



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (भारतीय खनि विद्यापीठ), धनबाद Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad

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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Researcher Receives Prestigious GYTI Appreciation Award

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad has added another milestone to its growing research achievements as **Dr. Shivshankar Prasad**, from the Department of Chemical Engineering, has been conferred the **Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Appreciation Award 2024**. The award was presented on **January 28, 2026**, at **CSIR–National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi**, by **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.

Dr. Prasad, jointly supervised by **Prof. Ejaz Ahmad** and **Prof. Suman Dutta**, was recognised for his innovative work on the **production of 2,5-Furandicarboxylic Acid (FDCA)** — a vital biopolymer precursor derived from biomass. FDCA is considered a key building block for the development of sustainable materials and bio-based plastics, and the research contributes significantly to **green chemistry, circular economy practices, and environmentally sustainable industrial processes**.

The achievement reflects the strong mentorship culture and translational research ecosystem at IIT (ISM). Notably, Prof. Ejaz Ahmad has previously been honoured under the GYTI framework, receiving the **GYTI Award (Student) in 2018** for biomass-derived high-value chemicals and the **GYTI Appreciation Award (Faculty) in 2020** for innovation in e-waste recycling. The recognition of his student marks a meaningful continuity in innovation and sustainability-driven research.

The award comes amid a series of recent successes for the research group. In January 2026, the team secured a **₹1.51 crore funded project on Li-ion battery recycling** and was selected for an **Indo-European Horizon Project on Biohydrogen**, strengthening IIT (ISM)'s contributions in sustainable energy, materials science, and circular economy technologies.

Congratulating the awardee and mentors, the institute reaffirmed its commitment to research that bridges science, technology, and societal impact, positioning IIT (ISM) Dhanbad as a key contributor to sustainable technological innovation in India.

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