

**F No. W-15011/11(16)/2025-26/Welfare**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Textiles**  
**Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)**

International Crafts Complex,  
Plot No.8. Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj.  
New Delhi-110070  
**Dated: 29.03.2026**

To  
All the Regional Directors  
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)  
NRO-New Delhi, SRO-Chennai, NERO-Guwahati, ERO-Kolkata, CRO-Lucknow,  
WRO-Mumbai

**Subject: Extension of the Last Date for Submission of Applications for National Handicrafts Awards 2025 – regarding**

Sir,

Kindly refer to this office letter of even number dated 02.02.2026 regarding “*Inviting applications for National Handicrafts Awards (Shilp Guru Award & National Award) for the Award Year 2025 under the National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) Scheme*” (copy enclosed).

In this regard, it is informed that the last date for submission of applications has been extended by **one month**. The revised schedule is as follows:

Sl No.	Activities	Existing Timeline	Extended Timeline
1.	Last date for submission of entries at Handicraft Service Centres/Regional Office	31.03.2026	30.04.2026
2.	Selection meeting at Regional Level Selection Committee after submission of verified entries along with report on demonstration of skill test completed by concerned HSCs	15.04.2026	15.05.2026
3.	Submission of selected entries along with affidavit and duly filled in application and recommendation to respective Head Quarters Level Selection Committee at New Delhi	30.04.2026	30.05.2026
4.	Selection at Head Quarters Level by the Head Quarter Level Selection Committee (HQLSC)	20.05.2026	20.06.2026
5.	Selection by the Central Level Selection Committee (CLSC)	01.06.2026	01.07.2026
6.	Award Ceremony	09.12.2026	09.12.2026

It is further informed that **eligibility of applicants has been fixed**. Only artisans holding Identity Cards issued up to **31.03.2026** will be considered eligible. Artisans with cards issued after this date may be advised to apply in the subsequent year.

All other terms and conditions mentioned in the earlier communication dated 02-02-2026 remain unchanged. You are requested to disseminate this information widely so that eligible artisans may avail the opportunity to apply within the extended period.

This issues with the approval of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

Yours faithfully,

(Akhilesh Kumar Maurya)  
Assistant Director (Welfare)

Copy to

1. All Sr. AD/ ADs of HSCs, O/o the DC(Handicrafts)
2. Shri Susheel Kumar K.S. AD(H), O/o the DC(HC) is requested to upload the letter advertisement on the official website of the department.

Copy for information to

PPS to DC(HC)/PA to Director (HC)/PA to JDC(HC)/PA to JD(HC)

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Government of India  
Ministry of Textiles  
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)

International Crafts Complex, Plot No.8.  
Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj.  
New Delhi-110070  
Dated: 02.02.2026

To

All the Regional Directors  
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)  
NRO-New Delhi, SRO-Chennai, NERO-Guwahati  
ERO-Kolkata, CRO-Lucknow, WRO-Mumbai

**Subject: Inviting applications for National Handicrafts Awards (Shilp Guru Award & National Award) for the Award Year 2025 under National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) Scheme-regarding.**

As you are aware, that the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) confers Handicrafts Awards to artisans for recognition of their contribution towards the growth and development of handicrafts sector. The award, conferred once in a lifetime, encourages them to preserve our old craft-traditions and excellence in craftsmanship. The selection is done by a three-tier selection process viz Regional, Headquarters and Central Level Selection Committees. The Handicrafts Awards 2025 is to be granted in the following two major categories:

- i. Shilp Guru Handicrafts Award: Six(06) awards
- ii. National Handicrafts Award Nineteen(19) awards

2. In this connection, an advertisement, for inviting applications from the eligible applicants for selection of Handicrafts Award-2025 (Shilp Guru National Award) under the National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) shall be published in various leading National and Regional Newspapers tentatively on 06.02.2026. The tentative last date of submission of the application form in the Handicrafts Service Centre Regional Office is 31.03.2026. The Handicrafts Award guidelines, schedule of calendar for selection of awards, and advertisement is available and uploaded on the official website of the department [www.handicrafts.nic.in](http://www.handicrafts.nic.in). A copy of the same is also appended herewith for ready reference.

3. As per the directives contained in Para-4 of the Handicrafts Award guidelines, all Regional Directors and Handicrafts Service Centers are requested to extend all possible support to the eligible artisans/craftperson and ensure wider publicity

4. Most importantly, the Para 2 of the award guidelines regarding Verification of character & antecedent of the awardee stipulates as under:

*"The verification of character & antecedent will be carried out by the St. Assistant Director Aust Director (H) of Handicrafts Service Centre through the concerned agency before recommending the application to Regional Level Selection Committee*

*for consideration Regional Director may ascertain of verification of the character antecedent before recommending the applications to Headquarter office or if the report is awaited from the concerned authority, a certificate may be given that the report awaited and would be forwarded later on.”*

5. Regarding write up of the artifact it is submitted that during scrutinization of the bio-data applications for the last year award selection processes the content of the write up was not in order and some of them were also handwritten which was not legible. The concerned HSCs should ensure the utmost care while accepting the award applications from the artisans with proper write up. A copy of the format of write up is attached alongwith this letter which is a part of the application form.

6. All Assistant Directors of HSCs and Regional Directors have to provide complete assistance to artisans in filling up of online applications for Handicrafts Award 2025. It is pertinent to mention that the MIS Nodal officers will assist the respective Artisans (if required) to fill-up the applications on MIS portal and the portal is live for submission of award applications. The artisans have to apply via online mode (**www.indian.handicrafts.gov.in**). The applications submitted offline to HSCs will be resubmitted by HSCs through MIS portal. HSCs will receive applications from Artisans, scan the documents and submit through the portal. This is in line with the process followed in Padma awards. A copy of the online application should be attached with the bio data before recommending to RLSC.

7. In view of the above, all Regional Directors are kindly requested to initiate the process of executing the invitation of applications via online mode only (through Artisans or through HSCs), preparation of Regional Level Selection Committee (RLSC) meetings and after the completion of the RLSC meetings the minutes of the meeting alongwith consolidated marksheet, reason of rejection (if any) and application form (Bio Data) of the recommended artisans may be sent to Welfare Division. All the details of the artisan such as name of the craft, name of the main category and name of the subcategory etc. needs to be cross checked and verified. The applications would be invited in accordance to the revised craft category of 455 crafts list circulated by Hqrs office vide letter No. K-12012/4/5/2024-25/R&D dated 15.10.2024 (copy enclosed). A copy of the proposed timeline activities regarding Handicrafts Award, 2025, is appended herewith at Annexure-A.

8. This issue with the approval of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

(Akhilesh Kumar Maurya)  
Assistant Director (Handicrafts)

Copy to

1. All Sr. AD/ ADs of HSC/DHS, Varanasi
2. Shri Susheel Kumar K.S. AD(H), O/o the DC(HC) is requested to upload the aforesaid

letter alongwith award guidelines (bilingual) and advertisement on the official website of the department.

Copy for information to

PPS to DC(HC)/PA to Director (HC)/PA to JDC(HC)/PA to JD(HC)

Assistant Director Handicrafts)