



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

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PRESS RELEASE

Top brains of the country to discuss Just Transition with Respect to Future of Coal and Pathways to Low Carbon Footprint at Kolkata on January 31 during a seminar jointly organized by IIT (ISM) & TERI

Top brains from across the country will be delving deep into divergent aspects of transition to a sustainable future with special reference to future of coal amidst global climatic changes on January 31 at Kolkata.

All this, as IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in association with TERI is conducting a daylong seminar, titled, **Just Transition: Future of Coal & Pathways to Low Carbon Footprint** under Mac Arthur Foundation on January 31 at Novotel Hotel, New Town, Kolkata.

The seminar being jointly convened by Prof Rajni Singh, Dean Corporate Communications, IIT (ISM) and Dr Jayanta Mitra, Senior Fellow, TERI during the three thematic sessions titled 1. Repurposing of closed mines & diversification of local economy 2. Balancing Economic Competitiveness and environmental sustainability: Green Transition for Coal Dependent MSMEs 3. Reskilling and upskilling of Green Jobs- Opportunities and Challenges as Coal Sector Transitions to a low- carbon economy will discuss all possible aspects before finally deliberating on Charting a Sustainable Path; Co- creating action for a Low Carbon, Resilient Future in the coal Sector during the Plenary Session.

“The goal of seminar is to facilitate multistakeholder engagements on repurposing of coal mining infrastructure, coal consuming MSMEs, energy transition issues and strategies for diversifying fossil fuel-based economy, encouraging cross-learning, mutual deliberation, and the development of a road map for an equitable future” said Prof Rajni Singh.

Highlighting on the background of the seminar, Dr Jayanta Mitra, Senior Fellow, TERI said, “Amid global climatic change challenges India is at the forefront of the transition to a sustainable future.”

“With vast coal reserves and reliance on coal India faces unique opportunities and challenges in reducing emissions & ensuring social economic wellbeing in the coal- dependent communities” further said Dr Mitra and added that the heavy reliance of the national economy on coal sector prompts one to reflect on the associated risks to livelihoods, infrastructure, the environment, state revenues and, overall quality of life in coal dependent regions.

“Advocating for a transition in energy sector which is just, considering the diverse impact on workers, vulnerable communities, the environment and associated industries, is essential” further further elaborated Dr Mitra adding that in this context TERI has drafted a just transition framework with the aim to guide future policies and actions basis and in-depth research on coal and coal dependent ecosystem.

“Through this framework TERI aims to offer sustainable pathways for building resilience” summed up Dr Mitra.

Prof Biswajit Paul of Department of Environmental Science and Engineering of IIT (ISM) who is also the Coordinator for the workshop while throwing light on the different thematic sessions said “As coal bearing regions are characterized by socio-economic dependence on coal sector leading to monoculture societies that impact livelihood infrastructure, the environment, state revenues, overall quality of life so repurposing of coal mines assets would enable local communities to benefit from a broader choice of income earning potential and break out the cycle of dependence on coal mono economy”.

On the other theme Prof Paul said, “Five MSME sectors are crucial for mitigation of GHG emission from Coal/sponge iron, brick, textile processing, steel rerolling mills and foundry”



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“Since most MSMEs have limited experience in energy transition, there is greater need for greater consultation with all the stakeholders to enhance, the understanding of barriers and possible remedial measures” further said that the coordinator of workshop.

Regarding the background of the third thematic session on reskilling and up skilling for green jobs Prof Paul said, “Efficiently Transitioning from traditional to clean fuel based energy generation requires prioritizing the welfare of coal miner workers particularly the contractual workers”

This involves implementation of a comprehensive strategy including the creation of a skill development action plan, to tackle economic, vulnerabilities and establishment of a reskilling framework for the successful rehabilitation of local communities dependent on coal.

Notably, the key note address during in the inaugural session will be delivered by Mr Ajay Kumar Rastogi, Chairman, Task Force, Sustainable Just Transition and Green Hydrogen, Govt of Jharkhand and Prof JK Pattanayak, Director IIT (ISM)

The special address during the inaugural session of seminar will be made by Ajay Shankar, Distinguished Fellow, TERI and Former Secretary, DIPP, Government of India

Rajni Singh

Dean (Corporate Communications)