

MSME TECHNOLOGY FACILITATION CENTRE at Synergy 2015 (North 24 Parganas-Nadia) - empowering Bengal's Enterprise

Globally, MSMEs or the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are the engines of economic growth that promote equitable growth and enhance inclusiveness. These are also the backbone of the Indian economy. No wonder, West Bengal is focussing on the enhancement of this sector. According to the West Bengal MSME Policy 2013-18, the vision is to create a sustainable ecosystem in the MSME sector which can maximize the utilization of resource and widen the area of operation to make the state emerge as the MSME leader in the country in the next ten years.

In this context it may be noted that in September 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed between CSIR and the Government of West Bengal regarding the establishment of the MSME-Technology Facilitation Centre (TFC). CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata, is the Nodal Centre for this project and houses the TFC, which CSIR set up together with the Government of West Bengal.

The Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises and Textiles, Government of West Bengal organizes an event named Synergy to focus on multi-dimensional and customized solutions to the MSME business needs. This also includes guidance on regulatory compliances and financial aid.

During 29 May 2015 to 31 May 2015, Synergy 2015 North 24 Parganas, Nadia was organized at the Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Science and Research, Panihati, to attract potential entrepreneurs and to extend supports to existing MSMEs particularly those in the districts of North 24 Parganas and Nadia. It is interesting because this area has the potential to be selected for the creation of Electronic cluster and Photonics cluster. The town of Naihati also has the potential for the setting up of a Technology Park for electronics and ICT-enabled technologies. Thus this particular Synergy event could well be seen as an exploratory event to gauge the capacity building required to tap an untapped potential. This was the fifth Synergy event in the series and was well-attended by high-ranking government officials, entrepreneurs and interested members of the public. The event was extensively covered by the print and electronic media.

The Theme of the MSME-TFC Pavilion during Synergy - 2015, North 24 Parganas, Nadia was: Devices, Instruments and Machinery. Efforts were made to ensure that technologies suitable for these two districts were displayed so as to address local needs. It is pertinent to note that CSIR-CGCRI has a long history of accomplishments in application oriented research with particular emphasis on optical telecommunications and photonic components. Currently, the Institute has indigenous technology to produce specialty fibres for many important applications. These have appreciable market potential. Thus devices/technologies from the Fibre Optics Laboratory at CSIR-CGCRI were chosen for display at the pavilion.

In consonance with the theme; Erbium-doped Fibre Amplifier for CATV Application; Specially Designed Optical Fibre and Jacketed Optical Fibre were displayed. Erbium-doped fibre amplifier working in the C-band is an essential instrument for long distance trouble-free and uninterrupted communication. Specialty Optical fibres from CSIR-CGCRI include: Rare earth doped fibres for optical amplifiers, large core rare-earth doped fibres for fibre lasers, photosensitive fibres for writing Bragg gratings, highly non-linear PCF for supercontinuum sources, radiation soft fibres for dosimeter applications, radiation resistant fibres for nuclear environments and fibres for sensor applications.

Specially designed posters on cutting-edge technologies were put up and attracted a lot of attention from prospective entrepreneurs. During the Inaugural session, attention was paid to discussions on different areas of importance to the MSMEs such as: Statutory Norms and Compliance in MSME Sector; Pollution Norms and issues affecting the growth of MSMEs, Tax-related issues; Financial Literacy; Norms and provisions related to Power usage; Business Plan Preparation etc.

On the second day, there were sessions on Packaging; Fire Safety (with demonstration); Corporate to name a few areas. In addition there was provision for online facility for filing of Entrepreneur's Memoranda. CLINICS-cum-HELP DESKS were set up to provide immediate access to information and guidance to those seeking it. Other CLINICS/HELP DESKS at the event included: MSME Pavilion: Handloom, Khadi, Food processing etc., North 24 Parganas District Help Desk and Nadia District Help Desk, Statutory compliance single window: MSME Facilitation Centre (MFC), Single Application Gateway (SAG) and www.myenterprisewb.in. Visitors to the Finance Pavilion-Clinics had access to different banks such as: SBI, UBI, PNB, Allahabad Bank, CBI, IB, BOB, UBOI, UCO IOB, Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, West Bengal Financial Corporation, Bandhan etc.

The Statutory Compliance Pavilion included Clinics hosted by different Government Departments. The Infrastructure Pavilion included Clinics by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, West Bengal Industries Development Corporation, West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation etc. The Marketing Pavilion included Clinics by National Small Industries Corporation, MSME-Development Institute, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Bureau of Indian Standard. Similarly, the Commercial Tax Pavilion was hosted by Directorate of Commercial Taxes; the Skilled- HR Pavilion by Department of Technical Education & Training and the Project Consultancy Pavilion by Institute of Company Secretaries of India, WEBCON, Small Industries Development Bank of India, etc.

