Technology is very diverse in its forms; one of its branches is Information Technology (IT), which acts as a boon for MSMEs. IT has a great impact on all aspects of life and it is transforming the global economy in terms of ways of doing business. IT has a huge impact on most industries and usage of these technologies is reforming the rules of business, leading to the structural transformation of enterprises and businesses. Use of correct technology for businesses can lead enterprises touch sky-high successes, as accurately stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "I see technology as a means to empower and as a tool that bridges the distance between hope and opportunity". Information Technology plays an essential role in escalating the profitability of the organizations. It also gives rise to competitiveness among the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) making them think about the research and development along with the availability of the latest technology. IT is a mechanism, which enables SMEs to respond to customers’ complaints and requirements efficiently by enabling information to be transmitted through various mediums including emails, telephonic, and social media channels. Enterprises can use various platforms of IT services for learning, marketing and advertising, selling their products and services, as well as trading, among various other uses of this technology.

The potential benefits of Information Technology to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are variably known. It can enhance MSMEs’ efficiency, reduce costs and expand market reach, at domestic and international level. As the MSME sector plays an important role in the Nation’s economy, the sector benefits individual MSMEs collectively rendering into positive results, leading to employment creation, revenue generation and overall country’s businesses competitiveness.

It would not be wrong to say that majority of MSMEs hesitate to adopt the latest technology due to their lack of understanding and knowledge while selecting the correct technology solution for their enterprises, which affects their overall profitability. Such a situation is the result of a lack of skilled manpower to run high-tech machines and equipment, less trust int echnology, and high capital investment for equipment. All these issues can be resolved by creating more awareness amongst MSME entrepreneurs and enterprises about benefits of technology adoption through trade bodies, as well as industry associations, helping them understand factors of transformation from conventional businesses to digitally active space.
COIR BOARD SIGNS MOU WITH IIT-MADRAS FOR R&D WORKS ON COIR

Coir Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras, to establish a ‘Centre of Excellence’ (CoE) for the application of Coir exclusively or in combination with other natural fibres. It was at the instance of Hon’ble Union Minister of MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari, the IIT-Madras had earlier validated the research studies so far undertaken by the Coir Board & other agencies India on Coir Geo-Textiles (CGT) & recommended that CGT can be successfully used to prevent soil erosion in slopes or embankments, river embankments, mine slope dumps stabilization, etc. The institute has also recommended the use of CGT in the low volume rural roads as a re-enforcement material.

KVIC TAKES INITIATIVES TO CONTAIN IMPACT OF COVID-19

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, started various initiatives to contain the impact of Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) such as the distribution of food packets, funds for artisans and Khadi institution and supply of face masks. The KVIC had set up community kitchens and provided 21,855 food packets to the destitute and poor people near State and National Highways and bordering villages during the period from 29th March 2020 to 4th April 2020.

Besides, the KVIC also issued directives to release Rs. 1000 per month for a period of three months to all the registered artisans from the Artisan Welfare Fund Trust (AWFT). The amount would be released to the bank account of the artisan from the deposit available in the artisans accounts, without any condition and formalities etc. by the trust. The wages recovered from the artisans but not deposited in the AWFT trust were also directed to release the amount to the bank account of the artisans in three instalments or before 7th of every month DO Letter of April 2020, PIB press releases starting from April 2020. KVIC has also released funds of Rs. 37.65 crores under Market Development Assistance (MDA) to 329 Khadi institution and 41,118 artisans through Direct Benefit Transfer.

3. SHRI NITIN GADKARI ASSURES GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

Union Minister for MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari on April 18, 2020, assured the Footwear Industry all possible support from the government to come over the challenges created by the lockdown imposed due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Shri Gadkari interacted with the representatives of Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries via video conferencing from Nagpur. The Minister said that the government has released over Rs. 5204 crores to MSMEs as the refund from the Income Tax Department in the last 10 days, which will help the sector in a big way. The Minister called upon the industry to work upon import substitution and make use of the opportunity for exports.
DIGITAL CORNER

CHAMPIONS PORTAL

Union Ministry of MSME has launched Champions portal www.Champions.gov.in, a Technology-driven Control Room-Cum-Management Information System. The system utilises modern ICT tools aiming at assisting Indian MSMEs lead into the big league as national and global Champions.

The Champions stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength. The portal is basically for making the smaller units evolve into big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding. It is a real one-stop-shop solution of MSME Ministry.

In addition to ICT tools including telephone, internet and video conference, the system is enabled by Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics and Machine Learning. It is also fully integrated on a real-time basis with GOI’s main grievances portal CPGRAMS and MSME Ministry's own other web-based mechanisms.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES 6 MEASURES TO MAKE MSMEs ‘ATMANIRBHAR’

Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on May 13, 2020, during a press conference announced some of the major changes for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. “Essentially, the goal is to build a self-reliant India that is why the Economic Package is called Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan”, Smt. Sitharaman said. Citing the pillars on which the government sought to build Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, Smt. Sitharaman said, “Our focus would be on land, labour, liquidity and law”.

MEASURES AS FOLLOWING -

1. RS 20,000 CRORE SUBORDINATE DEBT FOR STRESSED
   Provision made for Rs. 20,000 cr subordinate debt for two lakh MSMEs which are NPA or are stressed. The government will support them with Rs. 4,000 Cr. to Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). Banks are expected to provide the subordinate-debt to promoters of such MSMEs equal to 15% of his existing stake in the unit subject to a maximum of Rs 75 lakhs.
2. RRS 3 LAKH CRORE EMERGENCY WORKING CAPITAL FACILITY FOR BUSINESSES, INCLUDING MSMEs

To provide relief to the business, additional working capital finance of 20% of the outstanding credit as on 29 February 2020, in the form of a Term Loan at a concessional rate of interest will be provided. This will be available to units with up to Rs 25 crore outstanding and turnover of up to Rs 100 crore whose accounts are standard. The units will not have to provide any guarantee or collateral of their own. The amount will be 100% guaranteed by the Government of India providing total liquidity of Rs. 3.0 lakh crores to more than 45 lakh MSMEs.

3. RS 50,000 CRORES EQUITY INFUSION THROUGH MSME FUND OF FUNDS

The government will set up a Fund of Funds with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore that will provide equity funding support for MSMEs. The Fund of Funds shall be operated through a Mother and a few Daughter funds. It is expected that with leverage of 1:4 at the level of daughter funds, the Fund of Funds will be able to mobilise equity of about Rs 50,000 crores.

4. A NEW DEFINITION OF MSME

Definition of MSME will be revised by raising the Investment limit. An additional criterion of turnover also being introduced. The distinction between manufacturing and service sector will also be eliminated.

5. NO GLOBAL TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT TENDERS OF UP TO RS 200 CRORES

General Financial Rules (GFR) of the Government will be amended to disallow global tender enquiries in the procurement of Goods and Services of the value of less than Rs 200 crores.

6. OTHER MEASURES FOR MSME

E-market linkage for MSMEs will be promoted to act as a replacement for trade fairs & exhibitions. MSME receivables from Government and CPSEs will be released in 45 days.
Ministry of MSME has an active social media presence that highlights the ministry's day-to-day activities and engages with the public directly. This section highlights the social media happenings and the highest engagement posts for the month.

**FACEBOOK HIGHLIGHTS**
Top Facebook post earned 7,754 Impressions

Champions to work on Hub & Spoke Model
www.champions.gov.in to work on Hub & Spoke Model with Central Control Room at New Delhi and 66 State-level Control Rooms in field offices of Ministry across the country.

**INSTAGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**
Top Instagram post earned 2,202 Impressions

www.champions.gov.in is embedded with features like Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics & Machine Learning & fully integrated on real-time basis with major grievances portal like #CPGRAMS #MSMEChampions

**TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS**
Top Twitter post earned 1,06,557 Impressions

Congratulations MSMEs! Govt has given a launching pad to become National & global champions. Now NO global tenders for procurement upto Rs. 200 Cr It is now law of the land!

**YOUTUBE HIGHLIGHTS**
Top Youtube post earned 28,135 Impressions

Shri A. K. Sharma assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in New Delhi
Shri Nitin Gadkari interacts with Industry associations to discuss revival of economic activity

The Union Minister for MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari on April 17, 2020, held meetings via video conferencing with the representatives of Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO), India SME Forum (ISF) and other enterprises from various sectors in Nagpur. As the lockdown eases out and focus shifts to increasing economic activity, the revival of the sector for large scale employment generation and leading the way for sustained economic growth becomes imminent. Shri Gadkari DO Letter of April 2020, PIB press releases assured that he would take up the issues raised by the representatives, with the Union Finance Minister and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Minister said that the industry should work together and tap the opportunities that will be created when the COVID-19 crisis gets over.

Shri Nitin Gadkari interacts with the representatives of Bharat Chamber of Commerce

Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Shri Nitin Gadkari on April 23, 2020, interacted via video conferencing with the representatives of Bharat Chamber of Commerce, enterprises from various sectors, media & other stakeholders on “Post COVID-19: Challenges & New Opportunities in India”. During the interaction, the representatives expressed concerns regarding various challenges being faced by MSMEs amid COVID-19. Shri Gadkari mentioned that as the government has allowed certain industry sectors to start functioning, it also needs the industries to be ensured that necessary preventive measures are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized on the usage of PPE (masks, sanitizer, gloves, etc) & advised to maintain social distancing while resuming the offices/business operations. Shri Gadkari urged that enterprises to make use of technology & stated that research, innovation & quality improvement can play a major role in the development of the industrial sector.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Ayush Entrepreneurship Development Program

Union Minister for MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari, on April 30, 2020, inaugurated the Ayush Entrepreneurship Development Program via video conferencing jointly organized by the Ministry of AYUSH & Ministry of MSME for promoting the AYUSH sector in the country under different Schemes of the Ministry of MSME. Shri Gadkari said that AYUSH practices of India have a big potential to help India become an economic superpower as the alternative methods of treatment & cure which has been prevalent in India for centuries is gaining increasing popularity. He called for greater research & innovation, which will help in further growth of the AYUSH sector. He emphasized that Indian Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Yoga, Siddha are required to be promoted at a larger level.
INNOVATIONS

COIR BOARD INTRODUCES MULTI-FUNCTIONAL COIR GEO-TEXTILES
Coir Board has been researching Coir Geotextiles (CGT), which protect the land surface and promote quick vegetation. Geo-textiles are a great treasure of natural eco-friendly, erosion control blankets in woven and non-woven preparations. CGT is completely bio-degradable geo-textiles which help soil stabilisation and renew vegetation in unstable slopes. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras has also validated the research studies conducted till now undertaken by the Coir Board and other agencies in India on Coir Geo-Textiles and recommended that CGT can be successfully used to prevent soil erosion in slopes/embankments, river embankments, mine slope dumps stabilisation, etc. The Institute has also recommended the use of CGT in the low volume rural roads as a re-enforcement material.

KHADI MASKS TO HITS GLOBAL MARKETS
The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will be now exporting the Khadi cotton and silk face masks to foreign countries like Dubai, USA, Mauritius and several European and Middle East countries where Khadi’s popularity has significantly grown over the last few years. The move came after the Ministry of Commerce and Industries lifted the ban on the export of non-medical/ non-surgical masks of all types. Keeping in view the huge demand for face masks during the global Covid-19 pandemic, the KVIC has developed double-layered and triple-layered Cotton, as well as Silk, face masks respectively. The KVIC is specifically using Double Twisted

ACHIEVEMENTS

PRIME MINISTER’S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)
Margin money subsidy of Rs. 6.82 crore has been disbursed by banks up to 30.04.2020 under the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) which will facilitate setting up of 242 micro-enterprises creating employment of around 19364 persons.

CREDIT GUARANTEE TRUST SCHEME FOR MSE (CGTMSE)
As per the data provided by Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), 26,868 Credit proposals involving an amount of Rs. 2,096 crore have been approved during April 2020. Directions have been issued to Nodal Banks /Agency to expedite the release of subsidy.
MSME SAMADHAAN

As on 30.04.2020, a total of 40,194 applications have been filed by MSEs involving an amount of Rs.10572.70 crore. 3506 cases have been mutually settled with buyers involving an amount of Rs. 396.41 crore. 3148 applications have been disposed of by Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Council (MSEFC) involving an amount of Rs. 598.85 crore.

MSME SAMBANDH – Public Procurement Policy

Up to 07.05.2020, the procurement details of CPSEs during FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 are as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOTAL NO. OF MSEs BENEFITED</th>
<th>TOTAL PROCUREMENT (RS. IN CRORE)</th>
<th>PROCUREMENT FROM MSEs (INCLUDING MSEs OWNED BY SC/STS) (RS. IN CRORE)</th>
<th>PROCUREMENT FROM MSEs OWNED BY SC/STS (RS. IN CRORE)</th>
<th>PROCUREMENT FROM MSEs OWNED BY WOMEN (RS. IN CRORE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-19 (165 CPSEs)</td>
<td>1,27,990</td>
<td>1,53,436.47</td>
<td>40,378.66 (26.32%)</td>
<td>823.97 (0.54%)</td>
<td>231.61 (0.15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>1,43,462</td>
<td>1,20,828.93</td>
<td>35,593.82 (0.51%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>324.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(122 CPSEs As on 31.03.2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(29.46%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19 (165 CPSEs)</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>421.47</td>
<td>309.37 (73.40%)</td>
<td>1.08 (0.26%)</td>
<td>0.95 (0.23%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MSME SAMPARK

As on 30.04.2020, 58,367 passed out trainees (job seekers) and 5,490 recruiters (job providers) have registered on the portal. Against vacancies posted by recruiters, 18,478 resumes have been shared with recruiters and 10,381 jobs have been offered.

REGISTRATION OF CPSES ON TReDS AND GEM

As on 01.05.2020, 165 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been onboarded/registered on Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDs) portal and as on 28.04.2020, 275 CPSEs/CPSBs have been onboarded/ registered on Government e- Marketplace (GeM) portal.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill Training under the Ministry of MSME is conducted through various organizations under the Ministry i.e. MSME – Technology Centers(TCs), National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Ltd. 7,977 persons have been imparted skill training during April 2020 (up to 30.04.2020).