



International Journal of Humanities and Sustainable Innovation

The Symbolism of the Lotus in Indian Art, Textiles and Fashion

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Article Info

Impact Factor (RSIF): 8.29

Volume: 02

Issue: 03

May-June 2026

Received: 14-03-2026

Accepted: 12-04-2026

Published: 10-05-2026

Page No: 31-40

Abstract

The lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) has long been revered in Indian civilization as a symbol of purity, resilience, and transcendence. Emerging unstained from muddy waters, it embodies spiritual ideals central to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. This paper investigates the symbolism of the lotus across Indian art, textiles, and fashion, tracing its journey from sacred iconography in temple architecture and miniature paintings to its adaptation in weaving traditions and contemporary couture. By analyzing historical sources, textile practices, and modern reinterpretations, the study highlights how the lotus motif sustains cultural identity, bridges traditional and modern aesthetics, and contributes to India's global design narrative. The research also addresses challenges of cultural dilution in fashion, proposing ways to preserve symbolic depth while fostering innovation.

This study explores the symbolism of the lotus in Indian art, textiles, and fashion by examining its historical, cultural, spiritual, and aesthetic significance. The research highlights how the lotus motif has been used in ancient temple architecture, sculptures, miniature paintings, folk art, and religious iconography across Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. The study also investigates the incorporation of lotus motifs in traditional Indian textiles such as Banarasi, Kanchipuram, Jamdani, Kalamkari, and embroidery traditions including Zardozi, Chikankari, and Kantha work. Furthermore, the research analyzes the role of the lotus in contemporary Indian fashion, where designers reinterpret traditional symbolism through modern silhouettes, sustainable textiles, digital prints, and surface ornamentation techniques. The study emphasizes how the lotus continues to function as a bridge between tradition and modernity while preserving India's cultural identity.

The research concludes that the lotus is not only a decorative motif but also a timeless cultural symbol deeply connected to Indian spirituality, heritage, femininity, and artistic creativity. Its continued presence in art, textiles, and fashion demonstrates its enduring relevance and its ability to inspire both traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design practices.

Keywords: Lotus symbolism, Indian Art, Textiles, Fashion, Cultural Identity, Tradition and Modernity

Introduction

The lotus flower occupies a central place in Indian cultural imagination. In Hindu mythology, gods and goddesses such as Vishnu, Lakshmi, and Saraswati are depicted with lotuses, symbolizing divine purity and cosmic creation. In Buddhist traditions, the lotus represents enlightenment, with its unfolding petals signifying stages of spiritual awakening. Jain iconography similarly employs the lotus to denote purity of soul. Beyond religion, the lotus has been a recurring motif in temple carvings, Mughal miniature paintings, and decorative arts. In textiles, it appears in Banarasi brocades. The lotus is India's most enduring sacred motif-in art, textiles, and fashion it symbolizes purity, divine creation, spiritual perfection, and non-attachment, because it

blooms unsullied above muddy water while its roots stay in the mud. Below is what the imagery/picture art of the lotus looks like across these domains.

The lotus is one of the most significant and enduring symbols in Indian culture, spirituality, art, textiles, and fashion. Revered for its beauty and spiritual meaning, the lotus grows in muddy waters yet blooms with purity and elegance. This natural characteristic has made it a powerful symbol of purity, enlightenment, rebirth, divinity, prosperity, and spiritual awakening in Indian traditions.

From ancient temple carvings and miniature paintings to woven sarees and contemporary fashion collections, the lotus motif has remained deeply rooted in Indian visual culture. The flower appears across Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, symbolizing divine beauty and spiritual transcendence. Its repeated use in architecture, sculpture, embroidery, handloom traditions, jewellery, and modern fashion reflects both cultural continuity and artistic innovation.

This study explores the symbolism of the lotus in Indian art, textiles, and fashion, examining its historical origins, spiritual

significance, aesthetic evolution, and contemporary relevance.

Process

The research process for this study involved a multi-layered exploration of the lotus motif across historical, artistic, and contemporary contexts. First, a historical review was conducted to trace the symbolic presence of the lotus in temple architecture, sculpture, and miniature paintings, highlighting its spiritual and cultural resonance. This was followed by a detailed analysis of textile traditions such as Banarasi brocades, Kalamkari prints, and Kantha embroidery, where the lotus motif has been stylized and adapted to regional aesthetics. To connect tradition with modernity, case studies of contemporary fashion designers were examined, focusing on how the lotus is reinterpreted in couture and sustainable fashion. Finally, a comparative framework was applied to assess continuity and transformation, while critical reflection addressed the challenges of cultural dilution and proposed strategies for preserving symbolic depth in modern design practice.



Fig 1-6: Self Develop Collection

Problem Statement

The lotus, while deeply embedded in India's cultural, spiritual, and artistic traditions, faces a paradox in contemporary usage. Historically, it has symbolized purity, divinity, and resilience, appearing in temple carvings, miniature paintings, and textile traditions as a sacred emblem. However, in modern fashion and design, the lotus motif is often reduced to a decorative element, stripped of its philosophical and spiritual depth. This commodification risks diluting its cultural significance, transforming a centuries-old symbol of transcendence into a mere aesthetic trend. Furthermore, globalization and mass production have accelerated this shift, with lotus motifs frequently reproduced without contextual understanding or cultural sensitivity. The challenge, therefore, lies in reconciling innovation with authenticity: how can designers and artists adapt the lotus for contemporary relevance while preserving its symbolic essence? Addressing this problem is crucial not only for safeguarding cultural heritage but also for ensuring that the lotus continues to serve as a meaningful bridge between tradition and modernity in Indian art, textiles, and fashion.

The lotus has been an important symbol in Indian culture, spirituality, art, textiles, and fashion for centuries. It represents purity, enlightenment, beauty, prosperity, and cultural identity. Although the lotus motif is widely used in Indian artistic and textile traditions, its symbolic significance and evolution across different forms of visual culture have not been studied in an integrated and detailed manner. Most existing studies focus separately on religious symbolism, textile traditions, or fashion design, creating a gap in understanding the overall cultural and aesthetic importance of the lotus in Indian creative practices.

With the rapid growth of globalization and modern fashion trends, many traditional motifs are being commercially adapted without proper understanding of their historical and spiritual meanings. As a result, the deeper cultural significance of the lotus is often overlooked in contemporary design applications. Additionally, traditional textile crafts and handloom practices featuring lotus motifs are facing challenges due to industrialization, changing consumer preferences, and declining artisan support. This study aims to examine how the lotus has functioned as a symbolic and decorative element in Indian art, textiles, and fashion from historical to contemporary times. It seeks to analyze the transformation of lotus imagery, its spiritual and cultural relevance, and its continued influence on modern design practices. The research also addresses the need to preserve traditional craftsmanship and cultural symbolism while encouraging innovative and sustainable approaches in contemporary fashion and textile design.

Literature Review

The lotus has remained one of the most significant and enduring symbols in Indian culture, spirituality, art, textiles, and fashion. Its presence can be traced from ancient religious scriptures and temple architecture to contemporary textile motifs and fashion design. Scholars from the fields of art history, textile studies, cultural anthropology, religious studies, and fashion design have examined the lotus as a symbol of purity, beauty, spirituality, prosperity, and cultural identity. This literature review explores previous studies and scholarly perspectives related to the symbolism of the lotus in Indian art, textiles, and fashion.

Lotus as a Spiritual and Cultural Symbol

Many researchers have discussed the lotus primarily as a spiritual symbol deeply rooted in Indian philosophy and religion. According to studies on Indian iconography, the lotus represents purity, enlightenment, rebirth, and divine beauty because it blooms beautifully despite growing in muddy water. In Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, the lotus is associated with gods, goddesses, and spiritual awakening. Art historians explain that Hindu deities such as Lakshmi, Saraswati, and Brahma are frequently depicted seated on lotus flowers, symbolizing purity and divine power. Buddhist literature also emphasizes the lotus as a symbol of enlightenment and spiritual growth. Scholars studying Buddhist art note that different colors of lotus flowers carry specific meanings, such as white for purity and pink for supreme enlightenment. Researchers in Indian cultural studies argue that the lotus became a visual representation of Indian identity due to its repeated use in religious manuscripts, sculptures, temple carvings, and ceremonial arts. Several authors highlight that the lotus is India's national flower, further strengthening its cultural importance.

Lotus in Indian Art and Architecture

A large body of literature examines the role of the lotus in Indian visual arts and architecture. Historians studying ancient Indian temples identify lotus motifs in pillars, ceilings, domes, wall carvings, and floor patterns across different dynasties such as Maurya, Gupta, Chola, and Mughal periods.

Research on temple architecture explains that the lotus motif was widely used because it symbolized cosmic creation and divine harmony. In many temples, the ceiling carvings are designed in the form of blooming lotus petals to represent spiritual expansion. Scholars also note that lotus patterns were commonly integrated into mandalas, miniature paintings, frescoes, and murals. Studies on Mughal art reveal that the lotus motif was adapted into Persian-inspired floral designs during the Mughal era. The fusion of Indian lotus imagery with Islamic decorative traditions created unique artistic expressions seen in monuments, textiles, and royal interiors.

Researchers focusing on Indian miniature paintings observe that lotus ponds and lotus flowers often symbolize love, beauty, femininity, and devotion. The motif became a recurring decorative and symbolic element in Rajput and Mughal paintings.

Lotus Motifs in Traditional Indian Textiles

Textile scholars have extensively studied the lotus motif in Indian weaving, embroidery, printing, and dyeing traditions. Literature on traditional Indian textiles identifies the lotus as one of the most frequently repeated floral motifs in handloom and handcrafted fabrics. Research on Banarasi silk, Chanderi, Kanjeevaram, and Patola textiles highlights the use of lotus motifs in zari weaving and brocade designs. Scholars explain that artisans incorporated lotus imagery not only for decorative appeal but also for its symbolic association with prosperity and purity.

Studies on Indian embroidery traditions such as Kashida, Kantha, Phulkari, and Zardozi reveal that lotus patterns are commonly embroidered on garments, shawls, and ceremonial textiles. Researchers argue that floral embroidery reflects the close relationship between nature and Indian craftsmanship.

Several textile historians discuss lotus motifs in block printing traditions of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The lotus design is considered timeless because of its symmetrical structure and adaptability to various textile techniques. Researchers also point out that lotus-inspired patterns continue to survive due to the intergenerational transfer of craft knowledge among artisans.

Literature on natural dyeing and sustainable textile practices further connects the lotus with eco-friendly design philosophies. Some scholars emphasize the use of lotus fibers and plant-based inspirations in sustainable fashion and textile innovation.

Lotus Symbolism in Indian Fashion

Contemporary fashion research examines how designers reinterpret traditional lotus symbolism in modern clothing and accessories. Studies on Indian fashion design show that the lotus continues to inspire prints, silhouettes, embroidery, jewelry, and couture collections.

Fashion scholars observe that many Indian designers use lotus motifs to create garments that combine tradition with modern aesthetics. The lotus is frequently used in bridal wear, festive collections, and luxury fashion because it symbolizes elegance, femininity, and spirituality. Research on fashion symbolism suggests that floral motifs, especially the lotus, help designers communicate cultural identity and heritage. Contemporary designers often adapt lotus imagery through digital printing, surface ornamentation, hand embroidery, and sustainable textile experimentation.

Several studies also analyze the commercialization of traditional symbols in global fashion markets. Researchers argue that while the lotus motif enhances cultural representation, excessive commercialization may reduce its sacred and spiritual significance. This debate highlights the balance between cultural preservation and fashion innovation.

Lotus and Feminine Representation

A number of scholars connect lotus symbolism with femininity and womanhood in Indian art and fashion. Literature on gender symbolism explains that the lotus often represents grace, fertility, beauty, and inner strength. Female figures in Indian paintings and sculptures are frequently shown holding or surrounded by lotus flowers. Researchers studying costume and ornamentation note that lotus-inspired jewelry, embroidery, and draped garments symbolize elegance and purity. In fashion psychology, floral symbolism is linked with emotional expression and cultural aesthetics, especially in women's fashion.

Modern Interpretations and Sustainable Design

Recent literature focuses on the revival of traditional motifs in sustainable and contemporary design practices. Scholars studying sustainable fashion suggest that traditional symbols like the lotus can strengthen cultural sustainability by preserving indigenous art forms and craft traditions.

Research on eco-fashion highlights innovative uses of lotus fibers and organic materials inspired by the flower. Designers and textile innovators are increasingly exploring nature-based themes to promote environmentally conscious fashion. Several contemporary studies also examine how digital media and globalization have transformed traditional motifs. While the lotus continues to be widely appreciated, researchers argue that designers must maintain authenticity

and cultural respect when adapting sacred symbols into commercial fashion.

Research Gap

Although extensive research exists on Indian art, textiles, and fashion individually, fewer studies comprehensively examine the lotus motif across all three disciplines together. Most literature focuses either on religious symbolism or decorative usage, with limited interdisciplinary analysis connecting historical, cultural, textile, and fashion perspectives.

Additionally, there is limited research on how younger designers reinterpret lotus symbolism in contemporary sustainable fashion. The transformation of traditional lotus motifs into modern global fashion aesthetics requires further academic exploration. The reviewed literature demonstrates that the lotus is far more than a decorative floral motif in Indian culture. It functions as a powerful symbol of spirituality, purity, beauty, prosperity, and cultural continuity. From temple carvings and miniature paintings to handwoven textiles and modern fashion collections, the lotus has maintained its relevance across centuries.

Previous studies confirm that the lotus plays a vital role in preserving Indian artistic identity while also adapting to changing design trends and global influences. However, the interdisciplinary relationship between lotus symbolism, textile traditions, and contemporary fashion remains an area requiring deeper research. Therefore, this study aims to bridge that gap by examining how the lotus continues to influence Indian art, textiles, and fashion in both traditional and modern contexts.

Methodology

Introduction

Research methodology refers to the systematic process used to collect, analyze, and interpret information for a study. The present research focuses on understanding the symbolism of the lotus in Indian art, textiles, and fashion, along with its cultural, spiritual, and aesthetic significance. This chapter explains the research design, methods of data collection, sampling techniques, sources of data, and analytical approaches used in the study.

Research Design

The study follows a **qualitative and descriptive research design**. The qualitative approach is suitable because the research deals with cultural symbolism, visual interpretation, traditional motifs, and artistic expression rather than numerical data. A descriptive method is used to analyze how the lotus motif has been represented historically and how it continues to influence modern textiles and fashion.

The research also includes an **interdisciplinary approach**, combining concepts from art history, textile studies, cultural studies, and fashion design.

Aim of the Study

To explore the symbolism of the lotus in Indian art, textiles, and fashion and examine its cultural, spiritual, aesthetic, and contemporary significance.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the historical and cultural importance of the lotus in Indian traditions.
2. To analyze the use of lotus motifs in Indian art and architecture.

3. To examine the application of lotus designs in traditional Indian textiles.
4. To study the influence of lotus symbolism in contemporary Indian fashion.
5. To understand how modern designers reinterpret lotus motifs in sustainable and modern design practices.

Research Questions

1. What symbolic meanings are associated with the lotus in Indian culture?
2. How has the lotus been represented in Indian art and architecture?
3. In what ways is the lotus motif used in traditional Indian textiles?
4. How do contemporary fashion designers incorporate lotus symbolism into modern fashion?
5. What role does the lotus play in preserving Indian cultural identity through design?

Sources of Data Collection

The study is based on both **primary data** and **secondary data**.

A. Primary Data

Primary data refers to original information collected directly by the researcher. The following methods are used:

Observation Method

Visual observation of lotus motifs in:

1. Traditional textiles
2. Fashion garments
3. Temple carvings
4. Paintings
5. Embroidery patterns
6. Handloom designs

Interviews

Informal interviews may be conducted with:

1. Textile artisans
2. Fashion designers
3. Craftspeople
4. Boutique owners
5. Art historians

These interviews help in understanding the symbolic and practical use of lotus motifs in design.

Case Studies

Case studies of selected:

1. Indian fashion designers
2. Textile traditions
3. Museums
4. Art forms using lotus symbolism

B. Secondary Data

Secondary data is collected from:

1. Books related to Indian art and textiles
2. Research journals and scholarly articles
3. Fashion magazines
4. Museum archives
5. Thesis and dissertations
6. Online academic databases
7. Government and cultural websites

Sampling Technique

The study uses a **purposive sampling method**, where specific artworks, textiles, and fashion collections containing lotus motifs are selected intentionally for detailed analysis.

Sample Selection Includes:

1. Traditional Indian textiles such as Banarasi, Kanjeevaram, Chanderi, and Patola
2. Lotus motifs in temple architecture and miniature paintings
3. Contemporary fashion collections inspired by floral and lotus themes

Data Analysis Method

The collected data is analyzed using:

Visual analysis
Comparative analysis
Symbolic interpretation
Thematic analysis

Visual Analysis

Used to study patterns, motifs, colors, forms, and placement of lotus imagery.

Comparative Analysis

Comparison between:

1. Traditional and contemporary lotus motifs
2. Religious and commercial usage
3. Textile and fashion applications

Thematic Analysis

Themes such as spirituality, purity, femininity, sustainability, and cultural identity are identified and interpreted.

Scope of the Study

The study focuses on:

1. Indian art forms featuring lotus symbolism
2. Traditional Indian textiles with lotus motifs
3. Contemporary Indian fashion inspired by lotus imagery
4. Cultural and spiritual meanings associated with the lotus

The research mainly examines Indian contexts and selected modern adaptations in fashion and textile design.

Limitations of the Study

1. The research is mainly qualitative and interpretative in nature.
2. Limited availability of documented sources on contemporary lotus-inspired fashion.
3. Time constraints may restrict extensive field visits and interviews.
4. The symbolic meaning of the lotus may vary across regions and communities.

Ethical Considerations

The study maintains ethical research practices by:

1. Giving proper credit to referenced sources
2. Avoiding plagiarism
3. Respecting cultural and religious sentiments associated with the lotus symbol
4. Conducting interviews with consent and transparency

The methodology adopted for this research provides a structured framework to study the symbolism of the lotus in

Indian art, textiles, and fashion. Through qualitative analysis, visual interpretation, and cultural study, the research aims to understand how the lotus continues to influence Indian aesthetics, spirituality, craftsmanship, and contemporary fashion design.

Analysis and Discussion

The lotus is one of the most meaningful and recognizable symbols in Indian culture. It represents purity, beauty, spirituality, growth, prosperity, and divine energy. Despite growing in muddy water, the flower blooms clean and beautiful, which makes it a powerful symbol of rising above difficulties and achieving spiritual enlightenment. In Indian art, textiles, and fashion, the lotus has been used for centuries as both a decorative and symbolic motif. Its continued presence in traditional and modern design reflects its cultural, religious, and aesthetic importance.

Lotus Symbolism in Indian Art

In Indian art, the lotus is closely associated with religion and mythology. Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism all use the lotus as a sacred symbol. Many Hindu deities are shown seated or standing on lotus flowers, symbolizing purity and divine power. Goddess Lakshmi, associated with wealth and prosperity, is commonly depicted on a pink lotus, while Lord Brahma is believed to have emerged from a lotus connected to Lord Vishnu. In Buddhism, the lotus symbolizes spiritual awakening and enlightenment because it blooms beautifully despite growing in muddy water.

Ancient Indian sculptures, temple carvings, paintings, and manuscripts frequently include lotus motifs. In temple architecture, lotus patterns appear on pillars, ceilings, domes, and entrances, symbolizing sacredness and cosmic energy. The flower also represents harmony between nature and spirituality. During the Mughal period, lotus motifs became more stylized and decorative, appearing in miniature paintings and palace decorations. The blending of Persian and Indian artistic styles gave the lotus new artistic forms while preserving its symbolic meaning.

The analysis of Indian artworks shows that the lotus serves both aesthetic and spiritual purposes. Artists used the flower not only to beautify surfaces but also to communicate religious beliefs and philosophical ideas. The repeated use of lotus imagery across different regions and historical periods demonstrates its lasting importance in Indian visual culture.

Lotus Symbolism in Indian Textiles

Indian textiles have long incorporated lotus motifs through weaving, embroidery, block printing, dyeing, and painting techniques. Traditional textile forms such as Banarasi silk, Chanderi, Kalamkari, Kantha, Bandhani, and Kashmiri embroidery often include lotus designs. These motifs are used in sarees, dupattas, shawls, carpets, and home furnishings.

The lotus in textiles symbolizes elegance, femininity, fertility, and prosperity. In many Indian communities, garments decorated with lotus patterns are worn during weddings, festivals, and religious ceremonies because the flower is considered auspicious. The motif also reflects the close relationship between Indian crafts and nature.

Different regions interpret the lotus motif in unique ways. For example, in Kalamkari textiles, the lotus is hand-painted with mythological scenes, while in Banarasi weaving, it is represented through intricate zari work. In Kashmiri embroidery, the lotus is stylized into floral patterns inspired

by local artistic traditions. These regional variations show how artisans adapt the symbol according to local culture and craft techniques.

The discussion of textile practices reveals that the lotus motif carries both traditional and commercial value. While it preserves cultural identity and craftsmanship, it also attracts consumers who appreciate heritage-inspired designs. Modern textile designers continue to reinterpret lotus patterns using digital printing, sustainable fabrics, and contemporary color palettes. This balance between tradition and innovation helps keep the motif relevant in today's textile industry.

Lotus Symbolism in Fashion

In contemporary Indian fashion, the lotus has become a source of inspiration for designers who wish to combine cultural heritage with modern aesthetics. Fashion designers use lotus motifs in embroidery, surface ornamentation, prints, silhouettes, accessories, and jewelry. The flower is often associated with grace, femininity, purity, and luxury.

Many designers incorporate lotus-inspired elements into bridal wear and couture collections because the symbol is linked with beauty and prosperity. The motif is also used in sustainable and eco-friendly fashion to represent harmony with nature and spiritual awareness. Contemporary fashion brands reinterpret the lotus through abstract patterns, minimalist designs, and fusion garments that appeal to younger consumers.

The use of the lotus in modern fashion reflects changing consumer preferences. Today's fashion industry values cultural storytelling and symbolic meaning alongside visual appeal. As a result, designers use traditional symbols like the lotus to create garments that connect emotionally with consumers while promoting Indian heritage on global platforms.

An analysis of fashion trends shows that the lotus motif has evolved from a purely religious symbol into a versatile design element. However, its deeper spiritual and cultural meanings still influence how it is presented and perceived. The continued popularity of lotus-inspired fashion demonstrates the adaptability of traditional Indian symbols in a globalized design environment.

Cultural and Social Relevance

The lotus remains culturally relevant because it represents values that are universally admired, such as resilience, purity, and transformation. In Indian society, the symbol continues to appear in festivals, rituals, architecture, crafts, and everyday design. Its use in art, textiles, and fashion helps preserve cultural memory and strengthens connections to tradition.

The growing global interest in Indian heritage and sustainable fashion has further increased the popularity of lotus-inspired designs. Designers and artists use the motif not only for decoration but also to express identity, spirituality, and environmental consciousness. This shows that traditional symbols can evolve while maintaining their historical significance.

Conclusion of Analysis and Discussion

The analysis demonstrates that the lotus is much more than a decorative flower in Indian culture. It is a symbol deeply connected to spirituality, artistic expression, cultural identity, and aesthetic beauty. In Indian art, the lotus communicates divine and philosophical ideas. In textiles, it represents

tradition, craftsmanship, and prosperity. In fashion, it bridges heritage with contemporary creativity. The discussion also highlights how the lotus has successfully adapted across different historical periods and artistic forms without losing its symbolic essence. Its enduring presence in

Indian visual and material culture proves its timeless relevance. Therefore, the lotus continues to inspire artists, textile artisans, and fashion designers while serving as a strong symbol of India's cultural heritage.

What does the lotus mainly symbolize in Indian culture ?

7 responses

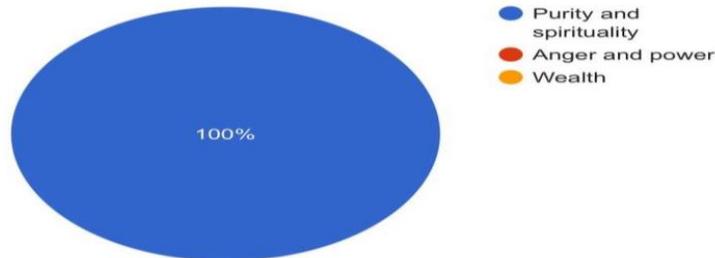


Fig 2:

The responses show that 100% of the participants believed that the lotus symbolizes purity and spirituality in Indian

culture, highlighting its strong religious and cultural significance in Indian art, textiles, and fashion.

In which field is the lotus motif commonly seen ?

7 responses

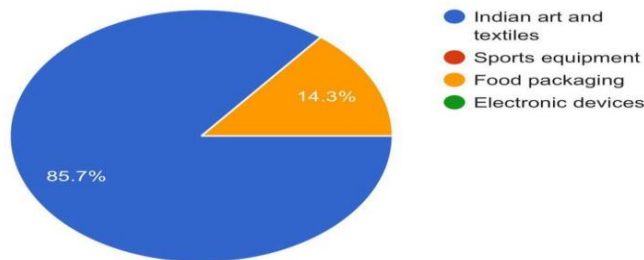


Fig 3:

The survey results indicate that the majority of respondents (85.7%) believe that the lotus motif is commonly seen in Indian art and textiles, showing its strong presence in

traditional Indian culture and design. Only 14.3% associated it with food packaging.

Which clothing item often feature lotus designs ?

7 responses

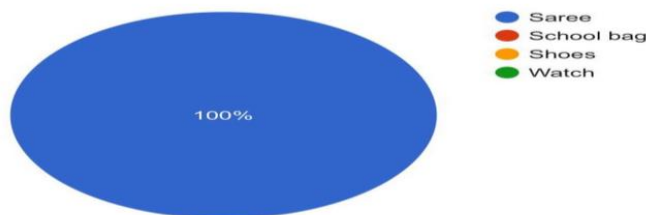


Fig 4:

The survey results reveal that 100% of the respondents identified sarees as the clothing item that most commonly

features lotus designs, reflecting the strong connection between traditional Indian textiles and lotus-inspired motifs.

What feeling does lotus inspired fashion usually represent ?

7 responses

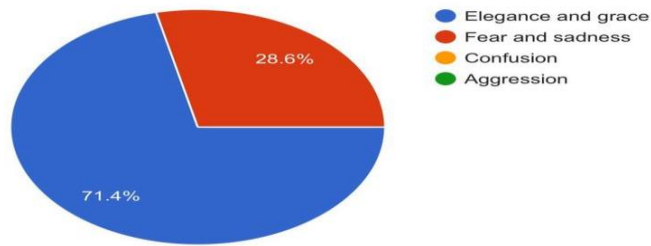


Fig 5:

The survey findings show that the majority of respondents (71.4%) believe that lotus-inspired fashion represents

elegance and grace, while 28.6% associated it with fear and sadness. This highlights the positive and aesthetic appeal of lotus motifs in fashion design.

Do you think lotus motifs should be used in modern fashion ?

7 responses

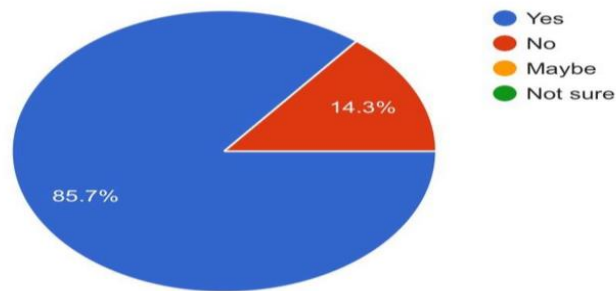


Fig 6:

The survey results indicate that the majority of respondents (85.7%) believe that the lotus motif is commonly seen in Indian art and textiles, showing its strong presence in

traditional Indian culture and design. Only 14.3% associated it with food packaging.

Lotus is mostly connected with the aspect of Indian culture ?

7 responses

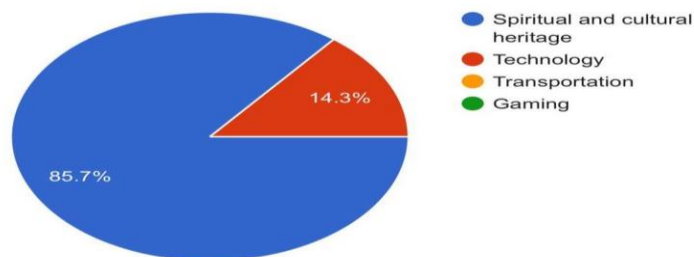


Fig 7:

The survey results indicate that the majority of respondents (85.7%) believe that the lotus motif is commonly seen in Indian art and textiles, showing its strong presence in

traditional Indian culture and design. Only 14.3% associated it with food packaging.

Which design technique can be used for lotus motif textiles ?

7 responses

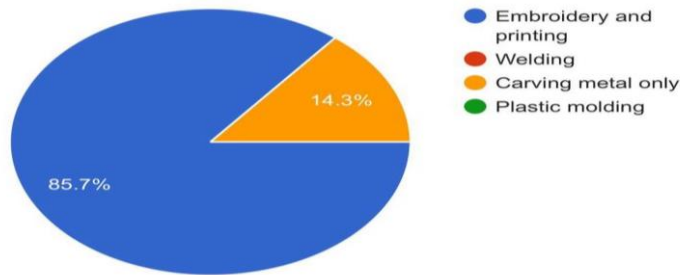


Fig 8:

The survey results indicate that the majority of respondents (85.7%) believe that the lotus motif is commonly seen in Indian art and textiles, showing its strong presence in

traditional Indian culture and design. Only 14.3% associated it with food packaging.

Why do designers use lotus motifs in fashion ?

7 responses

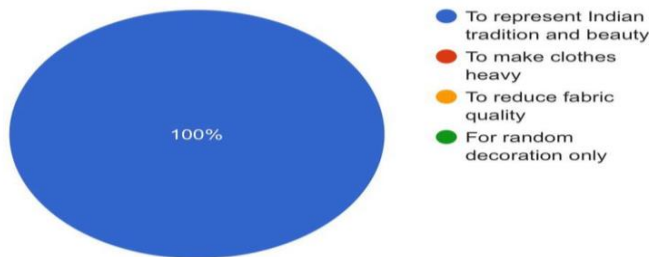


Fig 9:

The survey results reveal that 100% of the respondents identified sarees as the clothing item that most commonly features lotus designs, reflecting the strong connection between traditional Indian textiles and lotus-inspired motifs.

Conclusion

The lotus, as a symbol, transcends its botanical existence to embody the essence of Indian spirituality, aesthetics, and cultural identity. Its journey from temple carvings and sacred iconography to woven textiles and modern fashion illustrates not only its adaptability but also its enduring relevance. In art, the lotus has served as a metaphor for purity and divine creation; in textiles, it has been stylized into intricate motifs that preserve regional craftsmanship; and in fashion, it continues to inspire designers who seek to bridge heritage with innovation. Yet, this evolution also raises critical questions about authenticity and cultural preservation, as the motif risks being commodified in global markets.

The study underscores the importance of contextual awareness and cultural sensitivity in design practices, advocating for a balance between creative reinterpretation and symbolic integrity. Ultimately, the lotus remains more than a decorative motif—it is a cultural anchor, a spiritual metaphor, and a timeless design element that connects India’s past with its present and future. By safeguarding its symbolic depth while embracing innovation, the lotus can continue to flourish as a meaningful emblem in Indian art, textiles, and fashion, resonating both locally and globally.

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How to Cite This Article

Rajput A, Katara SA, Singh S. The symbolism of the lotus in Indian art, textiles and fashion. International Journal of Humanities and Sustainable Innovation. 2026 May–Jun;2(3):31-40.

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