



Press Release

Samabay Mela Inaugurated At Netaji Indoor Stadium - The Co-operation Department To Expand Network Of The State Co-operative Banks In Its Centenary Year -

Kolkata, 19th November, 2018: The 'Samabay Mela 2018' was inaugurated today at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata by **Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Finance, Excise, Commerce & Industries, Public Enterprise, Industrial Reconstruction & Commerce and Industry** in the presence of a galaxy of Ministers from Government of West Bengal and senior government officials. The Samabay Mela will remain open from 12 noon to 8 pm from 19th - 22nd November, 2018. The event also marks the centenary year of the State Co-Operative Banks.

"No one can deny the role of the cooperative banks in revolutionalising banking penetration, especially among the marginal and poorer sections of the people in rural areas of the state. The cooperative movement has reached its pinnacle now under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. We have taken the initiative of expanding the network of cooperative banks in 710 Gram Panchayats out of which 50 have already started operating. Around 12000 delegates from different cooperative societies are present in the inauguration ceremony today. The Mela features around 250 Cooperative Societies and Self Help Groups who will showcase their products in the Stalls in the Mela for display and sale. Awards are being given to select Cooperative Societies under different categories for their outstanding performance. Not only these, we have also arranged a few seminars and discussions," said **Shri Arup Roy, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Cooperation, Government of West Bengal.**

Also present on the inaugural session were **Shri Shubhendu Adhikari**, Hon'ble Minister for Departments of Transport and Environment, **Janab Firhad Hakim**, Hon'ble Minister for Departments of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, **Sri Moley Ghatak**, Hon'ble Minister for Departments of Labour, Law, Judicial and Public Health Engineering, **Sri Jyoti Priya Mallick**, Hon'ble Minister for Department of Food and Supplies, **Dr Ashis Banerjee**, Hon'ble Minister for Department of Agriculture, **Sri Tapan Dasgupta**, Hon'ble Minister for Department of Agricultural Marketing, **Sri Swapan Debnath**, Hon'ble Minister for Department of Animal Resources Development, **Sri Malay Kumar De, I.A.S.**, Chief Secretary, Govt of West Bengal, **Sri Hari Krishna Dwivedi, I.A.S.**, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Finance and **Sri M V Rao, I.A.S.**, Additional Chief Secretary, Co-operation.

The theme of Samabay Mela 2018 is "**The Role of cooperative banks in the economic development of the State**".

A spectacular performance by tabla maestro Bickram Ghosh and dancer Jaya Seal Ghosh lightened up the inaugural ceremony.

For more information please contact:

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