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PRESS RELEASE

IIT (ISM) soon to turn 100; Alumni in action; funds for the grand celebrations of IIT (ISM) have started pouring in; the recent donation pledge of Rs 1 Crore taken by Avlesh Singh, 2005 batch B Tech Mineral Engineering graduate for his alma mater sets the ball rolling in for centenary Fund. As IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, the premiere tech cradle, established in 1926 in Coal Town, Dhanbad on the lines of the Royal School of Mines, London is gearing up for Centenary Year celebrations, contributions from alumni of the institute from across the globe have started pouring in for grand celebrations.

Avlesh Singh, a 2005 batch B Tech Mineral Engineering graduate of the institute who is also co-founder & CEO of WebEngage, one of India's leading tech startups, has pledged Rs 1 crore to his alma mater and has transferred Rs 25 lakh as the first installment to the IIT (ISM) Centenary fund. The rest of the amount will be transferred before March 2026.

WebEngage, cofounded by Avlesh along with Aniket, has been identified by leading global publications, as the fastest growing tech company in the Asia Pacific for many years in a row. "I am happy to give back and I am sincerely hoping that once the news of my pledge goes out, many others would step forward" said Singh and added that the 2nd instalment of 25 lakh would be paid during the next financial year (2023-24) while the remaining amount will be provided before March '26, i.e Centenary Year of IIT (ISM).

Singh is also an active angel investor in early stage tech startups, while, the WebEngage co-founded by him, which has over 400+ employees across multiple offices in India, Dubai, Sao Paolo and Jakarta, serves thousands of customers, across India, Middle East, Latin America and South East Asia with its flagship, Marketing Automation product has raised funds worth \$30 million from Venture Capital firms like SWC Global, Blume Ventures, India Quotient, Singularity etc.

The Centenary fund was developed last year with a fund worth Rs 5 Lakh provided by Prof SP Banerjee, former Director of IIT (ISM) as per a MoU signed by him along with Prof RM Bhattacharjee, Dean (International Relations & Alumni Affairs) during the 97th Foundation day function of the institute on December 9, 2022.

Prof Bhattacharjee, an alumnus of the institute who has himself donated Rs 1 lakh as the first installment of his pledged amount of Rs 5 lakh to IIT (ISM) Centenary Fund during the 97th Foundation of the institute said ". "The generous contribution of our alumni will help us to take our alma mater to a greater height in the Second Century."

Prof Rajni Singh, Dean (Media & Branding) IIT (ISM) Dhanbad while extending thanks to generous effort of Avlesh said, "You have a special place in your heart for your IIT (ISM). Your kind deed beautifully expresses how much you feel about your alma mater".

Prof Rajiv Shekhar, Director of IIT (ISM) also lauded the contribution made by Avlesh Singh and said "The contributions made by Avlesh should symbolically serve as no less than a clarion call for other alumni to contribute to Centenary fund.

The International Relations and Alumni Affairs Department of the institute in Association with IIT (ISM) Alumni Association (ISMAA) led by, Ashok Kumar, newly appointed President has planned to generate Rs 100 crore in Centenary Fund from the Alumni contributions before 2026, which will be used for developing a large auditorium in the institute besides carrying out other development work. The institute has started approaching different chapters of the IIT (ISM) Alumni Association (ISMAA), including the IIT (ISM) Alumni Association North America (ISMAANA).



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Shri Naresh K Vashisht, Distinguished Alumnus (1967 Petroleum Engineering) also announced to provide Rs 10 crore during the 97th foundation day on December 9, 2022 for setting up of a Hydrogen and Carbon Capture and Sequestration Centre at IIT (ISM).

Shri Binay Dayal, a B Tech (Mining Engineering) pass out of the institute has also contributed Rs 1 lakh to Centenary Fund of the institute.

Rajni Singh

Dean (Media & Branding)