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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad inaugurates two-day techno-mining fest KHANAN'25 DGMS Chief highlights mining's pivotal role in nation-building

The two-day national techno-mining fest KHANAN'25 was inaugurated today at the Penman Auditorium of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad by Shri Ujjwal Tah, Director General, Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event, organized by the Department of Mining Engineering in association with the Society of Mining Engineers (SME) IIT (ISM) Student Chapter, brought together industry leaders, academicians, and students from across India.

Addressing the inaugural session, Shri Tah emphasized the enduring importance of mining in human civilization and technological advancement. "Mining is the backbone of civilization — from the Stone Age to the Smart Technology Age. Every aspect of modern life, whether mobile phones or renewable energy systems, depends on minerals. Mining cannot die; it will continue to drive human progress," he remarked.

The DGMS Chief further underlined the need for innovation and sustainable extraction practices, urging students to "dream big, work hard, and think beyond employment to build solutions that can make India a developed nation." He also lauded IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's century-old contribution to mining education and safety practices in India.

Shri Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Copper Limited, and Shri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), attended the inaugural session as Guests of Honour.

Sharing his experiences as an IIT (ISM) alumnus, Shri Sanjeev Kumar Singh called mining a "cornerstone of nation-building," adding that "without mining, the infrastructure, energy systems, and data networks we rely on today would simply not exist." He urged students to bridge the gap between academia and industry through innovation and technology-driven solutions, citing HCL's AI-based initiatives in geological mapping and automation as examples of modern mining transformation.

Shri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, also an alumnus of IIT (ISM), expressed pride in returning to his alma mater and highlighted India's growing global footprint in the mining and resource sector. "At international mining exhibitions, IIT (ISM) alumni are making their mark globally. KHANAN'25 reflects the same spirit of innovation, connecting young engineers with the evolving world of mining," he said.

Earlier, Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, welcomed the guests and encouraged students to leverage platforms like KHANAN for knowledge exchange and leadership development.

The event is being convened by Prof. D.P. Mishra, Faculty Advisor and Convener, and organized by the Department of Mining Engineering team.

Over the next two days, KHANAN'25 will feature a range of competitions, workshops, and panel discussions on emerging themes such as Mining Robotics and Automation, Mineral Market and Global Trade, and

Sustainable Mining Practices. Events like Mining Olympiad, Mine Designthon, Placement Fever, Kalakriti, and War-o-Words will engage students in both technical and creative pursuits.

With the participation of leading industry experts, researchers, and over 500 students from across the country, KHANAN'25 promises to be a vibrant confluence of innovation, sustainability, and technical excellence—carrying forward IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's rich legacy in the field of mining and earth sciences.

Rajni Singh

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