

After Sanand, GIDC lines up Halol and Sykha for economic cluster

Two more women-only industrial parks for Guj

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Ahmedabad: In a step that could give a dramatic boost to women entrepreneurs in Gujarat, the state government has planned two more women-only industrial parks at Halol in Panchmahal district and Sykha in Bharuch in addition to Sanand, for which work is already under progress. With this, Gujarat will be the first state in the country to have three industrial clusters dedicated to women, said a top state government official.

"Our board has already approved Halol-2 and Sykha as women-only industrial parks. We are gauging the response for the Sanand industrial park and based on that, we will move forward with these two projects. Gujarat government wants to promote entrepreneurship amongst women and these projects are in accordance with this goal," Manoj Aggarwal, vice chairman and MD of Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) told dna.

These will be about 25-30 hectare clusters accommodating 200-250 plots. Halol will be next to see action and applications

HEFTY INCENTIVES FOR WOMEN-ONLY CLUSTERS

GIDC has provided discounted rates for plots at Sanand. Against the cost of Rs5,800 per square metre, the price offered to women entrepreneurs is Rs2,100 per square metre. While normal entrepreneurs at GIDC have to pay 50% of the cost of land at the time of booking and the remaining in four quarterly installments, biz women getting plots at Sanand

will have to pay only 30% of the cost upfront and remaining in 32 quarterly episodes. Women entrepreneurs are also given a 12 month additional period to go for production against two years under normal circumstances. "So what is a three year period normally has now increased to 10 year," said Aggarwal, vice chairman and MD of GIDC.

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Grishma Trivedi, chairperson, Business Women Wing (GCCCI)

from women entrepreneurs will be invited for the cluster soon after the exercise at Sanand is wound up, while Sykha, which falls in Dahej Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR), will have to wait a bit more as more infrastructure needs to be created according to plot sizes.

The move has been welcomed by Grishma Trivedi, chairperson of Business Women Wing (BWW) of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI).

"This will give businesswomen from far way places a platform to prove their entrepreneurial prowess. Women have tremendous potential in this sector and we are glad that Gujarat government is taking proactive steps to encourage women entrepreneurs," she said.

Over 100 businesswomen participated in GCCCI's awareness seminar on Tuesday to get guidance on the modalities on making applications for Sanand industrial park. Following

scrutiny by a committee of GIDC officials, industries and mines department and a representative of BWW, the allotment of plots will begin.

Heeding the demand of women entrepreneurs, GIDC has prepared smaller plots at Sanand. These include about 145 plots of 500 square metres, close to 50 plots of 750 square metres and about eight plots of 1,000 square metres compared to 2,000 square metre plots, which are standard for GIDC estates.