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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

**GeoConfluence’ 25 inaugurated at IIT (ISM) under centenary theme “Tracing a Century Beneath and Beyond”**

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad inaugurated GeoConfluence’ 25, the flagship annual geoscience event of the Department of Applied Geophysics, organised under the banner of the Geophysical Society, at Penman Auditorium on Friday, 16 January 2026. The three-day programme is being held as part of IIT(ISM)’s centenary year celebrations and brings together students, academicians, researchers and industry professionals from across the geoscience domain for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. Dr. Indranil Saha, Chief Mine Planning, Tata Steel, attended as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Madhur Johri, BP, NWS Discipline Lead, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

In his address, Dr. Indranil Saha interacted with students in an informal, experience-based manner, stating that he was not a motivational speaker but wished to share practical lessons from his career journey. Referring to the geological concept of uniformitarianism– “the present is the key to the past” , he connected his own past struggles with the opportunities and responsibilities facing today’s students. Recalling that he did not secure a campus placement after graduation, he emphasised the importance of clear goals, structured planning, focus and adherence to timelines. He strongly advised students to avoid “copy-paste” work in research and instead pursue innovation.

Dr. Saha highlighted the evolving technology landscape in geosciences and encouraged participants to keep learning emerging tools and domains such as GIS, AI/ML applications, drones and modern geophysical technologies, especially with India’s growing focus on critical minerals. He concluded by stressing that hard work, perseverance, patience, teamwork and continuous learning, including field-based exposure in industry, are essential for success.

Prof. Saumen Maiti, Head, Department of Applied Geophysics, described GeoConfluence as a vibrant platform for geoscience professionals, students, entrepreneurs and industry experts to collaborate and address societal and industrial challenges. He traced the department’s legacy since the International Geophysical Year 1957 and highlighted its contributions to hydrocarbon, mineral and energy exploration. He also noted that the programme features expert talks, quizzes, poster sessions, geo-tours and sustainability initiatives, expressing confidence that it will inspire learning, innovation and meaningful partnerships.

In the welcome address, Prof. Partha Pratim Mandal introduced GeoConfluence as the department’s flagship annual event and highlighted the centenary theme “Tracing a Century Beneath and Beyond” , celebrating 100 years of geophysical discoveries at IIT(ISM). He thanked organisers and volunteers and declared the event open.

Presiding over the function, Prof. Dheeraj Kumar praised the department’s strong national reputation, noting that many scientists in organisations like the Geological Survey of India (GSI) are alumni of the department. He urged students and faculty to uphold this legacy through quality work and leadership, assuring full institutional support for future initiatives.

The day concluded with a cultural programme by students.

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