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राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Bamboo Weaving

Meghalaya

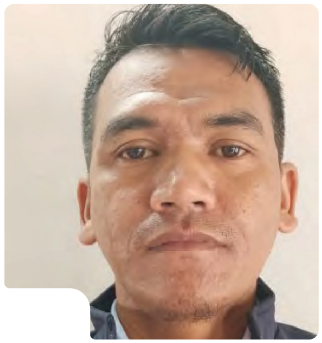
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Meghalaya's bamboo and cane weaving heritage is an intricate, sustainable art form shared across the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia tribes. In the Khasi community, male artisans are traditionally addressed by the honorific "Bah" (meaning brother/mister). The rich bamboo weaving traditions of Meghalaya feature several unique cultural items: Iconic Traditional Items
The Knup: A highly distinctive, tear-drop-shaped bamboo rain shield worn on the back to protect farmers from torrential rains while leaving their hands free to work. Its cultural significance is so massive that a knup-inspired green bamboo coaster was featured in India's official Republic Day invitations. The Khoh: A conical, closed-weave carrying basket carried via a head-strap. It is used extensively across the Khasi Hills for marketing and agricultural harvesting.
The Shang: A shallow storage and display basket commonly woven by the Jaintia tribe featuring diagonal patterns and square bases. Materials and Techniques Artisans primarily rely on diverse local bamboo species like Ryngngai (hard stem, thin leaves), Siej Shrah, and Kdait. They extract thin outer splits by hand using basic splitting blades, boiling or treating them with natural elements like turmeric or tea to ensure long-term durability and insect resistance.





Plir Dkhar & Dr. Seven Dar Dkhar

Bah Seven is a bamboo crafts person from Meghalaya. The unique, tight-knit weaving mechanics have even earned the craft Geographical Indication (GI) Tag recognition.