

## **Fostera BPOs to expand in rural TN**

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Fostering Technologies in Rural Areas (Fostera), an initiative of the Krishnagiri district administration in Tamil Nadu, is planning to set up business process outsourcing (BPO) centres across five taluks. These centres would accommodate 1,000 people in the next few weeks and employ around 1,500 rural youth in the next one year.

Krishnagiri will also become the first district in south India to take up auditing work for the aviation industry after Mumbai and Pune in the country.

Speaking to Business Standard, MR Ashok Kumar, CEO and secretary, Fostera, said by the end of November this year, the district would set up centres with a total capacity of 1,000 seats on a hub and spoke model along with the local administration, public, educational institutions and local entrepreneurs.

While Uttangari taluk will be the hub and have a 250-seat facility, taluks including Maganurpatti, Mittapalli, Samalpatti, Singarapettari and Katteri will have facilities with 50-100 seating capacity.

Over 40 BPO companies including Scope International, Ajuba, ALLSEC, HOV Services, and Citi Financial have shown interest to outsource jobs to Fostera, said Kumar.

Though Fostera's current seating capacity is 500, it has only 75 people working for it. Around 1,000 people are undergoing training, of which 50 per cent will be employed in the next few weeks.

Kumar said Adventity, a knowledge and BPO company, was planning to outsource aviation auditing job to Fostera, which will be taken up in Krishnagiri. Trainers from Bangalore, Mumbai and Pune are likely to train 50 students initially for this job.

So far, companies like All State Insurance, EDS, and Adventity had outsourced jobs to local villages in Krishnagiri. Fostera, a rural BPO-cum-call centre, currently employs around 90 people mostly from below poverty line families.