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Press Release

Empowering Grassroots Governance: Deputy Commissioner's Address Highlights Day 3 of Leadership Program at IIT (ISM)

The third day of the five-day Leadership and Management Development Program (MDP), jointly organized by IIT (ISM) and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, was marked by a series of impactful sessions, most notably an inspiring address by Ms. Madhvi Mishra, the Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad. The event was held at the TEXMiN Smart Classroom located on the ground floor of the i2h building at IIT (ISM), Dhanbad.

Ms. Madhvi Mishra's address served as the highlight of the day, offering a compelling narrative on the saga of rural development. Her speech emphasized the importance of grassroots governance and the pivotal role of local administration in bridging the gaps between planning and execution of government schemes. She pointed out the inefficiencies that arise when developmental schemes are rushed at the last moment and advocated for strengthening local administrative mechanisms to ensure timely implementation.

A major theme in Ms. Mishra's speech was the empowerment of Panchayat-level functionaries and elected representatives. She underscored the need for inclusive planning processes that are grounded in the actual needs of local communities. Her discussion included several key schemes such as MNREGS and the Birsa Harit Gram Yojna—a state-specific initiative aimed at promoting afforestation and creating sustainable livelihoods for marginalized communities. Her interactive session not only provided technical insights but also inspired the participants with a vision of participatory governance.

The presence of senior officials from IIT (ISM) added to the significance of the occasion. Among them were Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director; Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director; Shri Prabodh Pandey, Registrar; and notably Prof. Rajni Singh, Dean of Corporate Communications, who is also the coordinator of this MDP. Prof. Rajni Singh's leadership in organizing this program reflects the institute's commitment to meaningful social outreach and the advancement of democratic governance.

Prof. Rajni Singh's contribution to the program has been central to its success. Her vision and coordination have enabled a robust platform for capacity building and leadership development. This initiative, under her stewardship, aligns with the broader goals of empowering the Panchayati Raj Institutions to ensure inclusive growth and effective service delivery.

In addition to the address by the Deputy Commissioner, the day included other enriching sessions. Abhishek Gupta shared insights on a Biodiversity Heritage Centre developed in Tundi by The Comeback Foundation, highlighting the role of civil society in environmental conservation. Prof. Shashank Bansal delivered a session on the Time Value of Money and Project Appraisal, followed by social scientist Deepika A Bara, who spoke on the role of Gram Panchayats in achieving LSDG 2030. The day concluded with sessions on Project Management and Team Leadership by Prof. Himanshu Gupta and Prof. G.S. Pathak, respectively.

This residential MDP is being conducted under the aegis of the Rastriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The program's objective is to empower and capacitate the elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions, thereby enhancing their leadership capabilities to drive inclusive development and social justice. Through this initiative, IIT (ISM) is leveraging its century-old legacy of academic excellence to foster a stronger and more effective local governance ecosystem—an essential step toward realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

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