

7th August 2025

11TH NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY 2025

On the occasion of the 11th National Handloom Day, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, celebrated India's vibrant handloom sector with a 'Know your Weaves' campaign; Handloom Expo - an exclusive exhibition of 116 Weaves of Handloom Sarees with thematic display & live demonstration at Handloom Haat as well as 'Haat on Wheels' a mobile exhibition; Launch of 'Report on Carbon Credit'; India International Hand-woven Expo (B2B) at Bharat Mandapam; Fashion Show 'Naad – The Music of Weaves' on exclusive weaves; 'Weave the future - 2', an exhibition focusing regenerative materials, at Crafts Museum, New Delhi; Export Awards given to the best performer in export of handloom products; awareness activities in institutes across the nation organised by Weaver Service Centres, NIFT and IIHTs. The events highlighted handlooms, their beauty and various processes in today's context.

Union Minister of Textiles inaugurates 11th National Handloom Day, urges designer-weaver collaboration to create contemporary products that appeal to youth nationwide

The Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms (DC Handloom), Government of India, held a remarkable event at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, to commemorate the 11th National Handloom Day on 7th August. The event was presided over by Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Government of India. Shri Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, Government of India; Smt. Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India; Smt. Kangana Ranaut, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha & Actress; Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; DC Handlooms Dr. M Beena; and senior officials from ministry graced the event.

While addressing the ceremony, Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, highlighted the growing importance of the textile sector in India's economic landscape, stating that it has now emerged as the second-largest employment-generating sector in the country. Reiterating the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Minister highlighted the need to promote entrepreneurship in the sector, leveraging schemes such as the Mudra Yojana to empower weavers and small-scale entrepreneurs. He stressed on product diversification, promotion of natural fibres like ramie and linen, and support for second-generation handloom entrepreneurs, especially through the 797 handloom clusters across



the country. The Union Minister also stated that the Government is working towards protecting indigenous designs through cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Block chain, ensuring the intellectual property rights of Indian weavers and designers are safeguarded. He urged the young generation to actively engage with the handloom industry, and called upon designers and weavers to collaborate in creating contemporary handloom products that appeal to youth across the country.

Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita noted that the Prime Minister's vision of 'vocal for local, local for global,' guided by Union Minister Mr. Giriraj Singh, is driving growth and innovation in the handloom sector. He also highlighted initiatives like the Handloom Mark and India Handloom Brand, which are positioning Indian handloom fabrics as global symbols of sustainability.

Handloom Heritage showcase exclusively by artisans and weavers, powered by Expo Bazaar, targeting export worthiness for weavers and artisans from pan India



Above: Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, addressing the gathering at the 11th National Handloom Day; Below: Shri Giriraj Singh launching Artisan & Weavers' catalogue along with Smt. Kangana Ranaut, Member of Lok Sabha; Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, Government of India; Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited (IEM) and Director General in the role of Chief Mentor, EPCH

On the occasion of the 11th National Handloom Day, Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Government of India, also launched the compendium of Expo Bazaar (an IEM initiative) - Handloom Heritage, featuring handloom products of India, made by 100 weavers and craftsmen and specially curated for sales in overseas markets.

In his keynote address, Shri Giriraj Singh lauded Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited (IEM) and Director General in the role of Chief Mentor, EPCH, for his visionary efforts in taking Indian handlooms to the global platform. He emphasised the importance of designing handloom products that cater to youngsters and promote them as fashionable garments, highlighting the need to keep the tradition alive with a modern appeal. Shri Giriraj Singh also envisioned a dignified future for artisans and weavers, stating that their income should reach Rs. 10 lakh, ensuring sustainable prosperity for them.





Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, Ms. Kangana Ranaut MP, Lok Sabha; Smt. Amrit Raj, DC (Handicrafts), and Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited (IEMML) and Director General in the role of Chief Mentor, EPCH at the Expo Bazaar showcase exhibition on National handloom Day at Bharat Mandapam

Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, reaffirmed the government's pledge to promote Indian textiles on a global level, highlighting India's commitment to expanding its textile heritage worldwide. This significant celebration

honoured India's enduring handloom traditions and the invaluable contributions of the nation's artisans and weavers.

Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, spoke extensively about various Ministry initiatives aimed at promoting handlooms, focused on enhancing market access, improving infrastructure, providing skill development and supporting artisans and weavers.

As part of the festivities, an exclusive exhibition of artisans and weavers was organised under the E Nuture initiative-a CSR program by India Exposition Mart Ltd. (IEMML)-in association with the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). The event aimed to empower grassroots talents and uphold India's rich handloom and handicraft heritage. This programme featured a curated line-up of talented weavers and artisans from a diverse community on board through Expo Bazaar's e-commerce platform, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their crafts and engage with a wider market-domestic and international.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Ltd. expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the Ministry of Textiles for their unwavering support and pledged to continue working passionately for the promotion and preservation of Indian handlooms.

Handloom Expo & Haat on Wheels - distinct weaves from all across India showcased at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi

The Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), launched an Exclusive Handloom Expo and the "Haat on Wheels" mobile retail initiative at Handloom Haat, Janpath. The event was inaugurated by Union Minister of Textiles, Mr. Giriraj Singh, in the presence of Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, and Secretary Textiles, Smt Neelam Shami Rao.

While inaugurating the event, Union Minister of Textiles, emphasised the government's commitment to promoting and preserving India's traditional weaving practices. "Handlooms are not only a symbol of our cultural identity but also a vital contributor to the rural economy and the livelihoods of millions of weavers across the country," he said. The Minister highlighted measures being taken to support artisans, expand market access, and foster sustainable growth. He added that the "Haat on Wheels" initiative represents another step toward bridging the gap between weavers and consumers, promoting self-reliance, and taking authentic, locally made products directly to the masses." Following the inauguration, the Union Minister visited the Handloom Expo, interacting with



weavers in the presence of the Minister of State for Textiles, Secretary Textiles, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), and other senior officials. "This year's celebration, themed "My Handloom, My Pride; My Product, My Pride," showcased 116 distinct weaves from across India, highlighting the country's rich and diverse textile legacy.

The launch of "Haat on Wheels" marked a pioneering move in the handloom retail space, enabling direct outreach to consumers across Delhi NCR. The mobile marketplace is designed to bring authentic,



EPCH Narsapur Office observes National Handloom Day

On the occasion of the 11th National Handlooms Day, a special programme was organised at the International Lace Trade Centre (ILTC), Narsapur, Southern Region Branch Office on 7th August 2025.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Dasi Raju, Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Narsapur, in the presence of Mr. KN Tulasi Rao, Southern Region Convenor and COA Member, EPCH.

As part of the celebration, senior handloom weavers were felicitated, including Mr. A.V.V.S. Saibaba, Committee Member, and Mr. Alanki Nageswararao, Secretary, Weavers' Community. The programme saw enthusiastic participation from handloom weavers, member exporters and artisans, reflecting the rich legacy and continued significance of the handloom sector in the region.

high-quality handloom products from artisans to urban neighborhoods, markets, and cultural hubs, empowering weavers while promoting sustainable fashion, "vocal for local," and indigenous craftsmanship.

The Handloom Expo, open to the public until 10 August at Handloom Haat, features region-specific products by master weavers and includes live weaving demonstrations, offering visitors, students, and craft enthusiasts an immersive experience. Through the combined launch of "Haat on Wheels" and the showcase of



116 weaves, the Ministry sought to blend tradition with innovation, ensuring that India's handloom heritage thrives in modern markets and global conversations. Marking the 11th National Handloom Day, the emphatic focus remained on India's weavers and safeguarding their timeless traditions.

Other Events

As part of the 11th National Handloom Day celebrations, the Ministry of Textiles observed the "Know Your Weaves Campaign," a week-long celebration from 1st to 7th August 2025 at the National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy, New Delhi, commemorating National Handloom Day on 7th August.

On 6th August 2025, the eve of the 11th National Handloom Day, Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh officially launched the book titled, "Carbon Footprint Assessment in the Indian Handloom Sector: Methods and Case Studies", jointly prepared by Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles and Department of Textiles & Fibre Engineering, IIT, Delhi. This landmark document strengthens the Government of India's commitment to environmental conscious handloom production and sustainable development by providing clear, practical methodologies to measure and reduce the carbon footprint of the handloom industry—a vital socio-economic sector and a symbol of India's rich cultural heritage.

The first of its kind "Handloom Hackathon", an intensive two days competition, held at IIT Delhi, brought together 400 participants representing 250 elite teams from across India, who delivered innovative solutions to transform the handloom sector.

A fashion show on exclusive weaves titled, 'Naad-The Music of Weaves' was organised at The Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi on 7th August 2025. 'Weave the Future' an exclusive exhibition on regenerative materials was held at Crafts Museum, New Delhi from 7th to 17th August 2025. ■