For Immediate Release; February 14, 2026

PRESS-RELEASE

AQMDA-2026 Opens at IIT (ISM) with Strong Emphasis on Science-Driven Air Quality Solutions

The Two-Day International Workshop on Air Quality Monitoring and Data Analysis (AQMDA-2026) commenced at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad on Saturday with an impactful inaugural session and intensive technical deliberations focused on tackling air pollution through advanced monitoring and data-driven strategies. Organised by the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, the workshop has drawn eminent scientists, policymakers, industry leaders and researchers from India and abroad.

Welcoming the distinguished gathering, Prof. Manish Jain highlighted the escalating challenges of air pollution and emphasized the urgent need for robust monitoring systems, real-time analytics, and interdisciplinary research. He noted that AQMDA-2026 aims to transform environmental data into actionable knowledge for sustainable management and informed policymaking.

Chief Guest Shri Neelesh Kumar Sah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, underlined the importance of strengthening monitoring frameworks and integrating scientific data into regulatory decision-making for effective environmental governance.

Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, who presided over the function, reflected on the contemporary relevance of the workshop. Drawing a clear distinction between Gyan (knowledge), Vigyan (analytical understanding of knowledge), and Praudyogiki (application of science into practical technologies), he stressed that environmental challenges can be addressed effectively only when knowledge is analysed scientifically and translated into technological solutions that contribute to national development.

Prof. Alok Sinha, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, elaborated on the vision behind AQMDA-2026. He stated that the department remains committed to developing science-based, technology-enabled solutions to pressing environmental problems. He emphasized that integrating satellite data, ground monitoring networks, AI-driven modelling and industry participation is crucial for building a comprehensive air quality management ecosystem in India.

The inaugural day featured a keynote address by Prof. Yoginder P. Chugh, SIU-Carbondale, USA, on global air quality issues and challenges. Technical Sessions I and II covered India's air quality governance, low-cost sensor applications, source apportionment modelling, dust characterization in coal mining areas, and emission management strategies. A panel discussion on "Air Quality in Minerals-Based Industrial Sectors: Where do we go from here?" provided valuable insights into future research and industry-academia collaboration.
The day concluded with poster presentations, instrument demonstrations, a visit to the TEXMiN Lab, and a cultural programme followed by a gala dinner.

The workshop will conclude tomorrow with advanced discussions on satellite-ground data integration, coal mine methane measurements, AI-based AQI estimation, intelligent aerial sensor networks, and global monitoring guidelines, culminating in the valedictory session.

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