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Press Release

Umeed 2025: A Celebration of Talent, Culture, and Social Commitment at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad

The Annual Fest "**Umeed**", organized by the Student Society of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad under the banner of the **Centre of Societal Mission**, brought together students from across the district, including children from economically disadvantaged sections of society. The event, hosted at the Penman Auditorium, featured an array of cultural and educational activities, showcasing exceptional talent and commitment to societal upliftment.

The inaugural session was graced by **Prof. Sukumar Mishra, Director, IIT (ISM)** as the Chief Guest, who praised the participants for their remarkable performances. Notably, the event included cultural programs such as the mesmerizing dance performance "**Nrityangan**", the musical extravaganza "**Dhwani**", the vibrant painting contest "**Chitrahaar**", and intellectually stimulating events like the chess contest "**Shay and Maat**" and the science exhibition "**Mastermind**".

Highlighting the significance of cultural expressions, Prof. Mishra lauded the contributions of specially-abled children from **Pehla Kadam School**, who delivered an inspiring performance. He emphasized the growing global academic focus on understanding the impact of music and dance on the human brain and hinted at the introduction of similar courses in IITs in the near future.

"**Music, dance, and cultural activities do more than entertain—they stimulate the mind. As engineering evolves, so does our understanding of these profound impacts,**" said Prof. Mishra. He also elaborated on the distinction between **Gyan (knowledge)** and **Vigyan (scientific inquiry)**, encouraging students to embrace exploration and innovation.

Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director of IIT (ISM), commended the various social initiatives of the Centre of Societal Mission, such as computer training, blood donation drives, and academic coaching for underprivileged children. Addressing the young participants, he urged them to seize the opportunities provided by IIT (ISM), emphasizing the rare privilege of performing at such a prestigious platform during their school years.

Prof. Sanjeev Anand Sahu, Head of the Centre of Societal Mission, provided an overview of the diverse initiatives undertaken by the center. He highlighted how these efforts empower underprivileged communities, nurture young talent, and foster a culture of inclusivity.

At the **Science Exhibition**, students from various schools displayed innovative models, showcasing creativity and a passion for scientific discovery. The event exemplified how academic curiosity, combined with cultural celebration, can inspire future generations.

"**Umeed**" stands as a testament to IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's unwavering commitment to societal well-being and holistic development. By providing a platform for children to explore their potential, the institute reinforces its role as a beacon of education and community service.

Through, its **Centre of Societal Mission**, IIT (ISM) actively engages in empowering communities and fostering sustainable progress.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)