

# What is Patan Patola?

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**In news**— At the G20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Italian PM a Patan Patola scarf.

## What is Patan Patola?

- **The ancient art of double ikat or Patola woven in pure silk dates back to the 11th century.** The Patola fabrics bear an equal intensity of colours and design on both sides.
- 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.
- One of the **major practitioners of the dwindling art form is the Salvi family from North Gujarat.**
- The Salvi family shared that before World War II, **Indonesia was the major buyer of Patolas.**
- Legend has it that **King Kumarpal of the Solanki dynasty invited some 700 families of Patola weavers from Jalna (Maharashtra) to settle in Patan** in North Gujarat, and the Salvis are among them.
- **Patola is woven on primitive hand-operated harness looms** made out of rosewood and bamboo strips. The loom lies on a slant. **The other commonly worn Patola is the Rajkot Patola, woven on a flat loom.**
- The Salvi family said that in 1342 AD, the traveller Ibn Batuta had carried patolas as gifts to many kings. They were amply used in the 17th and 18th centuries as precious gift items.