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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

**IIT (ISM) Durga Puja Pandal based on the famous Dhakeshwari Temple, one of holiest Shakti Pith, inaugurated today turns out to be a huge crowd puller due to its grandeur and magnificent architecture style.**

The IIT (ISM) Durga Puja Pandal 2024, developed on the famous Dhakeshwari National Temple, one of the holiest Shakti piths, which was unveiled today by Shri Samiran Dutta, Chairman and Managing Director of BCCL, as Chief Guest in the presence of Dr. Suvrokanal Dutta, an eminent foreign policy expert, as Guest of Honor, and Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM), as Chief Patron of the IIT (ISM) Durga Puja Committee, amongst others, turned out to be a huge crowd puller for devotees from across the campus and even from different parts of Dhanbad due to its grandeur and magnificent architecture style.

The pandal based on the famous temple of Bangladesh, which was built by Ballal Sen in 1200 A.D., a king of the Sena Dynasty, is a fusion of Bagla Chowchala and Shikhor temple in architecture style. The interior view of the Pandal, like the original Dhakeshwari temple, has the view of Natamandir in front and other rooms through which elephants used to pass. Besides this, the IIT (ISM) pandal has a view of tombs where the saints used to meditate during the earlier days.

The Dhakeshwari Temple, which is the largest center of socio-cultural as well as religious activity, witnessed Durga Puja as the largest celebration during which a sea of humanity led by the tallest political leaders, including the President of Bangladesh, participated.

Dr. Dutta commended the IIT (ISM) Durga Puja Committee and its office bearers for developing the Pandal, and said, "During my last visit to IIT (ISM) in August to deliver the Viksit Bharat@2047 series lecture, I advised the Puja Committee members to develop the Pandal on the model of Dhakeshwari Temple, one of the holiest Shakti Piths, where the gem of Devi Sati's crown fell.

He further said that when he reached IIT (ISM) from Delhi yesterday (Tuesday), he was glad to see that not only is the pandal a replica of the Dhakeshwari Temple, but even the face of the idol of the goddess is almost similar to the face of the idol of the goddess at the Dhakeshwari Temple.

"Durga Puja is celebrated with traditional gaiety and fervor in different states of Eastern India, including Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, etc., but as far as my knowledge, the Pandal at IIT (ISM) is the only Pandal based on the replica of Dhakeshwari Temple of Bengal, which is one of 51 Shakt Pith," said Dutta.

Meanwhile, the festivities began after the inauguration of penal with the recitation of Vedic hymns by Shri Suvrokanal Dutta, who shared insights from Vedic Scriptures, Devi Puran, Markendeya Puran, Shiv Puran, and Vishnu Puran, discussing the origins and significance of the cult of Devi Adi Shakti or other goddesses and her relevance to contemporary society and cultural traditions in Bharat and the Indian Subcontinent. The Dhakeshwari Temple, and it is believed that the city of Dhaka was named after the goddess. It is considered an important part of Dhaka's cultural heritage, and in 1996, the temple was renamed the Bangladeshi Jatiya Mandir (National Temple).

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