

MARINE PRODUCTS



Balasore is the place of Dhana (paddy), Pana (beetel), and Meena (fish). Aquaculture in Balasore district is an old practice. In general, there is a high demand of fish in the market, and people often prefer fish in their main dish as their dietary requirement. The district is endowed with vast inland, brackish, and marine resources, blessed with diverse fish fauna including numerous economically important food fishes, shrimps, crabs, and other seafood. The water quality of the rivers and streams of the district are less contaminated. Balasore was awarded as the 'Best Marine District' in the country by the Centre on 'World Fisheries Day' 2021.

The district has implemented specific strategies for enhancing fish/shrimp seed, fish/shrimp production, harvesting, processing, and marketing, species diversification, domestic fish consumption, exports, and employment generation activities. Balasore Fisheries department aims to double farmers' income by integrating pisciculture with agriculture and allied sectors. The focus is on both horizontal and vertical expansion of aquaculture, increasing fish production in underutilized free waters like G.P Tanks, private tanks in freshwater, and brackish water.

Key Marine Products from Balasore:

Fish: Balasore's coastline offers abundant varieties of fish such as Hilsa, Mackerel, Pomfret, Snapper, and Catla. These fish are caught fresh and are an integral part of the local diet and economy.

Shrimp: The district is known for producing high-quality shrimps, particularly white prawns, which are in demand both domestically and internationally. The shrimp farming industry is a significant contributor to the district's economy.

Other Seafood: Besides fish and shrimp, Balasore is home to a variety of other seafood products, including cuttlefish, squids, and shellfish, which are processed and sold in domestic and international markets.

Economic Contribution: The marine industry, including fishing, processing, and export, provides livelihoods to a large section of the population in Balasore, especially in coastal towns and villages.

STONE ART



Stone Art is a craft that holds prime position in the **handicraft** market of Odisha. The work of this craft can be seen in the many monuments, sculptures, and temples in Odisha. The archaeological relics prove that the stone crafts of Odisha bear a rich cultural heritage that has been embedded in the soil since antiquity. The stone crafts have a great impact on the socio-cultural background of Odisha as well. The artisans possess immense dexterity and maintain a high degree of creativity. Some of these artisans have been in this occupation for generations.

Balasore, a district in Odisha, is known for its rich cultural heritage, and **stone crafts** have emerged as a prominent feature of its traditional handicraft industry. The artisans of **Balasore** and its surrounding villages are dexterous in creating utilitarian utensils out of semi hard stone encompassing pots, glass, ashtrays, plates, dolls etc. Even different types of containers made up of kochila stone, sandstone, nilgiri stone, soap stone, kendumundi stone, serpentine stone and soft stone are available in the local markets of Odisha. The artisans of Mangalpur near Balasore create different articles including utensils from the semi-grey stone of Khichinga.

Soapstone Carvings: Soapstone, due to its soft texture, is commonly used for making intricate carvings. Artists in Balasore skillfully transform soapstone into beautiful sculptures, religious idols, decorative items, and utility objects like lamps and figurines. The delicate nature of soapstone allows artisans to create highly detailed works of art.

Stone Temples and Idols: Balasore is renowned for its sculptural representations of deities and religious icons in temples and shrines. Many of the stone idols are carved with remarkable precision and intricate detailing, with motifs inspired by mythology, nature, and everyday life.

Stone Wall Panels and Decorative Items: The region also produces a variety of decorative stone items such as wall panels, plaques, and statues, often depicting historical, religious, or cultural themes. These works are popular both in domestic markets and for export, showcasing the region's rich artisan skills.

Sandstone Sculptures: Sandstone, another prevalent material in Balasore, is used for making large-scale sculptures and architectural elements. The carvings often feature traditional designs and are employed in temples, public spaces, and homes.

Blackstone Craft: Blackstone, known for its durability and aesthetic appeal, is used in creating both decorative pieces and functional items. Blackstone idols, statues, and architectural elements are particularly notable for their polished finish and enduring quality.