

“Skill Development is the most sustainable model to empower the small-scale industries; SMEs should hire apprentices”- Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister



Lucknow, October 18, 2019: Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, today attended the Uttar Pradesh Skill Summit & MSME Meet in the Lucknow. The summit focused on facilitating industry-led discussions on promoting skill development by catalysing creation of qualitative and for-profit vocational institutions. The event was also graced by Shri Sidharth Nath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Government Cabinet Minister for MSME, Investment & Export, Textile, Khadi & Gram Udyog and UP state government spokesperson.

Hailing from the state and understating its diversity, the Hon'ble Minister's speech focused on how a skilled workforce can empower the traditional and cultural clusters of Uttar Pradesh and support the MSME sector in the State. Referring to the recently concluded "Apprenticeship Pakhwada" which saw a commitment of training 7 lakh apprentices from the state governments and industry over the last 15 days, he said that the Apprenticeship training is one of the most sustainable models to support small and medium enterprises in the region. It is a model that benefits both the apprentice as he gets to earn while he learns; and benefits the company in enhancing overall productivity. Dr. Pandey said dialogue with the MSME Ministry at the Centre and the State Level has been initiated, to ensure the government is able to address the demand and supply gap for skilled workforce as efficiently as possible.

Dr. Pandey chaired discussions aimed at empowering the youth of Uttar Pradesh, with market-relevant, new-age skills ensuring that they are well equipped for employment opportunities and jobs of the future. At the same time there is a heavy focus on promoting entrepreneurship abilities amongst the youth of the state and on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program which aims to bring about a major shift from labour in the unorganised sector to organised economy.

Small businesses are the backbone of any growing economy. With this Summit, the PHD Chamber provided a platform to bring together various stakeholders, NGOs & SHGs working

towards skilling of youth, policy makers, gram pradhans, MSME units & officials and candidates from Uttar Pradesh Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (UP PMKKs), Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM) & Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) for upliftment of MSMEs in the region. It also highlighted various issues and challenges being faced in this sector and emphasised on the importance of developing effective strategies and solutions for creating a pool of future-ready workforce.

Sharing his thoughts on the summit, **Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** said, *"As India moves progressively towards becoming a global knowledge economy, it must meet the rising aspirations of its youth. This can be partially achieved through focus on advancement of skills that are relevant to the emerging economic environment. The challenge pertains not only to a huge quantitative expansion of the facilities of skill training but also raising their qualitative standards."*

"In line with our commitment towards skilling youth in India, we strive to enable small and mid-size business across the state with the right opportunities. We are also working relentlessly to empower women in Uttar Pradesh to attain financial independence and create their own identity through skill training. We are certain that this summit will serve as a wonderful platform to execute significant strategies to create well-rounded, highly competitive professionals," he further added.

India has emerged as the fastest growing economy and is expected to be the 'Skill Capital of the world' in near future, backed by its flourishing young workforce. In the changing scenario, it becomes imperative that career opportunities are mapped with the skills and interests of a job seeker.

Being a diverse state, Uttar Pradesh is known for its traditional art and crafts created by the large number of artisans spread across the state. Various handicrafts from UP including earthen pottery, carpet weaving, chikankari embroidery, silk saris etc., are the primary handicrafts, popular worldwide. Different parts of the state produce different crafts. For example, Varanasi is popular for silk saris, whereas Mirzapur produces carpets. Agra and Kanpur are famous for leather crafts and Moradabad manufactures metal ware. Lucknow produces chikankari embroidery, which is renowned globally. Other crafts like pottery, glass bangles, zardosi, woodenware, textiles, stonework, jewellery, sculptures, are also popular in the state.

All these crafts need skilled workforce, up-gradation of skills and better opportunities for expansion. To ensure holistic growth of these art forms, it is crucial to provide small and mid-size enterprises across the state the right avenues to expand their reach through global business opportunities.

The event was conducted by PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) and Anuna Education Network Pvt. Ltd in conjunction with UP Skill Development Mission (UPSDM), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

For more information on Skill Development, please follow the links below:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SkillIndiaOfficial; Twitter: @MSDESkillIndia;

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzNfVNX5yLEUhiRNZJKniHg>