

Maha govt willing to partner with IIM-N for innovation and research park: Desai

■ Staff Reporter

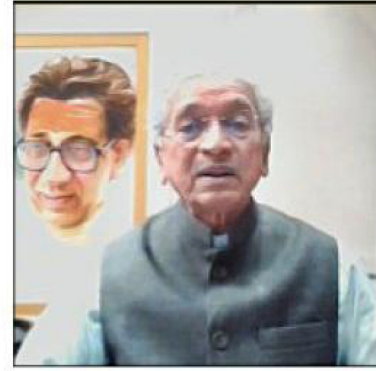
PRESENTING a futuristic plan for developing an all-in-one innovation and research park in Multi-Modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) area, Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director of The Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIM-N) made a detailed presentation before the Maharashtra Industries Minister Subhash Desai and demanded 60-acre land for the project.

The proposed innovations and research park will boost investment and employment opportunities in MIHAN, Dr Metri assured Desai during the virtual interaction.

Elaborating on the importance of the high-tech facility, Dr Metri said, it would definitely attract start-ups and scale up the existing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and provide employment to the young generation of Maharashtra.

"It will prove to be a magnet for corporates and a soft landing opportunity for foreign-based start-ups in favour of MIHAN," he claimed.

Minister Desai acknowledged IIM-N's success of achieving incredible progress in a very short time and said that the State industries ministry would be very happy to support the initiative. He expressed strong belief in Balasaheb Thackeray's ideology and said, "Dividing the state



Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director of IIMN (left) interacting with Industries Minister Subhash Desai, virtually, on Tuesday.

is not a solution but developing the state or the region is the key to development and IIM-N is scripting a success story for Vidarbha and Maharashtra as a whole.

With this facility, IIM-N is creating a global centre, Desai hoped.

"Let us all join hands and shoulder the responsibility of making this institute the best of all IIMs in the country," the minister added.

Experts on the issue opined that the Innovation Park is the most critical need of the state and will prove to be a strategic investment by the State.

Providing more information about the Park, Dr Shivaji Dhawad, chief operating officer InFED, said, the 'Innovation and Research Park' will be a combination of a cluster, an

innovation supercluster, ecosystem, research park and creative innovation hub all under one roof.

This facility will facilitate driving the next wave of economic growth as compared to already saturated regions, Dr Dhawad observed.

Suresh Rathi, VIA President, said, "This will re-energise MIHAN and offer a regional perspective on skills and internal mobility."

Rathi said VIA has been associated with IIM-N since its inception and believes that the institute and its expansion will bring in more industries to Vidarbha.

Atul Pande, immediate past President of VIA, Prashant Agrawal, Chairperson VIA, also urged the minister to positively consider the proposal tabled by IIM-N.