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## Indian Culture-2: Handlooms & Handicrafts

[Integrated IAS General Studies:2016-17](#)

**Last Updated: August 13, 2016**

**Published by: GKTODAY.IN**

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### Prelims MCQ Topics

Art and handicraft of India including Fabrics, Sarees and Apparels, Shawls, Carpets, Durries, Coir Products, Embroidery Products, Fabric Decoration Arts, Metal Work, Wood, Glass, Paper, Stone, Ivory, Toys, Games and puppets, Pottery and Paintings.

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### Note:

Generally, UPSC asks one or two questions in prelims examination every year on major arts and crafts of India. In most cases, such questions are either matchmaking or key feature of popular arts such as Kalamkari work. Further, the GI protected arts and crafts find highest probability in UPSC paper. The below notes have been prepared using Wikipedia and other sources to give you crisp information about various GI protected handicrafts of India. This document is mainly for Prelims. We could frame a few questions for mains too but since your mains questions are HOTS type and not on facts, we have not included any mains question here.

## GI Protected Fabrics

Following are the GI protected fibres in India.

### Mysore Silk, Karnataka

Mysore Silk is a kind of mulberry silk. The Mysore silk became famous after 1912 when the royal Wodeyar family patronized the weaving art by importing 32 looms from Switzerland. Most of these looms are still working.

### Muga Silk

Muga silk is the product of the silkworm *Antheraea assamensis* endemic to **Assam**. The larvae of these moths feed on som (*Machilus bombycina*) and sualu (*Litsaea polyantha*) leaves. The silk produced is known for its glossy fine texture and durability. It was previously reported that muga silk cannot be dyed or bleached due to “low porosity”, but this is incorrect; muga takes dye like any other silk. This silk can be hand-washed with its lustre increasing after every wash. Very often the silk outlives its owner.

### Bhagalpur Silk

Bhagalpur is known as SILK CITY as it is famous worldwide for its silk production. The silk industry in this city is 200 of years old and a whole clan exists that has been producing silk for generations. Bhagalpur is well known for its sericulture, manufacture of silk yarn and weaving them into lovely products. This silk is of a distinct and special type. It is known as Tussah or Tusser Silk. Bhagalpur silk is a household name in India and the lovers of Bhagalpur silk fabrics are found all over the India.

### Kashmir Pashmina

Pashmina is fine type cashmere wool. The textiles made from it were first woven in Kashmir. The name comes from Persian *pašmina*, meaning “made from wool and literally translates to “Soft Gold” in Kashmiri. The wool comes from four distinct breeds of the Cashmere goat; namely the Changthangi or Kashmir Pashmina goat from the Changthang plateau in Kashmir region, the Malra from Kargil area in Kashmir region, the Chegu from Himachal Pradesh in northern India, and Chyangara or Nepalese Pashmina goat from Nepal. Pashmina shawls are hand spun, and woven in





Kashmir and Nepal, and made from fine cashmere fibre. The fibre is also known as *pashm* or *pashmina* for its use in the handmade shawls of the Himalayas.

### Gopalpur Tussar Fabrics

Gopalpur village of Jajpur District is famous for Tussar fabrics in India. This handicraft received the Geographical Indication tag by Government of India in 2009. Tussar textiles are often related with dhoti, joda, Shawl stole and scarves and Saarees.

## GI Protected Sarees and Apparels

Each state of India has its own specialty and range of Sarees. Some of the specific varieties and notes about them for exams are as follows:

### Kanjeevaram Silk and Saree

Kanjeevaram sarees are characterized by gold dipped silver thread that is woven on the premium quality silk. These sarees are also known for their durability, heaviness and high cost because of Zari work. The heavier is the silk and Zari; the better is considered the quality. Kanjeevaram saree is a GI protected product of India. As per Geographical Indication (GI) label, a Kancheepuram saree should have 57 per cent silver and 0.6 per cent gold in zari. However, Tamil Nadu government has eased this to 40 per cent silver and 0.5 per cent gold to make life easy for its producers.



### Banaras Brocade

Banarasi brocade is in existence since Mughal era and can be identified with a narrow fringe like pattern, called Jhhalar, found along the inner and outer border. This fringe resembles a string of leaves. Banarasi Brocade is a GI protected item. As per the GI registry, brocade sarees made only in the districts of Varanasi, Chandauli, Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Bhadohi and Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh can be authentically identified as Banarasi saree or brocade.



### **Kota Doria / Kota Jali**

Kota doria is one of many types of sari garments made at Kota, Rajasthan and Muhammadabad Gohna, Mau in Uttar Pradesh and its nearby area. Sarees are made of pure cotton and silk and have square like patterns known as khats on them. Originally, such sarees were called Masuria because they were woven in Mysore. Kota Doria was granted a G.I. in July 2005.

Kota Doria is lightweight and transparent and are considered to be lightest cotton sarees in India.

### **Ilkal Saree**

Ilkal saree is a GI protected craft of India from Ilkal town in Bagalkot district of Karnataka. They are prepared using cotton warp on the body and art silk warp for border and art silk warp for pallu of the saree. Ilkal town was an ancient weaving center in Karnataka.

### **Molakalmuru Saree**

GI protected Molakalmuru Saree is a silk saree from Molakalmuru town in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. The community of weavers known for producing the Molakalmuru Saree is small – a total of 440 artisans. Weaving is the major occupation in this town.

### **Uppada Jamdani Sarees**

Uppada Sari is a sari style woven in Uppada of East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. Uppada Jamdani saris are known for their light weight. Jamdani is a 'cotton' fibre woven delicately into finest muslin. Jamdani weaving originated in India {modern Bangladesh}.

### **Balaramapuram Sarees and Fine Cotton Fabrics**

Balaramapuram Sarees are prestigious and GI protected Saree produced in Balaramapuram in Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala. This fabric is Kerala's first handloom product to get GI protection. Balarampur is an historically important weaving place in Kerala where Kings of Travancore patronized the art.

### **Gadwal Saree**

Gadwal saree from Gadwal of Mahbubnagar district, Telangana is a GI protected variety of Saree. The saree consists of cotton body with silk pallu which is also given a new name as Sico sarees. The



weavers design in such a way that it can be folded and fit in a matchbox.

### **Pochampalli Ikat**

Pochampalli Ikat is a saree made in Bhoodan Pochampally in Nalgonda district, Telangana State, India. Its uniqueness lies in the transfer of intricate design and colouring onto warp and weft threads first and then weave them together globally known as double ikat textiles. Pochampally saree received Intellectual Property Rights Protection or Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2005.

### **Salem Fabric**

Salem Fabric is a saree made out of silk yarn and cotton yarn and designed by using superior grade fabrics and advanced machinery. In 2006, Salem Fabric became the first GI product from Tamil Nadu.

### **Chanderi Fabric**

Chanderi Fabric is a traditional sari made in Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh, India. It is characterized by its lightweight, sheer texture and fine luxurious feel. Chanderi fabric is produced by weaving in silk and golden Zari in the traditional cotton yarn.

### **Orissa Ikat, Odisha**

Orissa Ikat is a kind of ikat, a resist dyeing technique, originating from Odisha. Also known as “Bandha of Orissa”, it is a geographically tagged product of Orissa since 2007. It is made through a process of tie-dyeing the warp and weft threads to create the design on the loom prior to weaving.

### **Ilkal Sarees**

Ilkal saree is a traditional form of saree which is a common feminine wear in India. Ilkal saree takes its name from the town of Ilkal in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka state, India. Ilkal sarees are woven using cotton warp on the body and art silk warp for border and art silk warp for pallu portion of the saree. In some cases instead of art silk, pure silk is also used. Ilkal saree has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

### **Molakalmuru Sarees**

Molakalmuru Sari is the traditional silk sari that is weaved in the Molakalmuru, Chitradurga district, Karnataka, India. In 2011, it has been granted Geographical Indication tag. The motifs include that of fruits, animals, and flower etc.

### **Uppada Jamdani Sarees**

Uppada Sari is a sari style woven in Uppada of East Godavari district in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It was registered as one of the geographical indication from Andhra Pradesh by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Uppada Jamdani saris are known for their light weight.

### **Puneri Pagadi**

The Puneri Pagadi is a turban, which is considered as a symbol of pride and honour in the city



of Pune. It was introduced two centuries ago. Though it is a symbol of honour, the use of the pagadi has changed over the years and now it is also used on traditional days in colleges. To preserve the identity of the pagadi, there were demands from the locals to grant it a Geographical Indication (GI) status. Their demand was fulfilled and the pagadi became an intellectual property on 4 September 2009.

### **Santipore Saree**

The bustling town of Shantipur in Nadia district of West Bengal, India, is just 90 kilometres (2 hours drive) north of the metropolis of Kolkata. It has recently been declared a city. Neighbouring Fulia is often uttered in the same breath with Shantipur, their contrasting backgrounds notwithstanding. Together they are the most renowned Bengal handloom saree weaving centre in Bengal. Shantipur and Fulia sarees are household names across India.

### **Balaramapuram Sarees and Fine Cotton Fabrics**

Kerala's prestigious 'Balaramapuram Sarees' have become the first handloom product in the state to receive the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection through Geographical Indications Act. Balaramapuram in Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala is one of the most historically important places for weaving fine cotton sarees and fabrics in India.

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### **Kasaragod Sarees**

Kasaragod is home to a unique weaving co-operative society that is known for its exclusive Kasaragod Sarees. It is not a big brand that adorns the malls and big showroom. But it is known for the tradition of 75 years that won the Kasaragod Sarees the geographical indication (GI) tag in 2008 as also many committed buyers over the years. The glorious days of the hand-woven Kasaragod sari may be over but it has withstood the challenges of time and is still popular among the people.

### **Kuthampully Sarees**

Kuthampully Saree is a type of Sari traditionally made by weavers from Kuthampully village in Thiruvilwamala Grama Panchayat of Thrissur district of Kerala state in India. The Kuthampully Saree is distinguished by its Saree borders. In 1972 Kuthampully Handloom Industrial Cooperative Society was registered with 102 members. Now it has 814 members with own building in Kuthampully. In September 2011, the Kuthampully Saree got exclusive Intellectual Property rights through Geographical indication Act (GI).

### **Paithani Sarees and Fabrics**

Paithani is a variety of sari, named after the Paithan town in Aurangabad Maharashtra state where they are woven by hand. Made from very fine silk, it is considered as one of the richest saris in India. Paithani is characterised by borders of an oblique square design, and a pallu with a peacock design. Plain as well as spotted designs are available. A pattan (Paithani) is a gold and silk sari. Paithani



evolved from a cotton base to a silk base.

### Champa Silk Saree and Fabrics

Chhattisgarh's Champa Silk Saree and Fabrics recently got the geographic indication registration due to which the brand cannot be replicated anywhere.

### Surat Zari Craft

The **Surat Zari Craft** is a textile product of Surat district in Gujarat, which is made from yarns of silk and cotton mixed with gold, silver or copper. The zari threads are used to make intricate designs by weaving into generally silk fabrics. Its use is extensive in textile industries and handicrafts. The Surat Zari is either woven on cloth or hand embroidered to form fabric borders or used as part on the body of the cloth. The zaris are used in fabrics made in Varanasi and a few other places in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Banarasi saris made in Varanasi and Kanjivaram Saris of South India use Surat Zari extensively. The zaris made in Surat are of two types – the real metallic zari made with gold and few pure metals, and the imitation zari is woven with plastics.

### Venkatagiri Sarees

**Venkatagiri Sari** is a sari style woven in Venkatagiri of Nellore district in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It was registered as one of the geographical indication from Andhra Pradesh by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Venkatagiri saris are known for their fine weaving. These style of saris can also be found in the villages of Sengunthapuram, Variyankaval, Elaiyur, Kallathur, Andimadam and Marudhur village.

### Baluchari Saree

Baluchar Sari or Baluchuri Sari is a type of sari, a garment worn by women across India and Bangladesh. This particular type of sari originated in Bengal and is known for depictions of mythological scenes on the pallu of the sari. It was mainly produced in Murshidabad but presently Bishnupur and its surrounding places of West Bengal is the only place where authentic Baluchuri sarees are produced. It takes approximately one week to produce one such sari. The Baluchari Sari has been granted the status of Geographical indication in India.

### Dhaniakh Saree

Dhaniakhali Saree is a cotton saree made in Dhaniakhali, West Bengal, India. It is a saree with 100 by 100 cotton thread count, borders between 1.5 and 2 inches and six metre long drapeali Saree

### Chendamangalam Dhoties & Set Mundu

Chendamangalam in Ernakulam district is also an important handloom centre in Kerala, famed for its fine weaving and special effects. The distinction of these fabrics is in its plain structure, they have produced a special effect in weft direction. Double dhoti and Mundu and Neriyaathu are its famous



products. Besides these, Sarees and other handloom fabrics are also produced here. Sarees from Balaramapuram, Kuthampully and Kasargod, as well as the Chendamangalam Mundu(dhoti) have received the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) registration.

### **Siddipet Gollabama**

Gollabhama sari also Siddipet Gollabhama are saris made in Siddipet, Telangana, India. These cotton saris are popular for their inlay figure work and motifs. The sari received Intellectual Property Rights Protection or Geographical Indication (GI) status.

### **Maheshwar Sarees & Fabrics**

Maheshwar is a city in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh. Maheshwari Saree is a cotton and pure silk fabric woven with zari or brocade in varied designs. The Maheshwari saree has special origin; it is traced by a queen who ruled over that territory. Maheshwari sarees are cotton and silk sarees, its specialty is simplicity. On the main part of the saree, it has checks, stripes, small butis or even plain body. Some sarees has reversible border, thus it can be worn either side.

### **Sambalpuri Bandha Saree & Fabrics**

Sambalpuri saree is a traditional handwoven ikat or sari or saree (locally called sadhi) wherein the warp and the weft are tie-dyed before weaving . It is produced in the Bargarh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Balangir, district, Boudh District of Odisha. The saree is a traditional female garment in the Indian Subcontinent consisting of a strip of unstitched cloth ranging from four to nine metres in length that is draped over the body in various styles.

### **Bomkai Saree & Fabrics**

Bomkai Sari (also Sonepuri Sari) is a handloom saree from Odisha, India. It is an origin of Bomkai, Ganjam district in the state and is primarily produced by the “Bhulia” community of Subarnapur district. Bomkai is one of the identified Geographical Indications of India. Sonepur handloom sarees, Sonepuri paatas and silk sarees are popular items displayed at various fashion shows. Bomkai sari was first originated in the village of Bomkai in Ganjam district of Odisha. During the time of Ramai Dev the then ruler of Patna it was introduced in Sonepur

### **Habaspuri Saree & Fabrics**

Habaspuri is cotton base traditional handloom textiles of Odisha, Habaspuri sari is a major product of this textile. The Kondha weavers of Chicheguda, Kalahandi district, Odisha are originally attributed for weaving of the Habaspuri fabric. For its uniqueness in weaving, design and production, it has been identified as one of the 14 Geographical Indications of Odisha. Habaspuri handloom is named after the village of Habaspur in Kalahandi district where it was originally woven during 19 CE. The Habaspuri saris and other textile products produced by the individual weavers and groups are marketed and sold by the Handlooms, Textiles and Handlooms Department of the Government of



Odisha in the government-run stores.

### **Mangalagiri Saree**

Mangalagiri Sarees and Fabrics are produced by performing handicraft weaving in Mangalagiri, a town in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The Mangalagiri fabric is produced by weaving with the help of pitlooms from combed yarn by warp and woof interlacing. The fabric then undergoes the process of dyeing. The Nizam design is another characteristic of the fabric.

### **Narayanpet Handloom Sarees**

Narayanpet sarees have a checked surface design with embroidery and the border or pallu have intricate ethnic designs such as a temples. The borders and pallu of the Narayanpet handloom sarees are always given a contrasted look with small zari designs.

### **Lucknow Zardozi**

The world-renowned textile embroidery from Lucknow. Zardozi embroidery is beautiful metal embroidery, which once used to embellish the attire of the Kings and the royals in India. It was also used to adorn walls of the royal tents, scabbards, wall hangings and the paraphernalia of regal elephants and horses.

### **Patan Patola**

Patola are a double ikat woven sari, usually made from silk, made in Patan, Gujarat, India. The word patola is the plural form the singular is patolu. They are very expensive, once worn only by royalty and the aristocracy. They are popular and in demand from those who can afford them. Velvet patola styles are also made in Surat. Patola-weaving is a closely guarded family tradition. There are three families in Patan that weave these highly prized double ikat saris. It can take six months to one year to make one sari.

### **Mirzapur Handmade Dari**

The Mirzapur handmade dari is made of twisted cotton thread along with jute twine to give rougher quality of carpet with about 60 knots per square inch. Cotton and woolen carpets are made in Shahjehanpur and Agra where weavers produce traditional and new designs. The tradition of making handmade dari is continuing since Mughal era. Mirzapur handmade dari made in nine districts of Uttar Pradesh including Mirzapur, Varanasi, Badohi, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Kaushambi, Sonbhadra, Jaunpur, Allahabad and Kaushambi. Mirzapur Handmade Dari is protected under Intellectual property rights after getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015

### **Salem Silk known as Salem Ven pattu**

Salem's unique brand of silk clothing, known as ven pattu, has received the Central government's Geographical Indication Authorised User Certificate, according to the Geographical Indications Act 1999 Rule 2003, paving the way for more sales and better recognition for this silk. Salem Silk





received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in April 2016. The turnover of Salem ven pattu is estimated to be around Rs 25-30 crore.

### **Kovai Cora Cotton**

Kovai Cora cotton or Kovai Kora cotton is a type of saree made in the Coimbatore region in Tamil Nadu, India. It has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Government of India in 2014-15. Kovai Cora saree is made by mixing of traditional silk and superior quality of cotton yarn and weaved in traditional handloom.

### **Arani Silk Saree**

Arni silk saree is traditional sari made in Arni, Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. Arni silk saree is known for its softness and durability. Arani Silk has also received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Government of India.

### **Khandua Saree and Fabrics**

Khandua saree a popular variety of silk Sarees, which is manufactured in Nuapatna in Cuttack district, has rightly been called the Pride of Odisha. The origin of this Saree, which is dedicated to Lord Jagannath of Puri Dham, dates back to 12<sup>th</sup> century. Khandua Saree is a classic example of hand weaving, in which traditional wooden looms are used to weave these exquisite and artistic pieces, out of pure tussar yarn produced by worm. Khandua Saree is granted Geographical Indications (GI) tag by Government of India.

## **GI Protected Shawls, Carpets, Durries, Coir Products etc.**

Following are the crisp notes on various GI protected textile products, shawls, Carpets, Quilts etc.

### **Solapur Chaddar**

Solapuri chaddar is a cotton bed sheet made in the Solapur city in Maharashtra. Solapuri chaddars were the first product in Maharashtra to obtain Geographical Indication (GI) status.

### **Kotpad Handloom fabric**

Kotpad Handloom is a vegetable Dyed Fabric woven by the tribal weavers of the 'Mirgan' Community of Kotpad village in Koraput district, Odisha. Kotpad handloom fabric is the first item from Odisha that received the Geographical Indication of India tag in the year 2005.

### **Alleppey Coir**

The Alleppey city was founded by Raja kesava dasa, Diwan of erstwhile Travancore during second half of 17th century. Alleppey was planned city between Vembanad lake and Arabian sea. It's known as "Venice of the East". The first Coir factory "Darragh Smail & Co" for the manufacture of Coir floor furnishings was established by Mr. James Darragh (an Irish born American) together with Henry Smail at Alleppey during the year 1859.





### **Kullu Shawl, Himachal Pradesh**

A Kullu shawl is a type of shawl made in Kullu, featuring various geometrical patterns and bright colors. Originally, indigenous Kulivi people would weave plain shawls, but following the arrival of craftspeople from Bushehar in the early 1940s, the trend of more patterned shawls came to rise.

### **Bhavani Jamakkalam, Tamil Nadu**

Bhavani Jamakkalam refers to blankets and carpets manufactured in Bhavani in Erode district, Tamil Nadu. It has been recognized as a Geographical indication by the Government of India in 2005-06.

### **Madurai Sungudi, Tamil Nadu**

Madurai Sungudi was the first product from Madurai to be conferred the Geographical Indication (GI) mark by the Geographical Indications Registry in 2006. Madurai takes pride in Sungudi, the traditional textiles unique to the temple city. Its production belongs to Sourashtra community.

### **Navalgund Durries**

Navalgund Durries, geographically tagged in India, are woven durries or a type of Indian rug with geometric designs, birds, and animal designs from Navalgund in Bidar district of Karnataka, India. This durrie has been registered for protection under the Geographical indication of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement in 2011.

### **Kani Shawl**

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Kani Shawls are a tradition of Kashmir, its rich design and heritage is classic and evergreen. It is made from Pashmina on a handloom but instead of a shuttle used in a pashmina shawl, it is made using cane needles. Depending on the complexity of pattern it may take from 6 to 18 months to make one shawl. Kani shawl is woven by using small wooden spokes in the place of a shuttle as in a traditional loom. The spokes are called 'tujii' or 'kani' locally. Kani shawls have been produced from fine hand spun Pashmina and santoosh fibres.

### **Chamba Rumal**

The Chamba Rumal or Chamba handkerchief is an embroidered handicraft that was once promoted under the patronage of the former rulers of Chamba Kingdom. It is a common item of gift during marriages with detailed patterns in bright and pleasing colour schemes. Known as "needle wonder", Chamba Rumal is made in square and rectangular shapes. The material used still consists of muslin, malmal, khaddar, fine charcoal or brush, and silk threads without knots. It is famous in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Tangaliya Shawl**

A Tangaliya Shawl is a handwoven, GI protected shawl and textile made by the Dangasia community from Schedule Caste in Gujarat, India. The 700-year-old indigenous craft is native to the Surendranagar district, of Saurashtra-region of the state. The textile is usually used as shawl and



wraparound skirt by women of the Bharwad shepherd community of Wankaner, Amreli, Dehgam, Surendranagar, Joravarnagar, Botad, Bhavnagar, and Kutch area. The shawls are woven in pit looms at homes, and uses knotting a contrast color thread with the warp, which are woven into the textile to create the effect of raised dots, which have become the signature style of the textile.

### Handmade Carpet of Bhadohi

Bhadohi is in Sant Ravidas Nagar district in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It is also known as the “Carpet City,” as it is home to the largest hand-knotted carpet weaving industry hub in South Asia. Carpet weaving in Bhadohi-Mirzapur region dates back to the 16th century, during the reign of Mughal Emperor, Akbar and is believed to have established when centuries ago, some Iranian master weavers stopped at Madhosingh village, near Khamaria, in Bhadohi while travelling in India, and subsequently set up looms here. Well-known carpet types from Bhadohi include cotton Dhurries, Chhapra Mir carpets, Abusan, Persian, Loribaft, Indo Gabbeh but also Nepalese carpets and more recent shaggy type carpets.

### Kachchh Shawls

A Kachchh shawl is a traditional shawl woven in the Kutch region of the Gujarat, India. These are largely woven with Kachchhi motifs in Bhujodi village of Kutch. Traditionally Kachchhi weavers belong to Marwada and Maheswari communities.

### Agra Durrie

Agra Durrie is a traditional hand woven textile product. It is a flat woven pileless rug having a rich variety of designs and colours. It is essentially a thick cotton woven fabric meant for spreading on the floor.

### Kinnauri Shawl

Kinnauri shawls (Kinnaur- a place in Himachal Pradesh) are famous for their intricate geometrical designs that need great expertise in weaving. The designs on these shawls carry special religious significance and colours used in patterning carry mythological background. Usually fine colours are used in typical Kinnauri shawl- white signifies water, yellow stands for earth, red for fire, green for air and blue for aether.

## Embroidery Products

Gujarat and Rajasthan have a mind-boggling range in embroideries. *Kantha* of Bengal, *zardosi* of Delhi, *kasuti* of Karnataka, *phulkari* of Punjab, the gold thread embroidery and *gota* work of Rajasthan, the *zari* work of Hyderabad, the *appliqué* work and metal-wire embroidery are some of the brilliant specimens of Indian embroidery.

### Appliqué or Pipli Work



*Appliqué* or *Pipli Work* is an integral part of the decorative needlework of Pipli village in Orissa and some parts of Gujarat. It is based on patchwork, in which pieces of coloured and patterned fabric is finely cut in different sizes and shapes and sewn together on a plain background to form a composite piece. They are found in brilliant colours and are highly ornamented with motifs, which include human forms, animals and vehicles. Originally parasols, canopies and pillows were made for the Rath Yatra but now many objects of daily use like lamp shades, garden umbrellas and bed covers have been introduced.

### Aribharat

The embroidery of Kutch is very picturesque and has the quality of jewellery. The best known is *aribharat*, which is named after *ari*, a hook, plied from the top but fed by silk thread from below with the material spread out on a frame. This movement creates loops, which are repeated to form a line of chain stitches. It is also known as *Mochibharat*, as it used to be done by *mochis* (cobblers).

### Bagh

The *bagh* is an offshoot of *phulkari* and almost always follows a geometric pattern, with green as the basic colour. The embroidery is worked into *khaddar* (coarse cotton cloth) with silk thread. Sometimes two or three *baghs* will be stitched together to form a *phulkari*.

### Banjara

The embroidery of the *Lambada* gypsy tribes of Andhra Pradesh, *banjara* is a mix of *appliqué* with mirrors and beadwork. Bright red, yellow, black and white coloured cloth is laid in bands and joined with a white crisscross stitch.

### Chikankari

The Chikan work of Lucknow involves delicate and subtle embroidery done in white thread on varieties of cloth such as *mulmul* (fine cotton), voil or polyester.. It owes its origin to Nur Jehan. Intricate and complex, this work is similar to what is commonly known as *shadow work*. Simplicity, regularity and evenness of stitches, combined with very fine thread-knots are the highlights of Chikan work. The different varieties of *chikan* stitches include *tepchi*, *pechni*, *bakhia*, *zanjira*, *phanda* and *murri*. The Chikan *kurtas* are very popular.

### Crewel

Kashmir is known for *phirans* (woollen *kurtas*) and *namdahs* (woollen rugs) with big floral embroidery in cheerful colours. Crewel embroidery is the same as chain stitch and is usually done with an awl (a small pointed tool for making holes) and is worked from underneath the fabric rather than above.

### Gota work

The gold embroidery of Jaipur, known as *gota-work*, is an intricate form of *appliqué* with patterns of



amazing richness, worked out in minute detail in fine gold thread. Small pieces of *zari* ribbon are applied onto the fabric with the edges sewn down to create elaborate patterns. Lengths of wide, golden ribbons are similarly stitched on the edges of the fabric to create an effect of gold *zari* work. The *gota* method is commonly used for women's formal costumes. Khandela in Shekhawati is best known for its manufacture. *Kinari* or edging refers to the art of fringed border decoration. It is usually practised by the Muslim craftsmen.

### **Kantha**

*Kantha* is a kind of patchwork embroidery, typical of Bihar and West Bengal, in which the ground consists of remnants of white cotton saris, while the threads used for the embroidery are picked from old materials. In *kantha*, the thread is carried over the surface in small stitches to produce a series of dotted lines. To these are added, from the reverse side, longer floats that are mostly used as decorative elements and for filling in the bodies of the figures. Floral, animal and bird motifs embroidered on both cotton and silk are extremely popular.

### **Karchobi**

It is a form of raised *zari* metallic thread embroidery created by sewing flat stitches on cotton padding. The technique is commonly used for bridal and formal costumes as well as for velvet coverings, tent hangings, curtains and the coverings of animal carts and temple chariots.

### **Kashida**

This is the typical embroidery work of Bihar and is done in different styles.

### **Kasuti**

This is typical of the Dharwar region of Karnataka. Kasuti is delicate single thread embroidery done on handloom saris. It is done in two styles called *gavanti* and *murgi* and has a wide range of motifs consisting of temples, peacocks, elephants, flowering trees and geometric forms spread across the sari.

### **Kathi**

This rural art of Gujarat is attributed to the nomadic tribes of the *kathi*. The work is distinguished by a very unusual technique in which chain stitch embroidery is combined with *appliqué* work and enhanced by small mirror-like insertions. The embroidery is characterised in particular by its wealth of forms and motifs. Many of the *kathi* embroideries depict Hindu themes.

### **Mirror Work**

The women of Rajasthan and Gujarat traditionally carry embroidered *torans* (frieze), dowry bags, shawls, *cholis* and *dupattas* as part of their dowry. This work can be identified by its use of tiny mirrors with colourful threads that shape floral and figurative designs.



### Phulkari

The Punjab *phulkari* is of a spectacular nature. The word means flowering and it creates a flowery surface. Strangely enough, the stitch itself is the simple darning like the *damask*, done either by counting the threads or with utmost care, since a single miss can spoil the whole pattern. Originally, the designs seem to have been predominantly geometrical but the *phulkari* now being produced for sale has often a lotus in the centre and stylised animals, birds, worked in harmoniously with flowers. The design is fed into the cloth from the reverse side using darning needles, one thread at a time, leaving a long stitch below to form the basic pattern. The stitching is done in a vertical and horizontal pattern as well as variations from this standard format, so that when the *phulkari* is finally complete the play of light on its shiny surface can do wonders. Stitching is usually done with silk thread, though occasionally cotton threads are also used. The best work in *phulkari* is found in Haryana in Gurgaon, Karnal, Hissar, Rohtak and Delhi.

### Pichwai

These are colourful embroidered cloth-hangings typical of Nathdwara in Rajasthan.

### Rabari Art

This is a typical embroidery work of the nomadic Rabari tribes of the Kutch region. The embroidered motifs are generally camels, royal fans, elephants, scorpions and women bearing water.

### Shamilami

It is a combination of weaving and embroidery and was once a high status symbol in Manipur.

### Zardozi or Zari

*Zardozi* or *Zari* or *kalabattu* is an embroidery work done in metal wires. Varanasi, Lucknow, Surat, Ajmer, Bhopal and Hyderabad are important centres for *zari* work. In this work, metal ingots are melted and pressed through perforated steel sheets to convert into wires. They are then hammered to the required thinness. Plain wire is called *badla*, and when wound round a thread, it is called *kasav*. Smaller spangles are called *sitara* and tiny dots made of *badla* are called *mukaish*. *Zardozi*, a more elaborate version of *zari*, involves the use of gold threads, spangles, beads, seed pearls, wire, *gota* and *kinari*.

## Some GI Protected Embroidery Products from India

Following products made in embroidery are provided GI protection in India.

### Kasuti Embroidery

Kasuti is a traditional form of folk embroidery practiced in the state of **Karnataka**. Kasuti work which is very intricate sometimes involves putting up to 5,000 stitches by hand and is traditionally made on dresswear like Ilkal sarees, Ravi ke and Angi or Kurta. The Karnataka Handicrafts



Development Corporation (KHDC) holds a Geographical Indications (GI) protection for Kasuti embroidery which provides Intellectual Property rights on Kasuti to KHDC.

### **Applique – Khatwa Patch Work of Bihar**

Khatwa is the name given to appliqué works in Bihar. And is commonly found on wall hangings, shamanas, and now even on saris, dupattas, cushion covers, table cloths, and curtains. The craft uses waste pieces of cloths as its raw material and is usually done with white cloth on bright backgrounds like red or orange. So fine was the work that, in the past, the articles produced were used by kings, emperors, and the nobility.

### **Sujini Embroidery Work of Bihar**

Sujini and Khatwa Embroidery is famous as well as beautiful work of handicraft in Bihar. Traditionally, Sujani is embroidered quilt made in Bihar by recycling a number of worn out saris and/or dhotis in a simple running stitch that gave the old cloth a new structure while ornamenting it. Sujani was sometimes stitched in white, red and black, drawn from the borders of old saris. The embroiderers outline and fill motifs in a circular manner with coloured quilting stitches, while covering the background with white stitching. The circular stitching creates a dimensional distortion which renders a unique surface character.

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### **Nakshi Kantha**

Nakshi kantha, a type of embroidered quilt, is a centuries-old Bengali art tradition in Bangladesh. The basic material used is thread and old cloth. Kanthas are made throughout Bangladesh, but the greater Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Faridpur and Jessore areas are most famous for this craft. The colourful patterns and designs that are embroidered resulted in the name “Nakshi Kantha”, which was derived from the Bengali word “naksha”, which refers to artistic patterns. The early kanthas had a white background accented with red, blue and black embroidery; later yellow, green, pink and other colours were also included. The running stitch called “kantha stitch” is the main stitch used for the purpose. Traditionally, kantha was produced for the use of the family. Today, after the revival of the nakshi kantha, they are produced commercially.

### **Kutch Embroidery**

The Kutch Embroidery is a handicraft and textile signature art tradition of the tribal community of Kutch District of Gujarat. This embroidery, practiced normally by women is done on fabrics of cotton, in the form of net using cotton or silk threads. The embroidery has been registered for protection under the list of Geographical Indication.

### **Kashmir Sozani Craft**

Sozani craft refers to a type of hand embroidery, traditionally done on pashmina hand woven wollen fabric. It employs extremely fine stitches applied very close to each other creating intricate patterns.



The stitches are executed using coloured thread and a fine steel needle.

### **Lucknow Chikan craft**

Chikan is a traditional embroidery style from Lucknow. Literally translated, the word means embroidery. Believed to have been introduced by Nur Jehan, the wife of Mughal emperor Jahangir. It is one of Lucknow's best known textile decoration styles. The market for local chikan is mainly in Chowk Lucknow. The technique of creation of a chikan work is known as chikankari.

### **Sandur Lambani Embroidery**

Karnataka's famous Sandur Lambani embroidery has now found a place in the products with Geographic Indication (GI) tag in the country. With this registration, about 300 craftswomen of Lambani tribe located in and around Sandur in Bellary district will benefit from the GI tag as they can utilise this tag as a unique selling proposition in various marketing and advertising activities across the globe. With this, no other organisation or individual can sell the embroidery products under this name without registering them as authorised users.

### **Phulkari**

Phulkari embroidery technique from the Punjab region, literally means flower work, which was at one time used as the word for embroidery, but in time the word "Phulkari" became restricted to embroidered shawls and head scarfs. Simple and sparsely embroidered odini (head scarfs), dupatta and shawls, made for everyday use, are called Phulkaris. This whole work is done with white or yellow silk floss on cotton khaddar and starts from the center on the fabric called "chashm-e-bulbul" and spreads to the whole fabric.

### **Toda Embroidery**

The Toda Embroidery, also locally known as "pukhoor" is an art work among the Toda pastoral people of Nilgiris, in Tamil Nadu, made exclusively by their women. The embroidery, which has a fine finish, appears like a woven cloth but is made with use of red and black threads with a white cotton cloth background. Both sides of the embroidered fabric are usable and the Toda people are proud of this heritage. Both men and women adorn embroidered cloaks and shawls.

## **Fabric Decoration Arts**

The tradition of decorated textiles is as rich as the woven one with a vast range of hand block prints, tie-dyed fabrics and embroideries.

### **Bandhani or Tie and Dye**

It is a sophisticated method of tie and dye used for decorating the cloth. It is an ancient art practiced in many places in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. This technique involves two stages: tying sections of a length of cloth (silk or cotton) and then dunking it into vats of colour. The rainbow-tinted turbans of the Rajputs and the *odhnis* of women are shaded by this method of resist dyeing.



The main colours used in *Bandhani* are yellow, green, red and black.

### Batik Art

It is a resist process in which the fabric is painted with molten wax and then dyed in cold dyes. Multi-coloured *batik* saris, *dupattas* and bed sheets are popular for their contrasting colour schemes. *Batik* is done on a large scale in Madhya Pradesh.

### Block-printing

This art involves printing of cloth with carved wooden blocks. Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Jodhpur and Bikaner in Rajasthan are the strongholds of this craft. The floral motifs favoured by the printers of Bagru and Sanganer are Persian in origin and usually have a white or pale background decorated with colorful twigs or sprays.

### Jamdani

It is a type of weaving in which small shuttles filled with coloured, gold or silver threads are used to produce highly decorative material. It is done in various styles like *butidar*, *tircha*, *jhalar*, *panna hazara*, *phulwari* and *toradar*. It is very common in Tanda in Uttar Pradesh.

### Ikat

It is a complex and rather meticulous process that involves the repeated dyeing of the warp and weft threads before the cloth is woven. Andhra Pradesh and Orissa are major centres of *ikat* weaving in silk and cotton.

### Kalamkari

This involves hand painting of fabrics using vegetable dyes of deep rich shades. The motifs may range from gods and goddesses to demons, women, animals and other forms. These fabrics are used as tapestries and as hangings in temples. This is practiced in Kalahasti in Andhra Pradesh and in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa and West Bengal.

### Laharia

It is a special process of the *Bandhani* technique or tie-and dye in Rajasthan that creates a ripple effect. Turbans and *odhnis* with *laharia* patterns are generally used on festive occasions, especially the Teej. Jaipur and Jodhpur are major centres of *laharia*.

### Tanchoi

The *tanchoi* style of weaving, which resembles fine miniatures, owes its origin to China and is practiced mainly in Surat in Gujarat. The *tanchoi* saris are very popular.

## GI Protected Fabric Decoration Arts of India

Below are some of the GI protected fabric decoration / printing art products of India.

### Srikalahasthi Kalamkari

Kalamkari or Qalamkari is a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile, produced in parts





of India. The Srikalahasti style of Kalamkari, wherein the “kalam” or pen is used for free hand drawing of the subject and filling in the colors, is entirely hand worked. This style flowered around temples and their patronage and so had an almost religious identity. Only natural dyes are used in Kalamkari and it involves seventeen steps.

### **Bagru Hand Block Print**

Bagru is a small town in Jaipur Rajasthan. Bagru is known for natural dyes and hand block printing. Woodblock printing on textiles is the process of printing patterns on textiles, usually of linen, cotton, or silk, by means of incised wooden blocks. It is the earliest, simplest and slowest of all methods of textile printing. Block printing by hand is a slow process. It is, however, capable of yielding highly artistic results, some of which are unobtainable by any other method.

### **Farrukhabad Prints**

Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh is famous for textile printing and over the last 200 years has been a source of income of local craftsmen. Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh is a veritable treasure house of traditional designs ranging from the classical butis (dots) to the famous ‘ Tree of Life. Farrukhabad hand printing is famous all over the world and it stands testimony to the craftsmanship of the native artisans.

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### **Orissa Pattachitra**

Pattachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian state, Odisha. In the Sanskrit language, “Patta” literally means “cloth” and “Chitra” means “picture”. Most of these paintings depict stories of Hindu deities.

### **Machilipatnam Kalamkari**

Machilipatnam Kalamkari is a style of Kalamkari work which involves vegetable dyed block-painting of a fabric. Though the name suggests as Machilipatnam Kalamkari, it is produced at the nearby town of Pedana in Krishna district of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It was registered as one of the geographical indication.

### **Bagh Prints of Madhya Pradesh**

Bagh print is a traditional hand block print with natural colours, an Indian handicraft practiced in Bagh, Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. Its name is derived from the village Bagh on the bank of the river Bagh. A Bagh print is listed as a geographically tagged and is protected under the Geographical indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999. It was started by the Muslim Khatri in 1962 when they migrated from Manawar to Bagh. In this unique form of art cotton and silk clothes are used. The process involves pre-printing, printing and post printing.

### **Sanganeri Hand Block Printing**

Sanganeri is a hand-block printing technique originating from Sanganer, a village in the southern



part of Jaipur, Rajasthan. It is famous for textile printing, handmade paper industry, and for Jain temples.

Sanganer prints are one of its own kinds, for the reason that patterns in bright colours are always printed on white backgrounds. Sanganeri Hand block printing received the geographical indication (GI) tag in 2010

### Metal Work

Important notes on metal work are as follows:

- Tamil Nadu is one of the famous bronze producing regions where the artisans or *stapathis* produce stylistic images conforming to Pallava, Chola, Pandyan and Nayaka periods. The images of Trimurthi and Durga are the most common.
- Kerala produces distinct bronze statues of Shiva's *tandava* dance, described as the *gaja tandava*.
- Karkal in Karnataka is an ancient centre that specializes in rare Jain icons.
- Orissa is known for its *Dhokra casting* and *silver filigree* Cigar boxes, jewellery, baskets and decorative trays are the popular items made in the silver filigree.
- Hyderabad is famous for silver objects like *paandaan* (betel-leaves box), silver models of Charminar and bronze statues.  
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- Uttar Pradesh is the largest brass and copper-making region in India with numerous centres such as Etawah, Moradabad, Varanasi and Sitapur. Moradabad has become famous for *khudai* or metal engraving work done in *nakashi*
- In Jaipur, the *Marori* work has minutely lacquered designs that cover the entire surface in its effect both rich and subtle; '*chicken*' has flowers motifs against a chased and lacquered background and '*bichi*' is a delicate pattern of flowers and leaves on a lacquered surface.
- Marwar in Rajasthan is famous for its zinc-pots called *badla*. The *badlas*, which are usually round, semi-circular or rectangular, are sometimes fitted with ice chambers and taps.
- The *kammalas* of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu are famous for metal encrusting work.
- Delhi and Jaipur are known for *meenakari*, the enamel work on gold.
- The *bidri* work in which silver inlay work is done against dark metal backgrounds is practised in Bidar in Karnataka. Silver and brass are inlaid upon an alloy of zinc and copper, which is blackened by dipping the object into a solution of copper sulphate. It is the contrast between the black surface and the shiny inlay that makes the object look dramatic.
- A metal craft unique to Himachal is the *mohra*. *Mohras* or metal plaques representing a deity are common in Kullu and Chamba. Most of them represent Shiva, but masks of the mother



goddess Devi and other deities are not uncommon. The head is sculpted in bold relief, while the neck and shoulders are more summarily treated. These *mohras* are taken out of the temples on a palanquin in processions during religious festivals like the grand Kullu Dussehra.

- Nepal has a unique art called the *Newari art*, which consists of bronzes with beautiful soft reddish *patina*. The *phurpa* or the ritual or magical dagger of Tibetan Buddhists consists of three-sided blades made of copper alloy and bronze in which the hilt usually shows three heads of protective deities, the common being the *Mahakala*.

### GI Protected Metalcraft products

Some GI Protected Metalcraft Products in India are as follows

#### Aranmula Kannadi, Kerala

Aranmula kannadi is a unique kind of metal-mirror manufactured at Aranmula in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala. The mirror is costly and is said to bring Luck, wealth and prosperity. It has received geographical indication (GI) tag in 2004-05.

#### Bidriware, Karnataka

Bidriware is a metal handicraft from **Bidar, Karnataka**. It was developed in the 14th century C.E. during the rule of the Bahamani Sultans. The term 'Bidriware' originates from the township of Bidar, which is still the chief centre for the manufacture of the unique metalware. Due to its striking inlay artwork, Bidriware is an important export handicraft of India and is prized as a symbol of wealth. The metal used is a blackened alloy of zinc and copper inlaid with thin sheets of pure silver. This native art form has obtained Geographical Indications (GI) registry.

#### Silver Filigree of Karimnagar

Silver Filigree was started nearly 400 years ago in the Karimnagar district in **Andhra Pradesh**. It is an ancient art of Karimnagar. Karimnagar Silver Filigree received Intellectual property rights protection or Geographical Indication (GI) status in **2007**. Kala Karimnagar Silver Filigree Handicrafts Society has highly skilled and experienced craftsmen, from Karimnagar create these striking filigree items. For centuries their families created filigree items for the Rulers, Nawabs and the rich in India.

#### Temple Jewellery of Nagercoil

Original temple jewellery is made of silver and plated with gold. This jewellery set is 100% handmade jewellery. Artisan families in the district of Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu has been mastering this art for more than 100 years. Temple Jewelry was pervasive during the celebrated historical periods in South India such as the Chola Dynasty, the Pandya Dynasty and the Krishnadevaraya rule from the 9th



century till the 16th century. Temple Jewelry is studded with Kemp stones come either in dark reddish maroon or dark green color. Temple jewellery, an essential part of the adornment of the Tamil bride, is also an integral part of the aharya or costume of a Bharatanatyam or Kuchipudi dancer.

### Thanjavur Art Plate

Thanjavur art plates are traditional metal craft of Tamilnadu with its intricate workmanship and value. The popular Thanjavur Art plates feature designs of deities, birds, flower and geometric patterns beaten out from the back of copper and silver sheets. These are then encrusted on a brass round plate, tray or pot (Kudam) or cup (panchapathra).

### Bastar Dhokra

Dhokra Damar tribes are the traditional metal-smiths of West Bengal. Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting. The tribe extends from Jharkhand to West Bengal and Orissa; members are distant cousins of the Chhattisgarh Dhokras. A few hundred years ago the Dhokras of Central and Eastern India traveled south as far as Kerala and north as far as Rajasthan and hence are now found all over India. Dhokra or Dokra craft from around Santiniketan, West Bengal, is popular.

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### Swamimalai Bronze Icons

Swamimalai Bronze Icons refers to bronze idols and statues manufactured in Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu. It has been recognized as a Geographical indication by the Government of India in 2008–09. About 1200 people in Swamimalai are involved in metal sculpting. The artisans are known as sthaphathis, who are traditionally from the Vishwakarma community and have practiced metal casting for several generations.

### Bastar Iron Craft

Bastar region is place where we can witness different varieties of craft in one place. The tradition of iron craft is passed down from generation to generation and the craftsmen are highly skilled and very creative as it clearly reflects in their craft. Wrought iron craft is traditional craft, in which the iron is heated and beaten to the desired thickness and shape. This craft is mainly practiced by the lohar community of the Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

### Brass Brodered Coconut Shell Crafts of Kerala

Brass brodered coconut shell craft of Kerala is the craft of making beautifully carved and brass brodered products like cups, flower vases, snuff boxes, nut bowls, powder boxes and spoons using coconut shells as practiced by the artisans of Kerala in India. This art requires great skill on the part of the artisan as the shell is extremely hard. The main centres of production in Kerala are located in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode Districts. Though the coconut shell craft is also prevalent in



Goa, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and West Bengal, the brass brodered variety is practiced only in Kerala.

### **Agates of Cambay**

Folkmyths in the area around Cambay in Gujarat state that the ancient agate mining and cutting industries in that region were started by Baba Ghor, a circa 1500 AD merchant from Ethiopia who had led a large contingent of Muslims to settle in the area.

### **Bell Metal Ware of Datia and Tikamgarh**

Madhya Pradesh Bell Metal Ware of Datia and Tikamgarh Bell metal is a hard alloy, a form of bronze, used for making bells. It is essentially a tribal craft.

### **Pembarthi Metal Craft**

Pembarthi Metal Craft is a metal handicraft made in Pembarthi, Warangal district, Telangana State, India. They are popular for their exquisite sheet metal art works. It received the prestigious Geographical Indication, an honour for the craft.

### **Payyannur Pavithra Ring**

Payyannur Pavithra Mothiram is a kind of gold ring worn by Indians for its ritualistic value. This holy ring is worn during the rituals of pithru bali, or the prayer for the dead ancestors of the person. This ring was traditionally made of Dharba grass. However, the modern Pavithra Mothiram is made of gold. The shape of the ring is unique and it looks like a knot. Silver is also used for making the ring. It is worn on the right ring finger while performing poojas for the dead ancestors.

### **Nachiarkoil Kuthuvilakku / Nachiarkoil Lamp**

The Nachiarkoil Lamp, also called Nachiarkoil Kuthuvilakku, is a brass lamp, a handicraft product which is exclusively made in Nachiarkoil town in Tamil Nadu, India. The lamp, which is hollow cast, is made in different sizes and consists of four parts which are screwed together. The central pillar that crowns at the apex is called the "Prabhais"; it is generally in the form of a hamsa or swan. The lamp may also be made in the form of a female figurine holding a shallow bowl in a standing posture, or in the form of branches of a tree; the bowl of these lamps has five V-shaped spouts which hold cotton wicks, and is filled with oil for lighting.

### **Bell Metal Ware of Datia and Tikamgarh -Madhya pradesh**

Bell metal is a hard alloy, a form of bronze, used for making bells. It is essentially a tribal craft.

### **Moradabad Metal Craft**

Moradabad metal engraving is a fine and a delicate art. This craft shows the traces of Islamic culture. There are many sharp tools used in the process of tracing the design on to the brass, silver and copper.

### **Thewa Art Work**

Thewa art is based on Rajasthan. It is a jewellery form with base material of gold or silver, with gold



foil work in colours. The history of Thewa art goes back 300-500 years.

### **Banaras Gulabi Meenakari Craft**

Gulabi Meenakari or pink enamling of Varanashi is an ancient art in which meenakars (the artesans) make items like religious figures of god and goddesses on silver and gold sheet, traditional ornaments, motifs, flowers, birds and animal on gold and silver metal. The art is said to be introduced by Persian enamellist in 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Banarash gulabi meenakari is characterized by pink stokes on white enamel. Banaras Gulabi Meenakar craft is protected under Intellectual property rights after getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015.

## **GI Protected Wood, Glass, Paper, Stone, Ivory etc. Artworks**

Various art products of India involving wood, glass, paper, stone, ivory etc. are as follows:

### **Sikki Grass Work of Bihar**

Sikki grass crafts are various handicrafts that are made from a special kind of grass known as sikki found in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, India. The art of making items from sikki grass is an ancient one in the province of Bihar. Sikki is dried and the flower head is cut off. The resulting fine golden fibre is used in weaving to make toys, dolls, and baskets (dolchi). Items are sometimes painted. Boxes made of sikki known as pauti are given to daughters by parents on the occasion of their wedding. The boxes are used to hold sindoor, ornaments, and jewellery.

### **Bastar Wooden Craft**

Bastar Wooden Crafts are traditional Indian wooden crafts that are manufactured in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh state, India. The wood-crafting work has been protected under the Geographical indication. Woodcraft in Bastar has beautiful and unique form of art that was mastered by Bastar tribal and it helps their livelihood. The handicrafts product has decent market in different parts of India as well as in some foreign countries. They use teak wood, Indian Rosewood, whitewood and other finest wood to craft various handicraft items. Bastar Wooden Craft has been exhibited at “Durbar Hall Art Gallery”.

### **Maddalam of Palakkad**

The maddalam or madhalam is a drum made out of the wood of the jackfruit tree. It has two sides for playing, made out of leather, and has different kind of sounds on each side. The maddalam is a heavy instrument which is hung around the waist of the person playing, and the player stands all the while to perform. The maddalam is a vital instrument in traditional Kerala percussion ensembles like Panchavadyam, Keli and kathakali orchestra.

### **Screw Pine Craft of Kerala**

Screw pine craft of Kerala is the craft of making different types of mats and wall hangings using the leaves of the screw pine plant as practiced by artisans in Kerala. Weaving of mats using leaves of the



screw pine plants is a craft practiced mostly by women in Kerala. This craft, which is practised by artisans in all the districts of Kerala, has been in existence as long ago as 800 years. The mats produced by screw pine have a significant role in the traditional customs of Kerala.

### **Konark Stone carving**

Stone carving and sculpting is an ancient practice in the Indian state of Odisha. Stone carving is practiced by artisans mainly in Puri, Bhubaneswar, and Lalitgiri in the Cuttack district, though some carvings can be found in Khiching in the Mayurbhanj District. The art form primarily consists of custom carved works, with the Sun Temple of Konark and its intricate sculpture and delicate carvings on the red vivid sandstone exemplifying the superb workmanship of the artisans of Odisha.

### **Sankheda furniture**

Sankheda furniture is colourful teak wood furniture of Gujarat, treated with lacquer and painted in traditional bright shades of maroon and gold. It is made in Sankheda village, which is located about 45 kilometres from Vododara. The product is not only widely marketed in India but is also exported to other countries like Europe and West Asia. The product was registered by the Controller General of Patents Designs and Trademarks in 2007.

### **Santiniketan Leather Goods**

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Santiniketan Leather Goods are leather products made in Santiniketan and surrounding villages near Kolkata, West Bengal. The material used is vegetable tanned leather with art work done by touching dyeing. Its artistic leather bags are popular in foreign markets and are exported to many foreign countries like Japan and US. They are generally made of E.I. Leather (East India Leather) from sheepskin and goatskin. In 2007 it was registered under the GI Act 1999.

### **Nirmal Furniture**

Nirmal Furniture is furniture made in Nirmal, Adilabad, Telangana. It received Geographical Indication rights in 2009. It is handmade wooden furniture.

### **Tirukanur Papier Mache Craft**

Tirukanur Papier Mache Craft is a popular craft work in which is made of paper pulp coarsely meshed and mixed with copper sulphate and rice flour molded into the desired shape and always excellent in workmanship and design.

### **Kashmir Paper Mache**

Paper mache is one of the most beautiful handicrafts of Kashmir. The construction of paper mache products has two essential processes which involves making of the object and cleaning of forest pine Kaylier (one of the pine variety). It is believed that the craft has traveled from Iran to Kashsmir and was introduced by King Zainul Abidin. Iranian name of the craft is Kari Qalamdane which means a pen stand.



### Kashmir Walnut Wood Carving

Kashmir Walnut Wood Carving is wood carving work that is manufactured in the Jammu & Kashmir. *Juglans regia* tree that grows highly in Kashmir region, uses for wood carving, and Kashmir is one of a few places for availability of walnut trees. Walnut wood uses to make and carve tables, jewelry boxes, trays, etc

### Bobbili Veena

Bobbili Veena is a large plucked string instrument used in Carnatic classical music. The Veena is named after Bobbili, a place where it was invented. In 2011 the musical instrument got a Geographical Indication tag from the Government of India.

### Khatamband

Khatamband is an art of making ceiling, by fitting small pieces of wood (preferably walnut or deodar wood) into each other in geometrical patterns. The process is not done through machines but is painstakingly hand crafted and that too without using any nails.

### Chettinad Kottan

The Chettinad Kottan which is the traditional palm leaf basket, handmade tiles made in the village of Athangudi, the Kandanghi sari both in cotton and silk, the Chettinad lime-egg plaster and plastic baskets.

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### Thanjavur Veenai

Around 100 families from Viswakarma community residing in a small locality in Thanjavur city have been keeping the Veena-making art alive even after many of their people quit the profession. The Veenas are made from matured jackfruit tree wood brought from Panruti in Cuddalore district.

### Firozabad Glass

Glass is believed to have been brought to India by Muslim invaders. Firozabad developed as the centre for glass work, meeting the demand for chandeliers.

### Saharanpur Wood Craft

Wood carving is done entirely by hand. In Saharanpur, sheesham is generally the wood of choice, though teak, rosewood, walnut and mango are also used. Designs are first made on paper, and transferred onto the wood using ink.

### Varanasi Wooden Lacquerware & Toys

Varanasi wooden lacquerware & toys is an ancient craft, where the toys are made in wood with sets of birds, animals, orchestras, and dance ensembles available packed in boxes. These toys are gaily painted and typically Indian but not folk in design. Earlier sal or seesham was used in the making of the toys but due to increased prices, cheaper, lighter wood is now being used. The paints are bright and usually applied in primary colours. Varanashi wooden lacquerware & toys art is protected under Intellectual property rights after getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015.





### **Mysore Rosewood Inlay**

Mysore Rosewood Inlay covers a range of techniques used by artisans in around the area of Mysore in sculpture and the decorative for inserting pieces of contrasting, often coloured materials like ivory shells, mother-of-pearl, horn & Sandalwood into depressions in a rosewood object to form ornament or pictures that normally are flush with the matrix. These are manufactured in around the region of Mysore, these artifacts have been awarded Geographical Indication tag from the Government of India in 2005 due to its historic representation as an artifact depicting the region and the design and style used by the local artisans.

## **GI Protected Toys, Games and puppets**

GI Protected Toys, Games and puppets of India are as follows.

### **Channapatna Toys & Dolls**

Channapatna toys are a particular form of wooden toys (and dolls) that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Bangalore Rural district of Karnataka. This traditional craft is protected as a geographical indication (GI) under the World Trade Organization, administered by the Government of Karnataka. As a result of the popularity of these toys, Channapatna is known as Gombegala Ooru (toy-town) of Karnataka. Traditionally, the work involved lacquering the wood of the *Wrightia tinctoria* tree, colloquially called Aale mara (ivory-wood).

### **Kondapalli Bommallu**

Kondapally Toys are the toys made of wood in Kondapalli of Krishna district, a village nearby Vijayawada in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Bommala Colony translates to Toys Colony in Kondapalli is the place where the art of crafting takes place. These toys were one of the variety of toys assembled in the houses during the festivals of Sankranti and Navratri and is referred as Bommala Koluvu. The art of crafting is a 400 year old tradition.

### **Ganjifa Cards of Mysore (Karnataka)**

Mysore was a centre for Ganjifa card making, encouraged by the ruler Krishnaraja Wodeyar III in the mid-19th century. He devised a series of complex Ganjifa games, some requiring as many as 18 different suits, permanent trumps, and wild cards. A typical Chad suit had twelve numeral and six court cards, and packs had as many as 360 cards. They never achieved mass appeal and are quite obscure, possibly played only within his royal palace if at all. The games are described in the work called the *Sritattvanidhi*, in the section 'Kautuka nidhi', and colour illustrations show designs for the cards.

### **Nirmal Toys and Craft**

Nirmal toys are traditional Indian wooden toys made in the town of Nirmal in the Adilabad district in the newly formed state of Telangana in India. Nirmal Art, encompassing a 400-year-old tradition



of making soft wood toys and paintings, occupies a place of pride in the world of handicrafts. The finely carved figures and dainty paintings are still being used to decorate drawing rooms in thousands of homes across the country. The small town of Nirmal in Adilabad district of Telangana was once famous as a production centre of as diverse things as cannons and toys.

### **Leather Toys of Indore**

This art of creating life like animal statues from leather is practiced in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Craftsmen and their families practice this art of making toy from leather and create miniature to life size version of all types of animals, from horses, cows, and elephants, lions, tigers, and rhinos among others, to exotic creatures of the wild, like giraffes, zebras.

### **Kathputlis of Rajasthan**

The art of Rajasthan puppetry evolved in the Marwar region of Rajasthan among a community of agricultural labourers known as the Bhats. Because of their association with the art of string puppetry the people of this community are popularly known as puppeteers or 'Kathputliwaalas'. The age old tradition of puppetry or as known in the local language, Kathputlis became a part of the Rajasthani culture years ago and has survived the test of time.

### **Thanjavur Doll**

Thanjavur, formerly Tanjore, is a city in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Thanjavur doll is a type of traditional Indian booblehead or roly-poly trade made of terracotta material. The centre of gravity and total weight of the doll is concentrated at its bottom most central core all the time so as to present a dance like continuous movement with slow damping oscillation. It has been recognized as Geographical indication in 2008-09. It is made of terracotta material.

### **Andhra Pradesh Leather Puppetry**

Leather puppetry is a traditional art and one of the oldest art form in India. These are shadow puppets which are flat figures cut one of leather treated to a translucency. Leather show puppetry of Andhra Pradesh is known as Tholu Bommalata (Tholu-Leather, Bommalata-puppet dance). Two other kinds of shadow puppetry are practiced in Andhra Pradesh, the Sutram Bommalata (Sutram Bommalat) and Koyya Bommalata.

### **Villianur Terracotta Works**

The Villianur Terracotta Works are handicrafts made from fine green clay, fine sand and thennal which are hand made by villagers of Villianur, in the union territory Pondicherry. This handicraft product has been registered for protection under the Geographical indication of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement. These terracotta products are made in and around Villianur commune Panchayat of Pudhucherry. A specialty of Villianur terracotta, which is not possible with other terracotta works, is that they can be made to a height of 30 feet (9.1 m) and



moulded to any thickness.

### **Kinhal Toys**

Kinnal Craft or Kinhal Craft is a traditional wooden craft local to the town of Kinhal, or Kinnal, in Koppal District, North Karnataka. The town is famous for Kinhal toys and religious idols. This village is famous for Kinnal Craft. Recently this Craft has been granted Geographical Indication.

## **GI Protected Pottery of India**

GI Protected pottery and clay work of India are as follows

### **Blue Pottery of Jaipur**

Blue Pottery is widely recognized as a traditional craft of Jaipur, though it is Turko-Persian in origin. The name 'blue pottery' comes from the eye-catching blue dye used to color the pottery. Jaipur blue pottery, made out of a similar frit material to Egyptian faience, is glazed and low-fired. No clay is used: the 'dough' for the pottery is prepared by mixing quartz stone powder, powdered glass, Multani Mitti (Fuller's Earth), borax, gum and water. Another source cites Katira Gond powder (a gum), and saaji (soda bicarbonate) as ingredients. Some of this pottery is semi-transparent and mostly decorated with animal and bird motifs. Being fired at very low temperature makes them fragile. The range of items is primarily decorative, such as ashtrays, vases, coasters, small bowls and boxes for trinkets. The colour palette is restricted to blue derived from the cobalt oxide, green from the copper oxide and white, though other non-conventional colours, such as yellow and brown are sometimes included.

### **Molela Clay Work**

Molela is a small, non-descript village in the Rajsamand district of Rajasthan, situated on the banks of the river Banas. Molela clay is dug from the banks of local pond of the village. The distinction here lies in the terracotta plaques made here, only here all over India. Like most crafts, murtikala has been passed from generation to generation, through the sons of the family, evolving with each generation. Typically the women do the hard work of getting the clay ready while the men make the murtis and decorate them.

### **Khurja Pottery**

Khujara pottery is refer to art of making ceramic pottery at Khujara near Bulandshaher, UP. The baked clay pottery is said to have come to India with Taimur Lung as he passed through Khurja alongwith potters from Egypt and Syria during an easterly campaign over 500 years ago. The tradition of pottery in Khurja has been acknowledged by the Geographical Indication (GI) Registry of India by awarding a GI certificate in 2015.

### **Nizamabad Black Pottery**

Nizamabad black pottery is originated in Kutch region of Gujarat. The black clay pottery of



Nizamabad in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh, India is unique type of clay pottery known for its dark shiny body with engraved silver patterns. It is said to have been brought to Nizamabad during the reign of Mughals. It has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Government of India in 2014-15.

### GI Protected Paintings

The GI protected paintings are as follows:

#### **Mysore Traditional Paintings**

Mysore painting is an important form of classical South Indian painting that originated in and around the town of Mysore in Karnataka encouraged and nurtured by the Mysore rulers. Painting in Karnataka has a long and illustrious history, tracing its origins back to the Ajanta times (2nd century B.C. to 7th century A.D.) The distinct school of Mysore painting evolved from the paintings of Vijayanagar times during the reign of the Vijayanagar Kings (1336-1565 AD) .Mysore paintings are known for their elegance, muted colours, and attention to detail. The themes for most of these paintings are Hindu gods and goddesses and scenes from Hindu mythology.

#### **Thanjavur Paintings**

Thanjavur painting is a classical South Indian painting style, which was inaugurated from the town of Thanjavur and spread across the adjoining and geographically contiguous Tamil country. It has been recognized as a Geographical indication by the Government of India in 2007-08. Thanjavur paintings are characterised by rich, flat and vivid colors, simple iconic composition, glittering gold foils overlaid on delicate but extensive gesso work and inlay of glass beads and pieces or very rarely precious and semi-precious gems. In Thanjavur paintings one can see the influence of Deccani, Vijayanagar, Maratha and even European or Company styles of painting

#### **Madhubani Paintings**

Madhubani painting originated in a small village, known as Maithili, of the Bihar .Initially, the womenfolk of the village drew the paintings on the walls of their home, as an illustration of their thoughts, hopes and dreams. With time, the paintings started becoming a part of festivities and special events, like marriage. Slowly and gradually, the Madhubani painting of India crossed the traditional boundaries and started reaching connoisseurs of art, both at the national as well as the international level. The traditional base of freshly plastered mud wall of huts has now been replaced by cloth, handmade paper and canvas.

#### **Cheriyal Scroll Paintings**

Cheriyal Scroll Painting is a stylized version of Nakashi art, rich in the local motifs peculiar to the Telangana. They are at present made only in Hyderabad, Telangana, The scrolls are painted in a narrative format, much like a film roll or a comic strip, depicting stories from Indian mythology, and



intimately tied to the shorter stories from the Puranas and Epics. Painted in vivid hues, mostly primary colors, with a predominance of red in the background, the paintings are characterised by the unbridled imagination of the local artisans who were not constrained by the academic rigour that characterised the more classical Tanjore painting and Mysore painting. Cheriya scroll painting received Intellectual Property Rights Protection or Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2007.

### **Kangra Paintings**

Kangra painting is the pictorial art of Kangra, named after Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, a former princely state, which patronized the art. It became prevalent with the fading of Basohli school of painting in mid-18th century, and soon produced such a magnitude in paintings both in content as well as volume, that the Pahari painting school, came to be known as Kangra paintings.

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