

ni-msme News Corner (NNC)



An In-house monthly magazine published by National Institute for MSME (ni-msme)

National Conference on Green Hydrogen

The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme) successfully hosted a two-day National Conference on Green Hydrogen on 19 to 20 February 2026 at ni-msme. Designed to accelerate India's clean energy transition, the event brought together a diverse cohort of policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, and aspiring engineers. By utilizing a hybrid format, the conference achieved a broad national reach, engaging over 150 delegates including virtual participants from Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan. This blended approach fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas across geographies, setting a collaborative tone for the sessions that followed.



Day One commenced with an inaugural session that transitioned into high-impact technical deliberations regarding industrial sustainability. Dr. U. K. Choudhury, former Executive Director of BHEL, addressed the vital role of green hydrogen in decarbonizing heavy industries, specifically emphasizing its

transformative potential within the steel, cement, and manufacturing sectors. Complementing this, Mr. Bharathu A. highlighted the broader trajectory of green energy and net-zero transitions, while Dr. G. Naga Srinivasulu from NIT Warangal provided technical depth with insights into PEM fuel cell technologies and their industrial applications.

A significant highlight was the "Multiverse of Hydrogen – HyCA" session, conducted by Mr. Gopichand Anumolu and Mr. Aditya Pramod of Atlast MotoGen Pvt. Ltd.

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This session was particularly noted for its practical approach to hydrogen applications and startup opportunities. The day concluded with energetic "Just A Minute" (JAM) sessions, where participants articulated concise, impactful perspectives on carbon-neutral transitions.

The second day focused on emerging technologies and strategic policy perspectives, with a particular emphasis on India's National Green Hydrogen Mission.

While the morning sessions provided a roadmap for national priorities, the most inspiring segment was the student presentation session. Students from Electrical, Electronics, Mechanical, and Civil Engineering backgrounds showcased innovative projects ranging from hydrogen-powered microgrids and fuel cell efficiency enhancements to safe storage infrastructure and smart city integration. The research quality and technical clarity displayed by these students earned significant praise from both industry experts and academic representatives.



The conference concluded with a group discussion and valedictory session that reinforced the necessity of academia-industry collaboration and the active participation of MSMEs in the green hydrogen ecosystem. Overall, the event served as a vital platform for knowledge exchange and youth engagement.

By integrating policy dialogue with technological exploration and startup innovation, ni-msme demonstrated its steadfast commitment to supporting India's clean energy ambitions. The proceedings not only underscored the technical requirements for achieving net-zero goals but also highlighted the immense potential of the next generation of engineers to drive India's sustainable energy revolution.



Hindi workshop on Bharathi : Bahubhashi Anuvaad Saarathi

The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme) conducted a high-level one-day Hindi workshop titled "Bharathi: Bahubhashi Anuvaad Saarathi" on 26 February 2026. Organized by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, in association with C-DAC, the event was coordinated by the Town Official Language Implementation Committees (TOLIC) 1, 2, 3, 4, and various PSUs. The workshop featured Dr. Najib-ul-Hasan, Director of NRIUMSD, Hyderabad, as the Chief Guest. Guests of Honor included Dr. Shreekant Sharma, Director of SEE, and Shri Anirban Kumar Biswas, Deputy Director (Implementation) from the Regional Office of the Department of Official Language in Bengaluru. Other prominent dignitaries sharing the dais included Dr. Shashipal Singh of C-DAC Bengaluru, and the Member Secretaries of various TOLICs: Dr. Rajnarayan Awasthi (PSUs), Dr. Mohd. Kashif Ahmed (TOLIC-1), Smt. Anita Pandey (TOLIC-2), Shri C. V. Subbarao (TOLIC-3) and Dr. Shyamsunder Sahu (TOLIC-4).



The event commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp and the felicitation of the dignitaries. In his welcome address, Dr. Rajnarayan Awasthi greeted the officials and expressed his gratitude to the Department of Official Language, C-DAC, and ni-msme for their collaboration and for providing the necessary facilities to host the workshop. Following this, Dr. Shreekant Sharma conveyed greetings on behalf of the Director General of ni-msme and highlighted the institute's dedicated efforts in propagating the official language. He specifically commended Dr. Shirish Kulkarni, Hindi Translator at ni-msme, for his significant contributions toward notifying the institute under Rule 10(4) of the Official Language Rules, 1976. Furthermore, Dr. Sharma lauded the Department of Official Language and C-DAC for developing the sophisticated "Bharathi" translation software, which streamlines daily administrative tasks across Hindi, English, and other Indian languages.

The collaborative spirit of the event was further echoed by Dr. Kashif Ahmed, who appreciated the consistent guidance provided by Shri Anirban Kumar Biswas and the ongoing cooperation between ni-msme and TOLIC-1. Shri C.V. Subbarao also expressed his satisfaction regarding the rare opportunity to bring all Hyderabad-based TOLIC member offices together under one roof.

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Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programmes (AD-ESDP)

i) Enterprise Risk Management:

Advanced Entrepreneurship Development Programme (AD-ESDP) on Enterprise Risk Management was successfully organized by Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialisation (MGIRI), Wardha (Nagpur Division) from 23 to 27 February 2026. The programme was sponsored under the ESDP Scheme of O/o DCMSME, Ministry of MSME.

The five-day programme focused on strengthening enterprise risk management capabilities among MSMEs, equipping them to identify, assess, and mitigate various business risks. A total of 20 participants from different districts of Maharashtra actively participated and successfully completed the training programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ashutosh Murkute, Director General of National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, who emphasized the importance of building risk-aware and resilient MSMEs in today's dynamic and competitive business environment.



During the programme, experts from industry, entrepreneurship, government departments, and academia shared valuable insights with budding entrepreneurs. The sessions comprehensively covered financial, operational, legal, governance, and strategic risk management aspects.



The programme was coordinated by Ms. V. Swapna, Faculty Member (ni-msme, Hyderabad), and Dr. Shravan Chandak (MGIRI, Wardha), who ensured smooth execution and effective delivery of the sessions.

Special sessions on Intellectual Property Rights were delivered by Ms. V. Swapna, Faculty Member, ni-msme. A session on MSME Schemes and Institutional Support was delivered by Dr. E. Vijaya, Director, ni-msme, highlighting various Government initiatives and support mechanisms available to MSMEs.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session on 27th February 2026 in the presence of Dr. E. Vijaya, Director (SEM), Dr. Ashutosh Murkute, Director General, ni-msme, marking the successful completion of the training initiative.



ii) Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) for Textile Design:

The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, successfully conducted Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (Advanced ESDP) titled "Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) for Textile Design" from February 3 to 7, 2026. This initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Training and Placement Cell of the University College of Technology (Autonomous), Osmania University, Hyderabad. Sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME, Government of India, under the ESDP scheme, the programme aimed to strengthen both the entrepreneurial and technical capabilities of the textile and apparel sector. By introducing participants to emerging digital tools, the initiative directly aligns with the national objective of promoting innovation, technology adoption, and self-employment within knowledge-driven industries.



The core curriculum focused on the transformative application of AR and VR technologies in textile design, covering essential areas such as virtual fabric visualization, digital surface pattern development, and three-dimensional garment modeling. Participants explored the potential of virtual try-on systems, immersive fashion presentations, and metaverse-based retail experiences. These technologies are rapidly evolving the fashion industry by improving design accuracy, significantly reducing the need for physical sampling, and minimizing material waste. Consequently, these digital advancements contribute to lower production costs and more sustainable manufacturing practices.

To ensure a high standard of practical exposure, the programme featured expert lectures and hands-on sessions led by experienced speakers from reputed academic institutions and the industry. During the proceedings, Mrs. Swapna Vanamala, a faculty member from ni-msme, provided a comprehensive briefing on institutional support and various MSME schemes available to budding entrepreneurs. The sessions spanned a wide array of contemporary topics, including the future of fashion driven by AR, VR, and Artificial Intelligence, digital pattern making as a sustainable solution, and immersive retail marketing. The programme concluded by addressing compliance standards in the textile industry and identifying specific entrepreneurial opportunities within technology-driven textile businesses.



Management Development Programmes

i) Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Management:

The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, successfully conducted a five-day intensive training programme on "Innovation, Incubation, and Intellectual Property Rights" from January 27 to 31, 2026. Hosted at the B.V. Raju Institute of Technology in Narsapur, the programme was sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME, Government of India, under the ESDP scheme. The curriculum was designed to provide a deep dive into the innovation ecosystem, covering critical topics such as the role of incubators in developing scalable business models, the specific procedures for IPR registration, and the complex legal and policy frameworks surrounding intellectual property. Participants explored innovation lifecycle models and the strategic necessity of IPR management within innovation-driven organizations. The sessions featured insights from a distinguished panel of experts, including Dr. V. Yugandhar, Dr. Gowsya Shaik, Dr. K.V.R. Satya Kumar, Dr. K. Srinivasa Rao, and Dr. I. Nageswara Rao, alongside ni-msme faculty member Ms. Swapna Vanamala. By combining theoretical frameworks with practical strategy, the programme successfully enriched participants with the essential knowledge required to manage innovation and protect intellectual assets in a competitive global market.



ii) Total Quality Management for Business Excellence:



The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, successfully conducted a five-day training programme titled "Total Quality Management (TQM) for Business Excellence" from February 23 to 27, 2026. Hosted at the Vishwa Vishwani Institute of Systems and Management (VVISM), the programme was sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), Government of India, under the ESDP scheme.

This initiative was designed to equip participants with a profound understanding of TQM principles, continuous improvement strategies, and various business excellence models. The curriculum placed a strong emphasis on enhancing organizational efficiency, optimizing processes, and securing leadership commitment to foster a robust culture of quality and customer satisfaction. The sessions were led by distinguished experts from the Quality Circle Forum of India, including Senior Faculty Mr. Srinivasan and Director Mr. Chethan Chittalkar, alongside Ms. Swapna Vanamala, Faculty at ni-msme.

Key technical modules included Strategic Management, Marketing and Human Resources, as well as practical quality improvement methodologies such as QC Tools, Kaizen, Lean Management, and the 5S Workplace Management system. The programme concluded successfully, receiving highly positive feedback from attendees who noted the practical utility of the tools discussed for achieving operational excellence.

Capacity Building Training Programmes

i) Community Co-ordinators (CCs):

The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, organized one-week training programmes on “Capacity Building for SERP Officials on Rural Women Entrepreneurship Development Strategies” for the Community Coordinators of SERP, Government of Telangana, sponsored by Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Telangana. The programmes were held in two batches during 09 to 13 February 2026 and 17 to 21 February 2026 at ni-msme campus.

A total of 43 CCs in Batch-9, 37 CCs in Batch-10, 45 CCs in Batch-11 and 44 CCs in Batch-12 successfully participated in the training. The programme was directed by Dr. E. Vijaya, Director – SEM, and co-directed by Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Faculty Member – SEE.



The training initiative was designed to enhance the competencies of CCs in the field of Micro Enterprise Development, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively support rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in their entrepreneurial pursuits.



The primary objective was to develop a cadre of trained professionals capable of providing continuous handholding support for the establishment of new micro enterprises and the growth of existing ones. As a result, the trained CCs are now better positioned to promote an entrepreneurial culture among rural SHGs in their respective Mandals, thereby contributing to the development and sustainability of women-led enterprises across the region.



ii) Assistant Project Managers (APMs):

The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, organized one-week training programmes on "Capacity Building for SERP Officials on Rural Women Entrepreneurship Development Strategies" for the Community Coordinators of SERP, Government of Telangana. The programmes were held in two batches during 23-27 February 2026 at the ni-msme campus, Hyderabad.

A total of 54 APMs in Batch-12 and 50 APMs in Batch-13 successfully participated in the training. The programme was directed by Dr. E. Vijaya, Director – SEM, and co-directed by Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Faculty Member – SEE.

The training initiative was strategically conceptualized to strengthen the professional competencies of Assistant Project Managers (APMs) in the domain of Micro Enterprise Development (MED). The programme aimed to equip participants with comprehensive knowledge, practical tools, and field-oriented skills necessary to effectively facilitate and mentor rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in initiating and managing sustainable entrepreneurial ventures. Emphasis was placed on enterprise identification, business planning, financial literacy, market linkage development, risk mitigation, and performance monitoring to ensure a holistic understanding of the micro-enterprise ecosystem.

The core objective of the initiative was to create a robust cadre of well-trained professionals capable of delivering continuous handholding and structured support for both the establishment of new micro enterprises and the scaling-up of existing enterprises. Through this capacity-building intervention, the trained APMs are now better positioned to nurture an entrepreneurial mindset among rural SHGs within their respective Mandals. Their enhanced capabilities will enable them to guide women entrepreneurs in accessing credit, leveraging government schemes, strengthening value chains, and improving market competitiveness. Ultimately, the programme contributes to fostering a sustainable ecosystem for women-led enterprises, promoting inclusive economic growth, enhancing household incomes, and advancing rural livelihoods across the region.



Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP)

A comprehensive series of Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) was successfully conducted between 19 January & 16 February 2026, across diverse educational and community institutions in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh.



These sessions were hosted at several prominent locations, including the Community Hall in Mudinampet (Vellore), Swarnandhra College of Engineering and Technology (Narsapur), Government Degree College (Razole) and several institutions in Hyderabad such as Dhruva Degree College for Women, Avinash College of Commerce, and Andhra Mahila Sabha Arts & Science College for Women. Other participating venues included St. Joseph's Degree & PG Colleges in both Hyderabad and Kurnool, the Government Degree College for Women in Gajwel, and Jan Shikshan Sansthan in Indore.

Collectively, these programmes benefited over 500 young individuals by providing critical insights into the entrepreneurial landscape. The primary objective of the initiative was to sensitize students and aspiring business owners to emerging market opportunities, various government support schemes, and the fundamental processes involved in starting and managing a successful enterprise.

Through enthusiastic participation and interactive sessions, these programmes played a vital role in fostering a robust entrepreneurial culture among the youth across all four states.



Training programme on scientific beekeeping for SC-ST

The National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, successfully conducted a comprehensive training programme on scientific beekeeping for SC-ST communities from February 17 to 21, 2026. Held at the Komaram Bheem Complex, ITDA, Utnoor, the initiative was made possible through the vital support of the Project Officer, ITDA Utnoor, alongside Shri Sandeep and Shri Nagabhushan, who assisted with logistical arrangements and the selection of beneficiaries. This high-impact programme was sponsored by the Telangana Council of Science & Technology and the Department of Environment, Forests, Science & Technology, Government of Telangana. Funding was provided by the SC-ST Cell of the Science and Equity Empowerment and Development (SEED) Division, under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.



Designed by Dr. Shreekant Sharma, Director of the School of Entrepreneurship and Extension at ni-msme, the curriculum was specifically tailored to foster sustainable livelihoods. To ensure participants could immediately begin their entrepreneurial journey, live bee boxes and essential beekeeping equipment were distributed to all beneficiaries. The technical training was led by Master Trainers Shri Vikas Kshirsagar and Shri B. Prudhviraj, who conducted detailed sessions on scientific beekeeping procedures and the preparation of value-added products from honey, beeswax, pollen grains, and propolis. These sessions provided the foundational knowledge necessary for modern, high-yield apiculture.



In addition to technical skills, the programme emphasized the business aspects of beekeeping to ensure long-term success. Dr. Shirish Kulkarni, Programme Director at ni-msme, facilitated essential sessions on successful entrepreneurship, business plan preparation, and navigating various government schemes. Participants were also guided through the formal

registration processes for the Madhukranthi Portal and Udyam Aadhar. Complementing these business fundamentals, Shri S. Ravi Kiran (HoD) and Shri B. Prithvi Raj (Assistant Professor and IT Cell Coordinator, JNA & FAU) delivered a specialized module on technical support for value addition and digital skills. During this segment, participants received kits for product photography to enhance their digital marketing capabilities.

The programme concluded with overwhelming positive feedback from the attendees, who expressed high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the instruction. Participants extended their sincere gratitude to the various government agencies involved for providing the tools, training, and financial assistance necessary to establish a robust and independent livelihood.

Providing technical context, Dr. Shashipal Singh explained how the “Bharathi: Bahubhashi Anuvaad Saarathi” software was specifically designed by C-DAC to ease correspondence and daily official work for both Central and State Government offices.

In his keynote address, Shri Anirban Kumar Biswas shared his personal journey of choosing to serve the nation through the Official Language department despite his technical educational background. He emphasized the Ministry’s commitment to developing both Hindi and regional languages simultaneously and urged all participants to actively engage with the sessions to master the new translation tool. Following the inaugural ceremony, several technical sessions were conducted to train officials on the practical utilization of the multilingual software. The workshop concluded with a valedictory ceremony at 5:00 PM, during which the organizing team, including Dr. Shirish Kulkarni, was felicitated for their efforts in ensuring the event’s success.



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