

For millennia, **Indian handicrafts** have been an important component of India's rich cultural heritage. India has many distinct handicraft traditions, each with its own style, method, and aesthetic, owing to the country's vast and diverse terrain and long history of trade and commerce. **Indian handicrafts** are known for their beauty, craftsmanship, and attention to detail, ranging from the intricate embroidery of Lucknow to the delicate silk weaving of Varanasi, the ornate metalwork of Jaipur, and the vibrant ceramics of Rajasthan. Millions of artists across India depend on these traditional crafts for their livelihoods, making them significant contributors to India's economy and society. They also serve as a showcase of India's artistic talents. In this article, you will learn the difference between handlooms and handicrafts in India, a list of all types of handlooms and handicrafts in India, challenges faced, and social security schemes for handicrafts in India. To learn more about **the static GK** sections, visit the referenced page.

Basic Characteristics Handicrafts of India in Hindi

All the work required to create Indian handicrafts must be done by hand. The resulting products must have some artistic or aesthetic value. Take a look at the **difference between handicrafts and handlooms in India**.

handlooms of india	handicrafts of india
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yarn – It is a fine cord of twisted fibers (cotton, silk, wool or nylon, etc.) used in sewing and knitting. Loom - A loom is a machine used to spin yarn into cloth. Handloom – It is a process of weaving cloth from yarn using hand-operated machines. Power Loom – It is used to weave yarn into cloth through motor driven machines that use electricity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All items are handmade using simple tools. Handicrafts are made from stone, leather, wood, glass, bamboo, metal etc. These are used (mostly) for decorative purposes, including gifts and souvenirs, as well as for utility purposes.



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Handloom Mark

The Handloom Mark is a logo that can be stitched onto every handloom product. It guarantees the buyer that the product is handwoven and not manufactured using machinery/powerlooms. This logo was designed by the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad. The forms for the Handloom Mark are given below.

- Below the logo is written Home Products-Handloom.
- International Product - Logo with the words Handwoven in India written below it.

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Types and Importance of Handicrafts of India in Hindi

Handicrafts in India have a long history, passed down from generation to generation. These handicrafts are distinctive due to the variety of techniques used by artists across the country. From metalwork, ceramics, and woodcarving to weaving, embroidery, block printing, and dyeing, India boasts a range of traditional crafts that highlight the talent and inventiveness of its artisans. These methods are important for their social and economic impact and aesthetic value. Millions of people rely on them as a source of income, especially in rural areas where traditional crafts are still vital to the local economy. Additionally, handicrafts have cultural significance because they preserve old methods and patterns that represent the traditions, beliefs, and history of different peoples and places.

- **Art Metal Ware** – India's art works, such as enamel, engraving and filigree cutwork on silver and brass utensils, are the pride of India.
- **Wood Art Pots** – Wood carving in India has been famous for centuries and is considered one of the most primitive arts.
- **Hand-Printed Textiles** - India Textiles is known for its distinctive art, printed, and dyed cotton fabrics. Its creative processes have flourished for centuries as the textiles have received royal patronage.
- **Embroidery** - Embroidery is the process of decorating clothing and other items using needles and thread. Indian embroidered items have a distinctive and rich style.
- **Marble and soft stone crafts** – India's unique stonework is admired worldwide. It can be seen in various historical buildings across India.
- **Papier Mâché Crafts** - This craft developed during the Mughal period. It is still practiced today by many artisans across India.
- **Terracotta Zari and Zari Items** - Terracotta is a beautiful red glazed pottery with various designs. The art of molding terracotta items was prevalent during the Indus Valley Civilization.

- **Imitation and Fashion Jewelry** - India is one of the leading exporters of fashion jewelry. Indian jewelry is considered highly artistic. Simple motifs are imported from local sources and developed into artistic patterns.

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- **Leathercraft** is processed through various shaping and dyeing techniques to produce artisanal leather .
- **Handloom Weaving** - Lepcha women play a vital role in handloom weaving. Handloom products range from simple to intricate patterns.
- **Carpet weaving** – practiced by Bhutia women. This includes sofas, beds, walls, chairs, etc.
- **Blanket weaving** – Nepalese women do this work. It is usually woven from sheep wool.
- **Thangka Paintings** - Thangkas are religious scrolls hung in Buddhist monasteries and homes. These are basic life-like drawings. Thangkas are a visible symbol of a deity and provide a focal point for meditation.
- **Zari** - Zari is a uniform thread traditionally made of fine gold or silver used in traditional Indian, Pakistani, and Persian garments and other materials such as curtains. It is used extensively in clothing and home furnishings. Four types of zari are produced in India: real zari, semi-real zari, imitation zari, and plastic zari.
- **Carpets and rugs** - India is one of the world's leading producers of rugs. The various types of rugs produced in India include felted rugs, gabba (embroidered rugs), wood-pile rugs, and cotton rugs. Compared to rugs and carpets, durries are lighter, often reversible, and usually made of cotton. Durs are used daily in rural India. Durries have localized traditions in different parts of India.

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- **The textile** -handloom industry represents India's rich cultural and traditional heritage. India produces a wide range of products using a variety of fibers and varying amounts of yarn to produce a wide range of products.
- **Wood Carving** - Wood carving is an ancient craft practiced in India long before the era of primitive stone sculpture. It is the artistic practice of shaping and decorating wooden objects into a variety of useful and decorative handicraft items.
- **Stone Carving** - Stone carving is an ancient art that involves the controlled removal of stone to create rough natural stone pieces. India produces an exquisite array of artistic and decorative stone crafts.
- **Cane and Bamboo** – Cane and bamboo serve as substitutes for wood which takes longer to grow and is expensive. Cane is mainly used for making furniture, while bamboo is used for making ornaments and decorative utility items such as lamp-stands, umbrella handles, partitions, screens, flower pots, baskets, walking sticks, tool handles, fishing rods, tent poles, ladders, toys, fans, cups, mugs, mats, etc.
- **Filigree and Silverware** - Filigree is an extremely ancient technique dating back 4,000 years. Silver filigree work is a unique style. Filigree work is done on silver and requires considerable precision and technicality.
- **Pottery and Clay Artifacts** - Pottery is called the Song of Handicrafts because of its unique and universal appeal. India has a wide range of pottery and clay crafts. Some of the famous pottery types include blue, black and red, roulette, and soft red and brown ware.

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- **Terracotta** - Terracotta is similar to pottery; craftsmen use local riverbed clay to create lamps, candlesticks, figures of gods and animals, and more. Terracotta is a hard, moisture-proof, partially fired clay used for pottery. Terracotta is not made on a potter's wheel.
- **Horn and bone** - Horn and bone carving is the art form created by carving animal bones and often involves carving horns and antlers.

List of Handlooms and Handicrafts in India in Hindi

India has many different civilizations, and each region has different traditions of handicrafts and handlooms (Handlooms and Handicrafts in India in Hindi).

Indian handicrafts and handlooms showcase the ingenuity and craftsmanship of its artists, from the Muga silk of Assam to the vibrant Kutch embroidery of Gujarat and the exquisite wood carvings of Kashmir.

Similarly, handloom textiles from places like Banarasi silk of Varanasi, Chanderi silk of Madhya Pradesh and Kanchipuram silk of Tamil Nadu have become internationally renowned for their high quality and elaborate patterns.

India's rich cultural heritage and the talent and creativity of its artisans are reflected in the variety of its handicrafts and handlooms. In the table below, you can find a list of handicraft items along with the states they are produced in.

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handicraft items	State
Pochampally Ikat	Andhra Pradesh
Uppada Jamdani Saree	Andhra Pradesh
Muga silk	Assam
Sujini embroidery work of Bihar	Bihar
Champa Silk Sarees & Fabrics	Chattisgarh
Kutch embroidery	Gujarat
Tangaliya Shawl	Gujarat
Kullu Shawl	Himachal Pradesh
Chamba Rumal	Himachal Pradesh
Kinnauri Shawl	Himachal Pradesh
Kani Shawl	Jammu and Kashmir

Mysore Silk	Karnataka
Kasuti Embroidery	Karnataka
Ilkal Sarees	Karnataka
Navalgund Diaries	Karnataka
Molakalmuru Saree	Karnataka
Sandur Lambani Embroidery	Karnataka
Aranmula Kannada	Kerala
Balaramapuram sarees and fine cotton fabrics	Kerala
Kasargod Sarees	Kerala
Kuthampally Sarees	Kerala
Chanderi Fabric	Madhya Pradesh
Solapur Chadar	Maharashtra
Solapur Terry Towel	Maharashtra

Paithani Sarees and Fabrics	Maharashtra
Kotpad Handloom Fabric	Odisha
Orissa Ikat	Odisha
Kota Doria	Rajasthan
Salem Textiles	Tamil Nadu
Kanchipuram Silk	Tamil Nadu
Salem silk is known as Salem Venpattu	Tamil Nadu
Kovai Blank Cotton	Tamil Nadu
Arni silk	Tamil Nadu
Banaras brocades and saris	Uttar Pradesh
Handmade carpet of Bhadohi	Uttar Pradesh
Santipur Sarees	West Bengal
Art Metalware/Metal Crafts	Moradabad, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh

Hand-printed textiles and carpets	Jaipur
Wood Crafts	Jodhpur, Saharanpur
Carpets, embroidery	Srinagar and Anantnag
hand printed textiles	Jaipur and Barmer, Farukhabad, Bagh
carpet	Bhadoli, Mirzapur
Zari and Zardozi	Agra, Varanasi, Bareilly and Surat
Lace and crochet supplies	Narsapur
imitation Jewellery	Delhi, Jaipur
Lacquer Crafts	Channapatna and Varanasi
Dhokra Craft	Bastar
stone carving	Mahabalipuram, Bhubaneshwar, Agra and Varanasi, Jaipur
Applique work	Puri, Ahmedabad and Kutch
Tie & Dye/Batik Craft	Puri, Jaipur, Bhuj and Pochampalli

Social Security for Handloom & Handicrafts Sector

The handloom and handicraft sector faces stiff competition from machine-based crafts. Without the government's assurance of social security, it is difficult to sustain this centuries-old rich tradition. Below are some schemes for this purpose.

- Mahatma Gandhi Weavers Insurance Scheme
- Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) for Weavers.
- Babasaheb Ambedkar Handicrafts Development Scheme (AHVY)

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Special Schemes for Handloom Sector in Hindi

The Government of India and the respective state governments have launched special schemes for the handloom sector, specifically to provide them with some incentives for their craft. Some of these schemes are listed below:

- Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF)
- Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS)
- Mill Gate Price Scheme
- Marketing Promotion Program

Strength of Handloom & Handicrafts Sector

However, the machine-based craft industry has largely taken over this sector. The handloom and handicraft sector has some strengths that encourage artisans to pursue it. Some of these strengths are listed below:

- Availability of abundant and cheap labour.
- Use of local resources
- low capital investment
- Unique Craftsman Ship
- As a low carbon footprint industry (using natural and organic materials), it also has environmental benefits.

Challenges Faced by Handicraft & Handloom Sector

The handicraft and handloom sector faces numerous challenges. These challenges have made it difficult for artisans to sustain their businesses and survive in a market where cheap, machine-made products are available. Some of the challenges facing the handicraft and handloom sector are listed below:

- Raw material is not available at reasonable prices.
- Due to infrastructural problems, government schemes remain only on paper.
- Thus, this sector cannot compete with machine-made products because they lack marketing, management and sales expertise.
- There is no coordination between government agencies responsible for the handloom, handicraft, khadi and cottage industry sectors.
- The role of women in the handloom industry is largely unknown.

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Therefore, the Indian handicraft/handloom industry is distinguished in terms of infrastructure, policy landscape, government support, business strategy, and industry definition. This has both advantages and disadvantages for India. The advantage lies in job creation, and the disadvantage lies in low-cost production. Although the government is taking several measures to address this, more needs to be done to develop systems and provide strategic direction and action plans so that the industry can grow and survive in this competitive era of globalization.

As you study for your exams, we hope this article has given you a better understanding of India's handicrafts and how they work. Download **the Testbook App** for live quizzes, test series, and mock exams , and sign up for Testbook SuperCoaching for professional advice and resources. Remember that studying for exams requires commitment, effort, and focus. Make the most of all the tools available to improve your knowledge and abilities. Good luck studying for your exams.

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