



NESTS organises three-day “GI Tagged Tribal Art Workshop & Exhibition – Cultural Extravaganza” at New Delhi

Tribal students showcase India’s living heritage through GI-tagged art forms, embodying Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of skill-based and culturally-rooted education

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The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, inaugurated a three-day “GI Tagged Tribal Art Workshop & Exhibition – Cultural Extravaganza” at New Delhi today. The event, being held from **24–26 November 2025**, brings together selected **139 students** from Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across the country, along with **34 Art and Music teachers** and **10 master artisans**, to celebrate and promote India’s Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged tribal art traditions.



The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp, followed by a **welcome address by Shri Vipin Kumar, Joint Commissioner (Admin), NESTS. Prof. Anil Kumar, HoD, Janapada Sampada, IGNCA**, delivered the special address highlighting the intrinsic civilizational connect of tribal art forms. This was followed by addresses from **Shri Bipin Raturi, Joint Commissioner (Civil), NESTS, Shri Prashant Meena, Additional Commissioner, NESTS**, and the **inaugural address by Shri Ajeet Kumar Srivastava, Commissioner, NESTS**, who formally declared the workshop open. The ceremony concluded with a **Vote of Thanks by Dr. Rashmi Chaudhary, Assistant Commissioner (Academic), NESTS**.

Cultural Performances by EMRS Students

The inaugural session featured vibrant cultural presentations by EMRS students, including:

- Dhemsa Dance (Odisha)
- Jaunsari Dance (Uttarakhand)
- Mizo Folk Dance (Mizoram)
- Folk Vocal Solo (Dadra & Nagar Haveli)
- Patriotic Song (Madhya Pradesh)

These performances showcased the artistic brilliance of tribal youth and reflected the spirit of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”.

Hands-on Training in GI-Tagged Art Forms

Renowned GI expert **Ms. Shweta Menon (Truly Tribal)** conducted a live session on the significance of GI-tagged arts and is leading the three-day intensive workshop. Students are receiving hands-on training in traditional GI-recognised art forms including **Gond, Warli, Madhubani, Pithora, Cheriya, Rogan, Kalamkari, Pichwai, Aipan, Rangwali Pichora, Kangra, Basholi, Mysore paintings, Bastar Dhokra, and Kachchhi embroidery**, under the mentorship of master artisans.

Aligned with the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s Vision

The initiative reflects the Hon’ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi’s** emphasis on integrating **skill development, vocational education and cultural heritage** into mainstream learning. By enabling tribal students to learn GI-tagged traditional art forms, NESTS is nurturing a generation of **young tribal artist-entrepreneurs**, strengthening cultural pride and enabling sustainable livelihoods.

Education as a Tool for Mainstreaming Tribal Youth

Through culturally grounded residential education, EMRSs serve as powerful institutions for fostering aspiration, empowerment and national integration among tribal children. Exposure to both **modern academics and traditional artistry** helps students develop a strong sense of identity and belonging, countering historical feelings of alienation in certain regions. The initiative instils a positive narrative of opportunity, dignity and progress.

Public Engagement

The event features a **GI-tagged student art exhibition-cum-sale**, interactive visitor engagements, and a **Live Art Workshop** open to the public daily from **09:30 AM to 04:00 PM**.

The exhibition will remain open for public viewing from **24th–26th November 2025**. Art enthusiasts, students, researchers and visitors are invited to witness and support authentic Indian tribal art.

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