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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **Focus on Innovation and Self-Reliance at National Workshop on Renewable Energy and Critical Minerals**

IIT (ISM), Dhanbad organized a one-day national workshop on “*Role of Renewable Energy in Critical Minerals and Mining Operations: Need for Viksit Bharat*” at the TEXMiN Smart Classroom on May 5, 2026.

Addressing the participants, Director Prof. Sukumar Mishra laid strong emphasis on the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, linking national progress with technological self-reliance and innovation. He highlighted the importance of moving research ideas from conceptual stages to market-ready solutions, stressing the need for adaptability, scientific thinking, and collaborative efforts. He encouraged researchers and stakeholders to convert knowledge into impactful technologies, overcome challenges in commercialization, and contribute meaningfully to sustainable development, particularly in renewable energy and other critical sectors.

Prof. Arvind Choubey, Director of National Institute of Technology Durgapur, spoke on the growing importance of renewable energy in mining and critical minerals. He highlighted global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and described hydrogen as a promising alternative fuel, though still in the developmental stage. He stressed the need for continuous research to enhance solar panel efficiency and advocated the adoption of advanced technologies such as flexible solar systems. He also called for stronger collaboration between academia and industry to ensure effective implementation of clean energy solutions.

Earlier, Deputy Director Prof. Dheeraj Kumar welcomed the participants and partner institutions, highlighting the progress of the PAIR project. He emphasized the critical link between renewable energy and key minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and copper, which are essential for clean technologies. He noted that the workshop aimed to align the mining and energy sectors to support sustainable development and contribute to the goals of a Viksit Bharat.

The workshop witnessed participation from academicians, researchers, and industry experts, with technical sessions covering green steel production, sustainable energy management, resource efficiency, and critical mineral extraction. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Gauri Shankar, Head, Centre for Renewable Energy (CRE), IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The progress and outcomes of the PAIR project were also presented by Prof. Ejaz Ahmad, Coordinator, PAIR Project.

The event concluded with a shared commitment to advancing innovation and sustainability in the energy and mining sectors.

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