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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **MSME Ministry to Establish Extension Centre at IIT (ISM) to Boost Industrial Growth and Skill Development in Jharkhand**

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, will soon establish an Extension Centre at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, aimed at providing localized, high-impact support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region. The initiative is part of a national network of 100 upcoming Extension Centres designed to empower industries through technical assistance, skill development, and advisory services.

The Extension Centre at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad will feature state-of-the-art testing facilities for industrial products and machinery, along with infrastructure for comprehensive skill development training. It will be one of two such centres proposed in Jharkhand, with the other located in Ranchi.

The announcement was made by Shri Deepak Kumar, Assistant Director, MSME, during a Stakeholder Discussion on the Extension Centre held at the Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The event was organized by the Ministry of MSME in collaboration with Ircan International Limited (IRCON) and M/s Grant Thornton Bharat LLP (GT).

Over 100 industry stakeholders attended the session, including Shri Rajiv Sharma, General Secretary, Jharkhand Industries and Trade Association (JITA), and Shri Rajesh Gupta, former President, Federation of Dhanbad Zila Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Prof. Ajit Kumar, Faculty-in-Charge, Innovation and Skill Development, IIT (ISM), also participated in the discussions.

Representatives from Grant Thornton Bharat LLP shared further details on the MSME Ministry's nationwide initiative, highlighting that one of the 20 proposed Technology Centres across India will be developed in Bokaro, Jharkhand. These Centres aim to enhance the country's industrial ecosystem by strengthening MSMEs through advanced infrastructure and targeted interventions.

IRCON has been appointed as the Nodal Agency for the implementation of the project, while Grant Thornton Bharat LLP is serving as the Technical Consultant. The meeting at IIT (ISM) provided a dynamic platform to deliberate on the technical requirements, collaborative frameworks, and the draft Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The programme began with a welcome address by GT representatives, followed by a keynote from Shri Deepak Kumar and presentations by IRCON and GT on the strategic roadmap for the Extension Centres. An interactive Q&A session enriched the dialogue, enabling stakeholders to share valuable feedback.

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