

TEXTILES - FIBRE TO FABRIC & THE INDIAN STORY

Textiles have the oldest tales to tell- The traditions of cloth manufacture within India remains the most original, creative and prolific source of textile production. India's history is deeply intertwined with the art of textiles, reflecting the diverse and vibrant cultural tapestry of the nation. Clothing is a basic need of our lives. Clothes are worn based on climate, occasions, and according to the present fashion trends.

The complete process of producing fabrics from fibres includes extraction of fibres either from the plant or animal source. Yarns are formed by twisting fibres and allowed to rotate on the different types of rollers, weaved and knitted to produce fabrics and then clothes.

Indian textiles have crossed oceans and clothed people across the world.

EXHIBITOR

India has a vast array of textiles. Love for the different types of fabrics, working with them and producing quilts, embroidering on them and wearing sarees has been my passion. To get to the root of the fabrics I use helps understand what you work with.

THEME

Fibre to Fabric -the complicated process to convert the basic raw fibre to yarn and then to fabric by the different means of weaving from ancient times to the present is the information I have tried to portray through stamps and other philatelic material.

Indian textiles have been impacted by historical, religious, and societal events over centuries.

A peep into the story of Indian textiles through philately.

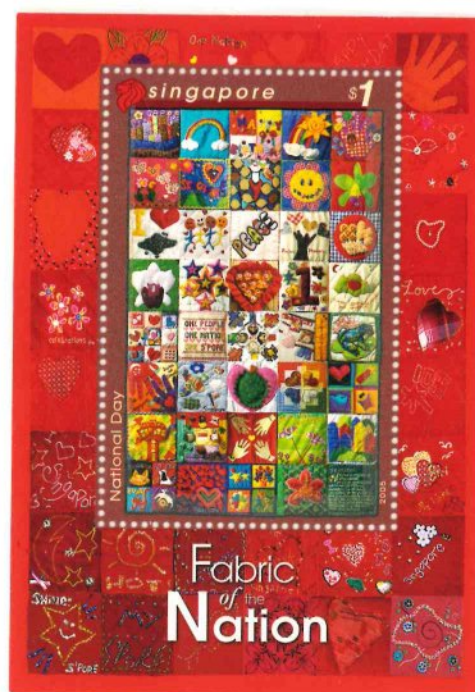
PHILATELIC IMPORTANCE

A wide range of philatelic material- Stamps, first day covers, cancellations, special covers, se-tenant stamps, post cards and rare stamps and material from many decades ago have been utilised to explain this theme through philately.

EXHIBIT PLAN

- 1.Introduction, Thematic presentation of the exhibit, Title and plan.
2. World of Fibres – Cotton
3. World of Fibres – Natural Plant fibres
4. World of Fibres – Wool to yarn
5. World of Fibres – Silk
6. Fibre to Yarn- The process
7. Spinning & Dyeing
8. Myriad Looms
9. Weaving wisdom
10. Modernisation and Machinery
11. The Indian Textiles – Khadi -Fabric of Freedom
12. Wonderous Weaves
13. Symphony of Weaves
14. Tailoring
15. Indian Fashion through the Ages
16. Saree-India's Pride

2005 Singapore- Collage of fabrics



2. World of Fibres- Cotton

Cotton is truly a miracle fibre, it has been spun, woven and dyed since ancient times. The cultivation of cotton dates back to ancient civilization in India, China and Egypt.



1962 Syria -Cotton Fest.

1985 Montserrat Cotton plant

1968 Syria -Cotton Fest.

The process of cotton cultivation has evolved over centuries, with advancements in technology leading to increased efficiency and production.



1968 Chad-Cotton picking

1982 India – cotton

1982 Zambia Cotton picking

Cotton seeds with fibres are picked from the pod manually or by machines nowadays.

A popular natural fibre that's breathable and moisture-wicking. It's used for everyday wear.



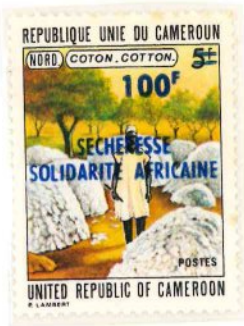
1968 Chad-Cotton transfer

1981 Greece – Cotton

1988 South Africa
Mechanical picking

3. World of Fibres – Natural Plant Fibres

Natural fibres have been used since before history was recorded. They are classified according to their origin - plant or animal. Plant fibres are derived from stem, bark, leaf, grass and husk of plants. Leaf stem fibres are sisal, jute.



1971 Cameroon-Cotton



1982 Venda-Sisal Gathering, Drying , Grading

Muslin is made from organic cotton and originated from Bangladesh. A hundred yards of muslin can pass through the eye of the needle, so fine is its texture, and yet the point of the needle cannot pierce it easily.

2016 Bangladesh Muslin Fest



মসলিন উৎসব ২০১৬
Muslin Festival 2016

উদ্বোধনী খাম First Day Cover

Musa textile fibre is derived from the stem, leaves and peels of the banana plant and the pineapple plant.



2009 Philippines Ananas



2009 Philippines Musa Textiles

4. World of Fibres – Wool to yarn

Wool is the fleecy covering of the sheep. The waviness of wool is due to the spiral structure of the fibres. Next to cotton, wool is the most extensively used of all the textile fibres. Wool on different parts of the same animal varies greatly.

1984 Tristan de Cunha- Wool weaving



When the fleece is cut from the body of the sheep it sticks together so that it can be spread out like the hide of an animal. Sheep used to be sheared by hand but is now mechanised to save time and labour. Alpaca, Mohair and Cashmere wool are got from goats found in different countries.

Wool is carded producing a thread having fibres projecting from it. It is wound on spools and is ready for spinning. A valuable feature of wool is its elasticity, which makes it soft to the touch.



1969 New Zealand Wool



1978 South Africa -Angora Goat



1978 South Africa- spinning mohair, dyeing mohair

5.World of Fibres - Silk

Silk is the most beautiful of all fabrics. It is made from the fibre produced by the silkworm, which does its work so perfectly, no spinning is required. The fibre placed under a microscope, looks like glass thread. The light playing on this fibre gives to silk its beautiful lustre.



1969 Bulgaria -Silkworm moth with egg



Silkworm and Spindle



Caterpillar and Cocoons



1969 Bulgaria – Cocoon closed and open



Cocoons



Silkworm moth hatched

The moth lays its eggs, about five hundred in number, they hatch just at the time the mulberry comes into leaf. The little caterpillars are hatched they eat like hungry schoolboys for over a month. They then cast their skins and eat eagerly. After a month the worms stop eating crawl onto the twigs placed and start to spin their cocoons. From the openings on the head of the worm comes a thread like substance like glue, from which silk is made. The worm wraps the thread around its body until completely covered and goes to sleep. The outsides of the cocoon are removed and placed in hot water and wound on reels. The silk fibre is all in one piece, and about a thousand feet long.

The fibre is combined with 5 to 8 strands to make it strong. They are put together on a spooling frame and finally woven.



2010 Thailand Thai silk on stamps



Royal Thai Silk on stamp



Classic Thai Silk on stamp

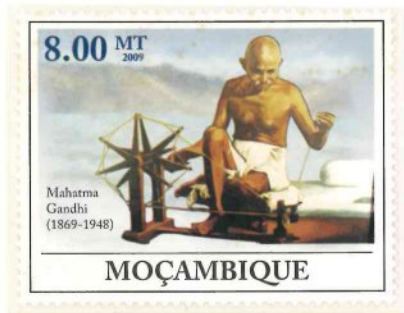


6. Fibre to yarn - the process.

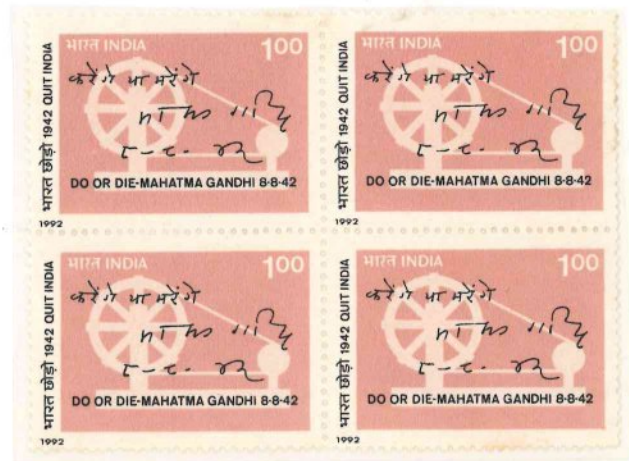
The picked cotton is taken to the gin where seed and fibre is separated. The cotton is put into bales and the fibres are separated by the carding machine. Spinning involves process of prepared cotton roving into workable yarn or thread.

Gandhiji using the Charkha for spinning cotton to yarn during the fight for freedom has symbolised it greatly.

2009 Mozambique -Mahatma Gandhi spinning



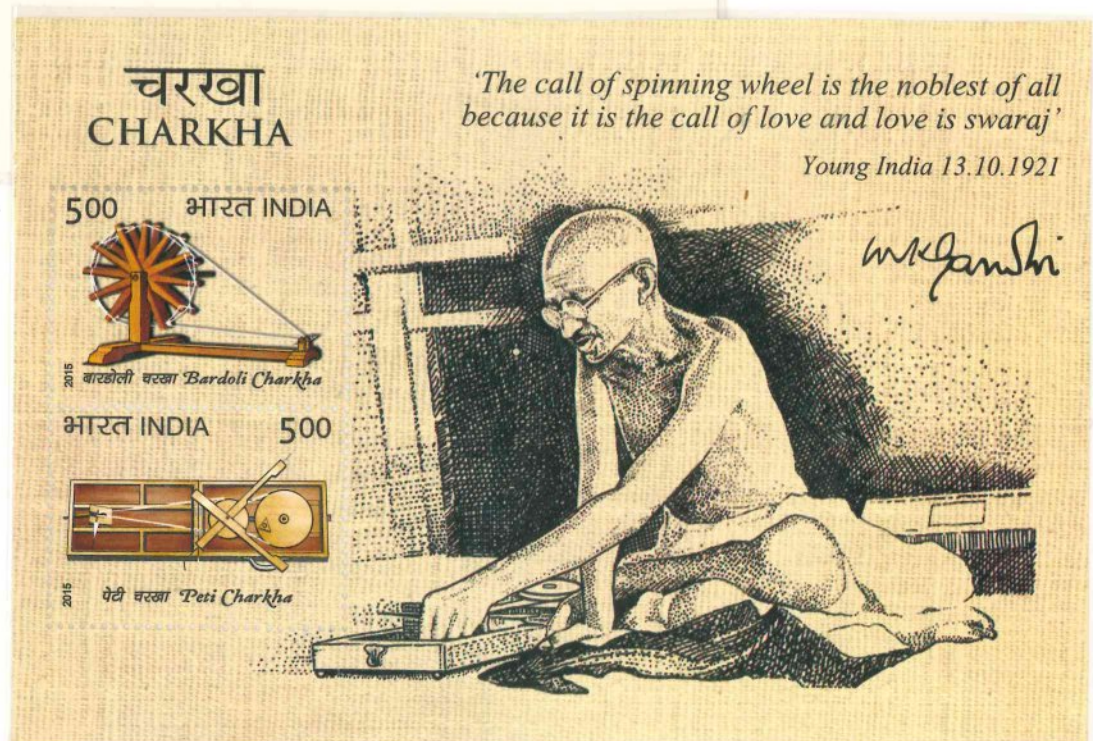
1992 India Charkha



1986 Ivory Coast- Proof
Spinning cotton



2015 -India
Bardoli Charkha and
Peti Charkha



7. Spinning and Dyeing

Spinning is an ancient textile art where a twisting technique is applied to form yarn from fibres. The fibre intended is drawn out, twisted, and wound onto a bobbin.



1964 British Burma-spinning



1970 Japan -spinning



1988 Tristan Da Cunha-spinning



1994 India - Mahatma Gandhi spinning

A spinning wheel is the tool for spinning fibre into yarn. Ancient man discovered that adding twist to fibre will make that fibre stronger for uses in clothing, ship sails, ropes, etc. The earliest methods of spinning yarn were all done using hand spindles.

Yarn spinning is the process of manufacturing yarn from different types of fibres into a continuous length from one or more type of fibres. The yarn is then dyed using natural dyes obtained from different plants like indigo, madder, turmeric, marigold, pomegranate and onion peels etc. The yarn is boiled in the required colour.

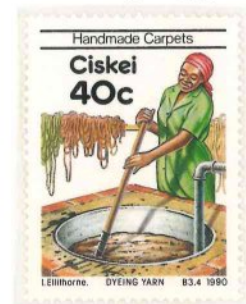
1990 Ciskei – spinning



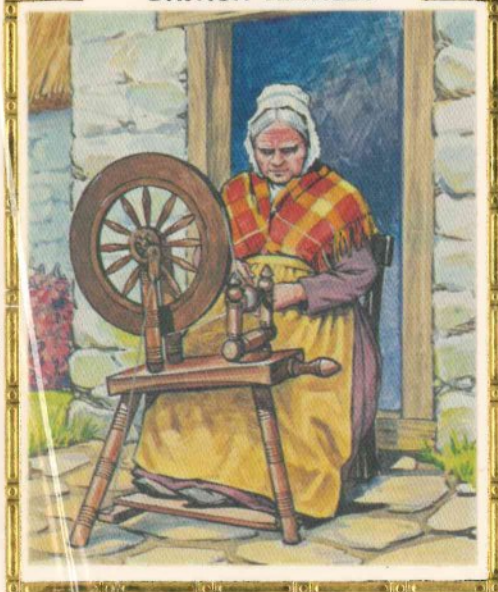
1978 South Africa - dyeing wool



1990 Ciskei -dyeing yarn



BRITISH TEXTILES



FIRST DAY COVER



1982 – British Textiles- spinning picture on silk

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
Orick
A. Wright
 23 JULY 1982

Henry Murray
 ARLINGTON SUPPLIES
 Ltd.
 PO Box 143
 273 Green Lanes
 London N13 4XN

8. Myriad looms

A loom is a mechanical tool used in weaving to interlace warp and weft threads to produce fabric. It is made of a framework or structure consisting of several parts. The weft threads are woven through the warp threads using a shuttle while the warp threads are secured to a beam and kept under strain. Looms are used to weave many different textiles, including cloth, rugs, tapestries etc.



2014 Portugal - weaver



2018 Bosna Hercegovina-loom

Different types of weaving looms are Floor looms, Frame looms, Tapestry looms, Warp weighted loom, Table loom, Backstrap loom, Jacquard loom, Dobby loom, Shuttle and shuttle less loom to name a few.



1955 Aden -weaving



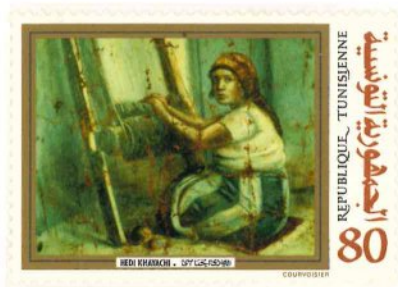
1965 Cambodia-weaving



2007 Belarus -weaver



1984 Mali textiles



1983 Tunisia-painting of weaver



1974 Montserrat -loom



1978 South Arica weaving rug



9 Weaving Wisdom

Weaving is a textile production method which involves interlacing a set of longer threads-warp with a set of crossing threads-weft. Weaving is still done by hand, but the vast majority is mechanised nowadays.

The power loom was invented in 1785 by Edmund Cartwright, which made weaving faster.



1932 Dutch



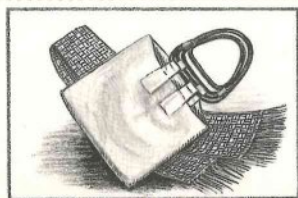
1955 India



1966 Algeria



Japan



1985 Montserrat



1980 India



2000 Argentina



1990 South Africa

2023 India -Handloom Day



To
Santosh R. Joshi
D/01, Yashodeep CHS.,
Tulinj Road, Nallasopara (E).
Dist. Palghar - 401 209.
Call : 9270278181

National Handloom Day
August 2023

10. Modernisation and Machinery

The setting up of textile mills in the 19th century helped India modernise the textile industry.

Textile manufacturing or textile engineering is a major industry in the world. It is largely based on the conversion of fibre into yarn, then yarn into fabric.

1964 Yemen - Spinning and weaving factories



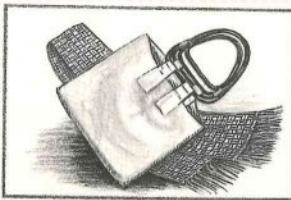
1974 Cameroon

1965 Ethiopia

1961 Indonesia

1948 Belgium

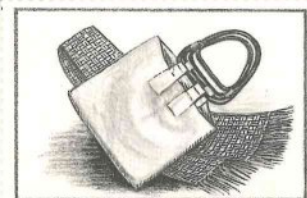
Textile mills were built to create more textile products. Before the Industrial Revolution, many workers had few goods due to access and availability of products. A person might have only had one or two shirts due to having to spin each thread of cotton and weave each thread of a textile by hand. Using machines to produce more textiles meant there would be more availability of goods at affordable prices.



1985 Montserrat



1969 Congo



1985 Montserrat



1970 Senegal



1968 Chad

Textile mills were essential in shaping the Industrial Revolution. Not only did they establish a means for creating textile fabrics on much larger scales, but they also created employment opportunities.

11. The Indian Textiles – Khadi-the Fabric of Freedom

Khadi was a part of the Swadeshi movement started by Gandhiji to boycott foreign goods. The Charkha or spinning wheel became a symbol of India's struggle for Independence and self-reliance. It was also one of the early symbols that featured on the national flag.

2011 Khadi stamp with Charkha and Mahatma Gandhi



Khadi is ecofriendly because it decomposes in the earth within six months. The art in khadi, be it thick and coarse or superfine, appeals to the eye since its meaning goes beyond the realm of mere cloth. The young and old find khadi comfortable and trendy. Designers are using khadi in their new creations now a days.

2019 Weaving Khadi

विशेष आवरण Special Cover

ट्विनसिटी पेक्स 2019
Twincity Pex 2019



18-02-2019

सिविक सेंटर भिलाई
CIVIC CENTRE BHILAI
: 490 006



गाँधी - खादी
Gandhi - Khadi



12. Wonderous Weaves

The textile traditions are mentioned in various Indian scriptures. The Mahabharata mentions silk fabrics gifted to Yudhisthira. Textiles such as linen, cotton and silk are mentioned in Buddhist literature too. Kanjivaram silks were developed under the patronage of the Pallava dynasty in South India in the 6th Century.



The Kashmiri Pashmina shawl was important for royalty. Baluchari is a traditional woven silk saree from West Bengal, consists of floral silk brocade designs with mythological stories and folk tales on the pallus.

Silk from Bhagalpur is a fine and soft cloth. Ikat is a tie-dye technique famous with Pochampally. Benarasi silk is renowned textile from Varanasi, which showcases the intricate weaving patterns, vibrant colours and rich cultural heritage. Intricate Kalamkari art consists of motifs printed with traditional blocks with detailing done by kalam (pen).



भौगोलिक उपदर्शन (जी आई)
पंजीकृत हथकरघा उत्पाद

Geographical Indication (GI)
Registered Handloom Products

13. Symphony of Weaves

The colourful variety of weaves used for Home furnishings famous from Kerala, Terry towels and Chaddar from Solapur, the Durries from Navalgund and Nandana block prints from Indore were all promoted by the Handlooms of India. The Indian Handloom industry is one of the largest economy generators in the country.

2022 India Home furnishings Kerala – sample

विशेष आवरण / Special Cover



75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

होम फर्निशिंग उत्पाद संघ, उत्तरी मलबार चेंबर कार्यालय
Kannur Home Furnishing Products Consortium, North Malabar Chamber office
स्टेशन कन्नूर पी.ओ. 670002 Civil Station Kannur P.O.

2021 India Solapur terry towels -sample

विशेष आवरण
SPECIAL COVER

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



सोलापुर टेरी तौलिया
Solapur Terry Towel

14. Tailoring

Tailoring has a long history, dating back to ancient times when clothing was made by hand. Over the years, the craft has evolved and become more sophisticated, with the use of machines and modern techniques.

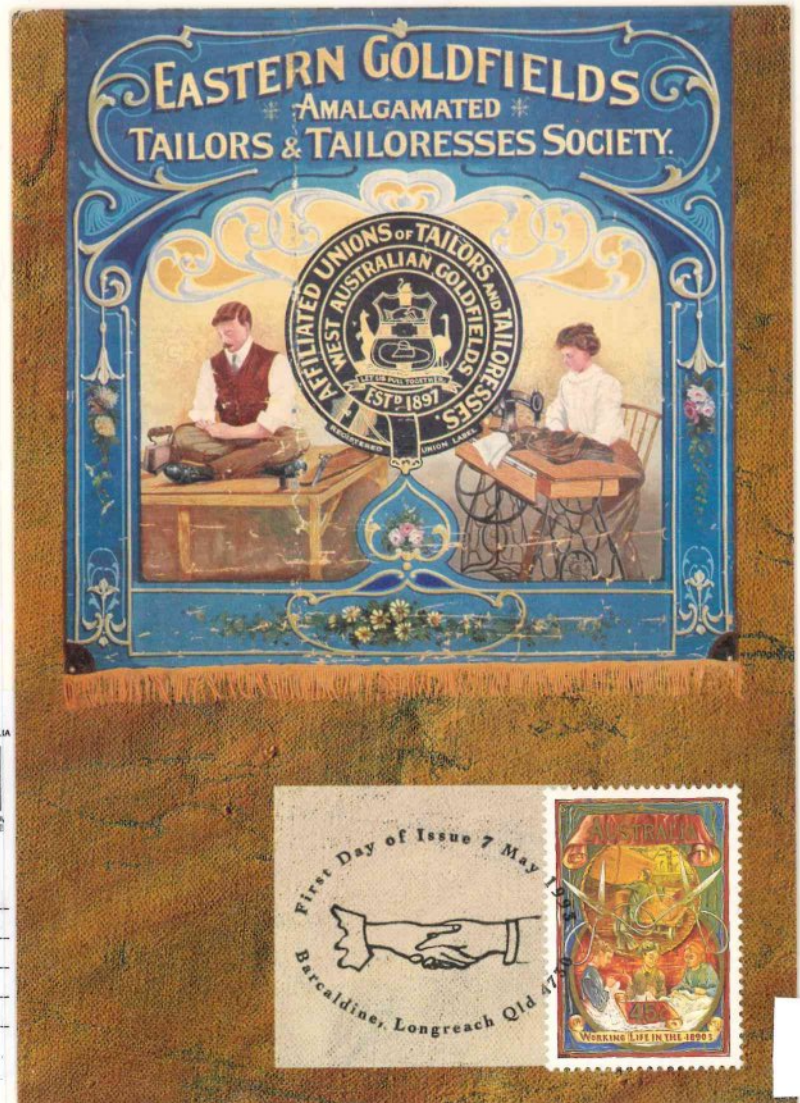


1929 Tailoring classes by French Missionaries



During the Industrial Revolution, tailoring became more accessible to the masses. The invention of the sewing machine allowed for faster and more efficient production of garments, leading to the creation of ready-to-wear clothing. However, custom tailoring continued to be popular among the wealthy and fashion-conscious.

1993 Australia
Working life in the 1890's



Banner:
Western Australian Museum
History Collection



Dear Paddo,

Having a good trip.
Hope all well at
home.
Best Wishes

Rukmani



To
V. R. Padmanabhan
659, 'GITA'
Sampige Road
Malleswaram
Bangalore - 560003



15. Fashion through the Ages

When we look back at the glorious centuries of kings and queens, flashes visions of beautiful palaces and forts, extraordinary clothing and fashion. India has seen many dynasties and rulers and every kingdom, be it Mughals, Marathas, Scindia dynasty or Rajputana rulers, brought a distinct quality and influence to ancient Indian fashion. Till date, many royal families have kept their heritage intact with their style of dressing and traditions. With the finest craftsmanship on clothing and ultimate finesse in textiles, they are the reason the history of fashion in India is so rich and memorable. Indian designers often take inspiration by the royal dressing of various regions or dig through the archives to draw inspiration from ancient Indian fashion.

2018 India – Fashion through the Ages

भारतीय फैशन-परिधान परंपरा: श्रृंखला I Indian fashion-Through the ages: Series I



1971 India -Raja Ravi Verma



1963 India- Shakuntala
OVER PRINT



1960 India-Kalidasa

16.Saree – India's Pride

The origin of saree can be traced back to Ancient India when it was worn as a single piece of cloth. In Medieval India sarees underwent a change with introduction of blouse-like covering, a pallu and distinctive borders. With the advent of the colonial period, petticoats and blouses were introduced.

In India sarees are draped very differently in the South, West, North-East and by the various Tribals. A saree symbolizes tradition, grace, and cultural heritage, particularly in the Indian subcontinent. It is often seen as a symbol of femininity and is worn during significant life events like weddings and festivals. Sarees also represent a woman's social status and are a form of wearable art, often featuring intricate designs and motifs that reflect regional artistry and cultural symbolism.



2023 India-Saree of West Bengal



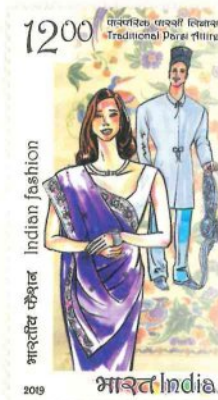
2023 India-Saree of Maharashtra



2023 India-Saree of Tamil Nadu



2019 India-Brahmika saree



2019 India-Parsi saree

1978 India – Traditional saree forms depicted in a dance performance

प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER



उदय शंकर UDAY SHANKAR



लुधियाना प्र.डा.
LUDHIANA H.O.
26-9-78