

India's Largest Handloom Focused Hackathon Brings Together 400+ Young Minds at IIT Delhi

DC Handlooms Dr.M Beena inaugurates the Handloom Hackathon 2025

Handloom Hackathon has set a new benchmark for bridging traditional craftsmanship with modern technology

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The first of its kind "Handloom Hackathon" successfully concluded today at IIT Delhi's Dogra Hall, where over 400 participants representing 250 elite teams from across India delivered innovative solutions to transform the handloom sector. The national innovation challenge, organized by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) under the Ministry of Textiles, has set a new benchmark for bridging traditional craftsmanship with modern technology.



While inaugurating the Handloom Hackathon, Development Commissioner Handlooms Dr.M Beena said that today's hackathon has exceeded our expectations in showcasing how young innovators can create meaningful solutions for our handloom community. The energy, creativity, and practical focus demonstrated by these teams gives us tremendous confidence in the future of our handloom sector, DC Handlooms added.



Following an overwhelming response of over 1,500 initial applications, the competition has attracted the brightest minds from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Kutch, with strong participation from India's premier Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs) and National Institutes of Fashion Technology (NIFTs).



A National Innovation Ecosystem in Action

The hackathon represents a unique collaboration between government, academia, and industry, with DC/Handlooms partnering with prominent ecosystem enablers like National Design Centre, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer IIT Delhi (FITT-IITD), IIT Delhi Alumni Association, TIDES Incubator and ThinkStartup.

The intensive two-day competition challenges teams across three critical themes:

- Innovation in Design & Handloom Operations: Smart production tracking, process efficiency, and ergonomic solutions
- Market Access & Digital Integration: Direct market connections, authenticity verification, and digital storytelling
- Sustainability & Environmental Impact: Eco-friendly dyeing, water conservation, circular economy, and renewable energy solutions

Teams worked through four progressive rounds – Ideate, Research & Validate, Build, and Final Pitch – with continuous interactions with handloom weavers throughout the day, ensuring solutions remained grounded in real artisan needs and market realities.



From Innovation to Implementation Pipeline

The hackathon demonstrated a unique focus on immediate implementability. Winning solutions have been selected not just for innovation, but for their potential for real-world deployment. DC/Handlooms has committed to providing long-term support for top solutions, creating a direct pathway from student innovation to weaver empowerment.

The day-long event featured expert talks, mentor guidance, and rigorous evaluation by industry leaders, ensuring that emerging solutions are both technically sound and commercially viable for India's handloom ecosystem.

Strengthening Tomorrow's Handloom Industry

As a highlight of National Handloom Day 2025 celebrations, today's hackathon has reinforced the government's commitment to modernizing the sector while preserving its cultural essence. The initiative has successfully created a model for sustainable livelihoods, enhanced market access, and positioned handloom as a competitive sector in the global textile industry.

The winning solutions announced this evening represent a new chapter in handloom innovation, with implementation roadmaps being developed in partnership with the broader handloom ecosystem.

MAM/SMP

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