

DESIGN CAPSULE · INDIA 2026-28

Design Capsule: Handloom quiet luxury

Chanderi, Maheshwari, khadi and tussar in calm colours,
with little embellishment and beautiful cloth.

Forecut Editorial · 11 October 2026



Mood and colour

Ivory
11-0104 TCX
#F3ECD C

Sage
15-6414 TCX
#9FAE8F

Champagne gold
14-0935 TCX
#D8C08A

Dusty rose
15-1611 TCX
#D9A3A6

Pantone TCX (cotton) codes are the nearest match to the screen colour; confirm against a physical Pantone book and lab dips before production.

Why? Shoppers want pieces that feel special but can be worn again. Handloom also carries a clear sustainability story, and the government-backed khadi push keeps it visible.

What? Craft leads, ornament steps back. Designers showed handloom cotton, Chanderi, handspun khadi and tussar in loose, relaxed shapes with minimal surface work and even raw, unfinished edges.

Who's showing it?

- **AK|OK by Anamika Khanna:** Handloom cotton and Chanderi, loose drapes, raw edges
- **Péro by Aneeth Arora:** Handwoven everyday wear
- **Kartik Research:** Handspun khadi with Rabari embroidery

Key pieces

Forecut flat sketches with reference photos, ready to brief into design.



Pastel handloom sarees

RISING

Dusty rose, powder blue and lavender on handloom bases.

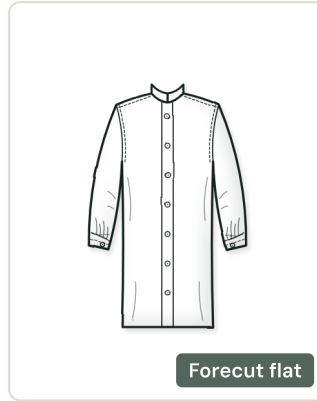
Festive 26
Rising

Summer 27
Peaking

Festive 27
Peaking

Summer 28
Peaking

Festive 28
Fading



Forecut flat

Straight kurta with band collar

PEAKING

Straight kurtas with a Nehru (band) collar and churidar or straight trousers.

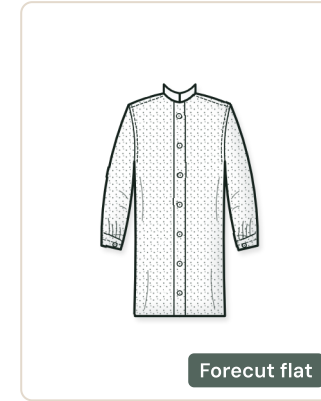
Festive 26
Peaking

Summer 27
Peaking

Festive 27
Peaking

Summer 28
Peaking

Festive 28
Peaking



Forecut flat

Linen kurta sets

RISING

Breathable linen and cotton-silk for relaxed celebrations.

Festive 26
Rising

Summer 27
Peaking

Festive 27
Peaking

Summer 28
Peaking

Festive 28
Fading





Tone-on-tone embroidery

RISING

Embroidery in the fabric colour for quiet luxury.

- Festive 26 Rising
- Summer 27 Peaking
- Festive 27 Peaking
- Summer 28 Peaking
- Festive 28 Fading



Chanderi

PEAKING

Light, sheer Madhya Pradesh weave for kurtas, sarees and jackets.

- Festive 26 Peaking
- Summer 27 Peaking
- Festive 27 Peaking
- Summer 28 Peaking
- Festive 28 Peaking



Forecut flat



Raw, unfinished edges

EMERGING

Deliberately unfinished edges, as shown by AK|OK.

- Festive 26 Emerging
- Summer 27 Rising
- Festive 27 Rising
- Summer 28 Peaking
- Festive 28 Peaking

Price guide (India)

KEY GARMENT	VALUE	MID	PREMIUM
Handloom kurta set	₹1,499–2,999	₹3,500–8,000	₹15,000+
Chanderi or Maheshwari saree	₹1,999–3,999	₹5,000–12,000	₹25,000+
Linen or khadi men's kurta	₹999–1,999	₹2,500–5,000	₹9,000+

Cost to make: Medium. True handloom has longer lead times and minimums. Use handloom for hero pieces and powerloom Chanderi-look or cotton-silk for value ranges.

How to build the capsule

- Build a calm-colour handloom capsule: kurta sets, sarees and men's kurtas.
- Swap heavy embroidery for tone-on-tone work at the neckline and cuffs.
- Tell the weave and cluster story on the label and product page.

Sources: Free Press Journal and Harper's Bazaar India, Lakmé Fashion Week 2026; Aza Fashions, ethnic trends 2026.