

1.5L Small Industries has been developed in Odisha for 4L Youths
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BHUBANESWAR: Coming under strong criticism from opposition political parties for its failure in job creation, the State Government on Monday decided to create employment opportunities for four lakh youths by 2018-19 by establishing 1.5 lakh small scale industries.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high level meeting presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Secretariat here where he reviewed the performance of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Department.

The Chief Minister directed that a date should be fixed for the meeting of single window clearance committee at the district level every month.

Besides, a venture fund of Rs 10 crore has already been created. A decision was taken to open incubation centre in all the district industries centres (DICs).

It was decided that an imported wood cluster will be set up at Paradip for which Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) will provide 100 acres of land. Besides, work on food parks at Deras near the Capital City and in Rayagada is on.

The Chief Minister reviewed the performance of Tourism and Culture Department where it was decided that the Tourism Policy will be announced in August.

The scheme for pilgrimage of senior citizens will be launched from Berhampur in July. About 1000 senior citizens will be included in the first trip and they will visit all pilgrim towns in South India. The scheme will be implemented from July to September every year.

The trips will also be started from Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur. The trip for Banaras and Allahabad will start from Bhubaneswar while visit for Haridwar and Rishikesh will be launched from Sambalpur.

While the trips will be free for persons belonging to BPL category, APL category persons will have to bear 50 per cent of the cost of the pilgrimage.

A target was fixed for increase of domestic and foreign tourists by 15 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

The Chief Minister reviewed the activities of ST and SC Development Department where it was decided that an education centre for tribal students will be constructed at Berhampur by spending Rs 45 crore.

Besides, it was decided that Rs 6 lakh each will be provided to 100 educational institutions run by minorities for infrastructure development.

Besides, the activities of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Department were also reviewed where it was decided that a policy for textiles and handicrafts will be announced soon.

Govt move

Tourism Policy will be announced in August

Target fixed to increase domestic and foreign tourists by 15 per cent and 20 per cent
Education centre for tribal students will be constructed at Berhampur by spending C45 crore