



MSME Ministry organizes National SC-ST Hub-Mega Awareness Programme in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu Highlights MSMEs as Key Driver of Indian Economy, Stresses Self-Reliance

Joint Secretary Ms. Mercy Epao Underscores Financial, Skilling and Market Support for MSMEs; Sector 2nd Largest Employer After Agriculture

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The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, organized National SC-ST Hub-Mega Awareness Programme for disseminating information on National SC-ST Hub Scheme and other schemes / initiatives of Government of India for MSMEs, on 23 February 2026 at D.K. Conventional Hall, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. The programme aimed to promote entrepreneurship and empower MSME ecosystem through interactive sessions, in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The entrepreneurs also had opportunity to get Udyam Registration.



Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest of the event. The programme was also graced by Shri Nyato Dukam, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industries, Labour & Employment and IPR, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Shri Kemto Jini, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment and Tribal Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. Ms. Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, Dr. S.S.Acharya, CMD, NSIC and dignitaries from Central and State Government were also present.

Dr. S.S.Acharya, CMD, NSIC in his opening remarks briefed about the programme and described the Public Procurement Policy of Govt. of India which mandated 4% public procurement from SC-ST owned MSEs and 3% from Women MSEs. He mentioned that National SC-ST Hub Scheme is creating an ecosystem for inclusive growth across the country including Arunachal Pradesh.

Ms. Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, in her detailed address spoke about financial assistance, infrastructure facilities, skilling and market linkage provided under various schemes of the Ministry. She highlighted that MSME sector is the 2nd largest employer after agriculture. and contributes more than thirty percent to India's GDP, 35 per cent to manufacturing output and 46% in export. She further mentioned that more than 7.8 lakh MSMEs are registered on Udyam Portal providing employment to more than 31 crore people. She also spoke about key benefits of PM Vishwakarma, PMEGP, MSE-CDP, Tool Room, Zed Certification, Trade Enablement and Marketing scheme, Udyam Registration, Procurement and Marketing Support Scheme etc.





During the programme, Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) at Jote which has been built with the assistance Ministry of MSME, Government of India. Shri Nyato Dukam, Hon'ble Minister mentioned that it is a landmark initiative for capacity building Skill Development and entrepreneurship promotion in Arunachal Pradesh. EDI Jote will empower youth of Arunachal Pradesh and neighboring States through training and skill development.

In his inspirational address, Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh emphasized the significant role of MSMEs in Indian Economy. He stated that Ministry of MSME, Government of India is not only supporting entrepreneurs through its various schemes but also making them self reliant. He also spoke about benefits for entrepreneurs available under various scheme of Government of Arunachal Pradesh. He further stated that in line with the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047** of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the State and Central Government are working in close coordination for inclusive development of people of the State.

He also encouraged the participants, particularly the youth, to take full advantage of various schemes offered by the Central and State Governments and to pursue entrepreneurship for self-reliance and growth.

The programme provided an interactive platform for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to interact with the stakeholders such as CPSEs, MSME-DFO, Financial Institutions etc. engaged in supporting MSMEs across the Country. During the technical session, MSME-DFO, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), State Bank of India (SBI), Power Grid Corporation India Ltd. (PGCIL), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) etc. informed participants about financial assistance, vendor empanelment process etc.

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