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PRESS RELEASE

IIT (ISM) bids farewell to Deputy Director Prof. Dheeraj Kumar

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad on Tuesday accorded a warm farewell to Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director of the institute, at a function held in the Conference Hall of the Administrative Building as he completed his tenure in the office.

The programme was attended by Director Prof. Sukumar Mishra, newly appointed Deputy Director Prof. Sarat Kumar Das, senior functionaries, faculty members and staff, who appreciated Prof. Kumar's contributions to the institute's academic, research, innovation and administrative initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM), recalled the valuable services rendered by Prof. Dheeraj Kumar during his tenure as Deputy Director. He acknowledged his commitment to strengthening academic administration, promoting innovation and research, and fostering collaborations with industry and other stakeholders. Wishing him success in his future endeavours, the Director said that Prof. Kumar's contributions would continue to benefit the institute.

In his remarks, Prof. Dheeraj Kumar expressed gratitude to the Director, faculty members, officers, staff and students for their support and cooperation. He said that serving as Deputy Director of IIT (ISM) had been a privilege and a rewarding experience, and thanked the institute community for the opportunity to contribute to its growth.

Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Professor (HAG) in the Department of Mining Engineering, was appointed as Deputy Director with effect from April 29, 2022, and his tenure concluded on June 30, 2026.

An accomplished academician and administrator, Prof. Kumar has more than 21 years of experience in academics, research, outreach and institutional administration. Besides serving as Deputy Director, he has been the Director of TEXMiN, the Technology Innovation Hub for Mining Technology, and ACIC, the Community Innovation Hub supported by NITI Aayog. Earlier, he held several important administrative positions, including Dean (Innovation), Dean (International Relations & Alumni Affairs) and Associate Dean (Infrastructure).

Prof. Kumar obtained his M.Tech. from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and his Ph.D. from IIT Kharagpur. His research interests include Digital Mining Technologies, Mine Surveying, Geospatial Technologies and Mining 4.0. He has supervised more than 20 Ph.D. scholars and over 50 M.Tech. students, besides training more than 700 mining professionals through professional development programmes on mine digitisation, monitoring and automation.

He also played a pioneering role in establishing TEXMiN, India's Technology Innovation Hub in Mining Technology, to promote research, innovation and entrepreneurship in mining and earth sciences. In addition, he founded ACIC, a Section 8 company supported by NITI Aayog, to encourage community-driven innovation and startup development.

The farewell function was attended by Prof. Sarat Kumar Das, who will assume charge as Deputy Director from July 1, Prof. M.K. Singh, Dean (Academic), Prof. Parthasarathi Das, Dean (Research & Development), Prof. Amit Rai Dixit, Dean (Infrastructure), Prof. Rajeev Upadhyay, Dean (International Relations & Alumni Affairs), Prabodh Pandey, Registrar, along with other deans, faculty members, officers and staff of the institute. This version avoids highlighting the length of the tenure and instead keeps the focus on the farewell, Prof. Kumar's contributions, and his professional achievements.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)