



Patan Patola

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister of India gifted a [‘Patan Patola’](#) scarf to the Prime Minister of Italy at the [G20 summit](#).



What is Patan Patola?

- Patola is a **double ikat woven fabric**, usually made from silk in **Patan (North Gujarat)**.
 - Ikat is a method of **tie-dyeing the warp or weft before the cloth is woven**.
- It received a [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#) in 2013.
- The ancient art of double ikat or Patola woven in pure silk **dates back to the 11th century**.
- This peculiar quality has its origins in an intricate and difficult technique of **dyeing or knot dyeing, known as 'bandhani', on the warp and weft separately before weaving**.
 - The Patola fabrics bear an **equal intensity of colours and design on both sides**.
- Patola is **woven on primitive hand-operated harness looms made out of rosewood and bamboo strips**. The loom lies on a slant.
 - The process is **labour-intensive, time-consuming**, and requires a high order of skill and expertise
 - It takes **three to four months to prepare a tie-died design on warp and weft threads for one saree of six yards**.
 - While possessing and wearing a Patola is considered a **matter of pride**, the fabric has largely remained **inaccessible to common people because of its high price**.
- One of the **major practitioners** of this art form is the **Salvi family from Patan**.
- The other commonly worn Patola is the **Rajkot Patola, woven on a flat loom**.
- Before World War II, **Indonesia was the major buyer of Patolas**.

Source: IE

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