



Shri Kalraj Mishra, Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) addressing the delegates of two-days' Workshop on MSME Virtual Cluster organized by The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) at its NOIDA Campus on June 06-07, 2014. The other dignitaries present on the occasion inter-alia were : Shri Madhav Lal, Secretary (MSME) (*third from left*) ; Shri S.N. Tripathi, Joint Secretary (SME) (*second from left*) and Shri Arun Kumar Jha, Director General, NIESBUD (*extreme left*).

Workshop on MSME Virtual Cluster

NOIDA, June 06, 2014 : A two-days' Workshop on Creating New Opportunities for MSMEs through Virtual Cluster is being organized by The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) at its NOIDA Campus from June 06-07, 2014. The Workshop was inaugurated by Shri Kalraj Mishra, Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, at the Campus of the Institute today in the august presence of Shri Madhav Lal, Secretary (MSME); Shri S. N. Tripathi, Joint Secretary (SME) and Shri B. H. Anil Kumar, Joint Secretary (ARI), among others.

The Workshop being organized with the objective of inter-alia reviewing the progress in implementing Virtual Cluster so far and carving out a Roadmap for future for optimum results, is being attended by over 100 representatives/captains of Industry/MSMEs and those of educational/ research/technical institutions; chambers of commerce and industry; NGOs; academia; professionals etc. besides Government officials from different ministries/departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister outlined the contribution of MSME sector in the economic progress of the country and resolve of the new Government to give impetus to the plans and policies governing the units in the Sector through providing a coordinated approach encompassing all the organizations of the Ministry of MSME. The Hon'ble Minister also highlighted the virtues of economic enterprises in removing the social evils.

Advocating innovative measures for solving the problems being faced by MSMEs like Finance and Marketing through a single-window time-bound clearance process, the Hon'ble Minister exhorted all the stakeholders to work with a sense of zeal and mission for achieving the twin-goals of self-reliance and independence representing the basics of entrepreneurship.

Virtual Cluster, a dedicated Web-based Portal, is an initiative of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched on March 01, 2014 and enables the small businesses located anywhere in the country as well as the other stakeholders to register instantly thereon and thus avail prompt linkages with each other. This Web Platform facilitates the stakeholders to leverage the expertise of each other for their mutual growth and benefit.

Shri Madhav Lal, Secretary (MSME) in his Key-note Address on the occasion while delineating the details of Virtual Cluster, exhorted the delegates at the Workshop to come out with a set of implementable suggestions and recommendations to take the Concept further for making it a virtual reality for all the stakeholders.

Shri Arun Kumar Jha, Director General of NIESBUD while welcoming the dignitaries/delegates outlined the rationale of launching Virtual Cluster and the progress made in its implementation during the initial three months of its launch.