

History and Collection of Carpets in India

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Carpet industry in India is one of the oldest and the most popular industries. India has always had an ancient heritage of carpet weaving, a craft that has various skill and expertise from lands as various as Persia, China and Afghanistan. The history of Indian carpets entails that when Babar came to India, he was disappointed by the lack of luxuries here. He missed the luxuries of Persia, which included the Persian carpet and thus Akbar laid the foundation of carpet weaving tradition in India, in 1580 AD at his palace in Agra. Akbar established carpet weavings centres at *Agra, Delhi and Lahore* to facilitate production of Persian styled carpets. Some of the most royal carpet in India can be seen from Mughal period which were inspired by designs of *Kirman, Kashan, Esfahan, and Herat*. Mughals not only used the Persian technique of carpet weaving, but were also influenced by traditional designs and motifs from Persia. Akbar brought certain Persian carpet weavers to India and established them in India. The art grew and flourished here and it was modified as per the royal tastes and mixed with the Indian arts. Weavers in India then learned the magic of colours and weaving and more aesthetic touch started to appear in Indian carpets. Carpet industry in India flourished more in its northern part of the India. So, major centres of carpet industry are in Kashmir, Jaipur, Agra, Bhadohi and Mirzapur.

Major Carpet Belts in India

- Ø Jaipur and Bikaner in Rajasthan.
- Ø Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Agra in Uttar Pradesh
- Ø Kashmir

Uttar Pradesh (Agra, Bhadohi and Mirzapur)

Carpets of Uttar Pradesh are particularly known all across the globe for their unique colours and designs. Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Agra are the major carpet hubs in Uttar Pradesh. Agra in Uttar Pradesh was the first carpet center in the Mughal India. Agra is well-known for natural vegetable dyes. Since it was the base of Akbar's empire, the artists were first established here. The place is known for Persian style carpets. Agra designs give emphasis to elegance and simplicity surrounded by bold floral borders. Turkman and Abussan varieties are also famous. They are known for realistic bold patterns. The specialty of Bhadohi carpets of Uttar Pradesh is their individual designs. These designs have been developed by the native weavers and also include various tint of Taj Mahal in natural colours.

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