

TERRACOTA



Terracotta products of **Ghatagaon block** are famous in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar. More than 100 families of Ghatagaon block are producing terracotta products and Terracotta jewelry items. The products are being appreciated by the people of all over the country. The artisans prepare the items and figures in clay and then allow them to dry and then put to fire in kiln. The votive horses of terracotta are often sold in the local markets as decorative pieces. But they are religiously important for villagers in Keonjhar district. The locals there offer these horses to the village deity for the fulfilment of their wishes.

Artistic Heritage: The terracotta craft in Keonjhar reflects the rich cultural heritage of the region. It is used to make a variety of items such as idols, sculptures, pottery, and decorative items. These are often used in religious rituals, festivals, and as ornamental pieces.

Materials and Techniques: The clay used for terracotta items in Keonjhar is locally sourced, and artisans employ traditional techniques passed down through generations. The work is primarily done by hand, with fine detailing and molding to create intricate designs and shapes.

Symbolism: Many terracotta products in the district carry cultural and religious symbolism, often depicting gods, goddesses, animals, and nature. The craft is closely tied to the agrarian lifestyle and religious practices of the people in the region.

Economic Impact: By designating terracotta as the ODOP for Keonjhar, the state government aims to promote this traditional craft on a larger scale, boosting the local economy.

Promoting Tourism: The craft can also play a role in promoting tourism in Keonjhar by showcasing the district's cultural richness. Tourists visiting Odisha can explore the terracotta products, learn about the craftsmanship, and take-home unique souvenirs.