

## Assocham-ICAI to set up MSME development centre

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** Apex industry body Assocham on Friday said that it has joined hands with the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) to set up the country's first virtual centre for development of MSMEs as part of its efforts to make India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) globally competitive, innovative and create first-generation entrepreneurs.

The centre aims to reach out to about 30 million MSMEs, educate at least 50,000 MSME units about exports, assist nearly 20 million budding entrepreneurs, train at least 10 million non-skilled/semi-skilled people across India and assist at least 500 MSMEs to produce innovative products, the Assocham-ICAI vision document stated.

The centre will serve as a single window for all MSME related issues such as finance, technology, skill development, policy and compliance as it will get firsthand information on their impediments and evolve amicable solutions by developing a dedicated website, establishing round-the-clock helpline number, issuing a monthly newsletter and publishing a sector-specific research journal.

"The centre will serve as a facilitator to MSMEs by addressing their issues, connecting them to global research and development (R&D) centres, strengthening industry-academia partnership, skill up-gradation and conducting product/industry specific seminars and workshops," said a vision document that was jointly released by ICAI president CMA Dr AS Durga Prasad, Assocham Southern Regional Council chairman Ravindra Sannareddy, chairman and Assocham national general secretary D S Rawat here.