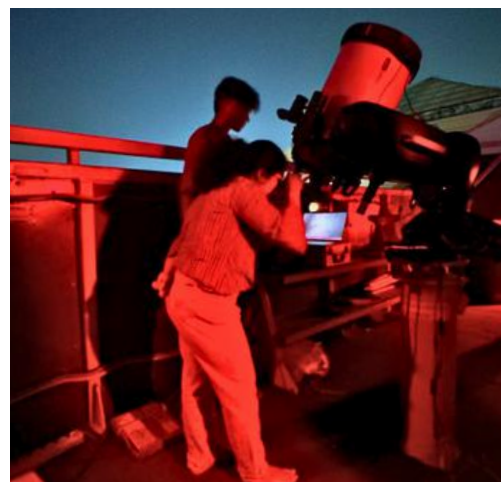
ASTRONOMY CLUB

In 2025, the NISER Astronomy Club (NAC) carried out a series of exciting and enriching activities that engaged students and the wider community in exploring the cosmos.

The year began with skywatching sessions that captured Mars in opposition, the rare 'Parade of Planets,' and Comet C/2024 G3 (ATLAS), along with prominent constellations like Orion and Pleiades. New members were inducted into subcommittees, and hands-on telescope training was organized using the club's 6" and 8" reflectors. A design workshop was conducted by Sudhanshu Sadul, followed by a special observation session at the Kalpana Observatory with Dr. Namrata Rani and alumnus Chandranathan.

NAC organized lunar observations, introduced space science to schoolchildren during Prerana'25, and launched club merchandise. A farewell for the Batch of 2020 and expert talk by Mr. Satadru Bhattacharya (SAC/ISRO) highlighted the year, along with sessions for summer interns to boost new engagement.

NAC regularly published its monthly newsletter Event Horizon, highlighting activities and events. For the IUCAA competition, it submitted two shortlisted experiments on the Moon's orbit and Kepler's 3rd Law. Five new projects are underway, including measuring light speed, star photometry, and lunar opposition.



THE BIOCLUB

The BioClub was founded to foster a vibrant space for biologists at NISER, encouraging idea exchange, discussions, and connections between budding scientists and experts.

TheBioClub's flagship weekly series, BioBulletin, invites students from all levels to give engaging 20-minute talks on topics they love—from new research to personal interests.

CommuniTea, a popular monthly event, blends lighthearted faculty talks, biology-themed games, and tea to create a stress-free space that fosters community and creativity.

In March 2025, TheBioClub, with Brain Matters and Oorna, hosted SBS Day—an imaginative, wonderland-themed celebration of science, fun, and belonging for all NISER biologists.



CODING CLUB

The Coding Club of NISER has made several impactful contributions during the first semester of 2025, fostering a vibrant tech-driven culture across campus:

The semester kicked off with Rosalind, a bioinformatics workshop by Shithij T, followed by talks on Turing machines and local AI models.

The Coding Club collaborated with other clubs for Prerana, a STEM outreach event for children of staff and Padanpur village.

Its flagship contest, Against Time, challenged coding speed and logic, while the club also handled tech support and archive maintenance.

The Literary Club (LitC) began the year by launching its official website, archiving past events, book listings, and blogs by members.

In February, LitC hosted Between the Lines, a discussion exploring hidden themes in classics like Frankenstein and The Time Machine.

In March, a slogan writing competition on the "Burden of Plastic" drew 40+ entries in English, Hindi, and Odiya.

LITERARY CLUB

The Literary Club (LitC) kicked off 2025 with renewed energy, launching a series of events that blended thoughtful discussions, creative expression, and inclusive community engagement:

The Literary Club (LitC) began the year by launching its official website, archiving past events, book listings, and blogs by members.

In February, LitC hosted Between the Lines, a discussion exploring hidden themes in classics like Frankenstein and The Time Machine.

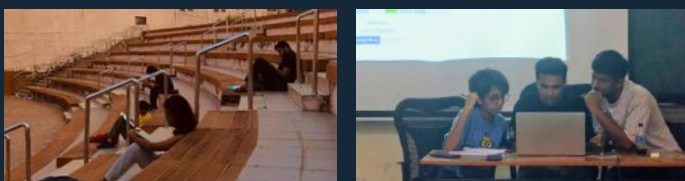
In March, a slogan writing competition on the "Burden of Plastic" drew 40+ entries in English, Hindi, and Odiya.

Silent reading sessions were held in the Amphitheatre during March–April, encouraging members to unwind with books.

In April, LitC hosted a Wordle game and launched Challenge of the Week, a set of online literary tasks during the summer.

For Dalit History Month, a reading of Bhimayana was organized, spotlighting Ambedkar's life and caste realities.

During Pride Month in June, the club launched Dear Diary, an anonymous expression platform, with top entries shared on Instagram.



OORNA CLUB

Oorna organized a diverse set of events this semester, all aimed at fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the rich biodiversity on the NISER campus. From engaging nature walks to outreach initiatives, the club maintained a vibrant schedule of activities throughout the term.

The semester began with a tree walk led by Sayee Girdhari, who shared engaging insights on campus trees, conservation, and careers in ecology.

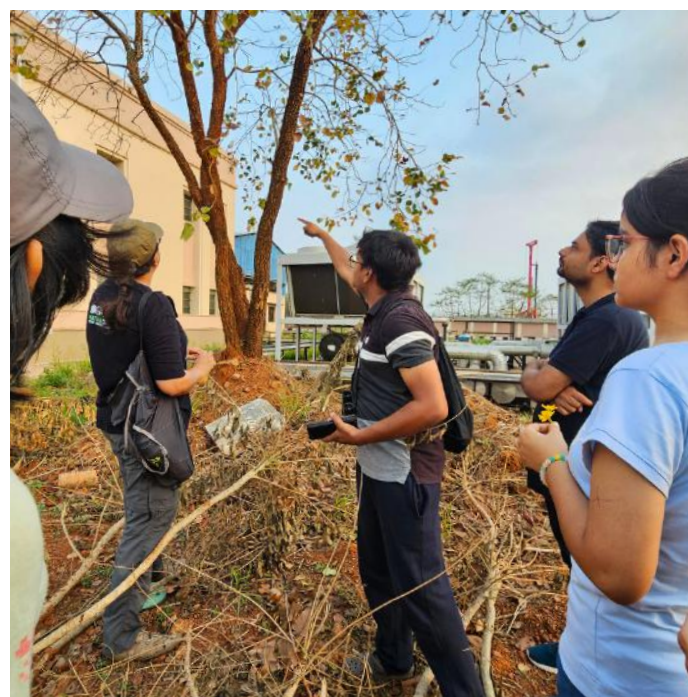
In February, Oorna conducted the Campus Bird Count under the global Great Backyard Bird Count 2025, featuring guided walks and training on bird ID tools like eBird and Merlin.

In March, a second tree walk led by Dr. Geetha Ramaswami explored campus flora and discussed invasive species and conservation.

As part of Zaariya's Prerana, Oorna introduced children to biodiversity and field identification through interactive sessions.

In June, the club held the Rajo Bird Count 2025, observing bird activity during the monsoon as part of Odisha's first monsoon-focused citizen science initiative.

A major highlight was the rare sighting of a blue-breasted quail on campus — only the third recorded in Odisha and the first in over 50 years.



THE ROBOTECH CLUB

The RoboTech Club of NISER organized a series of impactful technical events and programmes aimed at fostering innovation and hands-on learning among students.

Electrologic was a problem-solving electronics competition where participants applied logical thinking and limited resources to build functional circuits.

Hackduino, an all-India level competition, provided a platform for students to pitch innovative tech ideas, with the winning team earning the opportunity to intern at NISER to implement their concept.

During Umang, the club hosted Tech Sprint, challenging students to devise real-world solutions to societal problems using electrical components.

In addition, a comprehensive Skill Development Programme was conducted, offering workshops and project-based learning on the fundamentals of robotics and electronics to enhance students' technical abilities.

Notably, the Drone Project proposed by the club was selected for the ISRO Robotics Competition, marking a significant achievement for NISER and a proud milestone for the RoboTech Club.



ZAARIYA

The Zaariya Club of NISER, dedicated to social service and community engagement, organized a series of impactful initiatives throughout the academic year. With a strong focus on cultural inclusivity, community welfare, health drives, and educational outreach, the club worked tirelessly to instill a sense of social responsibility among its members. Through collaborative efforts with local organizations and student volunteers, each event brought meaningful change to the lives it touched and strengthened the spirit of compassion within the NISER community.

Zaariya hosted “Yours कृतज्ञतापूर्वक” (January 7–8), enabling students to express anonymous gratitude through gifts and letters, fostering kindness across campus.



On January 19, 2025, Zaariya visited Asha Kiran Old Age Home, donating four beds and essential groceries. In collaboration with the Drama and Music Clubs, the team hosted an evening of cultural performances and meaningful conversations, creating lasting memories for both residents and volunteers.

On February 1, Zaariya partnered with Khordha Blood Bank to organize a successful blood donation camp. With strict safety protocols in place, the drive saw enthusiastic participation from the NISER community, resulting in the collection of 79 units of blood to support local healthcare.

As part of the Swachhata Pakhwada campaign, Zaariya organized a campus cleanliness march and visited Bhoi Sahi village on March 22 to raise awareness about hygiene, sustainable living, and community well-being, engaging both students and local residents.

On March 29, Zaariya hosted Prerana, an educational and fun-filled event for the children of NISER's security and housekeeping staff, as well as those from Bhoi Sahi. The event included interactive science experiments, creative activities, and exposure to NISER's academic environment to spark curiosity and motivation.

Between March 26 and 29, Zaariya conducted a Clothing Donation Drive, receiving generous contributions from students and staff. The donated clothes were distributed to Jazbaa, Rotaract, and underserved communities in Mayurbhanj, ensuring support reached those in genuine need.



BIDDING ADIEU

WITH GRATITUDE



Dr. Abhaya Kumar Naik
Registrar, NISER

On April 30, 2025, NISER witnessed an emotional milestone as it bid a heartfelt farewell to Dr. Abhaya K. Naik, who served as the Registrar since the institute's inception. He joined NISER in 2009. Over the years, Dr. Naik has been a pillar of strength and a guiding force, making significant contributions to the administrative foundation and overall growth of the institute. His leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment have left a lasting legacy in the NISER community. As he steps into a well-earned retirement, we extend our deepest gratitude for his invaluable service and wish him happiness, good health, and continued success in the journey ahead.

Image Credit: Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty



Volume 7 – Issue 1

VIBES

NISER NEWSLETTER



CONNECT WITH US

+91 674 2494515

VIBES@NISER.AC.IN

CONTENT & DESIGN

MR. PRASANNA K MUDULI

MR. BIDYUT S S MOHANTY

CATCH US ONLINE

YouTube @NISER_OFFICIAL Facebook @NISER.OFFICIAL

Twitter @NISER_OFFICIAL LinkedIn @NISER-OFFICIAL

BROUGHT OUT BY

NISER
INFORMATION CELL

COVER IMAGE CREDITS

Mr. Nabendu Mondal, SPS [Front]

Ms. Sanchari Chowdhury, SBS [Back]

January – June 2025

www.niser.ac.in/about/newsletter