

COMMUNITY: RAAU NODE

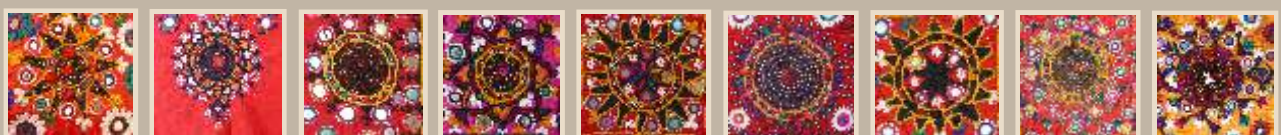
EMBROIDERIES: PAKKO SOOF, KACHCHO SOOF, KACHHO KACHCHO, PAKKO PHOOLADI, PAKKO PAKKO, KACHCHO NERAN

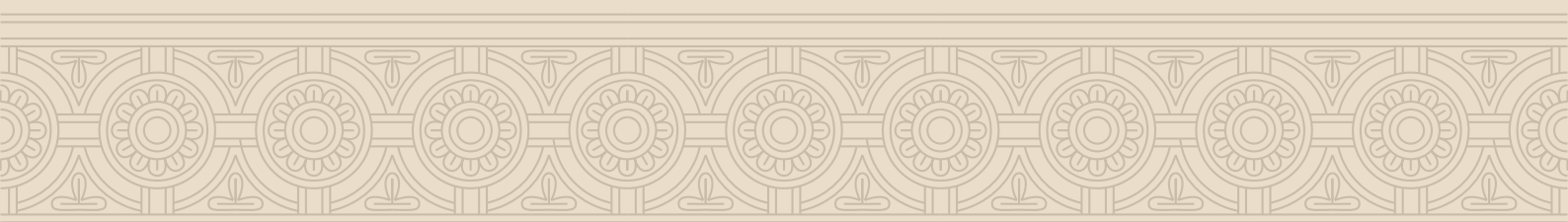
The world of Raau Node embroidery is a world of colourful flowers of varied shapes and sizes.

Raau Node flowers are robust and have an embossed look and feel to them. Craftswomen create this effect by using layered stitches that are inherently strong and bold. Even when other stitches are used, they are rendered so close and tight that the base fabric does not show through. All this creates the embossed effect that is pure *Raau Node*.



The floral motifs have mirrors. They are round, medium to large in size and embroidered in vivid colours. One of the most popular floral motifs is the *taariye jo phool* which is rendered in many different ways. While most of the stitches, colours and other elements vary from one taariyo to another, all of them make profuse use of the *taariye ji kheech*. So far we have come across nine distinctly different taariye jo phool.





Rahu Node craftswomen embroider a variety of **Pakko** and **Kachcho** styles. The Pakko styles such as Pakko Soof use a *pakko* stitch as the primary stitch to create the entire style or to create its main distinctive features. The Kachcho styles such as Kachcho Kachcho and Kachcho Soof use a *kachcho* stitch as the primary stitch to create the entire style or to create its main distinctive features.

Craftswomen use the term *pakko*, meaning strong, durable, to denote stitches that lock. The opposite of pakko is *kachcho*, meaning fragile. Kachcho stitches do not follow the locking principle.

The world of Raau Node embroidery is also a world that dares to show no restraint. Craftswomen make extravagant use of stitches in the flowers and the many other motifs that they embroider. They also use a variety of single stitches to create borders or as stand-alone details. They make profuse use of mirrors, with Each mirror is embroidered in a different colour.

This irreverent use of stitch, colour, mirror and motif lends a naïve charm to this embroidery.

Embroidery is an integral part of the lives of the craftswomen. And the pursuit of excellence is a strong motivator. Craftswomen acknowledge that the criteria for evaluating creative excellence vary from one embroidered piece to another. They have, however, identified a set of indicators by which the technical excellence can be assessed.

The indicators of technical excellence in Raau Node embroidery are:

- use of round, medium to large mirrors
- motifs are densely embroidered
- embroidery has an embossed feel to it
- stitches used for embroidering the mirrors are rendered tightly so that maximum area of the mirrors is exposed
- stitches do not pucker the base fabric