

Status of India's Handloom & Handicrafts Industry

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Economy

Why in news?

National Conference on Handlooms & Handicrafts will be held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 31st October-1st November, 2025.

- **Export Value** - Total handicrafts exports is approximately US \$192 million, in the 2024-25 fiscal year & Handlooms for US \$ 3.8 billion in FY 24.
- **Employment** - It is the **2nd largest source** of employment in rural areas after agriculture.
- It provides employment to over 3.5 million workers, with women making up about 72% of the workforce (**4th All India Handloom Census (2019-20)**).
- **Major hubs** - Surat, Varanasi, Agra, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Mumbai
- **Exports** - Remarkably, nearly **95 %** of the world's handwoven fabric is made in India.
- **Major products** - Home textiles, carpets, rugs, handmade woollen products, woodwares, and hand-printed textiles, etc.
- **Export destination** - United States, UAE, Netherlands, France, United Kingdom.
- **Regional concentration** - The **North-Eastern region** has a high concentration of handloom households, with **Assam** being the most prominent state.
- **Growth drivers** - The sector benefits from rising global demand for sustainable and culturally rich products, supported by government export programs.

Government Initiatives

- **National Handloom Development Program (NHDP)** - Provides support for raw materials, design inputs, technology upgrades, and

marketing.

- **National Handicrafts Development Program (NHDP)** - Offers end-to-end support for artisans, including marketing, skill development, and cluster development.
- **Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM-VIKAS)** - Aims to improve the quality, scale, and market reach of handicrafts.
- **Weaver MUDRA Scheme** - Offers concessional loans to handloom weavers for working capital and technology upgrades.
- **SAMARTH scheme** - This program focuses on skill upgradation for weavers
- **Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme** - Supports artisans by providing technical assistance and common infrastructure.
- **Marketing support** - Organizes events like and provides a platform for artisans through Urban Haats and exhibitions.

7th of August is celebrated every year as National Handloom Day.

Quick Fact

National Conference on Handlooms & Handicrafts

- **Aim** - To provide a common platform for dialogue, collaboration, and policy convergence among stakeholders and shaping a future roadmap for the Handloom & Handicraft sector.
- **Organized by** - Offices of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms & Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles.
- **Twin objective** - To understand the opportunities and challenges of the Handmade sector in India & to deliberate on upcoming new scheme for the sector under the Government of India.

References

1. [PIB | National Conference on Handlooms & Handicrafts](#)
2. [IBEF | Indian Handicrafts Industry & Exports](#)
3. [PIB | National Handloom Day 2025](#)