

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath hails PM Narendra Modi, distributes tool kits among 21,000 artisans



Chief minister Yogi Adityanath distributing tool kits among artisans in the city on Friday

LUCKNOW: To mark [Vishwakarma Shram](#) Samman Diwas, chief minister [Yogi Adityanath](#) distributed tool kits among 21,000 artisans and said that the government would ensure that 75,000 artisans become self-reliant within three months.

The CM also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 71st birthday and spoke about the work done by him for the development of the country. From September 17 to October 7, the day Modi completes 20 years in public service, the state government will celebrate '[Vikas](#) Utsav' in which people will be linked with various welfare schemes.

On Friday, the CM also disbursed loans worth Rs 171 crore among 11,000 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

"The MSME department must set a target to train 75,000 artisans and craftspersons over the next three months as part of Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav. An action plan should be prepared so that the government can distribute tool kits among them soon," the CM said.

The [Vishwakarma](#) scheme was launched on December 26, 2018, with the aim of making artisans self-reliant. The scheme, said the CM, along with one district-one product (ODOP) programme of the state government, had created immense employment opportunities in the state. With a population of 24 crore, the CM said, the rate of unemployment in 2016 was more than 17%. Currently, it was 4-5%, he said.

"During this pandemic, people had to struggle for work as lockdown was imposed. More than 40 lakh migrant workers returned to UP and it was a challenge for the state to ensure that they had jobs. Through schemes like ODOP, we managed to provide them with employment opportunities," the CM said.

He added that since December 2018, the government has trained over 68,400 people and provided tool kits worth about Rs 100 crore under the scheme. Another 1 lakh craftspersons had been linked with the government's skilling scheme under which a training allowance of Rs 250 per day is given.

Highlighting importance given by his government to artisans, the CM referred to the celebration of lighting lamps in Ayodhya on Diwali. He said that in 2017, around 51,000 lamps were lit in Ayodhya. "This year, we are going to light 7.5 lakh diyas. This has become possible because we have provided them environment to showcase their talent. Our artisans had stopped making Lakshmi Ganesh idols and we used to depend on China for these. Previous governments did not pay attention to this issue but now artisans are happy," he said.