

# BARMER CRAFTS EXHIBITION

Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

25 December 2021 – 5 January 2022



Desert Crafts  
of  
**BARMER**  
A SPECIAL EXHIBITION  
Sponsored by



Indian Trust for Rural Heritage  
and Development (ITRHD)



**MEHRANGARH MUSEUM TRUST**  
with the support of  
Hindustan Gum & Chemicals Ltd.



Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur  
25 Dec 2021 – 5 Jan 2022



Desert Crafts  
of  
**BARMER**  
A SPECIAL EXHIBITION  
Sponsored by



Indian Trust for Rural Heritage  
and Development (ITRHD)



**MEHRANGARH MUSEUM TRUST**  
with the support of  
Hindustan Gum & Chemicals Ltd.



Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur  
24 March – 5 April 2022

As part of ITRHD's BARMER CRAFTS PROJECT, special exhibitions and sales were held in Jodhpur's Mehrangarh Fort.

In the first exhibition, from 25 December 2021 to 5 January 2022, the three featured master artisans were:

- Shri Padmaram, (Embroidery)
- Shri Khimaram (Wool weaving; Pattu)
- Shri Santosh Maheshwari (Embroidery and Applique)

In the second exhibition, from 24 March to 5 April 2022, the featured artisans were:

- Shri Girdhari Ram (Applique)
- Shri Lakha Ram (Embroidery)
- Shri Akbar Chipa (Hand Block Printing)

And a very special participant in the second exhibition was Manoj Khatri, son of the famous Ajrak Block Printing artist and National Award Winner Ranamal Khatri.

In both exhibitions, the artisans were accompanied to Jodhpur by Shri Yashovardhan Shandilya, our Barmer-based project consultant. ITRHD Assistant Project Manager Arvind Yadav also traveled to Jodhpur to help set up the events. We received a tremendous amount of assistance from our Jodhpur colleagues, and were given a charming and very prominent exhibition space, near the popular Fort cafe. Maharaja Gaj Singhji and Maharani Hemlata Rajye were both involved from the start, and also visited the exhibition. The artisans evoked much interest from Fort visitors, and enjoyed substantial sales. Our CSR funders, Hindustan Gum & Chemicals, were acknowledged in the prominent signage, and HG&C's VP and JUnit Head, Shri Vinod Acharya, and his colleague Shri Shekhawat, visited the exhibition. They expressed their happiness at seeing funds being used to directly support artisans and their activities. ITRHD's Barmer Craft Project is based on the fact that Barmer possesses rich stores of traditional craft skills, and many extraordinarily talented and skilled artisans. What they lack is the exposure to viable markets. Events such as the Jodhpur exhibition (as well as several other exhibitions that ITRHD has organised) not only provide income from sales, but spread awareness of this rich rural heritage. The opportunity to interact directly with visitors also gives the artisans important, and direct, market feedback, and increases their pride and confidence. More exhibitions in Jodhpur and Delhi are planned for the coming season. Stay tuned!