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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **Springer Nature India's Research Bus Tour Reaches IIT (ISM) Dhanbad — Celebrates Research Excellence and Promotes Open-Access Awareness**

The **Springer Nature India Research Bus Tour**, organized in collaboration with the **Ministry of Education, Government of India**, reached the **Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad**, today as part of its ongoing nationwide initiative to strengthen India's research ecosystem and promote awareness on **open-access publishing**. The tour, which began on **October 6, 2025**, and continues till **November 11, 2025**, is covering **seven states, 17 cities, and 29 institutions** across India, including leading higher education and research institutes, with a special focus this year on the **North-Eastern region**.

The Dhanbad leg of the tour commenced with the **flagging off of the Research Bus**, a **tree plantation ceremony**, and the **lighting of the ceremonial lamp**, symbolizing the collaborative spirit of research and sustainability. The half-day program, held at the **Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre**, witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, researchers, and students of IIT (ISM), reflecting the institute's century-old tradition of excellence in science, technology, and innovation.

In his **welcome address**, **Prof. Partha Sarathi Das, Dean (Research & Development), IIT (ISM)**, described the event as a proud moment for the institute during its hundredth year.

"I sincerely thank Springer Nature for creating this platform where research excellence meets academic enthusiasm. When research and nature come together, they reflect the true spirit of institutions like IIT (ISM). This collaboration inspires us to pursue science and technology with purpose, ethics, and innovation," he said.

He also emphasized the need for responsible scientific communication, adding that platforms like Springer Nature enable researchers to contribute effectively to global knowledge and sustainable development.

**Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director, IIT (ISM)**, praised the initiative as an innovative effort to bring the research publishing ecosystem directly to campuses.

"It is inspiring to see Springer Nature arriving at our doorstep with this mobile research platform," he noted. "Recognizing our top researchers through a rigorous and transparent selection process highlights the high-quality research being carried out across diverse domains at IIT (ISM). The felicitation of our faculty members reflects both their excellence and the institute's growing stature in the global research landscape."

Extending a warm note of appreciation, **Shri Venkatesh Sarvasiddhi, Managing Director, Springer Nature India**, shared his admiration for IIT (ISM)'s rich legacy.

"IIT (ISM) is not just an institution—it's a century-old symbol of India's scientific and industrial evolution. From its origins in mining education to becoming a multidisciplinary IIT, it has contributed immensely to nation-building," he said. "Through the Research Bus Tour, we aim to connect with researchers across India, understand their challenges, and support them in advancing open-access, ethical, and impactful research."

He highlighted that the ongoing tour—now in its **third consecutive edition**—has become a platform to engage directly with young researchers and institutions nationwide, promoting inclusivity and collaboration in research communication.

The event also featured a series of **technical workshops and interactive sessions** led by Springer Nature experts on emerging topics in scholarly publishing. These included:

- **Open-Access Publishing** by *Yadnesh Kesri* (Publisher, Cureus)

- **ONOS Workshop** by *Bikashita Bhattacharya* (Manager, Public Policy & Outreach)
- **RISE Masterclass** by *Neha Sharma* (Editor, Applied Science)
- **Editorial Excellence Session** by *Rhea Rajpal* (Manager, Outreach & Advocacy, Scientific Reports)
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A special highlight of the event was the **Driving DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Initiative: “Her Research, Our Future”**, celebrating the outstanding contributions of women researchers from IIT (ISM).

The Seven Women Research Awardees included

**Prof. Rajni Singh** (Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences; Dean, Corporate Communications),

**Prof. Keka Ojha** (Dept. of Petroleum Engineering; Dean, Continuing Education Program),

**Prof. Saumya Singh** (Dept. of Management Studies & Industrial Engineering; Professor-in-Charge, Career Development Centre),

**Prof. Shalini Gautam** (Dept. of Fuel, Minerals and Metallurgical Engineering),

**Prof. Sheeja Jagadevan** (Dept. of Environmental Science & Engineering),

**Prof. Nirupama Mandal** (Dept. of Electronics Engineering), and

**Prof. Aditi Sengupta** (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering).

In addition, **Book Awards** were presented to **Prof. Brijesh Kumar Mishra** (Dept. of Environmental Science & Engineering), **Prof. Biplab Bhattacharyya** (Dept. of Electrical Engineering), and **Prof. Sachin Tripathi** (Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering).

**Journal Publication Awards** were conferred upon **Prof. Amit Rai Dixit** (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering; Dean, Infrastructure), **Prof. Vivekananda Mukherjee** (Dept. of Electrical Engineering), and **Prof. Sunil Kumar Gupta** (Dept. of Environmental Science & Engineering).

The event’s intellectual centerpiece was a **panel discussion on “Open Access Publishing Landscape”**, moderated by **Shri Venkatesh Sarvasiddhi**, with participation from **Mr. Vikash Kumar** (Director, Institutional & Corporate Sales, Springer Nature), **Shri Pushkar Pathak** (System Analyst–cum–Senior Programmer, ICSSR), **Prof. Partha Sarathi Das**, and **Prof. Amit Rai Dixit**. The discussion explored challenges and opportunities in making academic research more open, inclusive, and globally visible.

The program concluded with a **closing note** by **Dr. Partha De**, Librarian, Central Library, IIT (ISM), and a **felicitation ceremony** in which Springer Nature India presented a token of appreciation to IIT (ISM) Dhanbad for its century-long contributions to research excellence and innovation. The event concluded with the **National Anthem**, marking the culmination of an inspiring day dedicated to advancing open science and collaborative knowledge.

Rajni Singh

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