



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

For Immediate Release; January 27, 2026

## PRESS-RELEASE

### **Leadership MDP for Grassroots Representatives Launched at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, Spotlight on Governance and Communication**

The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad, commenced the first day of its five-day Leadership & Management Development Programme (MDP) for elected representatives and functionaries of the Department of Panchayati Raj (DoPR), Government of Jharkhand, with an intellectually engaging and participative set of sessions that set the tone for the days ahead.

The MDP, part of the institute's ongoing capacity-building series for governance institutions, is being organised under the leadership of **Prof. Rajni Singh, Dean Corporate Communications and Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**, for whom the programme is a visionary academic initiative. Under her leadership, IIT (ISM) has earlier conducted a national-level MDP for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), drawing participants from across the country.

Addressing the participants in the first technical session on “**Grassroots Governance and Communication**,” Prof. Rajni Singh underlined the transformative role of communication in democratic decentralisation. “Effective grassroots governance rests not only on policy, but on the ability to listen, articulate, and build trust within communities,” she observed, emphasising communication as a tool for inclusion and participatory development.

In the second session on “**Communication and Leadership**,” she explored the interpersonal and institutional dimensions of leadership in local governance. “Leadership in Panchayati Raj is not positional; it is relational. A leader communicates vision, resolves conflict, and inspires collective ownership,” she remarked. Both sessions were highly interactive, with over 40 participants—**Uppramukh, Pramukh, and Zila Parishad members** from districts including **Dhanbad, Palamu, Deoghar, Dumka, Giridih, Lohardaga, Garhwa, and Godda**—actively engaging through questions, field experiences, and case discussions.

Smt. **Lalita Devi, Zila Parishad Member, Dhanbad**, said, “The session helped us understand how communication can resolve local issues more effectively than authority alone”. She also lauded the hospitality of the organizing team.

**Santosh Kumar, District Panchayat Resource Centre, Jasidih (Deoghar)**, noted, “The leadership concepts discussed today are directly relevant to the challenges we face in the field and thus after attending the sessions we will be able to effectively use the communication skills in discharging our responsibilities on the ground”.

The latter half of the day transitioned into practice-oriented learning, as participants underwent **hands-on Computer Training** in two sessions conducted by **Shri Koushik Mondal, Principal Systems Engineer & Ex-Head, Computer Centre, IIT (ISM)**, aimed at enhancing digital familiarity in governance processes.

In the coming days, the programme will cover **village development, own source revenue, audit systems, procurement and GeM, rural healthcare technology, team management, village administration, project monitoring, renewable energy, rural finance**, and a field visit, blending academic insight with administrative relevance.

Rajni Singh  
**Dean (Corporate Communications)**