

Exhibition-cum-trade fair under PM-Viswakarma inaugurated
Workers of unorganized sector play a crucial role
in the country's economic development – CM

Traditional artisans of our country form the major share of our workforce in the Indian economy. That is why the workers of unorganized sector have a crucial role to play in the economic development of the country, stated the chief minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha today at Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhavan after inaugurating the exhibition-cum-trade fair under PM-Viswakarma scheme. The Union minister of MSME Jitan Ram Manjhi graced the programme as a special guest. This exhibition-cum-trade fair will continue till October 27.

Addressing the gathering there the chief minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched this PM Viswakarma scheme for the overall development of our traditional artisans and technicians. Artisans of 18 trades including carpenter, mason, barber, washerman, tailor, puppet and toy manufacturers will come under this scheme. Under the scheme, skill development training, soft loans, modern equipments and instruments, some incentives for digital transactions etc. benefits are being provided to the beneficiaries.

The chief minister further said, the rural economy of the state is better and quite advanced now. Number of self-help groups has also increased considerably. Under various central and state schemes, these SHGs are being helped. They are getting loans from the banks. He hoped that conventional workforce of the state will benefit from PM Viswakarma scheme.

Union MSME minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, speaking on the occasion, said, various programmes are being implemented across the country under PM-Viswakarma scheme. Because, the aim of this scheme is to create earning avenues for the poor. PM Narendra Modi also emphasized expanding livelihood opportunities through MSME ventures. Initiative has been taken towards this direction. Under PM-Viswakarma scheme Tripura has made considerable progress. He hoped that the dream of the PM Narendra Modi of building self-reliant and Vikshit Bharat will be fulfilled through various development programmes. Through this scheme also standard of life of the conventional workforce will improve.

At the programme the industry and commerce minister Santana Chakma also spoke. She said, the MSME sector will play an important role in building Atmanirbhar Bharat and Atmanirbhar Tripura. With this objective in view PM-Viswakarma scheme has been launched.

Welcome address was delivered by the industry and commerce secretary Kiran Gitte. He said, so far 52,000 conventional artisans have registered under PM-Viswakarma scheme. Among them 18,000 have been given approval after third level of screening for skill development training. Some of them have already completed the training. Under PM-Viswakarma scheme 29 training centres are operational in the state.

Among others present were Milind Ramtek, director of PM-Viswakarma scheme. Vote of thanks was given by the director of industry and commerce Vishwasree B. At the programme awards were given away in different categories for successful implementation of the scheme. North Tripura district received the award for best performance, North Debendranagar Village Committee under Lefunga Block was declared the Best Village, Jirania Nagar Panchayat and Bishalgarh Municipal Council were declared the best ULBs, and Punjab National Bank was honoured as the best bank. Certificates of training and loan cheques were also handed over to some beneficiaries in today's programme. Some beneficiaries received tool kits and instruments. Unakoti brand incense stick was launched today. Before the programme, the chief minister and other guests and dignitaries visited the exhibition stalls.