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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Hosts Cyclothon on World Bicycle Day to Champion Environmental Sustainability and Combat Plastic Pollution

In celebration of World Bicycle Day on June 3, 2025, and in the lead-up to World Environment Day, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad organized a Cyclothon under the national initiative ‘One Nation, One Mission: End Plastic Pollution’. The event was spearheaded by the EIACP Programme Centre (Resource Partner) of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, in collaboration with the Sports & Physical Education Centre, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. It aimed to spread awareness about the mounting crisis of plastic pollution while also advocating for a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle.

Titled “*Cyclothon: Pedal the Wheels, Turn the Tide against Plastic Pollution*”, the event commenced at the Oval Ground within the IIT (ISM) campus, drawing a spirited turnout from students, faculty, and staff. Participants began the day by taking the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) pledge, read by Dr. Avantika Chandra, Information Officer, EIACP (PC-RP), reaffirming their commitment to sustainable living and environmentally conscious actions.

The Cyclothon was flagged off by Professor Sukumar Mishra, Director of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, accompanied by his wife, Smt. Sakuntala Mishra. Prof. In his address, Prof. Mishra emphasized the need for adopting eco-friendly modes of transport and reducing dependence on single-use plastics to mitigate environmental damage. The cycle rally then proceeded towards the Police Line Market area of Dhanbad, where participants actively engaged with the local community. Cloth bags were distributed to vendors and members of the public, accompanied by informative interactions that highlighted the hazards of plastic pollution and encouraged the adoption of sustainable alternatives.

Approximately 100 individuals took part in the Cyclothon, including faculty members, staff, research scholars, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and members of the IIT (ISM) Deepti Ladies Club. The event underscored the collective commitment of the IIT (ISM) community to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The successful execution of the event was supported by the guidance of Professor Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director of the institute; Mr. Prabodh Pandey, Registrar; Professor Alok Sinha, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering and Coordinator of EIACP (PC-RP); and Professor Suresh Pandian, Associate Professor in the same department and Co-Coordinator of EIACP (PC-RP). Operational coordination was managed by Mr. Bishwajit Das, Programme Officer, EIACP (PC-RP), and Mr. Avishek Baisya, Physical Education and Sports Officer, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

The Cyclothon served as a powerful symbol of environmental activism and community participation. It reaffirmed the institute’s alignment with the principles of Mission LiFE and showcased how even small, individual choices—like cycling and rejecting plastic—can have a significant, positive impact on the planet’s future.

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