

Phulkari

August 10, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



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PHULKARI

Phulkari Latest News

Several years after Punjab's traditional embroidery, Phulkari, secured the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag, the craftspersons who keep the centuries-old practice alive continue to struggle for recognition and a sustainable livelihood.

About Phulkari

- Phulkari, meaning “**flower work,**” is a **traditional embroidery art** of **Punjab**.
- There are various theories about the origin of phulkari.
- **Some believe** this embroidery **dates** back to the **7th century CE**, while **others suggest it originated from Iran**, where it was **known as Gulkari**.
- However, **distinct styles** of phulkari have been identified, making it **uniquely Punjabi**.
- References to phulkari can be found in ancient texts, folk legends, and literature, with the **earliest mention** in the **18th-century Punjabi literature**.

- It symbolizes life and is intricately **linked to the birth of a girl child in Punjabi families**, where **mothers and grandmothers** start **embroidering Phulkari dupattas upon her birth**.
- **Girls learned to embroider early**, with the number of phulkaris reflecting the family's status and marking cultural milestones.
- It received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in 2010.

Phulkari Features

- It's an **amalgam of cotton and silk**.
- The **cloth** used is usually **hand-woven thick cotton**, called ' **khadder**'. While the **threads are thin, lustrous, and breakable silk**, called 'pat'.
- The **cloth** is usually **dyed red**, but **can be white, grey, or black** also.
- And the treads are a myriad of colors, ranging from the rich dark pink to soothing off-whites.
- The stitch is intricate, small, and completely fills the cloth. The stitch can be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal to create the shadow effect.
- Phulkari embroidery makes use of the **least complicated patterns** to create **extremely intriguing designs**.
- The **designs and patterns** can vary from **geometrical figures to flowers to local fauna**. Peacocks, elephants, birds, and camels appear frequently.
- Phulkari's product range includes embroidered chaddars, dupattas, and stoles, traditionally worn by brides or for ceremonies.

News: TI

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