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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

**Dr Pravakar Mohanty, Scientist E of Department of Science & Technology explains the opportunities for R&D grants during a guest talk at IIT (ISM); Explains role of DST in promoting R&D in the country and also about divulge about opportunities for students, during his insightful lecture.**

Dr Pravakar Mohanty, Scientist E of Department of Science & Technology (DST) who delivered a talk titled, **Opportunities for R&D Grants: DST Perspective** at Management Hall of IIT (ISM) apprised the gathering of faculty members and research scholars about the role of DST in promoting R&D in the country, opportunities for students, opportunities for setting up Scientific (R&D) infrastructure, opportunities of extramural R&D grants and Electronic Project Management System (E-PMS) of DST/SERB (NRF).

Dr Mohanty during his over two hours presentation, which was followed by question and answer (Q&A) session said that the focus of DST is on Enhancing the Quality and Relevance of R&D; Translation of Technology & Innovation to the market; connecting academia, R&D Labs, industry, startups, MSMEs, NGOs, Ministries, State and Union Territories.

“Societal Connect with the slogan of Science for People and People for Science is another key focus of the department” said Dr Mohanty adding that the Department also lays focus on Diversity and Inclusivity giving opportunity for R&D projects to all, including, Young, Women, Rural.

“The Department aims to aligning S&T with National Priorities on Water, Energy, Environment, Sustainability, EV Transport, Health, Smart Manufacturing, Quantum Mission, Cyber Science (ICPS), Climate, Geospatial etc” elaborated Dr Mohanty .

Expressing concern over the fact that only 27% of students are interested to pursue Science at College level he said that the government focus is also to attract, motivate, nurture and train talented and meritorious students to study science subjects and opt for the careers in R&D through various schemes like Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Scheme.

He also appealed the faculty members and research scholars to disseminate information about opportunities and careers in Science among students and explained that the objective of the inspire scheme is to enlarge and widen country’s R&D base, build a pipeline of quality manpower.

Giving details about another scheme to promote Science Education and R&D opportunities among the school students he said, “Under MANAK: Million Minds Augmenting National, Aspirational and Knowledge opportunities are available for class 6 to 12 students to submit innovative ideas in any 22 languages available at MANAK E – Portal.

Dr Mohanty during his detailed description of various projects also apprised the gathering about Fund for Improvement of S&T infrastructure that aims to provide basic infrastructure and facilities for R&D activities in universities and other educational institutions to promote R&D in new and emerging areas, to attract new talents and helping the institutions to carry out research more effectively.

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