

Rupa Tarakasi

May 21, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Rupa Tarakasi Latest News

Cuttack's centuries-old Rupa Tarakasi, silver filigree industry is getting impacted by the soaring prices and fresh import curbs push on silver.

About Rupa Tarakasi

- It is one of the **most exquisite silver crafts**.
- This centuries-old, sophisticated craft is practiced in the **silver city of Cuttack, Odisha**.
- In Odia, "**tara**" means **wire** and "**kasi**" means to **design**.
- **Origin:** While the exact origin of the filigree art in Cuttack is not clear, it is known to **have existed as far back as the 12th century**.
- **Patronage:** The art form received **considerable patronage under the Mughals**.
- Over the years, as Cuttack transitioned through the hands of different rulers, the silver filigree took on a new form with each.
- **Process**

- As part of Rupa tarakasi, silver bricks are **transformed into thin fine wires or foils** and used to create jewellery, artefacts or showpieces.
- While different grades of silver are **used in the main metal alloy**, the craftsmen also use other metals like copper, zinc, cadmium, and tin.
- The artists involved with this filigree work are called **“Rupa Banias” or “Roupyakaras”** (in Odia).
- This craftsmanship extends to creating various items, including **jewellery** worn by Odissi dancers, decorative artifacts, accessories, and religious and cultural pieces.
- The famed handicraft work received a **geographical indication (GI)** tag in **2024**.

Source: IE

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