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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Observes World Earth Day 2025 with Inspiring Conclave on "Our Power, Our Planet"

The EIACP Programme Centre at the Department of Environmental Science & Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, in collaboration with Yugantar Bharati, Ranchi and IIT(ISM) MEL HUB, today organized a thought-provoking event to commemorate **World Earth Day 2025**, themed **"Our Power, Our Planet."**

The event witnessed the gracious presence of **Shri Saryu Roy**, Hon'ble Member, Jharkhand Legislative Assembly and President of Damodar Bachao Andolan, as the **Chief Guest**, and **Prof. Ashok Kumar Gupta**, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, as the **Guest of Honour**.

Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, presided over the event, which brought together environmental experts, academicians, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss pressing ecological challenges and sustainable practices.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by **Prof. A.K. Sinha**, Head, Department of Environmental Science & Engineering, in the presence of **Prof. S.K. Gupta**, Dean of Students' Welfare, and **Dr. Suresh Pandian Elumalai**, Associate Professor, ESE Department.

In his keynote speech, **Shri Saryu Roy** underscored the urgency of public awareness in driving environmental conservation. "No policy or legislation can bring real change unless individuals transform their own behavior," he stated. He also highlighted the paradox of urbanization and river pollution, urging citizens to adopt self-regulatory practices to protect water bodies.

Prof. Ashok Kumar Gupta emphasized the necessity for a comprehensive **sustainable land-use policy**, highlighting its long-term benefits for ecological balance and development.

Prof. Sukumar Mishra, in his presidential address, advocated for organizing such awareness drives regularly and acknowledged the pivotal role of civil society and NGOs in influencing positive environmental action.

The conclave which began with a power point presentation of Prof. Anshumali of Dept of ESE, IIT (ISM) on impact of industrialization and mining on rivers of Jharkhand witnessed powerful insights from several eminent speakers including, **Shri Anshul Sharan**, Working President, Yugantar Bharati, **Shri Arun Kumar Rai**, Coordinator, Koylanchal, Damodar Bachao Andolan, **Dr. R.K. Singh**, Wildlife & EIA Expert, **Shri Sanjay Ranjan Singh**, Retd. DIG, Govt. of Jharkhand

Dr. R.K. Singh drew attention to the rising instances of **human-elephant conflict** due to shrinking forest cover in Jharkhand, urging proactive conservation strategies.

Shri Sanjay Ranjan Singh, reminiscing about his tenure in Dhanbad, lamented the unchecked expansion of mining overburden and called for stricter ecological safeguards.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work together in harmony with nature and ensure that "Our Power" indeed protects "Our Planet."

Rajni Singh

Dean (Corporate Communications)