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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF  
SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

## **MoU Signing Ceremony between IISWBM and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

### **1. Opening Remarks – IISWBM Representative**

- The meeting commenced with a welcome address emphasizing the shared vision of both institutions towards building a **cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future**.
- The importance of institutional collaboration in addressing **water security, sanitation, and environmental challenges** was highlighted.

### **2. Address by Prof. (Dr.) Abhijit Chakraborty, President, BoG, IISWBM**

- Dr. Chakraborty emphasized the need to **appoint nodal officers from both institutions** to ensure effective coordination.
- He highlighted the importance of translating policy and institutional knowledge to the **grassroots level**, including:
  - Urban areas
  - Semi-urban areas
  - Rural communities
- The collaboration was described as a means to **percolate technical knowledge and sustainable practices** to lower levels of society.

### **3. Address by Prof. (Dr.) K. M. Agrawal, Director, IISWBM**

- Dr. Agarwal spoke on the importance of **joining hands for a noble cause**, particularly in the domain of water and sanitation.
- Key points highlighted:
  - Water is an essential component of **daily human activities**.
  - Ensuring **water security** both in terms of **quality and quantity** is a pressing concern.
  - The institute's expertise in **environment, water management, and allied domains** will add significant value to joint initiatives.
- He also mentioned that **advanced treatment technologies** developed by NISWAS can support sustainable water solutions.

#### **4. Address by Mr. Priyantu Mandal, IAS, JS cum Director and Head, SPM-NIWAS**

- Mr. Mandal highlighted that both IISWBM and NISWAS possess **complementary expertise**, which can be effectively leveraged.
- Key focus areas discussed:
  - IISWBM's strength in **policy, management, and business aspects**
  - NISWAS's strength in **technical and field-level water solutions**
- He emphasized the need to address:
  - Drinking water availability in rural areas
  - Sanitation challenges
- It was clarified that the collaboration would extend beyond rural areas to include:
  - Government sector
  - Government institutions and departments
- The partnership will function **as per government needs and requirements**.
- Collaboration with other **national and international institutions** was also encouraged.
- All activities will fall within the broader **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)** framework.
- Financial and operational aspects, including **direct coordination with vendors and expenditure management**, were briefly discussed.

#### **5. Institutional Role & Environmental Perspective**

- NISWAS emphasized its role in contributing to the **environmental component of development projects**, particularly in water-related interventions.
- The collaboration aims to integrate:
  - Environmental assessment
  - Water treatment solutions
  - Community-level implementation

#### **6. Closing Remarks – Dr. Surajit Chakraborty, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Department of Environment Management, IISWBM**

- Mr. Dey concluded the meeting by reiterating the long-term value of the MoU.
- He expressed confidence that the partnership would lead to:
  - Practical solutions
  - Policy-relevant outcomes
  - Capacity building and societal impact
- He thanked all participants for their valuable inputs and support.

#### **7. Key Outcomes of the Meeting**

- Mutual agreement to sign the MoU between IISWBM and SPM NISWAS.
- Identification of water security, sanitation, and environmental sustainability as key collaboration areas.
- Decision to nominate nodal officers from both institutions.
- Alignment of activities under the WASH framework with a focus on community impact.





