



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

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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Heralds Transformative Leadership and Management Training to Cultivate Enlightened Grassroots Governance in Jharkhand

In a significant stride toward strengthening grassroots democracy and realizing the *Viksit Bharat* vision, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in collaboration with the **Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of Jharkhand**, has launched a **five-day Leadership and Management Development Programme (MDP)** for Panchayati Raj functionaries at the **Executive Development Centre (EDC)**.

The programme, being held from **November 10 to 14, 2025**, is part of an extensive capacity-building series, with **two additional sessions scheduled from November 17–21 and November 24–28**, aimed at training **around 100 Panchayati Raj representatives** from across Jharkhand. It follows the success of a similar national-level MDP organized in April 2025 in association with the **Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, which drew participants from across India.

Spearheaded by **Prof. Rajni Singh, Dean (Corporate Communications)** and **Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**, the programme reflects IIT (ISM)'s continued commitment to connecting academic excellence with grassroots governance. **Prof. Singh**, an eminent academic and program coordinator, has conceptualized this initiative to cultivate capable, confident, and technologically empowered local representatives.

In the inaugural address, **Prof. Singh** outlined the programme's essence — *to nurture enlightened, efficient, and forward-looking governance*. She added, *"This programme is not merely a training intervention but a transformative journey—an effort to energize Panchayati Raj institutions as engines of inclusive development. Through a blend of academic rigor and experiential learning, we aspire to create local leaders who embody transparency, empathy, and innovation."*

The inaugural session was graced by **Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad**, who lauded the initiative as a model of how higher education can directly contribute to rural transformation. **Prof. Keka Ojha, Dean, Continuing Education Programme** underscored the importance of such MDPs.

Prof. Niladri Das and Prof. Rashmi Snigh, the co-coordinators of the program, emphasized the need for such training to create ripples and augment social transformation.

The current batch comprises **27 participants & 90 percent of whom are women**, from **Hazaribagh, Giridih, Pakur, Bokaro, Chatra, and Dhanbad**—reflecting the rising influence of women in rural governance.

The first day featured sessions led by **Prof. Rajni Singh** on *Leadership and Communication* and *Project Planning for Village Development*, designed to blend academic frameworks with field experiences. Participants discussed challenges, shared community insights, and explored replicable models for village-level transformation.

Deepa Devi, Pramukh of Dadi Block, Hazaribagh, said, *"The sessions are practical and deeply inspiring"*. *"I wish I could have the opportunity of attending it the initial days while assuming my office"* further said Devi.

Saryu Saw, Upramukh of Bishugarh Block, added, *"This training is helping us understand the importance of digital tools and transparency in governance. It's motivating to learn directly from IIT (ISM) experts."*

The upcoming sessions, by **Prof. Niladri Das** and **Prof. Rashmi Singh** will unfold training different aspects of Panchayati Raj Governance including on **financial management, project evaluation, and digital transformation**, ensuring participants develop both strategic and operational perspectives of good governance.

Guided by the intellectual stewardship of **Prof. Rajni Singh**, the MDP stands as a testament to IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's enduring mission to empower grassroots leadership through knowledge, innovation, and participatory governance.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)

Phone: (0326) 2235303, Email: dcc@iitism.ac.in