



Neeta Deshpande of Banjaras displays her dupattas

She routinely gets on to a bus or a train to visit villages in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, and places bulk orders with traditional handloom weavers. When she needs to get to difficult-to-reach places, she travels with her husband Girish Deshpande in their SUV.

She specialises in mixing and matching styles and crafts. For example, a Vidarbha tussar dupatta could be hand-painted with kalamkari in Andhra Pradesh and then embroidered in Kutch. A Maheshwari dupatta from Madhya Pradesh might be printed in Bhuj, Gujarat. "Dupattas are certainly my forte," she said. "I love developing something new and different every time." Banjaras also offers the services of an in-house designer and tailor.

What to buy

Dupattas at Banjaras

Neeta Deshpande could easily be crowned the Dupatta Queen of Pune. When she exhibited 100 designer dupattas made from natural handcrafted fabric at the Boat Club, Pune in October, they sold out within two hours.

If you missed the exhibition, you can still buy them at your own time at Banjaras, Deshpande's cosy store in Aundh. Here, she stocks more than 100 dupattas and natural handcrafted fabric sourced directly from village weavers across nine states.

Deshpande started the store in 1992.

Chaitraban Residency, Shop E1,
opposite Corom, Aundh (020-2588-
1844). Mon-Sat 10 am-8 pm.
Handcrafted fabrics Rs 80. Rs 450 per
metre, handcrafted dupattas Rs 200-
Rs 4,500.

Time Out

Mumbai

JAN 23 to
FEB 5 2009