

Status of India's Handloom & Handicrafts Industry

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Economy

Why in news?

National Conference on Handlooms & Handlorafts will be held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 31^{st} October- 1^{st} 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 2^{nd} 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 <u>North-Eastern region</u> 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-toend 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

