

Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh, inaugurates Special Handloom Expo; NHDC Celebrates 43rd Foundation Day at Handloom Haat

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The Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, inaugurated the Special Handloom Expo and presided over the 43rd Foundation Day celebrations of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi, today.

The event was attended by Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms); senior officials of the Ministry of Textiles and NHDC; along with weavers, cooperative societies, and stakeholders from across the country.

The celebration marked a significant milestone in NHDC's 43-year journey of strengthening India's handloom ecosystem and supporting the livelihoods of weavers nationwide. Addressing the gathering, Shri Giriraj Singh emphasized the pivotal role of the handloom sector in sustaining rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable, indigenous production systems. He reiterated the Government of India's commitment to strengthening domestic manufacturing, expanding market access for artisans, and encouraging citizens to actively support Swadeshi textiles. The Minister also outlined the roadmap for NHDC's future initiatives while appreciating the Corporation's sustained efforts in empowering the weaving community.



The Foundation Day celebrations were held as part of the ongoing Special Handloom Expo (21 February – 2 March 2026), aimed at promoting Swadeshi handloom products, strengthening direct market linkages between weavers and consumers, and enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities for artisans.

During the event, the Hon'ble Minister released a multi-lingual comic book designed to create greater awareness about the handloom sector, particularly among younger audiences. The publication presents the legacy, processes, and cultural significance of handloom weaving in an engaging and accessible format.



An Annual Report presentation highlighted NHDC's key achievements over the past year, including major initiatives, outreach programmes, and efforts toward economic empowerment of weavers.

Distinguished weavers and artisans were felicitated for their exceptional craftsmanship, innovation, and enduring contribution to preserving and promoting India's rich weaving traditions.

Enhancing the cultural vibrancy of the celebration, a *Paridhan Pradarshini* showcased an elegant display of handloom garments reflecting the diversity, craftsmanship, and aesthetic excellence embedded in India's regional weaving traditions.

The Hon'ble Minister also visited the exhibition area at Handloom Haat, which features 60 stalls — comprising 48 handloom and 12 handicraft stalls — and interacted with weavers and exhibitors. He appreciated the quality, innovation, and wide variety of handwoven products on display.

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