

KV Dham to boost local craft,trade of GI-tagged products

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Varanasi: The Kashi Vishwanath Dham, which has come up with all its splendour, will not only boost pilgrimage and tourism but also act as a catalyst to improve the lives of local artisans, particularly those engaged in production of GI-tagged goods.

During his visit to Varanasi for the inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Dham on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be presented many GI-certified artefacts and products like wooden lotus, zardozi angvastram and metal trishul (trident) prepared by master craftsmen under the guidance of Geographical Indications (GI) expert Rajni Kant.

Earlier too, artisans have made exquisite handicraft products for the PM and celebrities visiting Varanasi.

“Trade Facilitation Centre in Bada Lalpur area, the first big project brought by the PM in Kashi, is dedicated to weavers and artisans. It shows his commitment to ‘Vocal for local’ and betterment of the lives of artisans,” said Kant, adding, “We are hopeful that Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham will open the doors of opportunities for local artisans to showcase and sell their goods to visiting pilgrims and tourists.”

“Artefacts prepared by artisans have already been handed over to the district administration and will be gifted to the PM. The special 24 Rudraksha-studded silk angvastram with the inscription of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham has been prepared by master weaver Mumtaz Ali of Lallapura locality,” he added.

“It is a matter of great satisfaction that our work has been appreciated and selected for the PM,” said Mumtaz, who had also prepared an angvatram for the PM when he visited the city for the inauguration of Rudhraksh Convention Centre.

The wooden lotus, a fine example of wood carving, has been prepared by state award winner, Chandra Prakash Vishswakarma of Ramkatora area, while the trishul has been made by Vijay Kumar Kasera of Kashipura locality.

Meanwhile, the Weavers Service Centre, in association with Handicraft Service Centre, has organised a week-long exhibition of local crafts and weavers at Pt Deen Dayal Hastkala Shankul, Bada Lalpur, from December 23-29.

According to organisers, the exhibition has been organised on the opening of Kashi Vishwanath Dham by the PM. The main objective of the exhibition is to showcase the age-old tradition and heritage of Kashi’s crafts to visitors from across the country.

The exhibition will showcase Banaras silk brocade, silk saree of Mubarakpur, durries of Mirzapur, wooden toys and carvings of Banaras, carpets of Bhadohi, black pottery of Azamgarh, terracotta of Gorakhpur, and other goods of zari and zardozi.