

PM Narendra Modi's gifts to world leaders an honour for Uttar Pradesh artists'

TNN | Jun 30, 2022, 03.35 AM IST



LUCKNOW: Skilled artisans whose products PM Narendra Modi gifted to world leaders during the G7 summit in Germany are on cloud nine. They had never imagined that products made by them would be gifted by the PM to premiers of other countries.

“When our PM has promoted our product internationally, we have nothing to worry. We are grateful to Modi and Yogi ji for thinking about artisans like us,” said 31-year-old Faku Dama Ansari, who is a sixth generation artisan from Sitapur making cotton durries (heavy rugs).

Modi had gifted a durrie designed by Faku to Senegal president Macky Sall.

Recalling the days before the launch of the ODOP scheme, Faku said, “I have seen a time when my father and grandfather carried durries on their

bicycle and went door-to-door to sell them. It was difficult for us to make ends meet. Since the ODOP scheme has been launched, orders have increased four times.”

For 70-year-old Dilshad Ansari from Moradabad, the moment when PM gifted a nickel coated, hand engraved brass vessel made by him was incredible. “Kabhi khwab me bhi nahi socha tha ki itna bada sammaan milega (I had never dreamt of such a huge recognition). It means a lot to us. Through the ODOP scheme, we are now encouraging our children to engage in this art form,” Dilshad said.

Similar sentiments were shared by 41-year-old Rajat Asthana from Agra and 54-year-old Guljeet Minhas from Bulandshahr. While Asthana’s product — a marble tabletop with inlay work — was gifted by PM Modi to the Italian PM, a platinum-painted tea set gifted to UK PM Boris Johnson came from Guljeet.

“Our PM did something unimaginable. I was fortunate that of the thousands of artisans, a product that we made was chosen as a gift. It’s a huge honour by the PM to the art form and artisans,” Guljeet said.

Asthana, who introduced the marble inlay work in his family, said even though his products are exported to different countries, this recognition by the PM himself was heart-warming. “The PM’s gesture shows his affinity for the distinct art forms,” Asthana said.