



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

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PRESS-RELEASE

Groundbreaking Research Collaboration Between UiT Norway and IIT(ISM) Dhanbad Launched as Part of Centenary Celebrations of IIT (ISM).

In a historic milestone during the centenary celebrations of the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad (IIT(ISM)), two pioneering research projects, SEER and Bioscopy, were officially launched today at the conference hall of administrative block of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

This collaboration between IIT(ISM) Dhanbad, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, and the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) marks a significant expansion of the institute's global network of academic and research partnerships. The projects were inaugurated during an event at IIT(ISM) Dhanbad's administrative block.

The launch event was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries. Dr. Acquino Vimal, Honourable Indian Ambassador to Norway, participated virtually, alongside Prof. Jan-Gunnar Winther, Pro-Rector of UiT, and Prof. Manoj Dhar, Director of AcSIR. Joining them were leading academics and researchers, including Prof. Dilip Prasad, Prof. Krishna Agarwal, Biswajoy Ghosh, Yi Huang, Farhad Niknam, Lars Sørensen, and Florian Ströhl from Tromsø, Norway. The Indian contingent featured Dr. Nirmal Goswami and Dr. B.P. Bagh from IMMT Bhubaneswar, along with IIT(ISM) Dhanbad's senior leadership team: Director Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Deputy Director Dheeraj Kumar, Prof. Tanmoy Maity, and Mritunjay Sharma, Assistant Registrar (International Relations & Alumni Affairs).

In his address, Dr. Acquino Vimal highlighted the critical importance of leveraging advanced technologies to tackle global scientific challenges. He emphasized that the Indo-Norwegian cooperative projects represent a landmark moment in shaping the future of education and research, heralding a new era of international collaboration and innovation.

Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director of IIT(ISM) Dhanbad, remarked that this collaboration symbolizes a key milestone in the institute's centenary celebrations, enhancing its international footprint and research capabilities. He stressed the long-term impact this partnership would have on academic development and global outreach.

The SEER and Bioscopy Projects

The **Bioscopy** project, centered on advancing education and research in microscopy, is funded by the Indo-Norwegian Cooperation Programme Grant for Higher Education and Research. This initiative receives support from Norway's Directorate for Higher Education and Skills and India's University Grants Commission (UGC). Prof. Krishna Agarwal from UiT serves as the Principal Investigator, with Prof. Biswajit Chowdhury from IIT(ISM) Dhanbad as Co-Principal Investigator.

The **SEER** project, led by Prof. Dilip K. Prasad from UiT's Department of Computer Science, aims to train students and researchers in using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Earth observation. The project's objectives include monitoring environmental changes and addressing pressing climate challenges.

Prof. Dilip Prasad expressed that this collaboration strengthens academic ties between the institutions and creates pathways for global mobility, education, and innovative research through the SEER and Bioscopy projects.

Prof. Krishna Agarwal noted that these initiatives unite a network of prestigious partners, including Norinova, AcSIR India, and prominent researchers. She emphasized the projects' contributions to climate monitoring, sustainability research, and the development of modern educational models through interdisciplinary collaboration.

The launch of SEER and Bioscopy during IIT(ISM) Dhanbad's centenary celebrations underscores the transformative potential of international partnerships in addressing global challenges. This collaboration between UiT Norway and IIT(ISM) Dhanbad represents a bold step forward in fostering innovation, education, and research excellence.

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