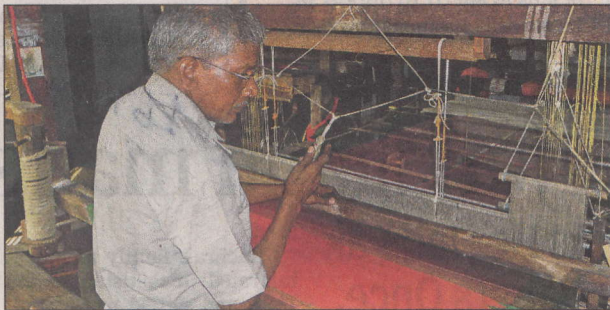


# Loom automates weaving of temple border onto sari

Chitra Unnithan | TNN

**Ahmedabad: P L Banumurthi**, an innovative weaver of handloom cotton saris from Tamil Nadu, has developed a unique weaving technique in which 'multi-catch cords' are used to make 'temple design borders' on saris. The technique eliminates the need for additional manpower as the steps of temple border are formed automatically by the operation of catch cords arranged at different places. This results in uniform height of steps and reduces physical and mental strain to the weaver.

The Indian Institute of Handloom Technology has commended this technique and suggested that it may well be adopted in handloom clusters where temple borders for saris are produced.



Banumurthi, 55, discontinued his studies and became the breadwinner for his family after his mother passed away when he was just 13 years old.

Traditionally, all weavers in his village had knowledge of weaving only in sets, and not 'contrast loom weaving'.

Contrast weaving involves intricate weaving where the design and often the colour of the borders

are different from that on the main body of the cloth. Three shuttles are needed. The weaver operates two of them with an assistant handling the third. Banumurthi wanted to incorporate automatic contrast border insertion so that the requirement of an assistant could be eliminated. He worked for a couple of months and in 1985 came up with his first automated version on which only simple contrast weaving was possible. Later, he went on to make a fully-automatic korvai loom in 1992.



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