## Government of Tripura Directorate of Information & Cultural Affairs \*\*\*\*\*\*

S-4366 Agartala, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

## 8<sup>th</sup> National Handloom Day Celebration at Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel

The handloom, handicraft and sericulture artisans of the state have to produce products keeping in mind with the current demands of society and quality. With the goal of marketing, palatable products should be produced. The financial base of artisans associated with this industry will be stronger if the products produced are sold more. The government has undertaken multiple programmes for skill development, training, marketing and capitalization of handloom artisans in the state. Abhishek Chandra, Special Secretary of Handloom, Handicraft and Sericulture said this while inaugurating the 8th National Handloom Day on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

It is to be noted that National Handloom Day is being celebrated on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Special secretary of the department said that in 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared 7<sup>th</sup> August as National Handloom Day at a programme in Gujarat. Its objective is to make weaving and weaving artisans self-reliant. He said that about 50 lakh artisans are associated with this industry in the country. The industry has a turnover of around 25 thousand crores. He drew the attention of the present weavers and said that the government has taken initiative to sell the artisans products abroad. The state now has a total of 104 handloom, handicraft and sericulture clusters. Kuntal Das, Director of Handlooms, Handicrafts and Sericulture Department, Anirban Dutta, Additional Director of the Department, Vijay P.S Samarkar, Assistant Director of Weavers Service Centre of Central Government, Scientist of Research Extension Centre of Central Government, Narayan Biswas, Silk Industry Development Officer Pradeep Saha, and Purbasha Officer, Subhash Sutradhar spoke at the programme.

The State Merit Award was given to silk artisan Rabishwari Rupini, Majeda Khatun, handloom artisan Mangaleswari Debbarma, Manmohan Debnath, handicraft artisan Haricharan Das and Bima Debbarma. Besides this, winners of the handloom art competition were awarded and the first prize was given to Ratna prabha Chakma, second Suchitra Tripura and third Birja Sinha. The winners of the silk production competition were Milonti Rupini (1st prize), second Pramila Rupini and third Rina Shukla Baidya. The winners of the Handicraft Art Competition were awarded to Utpal Das (1st Prize), Suman Sutradhar (2nd Prize) and to Gita rani Das (3rd Prize). The first, second and third prize winners in all these competitions were given checques and certificates of rupees 10,000, rupees 7,500 and rupees 5,000 respectively. Special secretary along with other guests handed over the awards to the winners at the programme. At the programme women participated in a fashion show in traditional attire and various clusters displayed and sold their manufactured silk sarees, silk yarn, Pallu made of loom, cottage industry items, risha, pacharas etc. Director of Skill Development Department Sanjay Chakraborty along with other artisans were present at the programme.

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