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## PRESS-RELEASE

## IIT (ISM) Dhanbad commemorates the adoption of Three New Criminal Laws by organizing expert talk and poster making competition; Dr PK Agarwal, Former Judge under the Judicature of Kolkata High Court, delivers guest talk on Decoding BNS (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita)

A host of activities held today at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, including a poster making competition for the students, employees and research scholars besides a guest lecture by eminent Jurist, Dr PK Agarwal, Former Judge, under the Judicature of Calcutta High Court marked the adoption of Three New Criminal Laws.

The three criminal laws, including, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023; Bharatiya Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 that came into effect from today replaced the British Era Colonial Laws, including the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

The day long activities organized by the Office of Dean, Corporate Communications began at 11 a.m. at Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre (GJLT) Dome with the poster making competition held on different themes, including, Gender Neutrality, Crime Against Women & Children, Right to Participation, Transparency and Access to Justice during which altogether nine persons participated.

This was followed by an insightful lecture on Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 titled Decoding BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023) delivered at Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre (GJLT) by Dr PK Agarwal, Former Judge under the Judicature of Calcutta High Court

Dr PK Agarwal, while Addressing the gathering of students, research scholars, staff, officers and faculty members in presence of IIT (ISM) administration led by Prof Sukumar Mishra, Director said that Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 ensures strict penalties for crimes against women, with a focus on providing justice for victims and criminal assault.

Highlighting the victim centric approach of the BNS, 2023 he said that the new provisions ensure that victims are heard before withdrawal of any case, thus recognizing them as stakeholders in the legal process.

Regarding the provision in BNS, 2023 for punishment for crime against children he said that section 95 of BNS penalizes the exploitation of children, punishing those who hire/engage/employ children for criminal activities.

"Similarly, section 96, 98 and 99 of BNS penalize procurement of children for labour and prostitution and buying and selling of children for the purpose of prostitution" said Agarwal and added that various offences against women and child have been made gender neutral in terms of both the victims and perpetrators.

Prof Sukumar Mishra, Director IIT (ISM) during his address termed the adoption of Three Criminal Laws as a path breaking initiative to overhaul the criminal justice system.

Regarding the punishment for murder as enshrined under Section 103 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita he said, "when a group of five or more persons working in concert commits murder on the ground of race, caste or community, sex place of birth, language personal belief or any other similar ground each member of group shall be punished with death or with imprisonment for life, and shall be liable to fine.



Prof Rajni Singh, Dean (Corporate Communications) while delivering the welcome address said introduced the chief guest to the audience and said that adoption of new criminals mark the abolition of archaic laws of the British Colonial era.

Prof Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director; Prof MK Singh, Dean (Academic); Prof Amit Rai Dixit, Dean (Infrastructure) and Shri Prabodh Pandey, Registrar IIT (ISM) were also present during the function among others.

Posters and standees enumerating the provisions and details of the three criminal laws have been posted all across the campus including the hotspots like Ramdhani Tea Stall, Canteen, various hotels and admin buildings etc.

Rajni Singh Dean (Corporate Communications)