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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Hosts Keynote Lecture on Environmental Issues in Food Processing as Part of Centenary Celebrations

As part of its ongoing Centenary Celebrations and under the “Mission LiFE Keynote Lecture Series [2025–26] – *Harnessing Innovation for Environmental Sustainability: Policies, Practices, and Partnerships*,” the EIACP Programme Centre (RP), Centre for Mining Environment at the Department of Environmental Science & Engineering (ESE), IIT (ISM) Dhanbad organized a keynote lecture-cum-interaction session on “*Environmental Issues of Food Processing Industries*” on May 5, 2025.

The keynote was delivered by **Mr. Ashok Agarwal**, Director of **KLA Food India Ltd.**, who shed light on the pressing environmental challenges posed by food processing industries and emphasized sustainable, resource-efficient solutions. The session resonated with the Mission LiFE campaign’s theme, “*Adopt Sustainable Food System*,” and explored approaches to reduce environmental footprints through cleaner technologies, green energy integration, and circular economy models.

Mr. Agarwal’s lecture underscored the significant role of agro-industrial systems in environmental sustainability and climate resilience. He presented practical, scalable strategies for transforming food production and processing practices — an imperative move given that, as per the United Nations, food systems account for nearly one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The session stimulated an engaging dialogue around **SDG 12** (Responsible Consumption and Production), the need for sustainable industrial practices, and the growing importance of industry-academia collaboration in driving forward the Mission LiFE agenda.

The event was organized with the valuable support of **Prof. Sukumar Mishra**, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, and **Prof. Dheeraj Kumar**, Deputy Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The programme was conducted under the guidance of **Prof. Alok Sinha**, Head of the Department of ESE & Coordinator, EIACP (PC-RP), along with **Prof. Biswajit Paul**, Professor, Department of ESE, and **Prof. Suresh Pandian E.**, Associate Professor, Department of ESE & Co-coordinator, EIACP (PC-RP).

This insightful event marked another milestone in IIT (ISM) Dhanbad’s centenary efforts to champion sustainability and environmental responsibility through thought leadership and impactful knowledge exchange.

Rajni Singh

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