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PRESS-RELEASE

South Sudan's First Seismological Observatory to be Named After IIT (ISM) Alumnus Padma Shri Dr. Harsh K. Gupta

The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad, takes immense pride in announcing that the first-ever Seismological Observatory Centre of South Sudan, constructed in Rejaf Payam, Juba County, Central Equatoria State, will be named the **Harsh Gupta Seismological Observatory Centre** in honour of its distinguished alumnus, **Padma Shri Dr. Harsh K. Gupta**.

The centre, nearing completion in Kolye West Village, is being established under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2024 between the Ministry of Mining, Government of South Sudan, and the Embassy of India in South Sudan. Funded by the Indian Embassy and regulated by the Ministry of Mining, the state-of-the-art facility will not only monitor seismic activity but also serve as a geological data centre for research, hazard assessment, and disaster preparedness.

The decision to name the observatory after Dr. Gupta recognises his unparalleled contributions to the field of earth sciences and seismology. An alumnus of the 1963 batch of the Department of Applied Geophysics, Dr. Gupta has made groundbreaking advancements, including developing global criteria to distinguish reservoir-triggered earthquakes, forecasting major seismic events, leading India's tsunami warning system project post the 2004 Sumatra earthquake, and spearheading Antarctic scientific expeditions.

Dr. Gupta last visited IIT (ISM) in September 2024 as Chief Guest at the three-day National Conference on *Emerging Trends in Earth Sciences: Geohazards and Resource Management (ETES-2024)*.

The IIT (ISM) alumni fraternity has expressed great pride at this recognition. "This is a proud and memorable moment for all of us from IIT (ISM)," said **Dr. Shib Sankar Ganguli** (2011, Applied Geophysics), ISMAA-Hyderabad Chapter.

"It is really a moment of great pride for IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, as well as Indian Earth Science and Seismology," said **Dr. B.K. Rastogi** (1966, Applied Geophysics), President, Indian Society of Earthquake Science and former DG, Institute of Seismological Research. From Oak Ridge, North Carolina, USA, **Shri P.K. Gangopadhyay** (1970, Petroleum Engineering) remarked, "Dr. Harsh Gupta doesn't require any introduction; he is one of the precious crown jewels of our alma mater. Long live Dr. Gupta and his exemplary work."

This global recognition not only honours Dr. Gupta's illustrious career but also reflects the continuing legacy of IIT (ISM) alumni contributing to science, technology, and humanity across the world.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)