INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR
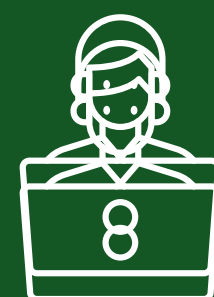
Centre of Studies and Research for Differently-Abled

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY & EMPOWERMENT FOR LEARNERS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

DATE
17 - 18 JANUARY 2026

MODE
VIRTUAL

EVENT DETAILS

About the Institute

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, established in 1951, is India's first IIT and an Institution of Eminence, a 2,100-acre campus for interdisciplinary teaching and research, industry partnerships, incubation and innovation, and a commitment to accessibility and social impact.

Centre of Studies & Research for Differently-Abled at IIT Kharagpur is a cross-disciplinary hub advancing disability inclusion through research and policy engagement, training educators and caregivers, developing assistive and educational technologies, running clinics and community programmes, and creating accessible resources that strengthen learning, participation, and dignity.

Background

Global perspectives on disability shifted from charity to rights, inclusion, and empowerment. In India, this shift underpins the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the National Education Policy 2020, and initiatives promoting inclusive education, yet learners with intellectual disabilities still face barriers to equitable education, employment, and dignified lives.

Intellectual disability involves limitations in cognitive functioning and adaptive behaviour affecting learning, reasoning, and independent living. In India, challenges intensify through shortages of trained educators, inadequate infrastructure, limited assistive technologies, and stigma. Encouragingly, inclusive pedagogy, early intervention, assistive tech, and community-led care models show effective pathways for meaningful transformation.

To address these issues, the CSRDA at IIT Kharagpur will host a National Symposium on Inclusive Education, Technology, and Empowerment for Learners with intellectual disabilities in an online mode from 6–7 December 2025. It brings academics, practitioners, caregivers, policymakers and self-advocates to share knowledge and co-create inclusive futures.

Why this Symposium?

Why it matters?

• Moves from charity to rights-based inclusion (RPwD Act 2016, NEP 2020).
• Tackles persistent barriers: trained educators, infrastructure, tech access, stigma.
• Centres the voices of persons with ID and families.
• Builds bridges between policy, pedagogy, technology and community.

Outcomes you can expect

• Practical strategies for inclusive classrooms and services.
• Exposure to assistive and EdTech tools that work.
• Networks across education, health, law, design and social work.
• Templates for IEPs, transition planning and community participation.

Who should attend & key takeaways

Who should attend

• Teachers, special educators, and school leaders
• Researchers & students (education, law, social sciences, design, engineering and others)
• Therapists, counsellors, rehabilitation professionals
• Caregivers, DPOs/NGOs, self-advocates
• Policy makers and administrators

Key takeaways

• Evidence-based inclusive pedagogy
• Low-cost assistive solutions & UDL
• Rights-based approaches and compliance
• Family and mental-health supports
• Pathways to work: vocation, internships, supported employment

Programme Tracks

1) Plenary Sessions
Keynotes and dialogues on inclusion, technology, empowerment — global and Indian perspectives.

2) Paper Presentations
Research, case studies and practice papers across education, tech, policy, health and inclusion.

3) Training Modules (Learners with ID & Caregivers)
Skill-building, communication & self-advocacy, daily-living, digital safety, and community participation.

(Detailed programme will be shared with registered participants.)

Themes & Sub-themes

Education & Pedagogy

• Inclusive classroom practices
• Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
• Early intervention and inclusive pre-schooling
• Curriculum design for neurodiversity

Technology & Accessibility

• Development of low-cost assistive tools
• EdTech solutions for learners with ID
• Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in classrooms

Social Inclusion & Community Participation

• Role of community-based rehabilitation (CBR)
• Inclusion in sports, arts, and cultural activities
• Stigma, identity, and social acceptance

Themes & Sub-themes

Policy, Law & Advocacy

- Implementation of RPwD Act, 2016
- Comparative policy analysis (India and global)
- Rights-based approach to education and care

Health & Mental Well-being

- Mental health co-morbidities
- Sexuality education and personal safety
- Family support systems

Employment & Life Skills

- Transition planning from school to work
- Vocational training and supported employment
- Social enterprises and inclusive workplaces

Call for Submissions

Submit an abstract (≤500 words) on any theme/sub-theme. Interdisciplinary and practice-based insights welcome. Participants without papers are encouraged to join.

What to include
• Title & theme
• Problem/context
• Approach/method/innovation
• Key findings/insights
• Implications for inclusion/practice/policy

Submission & queries: csrda.iitkgp@gmail.com
(Early submissions appreciated. Acceptance on a rolling basis.)

Key dates
• Last date to submit Concept Note: 14th December 2025
• Last intimation of acceptance: 19th December 2025

Fees & Registration

Participation Fees
• ₹1200 + GST

How to register
1) Email your intent/Concept Note (if any) to csrda.iitkgp@gmail.com.
2) We will share payment and access details.
3) Receive confirmation and programme schedule.

Important date
• Last date for registration & fee payment: 3rd January 2026

Organising Committee

CONVENOR & COORDINATOR

Prof. Dipa Dube,
Chairperson,
CSRDA, IIT
Kharagpur

CO - COORDINATORS

Dr. Shakti Deb,
Assistant Professor
RGSOIPL, IIT Kharagpur

Dr. Avnish Bhatt,
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