

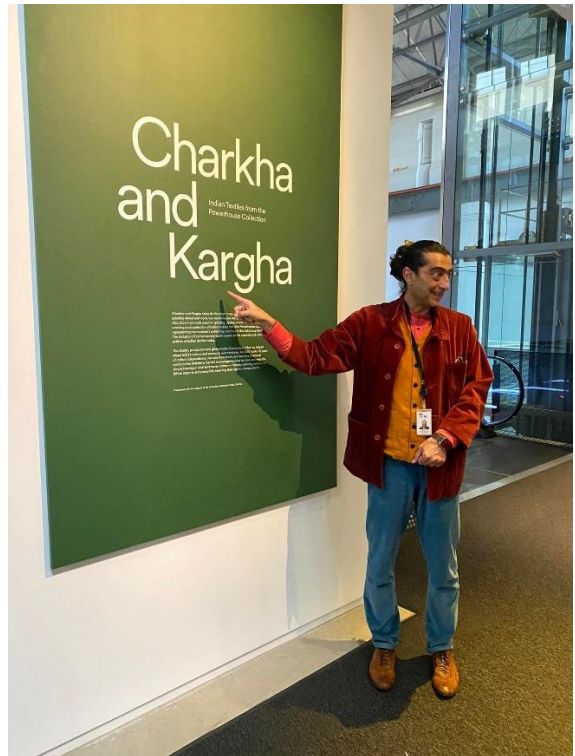
Report on organising the textile exhibition “Charka & Kargha” at Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia on the occasion of celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)

The Consulate General of India, Sydney, Australia, celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) by organizing an exclusive event in close partnership with Powerhouse Museum to showcase India’s rich cultural diversity and contributions of the Indian-Australian community to the multicultural mosaic of Australia.

Powerhouse Museum, also known as Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) is an iconic institution of NSW in Ultimo, in the heart of Sydney. The Museum attracts a good footfall and is acknowledged for the calibre of its collection, scholarship and exhibitions. Its collections span history, science, technology, design, industry, decorative arts, music, transport and space exploration. It is also home to the material heritage and stories of Australian culture, history and lifestyle, providing comprehensive insights into this country. The Museum has an impressive collection of 500,000 items including a collection of Indian heritage.

The Powerhouse Museum in a special gesture of friendship and cooperation with India offered its premier exhibition space of upto 10,000 ft within its premises for curating a textile exhibition. Indian mission in Australia informed that it intended to curate this exhibition from August 15,2022 — January 26, 2023.

The textile exhibition titled “Charka & Kargha” the first-of-its-kind exhibition was organised in an iconic Australian institution. The event showcased the rich and diverse legacy of Indian fabric and textiles. The exhibition with a focus on textiles would attract Australian importers to source from the Indian market and arrange events centered around Indian textiles.



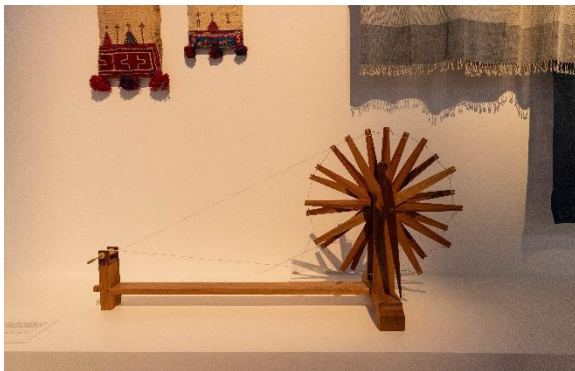
Exclusive display of handloom items

As per the directions of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, HEPC had coordinated with various Departments & organisations to source exclusive and unique handloom items (Silk, Cotton, Khadi, Pashmina, etc) from all over India. Directors from Weavers' Service Centre were requested to identify such items for procurement. Unique textile garments known for their exquisite elegance and craftsmanship were also identified.

As per the list provided by the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) various exclusive handloom items listed below were procured from various centres around India and were dispatched to Sydney, Australia, for display and curation.

- Exquisite Silk Banarasi Hand woven and silk Saree
- Exquisite Paithani (Hand woven and Silk Saree) – length Six yard
- Exquisite Paithani (Hand woven and Silk Saree) – Nine yard (Nauvari)
- Exquisite Kanchivaram (Hand woven and Silk Saree)
- Unique exquisite Pashmina Sarees
- Patola Silk Sarees of Gujarat
- Cotton Sarees of Sambalpuri, Kanjeevaram, Gadhwal
- Linen Sarees
- Mekhala Chader (set) (Muga Silk)
- Duppatta, Scarves and Stole of Banarasee & Pashmina
- Prominent Headgears (Karnataka Silk Pagdi, Mysore Peta)





Live Demonstration of handlooms

HEPC had coordinated with Mr. **Ramanand Garge, Director**, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Consulate General of India, Sydney, Australia and Managing Director, NHDC, identified and arranged for dispatch of two handlooms one from Varanasi and the other one from Hyderabad along with Weaver Artisans to perform live demonstration at Sydney, Australia. Two handlooms were sent as requested by Mr. Ramanad Garge for its demonstration at the Museum.

About Varanasi loom (Satin Tanchoi)

A demonstration on weaving of Satin Tanchoi - a traditional fabric of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh State of India wherein very intricate designs in multi-colours are interwoven in satin

weave was organised. Designs are made with weft yarns whereas warp yarn make the ground of the fabric. The specialty of this fabric lies in its smooth and compound texture. Silk is used both in warp and weft. The design pattern of the saree is mainly inspired with floral and geometric pattern.

Generally 5 or 8 end satin weave is used for ground fabric. The healds are operated by treadles and for the extra weft designs jala or jacquard is used. The technique demonstrated here is Jala technique which is being operated manually either by weaver or assistant. The Jala help to lift selected warp end and the weft for design is being inserted in the shed throughout from one selvedge to another. To bind the excess float of the design weft, one heald of ground weave is lifted along with selected warp by Jala.



The procurement and dispatch of looms was organised by HEPC in coordination with Weavers' Service Centre, Varanasi.

About weaver Artisan:



Shri Naseem Ahmed is a traditional handloom weaver and he has woven extra ordinary fabrics on handlooms. To recognize his contribution in handloom sector, he was awarded with National Award in year 2008. He is also imparting training to the young weavers of Varanasi so that this art may continue in near future.

A weaver assistant Mr. Tauseef Ahmad Ansari was also deputed to install and demonstrate the weaving of above technique.

About Hyderabad (Pochampally) loom

Pochampally located in Telangana State, India is famous for the production of Tie & Dye and pochampally IKAT products both in Cotton & Silk, and a demonstration on this technique of weaving was done at this event.

Patterns are transformed on to yarns in different colours by tying (resisting) and dyeing the exposed area repeatedly before weaving.

The fabric woven through this Technique shows a hazy pattern which is a wonderful classis in its own way.

The design patterns are mainly inspired by geometry. The Product category includes sarees, bed sheet, cushion covers and curtains.





The procurement and dispatch of loom was organised by HEPC in coordination with Weavers' Service Centre, Hyderabad.

About Weaver artisan:



surrounding areas.

Shri Tadaka Ramesh is a National Merit Certificate holder (Marketing of Handloom Products category) for the year 2018. He is having good experience in Pochampalli IKAT Tie & Dye also an eminent social worker among the Weaving community in Pochampalli and

An Assistant Mr. Paladi Yadagiri was also deputed to undertake installation and demonstration of IKAT weaving technique at the venue.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Sydney, Australia

To mark the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a grand celebration was organised at the prestigious 'The Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. The grand celebration at powerhouse museum had gracious presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Governor, Margaret Beazley AC QC & Mr. Dennis Wilson, Governor of New South Wales, Serving Ministers,

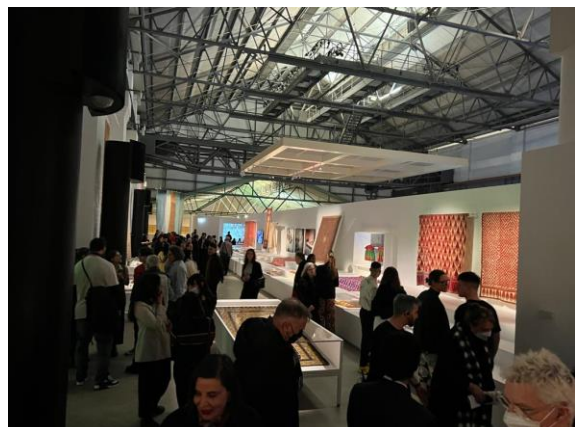
Federal and NSW MPs, Mayors, Councillors, Consular Corps and distinguished guests from all walks of life. The event was attended by more than 200 guests.

Charkha and Kargha – a dedicated exhibition to Indian textile

To compliment the rich legacy of Indian textiles known for its exquisite vibrant yet elegant outlook, a dedicated textile exhibition was curated by the prestigious Powerhouse Museum reflecting the saga of diverse Indian culture inspiring the evolution of Indian textiles. The exhibition aptly named as "Charkha & Kargha" meaning a spinning wheel & loom, exhibition featured over 100 rare items dating back to 16th century from the foundational collection of the Powerhouse Museum. The exhibition also showcased uniquely the evolved status of Indian textiles through the exquisite collection of fabric such as Silk, Cotton, Khadi, Linen, and Jute sourced by HEPC, and gifted by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The event also displayed the products sent directly by the following departments: -

1. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) &
2. Central Silk Board

The evening celebrations were started with lighting of lamp by the dignitaries followed by singing of National Anthems of India and Australia.



The exhibition also exhibits live demonstration of handlooms by the national award winner master weavers from city older than history Banaras & Pochampalli. These master weavers are Naseem Ahmed, Mr. Tauseef Ahmed, Mr. Ramesh Thadaka (national award-handloom),

Mr. Yadagiri Paladi. These weavers are known for producing world class fabric through their unparallel craftsmanship and are also known for dedication of generations.

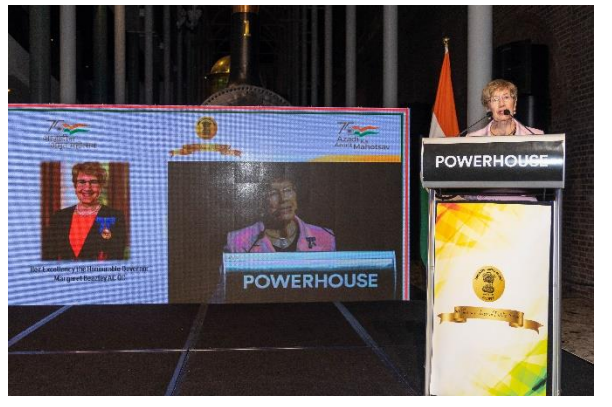
Inspired from the exhibition, a dedicated segment highlighting rich legacy of Indian threads named as " Viraasati Dhaage" have showcased various states of India, actively contributed by Sydney based Indian community.



The Exhibition was attended by following dignitaries who have also witnessed the live demonstrations by the weavers and have encouraged various institutions and have facilitated their group visit.

- Her Excellency the Honourable Governor, Margaret Beazley AC QC & Mr. Dennis Wilson (Governor of NSW, Australia and Spouse)
- The Hon. Minister Mr. Mark Joseph Coure (Minister for Multiculturalism, Government of NSW)
- The Hon. Benjamin Franklin, MLC, (Minister for Tourism, Aboriginal Affairs, Arts and Youth Affairs, NSW)
- Leader of Opposition, NSW Mr. Christopher John Minns

- The Hon. Minister Damien Tudehope MLC
- The Hon. Minister Ben Franklin MLC
- The Hon. Minister Dr. Geoff Lee MP
- The Hon. Minister David Elliott MP
- The Hon. Minister Anthony Roberts MPMs. Lisa Havilah, CEO, Powerhouse Museum



The event was organised with the financial grant from O/o the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, for the items, looms procured by HEPC from handloom sector.
