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A Pipli (Appliqué) Artisan cuts coloured fabrics into shapes — flowers, leaves, elephants, parrots, peacocks, geometric motifs — and stitches them onto a base cloth by needle and thread to make beautiful chandua...



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प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
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व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) • रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

A Pipli (Appliqué) Artisan cuts coloured fabrics into shapes — flowers, leaves, elephants, parrots, peacocks, geometric motifs — and stitches them onto a base cloth by needle and thread to make beautiful chandua (canopies/umbrellas), wall hangings and toran, bags, cushions, tents and decorative items. The appliqué craft of Pipli in Odisha is a GI-tagged, 800-year-old tradition, and Rajasthan too has a rich appliqué and patchwork handicraft heritage. The skill offers self-reliant employment, self-employment and even export opportunities through handwork, and suits women and persons with disabilities as well.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 10 + ~2 yrs experience (NSQF Level 4 Applique Artisan)
Course duration	About 3–6 months (plus learning under a master)
Starting salary	₹6,000–12,000/month
Work mode	Handicraft workshop/home-based, self-employment

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in colours, patterns and decorative design
- Keen to create beautiful, cultural and festive items
- Love of making things by hand and traditional handicraft

ABILITIES

- Creative aptitude and imagination for design
- Good hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills
- Ability to focus and work with concentration for long spells

KEY SKILLS

- Tracing and precisely cutting fabric motifs
- Colour combination, pattern and design sense
- Finishing, mirror/bead work and decorative embellishment
- Selling products on e-commerce/social media and GI/branding
- Appliqué stitching techniques — making chandua, umbrellas, toran, wall décor
- Identifying different fabrics, threads and materials and checking quality
- Customer interaction, pricing and taking orders

4 How to get there

- 1 Complete at least Class 10 (an artistic bent helps).
- 2 Learn cutting-stitching under a master artisan or at a Pipli/handicraft workshop; gain about 2 years' hands-on experience.
- 3 Enrol in the NSQF Level 4 'Applique Artisan' (HCS-Q7303) course at an HCSSC/NSDC/JSS centre.
- 4 Practise varied motifs and products and build a sample portfolio.
- 5 Register as an artisan under PM Vishwakarma and get an artisan ID/Pehchan card; access a toolkit, stipend and low-cost credit.
- 6 Start your own workshop, join an emporium/SHG, or work for an exporter.

MAIN EXAMS

- HCSSC/NSDC 'Applique Artisan' (HCS-Q7303) skill assessment and certification

5 Where to study**GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES**

- राजस्थान कौशल एवं आजीविका विकास निगम (RSLDC) — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in/rsldc/>)
- हस्तशिल्प विभाग / रूरल नॉन-फार्म डेवलपमेंट एजेंसी (RUDA), राजस्थान — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://industries.rajasthan.gov.in/content/industries/handmadeinrajasthandepartment.html>)
- जन शिक्षण संस्थान (JSS) — Various districts of Rajasthan (<https://nsdcindia.org/find-nsdc-training-centre-jss>)
- विकास आयुक्त (हस्तशिल्प), वस्त्र मंत्रालय - प्रशिक्षण व विपणन — All-India (<https://handicrafts.nic.in/>)

- एनआईओएस व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण केंद्र — Online / locate nearest centre (<https://voc.nios.ac.in/registration/locate-study-centre>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) – Applique Artisan — All-India / New Delhi (<https://hcsc.in/>)
- National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Jodhpur — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur/>)

ONLINE

- स्किल इंडिया डिजिटल हब — Online (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/>)
- HCSSC – एप्लिक आर्टिसन पार्टिसिपेंट हैंडबुक (स्व-अध्ययन) — Online (https://hcsc.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/PH_English_Applique-Artisan_HCS-Q7303_2.pdf)

FEES

Under most government schemes (RSLDC, JSS, PM Vishwakarma, PMKVY, DC-Handicrafts) training is free or very low-cost and often comes with a stipend/toolkit. Private institute or design courses can cost roughly ₹5,000–25,000.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- पीएम विश्वकर्मा योजना (कारीगर पहचान कार्ड, औज़ार-किट, भत्ता व सस्ता ऋण) (<https://pmvishwakarma.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- DC (Handicrafts) – कारीगर योजनाएँ व पहचान कार्ड (<https://handicrafts.nic.in/>)
- Buddy4Study – ITI/व्यावसायिक छात्रवृत्ति (<https://www.buddy4study.com/article/iti-scholarships>)
- SJE Rajasthan Scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Handicraft workshops in Pipli/Puri and Rajasthan, handicraft emporia (Rajasthali, Utkalika, Boyanika), self-help groups and NGOs, one's own home unit, and exporter firms.

WORK CULTURE

Typically 8–9 hours, 6 days a week; demand rises in seasons like festivals, weddings and the Rath Yatra. Work is often piece-rate (per item) or in a family workshop. Being seated work, it also suits women and persons with disabilities.

WHO HIRES

- Government and private handicraft emporia (Rajasthali, Utkalika, Boyanika)
- Self-help groups and NGOs (Rajeevika, Sadhna, OLM)
- Tent/canopy, event and wedding décor companies
- Handicraft exporters and EPCH-linked export houses
- E-commerce platforms (Amazon Karigar, Flipkart Samarth, Okhai, GoCoop)
- Home-décor and fashion brands (e.g. FabIndia, Jaypore) and boutiques

DEMAND (2026)

Demand for handmade, GI-tagged decorative items stays steady across festivals, weddings, tourism and export markets, and e-commerce now connects artisans directly to customers. Schemes like PM Vishwakarma, One District-One Product and export promotion are expanding opportunities; though cheap machine-made goods compete, skilled, branded and export-quality artisans do best.

7 Career growth

- 1 Apprentice / Assistant Appliqué Artisan
- 2 Appliqué Artisan (Karigar)
- 3 Master Craftsperson / Designer
- 4 Own workshop/enterprise owner and exporter

EARNINGS

Starting	₹6,000–12,000/माह
Mid level	₹12,000–25,000/माह
Senior level	₹30,000–60,000+/माह

Entry-level piece-rate income can be low (sometimes ₹5,000–8,000/month), but skilled artisans, master craftspersons and those running their own workshop/export earn considerably more; National-Award winners and exporters reach very high incomes. PM Vishwakarma's toolkit, stipend and cheap credit help raise earnings. (Figures are indicative and subject to change.)

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Creative, culturally proud work that keeps a traditional art alive
- Flexibility of home-based/self-employment; suits women and persons with disabilities too
- Growing opportunities via government support (PM Vishwakarma, GI, exports) and e-commerce

The challenges

- Piece-rate income can be low at first and seasonal
- Long hours; fine work strains the eyes and hands
- Tough competition from cheap machine-made goods

9 Real-life journeys

Benudhar Mahapatra

President, Odisha Applique Society and senior Pipli appliqué craftsman

Raised in Pipli's (Odisha) generations-old appliqué tradition, Benudhar Mahapatra today leads the artisans of this GI-tagged handicraft as President of the Odisha Applique Society. He works to secure raw material, fair prices and markets for craftspeople and to protect the identity and reputation of genuine Pipli appliqué. His story shows that an ordinary artisan can, alongside his craft, become a leader of his community and carry a traditional art forward to future generations.

Civil Society Magazine · <https://www.civilsocietyonline.com/rural-reporter/pipli-is-trendy-with-its-craft-but-losing-its-artisans/>

Lakshmi Shah

Appliqué and patchwork artisan, Sadhna (Sewa Mandir), Udaipur, Rajasthan

Lakshmi Shah, from the Manoharpura group in Udaipur district, joined the women's handicraft enterprise Sadhna in 2003 when her husband's factory shut down. Working from home in appliqué, patchwork and Tanka embroidery, she not only ran her household but educated her daughters and took part in exhibitions. In her words, 'Sadhna has given me courage, dignity and self-confidence.' Her story shows how skill with needle and thread can make a woman self-reliant and self-respecting.

30 Stades · <https://30stades.com/2022/06/22/udaipur-sadhna-social-enterprise-disadvantaged-women-handcraft-a-secure-future/>

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Pipli (Appliqué) Artisan — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%aa%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%aa%e0%a4%b2%e0%a5%80-%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%97%e0%a4%b0/>

2. HCSSC – Applique Artisan (HCS-Q7303) Handbook — https://hcssc.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/PH_English_Applique-Artisan_HCS-Q7303_2.pdf
3. Pipli Appliqué Work (Odisha) – GI, Textiles Committee — <https://textilescommittee.nic.in/pipli-applique-work-odisha-gi-regn-no-86108>
4. Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles — <https://handicrafts.nic.in/>
5. PM Vishwakarma Scheme — <https://pmvishwakarma.gov.in/>

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