

MKSSS's School of Fashion Technology (SOFT), Pune Celebrates 12th National Handloom Day

Date: August 7, 2026

Location: SOFT Campus, Pune, India

Participants: 300 Students, Faculty, Industry Experts, and Alumni

On August 7, 2026, MKSSS's School of Fashion Technology (SOFT), Pune, celebrated the 12th National Handloom Day. The event reaffirmed the institution's commitment and 28 years of legacy to Indian textile heritage, craftsmanship, sustainability, and creative design education. The day's activities bridged traditional textile knowledge with contemporary perspectives, engaging students through exhibitions, expert discussions, performance arts, and fashion showcases.



Handloom Day Installation at SOFT Pune

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CELEBRATION

- **Exhibitions & Craft Installations:** SOFT Pune distinguishes itself by transforming academic spaces into interactive learning hubs. Through the "Threads of Tomorrow" and "Threads of Tradition" exhibits, alongside lobby installations, the institution goes beyond theoretical teaching. Students actively engage with textile heritage by creating physical installations and are encouraged to wear authentic regional handlooms, cultivating an intuitive appreciation for craft identity and visual storytelling.

The Handloom Day opened with the "Threads of Tomorrow" and "Threads of Tradition" exhibitions. All stakeholders explored installations and interactive photo booths displaying student work.



"Threads of Tomorrow" exhibit



"Threads of Tradition" exhibit

- **Storytelling Session:** The online storytelling session by Smt. Vandana Bindu Manchanda- Director Heritage Craft and Community at INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) showcased Indian handloom sarees through the lens of identity, narrative value, and cultural history, as the curriculum at SOFT Pune trains students to view textiles not merely as commercial products, but as living repositories of human tradition and social heritage. The storytelling session highlighted how traditional textiles carry cultural identity, heritage, and narrative value beyond their physical form.



**Storytelling session by Smt. Vandana Bindu Manchanda- Director
Heritage Craft and Community at INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art
and Cultural Heritage)**

- **Panel Discussion – *Handlooms Then & Now*:** The session brought together an accomplished panel of SOFT Pune alumni who are actively driving sustainability, artisan welfare, and design innovation across the Indian craft sector and working relentlessly in the Indian craft industry. Alumni working as Design Head at Tribal Weaving, Ratan Textiles, Swadesh, and Somaiyya Kala Vidya actively participated and shared their organisational heritage empowerment practices. Through this interaction themed around- “Handlooms Then & Now”, the panellists demonstrated how their SOFT education laid the foundation for leading heritage empowerment initiatives, offering current

students a clear roadmap for combining creative design with ethical, community-centred industry practices.



Panel Discussion by SOFT Pune alumni on “Handlooms Then & Now”

EVENT CONCLUSION

The initiative successfully bridged traditional handloom practices with modern design pedagogy, encouraging students to view artisan techniques as evolving, contemporary practices rather than static historical crafts. Through alumni-led discussions, students gained critical insights into sustainable fashion, responsible sourcing, and the vital role weavers play in India's textile economy. Interactive activities like the 'Wear Your State' showcase and '*Gunj*- The Echo' elocution empowered students to actively represent, communicate, and celebrate India's rich regional craft diversity.