

Dynamics of Industrial Growth and Cluster-Based Development in Ajmer District: An Assessment of Patterns and Performance

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Abstract: Industries, particularly those engaged in manufacturing and processing, constitute a vital component of secondary economic activities and play a decisive role in regional economic development. The level of industrialisation in a region serves as a key indicator of economic advancement and structural transformation. Industrial development not only stimulates employment generation and income growth but also promotes the expansion of trade networks, transport, and communication infrastructure. A well-planned industrial policy facilitates the optimal utilisation of local resources such as minerals, agricultural produce, livestock, and human capital, thereby enhancing industrial productivity and regional competitiveness. In recent years, cluster-based industrial development, especially in the micro and small-scale sector, has emerged as an effective strategy for fostering balanced regional growth, encouraging entrepreneurship, and strengthening local economies.

Keywords: Industries, Micro, Small Scale Enterprises, Industrial Clusters, MSME Growth, Employment Generation

1. Introduction

Industries open up new avenues for employment opportunities and entrepreneurship. It not only eliminates regional imbalances but also augments the financial resources of the state. Manufactured goods not only cater to human needs but are also traded in national and international markets and in the latter case earn foreign currency for the country. Various types of industries have been established in the Ajmer based upon a multitude of factors such as market demands, transportation facilities, availability of labour, energy and power resources, capital investments, mechanization and technical know-how, availability of raw materials and government policies.

Ajmer district has a bounty of mineral reserves and hence there is sufficient scope for industrial establishment. Up till the year 2011 Ajmer district has registered 8 medium scale industries and 17663 small scale and cottage industries. The total investment involved was of rupees 92797.54 lakhs, which provided employment to approximately 87420 persons, whereas up till 2015 the registration of medium scale industries went up to 16 and 20577 small scale industries and cottage industries got registered, providing employment to about 106580 persons and involving an investment of rupees 4149.98 crores. These figures clearly indicate fast growing industrial development which has led to improvement in the standard of living of citizens.

2. Review of Literature

Desertic conditions and arid climate have framed constraints over Rajasthan's industrial development. Rajasthan's industrial development flourished post 1980s along with enforcement of favourable industrial policies and establishment of RIICO (Mathur 2005) (Sharma 2010). Ajmer's industrial profile is majorly based upon textile and agro-industry. Large marble processing units are located in Makrana and Kishangarh. Whereas Makupura and Parbatpura

Industrial Regions have diversified industries such as pharmaceuticals and engineering goods (Jain 2013) (Choudhary 2015).

The proximity of Ajmer with Delhi-Mumbai corridor (DMIC) and Golden Quadrilateral have led to improved connectivity and hence proved to be a boom to industrial growth of Ajmer (Singh 2018). Industrial clusters have boosted the local employment opportunities and enhanced economic growth (Bhargava 2016).

Objectives

- To study the Industries and Industrial Cluster of Ajmer.
- To analyse the Industrial growth of Ajmer District.

3. Research Methodology

The study and analysis of the research paper is based on secondary sources of data collected from statistical handbook of Ajmer district and Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Various related articles, websites, reports available online were also considered for research analysis.

Study Area

Ajmer is situated on the lower slopes of the Taragarh Hills of the Aravalli Range and occupies a central position within the state of Rajasthan, approximately 132 kilometres west of Jaipur. The district extends between latitudes 25°38'N to 26°58'N and longitudes 73°54'E to 75°22'E, covering a geographical area of 8,481 square kilometres. Characterised by undulating terrain and a semi-arid climate, the physical environment of Ajmer has significantly influenced settlement patterns, land use, and economic activities, including agriculture and industrial development.

According to the Census of India, 2011, Ajmer district recorded a population of 2,583,052 persons, of which 1,035,410 resided in urban areas, indicating a relatively high

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level of urbanisation. Major urban centres such as Ajmer, Kishangarh, Beawar, and Nasirabad function as important administrative, commercial, and industrial hubs. Administratively, the district is divided into Ajmer,

Kishangarh, Nasirabad, Beawar, Masuda, Kekri, Sarwar, Bhinay, and Peesangan each exhibiting distinct demographic and economic characteristics that collectively contribute to the region’s balanced development potential.

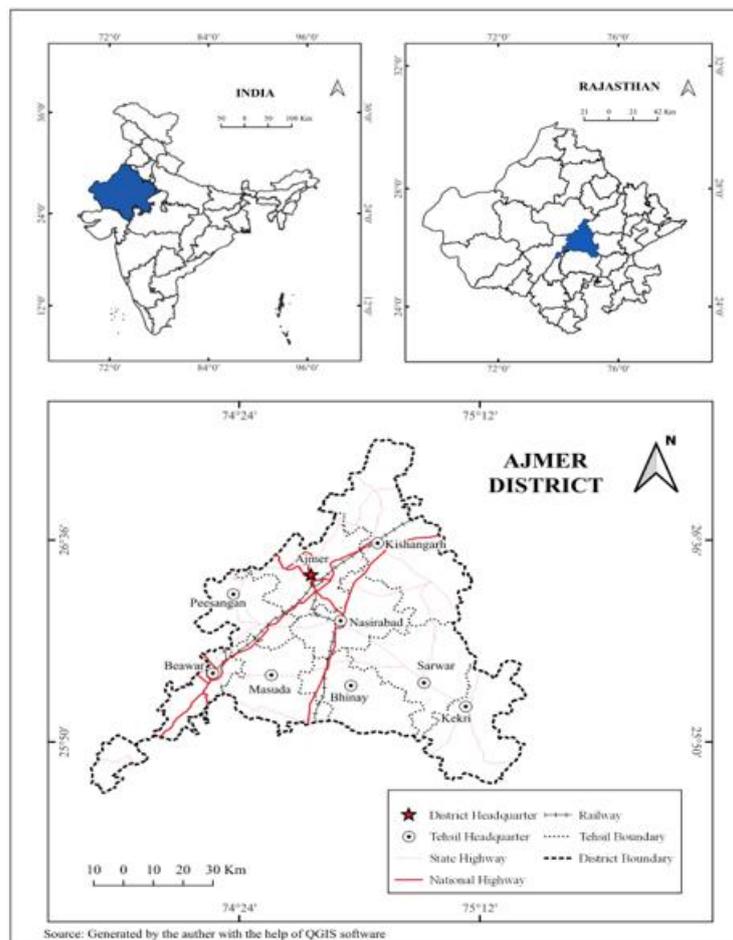


Figure 1: Map of Study Region

Major Industries

Major industries contributing to the development of the district include textile industry, marble industry, feldspar and quartz grinding industry, cement industry and asbestos based industry. Also, industries based on food products, leather and leather products and wood products also significantly contribute to the district.

The following table 1 gives the details of existing Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises and Artisan units in Ajmer district which present the quantitative and qualitative structures of these industrial units in the district.

Table 1: Details of Existing Micro & Small Enterprises and Artisan Units in Ajmer District.

S. No.	Type of Industry	No. of units	Fixed investment (Lakh Rs.)	Employment
1	Food products	936	5240.88	4431
2	Beverages, Tobacco & Tobacco products	80	59.16	2613
3	Cotton textiles	2816	12021.47	18252
4	Wool, Silk & Synthetic Fiber textile	411	2152.58	2320
5	Jute, Hump & Masta textiles	117	84.37	377
6	Textile product (Including wearing apparel other than footwear)	1002	494.40	3806
7	Wood and wood products furniture & fixture	1013	1244.14	3043
8	Paper & paper products & Printing	548	1406.69	3866
9	Leather & fur. Products (except repair)	2775	1285.12	4974
10	Rubber, Plastic, Petroleum & Coal products	360	2481.58	1726
11	Chemical & Chemical products	396	3102.50	1970
12	Minerals base units	3639	79741.89	22474
13	Basic metal & Alloys Industries	154	2391.47	1856
14	Metal products & Parts except Machinery & transport equipment	855	2515.11	3493
15	Machinery, Machine tools & Part except elect. Machines	315	4549.79	2006

16	Electrical Machinery apparatus Appliances	128	815.75	891
17	Transport equipment & parts	41	157.11	402
18	Other Mfg. industries	2656	8640.45	14029
19	Medical & Health services	17	509.49	57
20	Personnel services	654	1948.32	1120
21	Repair & Service	902	1673.17	2194
	Total	19815	18929.49	95900

Source - DIC, Ajmer

It can be observed from the table 1 that the maximum number of industrial units are mineral based units i.e., 3639 out of the total 19815 registered units. Mineral based units also attract maximum investment of 79741.899 lakh rupees and provide maximum employment to approximately 22474 persons. Abundance of mineral reserves, thrust in mining sector, mechanisation, capital investment, market demands and developed communication networks can be considered key contributors for flourishing of mineral based industries.

Cotton textiles formulate the next dominant industrial group with a total of 2816 registered units, 12021.47 lakhs rupees of investment and on an average provide employment to 18252 persons. With 2775 number of registered industrial units, leather and fur products (except repair) stands as the third highest group of industrial units. On the other hand, the manufacturing industry has an investment of 8640.45 lakh rupees only next to the mineral based industry and has 26256 registered industrial units under it providing employment to 14029 persons.

Furthermore, the other groups of industry which fairly contribute are Textile Products (including apparel other than footwear), Wood and Wood Products, Furniture and Fixtures, Food products, Repair and Service and Metal based products and parts (except machinery and transport equipment) having large number of registered industrial units 1002, 1013, 936, 902 and 855 respectively. Moreover, there are various sectors of industries having more than a hundred registered units under them and hence generate good opportunities for employment. These sectors include industries of Personal Services, Electrical Machinery- Apparatus and Appliances (128), Machinery & Machine tools and Parts except electrical machines (315), Basic Metal and Alloy Industries (154), Chemical and Chemical Products (396), Rubber or Plastic Petroleum and Coal Products (360), Paper and Pulp products

and Printing (548), Jute, Hemp and Masta Textile (117) and Wool, Silk and Synthetic Fibre Textile (411).

Medical and Health Services has the least number of registered units i.e., 17, with an investment of 509.45 lakhs rupees and 57 approximate employments. 41 units are registered under Transport equipment and parts whereas, 80 units fall under Beverages, Tobacco and Tobacco products. This sector also has a minimum capital investment of 59.16 lakh rupees and provides employment to 22613 people.

Industrial Regions

An industrial region refers to an area primarily consisting of industrial type properties. These zoned areas or estates are purposefully planned for industrial development. Industrial areas are hubs of manufacturing industries dominated by agglomerations of factory units. The industrial plants are clustered in the industrial parks owing to the occurrence of favourable geo-economic conditions. These regions provide huge possibilities of employment. The skilled and unskilled labour working in these specified regions transform the raw material into a consumable good, which can be sold out in the domestic as well as international market.

Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) is the apex agency of Government of Rajasthan which plays a paramount role in the establishment and development of industries in Rajasthan. RIICO exercises the allotment of plots and ensures other essential infrastructural facilities to the industrialists and entrepreneurs. In Ajmer district RIICO has so far developed 27 industrial areas at Parbatpura, Makhupura, Palra, M.T.C. phase I, II, III, IV and V, Gegal, Gohana (Beawar), Silora I & II, Beawar Phase I & II, Sarwar, Bewanja, Srinagar, Roopangarh, Ranmpura Mewatian, Saradhana I & II and Narbadkheda. The following table 2 precipitates the relevant details of industrial areas of Ajmer district.

Table 2: Major Industrial Areas in Ajmer District

S. No.	Name of Industrial Area	Land Acquired (In hectare)	Land Developed (In hectare)	No. of Plots
1.	Parbatpura	57.60	57.60	110
2.	Parbatpura, M Pura (Extn.)	91.00	91.00	185
3.	M.T.C- 1 & 2	17.22	17.22	36
4.	M.T.C 3 & 4	23.15	----	37
5.	Kekri- 1, 2 & 3	79.70	79.70	185
6.	Gegal	69.20	69.20	161
7.	Sarwar	85.12	85.12	252
8.	Bewanja	63.60	63.60	117
9.	Ajaymeru, Palra	335.26	-	310
10.	Shri Nagar	81.27	---	51
11.	Sawar (Kekri)	34.57	34.57	39
12.	Makhupura Industrial Area	16.32	16.32	60
13.	Kishangarh-1 & 2	62.88	62.88	160
14.	Kishangarh-3	224.00	224.00	318
15.	Kishangarh-4	442.0	442.0	835
16.	Kishangarh-5	138.89	138.89	98

17.	Silora-I	247.00	247.00	421
18.	Silora-II	102.88	102.88	36
19.	Roopangarh	36.40	36.40	82
20.	Industrial Area, Beawar- 1	136.60	136.60	202
21.	Industrial Area, Beawar- 2	29.60	29.60	63
22.	Rampura Mewatiyan	45.36	45.36	70
23.	Bijay Kumar	66.43	66.43	102
24.	Gohana	24.00	24.00	24
25.	Saradhana-I, II	153.64	75	187
26.	Narbadkheda (Under process)	24.80	0	0

Source: RIICO, Ajmer

According to the table Kishangarh Industrial Area Phase I, II, III, IV and V, with a total developed land of 867.77 hectares is the largest industrial area of the district. It has a total of 1096 production units and it is the chief cluster of the Marble industry. On the other hand, Narbadkheda Industrial area is under development and 24.80 hectares of land has been acquired for its construction.

Main Industrial areas of Ajmer district

1) Parbatpura Industrial Area

The Parbatpura industrial area comes under Ajmer tehsil. The region comprises 57.60 hectares of developed land consisting of 110 plots. Currently all the plots are functional and allotted to entrepreneurs. The Parbatpura industrial area has 99 production units. Parbatpura extension has also been developed by RIICO, having an area of 91 hectares and 185 plots allotted, with 153 production units.

2) Kekri Industrial Area

This Industrial Area comes under kekri block and has developed three phases viz. Phase I, II & III over 79.70 hectares of land area. Out of the total 187 allotted plots, 180 are functional whereas, seven plots lie vacant. The Kekri Industrial Area has agro-based industries along with mineral grinding units. The region has a total of 82 production units.

3) Gegal Industrial Area

Gegal Industrial Area lies in Ajmer tehsil and it is also developed by RIICO spanning over 69.20 hectares of land. The region has 142 production units working over 161 allotted plots and none of them lie vacant. Gegal industries are known for power looms and sizing units, for which various kinds of assistance have been provided by RIICO such as power, water and other miscellaneous items.

4) H.M.T. Industrial Area

H.M.T. Industrial Area has the prominence of Engineering and Electronics Industrial units. The region is developed over four phases- M.T.C. 1&2 and M.T.C. 3&4, with a total of 40.37 hectares of acquired land. Out of this only 17.2 hectares of land have been developed. Also, only 41 plots have been allotted out of proposed 73 plots and the rest are disputed for the want of extension.

5) Bewanjan Industrial Area

Bewanjan Industrial Area lies in Nasirabad block. It is developed by RIICO over 63.60 hectares with an allotment of 117 plots. Of these only 02 lie vacant whereas 115 are operational, with 70 units of production. RIICO has also planned development of the Bewanjan Extension Industrial Area with 72.11 hectares of land. The industrial region would

enjoy strategic location by being in the vicinity of Bharat Mala Economic Corridor.

6) Kishangarh and Silora Industrial area

Kishangarh Industrial Area forms the largest industrial cluster developed by RIICO in the district. The region is planned and developed under I, II, III, IV & V phases. RIICO has allotted 8607.77 hectares of land and 1401 plots. Out of these, 60 plots still lie vacant whereas, 1341 are allotted to entrepreneurs. This Industrial Area deals with marble chips, cutting and polishing and tile manufacturing activities. RIICO has also developed marble Mandi where allotment of 151 godowns and 80 shops have been planned.

Silora phase I&II have also developed with 349.8 hectares of land. The region has a capacity of 457 plots and currently 65 of them lie vacant whereas 392 are operational. 126 production units are functional in the Silora Phase 1.

7) Beawar Industrial Area

Beawar is a promising industrial region of the district. Beawar has various mineral deposits, especially limestone. It also has important agricultural resources and a prominent Centre for wool production. RIICO has developed Industrial Area Beawar phase 1&2 extending over an area of 166.20 hectares and has also suggested development of 265 industrial units based on agro, livestock, minerals and wool. Beawar has also come up with big Wool Mandi.

Gohana Industrial Area has been developed at close proximity at just 7 k.m. away from Beawar, covering an area of 24 hectares and 24 plots.

Rampura Mewatiyan Industrial Area with 45.36 hectares of land and 65 operational and 5 vacant plots have also been developed by RIICO. Both Gohana and Rampura Mewatiyan have 17 and 62 production units respectively.

8) Roopangarh Industrial Area

Roopangarh Industrial Area has been developed on 36.40 hectares of land by the District Industries centre, Ajmer. It has a capacity of 82 plots out of which 26 have been sanctioned and are currently functional.

Such a scenario of development in industries and industrial regions indicate a rapid pace of economic development of the district. Looking into the swift and large-scale development of the industries, more and more extensions are proposed in the pipeline for Ajmer, Kishangarh, Nasirabad and Beawar tehsils.

The below given table 3 and graphs of figures 2 and 3 show the year wise trend of medium small scale and cottage industries registered in the Ajmer district. According to the figures the units registered up to 2015-16 (Up to 30.09.2015) were 2068 generating an employment of 101060, involving an investment of 157318.89 lakh rupees. It is quite revealing that in the past two decades the number of registrations has increased every year. 9796 registrations were reported in the year 1995, which rose to 14337 in the year 2005. Also, employment and investment have hiked every year. It can also be concluded that over the last decade an average increase of 3.70 percent is recorded in the registrations each year. Also increase in investment and employment remained on an average of 16% and 4.2 % per annum respectively.

The major units registered in urban areas included food products, leather and wool products, mineral grinding, cement pipes, power looms and Engineering goods. While registrations from rural areas consisted of textile and food products, Aari Tari, blacksmith, poultry, Bidi and Muda chick making and handloom etc.

Existing Status of Industries in Ajmer District

Ajmer district is a storehouse for non-metallic minerals and has immense potential for the development of mineral based industries. Besides mineral based industries, cotton textile, leather and its product and wool and its product significantly contribute to the industrial sector. Up till March 2017, an investment of rupees 41022.88 crores was carried out on 25906 medium, small scale and large-scale industries. Due to regularisation of MSMED Act 2006, a surge in the registration of industrial units have been reported.

Large Scale Industries

1) Ajmer Zila Dugdh Utpadak Sangh Ltd., Ajmer

The Ajmer daily was commissioned in 1977 and since then it started supply of milk and ghee and in 1984 started supply of

butter and milk powder. Ajmer Dairy has one of the best milk packing stations. 282 BMC (Bulk Milk Coolers) chilling facilities had been installed to ensure the quality. The capacity of the plant was increased to 2.5 lakh litres per day in 2016-17, judiciously using internal human and financial resources. Ajmer Dairy is one of the biggest platforms providing employment to the urban and rural women workforce.

Table 3: Year Wise Trend of Units Registered in Ajmer District. (1995-2015)

S. No.	Year	Unit	Employment	Investment (in Lakhs)
1	1995-96	9796	50540	11105.08
2	1996-97	10182	52483	13507.29
3	1997-98	10560	54203	17186.69
4	1998-99	10993	55643	19075.01
5	1999-00	11417	56906	20353.34
6	2000-01	11864	58260	21560.84
7	2001-02	12320	59874	22704.19
8	2002-03	12764	61471	23289.21
9	2003-04	13225	63529	26726.18
10	2004-05	13775	65614	31634.90
11	2005-06	14337	68070	35264.90
12	2006-07	15236	73311	47057.62
13	2007-08	15683	76441	55925.44
14	2008-09	16343	80142	68406.39
15	2009-10	17003	83815	81404.16
16	2010-11	17663	87420	92797.54
17	2011-12	18336	89993	101613.56
18	2012-13	19086	92896	113585.93
19	2013-14	19815	95900	132515.42
20	2014-15	20577	100003	153155.15
21	2015-16 (Up To 30.09.2015)	20682	101060	157318.89

Source - DIC, Ajmer

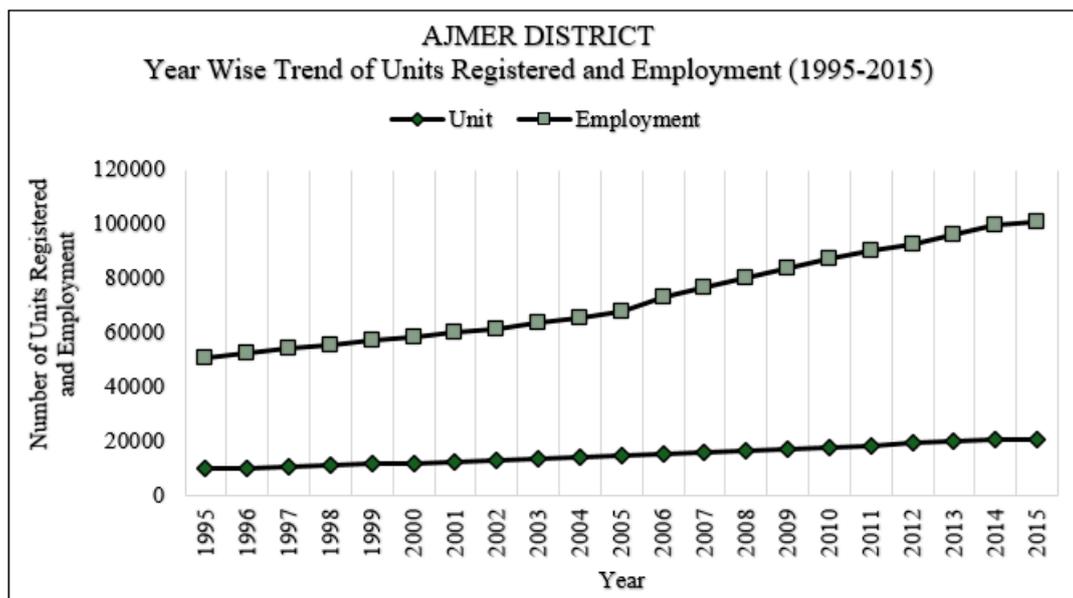


Figure 2

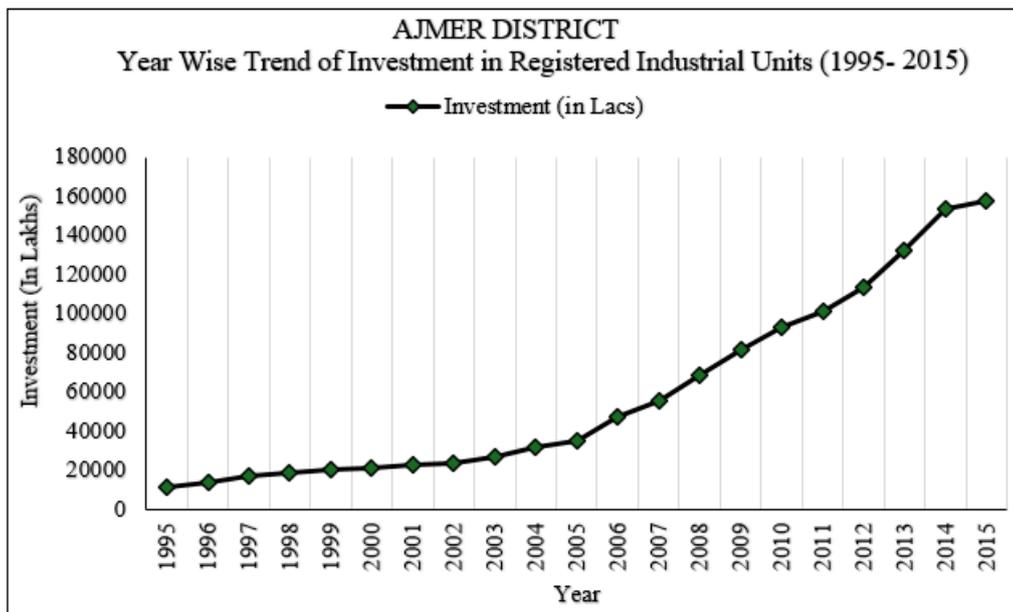


Figure 3

2) Hindustan machine tools Limited, Ajmer

The unit was established in 1970. Its major products include a wide range of CNC conventional, general purpose and special purpose grinding machines (cylindrical, centreless, internal crankshaft, double disc duplex tools and Cutter). The unit involves total fixed investment of rupees 32.31 crores.

3) Shree Cement Limited, Beawar

Shree Cement, founded in Beawar was established in 1979, is an Indian cement manufacturing unit. The production capacity has gone up to 30 lakh tonnes and involves an investment of 1072.57 crores.

4) RK Marbles Limited

RK marbles was founded at Kishangarh in the year 1989. It involves fixed capital investment of 111.56 crores and has installed capacity of 20.50 lakh units per annum.

90 degree stone- Established in 2012, 90 degree stone is a division of RK Marbles Private Limited. RK Marble Limited is the world's largest producer of marble and holds the Guinness record for it.

5) Ajmer Food Product Private Limited

Ajmer Food Products Private Limited is located in Parbatpura Industrial Area and was incorporated in the year 1990. The company is a manufacturing unit (foodstuff) and produces biscuits as its end product. The fixed investment of the unit is 38.31 crores.

6) Castamet Works Private Limited, Kharwa

The unit was established in the year 2008 and deals in the manufacture of basic, precious and non-ferrous metals with grinding media as its end product. It has a fixed capital investment of 15.12 crores.

7) M/S Uttara Food & Feeds Private Limited, Gagwana

This industrial unit deals with production of poultry feed and has a production capacity of 600 mt. per month. It was constituted in the year 1999 and it has a fixed investment of 11.73 crores.

8) Aditya Polysack Pvt. Ltd., Lamana, Pisangan

The unit produces PP/ Hdpe woven sack and fabric. The unit involves fixed investment of 17.32 crores and has a production capacity of 7800 MT per annum.

Major clusters in Ajmer district

Major clusters of micro and small enterprises under manufacturing sector include Gota loom (weaving) cluster, Ajmer, Picchwai painting cluster, Beawar, silk and wooden painting, Kishangarh and marble cluster Kishangarh and Beawar. Industries developed in clusters enjoy infrastructural facilities of communication, power supply and water etc.

Gota lace is a 200-year-old activity in Ajmer, existing for the past 85 years. Today, more than 400 to 500 families are employed in it. Gota lace units operate as a small-scale industry and faces competition from other clusters located at Surat, Narena and Khandela Gota clusters. For the development of Gota Loom cluster a common facility centre (CFC) has been proposed to be set up in the Maharana Pratap Nagar Extension. The CFC will also include a dyeing unit, training cum production centre and Design Research Centre. The land for the same would be allotted by ADA.

Major Exportable items

Vast potential for export of numerous goods can be seen in Ajmer district. Engineering goods and mineral based goods together form the main bracket of export items. Besides, readymade garments, flour mill, cable machine items, emery stone, H.M.T. machines, pH metre, temperature detectors, thermocouple are also being exported from the district. A wide range of handicraft items, cotton, woollen durries, wooden items and leather products are also exported such as leather bags and purses, chairs, stools, tables, cotton and metal balls etc.

Traditional Kishangarh paintings on silk, cotton, wool and marble blocks are also being exported to the foreign markets.

Potential industries in Ajmer district

Ajmer district owing to its numerous natural resources, reserves and central location has abundant potential for development of the industrial sector. Developing and expanding existing industrial areas could prove to be a major thrust for Industrial development in the district. Ajmer is directly linked with Mumbai, the prominent industrial centre of the country through to Delhi- Ahmedabad line. Such lanes of swift transportation would prove to be very helpful in the setup of industry.

Many ancillary units are being set up to the existing large-scale industries which provide more and more employment. Large Industries like H.M.T. may give rise to various ancillary units. Some ancillary units proposed by Toshniwal industries are machine components, sheet metal parts, electroplating, die casting and electronic components. There are many possibilities of extending or establishing new industrial plants in Beawar Tehsil. Agro based units can be put up here since, it has concentration of cotton and wool textiles, moreover, Beawar Mandi is the biggest market for food grains whereas, Bijayanagar and Madanganj are known for the export of cumin seeds and Chillies. Beawar is one of the major ceramic mineral production centres of the district, hence development of ceramic Complex here would give an impetus to industrial development. Beawar is also a major producer of asbestos and 35 asbestos grinding units, and 85 cement pipe units are established here. More such units can be put up in this very region.

A plethora of other resource based, demand based, and handicraft-based industries can be potentially developed in the district. Such industries may include the following-

- 1) Agriculture Implements Based Industries
- 2) Livestock Based Industries
- 3) Mineral Based Industries
- 4) Feldspar Grinding Units
- 5) Asbestos And Cement Pipe Industry
- 6) Mini Cement Plants
- 7) Marble Industry
- 8) Washing Soap Industry
- 9) Cement Based Items
- 10) Textile Industry
- 11) Engineering Industry
- 12) Demand Based Industrial Units
 - a) Washing Soap
 - b) Wooden Furniture
 - c) Printing Press, Screen Printing and Computer Designing
- 13) Ancillary Units
- 14) Cottage / Footloose Industry
 - a) Cotton Spinning and Weaving
 - b) Gota Unit
 - c) Woolen Carpets
 - d) Mudda and Chick Making
 - e) Goldsmith
 - f) Pottery
 - g) Blacksmith
 - h) Wooden Furniture Unit
 - i) Pickle Making Unit
 - j) Candle Making Unit
 - k) Cycle Repairing
 - l) Potato Chips and Papad Mangodi

m) Agarbatti Making Units

15) Handicraft and Shilpgram

4. Conclusion

To establish and promote any micro, small or medium scale enterprise numerous concessions and facilities are offered by the government through policy and scheme formation both at centre and state level. Some of them are RIPS 2014, MSMED Act 2006, MSME policy package 2011, Industrial Promotion Campaign, Udyam Protsahan Sansthan (UPS), Product Diversification Scheme, Cash Award Scheme, Shilpiyon Hetu Bazar Sahayata Yojana, Powerloom Training, Bhamashah Rojgar Shreya Yojana etc. All such schemes organise meetings and campaigns to guide and assist all entrepreneurs regarding varying aspects related to industries and entrepreneurship.

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