



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (भारतीय खनि विद्यापीठ), धनबाद Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad

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PRESS-RELEASE

First Day of 35th National Convention of Mining Engineers and National Seminar on “Mining and Environment – Quo Vadis 2070” Concludes at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad

The first day of the **35th National Convention of Mining Engineers and National Seminar on “Mining and Environment – Quo Vadis 2070”**, jointly organized by the **Institution of Engineers (India)** and **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad**, concluded successfully today at the **Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre (GJLT)**, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

The two-day convention, focusing on sustainable mining and environmental stewardship by 2070, was inaugurated by **Shri Ujjwal Tah, Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Dhanbad**, who graced the occasion as **Chief Guest**. The session was presided over by **Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad**, with **Shri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Chairman & Managing Director, BCCL**, and **Shri Suraj Gupta, Senior Vice President, Birla Corporation Limited**, as **Guests of Honour**.

Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT (ISM) and Honorary Chairman, IEI Dhanbad Local Centre, extended a warm welcome to delegates from academia, industry, and government organizations, while **Prof. Biswajit Paul**, Head, Centre for Mining Environment, introduced the seminar theme. A **souvenir commemorating the event** was also released on the occasion.

Delivering the inaugural address, **Shri Ujjwal Tah** traced the historical roots of mining, calling it the “**backbone of civilization**”—from ancient times to the modern technological era. He emphasized that while mining has been pivotal in driving human progress, its sustainability now depends on the **integration of technology, scientific methods, and environmental sensitivity**. Highlighting the **need for a multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach**, he urged stakeholders to adopt **transparent, inclusive, and safety-oriented practices**, encouraging **greater participation of women** in mining.

He also underlined DGMS’s evolving role from a **regulatory inspectorate to a facilitative organization**, promoting **digital transformation and online systems** for greater efficiency and accountability. Shri Tah called for **stakeholder consultation** in the ongoing **reforms of mining safety and working condition regulations**, aligning them with global standards.

The inaugural session also witnessed the **presentation of prestigious awards**—the **Eminent Mining Engineer Awards** to **Prof. Khanindra Pathak (IIT Kharagpur)** and **Shri Niladri Roy (Director, Technical, ECL & BCCL)**, and the **IEI Young Engineer Award (2025–26)** to **Dr. Siddhartha Roy (CMPDIL, Ranchi)**.

A **Pre-Centenary Tour of the Heritage Building and Oval Ground** at IIT (ISM), featuring **Rolls Royce Vintage Cars**, was organized earlier in the day, symbolizing **100 years of mining education in India**.

The technical deliberations began with the **Prof. S.K. Bose Memorial Lecture**, followed by sessions on **New Mining Frontiers** and **Regulatory Developments**, featuring eminent speakers from **NTPC Limited, CSIR-CIMFR, Birla Corporation, Tata Steel**, and other leading organizations. The audience also paid homage to **Dr. David Penman**, the institute’s founding director (1926–1936), in a special segment that recreated his legacy and contribution to Indian mining education.

The day concluded with a **cultural evening and networking dinner**, fostering interactions among professionals, researchers, and policymakers.

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