International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)
E-ISSN: 2582-2160 ● Website: www.ijfmr.com ● Email: editor@ijfmr.com

Protection of Traditional Designs and Artistic Expressions of Himachali Handicrafts under Indian Intellectual Property Law a Study of Geographical Indications and Design Law

Diksha[1], Dr. Vanita Sharma[2]

[1]LL.M. Student, University Institute of Legal Studies, Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab, India.
[2]Assistant Professor, University Institute of Legal Studies, Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab, India.

Abstract

Himachal Pradesh is known for its handcrafts such as the Kullu shawl, the Kinnauri shawl, the Chamba rumal and Kangra painting. Their importance is found in motifs and patterns that communities have created over times. Yet these designs are widely copied, and factory-made imitations are sold to buyers as the real thing. This paper asks how far Indian Intellectual Property law protects them. Using doctrinal and comparative methods, it examines Indian law on geographical indications, designs, copyright and the reservation of articles for handlooms. It studies the records of the Geographical Indications Registry for Himachali crafts and the seventeen geographical indications (GIs) that the State held by July 2026. Additionally, information from Kolhapuri chappal dispute of 2025 and on recent law in the European Union, Panama, the United States and at WIPO were also used. The paper finds that Indian law provides good protection to the names and origin of the crafts however, design law only protects new designs and traditional design will not meet these criteria. Design law rewards novelty, which traditional designs lack. A pattern copied without the name therefore falls into a gap. Few artisans are registered as authorised users, and enforcement is weak. The paper proposes a layered framework. Its main elements are a defensive register of traditional designs and a duty to disclose traditional sources in design applications. It also proposes figurative GIs for signature motifs and joint enforcement of the handloom law.

Keywords: Geographical indications, Designs Act 2000, Traditional cultural expressions, Himachali handicrafts, Kullu shawl, Intellectual Property Rights.

1. Introduction

Himachal Pradesh has a rich tradition of crafts. Each valley has its own textile, embroidery, painting or metal work. A Kullu shawl is known by the bands of bright patterns woven across both ends.[1] A Kinnauri

[1] Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre, HIMCOSTE, "Geographical Indications of Himachal Pradesh" (brochure), available at: https://himcoste.hp.gov.in/Patent%20Information%20Centre/Pdf/gi%20brochure1.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

shawl carries stylised Buddhist symbols and complex geometric patterns.[2] The Chamba rumal is embroidered in a double satin stitch, worked on both faces of the cloth at once and muslin (mal mal) is used.[3] An eighteenth-century rumal from Chamba, showing the battle of Kurukshetra, is held by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.[4] Kangra painting is admired for its naturalistic style and its cool, fresh colours.[5]

These designs are not the work of a single author. Communities have built them over generations, and many motifs carry local meaning. The crafts also support many families. The Fourth All India Handloom Census counted 13,211 handloom weavers and 477 allied workers in the State.[6] Yet the market rewards copying. In 2015, officials estimated that almost 80 per cent of the shawls sold as Kullu and Kinnauri shawls were made in factories in Ludhiana.[7] Such imitations sell for about one-tenth of the price of a loom-made shawl.[8]

Indian law offers several tools against such copying. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (GI Act) protects names that show where goods come from.[9] The Designs Act, 2000 protects new designs.[10] The Copyright Act, 1957 protects original artistic works.[11] The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 (Handlooms Act) bars power looms from making certain reserved textiles.[12] This paper asks whether these laws, taken together, protect the traditional designs and artistic expressions of Himachali crafts. The question is now pressing. Himachal Pradesh held

[2] Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre & Kinnaur Handloom Weavers' Association, "Application for the Registration of Kinnauri Shawl under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999," available at: https://www.origin-gi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/108-kinnauri-shawl.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[3] Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre, "Application for the Registration of Chamba Rumal as a Geographical Indication," available at: https://www.origin-gi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/69-chamba-rumal.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[4] Victoria and Albert Museum, "Rumal" (Museum No. IS.1185-1883), available at: https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O455592 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[5] HIMCOSTE, *supra* note 1.

[6] Ministry of Textiles, "State/UT-wise Number of Handloom Weavers and Allied Workers as per 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20," Press Information Bureau (Release ID 2202869, Dec. 2025), available at: https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/dec/doc20251212729201.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[7] Pratibha Chauhan, "Himachal to Move against Sale of Fake Kinnauri, Kullu Shawls," The Tribune (Jan. 3, 2015), available at: https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/features/himachal-to-move-against-sale-of-fake-kinnauri-kullu-shawls-25607 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[8] Pratibha Chauhan, "GI Mark to Check Sale of Fake Shawls during Kullu Dasehra," The Tribune (Oct. 11, 2016), available at: https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/community/gi-mark-to-check-sale-of-fake-shawls-during-kullu-dasehra-307702 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[9] The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, § 2(1)(e), No. 48, Acts of Parliament, 1999 (India) [hereinafter GI Act].

[10] The Designs Act, 2000, § 4, No. 16, Acts of Parliament, 2000 (India) [hereinafter Designs Act].

[11] The Copyright Act, 1957, § 13, No. 14, Acts of Parliament, 1957 (India) [hereinafter Copyright Act].

[12] The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, §§ 3, 5, No. 22, Acts of Parliament, 1985 (India) [hereinafter Handlooms Act].

seventeen geographical indications (GIs) by July 2026.[13] A year earlier, sandals resembling the Kolhapuri chappal appeared on a catwalk in Milan, and the designers were accused of not crediting the source.[14]

2. Research Design

2.1 Statement of the Problem

The Indian intellectual property laws protect only one element of a traditional handicraft. The GI Act provide protection to the name and the origin. The Designs Act protects a design only if it is new and registered. Copyright protects a work with an identifiable author, for a limited term. The handloom law protects a method of production, not a design. None of them protects a traditional design as such. A trader who copies a community pattern but avoids the registered name may therefore face no liability. Registrations have grown, yet few artisans have joined them as authorised users. Enforcement depends on officials and on the will of registered proprietors.

2.2 Research Objectives

1. To examine the traditional designs and artistic expressions of Himachali handicrafts and the ways in which they are copied.
2. To analyse the protection that the GI Act, 1999 gives to Himachali crafts, and its limits in practice.
3. To examine whether the Designs Act, 2000 and the Copyright Act, 1957 can protect traditional designs.
4. To study international and comparative approaches to the protection of craft designs and traditional cultural expressions.
5. To propose legal and institutional reforms suited to India.

2.3 Research Hypothesis

The main hypothesis of the study is that Indian intellectual property law protects the names of Himachali crafts better than their designs.

1. The value of Himachali crafts lies largely in community designs, and the copying of these designs is now the main threat to artisans.
2. GI registration protects the name and the origin of a craft, but few authorised users and weak enforcement limit its effect.
3. Traditional designs fail the novelty test of design law and lack the identifiable author that copyright requires. They therefore fall between the two laws.
4. Recent foreign and international measures, such as craft GIs, collective rights and disclosure of traditional sources, offer workable models.
5. A layered framework, combining GI, design, copyright and handloom law with a defensive register, would protect these crafts better than any single law.

2.4 Research Questions

a. What makes the designs of Himachali crafts distinctive, and how are they copied?
b. What does the GI Act protect, and how have Himachali GIs worked in practice?

---

[13] "Eight Traditional Himachal Pradesh Products Receive GI Tag, Taking State's Total to 17," Babushahi.com (July 1, 2026), available at: https://www.babushahi.com/full-news.php?id=223251 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[14] "Bombay High Court Rejects PIL Accusing Global Fashion Giant PRADA of Copying 'Kolhapuri Chappals'," LiveLaw (July 17, 2025), available at: https://www.livelaw.in/high-court/bombay-high-court/bombay-high-court-pil-prada-copying-kolhapuri-chappals-297919 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

c. Can a traditional design be registered under the Designs Act or protected by copyright?
d. What can India learn from the European Union, Panama, the United States and current work at WIPO?
e. Which reforms would close the gap?

2.5 Research Methodology

The study is doctrinal and comparative. Its primary sources are five statutes: the GI Act, the Designs Act, the Copyright Act, the Handlooms Act and the Trade Marks Act, 1999. It analyses decisions of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, together with the online records of the GI Registry for Himachali crafts. The comparative part covers the European Union, Panama and the United States. It also follows current work at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Official data and news reports serve as documentary sources. No survey was conducted.

2.6 Significance of the Study

The study is timely. Eight Himachali products received GIs in 2026, and four of them are crafts. The European Union opened its register of craft GIs in December 2025.[15] WIPO members will decide in 2027 whether to convene a diplomatic conference on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.[16] The findings should help artisans, cooperatives, the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE), the GI Registry, the Design Office and policymakers.

3. Himachali Crafts and the Problem of Copying

3.1 A Living Design Heritage

Ten of the seventeen Himachali GIs relate to crafts, textiles or jewellery (Table 1). Their designs share three features. First, they are collective. The Kinnauri shawl application describes motifs with symbolic and religious meaning, and colours linked to the five elements.[17] Second, they are tied to place and material. Kullu shawls use local wool as well as Merino, Angora and Pashmina.[18] Third, they depend on hand skill. Lahauli women knit socks in a pattern called *dashi*, which combines seven or eight motif types in four or five rows of colour.[19] Chamba chappals are leather sandals finished with golden and coloured embroidery.[20]

[15] European Commission, "Geographical Indications for Craft and Industrial Products," available at: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/intellectual-property/geographical-indications-craft-and-industrial-products_en (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[16] World Intellectual Property Organization, "IGC Mandate 2026–2027," decision of the WIPO General Assembly at its Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings (July 8–17, 2025), available at: https://www.wipo.int/documents/d/igc/docs-en-igc-mandate-2026-2027.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[17] Kinnauri Shawl Application, *supra* note 2.

[18] HIMCOSTE, *supra* note 1.

[19] "Lahauli Hand-Knit Socks, Gloves Given GI Status," The Tribune (Nov. 6, 2021), available at: https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/lahauli-hand-knit-socks-gloves-given-gi-status-334568(last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[20] "Chamba Chappal Gets GI Tag," The Tribune (Nov. 10, 2021), available at: https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/chamba-chappal-gets-gi-tag-336242 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

Table 1 — Registered geographical indications for Himachali crafts, textiles and jewellery

GI (application no.)	Goods (class)	Applicant	Filed; registered	Distinctive features
Kullu Shawl (19)	Handicraft (24)	H.P. Patent Information Centre	Dec. 2004; 2005–06	Bands of bright patterns across both ends; local and fine wools
Chamba Rumal (79)	Handicraft (24)	H.P. Patent Information Centre	Jan. 2007; 2008–09	Double satin stitch (*dorukha*) worked on both faces; scenes of deities
Kinnauri Shawl (149)	Handicraft (24)	H.P. Patent Information Centre	Dec. 2008; Aug. 2010	Geometric motifs and stylised Buddhist symbols; colours linked to five elements
Kangra Paintings (381, 413)	Handicraft (16)	Kangra Arts Promotion Society	Apr. 2012; Mar. 2014	Naturalistic style; mineral and vegetable colours; Radha–Krishna themes
Kullu Shawl (Logo) (383)	Handicraft (24)	H.P. Patent Information Centre	May 2012; Mar. 2014	Figurative mark for genuine Kullu shawls
Chamba Chappal (614)	Handicraft (25)	Ambedkar Mission Society, Chamba	May 2018; Sept. 2021	Leather sandals with golden and coloured embroidery
Lahauli Knitted Socks & Gloves (647)	Handicraft	Save Lahaul-Spiti Society	—; 2021–22	Hand-knitted local wool; *dashi* pattern of seven or eight motif types
Chamba Metal Art (862)	Handicraft (6)	Chamba Art and Craft Promotion Society	Apr. 2022; 2026	Metal craft such as the Chamba *thal*, sculptures and mementos
Himachali Cap (985)	Textiles (24)	Kinnaur and Kullu weavers' associations	Sept. 2022; 2026	Traditional cap; apparently the product reported as "Kinnauri Topi" in the 2026 announcement
Kinnauri Jewellery (1075)	Manufactured goods (14)	Kinnaur Kalash Samiti	Apr. 2023; 2026	Traditional jewellery of Kinnaur
Sirmauri Loiya (not traced)	—	—	—; 2026	Traditional woollen garment of Sirmaur

Note: The Kullu Shawl (Logo) is a separate registration and is not counted among the State's seventeen GIs. Registration years for applications 19, 79 and 647 are financial years. The certificates for applications 862, 985 and 1075 are dated 28 March 2026; the State announced the 2026 registrations on 1 July 2026. Two craft applications of 2013, "Chamba Painting" (412) and "Lahaul & Spiti Wool Weaving" (416), were abandoned. *Source:* Compiled from the online records of the GI Registry, HIMCOSTE and the reports cited in Sections 3 and 4.

3.2 How the Designs Are Copied

Copying takes two forms. The first is false use of the name. Factory-made shawls are sold as Kullu or Kinnauri shawls to buyers who cannot tell the difference.[21] The second is copying of the design itself, often under another name. The chairperson of Himbunkar, the State handloom cooperative federation, has said that offenders copy Kullu shawl designs and sell them more cheaply.[22] A genuine Kullu shawl costs from ₹1,000 to ₹20,000. A power-loom copy costs half as much or less. Weavers also report that the GI mark is not strictly enforced and that repeat offenders are seldom checked.[23]

The threat is no longer only local. Global fashion brands draw on Indian crafts, and a design can reach a foreign market without its name. The law must therefore be judged by how well it protects the design, not only the label.

4. Geographical Indications: Strong on Names, Weak on Designs

4.1 The Statutory Scheme

The GI Act expressly covers goods of handicraft.[24] A GI identifies goods as originating in a territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic is essentially attributable to that origin.[25] An "indication" includes a name and a geographical or figurative representation.[26] Any association of producers, or an organisation or authority that represents them, may apply.[27] Producers then register as authorised users, and only they gain the exclusive right to use the GI.[28] Registration lasts ten years and may be renewed.[29]

Infringement occurs when an unauthorised person uses a registered GI in the designation or presentation of goods so as to mislead buyers about origin.[30] Use of a GI that amounts to unfair competition, including passing off, is also infringement.[31] Applying a false GI is an offence. It carries imprisonment of six months to three years and a fine of ₹50,000 to ₹2 lakh.[32]

---

[21] Chauhan, *Fake Shawls*, *supra* note 7.

[22] Dipender Manta, "Weavers Finding It Hard to Deal with Sale of Fake Kullu Shawls," The Tribune (Dec. 1, 2018), available at: https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/himachal-tribune/weavers-finding-it-hard-to-deal-with-sale-of-fake-kullu-shawls-691631 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[23] *Id.*

[24] GI Act, § 2(1)(f).

[25] *Id.* § 2(1)(e).

[26] *Id.* § 2(1)(g).

[27] *Id.* § 11(1).

[28] *Id.* §§ 17, 21.

[29] *Id.* § 18.

[30] *Id.* § 22(1)(a).

[31] *Id.* § 22(1)(b).

[32] *Id.* § 39.

4.2 The Himachal Experience

Himachal Pradesh was an early user of the system. The Kullu shawl was its first GI. It was filed in December 2004 and registered in 2005–06.[33] The Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre, part of HIMCOSTE, applied for several craft GIs itself, including the Kinnauri shawl.[34] It also registered a logo for the Kullu shawl in 2014, so that genuine shawls can carry a visible mark.[35] Eight more products were registered in 2026, which took the State's total to seventeen.[36] Four of them are crafts: Chamba Metal Art, Kinnauri Jewellery, the Sirmauri Loiya and a traditional cap.[37]

The records also reveal gaps. In 2013, the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) applied for "Chamba Painting" and "Lahaul & Spiti Wool Weaving". Both applications were abandoned.[38] Uptake by producers is thin. The Registry shows a single registered authorised user for the Kinnauri shawl, six for Kangra paintings and twenty-six for the Chamba chappal.[39] These numbers are small beside the thousands of weavers and artisans in the State. Without authorised users, a GI has few hands to use it or to defend it.

[33] HIMCOSTE, *supra* note 1; Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, "Registration Details of Geographical Indications," available at: https://ipindia.gov.in/frontend/pdf/gi/registered/Total_Registered_GI_details_of_GI_Application_in_India.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[34] Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Kinnauri Shawl (Application No. 149)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/149 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[35] Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Kullu Shawl (Logo) (Application No. 383)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/383 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[36] "Himachal Pradesh Achieves Milestone with 8 New Geographical Indications," Devdiscourse (July 1, 2026), available at: https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/politics/3943767-himachal-pradesh-achieves-milestone-with-8-new-geographical-indications (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[37] Devdiscourse, *supra* note 36; Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Chamba Metal Art (Application No. 862)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/862 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026); Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Kinnauri Jewellery (Application No. 1075)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/1075 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026); Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Himachali Cap (Application No. 985)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/985 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[38] Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Chamba Painting (Application No. 412)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/412 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026); Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Lahaul & Spiti Wool Weaving (Application No. 416)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/416 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[39] GI Registry, *Kinnauri Shawl*, *supra* note 34; Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Kangra Paintings (Application No. 381)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/381 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026); Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details: Chamba Chappal (Application No. 614)," available at: https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/614 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).



Fig. 1 — Key developments in the protection of Himachali crafts, 2004–2027

Note: Filled markers show developments in Himachal Pradesh or India; hollow markers show developments abroad. TK = traditional knowledge; TCEs = traditional cultural expressions. *Source:* Compiled from the GI Registry and the authorities cited in this paper.

4.3 The Design Gap in GI Law

The GI Act protects a sign of origin, not a design. A rival who sells a power-loom shawl as a "Kullu shawl" infringes the GI. A rival who copies the same border but sells the product as a "Himalayan shawl" may not. Both limbs of the infringement clause turn on the use of a geographical indication.[40] The pattern itself, however distinctive, is outside their reach.

The Act does leave an opening. Because an indication may be a figurative representation, a GI need not be a word. The registration of the Kullu shawl logo shows that the Registry accepts figurative GIs.[41] A community could therefore seek registration of a stylised form of its signature motif, such as a Kinnauri border, as a sign of origin. Copying that motif in a misleading way would then be use of the registered GI.

[40] GI Act, § 22(1).

[41] GI Registry, *Kullu Shawl (Logo)*, *supra* note 35.

This route is untested. It fits, however, the wording of the TRIPS Agreement, which defines GIs as "indications" and not merely as names.[42]

A further limit is territory. An Indian registration has no force abroad. Each foreign market requires separate protection on its own terms.

5. Design and Copyright Law: Built for New Works

5.1 The Novelty Barrier

The Designs Act suits handmade goods in one respect. A design may be applied by any industrial process or means, whether manual, mechanical or chemical.[43] Hand weaving and embroidery therefore qualify. The difficulty is novelty. A design cannot be registered if it is not new or original. Nor can it be registered if it was disclosed to the public before filing, or if it is not significantly distinguishable from known designs.[44] Traditional motifs have been in public use for generations. No community can register them now, and any registration of them is open to cancellation.[45]

The same rule can work against artisans. The Act treats as original a design that is old in itself but new in its application.[46] An outsider may place a Chamba rumal motif on a new kind of article and claim it as an original design. The examiner can refuse it only if the traditional source is known and documented. Proof of prior publication must also be clear. In *Bharat Glass Tube*, the Supreme Court refused to cancel a registration on the basis of a foreign registry website. The extract did not clearly show the same design on the same article.[47] Undocumented community knowledge will rarely meet this standard.

5.2 New Designs by Living Artisans

Design law can still help artisans who innovate. A weaver who creates a new border, or a new use of an old motif, may register it before showing it in public. Protection lasts ten years and may be extended by five.[48] An infringer must pay up to ₹25,000 for each contravention, with a cap of ₹50,000 for any one design. The proprietor may instead sue for damages and an injunction.[49] In practice, few individual artisans can bear the cost of registering each design before disclosure, or of suing over one shawl pattern.

5.3 The Copyright Route

Copyright looks more promising at first sight. It protects original artistic works, including paintings, drawings and works of artistic craftsmanship, without registration.[50] But the first owner is the author.[51] A traditional motif has no single author, and the term of protection is tied to the author's life.[52] Old Kangra paintings and Chamba rumals are therefore in the public domain. Copyright helps only living artists who create new pieces within these traditions.

---

[42] Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, art. 22.1, Apr. 15, 1994, Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Annex 1C, 1869 U.N.T.S. 299 [hereinafter TRIPS].

[43] Designs Act, § 2(d).

[44] *Id.* § 4.

[45] *Id.* § 19(1).

[46] *Id.* § 2(g).

[47] *Bharat Glass Tube Ltd. v. Gopal Glass Works Ltd.*, (2008) 10 SCC 657 (India).

[48] Designs Act, § 11.

[49] *Id.* § 22(2).

[50] Copyright Act, § 2(c).

[51] *Id.* § 17.

[52] *Id.* § 22.

Section 15 adds a second hurdle. Copyright does not subsist in a registered design. A design may be capable of registration but remain unregistered. Copyright in it then ends once the owner, or a licensee, reproduces the article more than fifty times by an industrial process.[53] In *Microfibres*, upholstery fabric designs lost copyright on this ground because they had been reproduced industrially without registration.[54] On appeal in 2009, a Division Bench drew the line clearly. An original painting keeps its copyright, but a design derived from it for industrial production is protected only by registration.[55] In *Rajesh Masrani*, by contrast, garments made in no more than twenty pieces for each costume were held, prima facie, to keep their copyright.[56]

In 2025, the Supreme Court set out a two-step test. The first step asks if a work is purely artistic or a design derived from it. If copyright does not apply, the second step uses a test of functional utility to decide whether the work qualifies as a design.[57] No ruling has yet settled whether hand weaving is an "industrial process" under Section 15. The Designs Act counts manual means as a form of industrial application. A judge may therefore treat a hand-woven shawl produced in numbers as a mass-produced article. Table 2 and Fig. 2 summarise the position.

Table 2 — What each Indian law protects in a traditional craft

Law	What it protects	Right holder	Term	Main limit for traditional designs
GI Act, 1999	A name or figurative sign showing origin, quality or reputation	Registered proprietor and authorised users	Ten years, renewable without limit	Does not reach a design copied without the indication; few authorised users
Designs Act, 2000	The new or original appearance of an article, including handmade articles	Registered proprietor	Ten years, extendable by five	Old motifs fail novelty; outsiders may claim a "new application" of an old motif
Copyright Act, 1957	Original artistic works, including works of artistic craftsmanship	Author as first owner	Author's life plus sixty years	No identifiable author; old works in the public domain; Section 15 cut-off

[53] *Id.* § 15.

[54] *Microfibres Inc. v. Girdhar & Co.*, 2006 (32) PTC 157, ¶ 68 (Del) (India).

[55] LexOrbis, "Designs and Artistic Works: Microfibres Appeal Falls Through," Mondaq (June 9, 2009), available at: https://www.mondaq.com/india/copyright/80924/designs-and-artistic-works-microfibres-appeal-falls-through (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[56] *Rajesh Masrani v. Tahiliani Design Pvt. Ltd.*, 2009 (39) PTC 21, ¶¶ 14, 28 (Del) (DB) (India).

[57] *Cryogas Equipment Pvt. Ltd. v. Inox India Ltd.*, 2025 INSC 483, ¶ 60 (India).

Law	What it protects	Right holder	Term	Main limit for traditional designs
Handlooms Act, 1985	Production of reserved articles, such as shawls with extra weft designs, on handlooms	State (criminal enforcement)	While the reservation order stands	Protects the method, not the design; no private right of action
Trade Marks Act, 1999 (collective and certification marks)	The brand of an association, or a certified standard	Association or certifying body	Ten years, renewable	Needs a brand and marketing; does not stop copying of designs

Source: Compiled from the GI Act, 1999 (ss. 2, 17, 18, 21, 22), the Designs Act, 2000 (ss. 2, 4, 11, 19), the Copyright Act, 1957 (ss. 2(c), 15, 17, 22), the Handlooms Act, 1985 (ss. 3, 5, 10) and the Trade Marks Act, 1999 (ss. 25, 61–78).

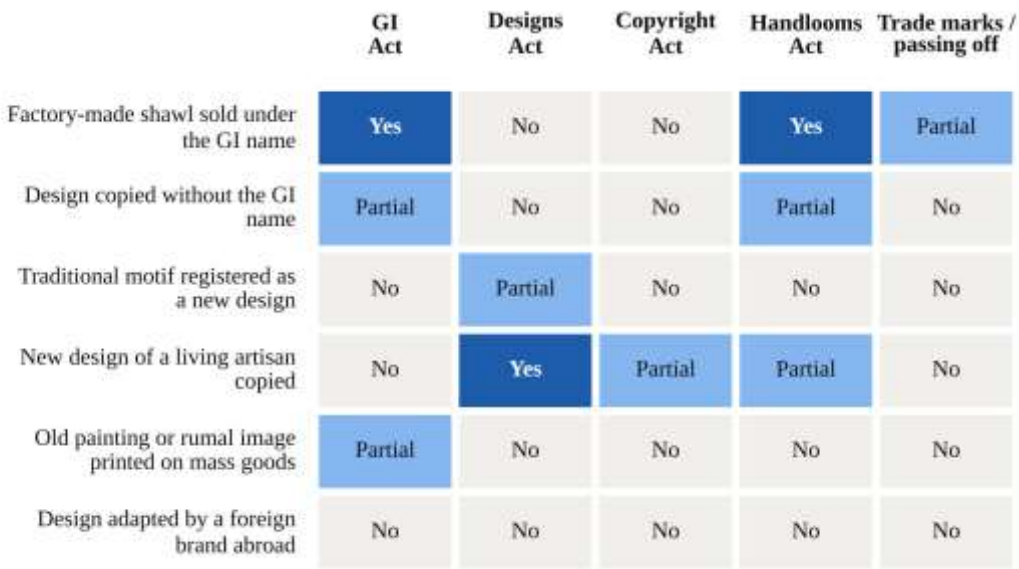


Fig. 2 — Protection map: how far each Indian law answers common forms of copying

Note: "Yes" means clear protection; "Partial" means protection only in some conditions, or an untested route; "No" means no protection. Rows 1 and 2 assume that the copy is made on a power loom. *Source:* Authors' analysis of the statutes and cases discussed in Sections 4 and 5.

6. The Kolhapuri Chappal Episode: A Warning for Himachal

The Kolhapuri chappal shows what can happen to a craft design abroad. It has been a registered GI since 2019, held by two State corporations of Maharashtra and Karnataka.[58] On 22 June 2025, Prada showed toe-ring sandals at its men's Spring/Summer show in Milan. A group of advocates then filed a public interest litigation in the Bombay High Court. They alleged that the sandals closely resembled the

[58] "Prada Partners with Lidcom, Lidkar to Co-create Kolhapuri-inspired Sandals," Business Standard (Dec. 11, 2025), available at: https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/prada-lidcom-lidkar-kolhapuri-collaboration-125121100894_1.html (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

Kolhapuri chappal and that the designers had not acknowledged the source. They sought an injunction, an apology and compensation for artisans.[59]

The High Court dismissed the petition on 16 July 2025. It held that the registered proprietors were well equipped to sue, and that similarity was a disputed question of fact that needed evidence.[60] The episode ended in negotiation rather than litigation. In December 2025, Prada signed a memorandum of understanding with the two corporations. It agreed to make a limited-edition collection in India with artisans from both States, to be sold in forty stores from February 2026.[61]

Three lessons follow for Himachal. First, the right to sue lies with registered proprietors, so their capacity and will decide the outcome. Second, an Indian GI did not govern a design shown in Milan; the result came from public pressure and goodwill. Third, a shared commercial project may serve artisans better than a lawsuit, provided they have standing to negotiate. A Kinnauri border or a Chamba rumal motif could face the same test tomorrow.

7. International and Comparative Approaches

7.1 Work at WIPO

International law has no binding rule yet on traditional cultural expressions. WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee has worked on the subject for over two decades. In July 2025, the WIPO General Assembly renewed its mandate for 2026–27, and it will decide in 2027 whether to convene a diplomatic conference.[62]

Design law has moved first. The Riyadh Design Law Treaty was adopted on 22 November 2024.[63] Its closed list of application contents allows a member to ask for information on traditional cultural expressions and traditional knowledge, where its law permits.[64] The Treaty also sets a twelve-month grace period after a first disclosure, and it will enter into force after fifteen ratifications.[65]

7.2 The European Union

The European Union has extended GI protection to crafts. Its craft GI regulation has applied since 1 December 2025.[66] It covers products such as textiles, lace, jewellery, woodwork and porcelain.[67] Protection extends to misuse, imitation and evocation, and national authorities must run online checks, including checks of domain names.[68] Producers from outside the Union must apply directly to the EU Intellectual Property Office, and only if the GI is protected at home.[69] Limoges porcelain became the first

[59] LiveLaw, *supra* note 14.

[60] *Ganesh S. Hingmire v. PRADA Group*, PIL No. 72 of 2025, 2025 SCC OnLine Bom 2681 (India).

[61] Business Standard, *supra* note 58.

[62] WIPO, *IGC Mandate*, *supra* note 16.

[63] Jones Day, "WIPO Adopts First Design Law Treaty" (Dec. 2024), available at: https://www.jonesday.com/en/insights/2024/12/wipo-adopts-first-design-law-treaty (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[64] World Intellectual Property Organization, "Summary of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (2024)," available at: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/treaties/ip/rdlt/summary_rdlt (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[65] Jones Day, *supra* note 63.

[66] Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 on the Protection of Geographical Indications for Craft and Industrial Products, 2023 O.J. (L 2411).

[67] European Commission, *supra* note 15.

[68] Romain Meys & Niklas Fels, "GI Craft and Industrial Products," Bird & Bird (2023), available at: https://www.twobirds.com/en/insights/2023/global/gi-craft-and-industrial-products (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[69] *Id.*

registered craft GI on 15 May 2026.[70] This regime offers Kullu and Kinnauri shawls a route into a major export market. Its concept of evocation also reaches further than the Indian infringement clause.

7.3 Panama and the United States

Some countries protect craft designs through special laws. Panama's Law No. 20 of 2000 creates an intellectual property regime for the collective rights of indigenous peoples. It covers traditional dress, including the mola, and major handicrafts.[71] The Government has issued authenticity labels for molas under it.[72] The United States takes a marketing approach. Its Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 bars the sale of goods in a manner that falsely suggests they are Indian-produced.[73] A first violation by an individual can attract a fine of up to $250,000, five years' imprisonment or both. A business can be fined up to $1 million.[74] Table 3 compares these approaches.

Table 3 — Comparative approaches to the protection of craft designs and traditional cultural expressions

Approach	Legal basis	What is protected	Key feature	Lesson for India
European Union	Regulation (EU) 2023/2411, applicable from 1 Dec. 2025	Names of craft and industrial products, such as textiles, lace, jewellery and porcelain	Protection against misuse, imitation and evocation; online and domain name checks; non-EU GIs filed directly with EUIPO	Adopt an evocation standard; seek EU protection for Himachali textiles
Panama	Law No. 20 of 2000; Executive Decree No. 12 of 2001	Collective rights in traditional dress, including the mola, and in handicrafts	Collective regime for indigenous peoples; authenticity labels	Recognise a collective right in the designs themselves
United States	Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990	Truth in marketing of goods presented as Indian-produced	Fines of up to $250,000 or five years' imprisonment for individuals; up to $1 million for businesses	Penalise false claims of craft origin, not only false names

[70] Rebeca Ferrero Guillén, "Limoges Porcelain, Portuguese Embroidery and Brittany Granite: The First Registrations of Geographical Indications for Craft and Industrial Products," Garrigues IP Blog (June 16, 2026), available at: https://blogip.garrigues.com/en/industrial-property/limoges-porcelain-portuguese-embroidery-and-brittany-granite-the-first-registrations-of-geographical-indications-for-craft-and-industrial-products (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[71] Law No. 20 of 26 June 2000 on the Special Intellectual Property Regime Governing the Collective Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Gaceta Oficial No. 24,083 (June 27, 2000) (Pan.); "Panama: Empowering Indigenous Women through a Better Protection and Marketing of Handicrafts," WIPO Magazine (Nov. 30, 2005), available at: https://www.wipo.int/web/wipo-magazine/articles/panama-empowering-indigenous-women-through-a-better-protection-and-marketing-of-handicrafts-35026 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[72] WIPO Magazine, *supra* note 71.

[73] Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-644, 104 Stat. 4662 (U.S.).

[74] U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Arts and Crafts Board, "The Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990," available at: https://doi.gov/iacb/act (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

Approach	Legal basis	What is protected	Key feature	Lesson for India
WIPO: Riyadh Design Law Treaty	Adopted 22 Nov. 2024; not yet in force	Formalities of design applications	Members may ask for information on traditional cultural expressions and traditional knowledge; 12-month grace period	Basis for a disclosure duty in design applications
WIPO: Intergovernmental Committee	Mandate for 2026–27	Traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions	Decision on a diplomatic conference due in 2027	Shape a future national law to match the outcome

Source: Compiled from the instruments and authorities cited in Section 7.

8. Towards a Layered Framework

No single law can protect Himachali crafts. A layered framework is needed, in which each tool covers what the others miss. Six measures are proposed, and Table 4 sets out their legal basis.

First, India should build a register of traditional designs. The model exists. By 2021, the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library held over four lakh formulations of traditional medicine and yoga, and fourteen patent offices used it to search prior art.[75] A similar register of Himachali motifs, prepared with HIMCOSTE and craft societies, would let the Design Office refuse or cancel designs copied from tradition.

Second, design applicants should disclose any traditional source of their design. The Riyadh Treaty permits such a requirement.[76] The duty could be added to the application form under the Designs Rules, 2001, and a false statement could become a ground for cancellation.

Third, communities should register figurative GIs for their signature motifs, as Himachal has done with the Kullu shawl logo. Parliament should also make clear that Section 22 covers evocation of a registered GI, including by design or presentation, as EU law now does for crafts.

Fourth, the State should enrol artisans as authorised users in groups. In 2018, Kullu district alone had 215 active handloom cooperative societies.[77] Enrolment through them would give each GI many more users and defenders.

Fifth, the handloom reservation law should be enforced alongside the GI Act. The reserved articles have included shawls, lois, mufflers and pankhis woven with extra weft designs.[78] Producing a reserved article on a power loom is punishable with imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to ₹5,000 per loom, or

[75] Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3350, answered on Dec. 17, 2021 (Ministry of AYUSH), available at: https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/977177/1/AU3350.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[76] WIPO, *Summary of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty*, *supra* note 64.

[77] Manta, *supra* note 22.

[78] Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3665, answered on May 16, 2006 (Ministry of Textiles), available at: https://eparlib.sansad.in/bitstream/123456789/526698/1/27251.pdf (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

both.[79] Across India, agencies inspected 11,14,667 power looms and lodged 218 FIRs over three financial years and part of a fourth, up to February 2022.[80] Joint drives in Kullu and Kinnaur would reach both the false name and the false method of production.

Sixth, India needs a law on traditional cultural expressions in the long run. A private member's bill of 2016 proposed state-level docketing of traditional knowledge, including designs and art forms, with benefit sharing.[81] It has not been enacted. A new law should follow the outcome at WIPO and give communities a collective right, on the lines of Panama's law.

Table 4 — Proposed measures for a layered framework

Measure	Legal basis	Lead bodies	Expected effect
1. Register of traditional designs	Designs Act, ss. 4 and 19 (prior art)	HIMCOSTE, craft societies, Design Office	Blocks registration of motifs copied from tradition
2. Disclosure of traditional sources	Amendment of the Designs Rules, 2001; Riyadh Design Law Treaty	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade; Design Office	Traces sources; false statements become a ground for cancellation
3. Figurative GIs and an evocation clause	GI Act, ss. 2(1)(g) and 22 (amendment)	Registered proprietors; Parliament	Reaches copies of designs, not only of names
4. Group enrolment of authorised users	GI Act, s. 17	HIMCOSTE; handloom cooperatives	More users to use and defend each GI
5. Joint enforcement	Handlooms Act, ss. 5 and 10; GI Act, s. 39	State Industries and Textiles Departments; police	Checks the false name and the false method together
6. Protection abroad and a national law	Regulation (EU) 2023/2411; future law on traditional cultural expressions	Registered proprietors; Union Government	Protection in export markets; a collective right in designs

Source: Authors' proposals, drawing on the authorities cited in Sections 4 to 8.

9. Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 Conclusion

This paper asked whether Indian intellectual property law protects the traditional designs and artistic expressions of Himachali crafts. It finds that the law protects their names far better than their designs. The

[79] Handlooms Act, §§ 5, 10.

[80] Ministry of Textiles, "11 Textiles Articles with Certain Technical Specifications Are Exclusively Reserved for Production on Handlooms," Press Information Bureau (Apr. 1, 2022), available at: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1812498 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

[81] The Protection of Traditional Knowledge Bill, 2016, Bill No. 282 of 2016 (private member's bill, Lok Sabha), available at: https://shashitharoor.in/private_member_bills_details/9 (last visited Nov. 7, 2026).

GI Act guards the name and the origin, and Himachal has used it well. But few artisans are authorised users, and enforcement is weak. Design law rewards novelty, which traditional designs lack. Copyright needs an author and lapses with time. A pattern copied without the name therefore falls through the gap. These findings support the hypothesis of the study.

The gap can be narrowed without waiting for a new treaty. India can document its traditional designs, ask design applicants to disclose their sources, register signature motifs as figurative GIs, enrol more artisans and enforce the handloom law. Protection abroad, through the new EU regime, should follow.

9.2 Recommendations

a. Build a register of traditional Himachali designs with HIMCOSTE and craft societies, and give the Design Office access to it.
b. Require design applicants to disclose any traditional source of their design, as the Riyadh Design Law Treaty allows.
c. Register signature motifs as figurative GIs, and amend Section 22 of the GI Act to cover evocation.
d. Enrol artisans as authorised users through cooperatives, with State support for fees and paperwork.
e. Enforce the handloom reservation law together with the GI Act in the main craft districts.
f. Seek EU craft GI protection for leading Himachali textiles, and prepare a national law on traditional cultural expressions.

Bibliography

A. Statutes and Rules:

1. Copyright Act, 1957, No. 14, Acts of Parliament, 1957 (India).
2. Designs Act, 2000, No. 16, Acts of Parliament, 2000 (India).
3. Designs Rules, 2001 (India).
4. Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, No. 48, Acts of Parliament, 1999 (India).
5. Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, No. 22, Acts of Parliament, 1985 (India).
6. Protection of Traditional Knowledge Bill, 2016, Bill No. 282 of 2016 (private member's bill, Lok Sabha), https://shashitharoor.in/private_member_bills_details/9.
7. Trade Marks Act, 1999, No. 47, Acts of Parliament, 1999 (India).

Other Jurisdictions:

1. Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-644, 104 Stat. 4662 (U.S.).
2. Law No. 20 of 26 June 2000 on the Special Intellectual Property Regime Governing the Collective Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Gaceta Oficial No. 24,083 (June 27, 2000) (Pan.).
3. Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 on the Protection of Geographical Indications for Craft and Industrial Products, 2023 O.J. (L 2411).

B. Cases:

1. Bharat Glass Tube Ltd. v. Gopal Glass Works Ltd., (2008) 10 SCC 657 (India).
2. Cryogas Equipment Pvt. Ltd. v. Inox India Ltd., 2025 INSC 483 (India).
3. Ganesh S. Hingmire v. PRADA Group, PIL No. 72 of 2025, 2025 SCC OnLine Bom 2681 (India).
4. Microfibres Inc. v. Girdhar & Co., 2006 (32) PTC 157 (Del) (India).
5. Rajesh Masrani v. Tahiliani Design Pvt. Ltd., 2009 (39) PTC 21 (Del) (DB) (India).

C. International Instruments and Documents:

1. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Apr. 15, 1994, Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Annex 1C, 1869 U.N.T.S. 299.
2. World Intellectual Property Organization, "IGC Mandate 2026–2027," Decision of the WIPO General Assembly, Sixty-Sixth Series of Meetings (July 8–17, 2025), https://www.wipo.int/documents/d/igc/docs-en-igc-mandate-2026-2027.pdf.
3. World Intellectual Property Organization, "Summary of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (2024)," https://www.wipo.int/en/web/treaties/ip/rdlt/summary_rdlt.

D. Government and Official Sources:

1. European Commission, "Geographical Indications for Craft and Industrial Products," https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/intellectual-property/geographical-indications-craft-and-industrial-products_en.
2. Geographical Indications Registry, "Application Details," https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/ (Application Nos. 149 (Kinnauri Shawl), 381 (Kangra Paintings), 383 (Kullu Shawl (Logo)), 412 (Chamba Painting), 416 (Lahaul & Spiti Wool Weaving), 614 (Chamba Chappal), 862 (Chamba Metal Art), 985 (Himachali Cap), 1075 (Kinnauri Jewellery)).
3. Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre, HIMCOSTE, "Geographical Indications of HimachalPradesh"(brochure),https://himcoste.hp.gov.in/Patent%20Information%20Centre/Pdf/gi%20brochure1.pdf.
4. Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre, "Application for the Registration of Chamba Rumal as a Geographical Indication," https://www.origin-gi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/69-chamba-rumal.pdf.
5. Himachal Pradesh Patent Information Centre & Kinnaur Handloom Weavers' Association, "Application for the Registration of Kinnauri Shawl under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999," https://www.origin-gi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/108-kinnauri-shawl.pdf.
6. Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3350, answered on Dec. 17, 2021 (Ministry of AYUSH), https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/977177/1/AU3350.pdf.
7. Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3665, answered on May 16, 2006 (Ministry of Textiles), https://eparlib.sansad.in/bitstream/123456789/526698/1/27251.pdf.
8. Ministry of Textiles, "11 Textiles Articles with Certain Technical Specifications Are Exclusively Reserved for Production on Handlooms," Press Information Bureau (Apr. 1, 2022), https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1812498.
9. Ministry of Textiles, "State/UT-wise Number of Handloom Weavers and Allied Workers as per 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20," Press Information Bureau, Release ID 2202869(Dec.2025),https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/dec/doc20251212729201.pdf.
10. Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, "Registration Details ofGeographicalIndications,"https://ipindia.gov.in/frontend/pdf/gi/registered/Total_Registered_GI_details_of_GI_Application_in_India.pdf.

11. U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Arts and Crafts Board, "The Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990," https://doi.gov/iacb/act.
12. Victoria and Albert Museum, "Rumal" (Museum No. IS.1185-1883), https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O455592.

E. Secondary Sources (Commentary and Analysis):

1. Guillén, Rebeca Ferrero, "Limoges Porcelain, Portuguese Embroidery and Brittany Granite: The First Registrations of Geographical Indications for Craft and Industrial Products," Garrigues IP Blog (June 16, 2026), https://blogip.garrigues.com/en/industrial-property/limoges-porcelain-portuguese-embroidery-and-brittany-granite-the-first-registrations-of-geographical-indications-for-craft-and-industrial-products.
2. Jones Day, "WIPO Adopts First Design Law Treaty" (Dec. 2024), https://www.jonesday.com/en/insights/2024/12/wipo-adopts-first-design-law-treaty.
3. LexOrbis, "Designs and Artistic Works: Microfibres Appeal Falls Through," Mondaq (June 9, 2009), https://www.mondaq.com/india/copyright/80924/designs-and-artistic-works-microfibres-appeal-falls-through.
4. Meys, Romain & Fels, Niklas, "GI Craft and Industrial Products," Bird & Bird (2023), https://www.twobirds.com/en/insights/2023/global/gi-craft-and-industrial-products.
5. "Panama: Empowering Indigenous Women through a Better Protection and Marketing of Handicrafts," WIPO Magazine (Nov. 30, 2005), https://www.wipo.int/web/wipo-magazine/articles/panama-empowering-indigenous-women-through-a-better-protection-and-marketing-of-handicrafts-35026.

F. News Reports:

1. "Bombay High Court Rejects PIL Accusing Global Fashion Giant PRADA of Copying 'Kolhapuri Chappals'," LiveLaw (July 17, 2025), https://www.livelaw.in/high-court/bombay-high-court/bombay-high-court-pil-prada-copying-kolhapuri-chappals-297919.
2. "Chamba Chappal Gets GI Tag," The Tribune (Nov. 10, 2021), https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/chamba-chappal-gets-gi-tag-336242.
3. Chauhan, Pratibha, "GI Mark to Check Sale of Fake Shawls during Kullu Dasehra," The Tribune (Oct. 11, 2016), https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/community/gi-mark-to-check-sale-of-fake-shawls-during-kullu-dasehra-307702.
4. Chauhan, Pratibha, "Himachal to Move against Sale of Fake Kinnauri, Kullu Shawls," The Tribune (Jan. 3, 2015), https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/features/himachal-to-move-against-sale-of-fake-kinnauri-kullu-shawls-25607.
5. "Eight Traditional Himachal Pradesh Products Receive GI Tag, Taking State's Total to 17," Babushahi.com (July1, 2026), https://www.babushahi.com/full-news.php?id=223251.
6. "Himachal Pradesh Achieves Milestone with 8 New Geographical Indications," Devdiscourse (July 1, 2026), https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/politics/3943767-himachal-pradesh-achieves-milestone-with-8-new-geographical-indications.
7. "Lahauli Hand-Knit Socks, Gloves Given GI Status," The Tribune (Nov. 6, 2021), https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/lahauli-hand-knit-socks-gloves-given-gi-status-334568.

8. Manta, Dipender, "Weavers Finding It Hard to Deal with Sale of Fake Kullu Shawls," The Tribune (Dec. 1, 2018), https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/himachal-tribune/weavers-finding-it-hard-to-deal-with-sale-of-fake-kullu-shawls-691631.
9. "Prada Partners with Lidcom, Lidkar to Co-create Kolhapuri-inspired Sandals," Business Standard (Dec. 11, 2025), https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/prada-lidcom-lidkar-kolhapuri-collaboration-125121100894_1.html.