

International Certificate Programme on “HERITAGE & INDIGENOUS TEXTILES” (HANDLOOMS)

31st August to 11th September 2026

Organized by

Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT)
O/o Development Commissioner for Handlooms
Ministry of Textiles
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

In Collaboration with

Ministry of External Affairs
under
Indian Technical & Economic
Cooperation Programme
(ITEC)



Indian Institute of Handloom Technology
Chowkaghat, Varanasi-221002, Uttar Pradesh, India



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The world over, crafting and design of textiles has been both an element of tradition passed down from ancestors to descendants, and an important economic activity rooted in community structures. Apart from providing a strong sense of identity and pride, such hand woven textiles also provide a sustainable economic and livelihood solution for these communities.

While prominent and iconic indigenous textiles have emerged in different regions of the world, the Indian subcontinent in particular is reknown the world over for its diversity and rich design of textiles. Uniquely in India, textile craftsmen working in this sector (known locally as the handloom sector) make up the second largest sector of employment. Through the Ministry of Textiles, a dedicated institution of the Development Commissioner of Handlooms has been at the forefront of implementing development solutions for such textile craftsmen.

This first-of-its-kind course distils the developmental learnings from India's own experiences into a two week course for textile professionals and practitioners from the global south. The course would be relevant for both professionals interested in the economic development aspect as well as those interested in the cultural heritage aspect.

Since centuries, the ancient city of Varanasi has been a cradle for explicit indigenous textiles, popularly known as the Banarasi Handloom Saree. In keeping with this heritage, the course is being organised at the IIHT at Varanasi and will provide course participants with a unique experience of not only the city but also the surrounding weaving clusters and textile museums.



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on
“Heritage & Indigenous Textiles (Handlooms)”

(31.08.2026 to 11.09.2026)

WEEK-1 (SCHEDULE)

Day	Session 1 09:30 to 10:00	Session 2 10:00 to 11:30	Session 3 11:45 to 01:15	Lunch 01:15 to 02:15	Session 4 02:15 to 03:45	Session 5 04:00 to 05:30
31.08.2026 Monday	Inauguration & Course Overview (Orientation Session)		Introduction to Heritage & Indigenous Textiles	Lunch	Handloom and Heritage	Study of Indigenous Fibers used in Handloom Weaving
01.09.2026 Tuesday	Country Presentation	Exploring the Weaves of Handloom Fabrics		Lunch	Workshop: Technology for Handloom Design (Hands on Practice)	
02.09.2026 Wednesday	Country Presentation	Techniques of Traditional Weaving	Geographic al Indication (GI) Tagged Handloom Products	Lunch	Workshop with Artisans: Indigenous Weaving Techniques (Hands on Practice)	
03.09.2026 Thursday	Country Presentation	Natural Dyes and Eco- Friendly Practices in Indian Textiles		Lunch	Workshop: Indigenous Dyeing and Printing Techniques (Hands on Practice)	
04.09.2026 Friday	Country Presentation	Handloom's Role in Sustainable Fashion	The Future of Handloom: Challenges and Innovations	Lunch	Visit at Weavers' Service Centre (WSC, Varanasi)	Week 1 Review & Group Discussion
05.09.2026 Saturday	Heritage Tour: An immersive experience of Kashi (Banaras)					



WEEK-2 (SCHEDULE)

Day	Session 1 09:30 to 10:00	Session 2 10:00 to 11:30	Session 3 11:45 to 01:15	Lunch 01:15 to 02:15	Session 4 02:15 to 03:45	Session 5 04:00 to 05:30
07.09.2026 Monday	Country Presentation	Overview of Handloom Markets	Government Policies for Handloom Promotion	Lunch	Skill Development Programs for Handloom Sector	Certifications, Quality Control, and Marketing of Handloom Products
08.09.2026 Tuesday	Country Presentation	E-Commerce and Digital Platforms for Handloom Textiles	Export Strategies for Handloom Products	Lunch	Visit - Handloom Cluster	
09.09.2026 Wednesday	Country Presentation	Case Study: Handloom Start-ups		Lunch	International Collaboration for Sustainable Handloom Development	Preparing Action Plans/Policy Frameworks for Export Growth
10.09.2026 Thursday	Visit – Trade Facilitation Centre and Craft Museum & NIFT					
11.09.2026 Friday	Circular Economy and Global Outreach (Technical Presentation/Seminar)			Lunch	Review, Feedback and Valedictory Session	



CONTACT DETAILS :

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