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PRESS RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Hosts Workshop on Sustainable Livelihoods for Coal Mining Communities

The MEL HUB at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, in collaboration with the American India Foundation (AIF), successfully conducted a workshop aimed at fostering sustainable livelihoods in coal mining communities. The event brought together key government stakeholders and industry experts to explore opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and economic development.

Prominent attendees included officials from Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), the Lead District Manager (LDM) office, the District Agriculture Office (DAO), and the Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA). Their collective efforts sought to identify pathways for empowering communities dependent on coal mining.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural ceremony featuring an inspiring Keynote Address by Prof. M.K. Singh, Dean (Academics), IIT (ISM). This was followed by an insightful discussion on government funding and loan facilities for startup ideas, led by Shri Amit Kumar, LDM, Dhanbad. Additionally, a research presentation by Prof. Anshumali's team from the Department of Environmental Science, IIT (ISM), highlighted findings from a livelihood study conducted among informal mining workers in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, and the Korba district in Chhattisgarh.

A significant highlight of the event was the graduation of 120 trainees from the AIF Dhanbad Centre. These individuals completed training in diverse sectors such as Retail, Beauty & Wellness, Solar Technology, Mushroom Cultivation, and Tailoring, contributing to enhanced employability and sustainable community development.

The presence of Mrs. Smruti Das, Regional Director, AIF East Zone, and Sri Kumar Rajnish, National Coordinator, Livelihoods, AIF, further reinforced the commitment towards creating meaningful livelihood opportunities.

This workshop marks a crucial step towards a collaborative approach for fostering economic resilience in coal mining regions, paving the way for a more sustainable and inclusive future.

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