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PRESS-RELEASE

Hon'ble Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Interacts with New Entrants at IIT (ISM) Orientation Programme

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, today interacted with the newly admitted students of the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad during an engaging orientation programme. The interactive session was held a day ahead of IIT (ISM)'s 45th Convocation, which will be graced by the Hon'ble President of India as the Chief Guest, in the centenary year of the institute.

Hon'ble Shri Pradhan, in his address, emphasized that education must focus on **skill development** and urged students to strive to become **job creators rather than job seekers**. He shed light on the vision and progressive roadmap of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, particularly underscoring the **importance of delivering technical education in regional and local languages** to ensure inclusive and accessible learning.

A seasoned leader, Hon'ble Shri Pradhan has served in key ministerial roles including Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Steel. He reiterated the government's strong commitment to youth empowerment through education, innovation, and holistic development.

Also present on the occasion were **Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal**, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, and **Smt. Saumya Gupta**, Joint Secretary (Technical Education), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The session witnessed the presence of **Prof. Prem Vrat**, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT (ISM); **Prof. J.K. Sukumar**, Director; **Prof. Dheeraj Kumar**, Deputy Director; **Prof. Rajni Singh**, Dean (Corporate Communications); **Prof. S.K. Gupta**, Dean (Students' Welfare); **Shri Prabodh Pandey**, Registrar; and other senior officials and faculty members.

The orientation programme not only introduced students to the academic ethos of IIT (ISM) but also set the tone for a transformative journey, as the institute prepares to celebrate its landmark convocation on August 1.

Rajni Singh

Dean (Corporate Communications)