



Handloom Export

Newsletter



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(Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)

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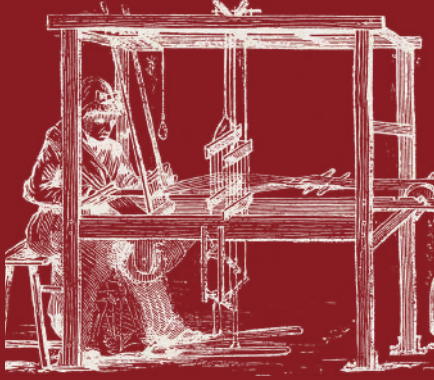




The Handloom Export Promotion Council

HANDLOOM EXPORT

Newsletter of Handloom Export Promotion Council, March 2026



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Handloom Export Promotion Council

Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

Hearty Welcome!

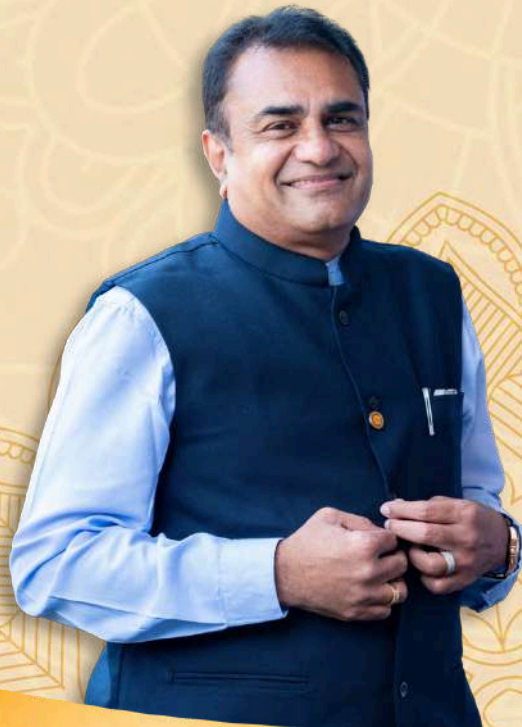
to our New Chairman and Vice Chairman

Shri V. Lakshmi Narasimhan
@ Ramesh

Diamond Jubilee Chairman

Shri Rakesh Jain

Vice Chairman, HEPC



“The Handloom Export Promotion Council assure its full support and cooperation in taking the Council’s activities to greater heights and further strengthening the growth of handloom exports from India. We look forward to their dynamic leadership and guidance in achieving new milestones for the sector.”

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Chairman's Column

As per DGCIS data, handloom exports during April–December 2025 reached Rs. 1,000.37 crore (USD 114.59 million), registering a growth of 14.82% in rupee terms and 10.32% in dollar terms over the corresponding period of the previous year.

However, uncertainties in the Gulf region and tariff-related challenges in the United States highlights the importance of reducing dependence on specific markets, market diversification has become a top priority at this juncture.

The Government of India has taken several steps to support the handloom and textile sector. The launch of the Export Promotion Mission and the National Handloom and Handicraft Programme is expected to boost global competitiveness and improve market access. Further, the introduction of the TEX-RAMPS scheme is a significant move towards promoting innovation, research, and sustainability within the sector which are essential to meet the changing global demand.

Policy support continues to play a vital role in maintaining export competitiveness and we have represented the recent RoDTEP rate cut with the ministry. As stated in Press Trust of India, the restoration of full rates under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme from 1st April 2026 is a welcome move for exporting community. This measure is expected to ease the burden and impart confidence in the exporting community, which is expected to help the sector sustain the growth momentum in the international market.

At this juncture, exporters are requested to share their valuable inputs and suggestions for strengthening the policy framework, so that emerging challenges can be effectively addressed and new opportunities can be explored.

Shri V. Lakshmi Narasimhan Vice Chairman, will be assuming charge as Chairman, and Shri Rakesh Jain has been elected as Vice Chairman in the concluded EGM on 30.03.2026. I extend my sincere congratulations to both and assure my fullest cooperation for the continued growth of the handloom sector.

With warm regards,

Lalit Kumar Goel
Chairman



SPRINGFAIR

1-4 FEBRUARY 2026 | NEC BIRMINGHAM

Event Overview

- Fair Name: Spring Fair 2026
- Organizer: HYVE Group Ltd., London.
- Venue: NEC Birmingham, UK
- Duration: 1-4 February 2026
- Level of participation : 20 exhibitors + 1 Council Booth + Theme Pavilion with a Live Weaving Demonstration.
- Countries Represented: 33
- Total Exhibitors: Nearly 1500
- Total Visitors: 42000+
- Countries Represented: 124+

Product Profile

- Home (Home Living & Décor, Christmas, Festive & Floral, Housewares, The Summer House Edit, Glee at Spring Fair & Design).
- Gift (Gift, Beauty & wellbeing, Greetings, Party & Celebration, Kids, Toys & Play, Taste
- Fashion (Fashion & Accessories).
- Everyday (Everyday affordable items).

About the event

Spring Fair is designed to unite responsible manufacturers with the UK and European buying community. It is a place where designers can come to gather inspiration, sourcing directors can discuss the supply chain directly with manufacturers, and technologists can see first-hand the quality of the materials. Exhibiting at Spring Fair is an opportunity to grow business, and to showcase new products and manufacturing techniques to a new and relevant retail, design and hospitality market. Key buyers and sourcing directors from across the globe are in attendance. This premier wholesale event unites leading brands across home & gift sectors—bringing together nearly 1,500 exhibitors and attracting 42,000+ high-quality trade buyers.

HEPC's Participation in the Event

As part of various export promotion activities, the participation in Spring fair held at Birmingham, UK during 1-4 February 2026 was organised by the Handloom Export Promotion Council. The event was organized under National Handloom Development Programme of O/o. Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

Dr. M Beena, IAS, Development Commissioner for Handlooms along with Shri Aman Bansal, Consul (Commerce) & HOC, Consulate General of India, Birmingham inaugurated the HEPC pavilion and released the fair catalogue brought out by the council in the presence of Shri Nipun Pande, Additional Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Dr. Patricia Sumod, Professor, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Shri N. Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, Shri P. Gopalakrishnan Former Chairman, HEPC and Shri Suvidh Shah, Additional Director General, FIEO.



Subsequently, the Development Commissioner for Handlooms also met the individual exhibitors in their booth and interacted with them to know their product line and the level of response for their products.



HEPC participated in Spring Fair with allotted total space of 138 sq. mtrs. (20 member participants + HEPC's Central Promotional Stall). The participants displayed Sarees, Ethnic Ladies Suits, Ethnic Wear, Cushion Sofa Cover, Saganeri Jaipuri Clothing, Handmade Jari Saree, Scarfs, Lehngas And Bridal Wear, Readymade Women Garments, Baby Garments, Baby Sleeping Bag, Baby Products Toys, Home Textiles, Handmade Bags, Quilted Bag, Cotton Kantha Work Quilt, Quilted Jacket, Home Furnishing Products, Doormats, Rugs And Carpets, Handloom Shawls And Scarves, Garments And Gift Products, Decorative Cushion, Bed Linen, Table Linen, Curtain, Throw, Made-Ups, Christmas Item, Towels, Kitchen Items Bedsets & Bespoke Rugs

Theme Pavilion of Handloom products along with a live demonstration

On the sidelines of HEPC's participation in Spring 2026 held from 1-4 February 2026 at Birmingham, UK, Council organized a Theme Pavilion of Handloom products along with a live demonstration of Indian Handloom, to highlight and promote the unique cultural and historical significance of Indian handloom products, demonstrating their authenticity and craftsmanship to the UK visitors, along with India handloom weaving techniques will enhance the export trade between India and the United Kingdom. This was organised under financial assistance from O/o. Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India under National Handloom Development Programme.



Pitch Talk



This unique platform provided by the organiser allowed attendees to hear directly from exhibitors about their companies and offerings, giving them an in-depth look at the latest products and services in the industry.

Shri N. Sreedhar, Executive Director, delivered a presentation titled “Indian Handlooms-The Traditional and Heritage art of Textiles” **at the PITCH TALK** at the venue on 02.02.2026.

During the presentation, the Executive Director highlighted the strength, uniqueness of handloom industry, its potential and diversity, presence of GI products, export market share, features of Indian Handloom Brand etc to the gathering.

Meeting with Consul General of India, Birmingham

Shri N. Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, invited Shri Aman Bansal, Consul (Commerce) & HOC, Consulate General of India, Birmingham, to the Spring Fair scheduled from 1–4 February 2026 in Birmingham. During the meeting, the Executive Director discussed the Council's participation in the upcoming fair, along with various other activities undertaken by the Council.



Meeting with the Fair authority



The visiting delegation headed by Dr. M.Beena, IAS, Development Commissioner for Handlooms from the Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India had a discussion with Mr. Mr. Jackson Szabo, Portfolio Director & Mr. Nihat Berktaş, Key International Development Manager of HYVE Group – the event organiser to explore the possibilities of enhancing the visibility of Indian Participation and also the possibility of putting up a collective display in a single block.

Field Visit to the London College of Fashion

HEPC coordinated the visit of the delegation led by Dr. M Beena, IAS, Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, with the members namely Dr. (Prof) Patricia Sumod, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Shri Nipun Pande, Addl. Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India to London College of Fashion / University of the Arts London on 03.02.2026.



They met Ms. Hannah Middleton, Acting Associate Dean in Knowledge Exchange and Fashion Business School Knowledge Exchange Lead & Ms. Jessica Ashworth, International Projects and Partnerships Coordinator and held a discussion to explore collaborative arrangements for student exchange, training etc for the students in Indian Textile institutions.

Event Outcome

India had the participation of 68 exhibitors in total including 20 from HEPC. FIEO, CEPC, NJB and EPCH were the other trade promotion organisation participated in the event along with its members. Out of a total of nearly 1500 exhibitors from 33 countries India had the 3rd largest representation (68 participants) next to host country UK (1179 exhibitors) and China (121 exhibitors). The major brands visited include



As per the feedback from the exhibitors, they had a total of 381 trade visitors and spot order worth Rs.1.07 cr. and business enquiries worth Rs.3.51 cr. were generated, with overall business turnover of Rs.4.58 cr. Most participants expressed their desire to participate again through the Council in the next edition of Spring Fair. The event participation was coordinated by Mr. N. Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC and Mr. P. Rangasamy, Joint Director, HEPC.

Exclusive Handloom Expo “Virasat Shakti”

The Ministry of Textiles, through the National Handloom Development Corporation, inaugurated the Exclusive Handloom Expo “Virasat Shakti” at Handloom Haat on 7th March 2026, celebrating India’s rich handloom heritage and the vital role of women in the sector. The expo was inaugurated by M. Beena I.A.S in the presence of Rajiv Ashok and other officials, coinciding with the celebration of International Women’s Day. The event provides a dedicated marketing platform for 60 weavers and artisans from across the country, showcasing a diverse range of authentic handloom and handicraft products while promoting sustainable livelihoods and honouring women weavers for their significant contribution to preserving India’s traditional weaving heritage.

News bites



Source: PIB Delhi on 07 March 2026

ambiente

6 - 10. 2. 2026 | FRANKFURT, GERMANY

About the Event

Ambiente - the world's leading trade fair for consumer goods is organised by Messe Frankfurt in Frankfurt, Germany. Exhibitors and trade visitors establish first-class contacts, discover the latest developments in the market and in design, and they experience trends and opportunities in all segments.



Covering three areas – Dining, Living and Giving – Ambiente showcases the most important aspects of the entire spectrum of consumer goods. With an overwhelming participation and tremendous internationality, the event made an incredible comeback for the global consumer goods world after two years of pandemic.

The high level of visitor satisfaction and internationality send a strong message: with 4,636 exhibitors and participants from 170 countries, Ambiente, Christmasworld and Creativeworld confirmed their leading role in an industry undergoing rapid change. The momentum in Frankfurt opened up new business prospects and, from 6 to 10 February, once again served as the global marketplace for inspiration and orientation, orders and personal encounters. The strongest visitor nations included Italy, China, the Netherlands, the USA and France. The trio of trade fairs yet again attracted numerous top buyers – from international retail groups to leading retail chains, in particular large-volume international retailers such as ALDI, Carrefour International, Coop, Crate & Barrel, dm Drogeriemarkt, Dirk Rossmann, EDEKA, El Corte Inglés, Fenwick, Fleurop, Globus, IKEA, Jaeyoung Trading, Lidl, OBI, OTTO, REWE, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Zalando, and Zara.

Product wise segmentation of Halls

Exhibitors were grouped under 3 categories namely Living, Dining and Giving as per the following hall bifurcations

- Living: Hall 10.2, 10.3, 10.4
- Dining: Hall 10.2
- Giving: Hall 10.1

And Hall 10.0, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4 were branded as Global sourcing wherein exhibitors from other countries were also placed.

Economic Development in Germany

Floor coverings and made-ups constitute around 90% of the total handwoven products being exported from India. Germany is one of the main trade partners of Indian handwoven products in EU region and it is positioned at 9th place in the list of top export destinations. The total handloom export to Germany was USD 4.11 mn. during 2024-25. The major items of export to Germany are Carpet and Floor coverings including mats & mattings, other furnishing articles, fabrics, cushion covers, etc The India-EU Free Trade Agreement will be beneficial to the Indian textile industry.

About Council's participation in Ambiente

HEPC participated with 20 exhibitors. HEPC participated in Ambiente held at Frankfurt, Germany during 6-10 February 2026 for the sixth time in succession by scaling up its participation from the earlier participation of 10 exhibitors (in 2019) to 20 exhibitors in 2026. The event had a participation under three categories with 20 member exporters. The event participation was organised availing financial grant under National Handloom Development Programme of O/o. Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. The pavilion under HEPC was put up in a total area of 241.5 sq.mtrs, with 73.5 sq.mtrs in 10.1, 94.5 sq.mtrs in 10.2 including HEPC stall and 73.5 sq.mtrs in 10.4 with the participation of following exhibitors.





HEPC stall was inaugurated by Ms.Shuchita Kishore, Consul General of India, Frankfurt and Mr.Bhupendra Nikhurpa, Consul (PoI, Eco & Com). Later, the Consul General visited HEPC stalls in Hall 10.2 and was appreciating the handmade designs and products.

Buyer mobilisation for Bharat-TEX 2026



As per the feedback from the participants under the aegis of the Council had a satisfactory outcome with a spot order of Rs.3.23crore and enquiries of Rs.8.51crore from a total of around 450 visitors who visited them as reported in their feedback. The participants had visitors from Libiya, Sweden, Turkey, USA, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Slovenia, Japan, South Korea, Greece, Netherland, Lithuania Denmark, etc apart from host country visitors. Council had put up a central promotion stall with a display of participants' brochures specially brought out for the event, GI products brochure and leaflets about Bharat-TEX 2026. The Council was represented at the event by Mrs.NCK Sreelegha, Executive.



Buyer–Seller Meet (BSM) – “Unveiling Indian Silk: Craftsmanship & Heritage Central”

Guangzhou, China on 15th March, 2026

The Consulate General of India (CGI), Guangzhou organised a Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) titled “Unveiling Indian Silk: Craftsmanship & Heritage Central” on 15th March 2026 during Vasant Mela 2026 at Guangzhou, China. The event celebrated the richness of Indian silk, handlooms, and textile heritage, while fostering trade engagement between India and China. The BSM brought together key stakeholders including representatives from the Central Silk Board (CSB), Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Ministry of Textiles, Government of Meghalaya, Guangdong Cocoon Silk Industry Association, Chinese importers, and silk industry participants. The programme featured presentations and discussions focusing on enhancing export potential, promoting Indian silk and handloom products, and strengthening bilateral trade relations.



Economic Development in Germany

HEPC showcased Geographical Indication (GI) tagged handloom products at the Indian Handloom Theme Pavilion, highlighting the authenticity, craftsmanship, and heritage value of Indian textiles. Shri N. Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, interacted with visitors and explained the significance of various products. A live loom demonstration of GI-tagged Dharmavaram handloom stoles by Shri Jujari Nagaraju, National Handloom Awardee (Andhra Pradesh) attracted significant attention, offering international visitors a firsthand experience of India’s traditional weaving techniques.



Conference and Industry Interaction

The Silk Industry Exchange Conference commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Muskan Jindal, Consul (Commerce & Political), followed by a special address by Mr. Deepak Devrani, Consul (Economic & Science & Technology). Shri Abhishek Kumar, IRS, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, presented an overview of India's silk production and highlighted opportunities for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the textile sector. Mr. Jun Liang, Executive Vice President of the Cocoon Silk Industry Association, provided insights into the Chinese silk industry. Shri N. Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, delivered presentations on "Indian Handloom: The Traditional & Heritage Art of Textiles" and "Textile Trade between India and China." The interaction facilitated meaningful discussions on export-import opportunities, trade challenges, and future collaboration frameworks.

Key Highlights

- Use of live streaming and Chinese social media influencers to promote Indian handloom products.
- Proposal for an express import channel for premium Indian handlooms in China.
- Promotion of the India Handmade portal as a sourcing platform for authentic products.
- Strong appreciation for Muga silk for its lustre and quality.
- Growing demand for silk carpets, wool-blended carpets, and pashmina shawls.
- Identification of visa-related challenges for business travel between the two countries.

Industry Visits and Exposure

The delegation visited Cathaya Group ISU and the Silkworm Museum at Haining, where advanced sericulture practices and large-scale silkworm rearing were demonstrated. Discussions with Mr. Zhang Guoqiang, Chairman, International Sericulture Commission, focused on enhancing cooperation in sericulture technology and machinery.

The delegation also visited the Hangzhou Textile Machinery Group Co. Ltd., where modern silk reeling machinery was showcased, and the China National Silk Museum, a premier institution dedicated to textile research, conservation, and innovation. Interactions with museum officials highlighted opportunities for cultural and technical collaboration.



Seminar on “Handloom to Export – Awareness and Facilitation”

Bhagalpur, Bihar on 07th February 2026

The Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, organised a seminar on “Handloom to Export – Awareness and Facilitation” on 07 February 2026 at Hotel Raj Hans International, Bhagalpur, Bihar. The programme was aimed at creating awareness among handloom weavers and entrepreneurs about export opportunities, export procedures, and the institutional framework available to support their entry into international markets.



Bhagalpur, known for its rich handloom heritage and skilled artisan base, remains an important cluster for silk and traditional handwoven products. However, despite strong craftsmanship and product quality, export participation from the cluster is still limited. The seminar was therefore designed to familiarise stakeholders with the export ecosystem and strengthen their understanding of the role of HEPC and other government agencies in facilitating exports.

The seminar witnessed participation from 65 stakeholders, including 49 handloom weavers, along with representatives from allied institutions. The programme began with an introductory session outlining the objectives of the seminar and the importance of export readiness for traditional clusters. Weavers' Service Centre, Bhagalpur, represented by Shri Rajesh Chatterjee, Deputy Director, presented various schemes implemented by the Centre, including technical support, design development and capacity-building initiatives for the handloom sector.

Shri Chandan Mani Tripathi, Manager of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), explained the Yarn Supply Scheme and other measures aimed at ensuring raw material availability for weavers. Shri Tripurari Chaudhary, Scientist 'C' from the Central Silk Board, highlighted developmental initiatives and institutional support mechanisms relevant to silk-based handloom production. Shri Biswajeet Kumar, Assistant Professor from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Patna, delivered a session on design intervention and product development, emphasising the need for innovation, market-oriented product adaptation and consistent quality to meet global consumer preferences.



A detailed presentation on export procedures and the role of HEPC was delivered by Ms. Preeti Sharma, Deputy Director, HEPC. The session covered topics such as DGFT registration, export documentation, compliance requirements and the advantages of HEPC membership, including participation in international fairs, buyer–seller meets and export promotion initiatives.

Prior to the seminar, a cluster visit was conducted on 06 February 2026 to Nath Nagar and Karadi Tola areas of Bhagalpur, where interactions were held with weavers at their worksites. Discussions focused on export awareness, DGFT registration and the benefits of HEPC membership. As a positive outcome, a few weavers enrolled for HEPC membership during the visit.

Overall, the seminar and cluster visit significantly contributed to strengthening export awareness in the Bhagalpur handloom cluster and reinforced HEPC's efforts to integrate traditional handloom clusters into the global value chain while promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities through exports.

Seminar on “Export Procedure and Documentations”

Shillong, Meghalaya on 18.02.2026

The Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) organised a Seminar on “Export Procedure and Documentation” on 18 February 2026 at the State Convention Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya. The programme was conducted with financial assistance under the National Handloom Development Programme of the Ministry of Textiles. The seminar aimed to create awareness among Master Weavers, aspiring exporters, NGOs, cluster executives, designers and government officials on export procedures, documentation requirements, marketing opportunities and various support schemes available for the handloom sector.



Dr. M. Sundar, Joint Director, HEPC, welcomed the dignitaries and participants and highlighted the growing global demand for authentic and sustainable handloom products. He emphasised the need for stakeholders from the North Eastern region to tap export opportunities and elaborated on the role of HEPC in supporting exporters through international fairs, buyer–seller meets, export promotion initiatives and awareness about Geographical Indication (GI) products. Participants were also encouraged to obtain HEPC membership to access trade updates and overseas marketing support.

Ms. Dipika Lyngdoh, Zonal Officer representing the Directorate of Sericulture and Weaving, Government of Meghalaya, briefed participants on various state government schemes supporting the development of the handloom sector and acknowledged the Directorate's role in mobilising stakeholders for the seminar. During the technical sessions, Ms. Kimberly Manners, Assistant Professor from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Shillong, delivered a presentation on "Color Trends", explaining global colour forecasts and the importance of colour innovation in enhancing product appeal for international markets. Shri Babai Nath, Assistant Director of the Weavers' Service Centre (WSC), Guwahati, discussed various handloom schemes including design and skill training programmes, the Samarth Scheme, MUDRA loans, Handloom Mark, India Handloom Brand certification and marketing opportunities through the GeM portal.



Shri Sanjib Chetia, Regional In-Charge of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), Guwahati, presented the Yarn Supply Scheme, highlighting its benefits such as yarn passbook facilities, raw material supply and transport subsidies. The seminar concluded with an interactive session where participants raised queries related to exports, certification, branding and government schemes. Nearly 50 participants attended the programme, reflecting strong interest from the region. Following the seminar, the HEPC team visited NIFT Shillong for further engagement with stakeholders. The programme was coordinated by Shri Chandrakant More, Senior Executive, under the guidance of Dr. M. Sundar, Joint Director, HEPC, as part of the Council's ongoing efforts to strengthen export awareness and market access for handloom stakeholders in the North Eastern region.



RENEWAL OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH HEPC FOR THE YEAR 2026-27

We would like to draw your attention to the Trade Notice No.35/2021-22 dated 24 February 2022 by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) regarding Electronic filing of Registration Cum Membership Certificate (RCMC) through the common digital platform of DGFT w.e.f. 01.04.2022. As you are aware, renewal of your Membership/RTE for the year 2026-27 falls due on 1st April 2026. In this regard, we have already issued a circular dt. 10th March 2026 to all members of Council. Those who have not renewed their membership is requested to renew the Registration cum Membership certificate through the link <https://www.dgft.gov.in/> Please refer Council's circular for more details.



Handloom Colloquium 2026

26th February 2026, Constitution Club of India, New Delhi

The Handloom Colloquium 2026 was organised by ACCESS Development Services under its flagship initiative Living Looms of India (LLI) on 26 February 2026 at the Constitution Club of India. The annual event brought together policymakers, industry experts, designers, exporters, retail leaders, development practitioners and artisans from across the country to deliberate on the future of Indian handlooms in the global marketplace and explore strategies for strengthening market access and sustainability in the sector.



The programme was inaugurated by Shri. Nipun Pande, Additional Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles in the presence of leading stakeholders from the textile and handloom sector. Discussions during the inaugural session focused on sustainability, export competitiveness and institutional initiatives aimed at strengthening India’s handloom exports.

An exhibition featuring around 50 handloom stalls was also organised alongside the colloquium, showcasing a diverse range of products including sarees, home textiles, fashion fabrics, accessories and lifestyle products from clusters across the country. The exhibition provided a valuable platform for artisan groups, producer companies and entrepreneurs to showcase their craftsmanship and interact with designers, buyers and policy stakeholders.

The technical session was moderated by Chandrashekhar Bheda and included distinguished panellists such as Girish Nair and Nishant Malhotra. During the discussion, Dr. M. Sundar highlighted the growing global demand for ethical and sustainable textile products, the importance of retail innovation and digital platforms, and the need for product diversification, design innovation and premium positioning of Indian handlooms in international markets. He also emphasised the role of HEPC in facilitating international fairs, buyer–seller meets and export promotion initiatives under the India Handloom identity.

During the event, Dr. M. Sundar interacted with participating exhibitors and encouraged them to explore export opportunities through HEPC. Several participants expressed interest in obtaining HEPC membership to benefit from export promotion initiatives, international market exposure and institutional support.

When Tradition Meets Technology (AI in Handloom Weaving)



Artificial Intelligence is increasingly transforming the traditional handloom sector. At the AI Impact Summit held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, a live demonstration showcased how modern technology can support traditional weaving practices and enhance productivity in the handloom industry.

A weaver from Kanchipuram demonstrated saree weaving assisted by the Tata Consultancy Services Intelligent Design Platform. The AI-enabled platform allows designers and customers to create saree patterns digitally through simple inputs such as sketches, images, or voice commands. The system then converts these ideas into loom-ready designs, enabling weavers to visualise the final product before the weaving process begins. This feature helps reduce design errors and allows greater flexibility in creating customised patterns suited to market demand.

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Seminar on Export Orientation and Trade Facilitation for Handloom Products

09.03.2026 | Dimapur, Nagaland

The Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) successfully organised a seminar on “Export Orientation and Trade Facilitation for Handloom Products” on 9 March 2026 at Hotel Saramati, Dimapur, Nagaland. The programme witnessed the participation of 61 women weavers, actively engaged in traditional handloom weaving in the region. The programme began with the honouring of dignitaries followed by the Welcome Address by Shri Lalit Goel, Chairman, HEPC. In his address, the Chairman highlighted the importance of connecting traditional handloom products with global markets. He encouraged the weavers to share product samples and expressed his willingness, as an exporter, to explore opportunities to support them in accessing international markets.



The technical sessions commenced with a presentation by Shri Sandip Chetia, Regional Manager, NHDC, who explained various schemes of the National Handloom Development Corporation that provide marketing support and facilitate access to raw materials and other resources for handloom stakeholders. This was followed by Mr. Cholza Sophie, Joint Director, Directorate of Industries & Commerce, who briefed the participants about State Government initiatives and a recent MoU with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) aimed at strengthening local industries and promoting entrepreneurship and exports from the State.

Shri Biswajit Das, Assistant Director, Weavers' Service Centre, elaborated on the schemes and support mechanisms available for the development of the handloom sector. Mr. Ramesh Verma, Diamond Export, delivered an insightful session on "How to Start Export", emphasising the importance of maintaining consistent quality and quantity for international markets. He also suggested that weavers could work collectively to meet export demand and explore larger market opportunities. Ms. Preeti Sharma, Deputy Director, HEPC, highlighted the role of HEPC in promoting handloom exports and explained the basic requirements for initiating exports, including obtaining an Import Export Code (IEC) and Registration-Cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC). She also elaborated on the Council's initiatives in export promotion, market development, and buyer-seller linkages.



The seminar concluded with an interactive question and answer session, where participants actively engaged with the speakers. During the interactions, it was observed that most participants are engaged in weaving as part of their traditional and cultural heritage. The weavers appreciated the initiative and expressed that regular exposure programmes and training would help strengthen their capabilities and connect them with wider markets. As a constructive suggestion, HEPC EC Member Mr. Ramesh Verma proposed that the Weavers' Service Centre may facilitate exposure visits and training for selected weavers in Panipat, enabling them to better understand market requirements and export practices.

Following the seminar, Shri Lalit Goel, Chairman, HEPC, along with Mr. Ramesh Verma and Ms. Preeti Sharma, undertook a cluster visit in the region. The team also visited the Skill Development Programme in Weaving under the Samarth Scheme at the training centre in Bamunpukhuri, Dimapur. The interaction with trainees and review of the training modules provided valuable insights into the ongoing skill development initiatives and their potential to strengthen the handloom sector in the region.

Inauguration of New academic block of IIHT -Salem

Hon'ble Vice President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan, inaugurated the newly constructed academic building of the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, Salem on 27 February 2026 in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh and Dr. M. Beena, IAS, Development Commissioner (Handlooms). The new facility is aimed at strengthening technical education, skill development and research in the handloom sector, with modern classrooms, laboratories, library and academic infrastructure to enhance industry-ready competencies among students. The programme coordination was supported by Shri N. Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC.



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RoDTEP Scheme Rates Rationalised by DGFT

The Government of India, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has issued Notification No. 60/2025-26 dated 23 February 2026 regarding the rationalisation of rates under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme. As per the notification, with immediate effect the applicable RoDTEP benefits for all HS lines notified in Appendix 4R and Appendix 4RE will be restricted to 50% of the existing rates and value caps.

For more details member exporters can check our email dated 24.02.2026

India's achievements in Free Trade Agreements for the year 2025-26

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry highlighted India's significant progress in expanding its global trade partnerships during 2025-26 through a series of modern and future-ready Free Trade Agreements. Over the past decade, India has broadened its FTA network to nine agreements covering 38 countries, including key partnerships such as the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, while also announcing new FTAs with the European Union and New Zealand and advancing an interim trade framework with the United States. These agreements aim to expand market access for Indian products, strengthen export opportunities for MSMEs and traditional sectors such as garments, leather, handicrafts and handlooms, facilitate mobility for professionals and students, and attract investments while safeguarding sensitive domestic sectors, contributing to India's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Source: PIB Delhi on 06 MAR 2026

DGFT Issues Policy Circular on EPCG Scheme Relief

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, issued Policy Circular No. 10/2025-26 dated 25 February 2026 regarding relief under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme. As per Para 5.17(a) of the Handbook of Procedures under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, exporters in sectors where overall exports have declined by more than 5% compared to the previous year will be eligible for proportionate reduction in their Average Export Obligation (EO).



The circular clarifies that sectors or product groups that experienced a decline in exports during 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 will be considered for such relief. DGFT has also released an annexure listing the affected product groups along with the percentage decline in exports. The measure aims to support exporters facing sector-specific downturns and provide operational flexibility under the EPCG scheme.

For more details member exporters can check the email dated 04.03.2026



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