



Handloom Hackathon 2026 launched to foster innovation and technology-driven solutions in handloom sector

Grand Finale to be held 1st August 2026; online registrations open till 20th July

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The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, has launched **Handloom Hackathon 2026 – “Weaving Innovation”**, a national innovation challenge aimed at harnessing technology, design, entrepreneurship and sustainable solutions to strengthen India’s handloom sector. The initiative is being organised as part of the celebrations of **National Handloom Day 2026**.

The Grand Finale of the Hackathon will be held on **1 August 2026** at the **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi**, where shortlisted teams will present their solutions before an eminent jury comprising experts from academia, industry, design, technology and the handloom sector.

Speaking on the initiative, **Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles**, said:

“The Handloom Hackathon 2026 seeks to bring together the creativity of India’s youth with the rich heritage of the handloom sector. By providing a collaborative platform for weavers, students, designers, technologists, entrepreneurs and innovators, the initiative aims to generate practical and scalable solutions that address key challenges, enhance competitiveness and contribute to the sustainable growth of the handloom sector.”

The Hackathon has been designed to encourage innovative solutions across a broad range of thematic areas, including product and design innovation, sustainability and circularity, digital technologies, market access, branding, supply chain efficiency, productivity enhancement, business development and social impact.

The initiative seeks to foster closer collaboration between the handloom ecosystem and India’s innovation and startup ecosystem, while encouraging interdisciplinary problem-solving.

Participation is open to students pursuing higher education in textiles, fashion, design, engineering, management and technology, as well as handloom weavers, artisans, researchers, startups, entrepreneurs, innovators and professionals.

Beyond recognising outstanding ideas, the Hackathon aims to identify promising and implementable solutions that may be considered for mentoring, incubation and further development in collaboration with partner institutions, wherever feasible. The initiative seeks to encourage innovation that contributes to the modernisation, competitiveness and long-term sustainability of the handloom sector.

Online registrations are open until 20th July 2026. Students, innovators, startups, researchers, designers, entrepreneurs and handloom practitioners may register and submit their ideas through **www.youthideathon.in/handloom**.

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) has invited students, innovators, designers, entrepreneurs, researchers, startups and handloom practitioners from across the country to participate in the Hackathon and contribute towards developing innovative solutions for **a technologically enabled, sustainable and globally competitive Indian handloom sector**.

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, is the apex organisation responsible for the promotion, development and welfare of the handloom sector. Through policy interventions, development programmes, market promotion initiatives and institutional support, it works towards enhancing the competitiveness of Indian handlooms, improving the livelihoods of handloom weavers and preserving India's rich weaving traditions and cultural heritage.

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