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Urban Micro Business Center: A Commitment to Empower Community

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Introduction

The *Urban Micro Business Centre* (UMBC) is the flagship project of Centurion Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centre[www.umbc.org.in], an independent Section 8 (Not for Profit) Company set up in Odisha by Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), in order to develop innovative models of enterprise and entrepreneurship for the urban and rural poor.

The UMBC is set up with the goal of establishing entrepreneurships (start-ups) which are self-sufficient, sustainable and scalable. The vision is of a sustainable, economically viable micro enterprise ecosystem in every Urban “Slum” Cluster that nurtures successful Urban Poor Entrepreneurs - particularly women – allowing them to thrive economically in India’s fast growing urban economies.

The objectives with which the UMBC was set up were threefold:

(a) To enhance the income of existing or aspiring entrepreneurs, through skill up-gradation, access to infrastructure and resources, market linkages, and access to business information;

(b) To motivate, inform, counsel and train urban poor communities - particularly women, on part-time or full time entrepreneurship;