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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **IFP 2026 Inaugurated at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad with Strong Industry-Academia Participation**

The International Conference on Innovations in Fluid Power (IFP 2026) was formally inaugurated at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad with the participation of eminent academicians, global industry leaders, and senior government officials. The conference is being organized by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, in association with the Fluid Power Society of India (FPSI).

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Ajay Singh, Deputy Director General of Mines Safety (Electrical), DGMS Headquarters; Dr. Alexander Flaig, Senior Vice President (EMS), Bosch Rexroth AG; Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad; Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director; Prof. Somnath Chattopadhyaya, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Prof. Ajit Kumar, Convenor, IFP 2026; and Prof. Niranjan Kumar, Co-Convenor, IFP 2026.

Senior executives and experts from leading organizations including Bosch Rexroth, Volvo CE, Epiroc, Bull Machines, BEML, Caterpillar, HAL, DRDO, ISRO, NLC, BCCL, Walvoil, and several other industries were present, reflecting robust industry engagement.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Ajay Singh emphasized the need for a multidisciplinary approach in modern engineering, highlighting the integration of electrical, electronics, and digital technologies with hydraulic systems. He noted that fluid power has extensive applications not only in mining but also in aerospace, construction, agriculture, and other critical sectors.

Dr. Alexander Flaig described hydraulics as a key motive power across diverse applications and stressed the importance of industry-academia collaboration. He remarked that IIT (ISM) Dhanbad has the potential to emerge as a national hub for fluid power research in India.

Prof. Sukumar Mishra spoke on the role of innovation in hydraulic technologies in shaping modern engineering solutions, while Prof. Dheeraj Kumar underlined the critical importance of fluid power systems in advancing mining technologies.

Explaining the vision behind the conference, Prof. Ajit Kumar stated that fluid power acts as the “muscle behind modern civilization,” enabling motion, control, and power across sectors such as manufacturing, mobile machinery, mining, aerospace, and renewable energy. He added that IFP 2026 is a globally recognized event with participation from nearly 20-25 leading industries from India and abroad. The conference has also received support and appreciation from the Global Fluid Power Society, underscoring its international relevance.

A major highlight of the inaugural ceremony was the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). The first MoU was signed with Minimac Systems Private Limited to establish Minimac’s Centre of Excellence in Fluid Testing, Research, and Analytics at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The MoU exchange took place in the presence of Mr. Anshuman Agrawal, Managing Director, Minimac Systems Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Harshit Agrawal, Operations Head; Prof. Parthasarathi Das, Dean (R&D); and Prof. Ajit Kumar, Centre Coordinator.

The second MoU was signed with Navier Drives Private Limited for the development of indigenous hydraulic technologies for mining and mineral exploration. The agreement was signed by Mr. Abhishek, CEO, and Mr. Shekhar C, Operations Head, Navier Drives Pvt. Ltd., along with Prof. Ajit Kumar (Principal Investigator) and Prof. Niranjan Kumar (Co-Principal Investigator), in the presence of senior dignitaries.

The inaugural ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by a plenary session featuring technical addresses by Prof. Andrea Vacca, Director, Maha Fluid Power Research Center and Professor at Purdue University, USA; Mr. Dimitrov Krishna, Managing Director, Volvo CE; Dr. Emma Frosina, Italy; Dr. Alexander Flaig, Germany; and Dr. Biju Prasad, ISRO.

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