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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **IIT (ISM) Strengthens STEM Outreach for Underprivileged Students in BCCL Areas**

With the objective of fostering scientific temper, enhancing conceptual clarity, and promoting analytical thinking among underprivileged students, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad today conducted a hands-on STEM training session at Bhagirath Brahmachari High School, Rajganj, Baghmara. The programme forms part of an ongoing outreach initiative under an MoU signed between Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad on July 22, 2024, aimed at empowering children from Project Affected Person (PAP) families and other underserved communities.

STEM—an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—represents an interdisciplinary approach to learning that integrates these fields to develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. It is widely regarded as essential for preparing students to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving, technology-driven world and for building a strong foundation for future academic and professional pursuits.

Led by Prof. Rashmi Singh and Prof. Niladri Das, today's session engaged around 200 students of Classes IX and X through a multi-dimensional pedagogical framework combining visual demonstrations, logical reasoning, and experimental learning. Activities such as balloon blow-up, candle water rising, and turmeric indicator experiments enabled students to connect theoretical concepts with real-world applications.

Prof. Rashmi Singh said, "Our aim is to make science accessible and engaging for every student, especially those from underserved backgrounds. By integrating visual and experiential learning, we seek to build curiosity and confidence among young learners."

Prof. Niladri Das added, "This initiative reflects our commitment to developing analytical abilities and nurturing a problem-solving mindset. Sustained engagement through such programmes will help students pursue higher education and careers in STEM disciplines."

School Principal Shri Anand Kumar expressed appreciation, stating, "The exposure provided by IIT (ISM) experts has greatly motivated our students. Such interactive sessions significantly enhance their understanding and interest in science."

The programme underscores IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's commitment to inclusive and equitable education, with future sessions focusing on experiential pedagogy and capacity building in coalfield regions.

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