

For Immediate Release: January 20, 2025

## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **Five-Day Executive Development Programme on Preventive Maintenance and Electrical Safety in Mines Commences at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad**

A five-day **Executive Development Programme (EDP)** on "Preventive Maintenance and Electrical Safety in Mines," organized by the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, began today at the institute's Executive Development Centre. The program, scheduled to run from January 20 to January 24, 2025, was inaugurated with an event graced by **Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT (ISM)**, who served as the Chief Guest.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Dheeraj Kumar emphasized the critical role of preventive maintenance and electrical safety in mining operations. He stated, "Being a mining engineer, I understand the importance of electrical engineering in mines. Without considering electrical safety, progress in mining operations would be unachievable. As we enter the era of Mining 4.0, the integration of advanced technologies like AI, IoT, blockchain, and autonomous systems highlights the indispensable role of electrical engineering." Prof. Kumar also highlighted the success of the institute's Mining Technology Innovation Hub, TEXMiN, which has fostered partnerships with over large number of companies.

The inaugural day featured expert lectures and interactive sessions on various topics, including:

- The importance of Electrical Safety Audits and Safety Management Plans in achieving zero accidents.
- Electrical shock hazards and prevention strategies.
- Issues and practical challenges in electrical drives.
- Case studies on mining accidents and mitigation strategies.

The program has been meticulously designed to address the diverse aspects of electrical safety and preventive maintenance in both underground and open cast mining environments, aiming to ensure enhanced operational safety.

**Guest of Honour, Ajay Singh, Deputy Director General (Electrical) at the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)**, underscored the importance of such training programs, noting, "These sessions provide an excellent opportunity to clarify doubts and learn about practical applications alongside theoretical concepts. Electrical safety in mining is a cornerstone for preventing accidents."

**Prof. Raju Basak, Chairman of the West Bengal State Centre, Institution of Engineers (India)**, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the role of AI and IoT in the evolving mining landscape. He noted that the need for preventive maintenance of electrical equipment has grown significantly in this era of rapid technological advancements.

During the event, **Prof. Sukanta Das, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT (ISM)**, announced plans for the department to host two international conferences in consecutive years, further solidifying its commitment to advancing research and education in electrical engineering.

In his welcome address, **Dr. Pradip Kumar Sadhu, Professor (HAG) and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) of the program**, likened preventive maintenance to vaccination, emphasizing its importance over post-incident responses. The vote of thanks was delivered by **Prof. Nitai Pal**, the Principal Investigator (PI) of the program, who extended gratitude to all participants and contributors.

The program has brought together around 60 participants, including professionals and academics, to engage in knowledge-sharing and discussions aimed at improving electrical safety and maintenance practices in the mining sector.

Rajni Singh

**Dean (Corporate Communications)**