

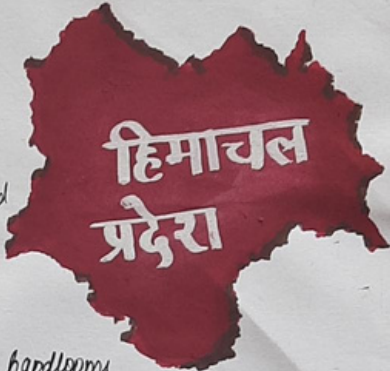
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Topic: Kullu Shawls

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कुल्लू शॉल

Kullu is the capital town of the Kullu District in Himachal Pradesh. This valley is famous for its temples, beauty and its majestic hills covered with pine and deodar forest and sprawling apple orchards and hand woven textiles especially stole, shawl, muffler and tweed. The design is inspired from the engravings on wall of temples and Buddhist monasteries.



हिमाचल
प्रदेश

Originally, the innate Kullu people weaved plain shawls handcrafted by handlooms without any designs, but with the advent of Bushohari weavers from Rampur, Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh in the early 1940s, the trend of more patterned shawls came to rise. Shawls from Kullu have been produced by hand for hundred of years.

The material used for their weaving is pure wool of counts ranging from 2/32 Nm to 2/64 Nm to in warp and weft. These shawls are available in sheep wool, angora, pashmina, yak wool and hand-spun material. Traditionally, bright colours were used for patterning and white, black and natural grey or brown were used as the base in these shawls. Mill spun yard dyed in various colours is used for the ground, while a vast range of acrylic colours is used for the pattern in the border. The yarn used may be chemically dyed or vegetable-dyed.

A typical Kullu shawl has geometric designs though floral ones are not uncommon. Some common motifs are *Trishul*, *swastika*, *crosses* and 'V's.

According to research, Kullu shawl designs owe their origin to Kinnauri woven patterns. However, Kullu weavers have given Kinnauri designs their own touch of creativity, modified them and made them their own.

Kullu shawls play an extremely huge role in the economy of the valley. It is one of the significant salary generators for these individuals where a large number of them win their living by weaving part or full time.

Кулу Шали

Posad shawls are made from 100% pure wool, without exposure to any technical processing. Each design is made through a set of unique stencils. Vibrant hues are printed on the fabric separately, one by one. A design can contain up to 30 different colours, although on average 17 to 25 are used, thus giving it an exotic beauty. Adding numerous colours makes the process quite complicated. The shawls can be worn around the head, around the waist, or as just that - a shawl.

There exists a town outside of Moscow, Russia called Pavlovsky Posad. A hub for silk weaving in the 1700s, it became an industrial centre in the mid-19th century. It is currently known as the home of the Pavlov Posad Shawl Manufactory. The factory itself was established more than 200 years ago in 1795, with its notable shawls beginning to be manufactured in the

early 1860s. Around this time, shawls became a defining element of standard Russian costume as factories began cheaper means of producing shawls with printed patterns as opposed to woven ones, making them more accessible.

What if kullu shawls belonged to the 1700s Russian time period? How contradictory kullu shawls and Posad shawls are! When I think about it, I imagine kullu shawls having the traditional floral pattern inspired from Posad shawls while still retaining its colour palette i.e., a neutral base colour and bright vibrant colours for the pattern. Moreover, most Posad shawls are square in shape. I would make the kullu shawls square in shape.

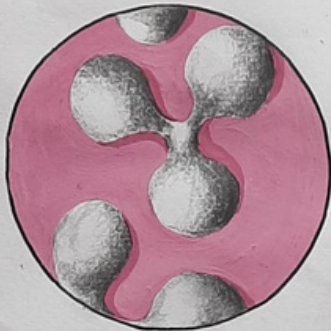
KULLU SHAWL

POSAD SHAWL



KULLU SHAWL

In my opinion 100 years from now, our main focus will be sustainability and how to reduce the wastage caused by the fashion industry. If I were to imagine Kullu shawls 100 years from now, I believe that instead of using wool, cruelty free material like cotton fleece or polyester fleece will be used. The overall design will become minimalist and pastel colours will replace bright colours. I would first change the material of Kullu shawls to polyester fleece since it is an ideal alternative to wool. To further our goal of sustainability, capsule wardrobe will be necessary. Hence, Kullu shawls will be produced in such a way that it can be used in every season. It will warm up when the temperature drops below a certain level and vice versa. Hence, the trouble of buying multiple shawls, stoles, etc., is resolved. Another change is the way one can wear the shawl. It can be worn as a shawl around the neck, as a cape, as a stole or any way the user wishes.



These are metal sensors that will detect temperature change and send signals accordingly to warm or cool the shawl.



Aluminium is ~~an~~ affordable and a good conductor of heat. Thus, aluminium sheet in between two layers of Kullu shawl is a great option to use to warm or cool the shawl.



These blue and red stripes correspond to cool and warmth respectively. When the shawl is being warmed up, the red stripes will light up and vice versa.

