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PRESS-RELEASE

Mining will always power civilization, says DGMS chief at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's KHANAN'25

The two-day national techno-mining fest *KHANAN'25* kicked off at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad on Saturday, with experts from the government and industry highlighting the enduring importance of mining in India's development and global sustainability goals.

Inaugurating the fest at Penman Auditorium, **Ujjwal Tah**, Director General of the **Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)**, described mining as “the backbone of civilization,” tracing its evolution from the Stone Age to the digital era.

“Every form of progress — from building infrastructure to producing mobile phones and renewable energy — is rooted in mining. The sector can never die; it will only evolve with technology and innovation,” Tah said.

He urged students to think beyond traditional employment and focus on research, digital transformation, and circular economy models to ensure efficient resource utilization for future generations.

Tah also praised IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's century-long contribution to mining education, calling it a “visionary institution” that continues to shape India's mining and safety ecosystem.

The event saw the participation of **Sanjeev Kumar Singh**, Chairman and Managing Director of **Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)**, and **Manoj Kumar Agarwal**, Chairman and Managing Director of **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)**, as Guests of Honour.

Singh, an IIT (ISM) alumnus, said mining remains central to India's growth and energy security.

“Without mining, there would be no electricity, infrastructure, or digital connectivity. Even green energy relies on minerals — copper, lithium, and rare earths,” he said, adding that HCL is leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning for mine design and automation.

Agarwal, also an IIT (ISM) graduate, reflected on his experiences at global mining conventions and said IIT (ISM) alumni are making a mark across the world.

“The enthusiasm I witnessed abroad for IIT (ISM) graduates is immense. *KHANAN'25* captures that same spirit — combining youth, technology, and industry,” he said.

Earlier, IIT (ISM) Director **Prof. Sukumar Mishra** welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the need for young engineers to adapt to the fast-changing technological landscape in the mining sector.

Organized by the **Department of Mining Engineering** in association with the **Society of Mining Engineers (SME) IIT (ISM) Student Chapter**, *KHANAN'25* features competitions, workshops, and discussions on emerging themes such as *Mining Robotics and Automation*, *Sustainable Mining Practices*, and *Global Mineral Trade*.

More than 500 students from across India are participating in events like *Mining Olympiad*, *Mine Designthon*, *Placement Fever*, *War-o-Words*, *Kalakriti*, and *Gamicon*.

With experts from Coal India Limited, Hindustan Zinc, and other leading organizations expected to join discussions over the next two days, *KHANAN'25* aims to strengthen industry-academia collaboration while celebrating IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's legacy as India's oldest and foremost mining institution.

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