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### Pune exhibition to help Dalits script success stories

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In a first-of-its-kind exhibition in Pune, Dalits will be exhibiting their success stories with the aim of inspiring others from the community and helping them make it big in life.

There will be 200 Dalits narrating how they made it in different spheres of life without feeling helpless or marginalised.

The Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), which is organising the DEEP Expo from June 4 to 6, is expected to turn it into a yearly affair. A trust founded to empower the Dalit community, DICCI offers non-monetary help in order to enhance entrepreneurial skills of aspiring people.

"The idea to promote talent within the community struck when despite assurances from the private sector that affirmative action would be taken through training programmes, job opportunities and scholarship, not even 10% of what was promised was achieved," said DICCI chairperson Milind Kamble.

He added that the exhibition will have seminars, lectures, talks, presentations, stalls, business to business opportunities and experts giving help on financial management, labour, laws, and tax matters.

"There will also be officials from MHCCI, CII, FICCI and from departments like social justice who can inform people how funds can be used," said Kamble. "There is a perception that Dalits can only move ahead in life through reservation or monetary help. This will encourage other Dalits and they will aspire to make it big without any help."

A book on 20 people who have made it big will be released. People who have ideas and are looking forward to some financial aid could also find help at the exhibition. "All they need to do is register with us," said Kamble.

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