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PRESS RELEASE

56 students of two prominent schools explore the rich and varied collection of minerals, rocks and fossils at Geological Museum of IIT (ISM) during the Lab Visit held under the K-12 outreach programme of institute; visitors took keen interest in the researches in digitization and automation in mining technologies at TEXMiN, the technology innovation hub of IIT (ISM).

Altogether 56 students of Class IX to XII of two prominent schools of district, including Kendriya Vidyalaya, Maithon and DAV Public School Koylanagar explored the rich and varied collection of minerals, rocks and fossils at the Geological Museum of IIT (ISM) and at the same time learnt about the tinkering, innovation and research activities being carried out in the area of in cutting edge laboratories of the institute.

The occasion was the day long lab visit of the school students being organized by Media & Branding office of IIT (ISM) under the K-12 outreach programme aimed to inspire the young minds to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and the learning environment at IIT (ISM).

The tour, which is the third of its kind began at around 10 a.m. this morning with the students divided into three groups visiting over a dozen laboratories of three different facilities, including Naresh Vashisht Centre Tinkering and Innovation (NVCTI), the innovation hub of undergraduate students; TEXMiN, the coal technology innovation hub and Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC), all of which are situated in the Institute Innovation Hub (i2h) building of the institute.

The students, accompanied by their teachers during the their session at NVCTI, situated in the i2h building explored the state of art equipment in its different laboratories, including Electronics and IOT Centre, Pouch Battery Lab, Animation and Design Unit, Robotics and Automation Centre and Mechanical Tools and Rapid Prototyping Unit.

During their tour of the TEXMiN, the Mining Technology Innovation Hub, the students got the first-hand account of the researches being carried out their to ensure safe, smart and sustainable mining and particularly the researches being carried out with regard to digitalization and automation in mines and also with regard to usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in Mining arena.

They also took keen interest in the different centers of excellence including that of Dassault, Sandvik and ESRI besides the Centre of Excellence (COE) of Coal India Limited (CIL) operational at IIT (ISM) to carry out innovative researches under the leadership of TEXMiN.

They also visited the Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC), where they learnt the training as well as research activities meant to solve to day to day issues of local community being carried out under the guidance of experts.

During the last leg of their visit in the Geological Museum they also explored the rich and varied collection of over 12000 typical as well as rare specimens of minerals, rocks and fossils, including a rock as spongy as rubber, a fossilized skull of elephant of several centuries ago and a fossil of a venomous snake preserved in alcohol.

Sampa Dey, a Post Graduate Teacher accompanying the students of Kendriya Vidyalaya Maithon said, “The unique initiative of IIT (ISM) to let the school students explore the state of art laboratories and cutting edge equipment will motivate the students to make a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)”

Tuhin Bhattacharjee, a student of DAV Public School, Koylanagar, said “The experience was quite interesting as they got to learn about a lot of technologies and best part of the tour was the visit of TEXMiN during which we came to about the new technologies being used in Mining operations”

Rajni Singh

Dean (Media & Branding)