KISS

KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Organisation in Special Consultative Status with
the United Nations Economic & Social Council (UN-ECOSOC)

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERING GENERATIONS TRANSFORMING FUTURES



WWW.KISS.AC.IN

Building a Legacy, **Embracing the Future**

Welcome to our Annual Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to excellence throughout the year.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)



Educate for change
Inspire for sustainability"

Prof. Achyuta Samanta
Hon'ble Founder - KIIT, KISS & KIMS

As we reflect on the academic year 2024–2025, we extend our gratitude to our students, educators, staff, partners, and well-wishers who continue to place their trust in KISS. This year reaffirmed our commitment to providing inclusive education that nurtures knowledge, dignity, and opportunity. Together, we remain focused on strengthening systems, learning from experience, and preparing our students to engage confidently with the world ahead.

A Message from **the Founder**

Dear Friends and Partners,

2024 has been a r**emarkable year of growth and global recognition** for KISS, as we continued our mission to educate, enable, and empower tribal children and youth across India and beyond. Our commitment to quality education, Indigenous knowledge, and inclusive development has seen new milestones across academics, research, and cultural exchange.

This year, KISS-DU welcomed i**nternational collaborations with prestigious institutions** such as Otani University, Japan, and **hosted distinguished delegations** from Harvard University and Japan, enriching our students with global exposure. Events like the SWAYAM Outreach Workshop and a series of seminars on the NEP 2020, leadership, and environmental literature, reaffirmed our role as a progressive academic institution.

Our centres in Kalahandi and Mayurbhanj celebrated **notable victories at district-level** parades and cultural competitions, while KISS Bhubaneswar continued to **shine in research, publishing, and digital innovation**. We took significant steps towards women's empowerment through International Women's Day celebrations and year-round sports-led initiatives. Traditional festivals such as Mage Porob and Baha Bonga were observed with pride, preserving and celebrating our Indigenous cultural heritage.

As we move ahead, **the vision of inclusive education and sustainable development remains at the heart of everything we do**. With renewed purpose and unity, we look forward to scaling greater heights in the year ahead. As you read this Annual Report, we invite you to see beyond the pages — to the faces, voices, and aspirations of our students. They are the heartbeat of KISS and the reason we continue to strive for a world where **education empowers, opportunity is equal, and every child's potential shines through.**

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we can create futures where hope knows no boundaries.

With gratitude and hope,

Dr. Achyuta Samanta
Founder - KIIT, KISS & KIMS

"Every child who walks through our gates carries a dream. At KISS, our mission is to nurture those dreams and give them the wings they deserve."

A Message from **the Registrar**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The academic year 2024–2025 marked a period of steady progress and consolidation for KISS Deemed to be University. Our focus remained on **strengthening academic processe**s, supporting faculty and students, and ensuring that administrative systems continue to serve the University's evolving needs effectively.

At KISS, academic excellence is closely linked with purpose and responsibility. Alongside teaching, research, and skill development, we place **strong emphasis on ethical governance, student well-being, and institutional transparency.** These foundations enable a stable and inclusive learning environment for our diverse student community, many of whom are first-generation learners.

The achievements highlighted in this Annual Report reflect the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and partners. I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contribute to sustaining the academic and administrative integrity of the University.

As we move forward, **KISS Deemed to be University remains committed to strengthening its academic ecosystem while nurturing socially conscious, capable graduates** prepared to contribute meaningfully to society.

With warm regards,

Dr. Prashanta Routray
CEO (KISS) & Registrar (KISS DU)

KISS remains committed to creating pathways through education that allow every child to realise their potential.

About K.I.S.S.

Where Education Meets Empowerment

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) is more than a school; it's a movement.

What began as a small initiative has today grown into the **world's largest fully free residential educational institution for tribal children,** empowering over 80,000 students directly and touching the lives of countless families and communities across India.

At KISS, we believe education is the most powerful way to break the cycle of poverty. But we go beyond classrooms..

Here at KISS, learning is holistic.



Students receive **free education, accommodation, food, healthcare, and skill development,** ensuring that every child has the opportunity to dream big and achieve more.

Our **Vision**

A world where **all children and youth can learn free of cost to learn**, lead and grow without fear to reach their full potential.

Our **Mission**

To empower **2 million indigenous children** through quality comprehensive education

Our **Strategy**

KISS proudly adheres to a **3E approach, i.e., Educate, Enable and Empower,** while ensuring that our model **prioritizes Indigenous control of education**. It aims to **preserve the culture, heritage and traditions of India's diverse tribal communities** and fulfill the the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 in its entirety.

In this endeavour, KISS addresses the visions of some of India's founders such as Nehru, Ambedkar and Gandhi, as well as recommendations of some of India's earliest policies on tribal education and development, such as Nehru's 1952 Panchaseela Niti, the 1960 Dhebar Commission Policy Review and the 1986 National Policy on Education.

What makes us **Unique**

At KISS, our approach to education goes beyond the ordinary. It is rooted in the belief that true empowerment happens when children and communities are supported in every aspect of life. Several elements set us apart:



Education at Scale:

KISS is one of the few institutions in the world providing **free, quality, residential education** to tens of thousands of tribal children. This scale allows us to reach some of the **most marginalized and remote communities,** ensuring that no child is denied the right to learn because of poverty, geography, or circumstance. Every student receives equal opportunities to grow academically, culturally, and personally.



Beyond Classrooms:

Our model looks at education **holistically**. At KISS, students not only attend classes but also benefit from **comprehensive support** — three nutritious meals a day, healthcare services, mental wellness programs, sports training, cultural enrichment, and life skills education. This ensures that **learning happens everywhere**—in classrooms, on playgrounds, and in the rhythm of daily life on campus.



Global Outlook:

While deeply rooted in tribal culture, KISS maintains a **forward-looking, global perspective**. Through **partnerships, research collaborations, advocacy, and international exchanges,** we bring the voices of indigenous communities to the world stage. Our students and faculty regularly engage with global networks, contributing to conversations on education, sustainability, and inclusion.



Community Centric:

KISS's impact does not end at the campus gates. Our work touches **entire communities**, creating ripples of change that improve livelihoods, preserve cultural identity, and promote social equity. As students return to their villages as educated, empowered individuals, they become catalysts for positive transformation—strengthening families, influencing local development, and inspiring generations to come.

Our **Milestones**

Key moments that shaped our journey from a small initiative to a global institution

1992-1993

The Beginning

125 Indigenous students came together under one roof; **the start of KISS**, founded with the belief that **education is a right & a powerful tool for self-determination**.

2005

Growing Community, Growing Hope

Student strength reached 3000, reflecting the **trust & commitment of Indigenous families**.

2007

U13 World Champions

KISS boys' rugby team became U13 World Champions, showcasing talent nurtured through **holistic development & sportsmanship**.

2013

Global Dialogue

KISS leaders joined a live **discussion with UN Secretary-General** Ban Ki-Moon, highlighting our **role in shaping Indigenous education worldwide**.

2015

UN Recognition

KISS received **Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC),** marking international recognition of our partnership-driven approach.

2017

India's First Indigenous University

Recognised as **India's first (exclusively) Indigenous university** by the Ministry of Human Resource Development; a milestone **affirming Indigenous leadership in higher education**.

2017

India's First Indigenous University

Recognised as **India's first (exclusively) Indigenous university** by the Ministry of Human Resource Development; a milestone **affirming Indigenous leadership in higher education**.

2019

Leadership Award

Leadership Award by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes celebrated our impact on **tribal empowerment and social justice**.

2020

Expansion to New Communities

Satellite centres launched in Baripada, Bolangir, Kalahandi & Balasore, **bringing education closer to Indigenous youth**.

2022

UNESCO Recognition

UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize conferred, recognising our innovative literacy initiatives. KISS became the South Asia hub for FIFA Football for Schools & FIVB Volleyball for Schools, expanding sports opportunities for youth.

2023

International Green Gown Award

KISS was awarded the International Green Gown Award for **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in sustainability** for honouring our commitment to **sustainable development rooted in Indigenous values**.

2023

CUNY Partnership

City University of New York (CUNY) launches the **Achyuta Samanta India Initiative at CUNY Crest Institute (ASIICCI)**, a first-of-its-kind US research centre named after an Indian educator, **honouring Dr. Samanta's grassroots education model.**

This is KISS

A School of 125

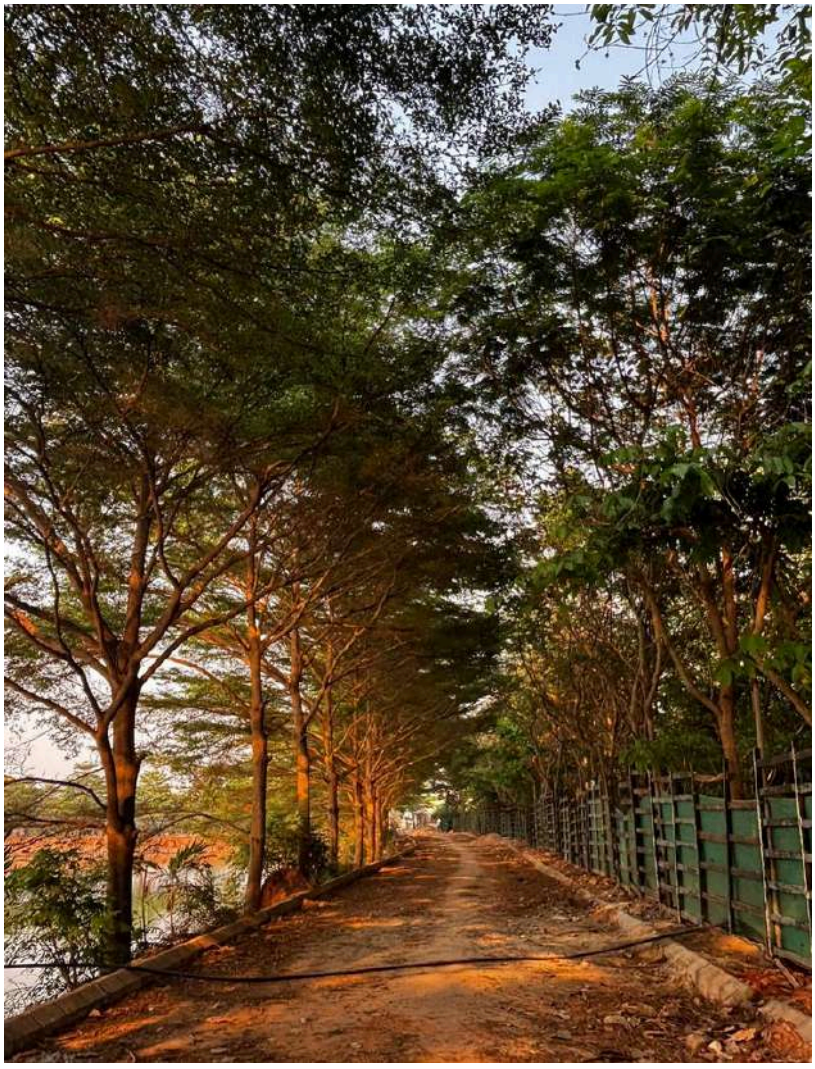
The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences began in 1993 as a small school in rented quarters with only 125 students. Over decades we have evolved into a leading Indigenous institute on a global stage.

Driven by our values of innovation, resilience, excellence, respect and integrity, we seek to educate, enable and empower.

This is KISS

A green campus in the heart of Odisha

Our main campus in Bhubaneswar is home to over 30,000 students. That's not to mention over 10,000 staff, 2 university campuses, 7 schools, over 10 research chairs, laboratories, auditoriums, sports stadiums, 2 artificial ponds and thousands of trees. **Together, these make up a campus that is smart, green and sustainable.**



*The KISS campus is a remarkable blend of rich biodiversity, Indigenous knowledge and modern architecture.. Did you know we are home to Odisha's first-ever **Miyawaki** forest site, where the temperatures are automatically a few degrees cooler than the rest of the campus?*

This is KISS

Shaping Minds & Nurturing Future Leaders

At KISS, **learning goes beyond classrooms.** Students are encouraged to question, explore, imagine and innovate. From foundational education to specialised university programmes, every learner has access to academic support, digital literacy, vocational training and exposure to new ideas. **Our teaching approach centres each student's cultural identity while equipping them to thrive in the wider world** — with **self awareness, courage and purpose**.

Leadership at KISS is nurtured early and naturally. Students learn to collaborate, take responsibility, and serve their communities with empathy. Through **peer mentoring, cultural forums, and hands-on community engagement**, they gain the confidence to express themselves, make decisions, and lead with integrity. Many of our graduates now excel across diverse fields — as educators, athletes, artists, entrepreneurs, public servants and changemakers — **carrying forward the KISS ethos of empowerment for all.**



KISS at a **Glance**

Our Impact by the numbers:

Several new campuses have been proposed across the state

80k

Indigenous students
educated entirely
free of cost

100%

residential support
food, healthcare &
holistic development
included

0

drop-out rate
from Class 1 through
postgraduate study
and beyond

64

tribal communities
represented in our
student body

40k+

alumni network
as mentors, leaders,
changemakers

100%

board exam
pass rate
year after year



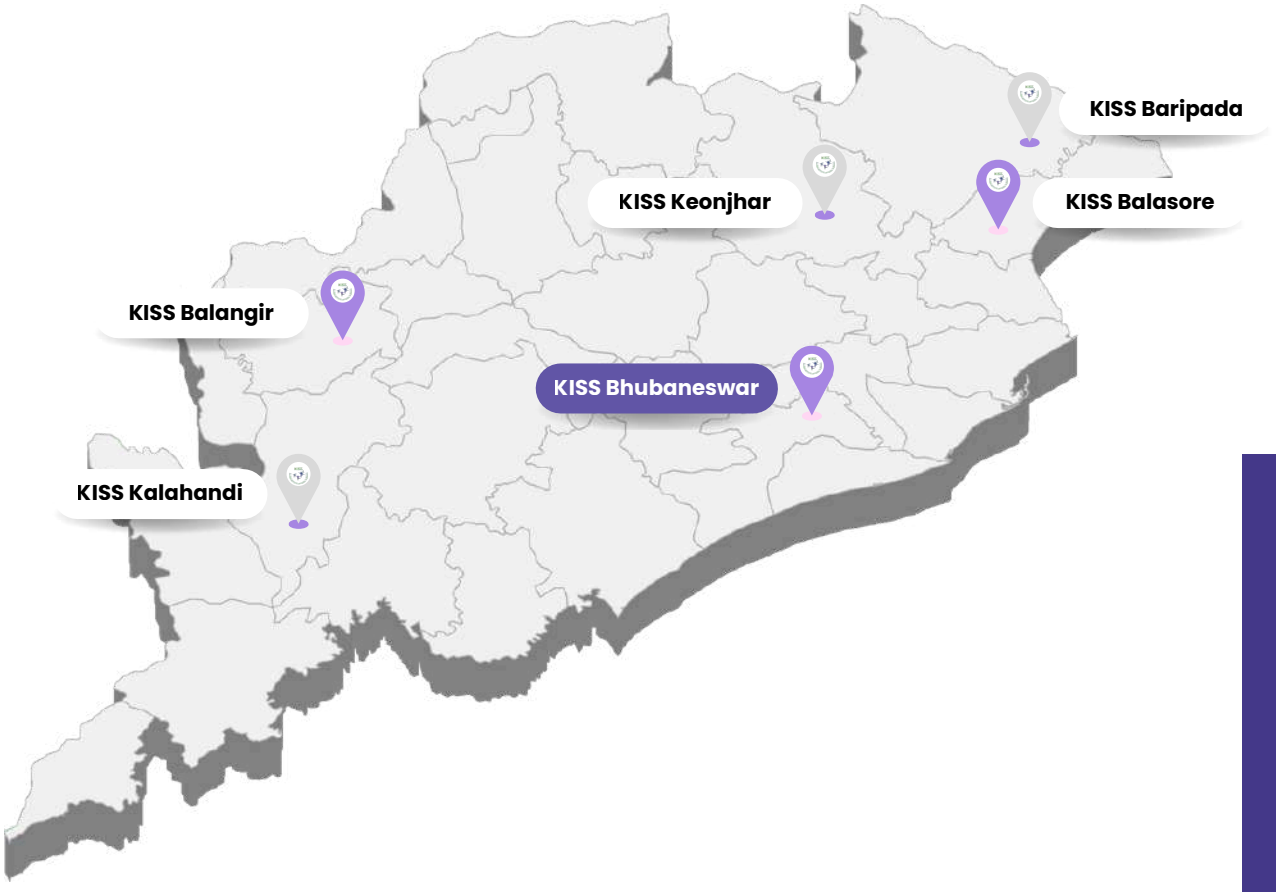
Our Presence

Our Ambitious Vision

To empower **2,00,000** disenfranchised children over the next decade

Functional Campuses in Odisha

Six fully operational campuses in Odisha, each rooted in local Indigenous contexts



Proposed Campuses in Odisha

Several new campuses have been proposed across the state

Kandhamal

Boudh

Ganjam

Growing Together

At KISS, our approach to education goes beyond the ordinary. It is rooted in the belief that true empowerment happens when children and communities are supported in every aspect of life. Several elements set us apart:

Our Journey Together

Founded in 1993 by Dr. Samanta, KISS began with a **shared vision to nurture and uplift Odisha's tribal communities through education & skill development.**

What started with 125 young students in a humble rented home has blossomed into the **world's largest tribal institute,** now home to over 30,000 students.

Our reach extends beyond Bhubaneswar with 10,000 students learned at our satellite centres - each a vibrant hub rooted in community & culture

Growing in Partnership

KISS' growth reflects the strength of collaboration with the **64 diverse tribal communities we serve, including 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**.

Together, we've built more than just an institution; we've cultivated **a space where Indigenous heritage is honoured and education is shaped by the communities themselves.**

Our campuses stand as testament to what we can achieve when we work hand-in-hand with respect and agency at the core.

Recognition & Responsibility

In 2017, KISS became the **first exclusively Indigenous university in India** when the Ministry of Human Resource Development granted it Deemed-to-be-University status - a milestone marking the recognition of Indigenous-led education at the highest level.

Our commitment and approach have also been recognised globally; since 2015, KISS has held Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC). We work closely with UN agencies such as UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP and many others, **advancing shared goals that support Indigenous empowerment, gender equality, healthcare & sustainable development.**

Rooted in Experience, Driven by Purpose

Dr Achyuta Samanta's own story **reflects the resilience and determination** found within the communities KISS serves.

Growing up in Odisha's Kalarabanka village, facing hardship from an early age, he knows first-hand the **power of education to transform lives.**

His journey - from giving tuitions to support his family to founding KISS and KIIT, is **intertwined with the stories of thousands of Indigenous children whose talents and aspirations are flourishing toda**y, thanks to his vision.



KISS' vision inspires change in Indigenous societies by prioritising

Preserving, protecting, and promoting Indigenous languages	Providing vocational training	Imparting holistic education through innovative learning methods	**Preventing student dropouts**	Inculcating leadership skills in students	Promoting gender equality and girl child empowerment
Ensuring good health & well-being	**Sustaining Indigenous cultural identity**	Preserving nature and adopting green initiatives	Providing humanitarian assistance through relief & aid	Promoting physical activities/fitness through sports and games	**Embedding SDGs into institutional strategy**

Educate

Providing quality education from kindergarten through post-graduation, fostering intellectual growth and academic excellence.

Enable

Building skills and capabilities for lifelong success, empowering students with practical knowledge and vocational training.

Empower

Creating leaders and change-makers in communities, nurturing future generations of Indigenous leaders and innovators.

Our Commitment to the Future

KISS is committed to reaching over two million young people directly in the next decade, making sure no child is left behind because of poverty or geography. Through our guiding principles – Educate, Enable, Empower – we continue to build a future where education is a right, culture is celebrated, and empowerment is shared.

2M+ Future Impact | SDG 2030 Aligned | Indigenous Leadership

Impact is central
to everything we do at KISS

At the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), we are dedicated to creating transformative social change through our multifaceted approach. Our work is strategically **designed to impact communities at various levels, ensuring comprehensive and sustainable development.**

Our efforts are concentrated in the following areas:

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Our on-ground projects are the backbone of KISS's impact. We implement a wide range of initiatives that address **key areas such as education, health, livelihood, and women's empowerment**. Our flagship residential educational program provides free, quality education to over 30,000 tribal children, helping break the cycle of poverty and creating future leaders. Health camps, vocational training, and sustainable agriculture projects are just a few examples of our practical interventions that improve the quality of life for our communities.

ADVOCACY

KISS actively advocates for the rights and welfare of indigenous and marginalised communities. Through various platforms, **we amplify their voices and bring critical issues to the forefront of public and policy discourse**. Our advocacy efforts have led to increased awareness and support for social justice, education, and healthcare for underserved populations. By collaborating with national and international organizations, we strive to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

POLICY INFLUENCING

KISS plays a significant role in shaping policies that affect Indigenous and marginalized groups. We **engage with policymakers, participate in legislative processes, and contribute to the development of policies that promote social justice and economic development**. Our research and experiences provide evidence-based recommendations that influence government and institutional policies. Through strategic partnerships, we ensure that the needs and rights of vulnerable communities are represented in policy-making forums.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is at the heart of our work. We believe in empowering communities to be agents of their own development. Our participatory approach ensures that community members are actively involved in the planning, execution, and evaluation of our programs. Through regular dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and community mobilization efforts, we build trust and foster a sense of ownership among the people we serve. This grassroots engagement not only enhances the effectiveness of our programs but also strengthens the social fabric of the communities.



Key Initiatives & Areas of Work

KISS is not just an institution — it's a living ecosystem where **education, empowerment, and opportunity** converge. Here are some ways our initiatives touched lives:

EDUCATION FOR ALL

What We Do

We provide **free, quality, residential education** to tribal children from Kindergarten to Post-Graduation, covering academics, life skills, and leadership development. Our approach combines **Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTBMLE)** in early years with strong foundations in Odia, Hindi, and English. Students also benefit from **digital literacy, vocational training, and personality development**, ensuring they are prepared for higher education and meaningful careers.

Why It Matters

For many tribal children, access to school is limited by poverty, distance, and lack of resources. By removing these barriers and offering a safe, nurturing environment, KISS enables students to **learn with agency**, **retain their cultural identity**, and **become empowered change-makers** in their communities.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What We Do

At KISS, community engagement is not a separate activity; it is embedded into our philosophy of holistic education, inclusion and empowerment. From working closely with indigenous elders and parents to running state-wide humanitarian responses, our outreach reflects our deep-rooted commitment to the people and places we serve.

Why It Matters

At KISS, we believe the most powerful change comes from within. Our community engagement efforts are built on mutual trust, cultural respect and the conviction that tribal and marginalised communities must be at the centre of their own development journey.



SPORTS FOR EMPOWERMENT

What We Do

KISS nurtures athletic talent by offering **world-class training, coaching, and infrastructure** across a wide range of sports. From rugby and athletics to archery and football, our students are guided to excel at state, national, and international levels. Sports are integrated into daily life, instilling discipline, teamwork, and confidence.

Why It Matters

Sports act as a powerful medium for empowerment. For tribal children—many of whom have a natural affinity for physical excellence—sports open doors to opportunities, scholarships, and global recognition while reinforcing pride in their identity. Our sporting legacy is inspired by the vision of our Founder of an institution where Indigenous children could access world-class training, facilities and mentorship



HEALTH & NUTRITION

What We Do

We provide **comprehensive healthcare** through on-campus medical facilities, preventive check-ups, and partnerships with hospitals. Every student receives **nutritious, balanced meals daily**, ensuring they grow strong and healthy. Mental health and wellness programs are also part of our holistic care.

Why It Matters

Good health is the foundation of effective learning. Many tribal children come from regions with limited access to medical care and nutrition. By addressing these needs, KISS ensures that students can focus on education without worrying about basic survival.



ADVOCACY & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

What We Do

KISS serves as a **voice for tribal rights and indigenous education** on national and international platforms. Through partnerships with governments, universities, and global organizations, we exchange knowledge, influence policy, and create avenues for cross-cultural collaboration. Programs like the India Trek & Global Faculty Programme and student exchange opportunities also connect KISS to the wider world.

Why It Matters

Tribal issues are often underrepresented in global dialogues. By bringing these voices to international stages and fostering meaningful partnerships, KISS ensures that indigenous perspectives shape solutions for a sustainable and inclusive future.



Highlighted Events & Programmes

Academic Year 2024–2025

Throughout the academic year 2024–2025, KISS and KISS Deemed to be University hosted and participated in a wide range of academic, cultural, sporting, and community-focused programmes. These initiatives reflect the institution's commitment to holistic education, where learning extends beyond classrooms to include leadership, creativity, physical well-being and social engagement.

From national and international academic exchanges to student-led cultural celebrations, sports competitions and outreach initiatives, these events provided platforms for students to learn, collaborate and engage with diverse perspectives. Programmes were designed to strengthen academic exposure, celebrate indigenous knowledge systems, encourage innovation and foster confidence among learners.

Together, these events highlight the dynamic campus life at KISS and its continued emphasis on experiential learning, institutional partnerships, and inclusive participation. The pages that follow capture key moments and milestones from the year, offering a snapshot of the energy, diversity, and purpose that define the KISS ecosystem.

Institutional Highlights & Achievements



- KISS-DU Receives **Diamond Band** in **Mental Health and Wellbeing Rankings**
- KISS-DU Achieves **Platinum Band** in **India Academia Rankings (IAR) 2025**
- KISS's **Project EmpowerHER** receives Prestigious **Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Award**



Academic Highlights & Achievements

- KISS Achieves **100% Pass Rate** in **Odisha Matric Exam**
- KISS Secures **100% Success** in **CHSE Odisha +2 Board Exams**
- KISS-DU Student **Gayatri Karjee** Selected for **Green Hub Central India Youth Fellowship**



Distinguished Visitors to KISS

Various eminent personalities visited KISS during this academic year including:

- Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, **Smt. Raksha Tai Khadse Ji**
- Harvard Economist **Prof. Jeffrey B. Liebman**
- President of Bronx Community College, USA, **Dr. Milton Santiago**
- President of FIVB, **Dr. Ary Graça**
- Principal Secretary to the Government of Odisha, **Shri Bishnupada Sethi (IAS)**
- Provincial Director, Ministry of Security, Buenos Aires, **Mr. Santiago Tangir**
- Founder and Executive Director of the Global Impact Initiative, USA, **Ms. Anjum Malik**
- Globally renowned climate finance specialist and founder of Climate Solutions for All, **Ms. Erika Paredes**



Extra & Co-Curricular Highlights & Achievements

- KISS Students Selected for **Indian Universities Rugby Team** at **FISU World Championship**
- KISS student **Dondapati Jayaram** wins Gold at **39th Jr National Athletics Championship**
- KISS-DU's **Junu Birua** Selected for **FISU World University Chess Championship**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS:



KISS SECURES 100% SUCCESS IN CHSE ODISHA +2 BOARD EXAMINATIONS

KISS is proud to announce yet another remarkable milestone—achieving a 100% success rate in the +2 Board Examinations (Arts, Science, and Commerce) conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha. Over 1,500 tribal students excelled in this year's exams, reflecting their dedication, perseverance, and academic strength. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the relentless efforts of our students and the unwavering support and commitment of our faculty and staff. Heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved in this collective success!



KISS ACHIEVES 100% PASS RATE IN ODISHA MATRIC EXAM

As of 26th May 2024, KISS is proud to announce a 100% pass rate in the Matric Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha. This year, 40% of our students achieved First Class, showcasing academic excellence and dedication. This remarkable success reflects the unwavering commitment of our faculty and staff, and the hard work of our students. Heartfelt congratulations to all on this outstanding achievement!



KISS STUDENTS SELECTED FOR INDIAN UNIVERSITIES RUGBY TEAM AT FISU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

We are proud to share that our KISSians, Makaranda Pradhan and Dumuni Marndi, have been selected to represent the Indian Universities Rugby Teams at the prestigious FISU World University Rugby 7s Championship. The championship will take place in Aix-en-Provence, France, from 10th to 12th June 2024



KISS-DU STUDENT GAYATRI KARJEE SELECTED FOR GREEN HUB CENTRAL INDIA YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

On 21st June 2024, congratulations to KISS-DU student Gayatri Karjee for being selected for the prestigious Green Hub Central India (GHCI) Youth Fellowship Programme, an initiative by the Dusty Foot Foundation. This fellowship works with tribal youth, CSOs, and government agencies to empower them in showcasing their stories and engaging in decision-making processes. It also provides a platform for new learning, livelihood opportunities, and the creation of a resource centre for positive action in the region. Gayatri's commitment to education and community welfare is truly inspiring. We are immensely proud of her achievements and look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly create.

PROUD MOMENT!



KISS-DU'S JUNU BIRUA SELECTED FOR FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Junu Birua, a second-year PG Commerce student at KISS-DU, has been selected to represent the Indian University team at the FISU World University Chess Championship 2024, scheduled in Entebbe, Uganda, from 25th to 30th June 2024. Junu is the first tribal girl from Odisha to achieve this prestigious honour. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and wish her the best as she competes on the global stage!



KISS-BALANGIR GUIDE TROOP WINS FIRST PRIZE AT INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day on August 15th, 2024, the Guide Troop of KISS-Balangir campus secured the First Prize in the Scout & Guide Category at the District Level Parade Ceremony held at Monaharpur Parade Ground. The prestigious Running Shield was proudly received by Pratima Dharua (Captain) and Kanaka Manjari Dharua on behalf of the troop. The award was presented by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Forest & Environment, Shri Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia. It was a proud and memorable moment for the entire KISS family!



GOLD FOR KISS AT 39TH JR NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP!

On 9th December 2024, KISS proudly celebrated the incredible achievement of Dondapati Jayaram, who clinched the Gold medal in the Under-20 100-meter sprint at the 39th Jr National Athletics Championship. As the very first medal winner of the championship, Jayaram's triumph is a testament to his dedication, resilience, and the unwavering support of the KISS community. His success shines as a beacon of inspiration for young athletes across the country. Congratulations, Jayaram! Your victory has made KISS proud and set the tone for many more milestones to come.

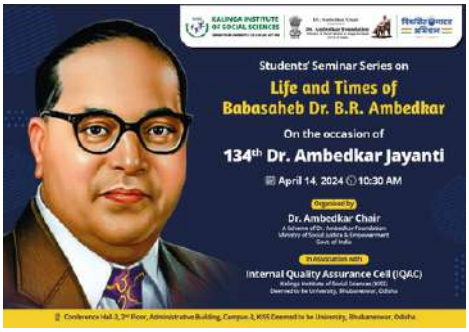
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

ACTIVITIES AROUND THE YEAR:



NEW ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH PT. RAVISHANKAR SHUKLA UNIVERSITY

On 5th April 2024, KISS-DU Bhubaneswar proudly entered into a new partnership with Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration aimed to foster mutual academic enrichment and operational synergy. To commemorate the occasion, KISS-DU's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) hosted a lecture by Prof. (Dr.) Sachchidanand Shukla on 'Cognitive Skill: A Problem-Solving Approach', which emphasized the development of critical thinking and decision-making skills.



KISS-DU OBSERVES 134TH DR. AMBEDKAR JAYANTI WITH MULTILINGUAL SEMINARS

On 17th April 2024, KISS-DU proudly commemorated the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar through a series of insightful seminars sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Organized by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, the events offered deep reflections on Babasaheb's enduring legacy and his vision for a just and equitable society. Students and scholars actively participated, presenting in various indigenous languages, reaffirming the university's commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's principles and the empowerment of all communities.



KISS CONFERS HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2021 TO SHREE RATAN NAVAL TATA

On 22nd April 2024, KISS had the honour of presenting the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021 to Shree Ratan Naval Tata in recognition of his outstanding leadership in philanthropy and community development. The award was personally delivered to him at his residence, symbolizing the institution's deep respect and appreciation for his lifelong service to society. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Ricky Kej and Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekaran. KISS extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for Mr. Tata's continued health and inspiring leadership.



KISS-DU HOSTS 3RD VIKSIT BHARAT LECTURE ON INDIA AS A GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWER

On 23rd April 2024, KISS-DU's Internal Quality Assurance Cell, in collaboration with the School of Tribal Culture, Philosophy, and Eco-spiritualism, hosted the third lecture in its Distinguished Invited Lecture Series under the Viksit Bharat initiative. The session, titled 'India as a Global Economic Power', was delivered by Professor Satya Narayan Misra, Professor Emeritus at KSOM, KIIT-DU. He presented a rigorous and data-driven analysis of India's economic trajectory, emphasizing key areas such as education, healthcare, and international trade. His call for a green budget added a forward-looking dimension to the discussion. The lecture was attended by senior functionaries, faculty, and research scholars, contributing to a rich discourse on India's development aspirations.

KISS-DU AND CYSD LAUNCH FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON ADIVASI GOVERNANCE



From 25th April to 1st May 2024, KISS Deemed to be University, in collaboration with the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), hosted a seven-day Faculty Development Programme on 'Adivasi Governance'. The initiative brought together faculty members from both KISS-DU and CYSD to deepen their understanding and engagement with tribal communities. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor of KISS-DU, who underscored the importance of future collaborative efforts in community engagement. Shri Jagadananda, Co-Founder and Mentor of CYSD, emphasized the significance of empathy-building with indigenous populations. The sessions covered critical topics such as the historical journey of Adivasi struggles for identity and constitutional safeguards, equipping participants with insights to address governance challenges in tribal regions.

KISS-DU REPRESENTS INDIA AT ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL STAFF WEEK IN SPAIN



Dr. Snigdharani Panda and Dr. Disha Bhatt proudly represented KISS-DU at the 13th International Staff Week and Staff Mobility Programme under the ERASMUS+ Programme, hosted by Universidad de Málaga, Spain on 11th May 2024. KISS-DU was the sole institution from India among 42 participating institutions from 24 countries. During the programme, the representatives engaged in impactful training sessions, exchanged cultural values, and explored international best practices in higher education. This prestigious event provided a valuable platform for networking and building future collaborations, further strengthening KISS-DU's global engagement and academic partnerships.

KISS WELCOMES DELEGATES FROM CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL FOR STRATEGIC COLLABORATION



On 24th May 2024, KISS had the honour of welcoming Ms. Virginia Elizabeth Orellana Argudo, Regional Director for Asia/Africa at Children International, along with Ms. Kirtimayi Mishra, Director – India Operations. During their visit, the delegates toured the university's facilities and engaged in productive discussions with senior leadership and project heads. The exchange focused on strengthening future collaborations aimed at empowering the children and communities KISS serves. The visit marked a promising step forward in expanding impactful, child-centric initiatives.

KISS-DU SIGNS MOU WITH ISTE AND LAUNCHES B.VOC. PROGRAMME

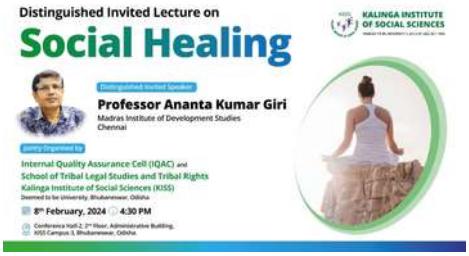


On 23rd June 2024, KISS-DU proudly announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), a significant milestone for both institutions. The event also marked the launch of the Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc.) Programme at KISS. The ceremony was graced by Prof. Pratapsinh K. Desai, President of ISTE, and Dr. Syed Majid Ali, Executive Secretary of ISTE, alongside senior leaders from KIIT-DU and KISS-DU. KISS is honoured to be an institutional member of ISTE, further strengthening our commitment to educational excellence and innovation.



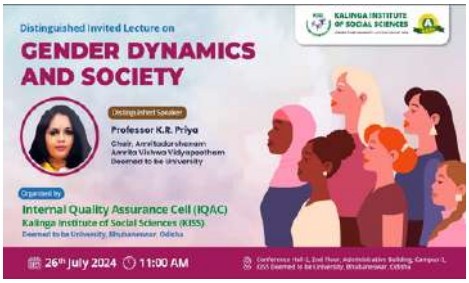
KISS SIGNS MOU WITH ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED (AVNL)

On July 10, 2024, KISS Deemed to be University proudly announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), a Government of India enterprise. This collaboration will focus on areas such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), education, internships, and skilling. We express our sincere gratitude to Shri Biswaranjan Pattanaik, Director, HR, AVNL Co., and Shri Ranjan Kumar Bal, General Manager/Co & HR, AVNL Co., for their invaluable support in making this partnership possible.



KISS-DU HOSTS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE BY PROF. ANANTA KUMAR GIRI

On July 11, 2024, KISS-DU had the honour of hosting a distinguished lecture titled "On and Beyond Sociology and Indian Knowledge Systems" by Prof. Ananta Kumar Giri from the Madras Institute of Development Studies. The lecture provided insightful perspectives on the intersection of sociology and Indian knowledge systems, enriching the academic discourse at KISS-DU.



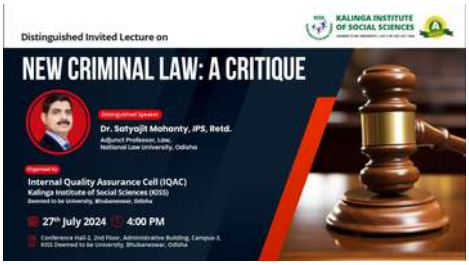
KISS-DU SIGNS MOU WITH AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

On July 26, 2024, KISS-DU proudly announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore. This collaboration aims to enhance academic and research initiatives, including joint research papers, patents, projects, and exchange programs for students and staff. The partnership also includes the organization of joint seminars, symposia, conferences, and other academic events, fostering a rich academic exchange between the two institutions.



INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON CYBER PSYCHOLOGY HOSTED BY KISS-DU

KISS-DU hosted an enlightening international webinar titled "Cyber Psychology: Tool for Classroom Management" on 27th July 2024. The session featured Prof. Dr. Vinnaras Nithyanantham from DMI St. John the Baptist University, South Africa, who delivered an insightful talk on how cyber psychology can enhance classroom interaction. He discussed its practical applications across education, employment, and health sectors. The webinar concluded with engaging discussions that emphasized the profound impact of digital media on human behaviour.



DISTINGUISHED LECTURE ON NEW CRIMINAL LAW BY DR. SATYAJIT MOHANTY AT KISS-DU

On July 31, 2024, KISS-DU organized a distinguished lecture titled "New Criminal Law: A Critique", delivered by Dr. Satyajit Mohanty, IPS (Retd.), from National Law University Odisha. Dr. Mohanty provided an in-depth analysis of significant legal reforms, focusing on changes in the FIR process, the role of digitization, advancements in evidence gathering, and the strengthened rights of victims under the new legal framework. The session offered valuable insights into the evolving landscape of criminal law in India.



KISS-DU AND CII-YOUNG INDIANS COLLABORATE TO COMBAT YOUTH ADDICTION

On July 31, 2024, KISS-DU, in collaboration with CII-Young Indians, organized an impactful awareness programme to address the growing menace of addiction among youth. The event saw the participation of over 200 students, who gained valuable insights into the importance of awareness and prevention. Key speakers, including Dr. Rahul Pradhan and Mr. Vishal Dalmia, emphasized the urgent need for collective action and the implementation of effective strategies to combat substance abuse in society.



KISS-DU WELCOMES CUNY DELEGATES FOR INDIA TREK PROGRAM

On August 6, 2024, KISS-DU had the pleasure of hosting delegates from the City University of New York (CUNY) as part of the India Trek program. The delegates began their six-day visit filled with engaging activities and thought-provoking discussions aimed at fostering meaningful cultural exchange. The day marked the beginning of a rewarding experience for everyone involved, and KISS-DU looks forward to further strengthening and nurturing these valuable global connections.



CUNY DELEGATES CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AT KISS

On August 9, 2024, KISS had the privilege of celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day in the presence of delegates from the City University of New York (CUNY). The delegates enthusiastically participated in the cultural festivities, embracing the spirit and significance of the occasion. Their heartfelt involvement highlighted the importance of preserving and honouring indigenous cultures, making the celebration even more meaningful and memorable.



KISS-DU HOSTS NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIOLOGY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

On August 23, 2024, KISS-DU's Sociology Department, in collaboration with the School of Tribal Legal Studies and Tribal Rights, organized a National Seminar titled "Sociology in Everyday Life: Methodological Approaches." The seminar explored how individuals create and navigate their social realities through daily interactions, shedding light on the broader social structure. The event featured Plenary Sessions on "Ethnography and Participant Observation in Everyday Life" and "Digital Sociology and the Study of Everyday Life," offering valuable insights into these essential sociological methods and their relevance in understanding contemporary society.



KISS-DU RECEIVES DIAMOND BAND IN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING RANKINGS

On August 31, 2024, KISS-DU was honoured with the prestigious Diamond Band in the Mental Health and Wellbeing (MHW) Rankings by R World Institutional Ranking. This recognition reflects the university's unwavering commitment to fostering a supportive environment that prioritizes the mental health and well-being of students, faculty, and staff, enabling them to thrive both academically and personally.



KISS LAUNCHES CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES UNDER PROJECT K-MUSE

KISS proudly launched the Centre for Women's Studies under Project K-MUSE on 3rd September 2024, marking a significant milestone in promoting women's rights and leadership through interdisciplinary research. The event featured insightful discussions led by prominent scholars and activists, with a keynote address by feminist anthropologist Professor Dr. Diane Bell. Inspired by our Hon'ble Founder, Professor Dr. Achyuta Samanta, this new Centre stands as a testament to KISS's commitment to gender equity and academic excellence, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of women's issues and empower future leaders.



KISS-DU HOSTS WORKSHOP ON EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN THROUGH MENSTRUAL HEALTH

On September 14, 2024, KISS-DU hosted an empowering workshop titled "Rethink Your Period: Empowering Young Women Through Menstrual Health," led by Ms. Anju Bist, Managing Director of Saukhyam Reusable Pads. The session, organized by the ICC, Centre for Women's Studies, and NSS, provided UG and PG students with valuable insights into the benefits of reusable pads, including their affordability, durability, and positive impact on women's health and the environment. The interactive discussion emphasized sustainable menstrual health practices, aiming for a healthier and eco-friendly future.



KISS WELCOMES DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FOR INSPIRATIONAL INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS

On September 15, 2024, KISS had the privilege of welcoming Shri Kishor Patil, Co-Founder, MD & CEO of KPIT Technologies Ltd., Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology & AIG Hospitals, and Santiago Tangir, Provincial Director, Ministry of Security, Buenos Aires. The distinguished guests interacted with our students, inspiring them with their personal experiences and sharing valuable insights. Their presence was truly motivating, reinforcing the values of leadership, excellence, and dedication among the young minds at KISS.



KISS HOSTS DR. MILTON SANTIAGO, PRESIDENT OF BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On 19th September 2024, KISS had the honour of hosting Dr. Milton Santiago, President of Bronx Community College (BCC/CUNY), who engaged in a meaningful interaction with our students. His visit left a lasting impact, as Dr. Santiago expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the incredible work being done at KISS. He thanked Hon'ble Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta for his transformative efforts in uplifting tribal communities through education and empowerment. The exchange of ideas and values was truly inspiring, reinforcing the shared commitment to education and social change.



KISS HOSTS WEATHER AND CLIMATE HACKATHON (WATCH) IN COLLABORATION WITH BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On September 20, 2024, KISS proudly hosted the Weather and Climate Hackathon (WATCH) in collaboration with Bronx Community College/The City University of New York, supported by the U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad and U.S. Consulate General Mumbai. The event brought together 17 institutions across 8 states in India to develop innovative tools using real-time weather and air quality data. Students worked to create impactful solutions that raise public awareness and provide actionable insights for addressing climate change. These tools have the potential to be adopted by agencies, improving everyday life in India. We are excited to witness the innovative solutions that will emerge from this collaborative effort.



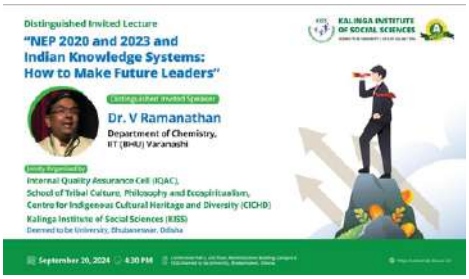
KISS-DU HOSTS LECTURE ON LEGAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PARALEGALS

On September 20, 2024, KISS-DU, in collaboration with KIIT School of Law, hosted an insightful lecture titled “Legal Empowerment through Paralegals” by Professor Margaret L. Phillips from Daemen University, USA. The session shed light on the vital role of community paralegals in ensuring access to justice for indigenous communities. Professor Phillips proposed the establishment of a Community Paralegal Program at KISS satellite schools, which sparked meaningful discussions on Indigenous Rights and Customary Laws. The event served as a powerful platform to promote justice and legal empowerment.



KISS-DU HOSTS INVITED LECTURE ON FIELDWORK TRAINING BY PROF. ASOK SARKAR

On September 24, 2024, the Department of Social Work, School of Tribal Legal Studies and Tribal Rights at KISS-DU, in collaboration with IQAC and the Centre for Women’s Studies, organised a distinguished invited lecture by Professor Asok Sarkar from Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan. Prof. Sarkar delivered an insightful and enriching session on fieldwork training, specifically tailored for PG and Ph.D. students from the disciplines of social work, sociology, and anthropology. The lecture provided valuable perspectives on practical methodologies, greatly benefiting the academic community at KISS-DU.



KISS-DU EXPLORES NEP AND INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

On September 24, 2024, KISS-DU hosted a compelling lecture titled “NEP 2020 and 2023: Indian Knowledge Systems and Shaping Future Leaders,” organised by the School of Tribal Culture, Philosophy, and Ecospiritualism. The event featured esteemed speakers, including Mr. Timothy Breck Boyd, International President of the Theosophical Society, and Dr. V. Ramanathan from IIT (BHU). The discussions focused on the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into the framework of the National Education Policy and how this approach can cultivate visionary leadership for the future. The event offered rich insights into the transformative potential of education rooted in cultural wisdom.



STUDENT SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On 9th November 2024, the Department of Economics, School of Tribal Resource Management, KISS DU, organized a student seminar on “The Impact of Climate Change on Economic Growth and Development” at the KISS auditorium. UG and PG students explored key issues like reduced crop yields, water security, and declining tourism in coastal areas, emphasizing the urgent need to address climate change for sustainable economic progress.



KISS & KIIT LAUNCH THRIVE INITIATIVE IN COLLABORATION WITH JHPIEGO

On October 3, 2024, KISS and KIIT proudly launched THRIVE—a transformative initiative in partnership with Jhpiego, focusing on Tribal Health Research, Innovation & Vocational Empowerment. This pioneering effort aims to empower tribal communities by promoting indigenous-led research and fostering youth-driven innovation in the areas of health, skill development, and inclusive growth. As part of this initiative, Centers of Excellence have been established at KISS to develop sustainable, culturally responsive solutions tailored to the unique needs of tribal populations. THRIVE marks a significant step toward holistic community development, setting a new benchmark in health research and vocational training for indigenous empowerment.



KISS CONFERS HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2020 TO DR. ARY GRAÇA, PRESIDENT OF FIVB

On October 4, 2024, KISS proudly presented the KISS Humanitarian Award 2020 to Dr. Ary Graça, President of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), in recognition of his visionary leadership and transformative impact through sports. Dr. Graça's initiatives have positively influenced over 200,000 lives worldwide, using volleyball as a powerful tool to promote peace, inclusivity, and community well-being—values deeply aligned with the ethos of KIIT and KISS. We were honoured by the presence of HE Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Shri Raghubar Das, and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, who graciously presented the award to Dr. Graça. This momentous occasion celebrated the unifying spirit of sports and its potential to drive humanitarian progress.



INDUSTRY EXPOSURE VISIT ENHANCES PRACTICAL LEARNING FOR ECONOMICS STUDENTS

On 8th October 2024, students from the Economics Programme, School of Tribal Resource Management at KISS-DU, undertook an insightful industry visit to Ananda Industrial Gases Pvt. Ltd. and Terrablock Machinery. During the visit, students explored the processes involved in oxygen production, anaesthetic gas formation, and the manufacturing of earthquake-resistant interlocking bricks—a cutting-edge technology in sustainable construction. The experience served as a valuable bridge between academic knowledge and real-world industrial applications, enriching the students' understanding of production systems and technological innovation.



GOA ST CORPORATION DELEGATION VISITS KISS FOR STUDY TOUR

On 17 October 2024, KISS had the honour of hosting a delegation from the Goa State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation Ltd., led by Chairman Shri. Vasudev Meng Gaunkar, on an insightful study tour. The delegation toured the campus facilities and participated in a detailed meeting at KISS-DU, where Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera and Mr. W. Easwar, Chief Finance Officer & HR Head, presented KISS's inclusive education model and sustainable financial framework. Shri. Gaunkar commended Dr. Achyuta Samanta for his transformative contributions to tribal education and expressed keen interest in replicating the KISS model by establishing a similar school in Goa. The visit underscored the impact of KISS's work in shaping national conversations on tribal empowerment and educational equity.



KISS FELICITATES ODISHA CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS AND HOSTS BOOK LAUNCH BY SHRI BISHNUPADA SETHI

On 3rd November 2024, KISS proudly felicitated its students who successfully cleared the Odisha Civil Services examination. The ceremony, graced by our Hon'ble Founder and Chief Guest Shri Bishnupada Sethi, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Odisha, celebrated the dedication and resilience of our achievers. Shri Sethi also released his book, “The Collector's Mother,” which was distributed to our postgraduate students as a source of inspiration. It was a memorable day that reinforced our commitment to academic excellence and holistic growth.



KISS-DU ACHIEVES PLATINUM BAND IN INDIA ACADEMIA RANKINGS (IAR) 2025

KISS-DU proudly secured the Platinum Band in the India Academia Rankings (IAR) 2025 by R. World Institutional Rankings, joining esteemed institutions like Manipal Academy of Higher Education and BITS Pilani. Announced on November 8th, 2024, this recognition highlights KISS-DU’s exceptional performance in Research and Employability. This achievement is a testament to the university's unwavering commitment to fostering research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, powered by initiatives like the Research and Development Cell (RDC) and the Centre for Indigenous Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE). Congratulations to all stakeholders for this prestigious accomplishment!



KISS-DU SIGNS MOU WITH ANCHAL COLLEGE FOR ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION

On 14th November 2024, the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Anchal College, Bargarh, to foster academic and research collaboration. The partnership aims to strengthen academic ties, promote research, facilitate student exchange, and enhance other academic activities. The MoU was signed in the presence of Professor Deepak Kumar Behera, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of KISS, Dr. Prashanta Kumar Routray, Registrar, and other dignitaries from both institutions, including Professor Lalit Mohan Panda, Principal of Anchal College. Additional ly, a collaboration agreement was signed between the Department of Education, School of Tribal Heritage and Tribal Indology, KISS-DU, and the Department of Education, Anchal College, Padampur, to build robust academic and research partnerships. Furthermore, Anchal College, in collaboration with KISS-DU, has secured a Major Research Project Grant from the ICSSR, New Delhi. Both institutions will jointly organize a national seminar, with Professor Behera serving as the Chief Guest.



KISS-DU VISITS RAJ BHAVAN FOR JHARKHAND FOUNDATION DAY AND JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS

On 17th November 2024, KISS students and faculty had the honour of visiting Raj Bhavan, Odisha, on the special occasion of Jharkhand Foundation Day, the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, and Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. Invited by the Hon'ble Governor, the event celebrated tribal heritage and paid tribute to the legendary freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The inspiring speeches, heartfelt student experiences, and the warm hospitality of the Hon'ble Governor made it a truly memorable day, reinforcing the importance of education in empowering tribal communities and preserving their rich traditions.



KISS-DU HOSTS ITS 4TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

On 23rd November 2024, KISS Deemed to be University marked a proud milestone by hosting its 4th Annual Convocation with great enthusiasm. The event was graced by distinguished guests, including the Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb, Former Minister of State for Schools, United Kingdom, as the Chief Guest, along with other esteemed dignitaries. Degrees were conferred upon deserving graduates, and the ceremony reflected the spirit of excellence and empowerment that KISS stands for. Congratulations to all the degree recipients—your journey of success begins here!



MEET AND CHAT WITH ANJUM MALIK AT KISS-DU

On 25th November 2024, the Centre for Indigenous Innovation and Entrepreneurship, in collaboration with the School of Tribal Resource Management at KISS-DU, hosted an engaging session titled "Meet and Chat with Anjum Malik." Ms. Malik, Founder and Executive Director of the Global Impact Initiative, USA, shared her inspiring journey in educational and Indigenous entrepreneurship. Her insights left a lasting impression on students, research scholars, and faculty, encouraging them to explore innovative and impactful pathways in entrepreneurship.



KISS'S PROJECT EMPOWERHER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT INNOVATION FUND AWARD

On 25th November 2024, KISS celebrated a proud moment as Project EmpowerHER, aimed at fostering economic independence for women through Self-Help Groups in Odisha, received the prestigious Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund award from the U.S. Department of State. This recognition underscores our unwavering commitment to advancing women's economic empowerment and creating sustainable development pathways for the community.



KISS-DU HOSTS RENOWNED CLIMATE FINANCE SPECIALIST MS. ERIKA PAREDES

On 2nd December 2024, KISS-DU had the honour of hosting Ms. Erika Paredes, a globally renowned climate finance specialist and founder of Climate Solutions for All, during her inspiring two-day visit. Ms. Paredes delivered an insightful lecture on "Climate Financing: Pathways to a Sustainable Future" and engaged in meaningful discussions with students, faculty, and research scholars on climate finance, sustainable development, and the integration of Indigenous knowledge into climate action. Her visit highlighted innovative strategies such as green bonds, ecotourism, and renewable energy adoption, while celebrating the role of traditional wisdom in fostering sustainability. A big thank you to Ms. Paredes for inspiring us to align economic growth with environmental stewardship!

RENOWNED HARVARD ECONOMIST PROF. JEFFREY B. LIEBMAN DELIVERS LECTURE AT KISS-DU



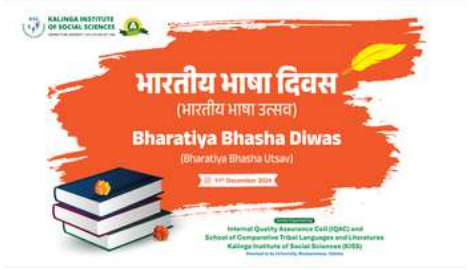
On 28th November 2024, KISS-DU had the honour of hosting renowned Harvard economist and public policy expert, Professor Jeffrey B. Liebman, for an enlightening lecture on "Actionable Policy Research." Drawing from his vast experience, including his tenure as Economic Advisor in the Obama administration, Professor Liebman shared valuable insights on poverty alleviation, economic inequality, and the complexities of policymaking. He emphasized the role of accurate data, cultural sensitivity, and collaborative governance in addressing societal challenges, especially for marginalized and Indigenous communities. The interactive discussions underscored the critical need to bridge the gap between policy design and implementation to create sustainable, inclusive solutions—making it a truly enriching experience for all participants.

UN VOLUNTEERS VISIT KISS FOR INSPIRING STUDENT INTERACTION



On 10th December 2024, KISS had the honour of welcoming a team from UN Volunteers for an engaging and motivational session with students. The visiting team appreciated the energy, curiosity, and potential of KISS students, sharing valuable insights on building purposeful careers and contributing meaningfully to society. This enriching exchange reflected KISS's enduring commitment to empowering young minds through global collaborations and dialogue-driven learning.

KISS-DU CELEBRATES BHARATIYA BHASHA DIWAS WITH PRIDE AND PURPOSE



On 12th December 2024, KISS-DU proudly observed Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas, honouring the rich linguistic diversity and cultural heritage of India. The celebration featured poetry recitals, storytelling sessions, and speeches in tribal and regional languages, reflecting the vibrancy of India's multilingual identity. The unveiling of a Wall Magazine, alongside interactive competitions and thought-provoking discussions, added colour and depth to the day. The event reaffirmed KISS-DU's commitment to promoting indigenous and regional languages, preserving cultural identities, and fostering unity through diversity.

KISS WELCOMES THE INNOVATION & IMPACT SUMMIT DELEGATES ON 'GLOBAL HORIZONS' STUDY TOUR



On 13th December 2024, KISS had the honour of hosting delegates from the Times Higher Education (THE) Innovation & Impact Summit as part of the Global Horizons Study Tour. During their visit, the delegates engaged in meaningful interactions with students and witnessed first-hand the transformative role of education in empowering tribal communities. Their presence reaffirmed the growing global recognition of KISS's inclusive education model and its sustainable impact on society. The visit was a testament to the university's continued commitment to driving innovation, equity, and social change.

KISS HOSTS “WELCOME TO LITTLE JAPAN” – AN IMMERSIVE CULTURAL SHOWCASE



On 14th December 2024, KISS hosted the second edition of “Welcome to Little Japan,” an engaging Experiential Learning event that brought Japan’s rich cultural tapestry to life. Organised by the pilot undergraduate batch of Japanese language learners, the event served as a creative culmination of their language journey. The interactive showcase featured lively student-led booths on Japanese Calligraphy, Hiragana Card Game, Teri Teri Boozu (Japanese Doll Making), Origami, and more. Visitors enjoyed a hands-on cultural experience, exploring Japan’s artistic traditions and everyday expressions. This immersive initiative not only celebrated language learning but also promoted cross-cultural appreciation and creativity on campus.

KISS-DU HOSTS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE ON ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY BUILDING



On 16th December 2024, KISS-DU had the privilege of hosting a distinguished lecture on “Building Entrepreneurial Capacity at KISS” by Dr. Hemant Merchant, Professor of Global Business at the University of South Florida. In a dynamic and interactive session, Dr. Merchant shared valuable insights on nurturing creativity, resilience, and problem-solving to build sustainable and impactful ventures. He encouraged students and faculty to tap into indigenous knowledge and local resources while navigating entrepreneurial challenges with confidence. The lecture inspired participants to think innovatively and underscored KISS-DU’s ongoing commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership among its academic community.

KISS-DU WELCOMES SHRI HARI PANGI AS PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE



On 23rd December 2024, KISS-DU proudly inducted Shri Hari Pangi as a Professor of Practice, honouring his exceptional expertise in herbal medicine and indigenous healing traditions. This significant appointment strengthens the bridge between traditional tribal wisdom and contemporary academic frameworks, perfectly aligning with KISS-DU’s mission to preserve and promote indigenous knowledge systems. Shri Pangi’s inspiring journey will enrich the academic environment—mentoring students, advancing community-based education, and leading impactful research in ethnobotany and sustainable practices. His induction marks a pivotal step in empowering tribal communities and safeguarding their invaluable heritage for future generations.

KISS-DU CELEBRATES SANTALI BHASHA DIWAS WITH CULTURAL PRIDE AND PURPOSE



On 22nd December 2024, KISS-DU proudly celebrated Santali Bhasha Diwas, honouring the vibrant heritage of the Santali language and its cultural legacy. The event commenced with a solemn tribute to Santali icons—Pandit Raghunath Murmu, Saheed Laxman Naik, and Bhagwan Birsa Munda—followed by the unveiling of a thoughtfully curated Wall Magazine showcasing student contributions. The Technical Session, led by Chief Guest Mr. Ramachandra Murmu, underscored the historical and cultural significance of the Santali language. Esteemed speakers passionately advocated for the preservation and global recognition of Santali, calling for collective efforts to strengthen indigenous linguistic identities. The celebration stood as a testament to KISS-DU’s unwavering commitment to empowering tribal communities and safeguarding their linguistic and cultural treasures.

KISS-DU HOSTS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE ON “SHAPING KNOWLEDGE FUTURES”



On 21st December 2024, KISS-DU proudly hosted a distinguished lecture on "Shaping Knowledge Futures: The Expanding Horizon of Library and Information Science," delivered by the esteemed Prof. K.P. Singh from the University of Delhi. The session delved into the evolving landscape of Library and Information Science, highlighting the multidisciplinary approaches and the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems under the framework of NEP 2020. Prof. Singh's insights emphasized the growing significance of libraries in the digital age and their role in the advancement of knowledge. The lecture celebrated the transformative power of education in shaping a knowledge society, resonating deeply with KISS-DU’s mission of empowering tribal students through holistic and inclusive learning.

KISS-DU HOSTS GLOBAL DELEGATES FOR PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CELEBRATIONS



On 7th January 2025, KISS-DU proudly hosted over 140 esteemed delegates from 16 countries, representing the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations in Bhubaneswar. The event, themed "Empowering Global Connections: The Role of PIOs in Emerging India," brought together distinguished members of the Indian diaspora, who shared invaluable insights and words of encouragement with KISS students. Their inspirational interactions motivated students to dream big and connect with India's vibrant global community. This momentous occasion reinforced KISS-DU's unwavering commitment to empowering communities through education, fostering inclusivity, and nurturing meaningful global partnerships.

KISS VOCATIONAL AT THE 2025 TRIBAL FAIR



The 2025 Tribal Fair has officially begun at the Exhibition Grounds, with KISS Vocational proudly participating at Stall No. 97. Running from January 5th to 16th, this vibrant event showcases a diverse array of products, including applique, coir, paintings, chemical items, and other handicrafts. KISS students are actively engaging in the fair, gaining invaluable experience in marketing and building connections within their community. As in previous years, this participation offers an enriching and joyous experience, allowing students to hone their skills while promoting the rich tribal heritage and craftsmanship.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY AMONG TRIBAL COMMUNITIES" AT KISS-DU



On 10th January 2025, KISS-DU, in collaboration with Banaras Hindu University and several other prestigious institutions, hosted a two-day National Seminar on "Multidimensional Poverty and Food Insecurity among Tribal Communities in India: Vision Viksit Bharat @ 2047." The seminar brought together distinguished scholars, policymakers, and researchers, fostering meaningful discussions and innovative solutions to enhance the well-being of tribal communities. A highlight of the event was the release of the book "Exploring Mahima Gadi and Tungis of Odisha" by Prof. Harish Ch. Sahoo. Day one featured insightful keynote addresses, four technical sessions, and 27 paper presentations, reflecting KISS-DU’s commitment to impactful academic discourse and the empowerment of tribal communities.

PROF. NEVILLE G. PINTO HONOURED WITH KISS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



KISS-DU had the privilege of hosting Prof. Neville G. Pinto, President of the University of Cincinnati, USA, on 17th January 2025. In a moment of pride and inspiration, KISS conferred upon him the KISS Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to education and research. During his visit, Prof. Pinto engaged warmly with KISS students, listening to their stories and sharing words of encouragement. He expressed deep admiration for the transformative model of education at KISS and its role in empowering tribal communities through knowledge and compassion. His presence and recognition mark a significant milestone in KISS's journey of global collaboration and inclusive education.

AWARENESS WORKSHOP ON CERVICAL CANCER AT KISS



Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), through its THRIVE Centre, organised an awareness workshop on Cervical Cancer on 29th January 2025 to educate and sensitise female students, faculty, and staff about prevention and early detection. The session featured expert insights from Dr. Susanta Swain (Government of Odisha), Prof. Dr. Bhagyalaxmi Nayak (AHPGIC), Dr. Asutosh Padhi, and Mr. Rudra Prasad Pradhan from Jhpiego, who addressed key aspects of women's health and disease prevention. KISS remains committed to empowering its community through knowledge and awareness, taking proactive steps to promote health, well-being, and a safer future for all.

POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR ON UNION BUDGET AT KISS-DU



The Commerce Department under the School of Tribal Resource Management, KISS-DU, organised a Postgraduate Students' Seminar on the Union Budget on 04 February 2025, fostering insightful discussions on its key highlights. The session focused on economic growth, tribal development, and financial inclusion, with in-depth analyses of allocations for MSMEs, education, healthcare, and rural entrepreneurship. Students emphasized the importance of effective implementation to ensure maximum benefits for marginalised communities, concluding with valuable insights on inclusive and sustainable development.

HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS VISITS KISS



KISS had the honour of welcoming Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Smt. Raksha Tai Khadse Ji, on 09 February 2025. During her visit, Smt. Khadse explored KISS's world-class sports infrastructure and interacted with our young athletes, who impressed her with their dedication and achievements. She commended KISS for its remarkable approach of integrating education with sports, empowering thousands of tribal children to excel both academically and athletically.

KISS-DU PARTNERS WITH OTANI UNIVERSITY, JAPAN, FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE INTERNATIONAL COURSE



KISS-DU is proud to announce the launch of its first-ever jointly developed Value-Added Certificate Course on Leadership titled "I Am the Best: Eternal Buddhist Values for Twenty-First Century Challenges," in partnership with Otani University, Japan. This milestone marks a significant step in advancing global academic collaborations, in line with NEP 2020 and UGC guidelines. The course blends Buddhist philosophy with modern leadership skills, incorporating Problem/Project-Based Learning (PBL), experiential practices, and introspection to equip students with essential skills for lifelong personal and professional growth. From February 10-26, 2025, this hybrid course will bring together faculty from KISS-DU and Otani University, fostering cross-cultural learning and global perspectives—taking a big leap towards internationalization!

KISS-DU CELEBRATES MAGE POROB, HONOURING HO INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS



On 14th February 2025, the Tribal Advisory Council and students of KISS-DU came together to celebrate Mage Porob, a vibrant festival of the Ho Indigenous community, with great enthusiasm and cultural pride. The event featured traditional dances, songs, and rituals, honouring Sing Bonga and expressing gratitude for nature's blessings. Through this celebration, KISS-DU reaffirmed its commitment to preserving and promoting Indigenous traditions, ensuring that cultural heritage continues to thrive among future generations.

KISS-DU HOSTS SEMINAR ON UNION BUDGET 2025-26 ANALYSIS



On 19th February 2025, the Department of Economics, School of Tribal Resource Management, KISS-DU, organized an insightful seminar on Budget Analysis. During the session, students presented their perspectives on the Union Budget 2025-26, offering valuable insights into its impact on various sectors. Discussions delved into the budget's focus on education, employment, skill development, and research, with particular emphasis on digital infrastructure, emerging technologies such as AI and renewable energy, and strategies for job creation and entrepreneurship. The event provided a forward-thinking roadmap to empower youth and foster innovation in alignment with global trends.

KISS-DU CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY WITH A FOCUS ON LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY



On 21st February 2025, the Odia Department, SCTLL, and CFS, in collaboration with IQAC and the Centre for Translational Studies at KISS-DU, observed International Mother Language Day with a vibrant and thoughtful celebration. The event featured powerful addresses: Dr. Rasmita Tripathy spoke on the importance of indigenous languages, Dr. Chittaranjan Bhoi emphasized linguistic inclusivity, and Chief Speaker Dr. Anil Kumar Mishra highlighted the role of mother tongues in shaping identity and social cohesion. A prize ceremony recognised winners of Essay Writing, Singing, and Dance competitions, adding a joyful touch to the occasion. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ratnaprava Parija and was coordinated by Dr. Nibedita Mohanty, reaffirming KISS-DU's commitment to preserving and promoting linguistic diversity.

KISS-DU HOSTS ROUNDTABLE ON NEP-2020 IMPLEMENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION



KISS-DU hosted a thought-provoking roundtable on 1 March 2025, focused on the "Implementation of NEP-2020 in Higher Education: Issues and Challenges." The event featured Professors Emeriti, who shared practical strategies and insights for implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) in the academic landscape. Discussions explored a wide range of topics, including community engagement, university consortia, technology integration, academic-industry collaboration, internships, research on Indian languages, credit transfer standardisation, evolving assessments, experiential learning, internationalisation, and the preservation of India's traditional knowledge systems. The session provided a platform for in-depth dialogue on how NEP-2020 can shape the future of higher education in India and create a more inclusive and progressive educational ecosystem.

KISS-DU WELCOMES DR. DEBASHIS BANDYOPADHYAY AS NEW VICE CHANCELLOR



KISS Deemed to be University is honoured to welcome Dr. Debashis Bandyopadhyay as the new Vice Chancellor. A distinguished academician, researcher, and scholar with over three decades of experience, Dr. Bandyopadhyay brings invaluable expertise in English literature, psychoanalysis, and cultural studies. His remarkable journey includes serving as the interim Vice Chancellor of Kazi Nazrul University, professorships at prestigious institutions such as Rabindra Bharati University, BHU, Vidyasagar University, and Presidency College & University, along with international research at renowned universities in Oxford, USA, Mexico, and Greece. We look forward to his visionary leadership in advancing KISS-DU's mission of academic excellence, research, and Indigenous empowerment. Wishing him a successful and impactful tenure!

KISS-DU CELEBRATES BAHA BONGA WITH CULTURAL REVERENCE AND GRATITUDE



KISS-DU, in collaboration with the Tribal Advisory Council, Cultural Wing, Dept. of Performing Arts, Centre for Folklore Studies, and the Santali Dept. (SCTLL), joyfully celebrated Baha Bonga on 8th March 2025. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Debashis Bandyopadhyay, Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Amareswar Galla, and senior dignitaries joined faculty, scholars, and students in honoring this sacred Santali festival of flowers, purity, and gratitude. Baha Bonga holds significant cultural and religious importance among the Santal community. It is observed during the Santals month of Fagun, specifically on the 5th day, which usually falls between February and March, marking the arrival of the spring season. This time of renewal and rejuvenation symbolizes growth and vitality, with nature adorning itself with new leaves and flowers. The philosophy behind Baha Bonga is deeply rooted in the Santal belief system, as it is a time to express gratitude to nature for its bounty and seek protection from potential dangers, such as poisonous fruits, animals, and epidemics.

Board of Members

President:
Smt. Saswati Bal

Vice President:
Shri Umapada Bose

Secretary:
Shri Rabindra Nath Dash

Treasurer:
Dr. Prashanta Kumar Routray

Member:
Dr. Monalisa Bal

Member:
Shri Pramod Kumar Sahoo

Member:
Dr. Shashanka Chaudamani

Member:
Shri Kadey Soren

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Management of KISS

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) was started in the year 1993 with just 125 tribal students. With the growth of KIIT Group of Institutions, KISS has also grown as the biggest residential tribal institute of the country. KIIT is the backbone of KISS. 40,000 tribal children of 64 tribes, including 13 primitive tribes, are pursuing their education from Class-1 to post-graduation levels in KISS at Bhubaneswar and other satellite centres. The total income for the year was Rs. 149.65 crores for its operations as detailed below:

- As per the resolution passed by the KIIT Society, 5% of the total turnover of KIIT amounting to Rs. 107.45 crores was received by KISS towards charitable work/social responsibility.
- As per the statutory rules of the KIIT Group of institutions, all staff contribute 3% of his/her gross salary to KISS amounting to Rs. 20.75 crores (approx.).
- The Contractors/Vendors of KIIT Group of Institutions contributed to KISS an amount of Rs. 0.63 crores (approx.).
- The donations from civil society and well-wishers contributed for this noble cause Rs. 1.06 crores (approx.).
- Donations received from different organizations, corporate houses, Cloud platforms like Give India was Rs. 9.59 cores (approx.).
- Interest earned and other miscellaneous income amounted to Rs. 3.25 crores (approx.).
- Further, Grants & others received from various organizations and GoI for residential school purpose as well special projects was Rs. 6.92 crores.
- Balance funds requirement was met from own sources / reserves, etc.

Total recurring expenditure for the year 2023-24 is Rs. 140.72 crores.

Around 5% seats available in various professional & technical courses at KIIT University are reserved for meritorious students from KISS. Several such students of KISS are studying free of cost in KIIT Group of Institutions in technical and professional courses, such as Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (MBBS), Dental Sciences & Surgery, Nursing, Engineering, Masters in Computer Application (MCA), Bachelor / Masters in Law, Management (MBA), Diploma in Engineering, etc. This will amount to approximately Rs. 20 crores in fee waivers.

Apart from direct fund donation, KIIT University also provides several support services, such as free visiting faculty, transpiration, all kinds of maintenance support for electricity / water supply system, medical assistance, security, etc. and if we factor in the cost of such free services it will amount to about Rs. 7.00 crores

Thus the actual Recurring Costs for the year will be in the vicinity of Rs. 167.72 crores.

Apart from the aforesaid contributions by KIIT it also provided financial support of Rs. 50.08 crores through Corpus donation mode for expansion & up-gradation of infrastructure facilities.

Abridged Income & Expenditure Statement

for the year end (31.03.2025)

Abridged Income & Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31.03.2025					
Particulars	**Yr: 2024-25**	**Yr: 2023-24**	**Particulars**	**Yr: 2024-25**	**Yr: 2023-24**
Academic / Co-curricular Expenses	7,89,51,826	7,49,60,540	Donation -		
Mess Related Expenses	47,52,12,357	46,49,32,288	KIIT Group	1,07,45,06,745	87,73,54,974
Employee benefits expense	54,33,08,025	48,60,18,092	Corporate	9,40,56,902	13,43,19,054
Project Expenses	85,45,344	4,03,71,556	Staff (KIIT Group of Institutions)	20,74,95,611	17,53,17,302
Office Related Expenses	13,93,75,089	13,18,41,014	Public / Others	1,87,06,759	12,25,99,495
Indirect Expenses	2,36,17,215	2,09,49,907	Sub-total	***1,39,47,66,018***	***1,30,95,90,824***
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	13,82,32,699	13,84,24,859	Grant	6,92,48,443	41,21,27,767
			Other Income	3,25,05,805	3,67,54,663
Excess of Income over Expenditure	8,92,77,711	40,09,74,999			
Total	**1,49,65,20,266**	**1,75,84,73,255**	**Total**	**1,49,65,20,266**	**1,75,84,73,255**

Abridged Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2025					
Liabilities	**Yr: 2024-25**	**Yr: 2023-24**	**Assets**	**Yr: 2024-25**	**Yr: 2023-24**
Capital Account	1,09,10,83,291	1,07,65,22,820	Fixed Assets	4,16,75,10,583	3,84,63,16,807
Reserves & Surplus	2,41,14,81,362	2,33,67,64,122	Non-current assets	16,59,87,396	15,09,76,023
Borrowings & Deposits	26,30,32,731	23,06,28,665	Current Assets	67,33,26,854	90,19,20,368
Current Liabilities	1,24,12,27,449	1,25,52,97,591			
Total	**5,00,68,24,832**	**4,89,92,13,197**	**Total**	**5,00,68,24,832**	**4,89,92,13,197**

KISS 2025 Annual Report

More Inquiries And Information About Us

KISS is a fully free, residential home for 80,000 tribal students, in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) since the year 2015.

It is registered under Societies Act XXI of 1860.

KISS has also been declared a Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, New Delhi on the basis of the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi vide their notification No. F.9-14/2011-U.3 (A) dated 25th August 2017.

FOLLOW US

www.university.kiss.ac.in
/kissfoundation
/kissfoundation
/kissfoundation
kiss.ac.in/youtube

CONTACT US:

EMAIL US:

info@kiss.ac.in
ceo@kiss.ac.in
dwiti.vikramaditya@kiss.ac.in

WEBSITES

KISS-DU WEBSITE:
www.university.kiss.ac.in

KISS WEBSITE:
www.kiss.ac.in

PUBLISHED BY

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences
KISS Campus 3 & 4
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
PIN: 751024

KISS

KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Organisation in Special Consultative Status with
the United Nations Economic & Social Council (UN-ECOSOC)

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERING GENERATIONS
TRANSFORMING FUTURES

WWW.KISS.AC.IN