



For Favour of Publication

Patna, July 7. Dr. Santosh Kumar Suman, Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology, Government of Bihar underscored the critical role of data and emerging technology in policy decision-making. He was speaking as the Chief Guest on the occasion of the **Fourth Shaibal Gupta Memorial Lecture** featured during the Inaugural Session of a two-day workshop titled "Data-driven Future in the Age of Artificial Intelligence", organized by the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) today. Addressing the gathering, he remarked that the IT department is taking proactive measures to address cyber threats, and is committed to protecting the personal data of people. The priority of the government, he said, is the upliftment of the marginalized community using accurate data.

Delivering the **Keynote Address and Memorial Lecture**, the Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission, Dr. Rajeeva L. Karandikar said computing techniques and communication have evolved over the years, making it easier to collect and analyse data. He cited various examples from history to illustrate the crucial role of data collection and its analysis. Giving one example from World War II, Dr. Karandikar said improvements were made in the fighter aircrafts only after the human mind had analyzed the data coming in and made suggestions. He said, "Unless you understand what you are talking about while analyzing data, it will never work in the real world."

Earlier, the Member-Secretary of ADRI, Dr. Ashmita Gupta set the context of the workshop. She said that the fourth Industrial Revolution has been led by the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. She also said that data is as valuable as Gold, and is the new currency driving the modern economy. Professor Ajit Sinha, Director, ADRI welcomed both the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker. Professor Sinha hoped that ADRI will become a fulcrum for the revival of intellectual culture in Bihar.

The inaugural session was followed by three technical sessions. The workshop was attended by researchers in the disciplines of economics, statistics, computer science, health, and law and governance from India and abroad.

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