

## India needs more Centres of Excellence to promote competitiveness of MSMEs

Government of India may partner with industries, academic & research institutions and financial institutions to set up Centres of Excellence to promote skill development, technology adoption, business process innovation and evolve innovative financing solutions for MSME units. Such Centres of Excellence need to be set up across various districts of the country to support the competitiveness of 6.5 crore MSMEs. This newsletter highlights some of the Centres of Excellence set up in the last decade across various parts of the country to support MSME sector.

On May 11, 2022, Government of India inaugurated the first Centre of Excellence for Khadi at National Institute of Fashion Technology to create benchmarked design processes of global standards of quality, design, and merchandising. The Centre of Excellence will function as a hub in Delhi and spokes in Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata and Shillong.

The Centre of Excellence will develop Knowledge Portal for Khadi to disseminate design directions to reach out to all the Khadi Institutions. Knowledge portal entails design directions on—colour, silhouettes, weave, surface, textures, prints, closures, size chart and trims and finishes.

In 2014, Union Ministry of MSME set up a Centre of Excellence for MSMEs at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru for implementing DESIGN CLINIC SCHEME under National Manufacturing Competitiveness Program (NMCP). IISc assists MSMEs by developing technologically-new products and processes and supports final year engineering students in developing innovative projects for MSMEs.

Over these years, IISc has supported various innovative projects for MSMEs, which include zero waste production of charcoal, responsive cradle with integrated baby monitoring and auto swinging, precision watering system using wireless sensor, to name a few.

In 2015, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) partnered with National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune to lead an academic research programme in the field of MSME Financing and identify innovative models and methods for MSME financing. The Centre of Excellence will also disseminate knowledge based on national and international best practices in financing MSMEs and build the capacities of the banks around these purposes.

In 2018, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry partnered with Indo-German Chamber of Commerce to set up a Centre of Excellence to assist MSMEs in innovation and adherence to quality standards.

In February 2020, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (Kassia) set up a Centre of Excellence and Innovation to impart skill training to rural youth at Dobaspet, about 40 kms from Bengaluru. The Centre of Excellence will have an exhibition centre, six learning centres, six technology centres, food court and other facilities. The Centre planned to impart skills in CNC Programming and Operation, Basic Electricals and Electronics, Light Industrial Fabrication, Garments and Footwear, thereby supporting skilling requirement of 6.5 lakh MSME units in the state.

## Notifications

### Press Information Bureau

Minister launches the second phase of MSME RuPAY Credit Card

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1824233>

Inauguration of the first Centre of Excellence for Khadi

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1824093>

KVIC is the only company in India to have recorded a turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1821521>

India Merchandise Exports cross USD 40 billion in April 2022

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1825071>

India considering PTA with Oman

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1824773>

### DGFT

Notification of new RoDTEP regime

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/344ef686-c432-4562-a94e-740981685d5d/Notification%20no%204%20dt%2011%2005%2022%20-%20English.pdf>

Amendment in export policy of guar gum

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/6b37bd95-b960-4093-b935-5f7e9200fac/Noti%2003%20Eng.pdf>

### CBIC

Determination of origin of goods under India-UAE CEPA

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2022/cs-nt2022/csnt39-2022.pdf>

Tariff rates under India-UAE CEPA

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2022/cs-tarr2022/cs22-2022.pdf>