

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

31<sup>st</sup> August to 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



International Certificate Programme  
on  
“Heritage & Indigenous Textiles (Handlooms)”

(31.08.2026 to 11.09.2026)

WEEK-1 (SCHEDULE)

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



## WEEK-2 (SCHEDULE)

| Day                     | Session 1<br>09:30 to 10:00                                           | Session 2<br>10:00 to 11:30                            | Session 3<br>11:45 to 01:15                | Lunch<br>01:15 to 02:15 | Session 4<br>02:15 to 03:45                                      | Session 5<br>04:00 to 05:30                                         |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07.09.2026<br>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<br>Tuesday   | Country Presentation                                                  | E-Commerce and Digital Platforms for Handloom Textiles | Export Strategies for Handloom Products    | Lunch                   | Visit - Handloom Cluster                                         |                                                                     |
| 09.09.2026<br>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<br>Thursday  | Visit – Trade Facilitation Centre and Craft Museum & NIFT             |                                                        |                                            |                         |                                                                  |                                                                     |
| 11.09.2026<br>Friday    | Circular Economy and Global Outreach (Technical Presentation/Seminar) |                                                        |                                            | Lunch                   | Review, Feedback and Valedictory Session                         |                                                                     |



## CONTACT DETAILS :

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