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City Line The Hitavada

EXCLUSIVE FOR THE READERS IN NAGPUR

National meet on social security for unorganised workers from October 26

■ Staff Reporter

A NATIONAL convention on 'Social security for unorganised workers' is being organised on October 26, 27 and 28. A consortium of 14 non-government organisations (NGOs), which have been working on the issue, have felt it necessary to hold the convention to discuss social security framework and issues linked to it, including employment regulations and livelihood protection.

The aim of the convention is to equip NGOs on issues relating to social security for unorganised workers and to critically look at various Bills on unorganised sector. The convention has also generated interest as the Union Ministry of Labour has been moving Bills on the issue.

The social security issues, suggestions by trade unions, National Commission on Labour, National Advisory Council and National Commission for Enterprises in unorganised sector have not been studied and discussed by the NGOs working in this field. The convention will facilitate discussion on these aspects.

A meeting of the organising committee was held here on Monday to give final touches to the preparations of the convention. The efforts during the convention will be to strengthen role of NGOs as

facilitators and campaigners on various issues relating to unorganised workers, enrich understanding of social discrimination, caste-based discrimination and women's issues and to get social and economic justice to the workers.

The topics to be discussed include - social security versus employment regulation; Discrimination in social security benefits; Structure of social security administration; Social security fund (Sources and methods of collection); Need for a separate comprehensive law for agriculture workers; Feasibility of insurance based social security and privatisation of insurance, alternative ways as in ESIS; Sexual harassment, violence and gender discrimination in unorganised sector; Women and social security; New economic reforms etc.

The convention will be held at Rangopal Maheshwari Sankritik Sabhagriha, Mor Bhavan, Sitabuldi. About 500 delegates representing NGOs, trade unions, people's movement from across the country will participate.

The convention will be inaugurated by PWD Minister Anil Deshmukh at 10 am on October 26. Labour Minister Satish Chaturvedi will be the guest for the concluding function. Besides, experts from different organisations will attend the convention.