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PM Vishwakarma Scheme Completes Three Years with 30 Lakh Artisans Registered and Expands Skills, Credit and Market Access

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Recent Developments:

Three Years of PM Vishwakarma Scheme:

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** marked the third anniversary of the **PM Vishwakarma Scheme** in September 2026, highlighting the registration of its target of **30 lakh traditional artisans and craftspeople**.
- The scheme was launched on **17 September 2023** to provide end-to-end support to traditional artisans through **skill development, modern toolkits, institutional credit, digital incentives and market linkages**.
- As of September 2026, around **24.50 lakh beneficiaries** had received basic skill training, while **18.15 lakh modern toolkits** had been delivered through India Post.
- About **6.18 lakh beneficiaries** had received loans up to **₹1 lakh** at a concessional interest rate of **5% per annum**, with sanctioned credit amounting to approximately **₹5,297 crore**.
- The scheme has also expanded digital and market integration, with beneficiaries being connected to the **Udyam Assist Platform, Government e-Marketplace, Open Network for Digital Commerce and other e-commerce platforms**.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme: About and Objectives:

Core Framework:

- **PM Vishwakarma** is a **Central Sector Scheme** with a financial outlay of **₹13,000 crore** for five years from **FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28**.
- The scheme is implemented jointly by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance**.
- It is based on three broad pillars: **Samman, Samarthya and Samriddhi**, representing respect, capability and prosperity for traditional artisans.
- The scheme seeks to strengthen the **Guru-Shishya Parampara**, or the family-based transmission of traditional skills, while improving the quality, productivity and market reach of artisan products.
- It covers **18 traditional trades** involving artisans who primarily work with their hands and tools in the unorganised sector.

Target Beneficiaries:

- The scheme covers **artisans and craftspeople aged 18 years or above** who are engaged in one of the notified traditional trades on a self-employment basis.
- Benefits are generally restricted to **one member of a family**, while government employees and their family members are excluded.

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- Applicants are subject to eligibility conditions concerning previous government-supported self-employment loans.
- Beneficiaries of schemes such as **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** and **PM SVANidhi** can also become eligible after fulfilling the prescribed repayment conditions.

Key Components of the Scheme:

Recognition and Skill Development:

- Eligible beneficiaries receive formal recognition through a **PM Vishwakarma Certificate and Identity Card**, helping integrate traditional artisans into the formal support ecosystem.
- **Basic Training** is provided for **5–7 days**, while **Advanced Training** continues for **15 days or more**, with a stipend of **₹500 per day**.
- Training introduces artisans to **modern tools, improved production techniques, digital transactions, marketing and entrepreneurship**, thereby connecting traditional skills with contemporary market requirements.

Toolkit and Credit Support:

- Beneficiaries receive a **toolkit incentive of up to ₹15,000** through an electronic voucher to acquire modern tools and improve productivity.
- The scheme provides **collateral-free Enterprise Development Loans up to ₹3 lakh** in two tranches: **₹1 lakh for 18 months** and **₹2 lakh for 30 months**.
- The loans carry a concessional interest rate of **5%**, with the Government providing interest subvention of up to **8%**.
- Credit support is intended to help artisans purchase inputs, upgrade equipment, expand production and develop sustainable micro-enterprises.

Digital and Marketing Support:

- Artisans receive incentives for eligible digital transactions to encourage **digital financial inclusion** and adoption of formal payment systems.
- The scheme connects beneficiaries with **GeM, ONDC, e-commerce platforms, trade fairs and exhibitions**, expanding their access to institutional and consumer markets.
- By September 2026, more than **30,000 beneficiaries** had been onboarded onto e-commerce and related market platforms.
- More than **8.11 lakh beneficiaries** had received digital incentives, with over **₹42 crore** disbursed, while more than **12,000 artisans** had also received training in the use of artificial intelligence tools for branding, product design, packaging and marketing.

Progress and Achievements:

Skill, Toolkit and Credit Delivery:

- The scheme achieved its **30 lakh registration target** substantially ahead of its original five-year implementation period, demonstrating significant outreach among traditional artisans.
- By September 2026, more than **24.37 lakh artisans** had received basic skill training and over **18.16 lakh** had received toolkits according to the latest official progress data.
- More than **6.19 lakh loans**, amounting to approximately **₹5,316 crore**, had been sanctioned under the scheme as of 15 September 2026.

Market Integration and Formalisation:

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- PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries are also being onboarded onto the **Udyam Assist Platform**, which enables informal micro-enterprises to enter the formal **MSME ecosystem**.
- Formalisation can improve access to institutional credit, government support, market opportunities and other enterprise-related services.
- The scheme therefore attempts to move artisans beyond welfare-based assistance towards **enterprise development and value-chain integration**.
- The first **PM Vishwakarma National Exhibition-cum-Trade Fair** was organised at Dilli Haat in January 2026, where more than 117 artisans participated and recorded sales exceeding **₹2 crore**.

Significance of PM Vishwakarma:

Economic and Social Significance:

- The scheme supports **rural and urban self-employment** by improving the productivity and earning potential of artisans engaged in traditional occupations.
- It promotes **financial inclusion** by connecting beneficiaries with formal banking channels, collateral-free enterprise credit and digital payments.
- Integration with formal MSME systems can improve the visibility and institutional recognition of traditionally informal economic activities.
- The scheme can also strengthen livelihoods among communities that have historically depended on traditional crafts and occupations.

Preservation of Traditional Knowledge:

- Traditional skills often depend on **intergenerational knowledge transfer**, which can weaken when younger generations move away from traditional occupations because of low incomes and limited market opportunities.
- By combining skill preservation with modern tools, design, technology and market access, PM Vishwakarma seeks to make traditional occupations economically viable.
- The scheme therefore links **cultural heritage preservation with livelihood security**, rather than treating traditional crafts only as cultural assets.

Productivity and Competitiveness:

- Modern toolkits can improve **productivity, quality, precision and production capacity** while reducing dependence on rudimentary equipment.
- Digital marketing and e-commerce can reduce the geographical limitations traditionally faced by small artisans.
- Integration with domestic and global value chains can enable traditional products to reach wider consumer and institutional markets.

Challenges and Way Forward:

Key Challenges:

- Registration numbers alone do not necessarily indicate sustained improvement in **income, productivity or enterprise survival**.
- Many artisans continue to face challenges related to **working capital, raw materials, design innovation, branding, logistics and access to larger markets**.
- Digital adoption may remain uneven because of differences in digital literacy, connectivity and familiarity with formal financial systems.
- Effective implementation therefore requires continuous handholding after training, credit disbursement and initial market onboarding.

Way Forward:

- Implementation should focus on measuring outcomes such as **income enhancement, enterprise survival, productivity, exports and sustained market access**, rather than only beneficiary numbers.
- Greater convergence with **district-level clusters, One District One Product, tourism circuits, handicraft promotion programmes and export-support institutions** can strengthen market opportunities.
- Design institutions, technology centres and digital platforms can help artisans combine traditional knowledge with **contemporary designs, quality standards and changing consumer preferences**.
- Greater access to affordable working capital, insurance, logistics and digital literacy can further strengthen the long-term sustainability of artisan enterprises.

Value Addition for UPSC:

Key Concepts:

- **Guru-Shishya Parampara:** Intergenerational transmission of traditional skills and occupational knowledge.
- **Formalisation:** Integration of informal economic activities and enterprises into recognised institutional, financial and regulatory frameworks.
- **Value-Chain Integration:** Connecting producers with suppliers, markets, consumers and institutional buyers to improve economic returns.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Expanding access to formal financial services such as credit, banking and digital payments.
- **Social Capital:** Knowledge, networks and community relationships that support the transmission and continuation of traditional occupations.

Conclusion:

- **PM Vishwakarma** represents an integrated approach to strengthening traditional artisans through **recognition, skills, modern tools, affordable credit, digital inclusion and market access**.
- Its broader significance lies in connecting **cultural heritage with economic development**, allowing traditional occupations to remain relevant within a modernising economy.
- For sustainable impact, the next phase should move beyond registration and benefit delivery towards measurable improvements in **artisan incomes, enterprise productivity, market competitiveness and intergenerational continuity of traditional skills**.