



An advocacy ahead of upcoming 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (31st Oct-12th Nov 2021)

Handloom fabrics Best recourse to reduce carbon emission

India is the world's largest producer/exporter of handloom fabrics.

India's export of handloom products has been steadily declining in the last 10 years since 2011-12 and is now 40% of what it was 10 years ago, see the table below;

| Year | Export (\$ mn) |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011-12 | 552 |
| 2012-13 | 515 |
| 2013-14 | 373 |
| 2014-15 | 370 |
| 2015-16 | 369 |
| 2016-17 | 360 |
| 2017-18 | 356 |
| 2018-19 | 344 |
| 2019-20 | 319 |
| 2020-21 | 223 |
| Growth Rate | -60% |



Source: Ministry of Commerce Database
(Accessed on 29th September 2021)

Clearly, the Homo sapiens are moving away from the handloom fabrics.



Handloom fabrics help reducing carbon emission

- 🌀 Handloom fabrics have very low, practically negligible, carbon footprint, as they are hand spun/woven.
- 🌀 Global warming remains the hottest subject from primary school to the United Nations.
- 🌀 **The UN Paris Agreement 2015 seeks to limit the global warming by reducing the global carbon emissions by about 45% (of 2010 level) by 2030.**
- 🌀 Textile and garment sector worldwide account for some 1.7 billion tons carbon emission a year and is considered to be the second most carbon emitting sector after hydrocarbons.
- 🌀 If the governments around the world are seriously committed to reducing the carbon footprint, they must promote large scale use of handloom fabrics.
- 🌀 If, for example, the school uniforms in India and abroad are mandated to be of handloom fabrics, the planet earth will be the biggest beneficiary followed by handloom weavers and cotton growers.
- 🌀 India can make this proposal at the next meeting of the UN Climate Change Conference (31st Oct-12th Nov 2021) so that all countries shall seriously work on this further through statutory/regulatory/administrative laws.
- 🌀 India has 3.1 million households engaged in handloom production. A majority of them earn less than Rs 5000 (\$70) a month as per the 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20. Wider adoption of zero emission handloom products worldwide would provide multifaceted environment and economic benefits.



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