



Solapur Handloom Industry

Why in News?

Weavers have been urging **the Maharashtra government** to recognize their '[Solapuri silk saree](#)' as a traditional textile under [the 2023 textile policy](#).

Key Points

- **Inclusion of Solapuri Silk Saree:**
 - This inclusion would grant **access to [old-age pension schemes](#), employment as master trainers in government handloom institutes, and an annual festival allowance of Rs 15,000 for female weavers and Rs 10,000 for male weavers.**
 - They argue that other textiles, like [Himru](#), are **included despite limited production in the state**, while their sarees remain unrecognized.
- **Challenges in Government Schemes and Weaver ID Cards:**
 - [Weaver's Pehchan Card](#) is essential to avail benefits under [the National Handloom Development Programme \(NHDP\)](#), including [MUDRA loans](#) and workshed support.
 - Many applicants **face delays in receiving their cards**, with some waiting for years before gaining access to central government benefits.
 - Weavers struggle to secure loans under [the Weavers Mudra Scheme](#), as **banks often reject applications due to high default rates.**
 - **The Pehchan Card also offers financial aid for weavers' children**, covering Rs 2 lakh annually for textile education and a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000.
- **Financial Struggles and Seasonal Market Demand:**
 - Each handloom produces one to two sarees per month, which sell for **Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000 during festive seasons** but see minimal demand in off-seasons.
 - The community relies on markets in Pune, but buyers frequently reject or undervalue their products, reducing profitability.
- **Collective Workshed and Yarn Bank:**
 - They demand a collective workshed, where multiple handlooms can operate in a shared facility, improving efficiency and working conditions.
 - A **yarn bank with a 15% subsidy** under [the Raw Material Supply Scheme \(RMSS\)](#) is also sought, as middlemen currently exploit subsidies, leaving weavers without direct benefits.
- **Lack of Effective Government Marketing Support:**
 - The government proposed [Urban Haat](#), a dedicated marketplace for handloom products, but its feasibility is questioned due to low financial aid and high infrastructure costs.
 - Weavers seek **better marketing opportunities and government support** to expand their reach and ensure fair pricing for their sarees.
- **Future Concerns:**
 - Many young generations are reluctant to enter weaving, citing **unstable income and lack of [social security](#).**
 - Weavers express **concerns over financial insecurity**, with no government assistance during medical emergencies or crises.
 - They **urge policy improvements to protect traditional handloom artisans** and sustain their craft for future generations.

National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)

- **Objective:**
 - NHDP aims to **promote the sustainable development of handloom weavers**, both within and outside identified handloom clusters, by transforming them into self-managed and competitive socio-economic units.
- **Implementation Period:**
 - The scheme is designed for the **2021-22 to 2025-26 financial years**.
- **Approach:**
 - It **follows a need-based strategy** for the integrated and holistic development of handlooms and the welfare of handloom weavers.
- **Target Beneficiaries:**
 - The scheme benefits individual weavers, cooperatives, and **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, both within and outside the cooperative system.
- **Key Support Areas:**
 - **Raw material assistance** for production sustainability.
 - Design inputs to **enhance product quality** and market appeal.
 - **Technology upgradation** for improved efficiency and competitiveness.
 - **Marketing** support through exhibitions and trade events.
 - Permanent infrastructure creation, including Urban Haats and marketing complexes, to provide direct market access to weavers.

PM MUDRA Yojana

- The aim of PMMY is to facilitate **easy collateral-free micro credit to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro entrepreneurs for income generating activities**.
- **MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency)** was **launched in 2015**, to provide refinance support to financial institutions like banks, **micro-finance institutions (MFIs), and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**.
- It provides **refinance, credit guarantee, and development support to financial institutions**, helping them extend financial services to micro-enterprises in manufacturing, trading, and services.

