

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference 2026

Textiles and Clothing of the Himalayan Region *Material Traditions, Technologies, and Sustainable Futures*

23-24 October 2026

The Himalayan region, extending across India, Nepal, Bhutan and the trans-Himalayan cultural corridor, represents one of the most diverse and adaptive textile ecologies of the world. Conditioned by high-altitude ecologies, climatic extremities, transhumant pastoral economies, spiritual-symbolic systems, and historic mercantile networks, Himalayan textiles and dress traditions may be understood as complex socio-material formations that integrate fibre selection, structural and processing technologies, embodied craft knowledge, cultural semiotics, and regionally embedded market frameworks.

Spanning indigenous fibre extraction and hand-processing technologies, natural dye traditions, complex weave and felt structures, and codified systems of ritual and everyday dress, Himalayan textile practices constitute a fertile domain for advanced interdisciplinary scholarship. They invite rigorous material investigation of fibre morphology, structural ingenuity, surface articulation, and process technologies, while simultaneously demanding critical engagement with embodiment, identity formation, symbolic systems, and the socio-cultural life of cloth. Equally significant are questions of preservation and conservation—addressing material degradation, climate vulnerability, documentation methodologies, museum practices, and community-led safeguarding of intangible craft knowledge. Situated within histories of mobility, exchange, and ecological adaptation, these textile and costume traditions demonstrate how craft operates as both technical expertise and a living cultural archive. Such an integrated perspective aligns with international scholarship in craft studies, textile science, and costume studies, positioning Himalayan textiles as dynamic socio-material systems negotiating continuity, conservation, transformation, and sustainability within evolving environmental and economic contexts.

The **Textile and Clothing Research Centre (TCRC)**, in collaboration with **Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun** and supported by the **Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, Jaipur**, is organizing a two-day **International Conference on “Textiles and Clothing of the Himalayan Region”** on **23–24 October 2026**.

Selected papers, after peer review and editorial screening, will be published in Scopus-indexed journals (subject to journal scope, review process, and compliance with publication standards).

Thematic Areas

Submissions are invited under (but not limited to) the following research domains

Theme 1. Craft Processes, Knowledge Systems and Cultural Exchange

Indigenous fibre preparation and processing; weaving, felting and embroidery traditions; loom technologies; tacit and embodied craft knowledge; artisan pedagogy and transmission systems; pastoral mobility and trans-Himalayan knowledge exchange; textiles as carriers of cultural interaction and regional connectivity.

Theme 2. Textile Technologies: Fibre to Fabric

Indigenous fibre resources and characterization; spinning, dyeing and wet-processing technologies; structural textile formations; material performance in high-altitude environments; integration of traditional technologies with contemporary textile science and engineering.

Theme 3. Clothing, Dress and Cultural Practices

Traditional and contemporary clothing systems; dress and adornment practices; costume in ritual, ceremonial, and everyday contexts; clothing as an expression of identity, gender, ethnicity, and status; embodied practices, symbolism, and socio-cultural meanings of dress in Himalayan communities.

Theme 4. Textiles Preservation, Conservation and Museology

Scientific conservation and preventive preservation; material degradation and climate vulnerability; documentation and digital archiving; museum collections management; curatorial interpretation and exhibition practices; safeguarding tangible and intangible textile heritage.

Theme 5. Innovation, Sustainability and Future Textile Systems

Climate-responsive textile practices; regenerative fibres and circular systems; repair and reuse cultures; craft–technology convergence; sustainable material innovation; design-led interventions and future pathways for resilient Himalayan textile ecosystems.

Theme 6. Textile Trade, Markets and Heritage Economies

Historical and contemporary textile markets; trade networks and value chains; heritage entrepreneurship; Geographical Indications (GI) and branding; ethical trade frameworks; cultural tourism; policy and livelihood systems supporting craft economies

Submission Guidelines

- **Abstract:** 250 words with 4–5 keywords
- **Author Bio-note:** 100 words
- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** 15 April 2026
- **Acceptance Notification:** 15 May 2026
- **Full Paper Submission:** 31 July 2026

- **Final Acceptance: 16 August 2026**

Submit abstract on <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wiA7PyVc-azYZJsudBIRPGZmmtUmfoc7uhKCr75V1FE/edit>

All submissions will undergo **double-blind peer review** and be accepted on originality, methodological rigour, theoretical contribution, and alignment with Scopus-indexed journal standards

Publication Opportunity

Selected high-quality papers will be considered for publication in:

- Scopus-indexed journals*
- Edited academic volumes
- Conference proceedings (peer reviewed)

*(*Subject to journal scope and review compliance.)*

Who Should Participate

Academicians & Researchers, Textile Scientists & Technologists, Designers & Craft Practitioners, Museum & Heritage Professionals, Historians & Anthropologists, Policy Makers & Industry Experts, Doctoral Scholars & Postgraduate Researchers

We look forward to your scholarly participation in advancing research on the textiles and clothing of the Himalayan region.