

# IIM RANCHI'S MGNF FELLOWSHIP

## Empowering Rural Communities Through Skill Initiatives

PNS : RANCHI

In partnership with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the ambitious SANKALP scheme, IIM Ranchi along with Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu Skill Missions had undertaken a transformative role in mentoring fellows from Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand as part of the two-year Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF). The MGNF program is a blend of structured classroom sessions, known as the Academic Module, held at IIM Ranchi, and immersive field experiences at the district level, referred to as District Immersion. This initiative is geared towards formulating effective plans and removing obstacles to bolster employment prospects, economic growth, and liveli-

hoods in rural areas, with a keen focus on district-specific skill ecosystems. The program's culmination is scheduled for October 31st, graced by the Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, alongside other distinguished government officials and dignitaries.

With 61 fellows representing 61 diverse districts across Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu, the MGNF program offers a comprehensive curriculum covering a broad spectrum of subjects, including management methods, public policy, research, communication, and skill ecosystems. Under the guidance of esteemed IIM professors, the fellows have had access to multiple Skill Cafes and have actively participated in Skill Conclaves, fostering a transformative learning journey. Two years



of intensive district immersion coupled with extensive classroom engagement has effectively bridged the realms of management and public policy, administration and academia, and theory and practice. This collective effort aims to strengthen and insti-

tutionalize district skill ecosystems through innovative solutions.

The MGNF Fellowship has left an indelible mark on the regions it has touched. In Gumla, Jharkhand, it elevated the implementation of the Millet Mission, receiving

national recognition with a Prime Minister's award. In Kallakurichi, Tamil Nadu, the preservation of traditional wood carving has been enhanced through skill training and improved market linkages. Lohardaga's local tribal communities have been upskilled, making their products more competitive in the market. Empowerment programs tailored for women masons have made a significant impact in Latehar and Madurai. Tirunelveli saw Skill-on-Wheels programs that brought practical skills to government schools. In Godda, lemongrass oil extraction units have been established, offering new economic prospects. Kunti capitalized on its natural produce, Lah, through upskilling programs. Karur's apparel sector received a boost from Project Palam, a specific

skilling program. These remarkable stories, though just a fraction of the positive impact generated by the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship, underscore the transformative potential of the initiative.

The journey of the program has encompassed 353 District Skill Committee meetings, the development of over 60 district development plans, and the successful implementation of numerous innovative solutions. These impressive achievements illustrate the substantial contributions made by the MGNF fellows over the last two years.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship, guided by the spirit of IIM Ranchi, stands as a testament to the significant impact it has made in empowering rural communities and fostering holistic development.