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PRESS-RELEASE

From Curiosity to Innovation: IIT (ISM) Expands STEM Education Outreach in Coalfield Schools

Continuing its efforts to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education among children of Project Affected Persons (PAP) and other underprivileged communities in BCCL operational areas, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad conducted **special classes today** for students of Classes IX and X at DPLMA +2 High School, Nawagarh and H.S. Bhuli Nagar. Based on innovative visual, logical and experiential learning approaches, the special classes were held as part of the institute's ongoing educational outreach initiative supported under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL).

The programme aims to strengthen students' conceptual understanding, analytical abilities and interest in STEM subjects. PAP refers to families affected by mining and other development projects, while STEM is an integrated approach to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics that promotes scientific temper, critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills.

The initiative is being implemented by the Department of Management Studies & Industrial Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad under the guidance of **Prof. Rashmi Singh**, Programme Coordinator, and **Prof. Niladri Das**, Programme Co-Coordinator. As part of the programme, IIT (ISM) experts regularly visit participating schools and conduct structured academic sessions designed to supplement classroom teaching through interactive and student-centric methodologies.

Prof. Rashmi Singh said that the objective of the initiative is to make science and mathematics more engaging and accessible while encouraging students to think logically and explore concepts beyond textbooks. Prof. Niladri Das noted that the programme seeks to equip students with the knowledge, confidence and skills required to pursue higher education and careers in STEM disciplines.

The ongoing programme builds on a series of successful STEM outreach activities conducted by IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in recent months at Bhagirath Brahmachari High School, KGBV Jharia and Girls High School, Railway Colony, Bhaga, where students were introduced to scientific concepts through innovative demonstrations and hands-on experiments.

The initiative has received strong support from school principals, teachers and students, who have appreciated the efforts of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and BCCL in bringing quality educational interventions directly to school campuses. Regular special classes will continue throughout the programme period to ensure sustained academic engagement and long-term learning outcomes.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)