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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **Rajasthani Folk, Sufi and Qawwali Mesmerise Audience at IIT (ISM)'s Centenary Foundation Week**

The fourth day of the Centenary Foundation Week at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad witnessed a vibrant celebration of Rajasthan's cultural heritage as the renowned Bhungar Khan Group delivered a spellbinding folk performance at Penman Auditorium on Thursday.

The 10-member troupe, led by acclaimed Rajasthani folk artist and Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar awardee **Bhungar Khan Manganiyar**, captivated the audience with a powerful showcase of *Rajasthani folk music, Sufi renditions, Qawwali and traditional dance*. The evening offered a rich tapestry of desert melodies, rhythmic improvisations and the iconic sound of the **khartal**, skillfully played by Bhungar Khan, who is internationally recognized for his mastery over the instrument.

The program was graced by **Sakuntala Mishra, President of Deepti Ladies Club**, who appreciated the institute's initiative to bring diverse cultural traditions to campus as part of its centenary celebrations.

Representing the musical legacy of the Manganiyar community of western Rajasthan, the group performed compositions rooted in the folk traditions of Barmer, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer. Their dynamic style, marked by spontaneous lyrical improvisation, resonated deeply with the audience and brought the spirit of the desert to life. Traditional instruments including the harmonium, dholak, kamaicha and khartal further enriched the immersive musical experience.

**Prof. Rajni Singh, Dean of Corporate Communications**, was present during the event and successfully coordinated the cultural programme, ensuring smooth execution and enthusiastic participation.

The performance added a colourful and soulful dimension to the ongoing Centenary Foundation Week, which continues to host a series of academic, cultural and community-oriented events leading up to the institute's 100th Foundation Day on December 9.

Rajni Singh

**Dean (Corporate Communications)**