**What is handicraft?**

An activity involving the making of decorative objects by hand is called Handicraft. India is a country very famous for handicrafts. They are also very important in India in terms of economic development of the country. Here are a few states of India that are famous for its handicrafts.

**1. Gujrat**

The state of Gujrat is famous for its-

* Beadwork
* Bandhani
* Woodwork
* Zari
* Patola
* Clay Work
* Leather Handcraft
* Hand Block Printing
* Patchwork and Applique
* Tangaliya Work
* Rogan Painting
* Rabari Embroidery
* Khavda Pottery Craft
* Embroidery Work
* Home Decor Art

**Beadwork**

Beadwork or bead craft is an integral part of Gujrati handicraft. It is the art of making traditional decorative products with beads. The origin of this handicraft comes from the Gujrati districts of Saurashtra and Khambhat. Beadwork is also one of the oldest types of crafts is India. It includes a wall piece, cushion covers, plate covers, jug covers, vases, table mats and many more items. Nylon thread is significantly used to make the bead craft because nylon thread is strong enough to hold the beads. This craft includes joining two or three together in creating the products.

**Bandhani**

Bandhani, also known as Bandhej or Tie-Dye is a traditional Gujrati clothing style. It’s a special dyeing technique to produce design on a cloth. The word Bandhani comes from the word ‘Bandhan’ which means tying up. The best Bandhani is produced from the Gujrati district of Kutch. Bandhani garbs are made in many styles and patterns, each of different design.

**Woodwork**

Woodwork is a popular hand skill of Gujrat. Bhavnagar district is a hub for Gujrati woodwork. Sandalwood (Sandli) woodwork takes years of experience to make. Woodwork includes photo frame, porch wing, bridal chest, jewellery chest, serving spoon and furniture. Gujrati woodwork is loved all over the world.

**Zari**

Zari plays an important role Indian bridal dresses. It uses a thread to do embroidery. It is a decorative element. It comes from the city of Surat. It comes in three colours such as golden, silver and copper. According to historians, the fashion of Zari comes from the Mughal era. They preferred it to make royal outfits. The best-known Zari embroideries are Salma, Katori, Tiki, Chalak and Kangari. It is used to make clothes for both men and women and is practicing across India.

**Patola**

Patola a is handmade saree made by the dyeing technique of double ikat. They are very expensive and are used to be worn by royal families. The artwork comes from Patan, Gujrat. It takes approximately 6 months to one year to make because the dyeing process takes a long time. The saree in becoming renowned in Indonesia. There are only three families in Patan who make Patola sarees.

**Clay Work**

Gujrat is known for its terracotta Clay Work. Earlier, the ladies in Kutch district used to embellish their homes with terracotta clay with hands. Lippam Kaam is another name for Clay Work, also meaning adoring things with hands. Once the craft is done, it takes it three to five days to dry. One can model wet clay into any size and shape. The art designs are usually seen in traditional forms like a peacock, camel, mango tree, flowers, women, brides and many more. The art produces decorative and traditional items such as plates, bowls, handis, lanterns, wall piece and sculptures.

**Leather Handcraft**

The origin of Leather Handcraft comes from Kutch regions of Gujrat. These items are mostly produced by the Gujrati Meghawal community. Bhujodi village is famous for leather handcrafts. Leathercraft is primary used to produce saddles, armours, shields and swords. In contemporary times, wonderful items with leather include footwear, bags, cushion covers, and artifacts. Leather Handcraft is famous in Gujrat because Narsi Bhai Bijlani, the master of Leather Handcraft moved from Pakistan to Gujrat after partition.

**Hand Block Printing**

Hand Block Printing is a historical Gujrati craft. Gujrat is the biggest and oldest centre for this craft. Flowers, leaves, stems and trees and the most common designs in this art. Different designs belong to different districts of Gujrat. These include vegetable print from Kutch and Desa, Batik prints from Bhojpur and Saudagiri prints from villages of Kutch region. The products made with hand block printing include ladies’ suits, men’s kurta, bed sheets, pillow covers and wall decorative pieces.

**Patchwork and Applique**

Patchwork and Applique are stitching techniques for creating and embroidered piece of cloth. Kutch is the origin of this craft. Banaskantha district of Gujrat is famous for Patchwork and Applique. Dark coloured threads, beads, mirrors and other adornments important aspects of this craft.

**Tangaliya Work**

Tangaliya Work or Daana specializes in shawls and creating textiles for dress material. The Gujrati native community of Dangasia began this craft 7 centuries ago. Surendranagar district of Gujrat is the home of Tangaliya Work. Tangaliya shawls are one of the most famous crafts of Gujrat. The Tangaliya material includes home decor pieces and ladies clothing.

**Rogan Painting**

Rogan Painting or Rogan Printing captures the true spirit of cultural India. The Khatri community of Kutch regions are famous for this art. Although it derives from Iran, Gujrat is the leading way for Rogan Painting in India. Niruna village in the Bhuj district is the mainspring of a Rogan handcraft. The paintings take a level of mastery to come up with brilliant work.

**Rabari Embroidery**

Rabari Embroidery comes from the Kutch district of Gujrat. It was created by the women of the Rabari tribe. Dhebar and Kachi are the most common types of Rabari Embroidery. This handwork has its place in each and every part of the world.

**Khavda Pottery Craft**

The origin of Khavda Pottery Craft comes from the North Kutch district of Gujrat. Earlier people used this to make domestic items such as cooking pots, castles, plates and so on. Today, diya, pots, vases and other showpieces are popular pottery crafts.

**Embroidery Work**

Gujrati embroidery work is one of the most famous handicrafts across the world. The origin of this craft comes from the Gujrati district of Kutch. It includes handbags, clutches, cloths, wall pieces, table mats, footwear and cushion cover.

**Home Decor Art**

Home Decor Art is a Gujrati handicraft that is adored all over the world. Home Decor Art includes wall hanging, door hanging, wall piece, table cloths, cushion covers and much more.

**External Links**

Famous Handicrafts of Gujrat State in India-

<https://www.desiblitz.com/content/famous-handicrafts-of-gujarat-state-in-india>

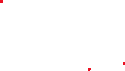
**2- Rajasthan**

The state of Rajasthan is famous for its-

* Blue Pottery
* Ivory Jewellery
* Puppet
* Stone Carving
* Rajasthani Paintings



* Dhurrie
* Lac Bangles
* Kundan



* Rajasthani Razai
* Meenakari
* Mojaris
* Metalcraft

**Blue Pottery**

The origin of this famous craft comes from Jaipur, Rajasthan. It originally has a Turko-Persian background. Its size and shape take influence from Chinese pottery. These pottery items are usually embellished with animals, birds and flower motifs. Handicrafts that are commonly made with pottery include a flower vase, ashtray, small bowls and ports.

**Ivory Jewellery**

The hub of Ivory Jewellery is Jaipur. The material comes from an elephant’s trunk. Ivory jewellery is very strong and it does not crack easily. Ivory is very old. When metal was not around, men made weapons using ivory. And that’s a long time ago. Ivory is considered as a luxurious item as it is expensive.

**Puppet**

Puppet or Kathputli is a very old handicraft that is a thousand years old. It is completely made up of wood. Another word for it is Kathputli. Kath means wood and Putli means no life. The roots of this craft are from Nagaur, Rajasthan.

**Stone Carving**

This craft exists from 7th century BCE. Rajasthan is a centre for stone carvers because this state is naturally wealthy in marbles, granites, slates, quartzite and other rocks.

**Rajasthani Paintings**

Rajasthani Painting is a famous handicraft. The craft mostly derives from the Rajputs. The Rajputs wanted to adorn their palaces with beautiful paintings. These paintings are narrating the history of Rajasthan as times are changing.

**Dhurrie**

Dhurrie is a thick and flat handwoven rug that Indians use to cover the floor or sit and sleep. They are used for large political and social gatherings and are quite comfortable. These carpets were first manufactured in the 17th century in Rajasthan. In areas such as Bikaner and Jaisalmer, Dhurries are made from cotton yarn. In the Tonk region, namadhs or felted rugs are produced.

**Lac Bangles**

Lac Bangles are a speciality of Rajasthan. These bangles are considered auspicious in many parts of India. Different colours of these bangles are significant on different special occasions. For example, pink bangles are worn on Holi festival and gulali chooda or red bangles are worn on the wedding day.

**Kundan**

Kundan is a traditional Indian gem and used in heavy piece of jewellery. The story of Kundan traces its roots to the Rajasthani royal times. Due to its magnificent look, Indian queens wore it too. The hub of this craft is Jaipur, Rajasthan.

**Rajasthani Razai**

Rajasthani Razai is a high-quality silk quilt. It has demand in both India and worldwide. Jaipur is the hub of Rajasthani Razai. Rajasthani artists paint the whole quilt with their hands, that too with natural colours which makes this quilt even more unique.

**Meenakari**

Meenakari is an ancient and fascinating Indian jewellery tradition. Raj Man Singh of Mewar, Rajasthan was regarded as the patron of this art in the 1500s. It is also a symbol of culture and tradition.

**Mojaris**

Mojaris or Jutis are handmade footwear with exquisite embroidery. The hubs of Mojaris are Jaipur and Jodhpur. However, the patterns of Mojaris may vary from district to district. Mojaris are popular among locals and travellers who visit India.

**Metalcraft**

The metalcraft of Rajasthan showcases the classical history of regal culture and traditions. Items produced with this craft include table boxes, antiques, figurines and brass art. Most popular metal product styles include Bichi, Chikan and Matori but the most favoured one is Theva. Pratapgarh, Rajasthan is practicing this craft for a long time. Metalcraft is said to be 400 years old.

<https://www.desiblitz.com/content/12-best-traditional-crafts-of-rajasthan-in-india>