

UP emerging as MSME capital of India, says minister

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Agra: Uttar Pradesh is emerging as the MSME capital of India, said UP MSME minister Bhupendra Chaudhary on Friday.

Addressing the three-day BRICS MSME Forum in Agra, Chaudhary said the state has been exporting machinery, garments, leather, carpets and precious stones to several countries.

Chaudhary said Uttar Pradesh's MSME sector has emerged as a major pillar of employment, innovation and economic growth, with around 96 lakh MSME units operating in the state and providing employment to about 1.65 crore people.

He said the state's One District One Product (ODOP) scheme has helped connect local talent and traditional crafts with global markets.

Yogi govt views MSMEs not merely as a source of employment, but as the most powerful engine driving the state's economic growth, innovation, and global competitiveness, he said.

Under the ODOP scheme, more than 20,000 people have been provided margin money assistance of around Rs 897 crore, generating 3.16 lakh employment opportunities.

The minister also highlighted the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, un-



Bhupendra Chaudhary

der which over 4.41 lakh traditional artisans have been provided modern toolkits and training.

According to a state govt statement, out of the total exports, goods worth about USD 3.938 billion were exported to BRICS member countries, while exports worth USD 1.429 billion went to partner nations.

The meet was attended by representatives from BRICS countries along with MSME officials.

State has also launched the Chief Minister Youth Entrepreneur Development Campaign to encourage self-employment among the youth.

Under the scheme, interest-free loans without guarantee are being provided with a target of setting up 10 lakh new micro units over 10 years.

MSME parks are being developed in the state under the PLEDGE scheme, with parks already approved in 12 districts to provide a better industrial ecosystem.