



For Immediate Release: February 5, 2025

PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Organizes Residential Workshop to Address Water Issues in Smaller Urban Centres

The Centre for Mining Environment, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad has inaugurated a 2.5-day residential workshop focused on addressing water issues in smaller urban centres. The workshop, supported by ACWADAM, Biome Environmental Trust, Wipro Foundation, and Megh Pyne Abhiyan, commenced today at the i2H Building of IIT (ISM) with a Plenary Session, followed by an insightful Panel Discussion on the Urban Water Scenario in Dhanbad.

Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director of IIT (ISM), graced the function as Chief Guest and highlighted the institute's various water conservation initiatives, including the establishment of a Sewerage Treatment Plant that repurposes effluents for irrigating fields, gardens, and campus landscaping. He encouraged the workshop participants to explore solutions for stormwater management and other critical water-related challenges.

Shri Ravi Raj Sharma, Dhanbad Municipal Commissioner, who attended as the Guest of Honour, provided an overview of the water supply scenario in Dhanbad. He emphasized that rainwater harvesting, and stormwater management are key focus areas for the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation.

Renowned groundwater expert and ACWADAM founder, Mr. Himanshu Kulkarni, underscored the importance of not only groundwater quantity but also its quality, stressing the need for comprehensive water management strategies.

Prof. Alok Sinha, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, elaborated on the department's history, courses, and facilities, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable environmental solutions. Additionally, Eklavya Prasad, Managing Trustee of Megh Pyne Abhiyan, a public charitable trust, outlined the workshop's objectives, including a planned field visit to different parts of Dhanbad to study local water challenges.

During the plenary session, Prof. Bishwajit Paul of IIT (ISM) discussed environmental challenges related to ensuring a sustainable water supply within the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation. Shri Mayank Bhagat, Executive Engineer at the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, provided insights into the current water supply scenario, associated challenges, and potential opportunities for improvement. Mr. Eklavya Prasad emphasized the critical role of groundwater and shallow aquifers in the region's water supply system.

The second day of the workshop will feature a panel discussion on "Urban Water Scenario and Challenges in Smaller Urban Centres Across Diverse Geographies of East India," moderated by Mr. Eklavya Prasad. Esteemed panelists include; Dr. Rinan Shah (Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence & Associate, The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University); Dr. Jayanta Basu (Environment Correspondent and Columnist); Ms. Harshita Seth (Senior Program Manager, Urban Management Centre); Dr. Subhabrata Banerjee (Senior Manager, Tata Steel Utilities and Infrastructure Services Limited); Mr. Ayan Lahiri (Divisional Manager, Tata Steel Utilities and Infrastructure Services Limited); Ms. Mahreen Matto (Team Lead, NIUA).

The final day of the workshop will feature three key panel discussions; Competing Water Needs in Small Urban Centres Across India; Strategies for Tackling Water Challenges in Small Urban Centres; Ways Forward in Urban Water Management and Governance: Challenges and Opportunities.

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