



Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar

Explorer Fellowship 2025

Team Name: The Indigo Team			Team No: ***	
Team Details	Member 1:	Member 2:	Member 3:	Member 4:
Roll No. :	*****	*****	*****	
Name :	*****	*****	*****	
Program :	BTech	BTech	BTech	
Discipline :	AI	CE	CL	
Homestate	Gujarat	Kerala	Uttar Pradesh	
Age on 01 May 2024	12/29/2005 Above 18	10/7/2005 Above 18	11/09/2005 Above 18	

Theme & Statement of Purpose:

EXPLORING THE “BLUE”

Theme: Indigo dyeing and handloom weavings in India

OBJECTIVES

We, *****, *****, and *****, as the team “The Indigo Team,” aspire to apply for this explorer fellowship. Our theme is Indigo dyeing and handloom weavings in India. Our journey is rooted in the age-old tradition of handloom weaving, which has been an integral part of some of the Indian families for 6-7 generations. Having experienced the triumphs and challenges of this cottage industry, it has ignited a spark about this in our friend groups to understand and live as one among them for some days. Growing up in cities, we have never encountered this idea of a home-based industry on such a grand scale. This is not a personal endeavor. The prospect of witnessing this skill of Indigo dyeing and handloom weaving in different climates and terrains and understanding the different challenges faced by the locals engaged in this is the major objective of our expedition. So we wish to travel across India, touching almost all of the very few places in India where indigo dyeing is done.

Our primary focus will be on exploring the different techniques of indigo dyeing. We will also be visiting various cottage industries where handloom weaving thrives to get a comprehensive spectrum of various adaptations and obstacles of the same skill.

OUTCOMES

We are sure that this journey will be a turning point in our lives that enriches our knowledge and gives us great exposure to various traditional cultures and local lives.

This journey will surely teach us to rise and be bold in adverse situations and develop our adaptability skills in diverse environments. This trip will also bridge the gap between the theories and stories that we have studied in textbooks and the actual reality. We also aspire to document our journey, sharing the stories of this talented craftsmanship and giving them a much deeper appreciation.

ACTION PLAN

We are planning to cover seven states and one union territory in this journey. Our travel starts in Gandhinagar, from where we will travel to Aavani NGO in Uttarakhand. From Uttarakhand, we will take a train to Howrah in West Bengal, where we will go to Maku Handloom house in Kolkata. We will also explore the handwoven sarees of West Bengal. From here, we will go to the Kiron Foundation in Assam, where different types of yarns are colored with different dyes. From Assam, we will travel to Dastkar NGO in Andhra Pradesh. After that, we will dive into Colours of Nature, Pondicherry, India's best indigo dyeing station. We will be spending more days here to learn. We will also be going to Kancheepuram, a place that is famous for handwoven sarees, which is near Pondicherry. From Pondicherry, we will gear up to Aranya Naturals in Munnar, Kerala. In the south, we will be mostly focusing on the differences in techniques with differences in climates and terrain. From Munnar, we will travel to Biodye Naturals Pvt.Ltd in Nashik, Maharashtra. This would be the end of our expedition. We will only use Govt. transport systems like buses and sleeper-class trains for conveyance, girls' hostels, and dharma-shalas for accommodation. Our tentative itinerary is attached.

By the end of this journey, we would have tasted most of the delicious cultures of India. We know that this journey will not always be downstream for us and will have to go up against the streams most of the time. But we still want to take this opportunity to learn, explore, and study life and make the best of it. We are committed to approaching this fellowship with respect, curiosity, and a genuine desire to learn.

Itinerary (Tentative Schedule)

Places	States	duration	day	Other details
Gandhinagar	Gujarat (Gandhinagar to Bhuj)	0	0	Journey starts
	Gujarat to Uttrakhand	1.5	1,2	
	Uttrakhand	0.5	2	
Aavni NGO-Kumaon	Uttrakhand	4	4,5,6,7,8	
	Uttrakhand	1	9	Pack up+ Wait for next train + Tour nearby
	Uttrakhand to West Bengal	1.5	10,11	Travel
	West Bengal	0.5	11	Rest
Maku - Fulia, Kolkata	West Bengal	4	12,13,14,15	
	West Bengal	1	16	Pack up+ Wait for next train
	West Bengal to Assam	1	17	Travel + Rest
Kiron Foundation - Kharagpur, Guwahati	Assam & Guwahati	2	18,19	
	Assam to Andhra Pradesh	1.5	20,21	Travel
	Andhra Pradesh	0.5	21	Rest
Dastakar - Secundrabad, Telangana	Andhra Pradesh	4	22,23,24,25	
	Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu	1	26	Travel
	Tamil Nadu	1	27	Tour nearby
Colors of nature - Auroshilpam, Auroville	Pondichery	5	28,29,30,31, 32	
Kanchipuram	Tamil Nadu	1	33	
	Tamil Nadu to Kerala	1	34	Travel
Aranya NGO - Munnar	Kerala	4	35,36,37,38	
	Kerala	1	39	Pack up + Travel nearby
Biodye Pvt. Ltd - Nasik	Kerala to Maharastra	1.5	40,41	Travel
	Maharastra	1	42	Pack up+ Tour nearby+ Last Day