GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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Report on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' Webinar organized by PIB Mumbai on August 11, 2020

Indian textiles have always helped to weave the rich heritage of people and handlooms in the country. The incredible journey of handlooms and weavers was shared in a webinar on '**Weaves of Maharashtra and Textiles of Odisha'** organized by Press Information Bureau, Mumbai and India Tourism on 11 August 2020. The webinar focused on different handlooms and fabrics belonging to Maharashtra and Odisha, which are the paired states under the **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' Mission.**

Speaking about the Textiles of Odisha, Tapan Kumar Mishra gave a virtual trip of the handloom map of his state. His presentation threw light on the nuances and techniques involved in weaving each handloom saree / textile. He explained in detail the popular themes and patterns that distinguish Saree of one region from the other. With pictorial display he took the viewers on a journey covering weaving traditions of Berhampur, Sambhalpur, Nuapatna, Dhenkanal, Khordha, Koraput and more.

Shri Tapan Mishra explained that the "Kotpada saree of Koraput district in Odisha is made in a typical way. It is made from the outer covering of Arjun tree and later treated in cow dung" he said. He also spoke about how different tribes of the state excel in making hand-woven fabric that requires immense patience and creativity. "The fierce Dongria tribe of Odisha has soft hands in making Handloom craft" he added.

Chitra Acharya, Regional Level Guide, Western Region spoke about 13 different weaves of Maharashtra that stand popular even till date. She proudly said that the state's *Ghongadi* fabric has medicinal qualities that can cure many ailments including back pain.

She also spoke about 'Satranji' a fabric that reached Maharashtra from the southern part of India - a colourful piece which has all colours of the rainbow. 'The interlocking pattern of the fabric makes it very strong that it never gets damaged. A Satranji can last for more than 100 years', she said while explaining the specific way it is woven.

Ms. Acharya also spoke about different varieties of sarees and fabrics celebrated by every Maharashtrian - Narayanpeth saree, Nagpuri saree, Himroo, Solapur Chaadar, Munga Sarees, Khann sarees, Karvat Kathi, Tassar Silk and Paithani. "'*Paithani* is not a cloth, it is a feeling. It is called so because it originally came from Paithan near Aurangabad. It is every woman's dream to have a *Paithani*. It is called the Mahavastra'," she said.

The webinar was an initiative to weave the the thread of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** and also honour the handloom weavers and also the handloom industry of these states. "India stands for Unity in diversity. Even with its diverse landscapes, people, languages, ethnic backgrounds the nation stands united in many ways," said Director General, West Zone, M/o Information & Broadcasting, Manish Desai emphasizing the dimensions of the sentiment of unity.

He recalled the inspiring words of Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi to connect the country and its people through Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Mission. He also mentioned that the Government of India has given high priority for the development of Handloom industry and spoke about various welfare schemes designed for promotion of the sector.

Regionàl Director, M/o Tourism D. Venkatesan who anchored the programme, briefed about the concept of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and narrated initiatives undertaken through this programme. He further said that, the webinar intends to help to know about centuries old traditions of handlooms and fabric making in the states of Maharashtra and Odisha – which are the paired states under the **Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat** campaign.

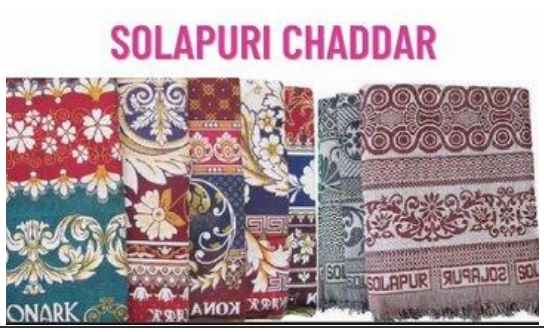
The initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was announced by Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This was launched to enhance the understanding and bonding between the states, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

India celebrated the **National Handloom Day** on **7th August** to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also highlight the handloom industry. August 7 was chosen as the National Handloom Day, to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on this day in 1905 in the Calcutta Town hall to protest against partition of Bengal by the British Government.

Vote of Thanks was delivered by Rahul Tidke, Deputy Director, PIB Mumbai expressing gratitude to the eminent speakers of the webinar.

Transmission

- The programme was broadcast live on the Facebook page of IndiaTourism Maharashtra
- 130 live participants attended the Webinar
- PIB Mumbai provided Twitter support to the Webinar by live tweeting the contents. (45 Tweets in English and Marathi, generating 65,000 impressions)
- Press Release was issued at the end of the Webinar. Press Release Link: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645308



One of the most phenomenal in the world - Sree Padmanabhaswami Temple

Sreenivas R Chirayath

Donation of land, offerings of money, gold ornaments, vessels made of silver and other metals for general use as well as gold and silver vessels for Pooja purposes, metallic pots, Lamps, Nava Ratna Emblems etc too include in that.

The Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Complex has an area of seven acres land.

In ancient times the wall around the complex was made of clay and later it was rebuilt with granite stones and ever since that construction, the temple complex has been known as 'Mathilakam' (enclosed premises).

All the detailed past history about the temple as well as the State, is available as all that has been written in the olden days, on stones (Shila likhitham) and in Palm leaves/Ola.

Bundles of Palm leaf writings have been preserved.

Those bundles of Palm leaves/Ola, are called as rolls/Churunas. A roll/Churuna contains more than a thousand Palm leaves.

The Palm leaves contain the following ancient scripts:

'Vattezuth' (round shaped scripts), 'Kolezuth' (i mean, long scripts), 'Malayaanma' (I mean, ancient Malayalam script), 'Grandhaksharam' (ancient book writing script), 'Pazamtamiz' (ancient Tamil script).

The oldest Palm leaf Roll, dates back to the year, 1320.

The great Poet, Ulloor Parameshwara Iyer (one of the greatest Malayalam Poet-Trio), has done a very comprehensive research on this.

There is 'Shila Likhitham' (writing on stone) in the 'Thiruvambadi' Temple that situated within the Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Complex. (There are, atleast three places in Kerala called as 'Thiruvambadi', one in the southernmost part of Kerala, which is in the present context, another Thiruvambadi, noted temple place that plays a great role in the world renowned Trichur Pooram in Central Kerala, and the third being a suburb in the City of Kozhikode, in the Northern part of the State). This stone writing in this Thiruvambadi temple, within the 'Mathilakam' complex of Sree Padmanabha Swamy, which dates back to 13th century, gives information regarding the construction of a Deepa Graha, i mean, Light House(?) and a Gov Shala (Cow shed), done by 'Sarvaanganatha Aadithya Varma'.

In the records of AD 1389 ('Kolla Varsham' 564 - local year) there is information regarding the tradition of celebrating 'Alpashi Utsavam' festival. As per local year 634, month 'Makaram' dt 14, there took place the Forth 'Kalasha' - written in Pam leaf 28. In the local year 634, month of Makaram, dated 20th, the work for renovation of the temple, began and it was completed in the month of Makaram dtd 12th, in the local year 636.

The Idol of Sree Padmanabha Swamy which was created with 12,008 Saligramas (though the number of that's is known to be 10'008 by Dr Gopalakrishnan), was installed, along with the Idols of Bhoomi Devi and Shree Devi, using 'Kadu Shakar Yoga' (a special sticking solution, used those times).

As per 'Granthavari' (Churuna 2602, 'Ola' (Pam leaf) 3,

the construction of the rare 'Otrakkal Mandapam' (a platform made with the support of a lone stone pillar), took place, in consequence with the installation of the Idols.

The Idols were reinstalled on the eight day; it's also has been noted in the diary. During this period, the 'Moola Vigraha' (original Idol) was installed in 'Thiruvilam Kovil' (a temple).

'Thiruvonam' is the important Star with the Lord Padmanabhaswami. On that day, there would be a special Pooja and 'Ponnum Sheeveli' (a golden Utsavam fest) with 'Mangala Vadya' (auspicious drumbeat etc). It was a 'Thuruvonam' day, in 'Kolla Varsham' (local year) 676, in the month of 'Makara' on date 23. The detailed records, of ornaments adorned for the idol on that day, is as follows:

(Churuna-Roll: 1283, Ola-Palm leaf: 194, 195, 196). In 'Kolla Varsham' 723, on date 2, in the Month of 'Meenam', 'Deshinganaad' Raja Raja Varma arrived at Ananthapuri and placed money as offering to Sree Padmanabha Swamy, in front of the Sanctum Sanctorum.

In 'Kolla Varsham' 754, in the month 'Kanni', dated 18, Eravi Udaya Marthanda Varma, made the offering of a golden lotus for Sree Padmanabha Swamy (Roll/Churuna-1673, Pamleaf/Ola-66).

In 'Kolla Varsham' 785, on date 2, month 'Kanni', on the occasion of Iravi Varma's 'Aattathirunal', yet another golden lotus flower, which contained 32 petals on it's stem, was submitted to the Lord, in a golden plate (Roll/Churuna-16, Palm leaf/Ola-4.

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EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Webinar on Maharshtra Weaves and Odisha Textiles opened up new vistas

Mumbai: Indian weaves have always helped to weave the rich heritage of people and handlooms in the country. The incredible journey of handlooms and weavers was shared in a webinar on Weaves of Maharashtra and Textiles of Odisha organized by Press Information Bureau, Mumbai and India Tourism, Mumbai recently. The webinar focused on different handlooms and fabrics belonging to Maharashtra and Odisha. Both these states are also 'paired states' under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' Mission.

Initially, Regionàl Director, M/o Tourism D. Venkatesan, briefed about concept of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and narrated initiatives undertaken through this programme. Further, stated that, the webinar intends to help to know about centuries old traditions of handlooms and fabric making in the states of Maharashtra and Odisha.

Speaking about the Textiles of Odisha, Regional Level Guide, Eastern Region, Tapan Kumar Mishra gave a virtual trip of the handloom map of the state. His presentation threw light on the nuances and techniques involved in weaving each handloom saree/textile. He shared photographs of hand-woven fabric of every district and region of Odisha namely Nuapatna, Berhampur, Dhenkanal, Kordha, Koraput and more.

'Kotpada saree of Koraput district in Odisha is made in a typical way. It is made from the outer covering of Arjun tree and later treated in cow dung', he said. He also spoke about how different tribes of the state excel in making hand-woven fabric that requires immense patience and creativity. 'The fierce Dongria tribe of Odisha has soft hands in making Handloom craft' he added.

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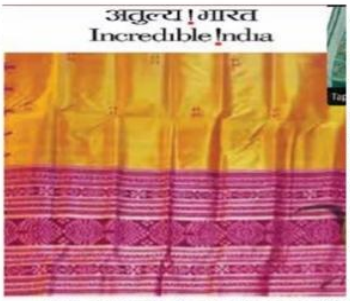

Nuapatna / Maniabandha / Kataki Saree (Silk)

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Participants of the webinar got the glimpses of diverse and rich traditions of fabric making and enriched their knowledge on handlooms of these paired States. **- PIB Mumbai**

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