

Azamgarh Mahotsava as a good start, Mr. Yadav expressed hope that in times to come the event would go a long way in showcasing the rich culture, art and handicrafts of Azamgarh and in providing platform to artisans. He also extended his good wishes and compliments to the Indian trust for Rural Heritage and Development and the State's Tourism Department for holding the event, the Chief Minister however expressed his dis-satisfaction at the tardy progress of 'Sari Center' in Azamgarh and asked officials to expedite the work.

The Chief Minister also informed that the Samajwadi government in the first budget itself had earmarked Rs five crores for the center and mentioned the Lucknow Haat, saying that it was being made on a stretch of 25 acres and funds will never be a constraint.

Similarly, he added, a weavers haat was also being made on 10 acres of land on Noida and a simialr one would come up at Ghaziabad. For promotion of carpet manufacturing at Bhadohi, the Chief Minister informed, Rs 25 crore and Rs 50 crore has been given. The Chief Minister also listened to a musical rendition based on Raag Shyam Kalyan by famous artist of the hariharpur Gharana Pandit Bholanath Mishra. Earier he also lit the ceremonial inaugural lamp.

The Chief Minister also visited the exhibition and spoke to sellers, artisans and sought to know the process of making several things and asked officials to address their problems. On this occasion, chairman of the Indian trust for rural heritage and Development Mr. SK Mishra said the event was organized with an aim to promote pottery, music and weaving so that they are not restricted to merely these villages. He also said they would also think of making the Mahotsava an annual feature.

Vice-Chairman of the Trust Mr. Yogendra Narayan said the need of the hour was to preserve our culture. Also present on the occasion were political pensions minister Mr. Rajendra Chowdhary, Chief Secretary Mr. Alok Ranjan, secretary tourism Mr. Amrit Abhijat, senior officials, media persons and other dignitaries.
