

Media Coordinator's Office <u>Iamia Millia Islamia</u>

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Press Release

Shri Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for MSME inaugurates Livelihood Business Incubator at Jamia Millia Islamia

Launching a programme for 'Entrepreneurship and Skill Development' at Jamia Millia Islamia today, Shri Kalraj Mishra, Honourable Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India inaugurated the Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI) and announced a grant of Rs 1 crore to the university to run the programme under the ASPIRE Scheme of his Ministry.

"This LBI is the first of its kind being set up in partnership with an academic institution at a cost of Rs 1.55 crore out of which the university has spent Rs 55 lakh for creating this facility. I am sure this will definitely encourage the students to become budding entrepreneurs in the future." Shri Kalraj Mishra said addressing students and faculty members of JMI.

The Minister lauded the efforts made by the Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) Jamia Millia Isllamia and the personal interest shown by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Talat Ahmad in setting up the LIB.

The scheme envisages a holistic approach to create new jobs by promoting the entrepreneurship culture and also creates a force of skilled manpower to undertake the job so created, he said adding that this will help in providing economic development at the grass root level across the country by facilitating innovative business solutions for unmet social needs.

Shri Mishra said that the Narendra Modi government has been stressing on the need for innovation and to create an eco-system for innovative ideas to be converted into commercial enterprises.

"With this in view, our Government has set up the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at a cost of Rs. 10,000 crore. World over, MSMEs have been the hub for innovation. Our Government has launched "Start-up India and Stand-up India" for setting up new enterprises. It is with this objective in view and to encourage innovation in MSME sector, the ASPIRE Fund of Fund was created focusing innovation in the agri sector." he said.

The Minister also referred to the launch of "National SC/ ST Hub" last month by Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi and said it will create an eco-system for setting up of SC/ ST enterprises to meet the gap in public procurement.

Shri Mishra said that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has also launched Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) scheme as an international standard for enterprises to compete in the global market.

Prof Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, JMI expressed his appreciation of the keen support that the university had received from MSME under the leadership of Shri Mishra making it possible for Jamia to house the Livelihood Business Incubator and launch the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme.

Prof Ahmad added that the programme will help address challenges emanating out of unemployment among the youth, particularly the poor and the minorities.

LBI Programme has been set up to train and skill prospective entrepreneurs learn product manufacturing processes, technology development, business development, marketing and other skills. LBI would also offer a short-term 6 weeks programme on 'Entrepreneurship and Skill Development' in the areas including PET Bottle Making and R.O. Plant, Bakery Products, Spice Grinding & Packing, Tailoring & Machine Embroidery, Computer Hardware & Networking, Gem / Jewellery-making, and the like. The Programme is designed to help the participants acquire skills to set up their own business units.

Prof. Mini S. Thomas, Hony. Director, CIE said that they were planning to run the courses in three modes--- regular mode for the youngsters in the neighbourhood during the day time, evening mode for Jamia students and a week-end batch for working professionals.

"The LBI is an example of the social commitment and responsibility of Jamia Millia Islamia, to create entrepreneurs and make the boys and girls in the neighbourhood realise their dreams in tune with the government practices", Prof. Thomas added.

Among those who attended the inaugural function were Shri B. H. Anil Kumar, IAS, Joint Secretary to Govt of India, Ministry of MSME and Shri. Samar Nanda, Deputy Secretary, MSME.

Prof Shahid Ashraf, Pro-VC, JMI, Prof. Sharfuddin Ahmad, OSD to the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Finance Officer, Deans, Heads of departments, Directors of Centres, students of the university and members of NGOs in the neighbourhood too were present on the occasion.

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