

SILVER FILIGREE



This highly skilled art form is more than 500 years old and is traditionally done by local artisans on the eastern shores of Odisha. Presently, the silver filigree workers are largely from the district of Cuttack, where the art flourishes. The city's unique filigree work has earned it the title of "Silver City," making it one of the most significant hubs of traditional silver jewellery and artistic creations in India.

Craftsmanship: Filigree involves twisting, bending, and soldering thin silver wires to create intricate designs, often resembling lacework. The process requires immense skill, patience, and precision, with artisans using fine tools to craft delicate patterns.

Materials Used: Pure silver is used to make the filigree items. The artisans work with silver wire, which is drawn out into very thin strands and shaped into decorative patterns. The finished products often involve a combination of fine silver wirework and silver sheets.

Techniques: Common techniques include "twisting," "plating," and "soldering" to form various shapes such as flowers, leaves, birds, and geometric patterns. The designs are often symmetric, and the patterns are created by intertwining the silver wire.

Products: The range of silver filigree products includes jewelry like earrings, necklaces, bangles, and brooches. Other decorative items like idols, photo frames, boxes, and lamps are also made.

Artistic Value: The designs reflect the rich cultural heritage of Odisha, with influences from traditional motifs, nature, and local customs. Silver filigree from Cuttack is known for its fine detailing and is considered a symbol of artistic excellence.

Economic Importance: Silver filigree contributes significantly to the local economy, providing livelihoods for numerous artisans and their families. It plays an important role in the region's craft industry, attracting tourists and collectors from across the world.

Recognition and Geographical Indication (GI) Tag: The craft of Cuttack's silver filigree has received the GI (Geographical Indication) tag, ensuring protection and promotion of the craft. This recognition has helped elevate the profile of silver filigree, boosting both its national and international appeal.

Cultural Significance: Silver filigree is not just a craft but a cultural expression, deeply tied to the identity of the people of Cuttack. It plays a key role in religious and ceremonial occasions, often being used in weddings, festivals, and rituals.

HANDLOOM OF MANIABANDHA



Maniabandha, a prominent area in the Cuttack district of Odisha, is well-known for its traditional handloom industry. The handloom industry of Maniabandha has a rich heritage, with traditional weaving practices being passed down through generations. It plays a vital role in the economy and culture of Cuttack, making it a key element of the district's identity.

Specialty of Handloom Products: The primary handloom products from Maniabandha are intricately designed **sarees**, **dress materials**, **stoles**, and **fabric for upholstery**. The fabrics are typically made from **cotton**, **silk**, and **jute**, with special emphasis on creating **ikat** (tie-dye) and **sambalpuri** style weaves.

Ikat Weaving Tradition: The most distinctive feature of Maniabandha's handloom industry is its **Ikat weaving** technique, a labor-intensive process where threads are dyed in patterns before they are woven into cloth. This creates beautiful, vibrant, and highly intricate designs that are a hallmark of the region. The weaving is done using **pit looms** and **frame looms**, which are operated manually. The process involves multiple stages: yarn preparation, dyeing, designing, weaving, and finishing, all done by skilled artisans.

Designs and Patterns: The handloom products are known for their **geometric patterns**, **floral motifs**, and **traditional symbols**. Unique designs such as **Pattachitra** (a form of

traditional Odisha painting), and motifs inspired by nature, are frequently incorporated into the textiles.

Economic and Social Impact: The handloom industry provides livelihood opportunities for numerous weavers in Maniabandha and surrounding areas. It plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of the region, especially for women artisans.

Recognition and Branding: Maniabandha's handloom products are marketed under the brand name "Maniabandha Ikat" and have gained recognition across national and international markets. As part of Odisha's **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative, Maniabandha's handloom industry has received government support for promoting and preserving traditional weaving techniques.

Cultural Relevance: The handloom products of Maniabandha reflect the rich cultural diversity of Odisha. The fabrics are not just textile products but also carry cultural stories, making them highly sought after by people who appreciate traditional and heritage-rich crafts.