

## Hyderabad to Istanbul: “Woven Legacies” Textile Showcase Reframes Craft Across Cultures

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A new cultural and fashion-focused exhibition titled “**Woven Legacies: Celebrating India’s Textile Heritage**” has taken place in **Istanbul**, bringing international attention to the enduring legacy of Indian textiles and handcraft traditions. The three-day event featured a curated mix of historic garments and contemporary designs that narrate the evolution of textile craftsmanship from South Asia to the crossroads of Eurasia.

At the heart of the showcase was **Turkish-born Princess Esra Birgen’s historic collection**, which includes rare textiles and garments from Hyderabad’s royal archives. The display encompassed pieces such as 18th-century printed fabrics, zari-embroidered jackets, ceremonial children’s ensembles, and intricately embroidered juttis, representing a deep legacy of craftsmanship.

Alongside these archival treasures were **over 50 textile works** sourced from collectors and craft specialists in both India and Turkey, as well as contemporary pieces by modern Indian designers. This juxtaposition underscored how traditional weaving techniques and motifs continue to inspire current fashion sensibilities while maintaining their cultural roots.

Curated by **Radhika Iyengar of *The Voice of Fashion***, the exhibition reframed traditional craft not as static historical objects, but as **living practices** that evolve across borders and eras. By presenting the works in a context that connects Hyderabad’s weaving heritage with Istanbul’s historic role as a hub of trade and cultural exchange, the show celebrated textiles as dynamic storytellers of shared global histories.

Organized in collaboration with the **Consulate General of India in Istanbul**, “Woven Legacies” highlighted the ongoing dialogue between South Asian and Anatolian textile traditions, illustrating how design, craft, and material culture continue to bridge communities and creative worlds