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PRESS-RELEASE

A Beacon of Rural Empowerment Illuminates from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad: Inaugural of the Management Development Programme in Collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj

In a momentous stride towards decentralised governance and nation-building, the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, in partnership with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, unfurled the curtains today on a week-long **Management Development Programme (MDP)**. Held within the hallowed halls of the **Smart Classroom at TEXMiN**, i²h building, this distinguished programme has drawn to its fold a diverse congregation of **elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries** from across the length and breadth of the nation—spanning the states of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand.

The inauguration was graced by **Prof. Prem Vrat**, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT (ISM), who delivered the inaugural address on **Effective Leadership**. Speaking with deep erudition, Prof. Vrat delineated the essence of transformational and transactional leadership, emphasizing the necessity of trust and credibility in fostering an organizational culture aligned with excellence. He profoundly remarked, *“Leadership is the art of influencing behavior to achieve organizational goals.”*

Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM), in his keynote, eloquently highlighted the **interplay between policy and technology**, calling for greater symbiosis between technologists and policymakers. Urging participants to embrace the MDP as a platform for mutual learning, he reiterated the importance of research in actualizing the national aspiration of **Viksit Bharat**.

Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, observed that this programme is not a one-way pedagogical exchange, but a dialogic endeavour wherein academia also stands to learn from the wisdom and lived experience of grassroots leaders.

Further, **Shri Prabodh Pandey**, Registrar, underlined the invaluable administrative insights the faculty would garner from their interactions with the participants during the thematic sessions.

At the helm of this transformative journey, **Prof. Rajni Singh**, Dean of Corporate Communications and Programme Coordinator, lucidly presented the objectives of the MDP—to nurture enlightened, efficient, and technologically adept grassroots leadership. Through an articulate blend of academic rigor and hands-on exposure, the programme aspires to energize local governance bodies as pivotal agents of the **Viksit Bharat** vision.

The inaugural thematic sessions showcased a robust intellectual landscape:

- **Prof. Sukumar Mishra** spoke on *“Rural Electrification: A Path to Viksit Bharat”*,
- **Prof. Rajni Singh** addressed *“Bridging Gaps through Effective Communication”*,
- **Prof. Niladri Das** explored *“Gram Panchayat and Work Management”*.
- **Prof. Rajendra Pamula** talked about *“Digital Transformation and ICT FOR Panchayat Governance”*

The forthcoming days promise to delve into a broad spectrum of themes—from technological innovations, rural healthcare, and irrigation, to project appraisal, financial management, and the role of Gram Panchayats in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) 2030.

The week will culminate in a grand valedictory session on April 11, following sessions on rural skilling, digital marketing, local livelihoods, and revenue generation, culminating with a discourse by **Shri Amitabh Ranjan**, Registrar, Indian Institute of Public Administration, and esteemed alumnus of IIT (ISM).

In orchestrating this programme, **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** reiterates its unwavering commitment to academic excellence, rural transformation, and participatory governance. The MDP stands as a harbinger of hope and change, sowing the seeds of **Gram Swaraj** that shall blossom into a **vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future** for the nation.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)