

National Handicrafts Week 2025

National Handicrafts Awards Ceremony (2023 & 2024) - 9th December 2025



The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, organised the Handicrafts Awards Ceremony for the years 2023 and 2024 at the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 9th December 2025 (Tuesday).

The prestigious national-level awards were presented by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in the august presence of Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles; Shri Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles; and Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles).

The Handicrafts Awards, organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) are the highest honours in the handicrafts sector. These awards recognise outstanding Master Craftspersons for their exemplary contributions, encouraging the preservation of India's rich craft traditions and excellence in craftsmanship.

The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) served as the official implementing organisation for this prestigious national-level event held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Celebrations and Programs across Craft Clusters

8th to 14th December 2025



Saharanpur

On 8th December 2025, CFC Saharanpur marked the first day of National Handicrafts Week 2025, an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

A wide range of handcrafted products were displayed during the programme, showcasing the rich legacy, artistic excellence, and dedication of Saharanpur's artisan community.

The observance aimed to encourage greater artisan participation, promote awareness of India's handcraft heritage, and strengthen the linkage between institutions and craftsmen.

Narsapur

The ILTC, Narsapur, EPCH Branch Office (Southern Region), Crochet and Lace Craft Cluster of West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, celebrated National Handicrafts Week.



Udaipur

EPCH with Comprehensive Skill Upgradation Programme (CSUP) Kavad Painting artisans celebrate the National Handicrafts Week 2025 at Udaipur.



Jaisalmer

EPCH, in association with artisans under the Comprehensive Skill Upgradation Programme (CSUP) for Appliqué Crafts, celebrated National Handicrafts Week 2025 in Jaisalmer.

Patna

EPCH Patna celebrated National Handicraft Week 2025 on 12th December 2025 in collaboration with Upendra Maharathi Shilp Anusandhan Sansthan (UMSAS), Department of Industries, Government of Bihar, at the UMSAS premises in Patna. The event provided an important platform to showcase Bihar's rich craft heritage and to strengthen the local artisan community through knowledge sharing and institutional support. It featured informative sessions by key stakeholders from the handicraft and handloom sectors, with a strong focus on bridging the gap between traditional craftsmanship and international market requirements.

An EPCH representative inaugurated the session by outlining the significance of National Handicraft Week. The presentation covered the Council's initiatives in Bihar aimed at supporting exporters and grassroots artisans. Emphasis was laid on the "artisan to exporter" pathway, highlighting how EPCH's handholding support enables



skilled artisans to enter export markets. The benefits of EPCH membership, including skill upgradation programmes and subsidised participation in national and international trade fairs, were also explained. Additionally, information was shared on the Certificate Course in Handicrafts Export Management (CHEMS).

Mr. Amit Kumar, HPO, O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Patna, shared insights on current government policies, welfare schemes, and the benefits available to registered artisans under various initiatives of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). Mr. Satyanand, DDO, UMSAS, Patna, presented an overview of UMSAS activities, highlighting its role in skill training and marketing support to ensure sustainable livelihoods for Bihar's traditional crafts.

The celebration successfully reinforced coordination between state institutions and central councils. By emphasising skill development and export preparedness, the programme offered participating artisans a clear roadmap to expand from local markets to the global arena. The event witnessed active participation from approximately 55 artisans and stakeholders.



Mr. Amit Kumar, HPO, O/o DC (Handicrafts), Patna, sharing insights on current government policies and welfare schemes

Cherial Craft Cluster, Siddipet District, Telangana



National Handicrafts Week 2025 was celebrated at the Cherial Craft Cluster, highlighting the rich traditional skills and craftsmanship of Cherial artisans. The event is an initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

As part of the celebrations, the ongoing Comprehensive Skill Upgradation Programme (CSUP) training for Cherial craft artisans at Cherial, Siddipet District, Telangana, also marked the occasion with active participation from the artisans.



Thiruppanandal, Tamil Nadu

National Handicrafts Week 2025 was celebrated during the ongoing training programme under the Comprehensive Skill Upgradation Programme (CSUP) for Temple Kalamkari craft artisans at Thiruppanandal, Tamil Nadu.

Saharanpur

On 13th December 2025, a Craft Awareness Programme was conducted by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Saharanpur, at Vrindavan Garden, Saharanpur.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Ashok Gupta, Assistant Director, DC(H), Saharanpur, along with Mohd. Dilshad, National Awardee; Mohd. Fayyaz, Shilpguru; Ms. Vandana Sharma, Designer; and a representative from EPCH, Saharanpur. Mohd. Dilshad was felicitated by Shri Ashok Gupta, A.D., DC(H), for receiving the National Award on 9th December 2025.

Artisans representing various crafts, including woodcraft, embroidery, and metal craft, participated in the programme. They were sensitised about traditional handicrafts and their cultural significance.

Jaipur

A Craft Awareness Programme was successfully organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) on 13th December 2025 at the EPCH Handicraft Productivity Centre, Jaipur, in association with the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Lekhraj Maheshwari, prominent member exporter, in the presence of Mr. Rajat Verma, Senior Assistant Director, and Ms. Pratibha, HPO, O/o DC (Handicrafts), HSC Jaipur. The inaugural session was graced by Smt. Indira Nagar, National Awardee (Painting); Mr. Rajendra Balotia, DICC PSU Official; Smt. Roopali Saxena, Empanelled Designer; Smt. Smita Goyal, Goyal Exports; and Mr. Abhinav Chhabra, Abhinav Exports, along with officials from EPCH and a large number of artisans representing diverse handicraft sectors.

The programme aimed to create awareness among artisans about various developmental, marketing, skill upgradation, and welfare schemes implemented by the O/o DC (Handicrafts) and the Government of Rajasthan. Officials from the DC (Handicrafts) office elaborated on key central schemes such as AHVY, CHCDS, Marketing Support & Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme, NHDP, and Handicrafts Artisan Welfare Schemes, including provisions for exhibition participation and financial assistance.

Representatives of the Government of Rajasthan briefed participants on state-level initiatives to promote traditional crafts, artisan entrepreneurship, and employment generation. These included schemes related to artisan registration, skill development



The faculty members, Mr. Mohsin Ahmad and Ms. Vandana Sharma, briefed the artisans on digital marketing and entrepreneurship. The EPCH representative apprised the participants of the various activities and initiatives of EPCH. The programme also featured live craft demonstrations by the artisans, showcasing their skills and craftsmanship.



and design interventions, Mukhyamantri Laghu Udyog Protsahan Yojana, Rajeevika and RSLDC skill initiatives, subsidy and financial assistance programmes, and facilitation through District Industries and Commerce Centres (DICC) for MSME registration, credit linkage and market support.

An open interaction session enabled artisans to share their concerns and seek clarification on scheme eligibility, application procedures, market opportunities, and export facilitation. The programme concluded with a collective resolve to strengthen collaboration between artisans and government agencies for the sustainable growth of the handicrafts sector in Rajasthan.

Inaugural Lecture of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Craft Lecture Series “Handmade for Gen-Next” during National Handicrafts Week, New Delhi

On 14th December 2025, EPCH, with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, organised the inaugural edition of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Craft Lecture Series at the International Craft Complex (The Kunj), New Delhi, as part of the National Handicrafts Week celebrations. The keynote lecture on “Handmade for Gen-Next” was delivered by Padma Bhushan Shri Rajeev Sethi.

The event was attended by Smt. Amrit Raj, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts); Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handloom); Shri Ravi K. Passi, Former Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Additional Executive Director, EPCH; and around 100 participants, including eminent designers, scholars, Shilp Gurus, National Awardees, architects, and other stakeholders.

The lecture series was conceived as a tribute to the visionary legacy of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, widely regarded as the mother of India’s craft renaissance, whose pioneering efforts in handicrafts, handlooms, cooperatives, and cultural institutions laid the foundation

for the post-Independence craft movement and global recognition of Indian handmade traditions. The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, during which the speakers addressed participants’ queries. ■

