

## **NOTICE**

**Government of India  
Ministry of Textiles  
Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms**

### **Stakeholder Consultation on India's Draft Report on State-wise Categorization of Languishing Handloom Weaves**

India's handloom sector is a repository of unique regional weaving traditions, several of which are facing acute decline due to structural, economic, and socio-cultural challenges. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has undertaken a systematic identification of languishing weaves across all zones, consolidating inputs received from Weavers Service Centres (WSCs) & expert recommendations.

The exercise has identified **76 languishing handloom weaves** across different States and Union Territories spanning the North, North-East, South, West, and East Zones of India. These weaves face challenges including an ageing weaver base, competition from machine-made and powerloom alternatives, high production costs, weak market linkages, raw material constraints, and inadequate institutional support.

The O/o Development Commissioner (Handlooms) is in the process of finalizing this Report for policy consideration and targeted intervention.

Handloom weavers, cooperative societies, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders of the handloom sector are invited to offer their **inputs, suggestions and comments** on the Draft Report, including on:

Inputs, suggestions and comments may be sent by email to **Sh. Amit Kumar Singh, Asst. Director (Gr. I)** at [amitkumarsingh5@ord.gov.in](mailto:amitkumarsingh5@ord.gov.in) by **15.04.2026**.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms

A report on State-wise Categorisation of Languishing Handloom Weaves

I. Background

India's handloom sector is a repository of unique regional weaving traditions, several of which are facing acute decline due to structural, economic, and socio-cultural challenges. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, has undertaken a systematic identification of languishing weaves across all zones. This note consolidates inputs received from Weavers Service Centres (WSCs), along with expert recommendations and publication of UNESCO titled Handmade for 21<sup>st</sup> century., to present a state-wise categorisation of languishing handloom weaves for policy consideration and targeted intervention.

II. North Zone

1. Jammu & Kashmir / Ladakh

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Tweed Fabric	Kulgam, Pulwama, Bandipora (J&K)	~45	Cheaper mill-made alternatives; low market access
2	Samba Hand Block-Printing	Jammu	—	Declining patronage; competition from screen printing
3	Namda / Felting	Kashmir	—	Shrinking demand; loss of traditional craftsmen
4	Tweed Weaving	Kashmir	—	Overlaps with machine-produced tweed
5	Thigma (Wool Tie-Dye)	Ladakh	—	Highly specialised technique; very few practitioners
6	Wool Blanket / Throw	Kishtwar (J&K)	—	Market inaccessibility; low income for weavers

2. Uttar Pradesh

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Awadh Jamdani	Varanasi	~40	Extremely labour-intensive; high gold/silver raw material cost

S.No.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
2	Rangakat	Varanasi, Ghazipur	~25	Labour-intensive; low economic returns
3	Vaskat	Varanasi, Chandauli	~10	High skill requirement; labour-intensive
4	Gyasar (Geyser) Weaving	Varanasi	~40	Labour-intensive; shift to synthetic fibres
5	Badla / Mukaish Embroidery	Lucknow	—	Declining demand; loss of skilled craftspeople

### 3. Uttarakhand

S.No.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Chutka	Chamoli & Rudraprayag	~40	Lack of market access; raw material constraints; migration
2	Thulma	Chamoli & Rudraprayag	~40	Lack of market access; raw material constraints; migration
3	Lavva	Chamoli & Rudraprayag	~40	Lack of market access; raw material constraints; migration

4. Rajasthan: Nil

5. Haryana: Nil

### III. North-East Zone

#### 1. Manipur

S.No.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Laisangphee / Lashing Phee (Quilted Textile)	Imphal West	~20	Extremely labour-intensive; weavers shifting to simpler methods; near-extinct
2	Ningthou Phee ('King's Cloth')	Imphal East & West	~10	Intricate royal techniques replaced by simplified commercial designs
3	Sarong Phee (Ritual Textile)	Imphal East, West & Bishnupur	20–25	Shift from loin loom to fly-shuttle looms; use of synthetic threads
4	Wangkhei Kangkhan	Imphal East	15–20	Replaced by cheap synthetic mosquito nets;

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
	(Handwoven Mosquito Net Cloth)			ultra-fine weave demands exceptional skill
5	Ngabong (Sacred Blanket)	Andro & Imphal East	~15	Loss of complex pattern knowledge; loom skills declining
6	Lasing Phee	Cachar District	—	Limited practitioners; no institutional support

## 2. Assam : Nil

## 3. Arunachal Pradesh

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Adi / Apatani Backstrap Shawls	Arunachal Pradesh (tribal clusters)	—	Technique nearing extinction; practiced mainly by elderly women; no formal training

## 4. Meghalaya

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Ryndia (Eri Silk)	Khasi & Garo community clusters	—	Small-scale fragmented production; market invisibility; weak supply chain

## 5. Nagaland

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Warrior Shawls (Ao, Angami, Sumi communities)	Nagaland (various tribal districts)	—	Very few practitioners; loss of symbolic knowledge; no authentication system
2	Neh Mok (Khamniungan Nettle Cloth)	Noklak District	—	Coarse nettle/rhea fibre techniques nearly lost; weak artisan income

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
3	Tshowpvülüri (Pochury figurative weave)	Meluri District	—	Rare supplementary-weft technique; very few practitioners

#### 6. Mizoram

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Puanchei (Ceremonial Wrap)	Mizoram	—	Reduced everyday use; declining youth participation; limited modernisation
2	Pawn Pui (Quilted Blanket Fabric)	Aizawl	2–5	Rare weaving method; almost no weavers remaining

#### 7. Sikkim

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Lepcha Dumvum (Backstrap Textile)	Sikkim	—	Near-extinction; absence of formal training; no organised market
2	Rari Fabric (Sheep Wool, Gurung Community)	West Sikkim	~7	Raw material non-availability; no market linkage

#### 8. Tripura : Nil

#### IV. South Zone

##### 1. Karnataka

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Molakalmuru Saree	Molakalmuru, Chitradurga	~45	Ageing weavers; youth migration; low income

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
2	Udupi Cotton Saree	Udupi & Kinnigol, Mangalore	~22	Ageing weaver base; weak rebranding; low income
3	Anekal Handloom Saree	Anekal, Bengaluru Urban	~4	Rising input costs; limited production scale
4	Ilkal Weaving	Ilkal, Bagalkot	—	Market decline; competition from power loom

## 2. Tamil Nadu

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Kanchee Cotton Saree	Kancheepuram & surrounding villages	~25	Lower wages vs. silk variants; lack of awareness; machine-made competition
2	Sungudi	Madurai	—	Competition from mill-made products; dwindling demand

## 3. Telangana

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Gadwal Saree	Gadwal, Jogulamba Gadwal District	~20	Lack of awareness; machine-made competition; low wages
2	Pitambari Silk Saree	Siddipet	~10	Low wages; competition from imitations; lack of awareness
3	Karimnagar Double Cloth Bedsheet	Karimnagar	~20	Competition from machine-made alternatives; low wages
4	Kothakota Silk Saree	Kothakota, Wanaparthy	~10	Competition; lack of awareness; low wages
5	Muthyampet Saree	Siddipet	~10	Competition from imitations; low wages
6	Telia Rumal (GI-tagged)	Puttapaka, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	~10	Lack of awareness; competition from imitations

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
7	Himroo Yardage (Telangana)	Jalpally, Rangareddy	~10	Lack of awareness; machine-made competition
8	Armoor Silk Saree	Armoor, Nizamabad	~10	Limited market; lack of product awareness
9	Siddipet Gollabama Saree	Siddipet	~32	Only a handful of master weavers; lack of awareness
10	Gongadi Sheep Wool Blanket	Telangana	—	Competition; declining pastoral community usage

#### 4. Andhra Pradesh

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Yemigannur Double Cloth Bed Sheet	Yemmiganur (Kurnool)	—	Specialised technique; weak market; limited practitioners

#### 5. Kerala

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
—	No languishing weave reported by WSC, Kannur	—	—	—

#### V. West Zone

##### 1. Maharashtra

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Himroo Weaving (Maharashtra)	Aurangabad	25–30	Lack of skilled weavers; high production cost; machine-made imitations
2	Nagpuri Cotton Saree	Panchpaoli, Nagpur	5–6	High production cost; powerloom competition; youth disinterest

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
3	Rasta Saree	Panchpaoli, Nagpur	5-6	High production cost; lack of skilled weavers; powerloom competition
4	Jyot Saree	Panchpaoli, Nagpur	5-6	High production cost; lack of skilled weavers; powerloom competition

## 2. Gujarat

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Ashavali Sari Weaving	Ahmedabad	—	Competition from power looms; loss of traditional weavers
2	Tangaliya Weaving	Gujarat (Surendranagar cluster)	—	Declining market; very few families practicing
3	Mashroo / Mashru Weaving	Don & Mandvi, Kachchh	8-10	Lack of young weavers; demand-based products absent
4	Pachhedi Weaving	Raska, Parali, Limbdi, Untadi (Limbdi)	5-8	Weavers shifting to Patola; lack of product variation and market
5	Kharad (Floor Coverings)	Kukuma, Kachchh	10-15	Limited market access; lack of product variation
6	Sujani Weaving	Bharuch	5-6	Industrialisation and powerloom products; no product variation
7	Dang Saree	Dang district	0	Community relocated for livelihood; no active weavers
8	Tanchoi Weaving	Gujarat (Surat region)	—	Labour-intensive; limited market; rare practitioners
9	Kusti Weaving	Navsari & Bharuch	--	Made on a specialized loom called Jantar & practiced only by Parsis

## 3. Madhya Pradesh

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Jobat Dari (Durrie)	Jobat, Alirajpur	4-5	Weavers have shifted to other Handloom products

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
				and if someone places the order then only it is produced; Cheaper alternatives in market; low wages deterring new entrants
2	Baiga Saree	Angai, Pindrukhi, Sarwahi, Bilai Khar (Dindori)	40–45	Exclusively tribal use; heavy coarser fabric; remote connectivity; low margins
3	Sironj Durrie	Sironj, Dist-Vidisha	15-20	Less Market demand, Costly product

#### 4. Chhattisgarh

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Kosa Ferra Saree	Lofandi, Bilaspur	~10	Limited market access; rising raw material cost; migration; technological obsolescence

#### 5. Goa

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Kunbi Weaving	Goa	—	Near-extinct; loss of traditional weavers; no institutional support

#### VI. East Zone

##### 1. Odisha

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Berhampur Cotton Bomkai Saree	Berhampur, Ganjam	30–40 (combined)	Intergenerational skill gap; long production cycles; reduced youth participation

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
2	Berhampuri Patta (Silk) Saree	Berhampur, Ganjam	30–40 (combined)	Non-availability of skilled silk weavers; prolonged training required
3	Dhalapathara Parada & Saree (Door Curtains / Wall Hangings)	Dhalapathara, Khordha	20–30	Declining ceremonial demand; poor market linkage
4	Tarabali Silk Saree	Nuapatna, Cuttack	~45 (combined)	Intricate motifs; labour-intensive; weak branding
5	Panchaphulia Silk Saree	Nuapatna, Cuttack	~45 (combined)	Intricate motifs; labour-intensive; weak branding
6	Kataki Tangail Cotton Saree	Cuttack	30–40	Competition from machine-made alternatives; low wage incentive
7	Siminoi Cotton Saree	Dhenkanal	10–20	Low commercial value; limited market
8	Khandua Weaving	Cuttack	—	Labour-intensive; loss of skilled weavers
9	Dongaria Kondh Textiles	Kandhmal (tribal)	—	Restricted tribal community practice; no formal market
10	Habaspuri Sari & Textiles	Kalahandi	—	Shrinking demand; remote location; limited market access

## 2. West Bengal

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Garad Korial Saree	Mirzapur & Jiaganj, Murshidabad	~15	Intricate 3-shuttle interlocking technique is time-consuming; weavers not receiving fair prices

## 3. Bihar

S.N o.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
1	Bhagalpur Tweed	Bhagalpur Cluster	40–45	Drastic reduction in export supply; viable only on demand basis

#### 4. Jharkhand

S.No.	Weave / Craft	Location (District / Cluster)	Est. Active Weavers	Reason(s) for Decline
—	No languishing weave reported by WSC, Ranchi	—	—	—

#### VII. Cross-Cutting Challenges

Based on data received from Weavers Service Centres (WSCs) across all four zones, and supplemented by expert inputs from Meera Goradia (Creative Dignity), Jesmina Zeliang (Heirloom Naga), and Ritu Sethi (Craft Revival Trust / UNESCO), the following systemic challenges are uniformly observed across languishing weaves:

1. Ageing weaver base and lack of intergenerational knowledge transfer.
2. Competition from machine-made/powerloom and cheaper synthetic alternatives.
3. High production cost and labour-intensive processes rendering weaves economically unviable.
4. Weak market linkage, absence of branding, and low digital/e-commerce presence.
5. Migration of younger artisans to better-paying urban employment.
6. Raw material constraints — irregular availability and rising costs (especially for silk, wool, and natural dyes).
7. Absence of GI enforcement, authentication, or product traceability mechanisms in most cases.
8. Fragmented institutional support and inadequate weave-specific policy interventions.

#### VIII. Summary — Consolidated Count of Languishing Weaves by State/UT

Zone	State / UT	No. of Languishing Weaves Identified
North	Jammu & Kashmir / Ladakh	6
North	Uttar Pradesh	5
North	Uttarakhand	3
North	Rajasthan	0
North	Punjab	0
North	Haryana	0
North-East	Manipur	6
North-East	Assam	0
North-East	Arunachal Pradesh	1
North-East	Meghalaya	1
North-East	Nagaland	3
North-East	Mizoram	2
North-East	Tripura	0

Zone	State / UT	No. of Languishing Weaves Identified
North-East	Sikkim	2
South	Karnataka	4
South	Tamil Nadu	2
South	Telangana	10
South	Andhra Pradesh	1
West	Maharashtra	4
West	Gujarat	9
West	Madhya Pradesh	3
West	Chhattisgarh	1
West	Goa	1
East	Odisha	10
East	West Bengal	1
East	Bihar	1
East	Jharkhand	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>

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