

NE Handloom and Handicraft Fair at NEDFi Haat begins



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editor 22 August 2008 16061 views

The season for exhibitions begins at NEDFi-Haat with the inauguration of the annual week-long “North East Handloom & Handicraft Fair 2008” on August 21. The exhibition was inaugurated by Gyanpeeth Awardees Dr. Mamoni Roysom Goswami. The handloom and handicraft products from all the N.E. states including Sikkim are opened up for the city dwellers. The products range from the Pat-Muga items from Assam, Dry Flowers from Manipur, fine crafted artifacts from Nagaland, handloom of Arunachal Pradesh, Handmade paper items from Sikkim etc. which will be some major attractions for the collectors who appreciate products with ethnic identity.

On the same occasion valedictory session was conducted by distribution of certificates to the trainees of NEDFi organized 20 days training programme on “Integrated Design and Skill Development on Water Hyacinth (Pani Meteka)” which was started from 1st August to 20th August, 2008. Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia Crassipes*)(Pani Meteka) is an aquatic plant which can live and reproduce, & floating freely on the surface of fresh waters or can be anchored in mud. The plant originated in the Amazon Basin and was introduced into many parts of the world as an ornamental garden pond plant due to its beauty. Because of its abundance, water hyacinth provides a good scope for its use in production of various types of baskets and containers. Countries like Thailand, Malaysia and China are producing beautiful products based on water hyacinth and it has a niche market because of its natural fiber. The design and skill has to be of excellent quality to fetch its premium price. Realizing this NEDFi has arranged this 20 days programme at R&D Centre, Khetri which have commenced from 1st August, 08. The designers have been brought from Industry Crafts Foundation, Bangalore and skilled artisans from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura are participating in the event. Artisans who were skilled in the woven works of Cane, Jute or Kauna are selected so that they can easily get themselves acquainted with the new media of water hyacinth and use their skill to produce desired quality. These artisans who are selected from different NGOs, can be used by the NGOs as their master trainers so that the technique can be spread all across the Region.

The training programme is conducted by NEDFi under its “Aggressive International Marketing Programme” where the organizations producing the product will be provided with other support activities for promotion of the product in export market. Initially two to three units will be selected for the Indian Handicraft and Gift Fair, which is held at

India Exposition Mart, Noida in the month of October and February , every year. This Fair is visited by many a foreign buyers and is the biggest fair on handicraft products in India for export.

The sample products will be also displayed in this fair on NEDFi Haat during the time of NE Handloom & Handicraft Fair, 08.

editor

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