

27-yr-old weaves yarn of curiosity at GIS as PM, Shah visit her stall

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Lucknow: Angika, a second-generation weaver from Varanasi's Ramnagar area, has her name drawn from her family business. It means a "cloth that covers the body", which may be a 'dupatta', a shawl or a Banarasi sari. She weaved quite a yarn of curiosity as she sat at a handloom in the ODOP exhibition hall at Global Investors Summit, finishing a fine Banarasi sari.

"PM Narendra Modi ji had come and saw me weaving and so did Amit Shah ji. I have been told Smriti Irani ji is also coming," she said on Saturday. Angika has done her graduation and post-graduation in weaving from Banas-



Angika Kushwaha

thali Vidyapeeth in Jaipur and is now pursuing PhD in the subject from the same institute. Her father Amresh Kushwaha is a master weaver who has trained others in the craft. "I have weaving in my blood. I could never have thought about doing something else. My research is also on product diversification," she said. Her name was men-

tioned by one of the speakers on stage at the session of 'ODOP-Empowering Traditional Industries in UP' on Saturday, praising her for taking interest in her family business of weaving, unlike many youngsters who do not want to be weavers anymore, and being a role model for others.

"I am happy to know that someone took my name," said the 27-year old as she showed a cloth piece made of pineapple yarn. "We have made this yarn using the leaves of pineapple. I have painted traditional patterns of Shikargah (hunting scenes) using natural dyes made of banana midriff and coral jasmine (harsingar)," she said.