



Ministry of Textiles to Organise ‘Weave The Future 4.0 – Upcycling Edition’ at Dilli Haat

Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh to inaugurate the initiative on 13 July 2026

National Textile Waste Innovation Challenge ‘What Is It Made Of?’ to promote circularity and sustainable innovation in textile sector

Posted On: 10 JUL 2026 6:50PM by PIB Delhi

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, is organising **‘Weave The Future 4.0 – Upcycling Edition’** at Dilli Haat, New Delhi, from **12 to 17 July 2026**. The initiative aims to promote circularity, sustainable production and innovation in the textile and handloom sector by bringing together artisans and weavers, designers, innovators, industry, academic institutions and civil society organisations working towards responsible production and consumption.

The event will be inaugurated by **Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh on 13 July 2026**. The occasion will also be graced by **Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles**, and **Shri Thomas McClenaghan, Minister Counsellor and Head of Sustainable Modernization, Delegation of the European Union to India**.

On the occasion, the Ministry will launch the **‘What Is It Made Of?’ Textile Waste Innovation Challenge**, a national initiative aimed at encouraging innovative, scalable and practical solutions to address India’s growing textile waste challenge. The competition is open to students, artisans and weavers, designers, researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators and citizens from across the country.

As per available estimates, India generates approximately **70.73 lakh tonnes of textile waste annually**, comprising nearly **29.73 lakh tonnes of pre-consumer waste and 41 lakh tonnes of post-consumer waste**. With the textile recycling sector projected to grow significantly in the coming years and create green employment opportunities, the initiative seeks to demonstrate how innovation, traditional craftsmanship and circular design can transform textile waste into economic, social and environmental value.

Since its inception, **Weave The Future** has served as a national platform for promoting sustainable, circular and craft-led approaches to textile production and consumption. The initiative fosters collaboration among artisans, designers, brands, innovators, researchers and cultural practitioners.

The fourth edition will feature **more than 100 brands, recyclers, artisans, thrift collectives, repair practitioners and material innovators**, showcasing diverse approaches to upcycling, recycling, repair, repurposing and circular design. The exhibition will highlight emerging practices that extend product life cycles, reduce waste and encourage responsible material use.

Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, said, *“India’s handloom traditions have long exemplified sustainable use of natural resources and responsible material practices. Through Weave The Future, the Ministry aims to build on this legacy by encouraging innovative approaches that combine traditional knowledge with contemporary technologies to advance circularity in the textile sector and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.”*

Speaking on the initiative, **Ms. Arti Kanwar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles,** said, *“India’s textile sector combines a rich heritage of craftsmanship with significant opportunities for sustainable innovation. Through the ‘What Is It Made Of?’ Innovation Challenge, the Ministry seeks to encourage practical and scalable solutions that can contribute to circularity, resource efficiency and sustainable growth of the textile sector. The initiative provides a platform for young innovators, designers and entrepreneurs to translate ideas into impactful solutions.”*

Textile Waste Innovation Challenge – ‘What Is It Made Of?’

The Innovation Challenge is open to participants in the **16–45 years age group** from disciplines including design, engineering, science, technology, communication, research, entrepreneurship, community development and systems thinking. Applications for participation may be submitted **up to 20 July 2026**. Details regarding registration and participation are available on the official website of the initiative.

About Weave The Future

Weave The Future is a national initiative of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, aimed at promoting sustainable, circular and craft-led approaches in the textile sector. The initiative facilitates collaboration among artisans, designers, industry, academic institutions, innovators and communities to encourage responsible production, resource efficiency, material innovation and sustainable livelihoods, while showcasing India’s rich handloom and textile traditions.

MAM/VN

(Release ID: 2283412) Visitor Counter : 464

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