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Mr. Sachikanta Pradhan, Social Activist

Registration

Delegates/participants/paper presenters have to register for participation in the 16th OEC.

Registration Fee	India (INR)	Foreign (\$)
UG/PG Student	300	4
Research Scholar	500	6
Faculty/Othe Delegate	1000	12
Industry	2000	20

Link for registration will be provided in Rama Devi Women's University Website (<http://rdwu.ac.in>) shortly. If you need accommodation please fill up the form available in the same website and send us at the earliest.

Secretariate of OEC



HDF-cDAR, A/337, Gajapati Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha – 751005



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www.hdf.org.in

16th
Edition

ODISHA ENVIRONMENT CONGRESS 2025

20th-22nd
December 2025



Theme
Environment &
WOMEN

In Association & Hosted by
Rama Devi Women's University
Bhubaneswar

Organised by



BACKGROUND

The Odisha Environment Congress (OEC) is going to hold its 16th edition in collaboration with Rama Devi Women's University, Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on the 20th, 21st, and 22nd December, 2025 at the University campus. Started in the year 2010 as an annual scientific and civil-society event on environment, the OEC has been providing a unique opportunity to academicians, researchers, scientists, planners, policymakers, students, practitioners, community, and civil society organizations of the state and beyond for learning, interaction and dissemination of knowledge on different themes concerning the environment. It also provides scope for publication of theme-specific and research-based articles in the proceedings which is released during the main event, besides providing an opportunity for the professionals to present their papers in various technical sessions.

The themes of the previous successive editions were Environment and Water Resources (2010), Environment and Forest (2011), Environment and Energy (2012), Environment and Agriculture (2013), Environment and Climate Change (2014), Environment: Health and Nutrition (2015), Environment: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (2016), Environment and Sustainable River Basin Management (2017), Environment and Gandhi (2018), Environment and Mining (2019), Environment and Biodiversity (2020), Environment and Pandemic (2021), Environment and Tribes (2022), Environment and Urbanization (2023) and Environment and Coast (2024). The theme for the forthcoming 16th OEC has been chosen by the organizing committee as 'Environment and Women'.

OBJECTIVES OF OEC:

- ★ To provide a platform for interaction among the stakeholders of environment towards innovative and creative ideas for addressing key environmental challenges.
- ★ To enhance the networking among various research organizations, academic institutions, government and non-government organizations working in the field of Environment.
- ★ To generate specific knowledge-base among stakeholders on Environment and its relationship with human beings.
- ★ To provide a platform for community-scientific interface for better understanding of environmental issues and devising lasting solutions.

THEME OF 16TH OEC: 'ENVIRONMENT AND WOMEN'

The theme "Environment and Women" for this year's Odisha Environment Congress highlights the pivotal role of women in safeguarding our planet amidst escalating climate challenges. Globally, women are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, bearing the weight of resource scarcity, extreme weather, and ecosystem loss. In rural and indigenous communities, women often manage water, food, and fuel collection, making them acutely vulnerable to droughts, floods, and deforestation. For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa, women walk hours daily to fetch water as groundwater depletes, while in Southeast Asia, rising sea levels threaten coastal livelihoods, forcing women into precarious economic roles.

These challenges amplify gender inequalities, with women facing health risks, reduced income, and exclusion from decision-making. Yet, women are not mere victims—they are powerful agents of change. Across contexts, women lead grassroots movements, blending indigenous knowledge with innovative solutions. In India, women like those in the Chipko movement hugged trees to halt deforestation, inspiring global eco-activism. In Kenya, the Green Belt Movement, founded by Wangari Maathai, empowered women to plant millions of trees, combating desertification and fostering economic resilience. From community-led conservation in Latin America to climate-adaptive farming in South Asia, women drive sustainable practices, like using drought-resistant crops or restoring wetlands, to bolster food security and biodiversity. As an equal

partner in decision making, the theme calls for amplifying women's voices in environmental policy, ensuring their expertise, shapes climate strategies. By investing in women-led initiatives—through training, funding, and inclusive governance—we can build equitable, resilient ecosystems. Women's leadership is not just vital for survival; it's the cornerstone of a sustainable future, weaving equity and ecology into a shared global legacy.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 focuses on gender equality, while women are also crucial for achieving the other 16 SDGs, including environmental ones, by acting as environmental stewards, leading climate action, and contributing to areas like agriculture, food security, and renewable energy. Empowering women with equal access to resources, education, and decision-making is therefore essential for environmental sustainability, alongside addressing issues like climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

The OEC is going to discuss, deliberate and come up with workable solutions to meet up the above challenges during its 16th Annual Session on the theme, "Environment and Women". The organizing committee of OEC invites research-based papers/articles from researchers, academicians, scientists, activists, practitioners, etc. on the following sub-themes, which will be published in the form of a Conference Proceedings and will be released during the inauguration of the annual event on 20th December, 2025.

SUB-THEMES:

- ★ Women as Environmental Stewards
- ★ Biodiversity, Natural Resources Management and Women
- ★ Climate Change and Gender Issues
- ★ Women's Right and Environmental Justice
- ★ Green Jobs and Women's Participation
- ★ Indigenous Women in Environmental Conservation
- ★ Environmental Policy and Women's Participation

NB: The authors are free to contribute articles/papers on topics other than the given sub-themes and within the ambit of main theme viz; 'Environment and Women'. The Papers/Articles should not exceed 6 pages (Around 3000 words) in A4 size papers typed in 12 fonts of Times New Roman.

Important Dates

Call for Paper – 25th September 2025

Submission of Papers – 20th November 2025

Acceptance of Paper- 25th November 2025

Competition among Students- 7th - 15th December 2025

Children's Environment Congress – 21st December 2025

Annual Conference - 20th, 21st, and 22nd December, 2025

RDWU- THE VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE:

Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar—Odisha's first and only women's university—stands as a distinguished centre for women's education and empowerment in Eastern India. Named after the revered freedom fighter and social reformer Maa Rama Devi, the institution carries forward a legacy of excellence that began in 1964 and reached a historic milestone with its elevation to university status in 2015. Spread across a serene 23.6-acre urban campus in the heart of Bhubaneswar, the university offers a diverse array of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs across humanities, science, and commerce. The university with 48 women's colleges under its jurisdiction, is nationally recognized for its commitment to academic rigor, inclusive pedagogy, and innovative research, with accolades including UGC 12(B) status, NAAC 'B' grade accreditation, and prior recognition as a College with Potential for Excellence. Its alumni include trailblazers like the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.

Rama Devi Women's University fosters holistic development through vibrant

student engagement, an ecosystem of interdisciplinary research, progressive pedagogy, community engagement and pioneering initiatives such as offering NCC as a credit-based course., RDWU fosters holistic development among its students and scholars. The university's serene campus, state-of-the-art facilities, and dynamic faculty make it an ideal venue for intellectual exchange and collaborative advancement. As a venue for this conference, the university offers an intellectually stimulating and collaborative environment-ideally suited for transformative dialogue and interdisciplinary exchange.

Key Activities of OEC 2025

Publication of Proceedings and Paper Presentations:

Proceedings of Odisha Environment Congress 2025 will be published and released by the Chief Guest on the 1st day during the inauguration of the main event of OEC on 20th December, 2025. The proceeding will contain keynote address, invited papers from experts and papers from researchers, practitioners, activists and academicians etc. The selected articles by the contributors will be presented during the OEC.

Dr. Ajay Parida Young Scientists Award:

Papers from young researchers (age 35 and below) will be considered for inclusion in the Young Scientist Award session. In case of multiple authorships, the first author will be considered for the award and he/she shall present the paper. Interested author (s) shall also have to give an undertaking that the work has not been presented elsewhere or has not been submitted for publication/award. The Young Scientist Award will consist of a cash prize, memento and certificate of excellence. The Young Scientist Award is named after late Padma Shri Dr. Ajay Parida, Former Director, ILS, who was adviser of Odisha Environment Congress (OEC).

S. B. Mishra Green Corporate Award:

Nominations from Corporate Bodies or Foundations of Corporate Bodies, having visible contribution in the area of Environmental Protection and Management will be sought for consideration for the S B Mishra Green Corporate Award for the year 2025. Late Sri Sudhanshu Bhusan Mishra (IAS), Former Chief Secretary of Odisha was the Advisor of OEC since its inception. The nomination will be scrutinized by a jury for decision. The winner will be provided with certificate, memento and crown as a token of recognition.

Prof. Radhamohan Green Ambassador Award:

Nominations from credible NGOs/Civil society members, academicians, experts, activists, etc. with a remarkable contribution in the area of Environmental Protection and Management will be sought for consideration for the Green Ambassador Award for the year 2025. The nomination will be scrutinized by a jury for conferring the Award. The winners will be awarded with certificate, memento, crown and cash prize. The Green Ambassador Award is named after late Padma Shri Prof. Radhamohan who was a pioneer of the environmental movement and was the advisor of OEC since its inception.

Abasara Beuria Youth Environment Award:

Former Indian Ambassador (IFS) was advisor of Orissa Environment Congress since inception. In his memory OEC has instituted an award, Abasara Beuria Youth Environment Award to recognize the contribution of young environmentalists of Odisha. Nominations are also invited for the award from students /youth activists having excellent work in the field of environmental protection.

Children's Environment Congress

OEC organizes various activities/ competitions on the theme related to environment among school and college students across the State under Children's Environment Congress with the aim of creating more awareness about environment in the minds of children and the youth. Various activities like painting, debate, essay writing, story writing, e-poster designing, etc. will be organized during 16th OEC on the theme to engage young minds.





Call for Papers

Date: 23rd October 2025

Dear Madam / Sir,

Greetings from Odisha Environment Congress, 2025.

We are delighted to announce the Call for Papers for the 16th edition of the Odisha Environment Congress (OEC) to be held during 20th to 22th December, 2025 and to be hosted by Rama Devi Women's University, Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

As you are aware, the Odisha Environment Congress (OEC) has completed 15 years of its successful journey. The themes of the previous successive editions were Environment and Water Resources (2010), Environment and Forest (2011), Environment and Energy (2012), Environment and Agriculture (2013), Environment and Climate Change (2014), Environment: Health and Nutrition (2015), Environment: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (2016), Environment and Sustainable River Basin Management (2017), Environment and Gandhi (2018), Environment and Mining (2019), Environment and Biodiversity (2020), Environment and Pandemic (2021), Environment and Tribes (2022), Environment and Urbanization (2023), and Environment and Coast (2024). For the forthcoming 16th OEC, the theme has been decided by the organising committee as **Environment and Women**.

The theme "Environment and Women" for this year's Odisha Environment Congress highlights the pivotal role women play in safeguarding our planet amidst escalating climate challenges. Globally, women are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, bearing the weight of resource scarcity, extreme weather, and ecosystem loss. In rural and indigenous communities, women often manage water, food, and fuel collection, making them acutely vulnerable to droughts, floods, and deforestation. For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa, women walk hours daily to fetch water as groundwater depletes, while in Southeast Asia, rising sea levels threaten coastal livelihoods, forcing women into precarious economic roles.

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- **Climate Change and Gender Issues**
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Annual Conference and Presentations - 20th, 21st and 22nd December, 2025

The articles / papers should be sent to the following

Emails: odishaenvironmentcongress@gmail.com / skpalita@gmail.com / sasmita.mohanty@rdwu.ac.in,

Contact No. Mob: 9438132897 / 7205293884

Best regards,

Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita
Chief Editor,
16th OEC Proceedings

Prof. Sasmita Mohanty,
Convenor, 16th OEC

Sudarsan Das
Organising Secretary, OEC

