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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Bhoomi Pujan for Centenary Building and inauguration of three centers of TEXMiN at IIT (ISM)**

The Bhoomi Pujan or ground breaking ceremony of the proposed Centenary Building to be constructed at IIT (ISM) was held today in front of the Central Library Building of the institute in presence of the institute administration led by Prof JK Pattanayak, Director and large number of alumni congregated at the campus for the annual alumni meet-Basant 2024.

The day also witnessed the inauguration of three centres of Mining Technology Innovation hub of IIT (ISM), including the TEXMiN Dassault Mining Technology Excellence Centre, TEXMiN Esri India Geospatial Excellence Centre and TEXMiN-Carlson Lab by Shri PM Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Limited in presence of Prof JK Pattanayak and others including Prof Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director IIT (ISM) who is also the Director TEXMiN.

Addressing the gathering of alumni, faculty members, officers and staff during the Bhoomi Pujan, Prof JK Pattanayak, said that the process started more than 6 years ago during the tenure of Prof DC Panigrahi as Director when the additional 3.5 acers of land was provided to the institute by the state government.

He urged the alumni present during the function, including Shri PM Prasad, Chaiman Coal India Limited to contribute generously for the construction of the building which will comprise of a 2000 seating capacity auditorium and large number of smart classrooms etc.

“Though, the process began more than six years ago but it gained momentum during June July last year” said Prof Pattanayak and gave the credit for acceleration of the process for the fund raising for the building to Prof RM Bhattacharjee, Dean, International Relations and Alumni Affairs who also carried out the Bhoomi Pujan and added that construction for the building is likely to begin next month as the agency for constructing the building has already been completed.

He also urged everyone to ensure the completion of Centenary Building before 9 th December 2026 when IIT (ISM) will be celebrating it’s Centenary Foundation Day Function.

Meanwhile, addressing the alumni, faculty members, officers and staff in presence of Prof JK Pattanayak, Director IIT (ISM) after inaugurating the three centres of TEXMiN, Shri PM Prasad said, “the construction of centenary building requires lot of fund and alumni of the institute settled across the globe are exploring ways of contributing fund for the development of building.

Shri PM Prasad, was also handed over the Bhaskar Bhattacharjee Memorial Award 2023 by Prof JK Pattanayak for his outstanding contribution to Mining and Mineral during a function held at TEXMiN Auditorium.

Rajni Singh

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