

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**MSME Minister HE Shri Kalraj Mishra tours the SME Capital of UAE – Sharjah**

The **Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises H.E. Kalraj Mishra** led a high level delegation to UAE along with **Mr. Manoj Joshi**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India; **Mr. Sunil Tyagi**, Dy. General Manager, NSIC; **Mr. Satvinder Singh**, Sr. General Manager, NSIC; **Mr. Vijay Vishwas Pant**, PS to Hon'ble Minister of MSME on Wednesday, 13 April 2016.

The high level delegation was accompanied by **Mr. Sudesh Aggarwal** – Chairman and **Mrs. Sripriyaa Kumaria** – Director General of India Trade and Exhibition Centre m.e.

Such a high level visit comes at a time with the launch of various initiatives by the Hon'ble Prime Minister namely '**Make in India**', '**Invest India**', '**Startup India**' & '**Stand up India**', which not only gives the much needed thrust and impetus to the MSME sector to register higher exports but also promotes entrepreneurship .

**In line with the above national agenda, the Hon'ble minister held high level meetings with SAIF Zone, Shurooq and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry.**

It should be noted that there are about **5 million MSME units in India** and the numbers are only rising day by day. The various initiatives announced by the Government of India for the promotion and development of the MSME sector is not only to attract entrepreneurs but also to enhance the operations of the existing MSME and promote women entrepreneurs & unemployed / educated youth who are very important factors in building the nation.

The Minister also mentioned that about **125,000 banks** are being encouraged and are tuned to provide loans to MSME's, to women entrepreneurs in particular and to the downtrodden community that directly promotes the "**Stand-Up India Campaign**" another initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to promote the downtrodden. He said that with all the above initiatives, 250,000 entrepreneurs are being created and developed. There is no doubt that MSME will be the key driver for India to be the manufacturing hub.

The Minister during his visit to Sharjah was highly impressed with the various projects of Shurooq, in particular to the eco - friendly projects. During his one to one meeting with **H.E. Marwan Jassim al Sarkal** – **CEO of Shurooq**, he invited Shurooq to India to witness the Indian MSME growth.

In his meeting with SAIF Zone Director **Mr. Saud Almazrouei** the Hon'ble Minister praised the vision of Sharjah and UAE and applauded the leadership of UAE for the impetus given to SME sector and the Free-Zones that support various industries. He also mentioned that he was impressed to know that Indian companies form **405 of SAIF Zone clientele.**

Providing key data about SME & MSME scenario in UAE, **Ms. Sripriyaa Kumaria** mentioned that SMEs are the key drivers of UAE Economy contributing nearly **94 per cent of the total companies** operating in UAE. **Nearly three quarters of SME s are in wholesale and retail sector (73 per cent) followed by services sector (16 per cent) and manufacturing sector (11 per cent).** She mentioned that as per a recent report by Ministry of Economy, SME s contribute an estimated 40-46 per cent of nominal GDP in Dubai, and more than 60 per cent of UAE 's GDP. While the sector is expected to strengthen its contribution by another 10 per cent to reach 70 per cent by 2021, the SME sector provides 86 per cent to all private sector employment in UAE. **Sharjah alone hosts more than 45,000 SMEs and its GDP is expected to expand to more than Dh 101 bn.**

She said that, with the visionary leadership of UAE, favorable environment of UAE to host SME/ MSME and the strong will of the Indian Government to push SME/ MSME exports, this high level visit by the Hon'ble MSME Minister has been timed right to achieve the National agenda and vision of the Indian Prime Minister to make India the manufacturing hub.

**Ms. Sripriyaa Kumaria** in her press release also mentioned that during her one to one meeting with the **Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Manoj Joshi Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Govt of India and Mr. Rahul Srivastava , Senior Consul, Indian Consulate Dubai** many key decisions were made as to how Indian MSME's can be promoted in UAE. One major activity was to conduct sector specific Buyer seller meets/ exhibitions in associations with **NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation)** with which will directly result in MSME's to promote their exports to UAE / GCC and MENA region. An MSME Centre has also been proposed to be set up at the India Trade Centre where MSME companies will have a local hub in ITEC m.e. to find distributors, partners, joint ventures leading to a warehousing facility that will enable the MSME sector companies to store their goods and distribute them to the UAE, GCC and MENA region. The Minister was also of the opinion that the focus on SME/ MSME workshops and transfer of technology and industry knowhow between Indian SME/ MSME and UAE companies will help MSME to get more ideas on the requirements of this region. ITEC m.e. with the support of Consulate General of India, will work with the MSME ministry in achieving the above objectives she said.

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