

NSDC-IIM-R MoU to boost entrepreneurship of tribals

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Ranchi: The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Skill India Mission have tied up with the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi (IIM-R) to work towards bolstering livelihood opportunities for indigenous and tribal population in the state through skill-based interventions at the grassroot level.

Officials said the collaboration talks were initiated in March this year and an official memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in April. Formal exchange of MoU took place on July 31.

The programme includes an internship which is designed to provide exposure to 80 interns from IIM Ranchi around social projects by making them a part of planning and strategy development to devise market models for indigenous products and practices.

"The focus of the programme will be in sectors such as medicinal plants, horticulture, and aromatic essential oil segments in tune with the local resources and culture," an official statement said.

Officials said that the first

Representative Image



batch of internship involving second-year students from the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM), IIM Ranchi completed their five-day visit at Vikas Bharti, Bishunpur in Gumla. "The internship started on May 1 and ended on May 26 with one-week rigorous field visit," an official said.

Padmashri Ashok Bhatgat, who helms Vikas Bharti Bishunpur, said, "This opportunity will enable students to find solutions for community-based livelihoods."

CEO of NSDC and MD, NSDC International Ved Mani Tiwari said, "Fostering entrepreneurship opportunities in agriculture, medicinal plants and aromatic oils is a crucial step towards empowering the tribal communities and fine-tuning their skills in niche areas. Through our ef-

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forts, we aim to provide skill upgradation, robust training, and the necessary toolkit to students of IIM Ranchi to extend the mentoring support to India's tribal communities."

After the internship, the plans submitted by each of the groups will be evaluated for adoption, funding and implementation on the ground. "The research on tribal entrepreneurship will represent a comprehensive picture of the enterprises owned by the tribes in tribal areas. The initiative also serves as an opportunity for students to fine-tune their basics and fundamentals on rural marketing, cooperative societies, and mutually aided self-help groups under the guidance of IIM experts," IIM Ranchi director Deepak Kumar Srivastava said.