

HANDLOOM



The handloom sector of Bargarh is primarily known for its traditional weaving techniques and high-quality fabrics, which are woven with intricate designs and vibrant colours. Bargarh zone has total 8 handloom clusters and most of the products are cotton and silk ikat (Bandha) sarees. Dress material, stoles, bedcovers are also woven by the weavers of Bargarh.

Traditional Weaving Techniques: The artisans, predominantly Bhulia's, Harijan, Kosta, Kuli weavers from rural areas, use manually operated looms to create a wide range of textiles. Dissimilar to the Tie and Dye work of other states of India, the motif, and designs of the Bargarh cluster are infinite in number and every motif or design is categorized under a special caption. No design is let out without giving it a name. It shows the creative mind of the weavers of the region. The Ikat of Orissa has a wide range of flowers, fish, animals, Gods and Goddesses etc. The weavers of Orissa have the high skill to produce tie and dye fabrics with intricate and obscure designs. These weavers have innate techniques and with their creative mind they have diversified the designs and products to ensemble the current market demand. These include sarees, dhotis, stoles, and other garments, often made from cotton and silk fibers.

Fabrics and Textiles: The handloom products from Bargarh are known for their unique textures and patterns. The district is particularly famous for its sarees, often characterized by distinct border designs and motifs inspired by local culture and nature. Fabrics like silk, tussur and cotton with *Ikat* and *Kantha* are prominent, where the Ikat technique involves tie-dyeing the threads before weaving, giving the fabric its signature appearance.

Cultural Heritage: The handloom industry is not just an economic activity but also a cultural tradition in Bargarh. The designs and motifs reflect the rich history, folklore, and lifestyle of the region. The local weavers often draw inspiration from nature, mythology, and everyday life.

Economic Impact: Handloom weaving in Bargarh supports a large section of the population, providing livelihood to skilled artisans, including women. The craft provides employment opportunities both directly, in weaving, and indirectly, through the supply of raw materials, dyeing, and marketing of products.

Promotion and Recognition: Under the ODOP scheme, Bargarh's handloom industry is receiving attention at the state and national levels. The promotion helps in preserving the traditional craft while opening new markets. Government initiatives aim to improve infrastructure, provide training, and facilitate access to global markets for local artisans.