



Glossary

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Aba	– Tunic/kurti worn by muslim women over trousers.
Aari	– A small awl or tambour hook with a notch used to embroider in chain stitch.
Abhla	– Glass mirrors
Achkan	– Men's sherwani or tunic with front opening.
Ahir	– A caste of Hindu pastoralists and farmers from Kutch region known for their embroideries.
Amli	– A hooked needle
Amlikar	– Needle work kashmiri shawl, a concept given by Armenian buying agent Khwaja Yusuf in 1803.
Amru/Amroo	– Brocades without any metal thread work.
Anguthi	– Ring
Ari jhari	– Diagonal motifs
Asharfi	– Gold coins
Badla	– Flattened gold or silver wire.
Bafta	– A silk and zari work brocade of lighter material and less heavy ornamentation, also known as pothan.
Bagh	– (garden) Fully embroidered with silk floss covering the khaddar background, Punjabi women's shawl usually worn at weddings and at some other ceremonial occasions.
Bakhia	– Herringbone stitch
Baluchari	– A type of silk brocade sari produced in Murshidabad district of West Bengal with elaborate supplementary weft motifs in the pallu.



Bandhani	– The Gujarati word for resist technique of tie and dye, also known as bandhej in Rajasthan.
Bandi	– A short jacket or waistcoat usually sleeveless worn over the kurta by men.
Banjaras	– A north Indian nomadic tribe reputed to have moved to south to the deccan plateau. Traditionally by caste their occupation was carting but now they are classified as gypsies. Banjara women are known for their intricately colorful folk embroidery.
Bel	– A stylized creeper pattern.
Bundi	– Simple fine dot motif created by bandhani(resist dyeing technique).
Buti	– Small floral design in textiles.
Chandrokhani	– Tie and dyed veil in black and red color traditionally worn by muslim brides on their wedding day. The patterning consists of a big medallion in the centre with four smaller medallions in the corner with wide borders.
Chatai	– Mat
Chaupad	– Chess
Chope	– A phulkari shawl made by the maternal grandmother of a Punjabi girl for gift at her wedding. The chope is embroidered with a type of darning stitch with pat yarns so that the design will appear identical on both the sides of the shawl.
Chikankari	– White embroidery from Lucknow, predominantly floral patterns, executed on fine white cotton fabric with untwisted threads of white cotton or silk.
Chintz	– Glazed calico textiles, printed with designs featuring flowers and other patterns in various colours, typically on a light plain background, those imported from India during British rule.
Choga	– Men's coat
Choli	– A woman's tight-fitting blouse or bodice usually worn with lehenga (skirt).
Chunari	– A fine tie-dyed dotted pattern, a veil worn by women in Rajasthan.
Dabbi	– Tiny box motif created by bandhani technique.
Dabka	– Zigzag coiled thin wire usually in silver and gold used for zardozi embroidery.
Dabu	– Mud-resist hand-block printing practiced in Rajasthan.



Daraz	– Appliqué in Chikankari where two panels are joined together so as to create a overlapped area.
Datta	– Block used for mud resisting.
Dharmachakra	– 8 fold paths given by Lord Buddha for right ways of living.
Dhoti	– An unstitched rectangular length of cotton cloth(approximately 4 yards long) used by hindu men to drape the lower body.
Dori	– A cord
Dupattas	– An unstitched length of material for the upper body traditionally draped by women over the shoulders as well as head.
Eent	– Brick
Eri	– A type of wild silk produced in Assam and other North Eastern states.
Gabbas	– Inferior quality patch worked floor coverings
Gad	– Block used for filling of pattern in block printing.
Gamocha	– A shoulder cloth woven by women in Assam to present as gift to their beloved on the occasion of bihu. These are white in color with red extra weft weave patterns at both ends which has stylized form of birds, animals, flowers, foliage and geometric motifs.
Ganga Jamuna	– The juxtaposition of silver and gold in a woven pattern, named after the confluence of dark and light waters of the two sacred rivers.
Gara	– Parsi sari
Gavanti	– Double running stitches in counted thread embroidery (Kasuti) of Karnataka.
Geru	– Red colored earth
Gharchola	– Red cotton/silk sari with a grid like checkerboard pattern of gold and silver brocade work in which are set bandhej patterns of various motifs, worn by Gujarati brides on their wedding.
Ghaghra	– A flared gathered skirt worn by women.
Gizai	– Circular thin wire which can be put on the fabric through couching in zardozi embroidery.
Gota	– A metallic bad or ribbon made of metal or a fancy lace used on the edges of odhni/dupattas etc.
Gyasar	– Satin woven brocade fabrics for Buddhist monasteries.



Haldi-kumkum	– Yellow and red colour depicting turmeric and vermillion.
Halwaan	– Lightly embroidered finer khaddar fabric used for daily wear by newly married women in Punjab.
Himroo	– A cotton and Silk brocade woven in Aurangabad in Maharashtra.
Hool	– Eyelet or buttonhole embroidery.
Ikat	– Yarn resisting technique where patterns are created by the tie-dyeing of warp and weft threads before weaving which produces a typical hazy pattern; practiced in Gujarat, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.
Jala	– A small wooden frame used by master craftsmen, on which threads are tied to form a grid of the warp and weft outlining the design of the weave.
Jali	– An openwork pattern in chaikankari.
Jama	– A long kurta worn by men.
Jamawars	– Woven kashmiri shawl by twill tapestry technique with the help of wooden spools where the weft threads form the pattern.
Jamdani	– Fabric of fine cotton muslin woven at and near Dhaka (Bangladesh) and also at tandoor (UP) and at Varanasi.
Jhabla	– A simple dress with draw string neckline worn by infants and small children.
Kachcho	– Embroidery which is not very strong because of interlaced stitches.
Kalam	– Pen like instrument made of either bamboo or iron with felt like reservoir near the tip, used for drawing out the designs or applying the wax resists for kalamkari.
Kalabatun	– Zari thread which consists of finely drawn gold, silver or base metal thread, wound across a silk thread.
Kali	– A gored panel
Kanchali	– A bodice/blouse worn in Western India.
Kangura	– Fortress wall projections
Kantha	– Cotton coverlet embroidered by women of Bengal on quilted layers of old discarded saris and dhotis.
Karchob	– A rectangular wooden frame used for support in zardozi embroidery.
Kalkas	– Ornate paisley pattern



Katab	– Gujarati term for appliqué.
Kasab	– A zari dhaga used in zardozi embroidery.
Keri	– Paisley/mango pattern
Khaddar	– Handspun, hand woven cotton cloth
Khatri	– A caste of professional muslim dyers.
Kinkhab	– Heavy silk brocaded with silver and gold fabric, produced in Varanasi often used for robes and furnishings.
Kori	– Cowrie shell pattern created by <i>bandhani</i> technique.
Korvai	– Silk saris with solid brocaded borders woven on a throw shuttle pit loom with a drawboy harness in Tamil Nadu.
Kunjar	– Elephant pattern (Gujarati term)
Kurta	– Also known as tunic/ <i>Kameez</i> is a loose, stitched garment worn by men and women.
Laddu	– Sweetmeat pattern created by <i>bandhani</i> technique.
Lehenga	– Long skirt worn by women.
Leheriya	– (waves) A wrap resist dyeing technique of Rajasthan which results in a multi striped diagonal or zigzag pattern on sheer fabric.
Lipai	– Multi colored resist dot pattern created by dabbling/localized dyeing technique in Rajasthan.
Lungi	– Man's sarong-like unstitched lower drape usually used in south India.
Mashru	– (mixed or permitted) A warp faced textile of mixed yarn, silk warp and cotton weft so that it gives a shine in the face of the fabric and also has a comfortable cotton back. It was very popular among muslim rulers.
Matsya	– Fish motif, considered auspicious as it is the first incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
Mehrab	– A niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the direction of Mecca, often used as design element in kalam-kari of masulipatnam, ajrakh block printing and also in prayer rugs.
Mekhala	– Traditional golden yellow woven Muga silk fabric worn by women.
Chaddor	Assam. Mekhala is the lower garment which is a drum kind of piece worn over the under skirt, pleated and tucked while Chador is a chunni/dupatta which is tucked in the mekhala and taken over the shoulder.



Menthi	– Cross stitches in kasuti embroidery.
Minakari	– Coloured enamel jewellery, borders or butis woven with different coloured silk to give the appearance of enamel in banaras brocades.
Mochis	– Male professional embroiders from Kutch region of Gujarat famous for their delicate ari-work/chain stitch embroidery.
Mordant	– A metallic salt which combines chemically with the dyestuff to fix the dye permanently onto the fabric.
Mothra	– A criss-cross pattern obtained on sheer fabric by resist dyeing of leheria, twice.
Moti	– White and colored bead or pearl.
Munia	– Bird motif in Paithani saris.
Muragi	– Zig-zag running stitches (ladder like) in kasuti embroidery.
Murri	– French knots which resemble rice flakes (<i>murmura</i>).
Mutwa	– Couching (kashmiri)
Namdas	– Woolen felt embroidered floor coverings from Kashmir.
Nari	– Women/lady
Navratan	– Nine gems
Nazarbuti	– A peculiar mark in terms of motif or unusual color which is considered to ward off the evil eye.
Neel	– Indigo or blue dye.
Negi/Neyegi	– Kasuti embroidery stitches which appears like satin stitches but are non-reversible and the motifs look like as if woven with extra weft.
Odhani	– A veil, usually 3 m × 1 m, worn by women with a ghaghra/lehenga, kurti and kanchali used to cover the head and the right shoulder and is drawn across the body by either tucking into the waistband or left hanging in front.
Pagari	– Turban
Paithani	– Heavy silk saris woven at Paithan by twill tapestry technique on traditional handloom.
Pallu	– Decorative end piece of a sari, also known as pallu.
Pashm	– Fine, soft wool from the under fleece of Tibetan mountain goat <i>Capra Hircus</i> .



Traditional Indian Textiles – Class XII

Pat	– Untwisted silk floss (Punjabi) and cloth length (gujrati).
Patti	– A border or edging.
Patola	– Famous double ikat woven silk saris of Patan, Gujarat.
Phanda	– Elongated bullion stitch.
Phiran	– Woolen smock worn by kashmiris.
Phool	– Flower
Piliya/Pilado	– Traditional odhani dyed in turmeric of red and yellow colour scheme draped by mothers of new born boys in Rajasthan.
Popat	– Parrot (Gujarati term)
Prasad	– Food items offered to God while worshipping.
Rafugar	– Needle worker
Rahet	– North Indian local term for stem stitch.
Rekh	– Block used for outlining.
Rumal	– A square cover for gifts or food (Chamba rumal) and also worn over shoulders or head in western India.
Rudraksha	– (lit.: tears of Lord Shiva) Seeds of the Javanese tree revered and used as necklaces and rosaries by devotees.
Saagwan	– Good quality seasoned wood usually used for block carving.
Sabz	– Vegetable green color
Safa	– Head cloth worn by men in western India.
Saktapar	– Sari with a chequer board pattern in the central field, woven in single and double ikat at Sambalpur, Orissa.
Salma	– Coiled zig-zag wire often used on lehengas.
Salwar	– Baggy trousers worn by both men and women mainly in north India.
Shal	– A woven woolen fabric draped across the shoulder to provide protection against the cold.
Shankha	– Conch shell
Shatoosh	– The fleece of the Tibetan Chiru antelope that is spun and woven into fine shawls.
Shikargah	– Hunting scene



Sitara	– Tiny metal discs, often of gold or silver with a tiny hole at the centre often used in zardozi embroidery.
Soof	– Geometric patterned embroidery executed with darning stitches.
Sujani	– Kantha like quilting and stitchery on quilt done in Bihar.
Swastika	– Auspicious vedic symbol for good beginning.
Tanchoi	– Figured silk with multiple supplementary weft threads, that create a heavy densely patterned fabric.
Talim	– Coded pattern for weaving in kashmiri shawls.
Telia Rumal	– Square rumal or handkerchief measuring around one metre square in double ikat, woven in Chirala region of Andhra Pradesh, used as head cloth or loin cloth.
Tepchi	– Chikan work running stitch.
Tujis	– Wooden spools for weaving a kani shawl on the loom.
Zamindar	– Landlord
Zanzeer	– Local name for chain stitch mainly used at UP in north India.
Zari	– Metal thread embroidery.



