

tation of National Common Mobility Card- based fare collection system
creation of charging infrastructure.

Rs. 13,000 Crore for "PM Vishwakarma" Scheme to Empower Traditional Artisans

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned a substantial Rs 13,000 crore fund allocation for the "PM Vishwakarma" scheme, geared towards supporting the traditional artisans and craftsmen who form the backbone of rural and urban India. This Central Sector Scheme seeks to empower these artisans through skill enhancement, toolkit incentives, rewards for digital transactions, and vital marketing support. The inaugural phase of the scheme will encompass eighteen traditional vocations such as carpenters, boat makers, *sonar* (goldsmiths), *rajmistri* (masons), toymakers, *lohars* (blacksmiths), and potters. The scheme also extends financial assistance in the form of concessional loans up to Rs 1 Lakh, with an attractive interest rate of five percent. This initiative is anticipated to positively impact more than 30 lakh families.