



Speaker



Jaya Jaitly
Founder
Dastkari Haat Samiti

- A leader and expert in craft traditions, Jaya Jaitly has an intimate knowledge of this field with an experience of over 40 years. She founded an association of crafts people called the Dastkari Haat Samiti, which enables traditional workers to gain confidence in the marketplace through many innovative strategies.
 - **Experience:** Jaya is the creator of the concept of Dilli Haat and saw to its establishment in Delhi. It enables thousands of artisans with sustainable livelihoods to preserve their cultural heritage and is one of the best known spots for visitors and Indians alike. Her work on bringing together crafts people of India and Pakistan, Vietnam, African and Asian countries has been taken up by the government as an instrument in diplomacy to bring together crafts practitioners in many countries to share skills and assist in capacity building. She was in mainstream politics for 25 years and headed the Samata Party as its National President in 2001 and is still active on many political issues such as women's empowerment, Tibet, Burma, and human rights.
 - **Publications:** Jaya has published books on the Crafts of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the Craft Traditions of India, Viswakarma's Children, a socio-economic study of crafts people, and Crafting Nature. She has created a vast documentation of the arts, crafts and textiles of India through 24 highly artistic and unique maps of all the states of India, which are being compiled into a major publication called Crafts Atlas of India. She has also published stories on crafts children and has assisted in creating a syllabus for schools of India's craft heritage for NCERT.
- **Education:** Jaya has studied in Japan, Burma, Belgium, the UK, and at Smith College, USA.