

## Unit 10

### TRADITIONAL TEXTILES OF INDIA

#### Remember

- Please tell the names of the Textile fibres.
- Which Textile fibres are famous of the various part of India?
- At which occasions are the traditional clothes used.

The present chapter is an endeavor to represent our glorious textile traditions from our rich collection from different regions and diverse communities of the Indian subcontinent. India has evidence of dyed and woven textiles found at Mohenjo-Daro about 5000 yrs ago, which proves that the people had both the knowledge as well as the art of dyeing and weaving fabrics.

#### Can you tell?

- Where are fabrics manufactured?
- In the past how the fabrics was manufactured?
- Have you seen “A Handloom”?

#### Internet My Friend

Find out information regarding Handloom and various terms used like warp, weft, selvedge. Also collect information regarding various traditional looms used in India.

#### ● Handlooms Means Handwoven Fabrics

Handloom textiles constitute a timeless fact of the rich cultural heritage of India. As an Economic Activity, the handloom sector occupies a place second to agriculture

in providing livelihood to the people. It is estimated that handloom industry provides employment to 65 lakh workforce directly and indirectly and there are about thirty five lakhs looms spread all over India.

The production of Indian Handloom fabrics is estimated to be approximately 6947 millions sq. mtrs. and the contribution of handloom to the total cloth/textile production is estimated to be about 16%.

The Handloom industry in India is best known for its distinctiveness, style, traditionalism and modern technology. Each and every state in India has the capability of boasting innovative printing, weaving, embroidery and designing trends.

Handloom industry is significant because of the use of fine textured fabrics, exclusively beautiful woven patterns and design, trendy outlook intricate motifs.

All Handlooms Products/fabrics are spun with hand spindles and small shuttles filled with coloured, gold or silver thread passed through the wrap as required manually.

A land of variety in every sense – India has so much to offer from the array of interesting customs, traditions and festivals that every state has its own cultural unique fabric and every region has its own handloom Techniques that are used to weave many amazing fabrics.

***Do you know:***

- *Various types of Indian fabrics represent the culture of the India.*
- *The person who may be ultramodern will wear traditional garments at the time of traditional ceremonies.*
- *Today traditional garments are preferred over modern garments.*
- *Even in fashion shows, now a day's traditional fabrics are reintroduced.*

## 10.1 KASHMIR - PASHMINA

“PASHMINA” SHAWLS are famous from Kashmir even in the times of Emperor Ashok (3<sup>rd</sup> B.C.). Sultan Zain-UL-Abiddin (1420-1470 A.D.) has initiated the shawl industry in Kashmir.

The Pashmina word came from Persian word “Pashn” meaning soft and silky. The Pashmina shawls are hand woven with a high quality of wool that is obtained from the Pashmina goat.

Pashmina shawls are embroidered by silk and staple threads. They are soft, silky and warm fleece, elegant and dignified, sober and pure that resembles the clean white tops of the Himalayan ranges. Pashmina shawls are shoulder mantle which were worn by the kings and Queens since

ancient times and since then it has been used in India in a variety of forms by rich and the Middle class as a protective garment against the biting cold.

**Motifs Used:** - are usually formalized imitations of the leaf of chinara tree found in the high altitudes, apple blossoms, the almond, the tulip and occasionally the fruits of the mountains and the birds also are used with delicate flowers.

**Colours Used:** -The Pashmina shawls found in natural white and off white colours. They are also found in yellow, black, blue, purple, crimson and scarlet colours after dyeing.

Other famous shawls found are Jamiavars, Do-rukka or Doshala (Twin Shawls).



**Picture No. 10.1 Pashaina of Kashmir**



Picture No. 10.1 Pashaina of Kashmir



## 10.2 UTTARPRADESH BROCADES

The special occasion sarees from Banaras are called **“BROCADES”**.

The sarees are woven in pure silk wrap and weft on handlooms. They are heavy in weight.

The Brocade Sarees are decorated and woven with elaborate design in border, body and pallu with Zari threads.

**Motifs** Commonly used are: - Elephant, Parrot, Floral, Standing couple, Mahabharata Scenes Horse and Riders, Kalash etc.

**Colors** Used are of golden or silver zari and nowadays of metallic threads with maroon, blue, green, or bright colours.



Pic. No. 10.2 Brocades

## 10.3 WEST BENGAL - JAMDANI

Jamdani is a wedding Saree of West Bengal. It is derived from Dacca Muslims with the woven-in Pattern known as “Jamdani”.



Picture No. 10.3 (a) Jamdani



Jamdani is woven in fine cotton yarn and rarely in silk yarns.

**Motifs Used:** - Flowers are figures and elaborate designs are woven in the entire pallu.

**Colors used:** - Golden, Yellow, Red and White, Purple and Blue.

- **BALUCHARI :**

“Baluchari or Buttedar” are silk sari from Murshidabad from West Bengal.

They are Traditional silk saree with floral and geometrical silk brocaded design.

**Motifs:** - Stylised trees, mango, man riding a horse, swan etc.

**Colors:** - Dark red and blue.



Picture No. 10.3 (b) Jamdani

## 10.4 ORISSA - IKAT

The common handloom weaving centers of Orissa are Sonpur, Butapalli and Navpatna.

“IKAT” Sarees are the handloom sarees of Orissa. Ikat Sarees is a made through a process of tie-dyeing the wrap and weft threads to create the design on the loom before weaving, it forms feathered edges and a hazy fragile appearance.

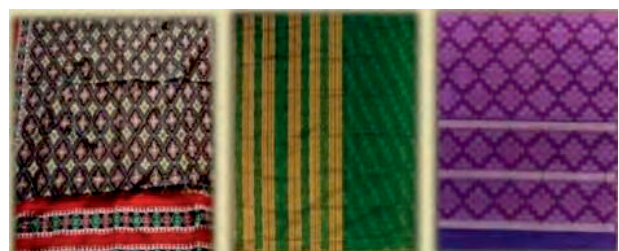


Pic. No. 10.4 (a) Ikat

These sarees are woven in pure mercerized cotton with multi colored designs.

**MOTIFS USED:** Birds, fish, flowers, animals, shankh, geometric, Shell etc. and the layout is well planned with a woven borders and pallu. The floral and butta design are repeated throughout the body.

**Colors Used :** For Ikat textile, Black, Red, Violet, Yellow & magenta colours are used. Sometimes for both borders & body portions pastel colours are used.

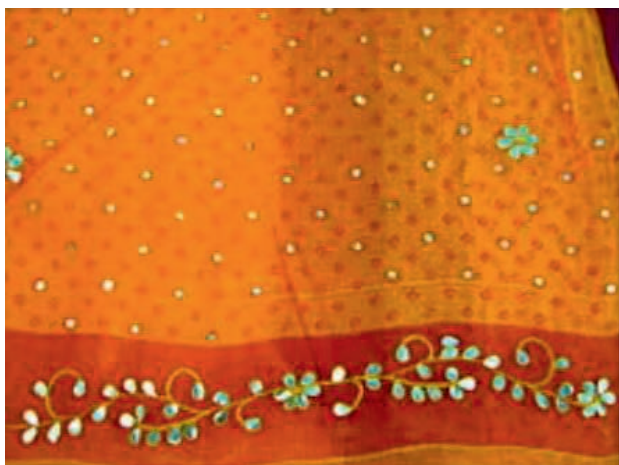


Picture No. 10.4 (b) Ikat

## 10.5 RAJASTHAN - KOTA - DORIYA

“KOTA DORIYA” is one of the woven sarees made at Kota district in Rajasthan. These Sarees are made of pure cotton and silk threads. The chequered weave of a kota sari is very popular. They are very fine weaves and weigh very less.

KOTA DORIA is woven on a traditional pit loom in such a way that it produces square checks pattern on the fabric known as Khats.



Picture No. 10.5 Kota Doria

DORIA mean thread.

They smear onion juice and rice paste with lot of care into the yarn making the yarn so strong that no additional finishing is needed.

**Colors Used:** They are dyed in bright colors like orange, pink, yellow, green etc.

## 10.6 MAHARSHTRA - PAITHANI

Paithani saree took its name from a place called PAITHAN.

This sari is made of silk with an ornamental zaripallav and border. (gold and silver threads).

**Motifs Used:** traditional Vines and flowers, shapes of fruits and stylized forms of birds are used in this saree.

**The Tota : Maina** motif or Muniya symbolizes parrot sign of love and passion. The lotus or kamalpashpa is a motif which resembles murals of Ajanta caves.

The traditional coconut border (Narali) known as Sripthal is the fruit of God, coconut tree or kalpavriksha, and geometrical figures are used.

**Colors used:-** Mostly Red, Black, Yellow, Purple colours are used.



Picture No. 10.6 Paithani



## 10.7 GUJRAT - PATOLA

“PATOLA” is a famous wedding saree in Gujrat.

These Sarees are also woven by using tie and dye techniques in the design in the wrap and weft threads while weaving.

This saree is also known as “DOUBLE IKAT SAREE”



Picture No. 10.7 Patola

**Motifs Used:** - are stylized animals like elephant, camels, tigers, birds, flowers in symmetrical motifs, dancing women and pen.

**Colors Used:** bright red, orange, deep red, navy blue, yellow, green, violet, off white.

## 10.8 KARNATAKA - IRKAL

“IRKAL” Saree is a traditional form of 9 yards’ saree which takes its name from a town ilkal in the bagalkot district of Karnataka.

Irkal sarees are woven in either cotton, pure silk or a mixture of cotton and art silk threads.



Picture No. 10.8 (a) Irkal

**Motifs Used:-** Are traditional patterns like palanquins, elephant and lotuses.

The designs and patterns are divided in 2 parts: -Pallu and Border.

**Pallu :-** The pallu part which falls on the shoulders carry motifs of “Temple Towers”

The end region of the pallu is made up of patterns of different shapes like Hanige (comb), kotikammli (fort ramparts), toputene (tower) and rampa (mountains).



**Picture No. 10.8 (b) Irkal**

**Border:-** The border of the saree is very broad made of ochre patterns.

**Colors used:-** The traditional colors used are red, maroon, pomegranate red, brilliant peacock green, parrot green, only bridal wear is made of color called GiriKumkum.

## 10.9 TAMILNADU - KANCHIVARAM

“KANCHIVARAM” Saree are famous from a town called Kanchipuram 74 km away from Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

It is woven in pure silk saree with golden Zari and silver Zari Threads.



**Picture No. 10.9 Kanchivaram**

**Motifs and Designs:** Specialty of this Saree is solid border, solid body, solid pallu and small butta designs are used all over the body with golden and zari threads

**Colors:** used are solid colors of the same threads or contrasting colors in the border.

Mostly green and red, blue and pink, orange and purple colors are used.

## 10.10 KERALA - BALARAMAPURAM

“BALARAMAPURAM” Sarees are woven sarees of Kerala well known for its quality and variety.

These sarees are woven 5.5 mt long and 1.2 mt wide narrow fabric worn by ladies, Kuthampully sarees, Balaramapuram Sarees are woven on Thiruvananthapuram district and use of pure zari for border designs. They are woven on traditional looms.



**Motifs Used:** are peacocks, diamond shapes or stylized forms of elephants and geometrical shapes.

**Colors used:-** white or off white colors with woven gold bands on the borders and pallu.



**Picture No. 10.10 Balarapuram**

**Internet my friend:**

Obtain the detailed information regarding traditional clothes and present in the class.

**EXERCISE**

**Objective Type Questions**

**I. Match the following pairs :**

A		B	
1.	Paithani	a)	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Irkal	b)	Gujarat
3.	Pashmina	c)	South India
4.	Patola	d)	Maharashtra
5.	Brocades	e)	Rajasthan
		f)	Karnataka
		g)	Kashmir

**II. State True or False**

1. Banarasi Brocades are light in weight.
2. Jamdani Sarees are woven in cotton fibers.
3. Ilkal Sarees are 9 yards'saree.
4. Kota Doriya Sarees have round patters known as khats.
5. Peacock motif with a bangle is common n Kanchipuram sarees.
6. Patola is a traditional saree of Kerala.
7. Kanchivaram Sarees have a bold border and bold palluj.
8. Balaramapuram Sarees are black in color with golden borders.



## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- **Select and write the most appropriate answer from the given alternatives for each subquestions:**

1. IRKAL Sarees is a traditional form of \_\_\_\_\_ Saree of Karnataka.  
a) 4 yards   b) 9 yards   c) 5.5 yards
2. The pure cotton Sarees of Orissa is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Patola   b) Ikat   c) Irkal
3. The Bangle Peacock motif is very common in \_\_\_\_\_ sarees.  
a) Paithani  
b) Jamdadi  
c) Kanchivaram.
4. The famous wedding saree of Gujarat is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Kanchivaram  
b) Paithani  
c) Patola
5. The speciality of \_\_\_\_\_ sari is a solid border, solid body, solid pallu and small butla designs all over the body with golden zari threads.  
a) Balampuram  
b) Kanchivaram  
c) Baluchari
4. Name the South Indian Sarees
5. Name the pattern of Kota Doriya
6. Name the shawl found in Kashmir
7. Name the place where brocades are woven
8. Name 2 handloom centre of Orissa
9. Name the village where Paithani Saree is Woven
10. Name the Saree of Rajasthan
11. Name the traditional 9 yard saree of Karnataka
12. Name the white Saree with golden border found in Kerala
13. Name the famous silk sare of South India

## Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Classify the sarees of the states :**

**A) Western states**

**B) Eastern states**

- (i) Jamdani
- (ii) Patola
- (iii) IKAT
- (iv) Paithani
- (i) Gujarati
- (ii) Maharashtra
- (iii) Rajasthan
- (iv) Orissa

2. **Write Short Notes on :**

1. Describe the Pashmina Shawls (Motifs and colors)
2. Explain Brocades of Uttar Pradesh
3. Explain the Weaving pattern of Kora Doriya

## IV. Answer in one word only :-

1. Name the saree of Kerala
2. Name the color used for weaving Jamdani Sarees
3. Name of the handloom sarees of Orissa

**3. Give the difference between :**

1. Ikkal Sarees and Patola Sarees.
2. Kanchivaram Sarees and Balarampuram Sarees.
3. Jamdani and Baluchari Sarees

**LONG ANSWER**

1. Explain any 2 state handloom Sarees.
2. Write about the Handloom Industry of India.
3. Describe the Paithani Sarees found in Maharashtra.

**FIELD WORK**

- Visit Handloom centres of your city or area of any.

**PROJECT / SELF STUDY**

- Collect small samples/ picture of the different other handloom articles of different states.

