



# भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (भारतीय खनि विद्यापीठ), धनबाद Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad

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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **EIACP Programme Centre, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Launches GSDP Certificate Course on “Nature Conservation cum Ecotourism Guide”**

The EIACP Programme Centre under the Department of Environmental Science & Engineering (ESE), IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, inaugurated the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) Certificate Course on “**Nature Conservation cum Ecotourism Guide**” on Monday. The three-month programme, supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, will run from **January 5 to March 6, 2026**.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by **Vikas Paliwal**, District Forest Officer, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present included Prof. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Dean (Student Welfare), IIT (ISM) Dhanbad; Prof. Manish Kumar Jain, Professor, Department of ESE; Prof. Vipin Kumar, Associate Dean (Faculty); and Prof. Suresh Pandian, Associate Professor, Department of ESE, Co-coordinator, EIACP (PC-RP), and Course Co-convener.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, research scholars, students, and **30 participants drawn from Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal**.

Welcoming the gathering, Prof. Suresh Pandian highlighted that the course is designed to build technical competencies in ecosystem and biodiversity conservation while promoting responsible ecotourism as a tool for environmental awareness and livelihood generation.

Prof. Sunil Kumar Gupta encouraged participants to actively engage in both classroom instruction and field-based learning, emphasizing that such experiential exposure is crucial for developing responsible nature conservators and ambassadors of sustainable tourism.

In his address, Chief Guest Shri Vikas Paliwal underlined the growing importance of trained nature conservators and ecotourism guides in protecting forest ecosystems through community participation and responsible tourism practices. Prof. Vipin Kumar also shared his perspectives on the role of green skills in achieving sustainable development goals.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. Manish Kumar Jain, who expressed gratitude to the MoEF&CC for funding the initiative, acknowledged the institutional support of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, and conveyed special thanks to Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, for his constant guidance in the successful initiation and smooth commencement of the course.

The GSDP Certificate Course aims to create a cadre of green-skilled youth capable of contributing meaningfully to nature conservation and sustainable ecotourism, reaffirming IIT (ISM) Dhanbad’s commitment to national environmental and green skilling initiatives.

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