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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad to Host Pan-India Leadership and Management Development Programme for Panchayati Raj Representatives

A Confluence of Visionaries to Empower the Grassroots with Strategic Insight and Administrative Foresight

In a monumental initiative underscoring the Government of India's unwavering commitment to decentralised governance and rural empowerment, the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad, in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, is set to host a week-long Management Development Programme (MDP) from **April 7 to April 11, 2025**. This prestigious programme will convene elected representatives and panchayat functionaries from across the nation, spanning diverse geographies from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu, Assam, Odisha, and the distant shores of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands besides Jharkhand.

The MDP aspires to foster a cadre of enlightened and efficient grassroots leaders, equipped with nuanced skills in leadership, communication, governance, fiscal management, and technological adaptation—key pillars envisioned to support the national mission of **Viksit Bharat** (Developed India). Through a judicious amalgamation of academic rigor and practical exposure, the programme intends to catalyse a transformative shift in the operational ethos of local governance bodies.

The programme shall be ceremoniously inaugurated on **April 7** at the Smart Classroom of the i2h Building, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, by **Prof. Prem Vrat**, Chairman of the Board of Governors, whose erudition in leadership will set the tone for the deliberations ahead. The inaugural session will also be graced by distinguished dignitaries including **Prof. Sukumar Mishra**, Director, IIT (ISM); **Prof. Dheeraj Kumar**, Deputy Director; and **Prof. Rajni Singh**, Dean of Corporate Communications and MDP Coordinator.

Prof. Vrat's inaugural lecture on Day 1 based on Leadership and Teamwork will explore the essence of **Effective Leadership**, followed by thematic sessions such as "*Rural Electrification: A Path to Viksit Bharat*" by Prof. Sukumar Mishra; "*Bridging Gaps through Effective Communication*" by Prof. Rajni Singh; and "*Gram Panchayat and Work Management*" by Prof. Niladri Das from the Department of Management Studies and Industrial Engineering.

The second day, **April 8**, will unveil the expansive scope of developmental paradigms with sessions that include "*Technological Innovation: Aiming for Viksit Bharat*" by Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, alongside discussions on **Rural Banking** (Shri Kunal Kumar, Chief Manager, SBI ISM Branch), **Technology Adoption in Rural Healthcare** (Prof. Esha Saha of Department of Management Studies & Industrial Engineering), and **Irrigation and Agricultural Development** (Dr. Dhiraj Kumar, Horticulture Officer, IIT (ISM)). A compelling field visit to the coal mining precincts of Jharia has also been integrated to provide experiential insights into resource management and rural-industrial interface.

On **April 9**, the focus shifts to **Project Management and Monitoring**, featuring scholarly expositions such as "*Time Value of Money and Project Appraisal*" by Prof. Shashank Bansal, "*Project Management Strategies*" by Prof. Himanshu Gupta, and a visionary dialogue on the "*Role of Gram Panchayats in Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) 2030*" by Social Scientist Ms. Deepika A Bara. Prof. G.S. Pathak of Department of Management Studies & Industrial Engineering will also conduct an engaging session on "*People and Team Management*."

The fourth day, **April 10**, dedicated to **Financial Management and Good Governance**, will commence with a session on *“Strategic Financial Management in Panchayats”* by Shri Prabodh Pandey, Registrar, IIT (ISM), who will also discuss *“Preventive Vigilance: A Key to Good Governance.”* Additional sessions will illuminate subjects like *“Public-Private Partnership for Rural Development”* (Prof. Shashank Bansal) and a comprehensive audit discourse by **Shri Dhananjay Kumar, Assistant Registrar IIT (ISM)** covering *Social Audit, Internal Audit, CAG Audit, Procurement, Rate Contract*, and the **GeM portal**.

The grand culmination on **April 11** will pivot on the themes of **Skilling and Rural Administration**, commencing with *“Own Source Revenue Generation”* by Prof. Rajni Singh, followed by explorations into *Digital Marketing* (Prof. Saumya Singh), *Village Skilling Initiatives* (Dr. Sunil Kumar), and *Livelihood Generation through Local Produce* (Dr. Akansha Sinha, CEO, ACIC, IIT (ISM)). The final scholarly anchor of the event will be a thought-provoking session titled *“Challenges and Opportunities in Rural Development and Administration”* by **Shri Amitabh Ranjan**, a distinguished alumnus of IIT (ISM) and Registrar of the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

The concluding chapter will also include a post-assessment review and a **Valedictory Ceremony**, symbolising the fruition of an intellectually fertile and strategically vital exercise.

This Management Development Programme stands as a testament to IIT (ISM)'s enduring legacy of academic excellence and its progressive vision to serve as a fulcrum for grassroots governance reform. Through this initiative, the institute seeks not only to disseminate knowledge but to ignite a transformative zeal in the minds of the nation's rural changemakers, ensuring that the dream of *Gram Swaraj* matures into a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable reality.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)