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PRESS RELEASE

Centenary National Seminar and Workshop on Earthquake Preparedness Organized at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad

Researchers, engineers, and professionals from across the country gathered at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad to participate in the Centenary National Seminar on "Strong Motion Earthquake: Structural Response Modelling and Aided Designing." The three-day seminar, organized by the Department of Applied Geophysics from March 21–23, 2025, focused on advanced methodologies to minimize earthquake-induced damages and enhance community safety.

The seminar was inaugurated at TEXMiN Hall by Ms. Kavita Jha, CEO of Kiksar Technologies, as Chief Guest, in the presence of Guest of Honors, Shri Piyush Srivastava of Tata Steel and Prof. Nibir Mandal of Jadavpur University. The event highlighted cutting-edge safety engineering technologies, with an emphasis on infrastructure resilience to maintain functionality during seismic events. Also present at the inaugural session were Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director of IIT (ISM); Prof. Sanjit Kumar Pal, Head of the Department, Applied Geophysics; and Prof. Prosanta Kumar Khan.

The seminar aimed to address critical issues such as liquefaction evaluation and sustainable groundwater management by leveraging geophysical methods, including electromagnetic surveys and magnetic resonance sounding.

Parallel to the seminar, a workshop titled "Earthquake Preparedness and Mitigation Measures: Are We Ready?" was held in the morning under the Scientific Social Responsibility Policy of the research work led by Prof. Prosanta Kumar Khan, Professor HAG, Department of Applied Geophysics, and Convenor of the seminar. Over 60 students from Dhanbad Public School actively participated in the workshop, which fostered discussions on earthquake preparedness. The event was graced by Prof. Rajni Singh, Dean of Corporate Communication at IIT (ISM), as Chief Guest, along with Ms. Sharda Mahajan, Principal of Dhanbad Public School, and Prof. Nibir Mandal.

During her address at inaugural function of Seminar as Chief Guest Ms. Kavita Jha emphasized the importance of women and girls excelling in all domains, including entrepreneurship. She encouraged the girl students of Dhanbad Public School to embrace innovation and believe in their abilities. She commended the organizers for involving school students, particularly girls, in the seminar, noting the growing presence of women in non-traditional fields.

Shri Piyush Srivastava of Tata Steel highlighted the importance of industry-academia collaboration and expressed hope that the participation of young students in the seminar would inspire them to join the mining industry, traditionally a male-dominated field.

Prof. Nibir Mandal emphasized the need for expanding seismological and geophysical studies beyond earthquake measurement to understand the mechanisms behind geophysical phenomena.

Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director of IIT (ISM), underscored the significance of research in driving positive changes for humanity and the country. He stressed the importance of translating scientific thought into engineering solutions to generate resources, noting that science and engineering are complementary disciplines.

Prof. Sanjit Kumar Pal provided an overview of the history and contributions of the Department of Applied Geophysics, while Prof. Prosanta Kumar Khan introduced the seminar topic and elaborated on its significance.

The event successfully fostered discussions on earthquake resilience, preparedness, and industry-academia collaboration, marking a significant step toward enhancing earthquake safety and infrastructure resilience in India.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)