

# Indraprastha College for Women

University of Delhi

## Gandhi Study Circle

### Report on the Screening of Documentary 'Weavers of India'

The legacy of Indian handloom traces back to the Indus Valley Civilization. Mahatma Gandhi saw divine essence in every thread woven on the spinning wheel bringing forth the significance of the Indian handloom industry. The Gandhi Study Circle at Indraprastha College for Women is committed to preserving the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and acquainting young minds with the invaluable wisdom of Gandhian philosophy. Gandhi Ji famously referred to himself as a weaver and a farmer. Within the **Gandhian framework**, handloom and Khadi represent not only the fabric of our nation but also its heritage. Indian Handloom therefore, stands as an emblem of our nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage, significantly contributing to the **livelihood** of communities in rural and semi-rural regions.

The Gandhi Study Circle of Indraprastha College for Women celebrated '**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**' and **National Handloom Day** on the **7<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023** by screening an award-winning documentary called the 'Weavers of India' at 4 p.m. on Google meet. The online event was graced by the presence of the director of the documentary Mr. Raghavendra Ganji and saw the enthusiastic participation of **73 students**. The hour-long event began with a welcome note by Kumkum Singh following which the inspiring documentary was shown. Through Ghattuppal village in Telangana the documentary illustrated the extensive process of Ikkat handloom weaving and in doing so it urged us to look at the weavers as artists teaching us to value and preserve the art form. This sector stands as a poignant symbol of our nation's cultural opulence and is a vital source of livelihood for many individuals. After the screening a question-and-answer round was mediated by Rukasar Khilchi which witnessed an **insightful discussion** on various issues concerning the handloom industry including those like low earnings of the weavers, impact of climate change, competition from power loom and the role that digital platforms can play with valuable inputs from Mr. Raghavendra Ganji. Dr Praveen Dhanda, convener of Gandhi Study Circle, also gave his inputs on the importance of Handloom during the discussion.

The students gained immense knowledge and understanding about both the functioning of the handloom sector and the challenges that it faces through the screening and a stimulating discussion. Many also attempted to come up with innovative solutions for the problems. Some among these solutions included the idea of creating a brand name and reputation for the handloom weavers and organising teaching workshops which could address the problem of financial instability in the sector. Finally, a vote of thanks was delivered by Nishtha Goel concluding the event. The event was coordinated by Dr Praveen Dhanda, convener of the Gandhi Study Circle.

Poster of the Event



**INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

**Gandhi Study Circle**  
invites you to celebrate  
**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**  
and  
**National Handloom Day**

**Screening of Documentary**  
**'Weavers of India'**  
followed by  
a discussion with the director  
**Mr. Raghavendra Ganji**

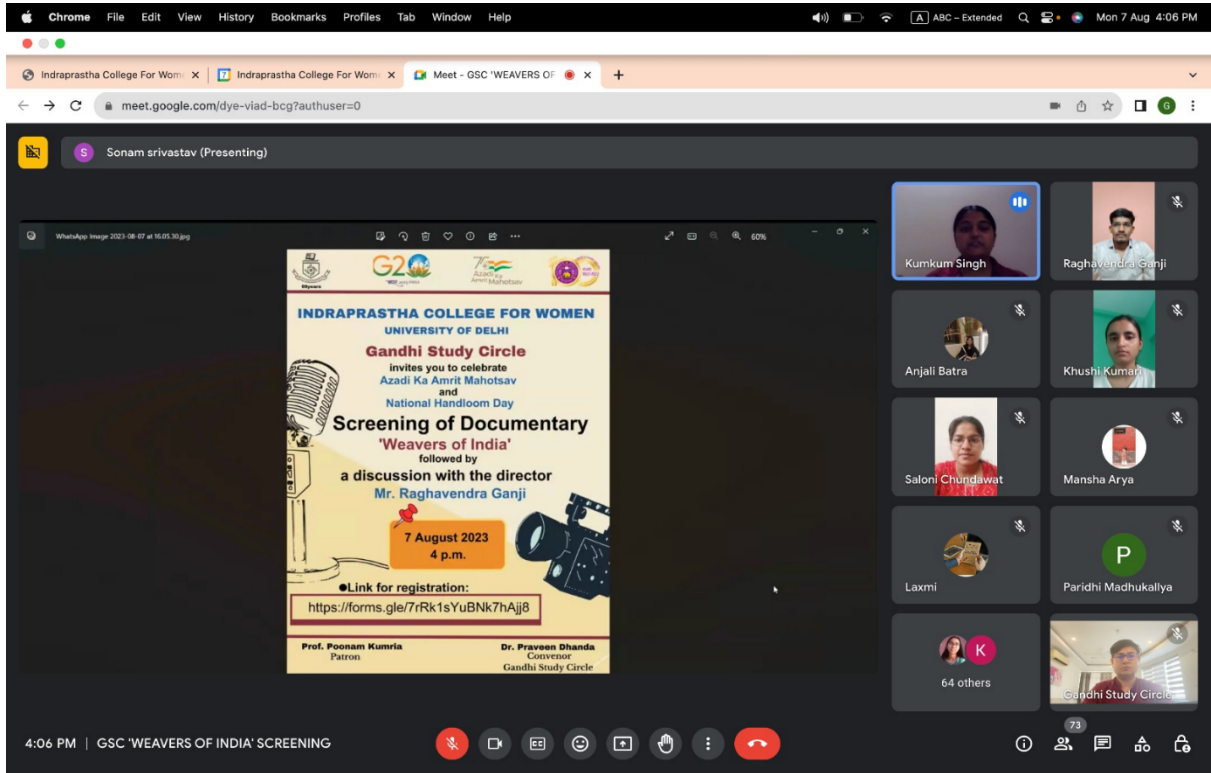
**7 August 2023**  
**4 p.m.**

●Link for registration:  
<https://forms.gle/7rRk1sYuBNk7hAjj8>

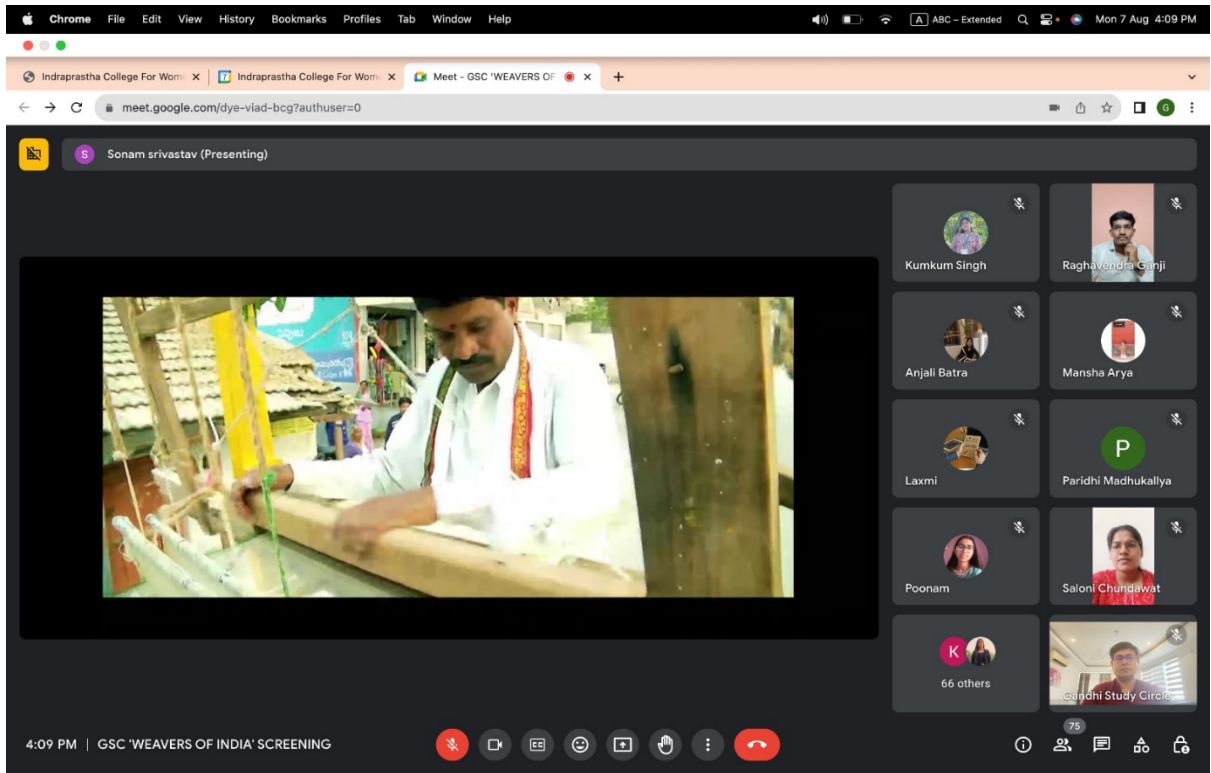
**Prof. Poonam Kumria**  
Patron

**Dr. Praveen Dhanda**  
Convenor  
Gandhi Study Circle

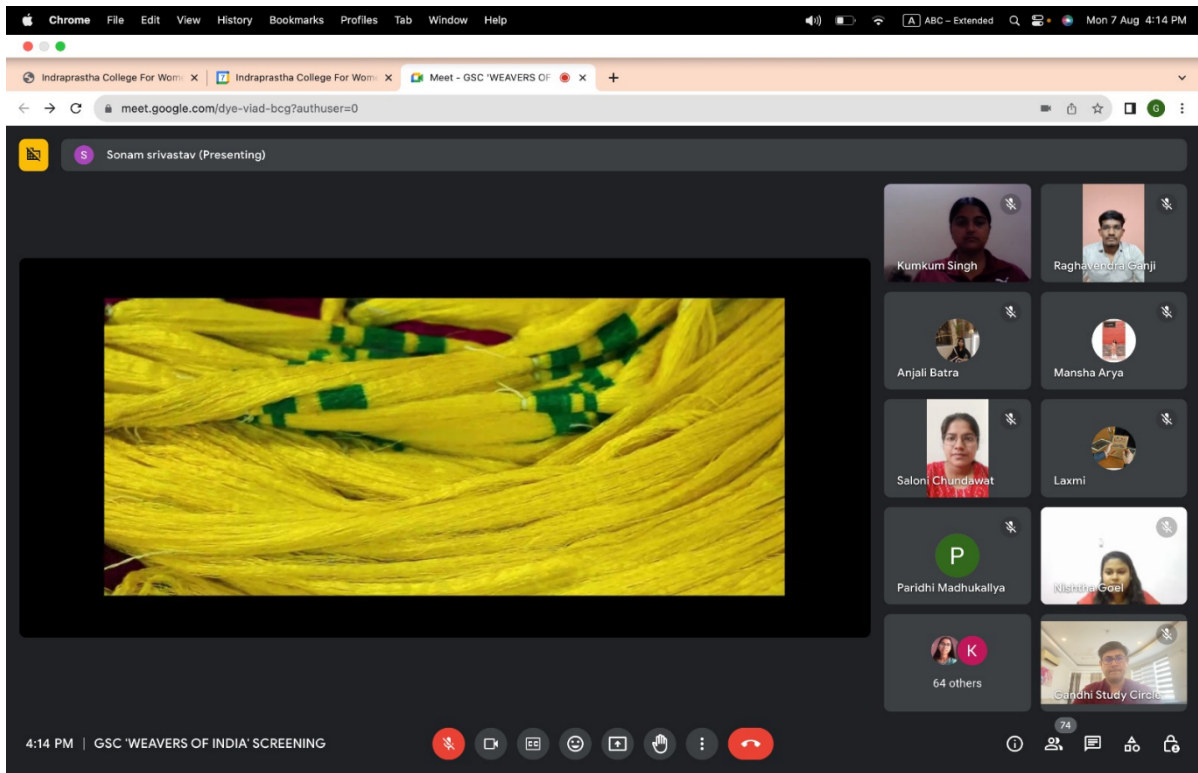
## Glimpses from the event



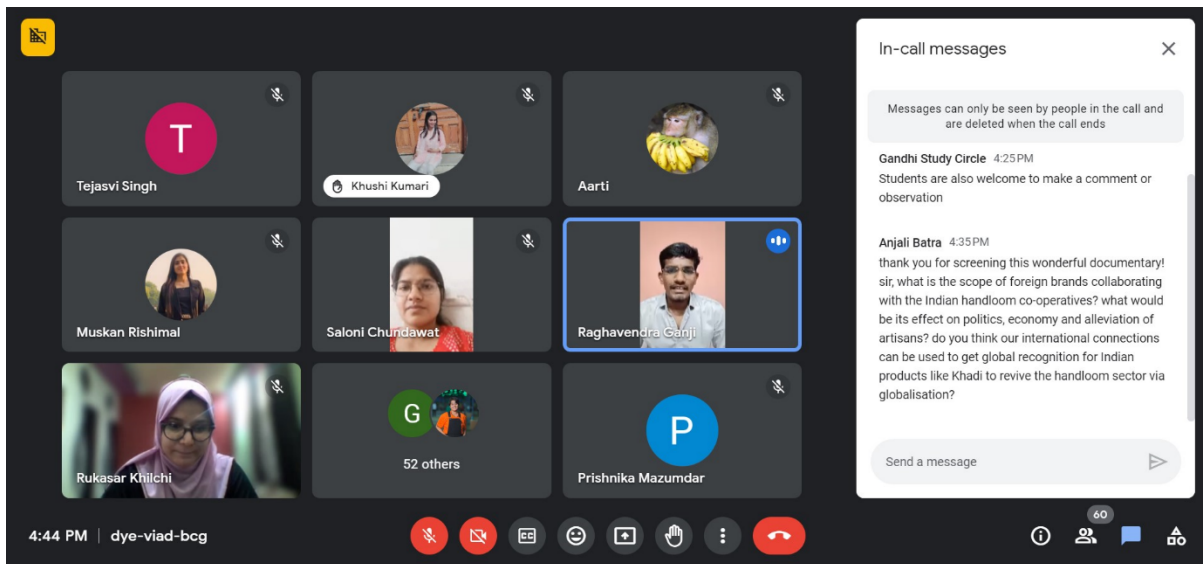
Welcome note being delivered by Kumkum Singh



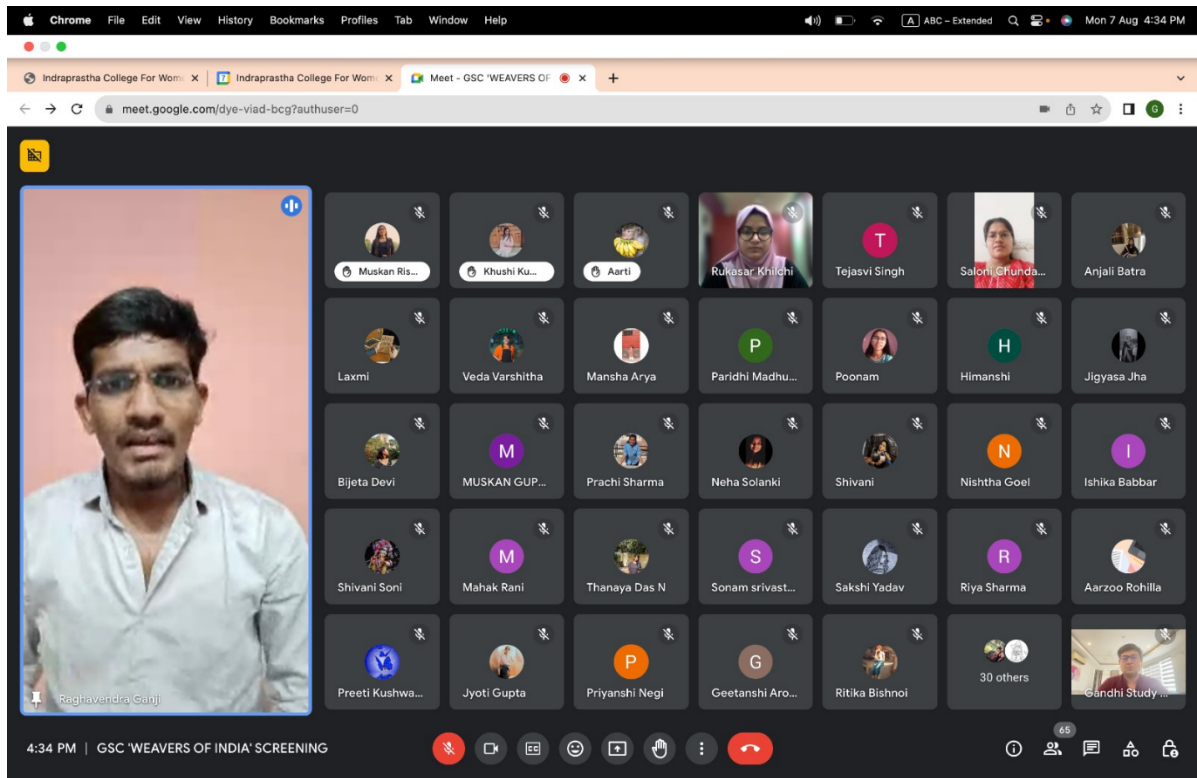
Screening of the documentary



The documentary illustrating the process of weaving



Question and Answer session



Students learning about handloom through discussion