



PARWAZ

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The NMDFC Newsletter

Volume 34

Conference on Entrepreneurship for Minorities

organized by NMDFC in collaboration with DICCI
at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Mumbai.



The Conference on Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Minorities, jointly organized by the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DICCI), was held on 28th May 2025 at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Mumbai. The event aimed to foster a constructive dialogue among key stakeholders, financial institutions, and emerging entrepreneurs from minority communities. The programme was presided over by Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, and was graced by eminent dignitaries including Padma Shri Dr. Milind Kamble, Founder Chairman, DICCI, Padma

Shri Dr. Ravi Kumar Narra, National President, DICCI, Shri Mushtaq Anthulai, chairman of MAAVAM, Shri Lalit Gandhi, president MACCIA and Dr. Abha Rani Singh, CMD, NMDFC. Their presence and insightful contributions set a visionary tone for the day's deliberations.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Abha Rani Singh welcomed the dignitaries, delegates, and over 200 enthusiastic participants comprising budding entrepreneurs, SCAs, bank officials, and representatives from industry bodies. She emphasized the significance of the partnership between NMDFC and DICCI, formalized through the MoU signed on 7th December 2024, which envisioned structured support for

minority entrepreneurs through mentorship, training, and concessional credit.

Dr. Singh highlighted NMDFC's extensive credit operations, stating that more than ₹9500 crore had been disbursed so far, benefiting over 25 lakh individuals, and reaffirmed the Corporation's commitment to inclusive economic empowerment.

Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, in his key address, highlighted the need for proactive participation from civil society organiza-

tions to successfully achieve the national goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. He stated that institutions like NMDFC and DICCI must act as bridges connecting the government's vision with grassroots aspirations. He also emphasized the importance of creating entrepreneurship ecosystems tailored to local needs and leveraging convergence between public and private stakeholders.

Dr. Milind Kamble delivered an inspiring



address, where he appreciated the Ministry's focus on entrepreneurship as a tool for social upliftment. He reflected on DICCI's decade-long journey in creating successful business models for SC/ST entrepreneurs and shared insights on how similar models can be adopted for

minority communities. Dr. Kamble reiterated the need for a dedicated venture capital fund for minority entrepreneurs, institutional support, and marketing platforms for sustainable business growth.

Dr. Ravi Kumar Narra emphasized the crucial role that access to capital, timely

mentorship, and market linkages play in building entrepreneurial capacities among underrepresented groups. He lauded the NMDFC-DICCI collaboration and stressed the need for awareness-building at the grassroots level to ensure that schemes and programmes effectively reach the intended beneficiaries.

The conference featured technical presentations and scheme briefings by General Manager, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Assistant General Manager, Canara Bank, Representatives from DICCI and Senior officials from NMDFC. The support structures of NSIC for small businesses, and banking procedures for availing concessional credit. These presentations covered various government and institutional initiatives including Term Loan, Micro-Finance, Education Loan, and Virasat Schemes of NMDFC. Each presentation received an overwhelming response from the audience, with participants engaging in productive discussions and seeking clarifications on eligibility, documentation, and

application processes.

In addition, several success stories of minority entrepreneurs, supported through NMDFC's credit schemes and DICCI's mentoring networks, were shared to motivate and guide aspiring participants. The stories demonstrated real-world examples of business creation in sectors such as manufacturing, food processing, handicrafts, and digital services.

The event also served as a platform for cross-sectoral networking, where representatives from Canara Bank, NSIC, SCAs from Goa, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Karnataka, along with potential beneficiaries, engaged in one-on-one interactions to explore further opportunities. A dedicated counter was set up for scheme brochure distribution and registration support, ensuring that participants could immediately begin the application process with the help of NMDFC and DICCI teams present on-site.

The conference concluded with a strong reaffirmation of the shared mission of NMDFC and DICCI to drive entrepreneur-



ship development among minorities. It underscored the importance of collaborative action, convergence of schemes, and sustained handholding to build an empowered and economically resilient minority community. The programme was

widely appreciated for its relevance, scale, and participatory format, and stands as a model for future collaborations aimed at nation-building through inclusive entrepreneurship.

NMDFC Participated in Career Guidance & Counselling Fair 2025



The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, participated in the Career Guidance & Counselling Fair 2025 (CGCF2025) organized by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) on 16th May 2025 at Bhai Lakhi Shah Vanjara Hall, Delhi. The event witnessed the gracious presence of Hon'ble Ministers Shri Ashish Sood and Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa - Govt of NCT of Delhi, who interacted with students and visited the NMDFC stall.

Thousands of students from Guru Harkrishan Public Schools and other Delhi institutions attended the fair. NMDFC, along with Canara Bank officials, provided guidance on various financial assistance schemes for education, skill development, and self-employment. Officials from the Ministry of Minority Affairs also supported the event with on-ground co-ordination and supervision.

The stall served as a key platform to inform students about the Ministry's schemes,

including the PM VIKAS initiative, aimed at empowering youth from minority communities. The dignitaries appreciated NMDFC's

efforts and reaffirmed their support for youth-focused initiatives.

NMDFC Participated in Janmabhumi Silver Jubilee Celebration through its SCA KSWDC



KSWDC participated in the Janmabhoomi Silver Jubilee celebration held from 7th to 11th May, 2025 on behalf of NMDFC, by setting up a stall to promote loan schemes of NMDFC and KSWDC. The stall featured informational standees about the Ministry of Minority Affairs, NMDFC and State Channelizing Agency (SCA) of NMDFC in Kerala namely Kerala State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC). Public awareness activities were undertaken to inform visitors about schemes of the Ministry, NMDFC financial schemes, their eligibility criteria, and explaining the application process, interest rates, and repayment terms. Visitors were actively engaged, and IEC materials like brochures

and pamphlets were distributed.

Officials responded to queries and assisted interested visitors in understanding and initiating the application process. Over 1,00,000 visitors attended the stall, with 25,000 queries received and around 500 potential beneficiaries identified.

Shri George Kurian, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs visited the stall on 7th May, 2025 and appreciated the efforts made in enhancing awareness and accessibility of these schemes. Overall, this participation in the Janmabhumi event successfully promoted empowerment of minority communities through financial inclusion and awareness of loan schemes.

Success Stories

Term Loan Scheme for Tools Rental Unit

Neethu Paul, a postgraduate from Cherthala, Alappuzha, had always dreamed of establishing her own business to support her family and become financially independent. Despite her qualifications, limited income opportunities restricted her to earning a modest ₹2,000 per month. Her aspirations took a promising turn



Neethu Paul, Cherthala, Alappuzha, Kerala

when she learned about the Term Loan Scheme of NMDFC offered by the Kerala State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC), SCA in state of Kerala. She applied with a well-thought-out proposal to start a Power Tools Rental Unit—a ser-

vice-oriented business addressing the growing local demand in construction and repair sectors. After a thorough evaluation, Neethu was sanctioned a loan of ₹2,85,000 out of her total project cost of ₹3,00,000. The amount was disbursed on 13th November 2024, enabling her to immediately set up her unit with the necessary inventory and infrastructure. Since starting her venture, Neethu has seen a significant transformation in her financial situation. Her monthly income has grown to ₹5,000–₹7,000, a remarkable leap that not only improved her livelihood but also boosted her confidence and community standing. Her entrepreneurial journey is now an inspiration for other women in her area who wish to break traditional barriers and pursue self-reliance. Through the support of KSWDC and the NMDFC scheme, Neethu Paul stands as a shining example of how targeted financial assistance, when combined with determination and vision, can change lives.

₹2,85,000
Term loan scheme

Term Loan for wholesale business

Rahumath Shaji envisioned scaling her wholesale business in Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) and oils. Despite

running a small-scale operation generating ₹45,000 monthly, her ambitions were far greater. She sought to expand her reach,

diversify inventory, and cater to a wider market. Her breakthrough came through the Term Loan Scheme of NMDFC offered by Kerala State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC). With a sanctioned loan of ₹5,00,000, disbursed on 10th January 2025, Rahumath was empowered to invest in infrastructure, stock up on high-demand products, and streamline distribution channels.

The impact was immediate and significant. Her monthly income more than doubled, reaching ₹1,00,000, firmly establishing her business as a reliable wholesale supplier in her region. Beyond financial gains, this transformation brought greater confidence, leadership, and respect within her community.



Rahumath Shaji, Myloli, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha

₹5,00,000
Term loan scheme

Term Loan for Umbrella Making Unit



Mary P S, Punnapra, Alappuzha

Mary P S, a determined woman from Punnapra in Alappuzha with an education up to the 8th standard, dreamed of financial independence despite limited opportunities. Before receiving any formal support, her monthly income was a mere ₹1,600—barely enough to sustain her family.

That changed when she was introduced to the Term Loan Scheme of NMDFC implemented by Kerala State Women's De-

velopment Corporation (KSWDC) With a solid plan in hand, she proposed starting an Umbrella Making Unit—a skill-based, locally relevant business.

On 11th December 2024, Mary received a loan of ₹2,85,000 toward a total project cost of ₹3,00,000. This financial boost enabled her to purchase the necessary materials, set up a workspace, and begin production immediately.

The results were transformative. Within months, her income grew tenfold—from ₹1,600 to ₹16,000 per month. Her business not only improved her standard of living but also offered seasonal employment to local women, helping uplift others in her community. She is thankful to KSWDC & NMDFC for the necessary support provided

₹2,85,000
Term loan scheme

Term Loan Scheme

This scheme is for individual beneficiaries and is implemented through the SCAs and also under Refinance Mode presently through Canara Bank. Under the Term Loan Scheme, projects costing up to Rs.30.00 Lakh are considered for financing. NMDFC provides loan to the extent of **90%** of the project cost subject to a maximum of **Rs.27.00 lakh**. The remaining cost of project is met by the SCA/Canara Bank and the beneficiary. However, the beneficiary has to contribute minimum 5% of the project cost. The simple rate of interest of **6% p.a.** under Credit Line-1 & upto 8% p.a. under Credit Line-2 is charged on reducing balance method. Rebate of 2% is given to female beneficiaries under Credit Line-2.

| Parameters | Credit Line-1 | Credit Line-2 |
|---|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Loan Amount | Up to Rs.20.00 L | Up to Rs.30.00 L |
| Rate of interest for beneficiaries | 6% p.a. | 8% p.a. - men 6% p.a. - women |
| Moratorium period | 6 month | 6 month |
| Repayment period | 5 years | 5 years |
| Pattern of Financing (NMDFC : SCA/Canara Bank: Benef. contribution) | 90:5:5 | 90:5:5 |



Education Loan Scheme

This scheme is also for individual beneficiaries. Education loan is provided with an objective to facilitate job oriented education for the eligible persons from targeted Minority communities. Under this scheme, maximum loan of up to Rs.20.00 Lakh is available @ Rs.4.00 lakh p.a. for 'technical and professional courses' of duration not exceeding five years. Further, for courses abroad, maximum loan amount of Rs.30.00 lakh is available @ Rs.6.00 lakh p.a. for courses duration of maximum 5 years. Rate of Interest is 3% p.a. under Credit Line-1 and 8% p.a. under Credit Line-2 with 3% p.a. rebate for females under Credit Line- 2. The loan is payable in maximum five years after completion of the course.

| Parameters | Credit Line-1 | Credit Line-2 |
|---|---|---|
| Loan Amount | Up to Rs.20.00 L for Courses' in India Up to Rs.30.00 L for Courses Abroad | Up to Rs.30.00 L for Courses' in India Up to Rs.30.00 L for Courses Abroad |
| Rate of interest for beneficiaries | 3% p.a. | 8% p.a. - men 5% p.a. - women |
| Moratorium period | 6 month | 6 month |
| Repayment period | 5 years | 5 years |
| Pattern of Financing (NMDFC : SCA/Canara Bank: Benef. contribution) | 90:5:5 | 90:5:5 |



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