

Fostering Entrepreneurship: Highlights from the District Entrepreneurship Coalition in Jhansi



The session with representatives from RSETI, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CBOs, Microfinance Institute and entrepreneurs

The District Entrepreneurship Coalition event brought together stakeholders from diverse sectors, including training institutes, microfinance institutions, banks, community-based organisations, and more. This gathering served as a platform for these entities to collaborate, share ideas, and discuss the various schemes they have in store for the new and existing entrepreneurs of Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. The event began with the follow up and action points from the previous District Entrepreneurship Coalition and an orientation on Equality4progress project that is being implemented in the District of Jhansi. The project aims to promote financial inclusion for women.

One of the key aspects of the District Entrepreneurship Coalition event was the impressive array of stakeholders who participated. Representatives from various training institutes, microfinance institutions, banks, and community-based organisations enthusiastically shared insights into their respective roles and the schemes they have curated to empower entrepreneurs in Jhansi.

Training Institutes – Educational institutions played a pivotal role in the event, showcasing their commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial talent. Representatives from Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Pradhan Mantri Yuva kaushal Vikas, Skill India and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jhansi (KVK) outlined the training programs they offer to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and knowledge. These programs ranged from skill development courses to specialised entrepreneurship training.

Microfinance companies – Microfinance emerged as a cornerstone for supporting small businesses and budding entrepreneurs. Representatives from Fusion Micro Finance introduced themselves and shed light on the financial tools and resources they provide to entrepreneurs in Jhansi. Microfinance schemes often include small loans, financial literacy programs, and mentorship opportunities.

Community Based Organisation – The community-based organisations brought a grassroots perspective to the event. Representatives (Mohd. Azeem) from Development Alternatives, ActionAid (Ms Rakshita) and Srijan (Ms Shalini) highlighted the importance of community involvement in entrepreneurship and discussed initiatives aimed at building a supportive ecosystem. DA shared how through different initiatives the organisations are bridging the gap between entrepreneurs and available resources.



Debasis, Senior Manager, DA moderating the District Entrepreneurship Coalition held in Jhansi

Local Technology Provider – Satyam and Harsh from Sansolar Private Limited was in the DEC to represent the local technology provider. A brief discussion held on the importance of offering customised renewable energy solutions to meet the specific requirements of local entrepreneurs. The discussion emphasised the provider's ability to assess the energy needs of local businesses and tailor solutions accordingly.

Government Scheme facilitators – Mr Nihal Chand from National Bank of Rural Development shared existing schemes that are beneficial to the entrepreneurs and asked CBOs and training institutes to support them in mobilisation of potential target group.

Entrepreneurs – Entrepreneurs from Punawali and Hasari villages involved in several entrepreneurial activities. They needed DA's support to expand their enterprise and grow their business. One of such entrepreneur Channu Kala from Hasari Village is into the production of Macrame items. She asked the coalition to support in market linkage and its related capacity-building.

Collaboration and Networking

The District Entrepreneurship Coalition event provided a unique opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate and form meaningful partnerships. Networking sessions allowed participants to connect, share ideas, and explore potential collaborations that could amplify the impact of their individual efforts. The synergy created during the event is expected to contribute significantly to the entrepreneurial landscape in Jhansi.

The District Entrepreneurship Coalition event in Jhansi served as a catalyst for bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to promote entrepreneurship and economic development. The event showcased the dedication of training institutes, microfinance institutions, banks, and community-based organisations to empower entrepreneurs in Jhansi. As these stakeholders continue to work together, it is anticipated that their collective efforts will contribute to the growth and success of the entrepreneurial community in the region.

The event was ended by summarising all action points are to be followed by in the next coalition in the month of January 2023.