



CRAFTED IN METAL TIMES

Your daily source of creative forging



Metal craft in India has a rich and diverse history, dating back thousands of years. The craft has evolved with time under the influence of several dynasties that ruled India. The country has been known for its mastery in various forms of metalwork, including bronze casting, copper and brassware, gold and silver jewelry, ironwork, and more.

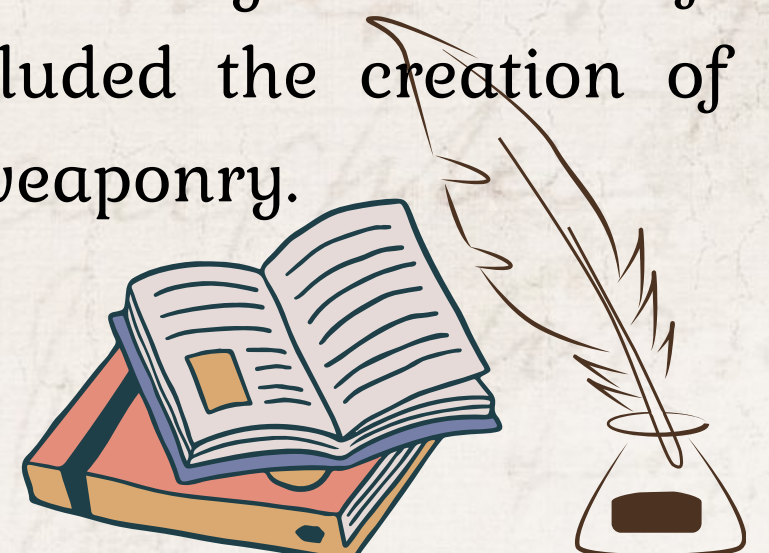
The metal craft involves the tradition of enameling, etching and damascening for the beautification of the metal objects.



What is Metal Art?

The term “metal art” describes the production of works of art or statues made of several metals, including brass, copper, silver, gold, bronze, and iron.

The Rig Veda, one of the oldest sacred texts, mentions various metals, indicating their significance in Vedic society. Metal craft during this period included the creation of ritualistic objects and weaponry.





HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Archaeological findings from the Indus Valley Civilization reveal advanced metalwork, particularly in copper and bronze. Artifacts like copper tools, utensils, and decorative items showcase the early skills of Indian metal craftsmen.



MAURYAN EMPIRE
 The Mauryan period saw advancements in metalwork, especially in iron. The famous Ashoka Pillars, made of highly polished sandstone and crowned with metal capitals, are notable examples of the metal craftsmanship during this era.

DID YOU KNOW?


The traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru Punjab has got the distinction of being inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO, 2014




GUPTA PERIOD
 Metal craft flourished during the Gupta dynasty. Skilled artisans produced intricate gold and silver jewelry, as well as bronze sculptures. The Iron Pillar of Delhi, dating back to the 4th century CE, stands as a testament to the metallurgical expertise of this period.



MEDIEVAL PERIOD
 During the medieval period, the art of metal craft continued to evolve. Islamic influences brought new designs and techniques. Delhi became a prominent center for metalwork, producing ornate items such as hookahs, trays, and utensils.



DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSERVE AND PRESERVE THESE TRADITIONAL CRAFTS? WRITE YOUR OPINION. ALSO DESIGN A POSTER WITH A CAPTION.





MUGHAL PERIOD

The Mughal rulers were great patrons of the arts, and metal craftsmanship reached new heights during this era. Intricate silver and gold inlay work, known as Bidriware, became popular. The Mughals also commissioned magnificent pieces of metal art, including weaponry and architectural elements.



COLONIAL ERA

The colonial period brought European influences, leading to the production of items catering to Western tastes. However, traditional metal crafts continued in various regions, adapting to changing times.

POST-INDEPENDENCE

Metal craft in India continued to thrive post-independence, with a blend of traditional and modern influences. Artisans produce a wide range of metalwork, including sculptures, utensils, and contemporary jewelry.

CONTEMPORARY TIMES

Today, metal craft in India remains vibrant. Skilled artisans and craftsmen use a combination of traditional techniques and modern innovations to create diverse and intricate metalwork. Many regions across the country have their unique styles and specialties, contributing to the rich tapestry of Indian metal craftsmanship.



FUN FACT!

The famed 'Aranmula mirror,' locally known as Aranmula Kannadi in Malayalam, originates from Aranmula, Kerala in South India.



It is a unique mirror that stands apart from conventional glass mirrors. Crafted from a special metal alloy, the Aranmula mirror is an exquisite piece of craftsmanship that is meticulously handmade, featuring a front surface reflection that provides exceptionally high-quality reflection. This mirror is a closely guarded family tradition, meticulously produced by a single extended family over the years. Achieving its shiny reflective surface involves a labor-intensive process of polishing that spans several days.



DRAW AND DESIGN YOUR OWN MIRROR. YOU CAN VISIT AND TALK TO THE CRAFTSMEN WHO ARE INTO MIRROR MAKING AND LEARN FROM THEM ABOUT THE PROCESS, MATERIALS USED, DESIGNS AND MOTIFS ETC.





METAL ART HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF INDIA AND IS STILL AN ACTIVE AND DYNAMIC FORM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION THERE NOW.

Some Popular Type Of Metal Crafts Found In India

Dhokra Metal Craft



Dhokra is a metal casting craft which is created using lost-wax casting technique. This metal craft was used by the Mohen-jo-Daro craftsmen as well to cast the Dancing Girl, some 4000 years back. In recent times, you can find many beautiful designs of lamps, boxes, tribal figures and more recently door knobs and handles.

The name 'Dhokra' was derived from the Dhokra Damar tribe who were the traditional metal smiths of West Bengal. Thus, their technique of lost-wax casting was named after them.

Bidri Works

A recognized worldwide with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, Bidriware originated from Bidar in Karnataka. It involves casting objects in a zinc-copper alloy. The surface is then engraved with intricate patterns and inlaid with silver or brass. The final piece is oxidized to create a unique contrast between the dark background and the metallic inlays. Popular designs include vine creepers; 'Ashrafi-ki-booti' i.e. stars and stylized poppy plants with flowers. Along with these, some traditional designs include the Persian rose and passages from the Quran in Arabic script. The origin of Bidriware is usually attributed to the Bahamani sultans who ruled Bidar in the 13th–15th centuries.



The Metal Craft of India which had attained the status of fine art since the Harappan period. On this occasion, Department of Posts released six commemorative postage stamps on Indian Metal Craft.



WHERE TO BUY?

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE YOUR SUPPORT BY BUYING FROM THE LOCAL CRAFT PERSONS OR ANY GOVERNMENT RUN SHOPS



IDENTIFY THE IMAGE AND MENTION THE TECHNIQUE USED TO MAKE THIS.

Handwritten lines for student response



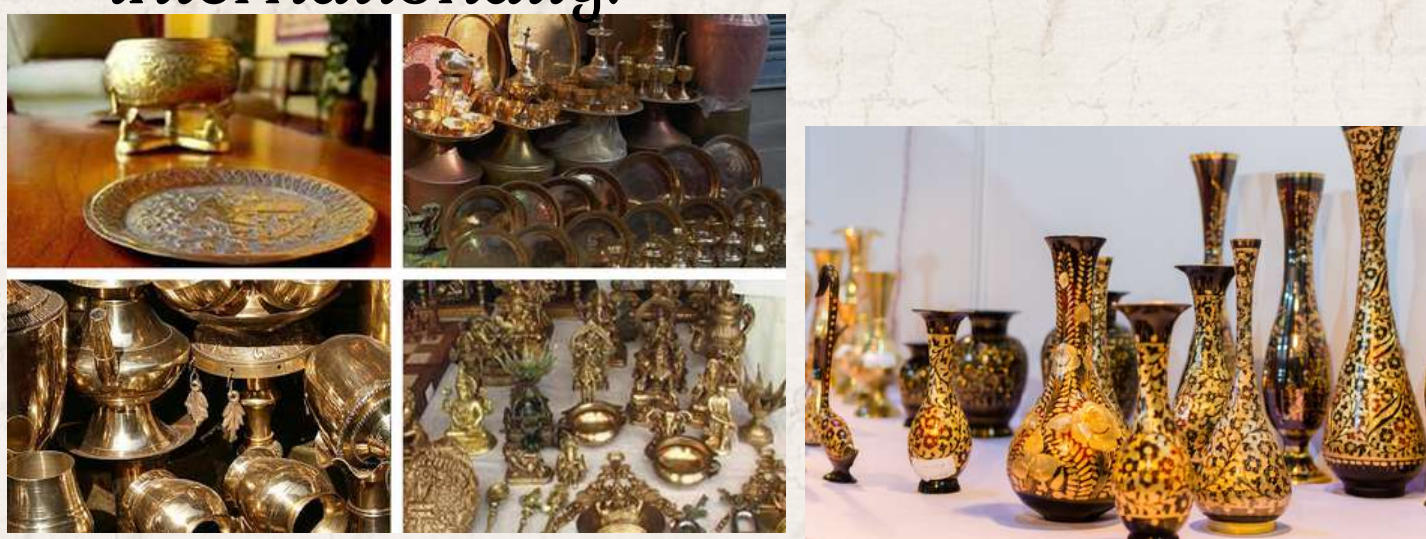
CONTD...

Brass Ware of Moradabad

Moradabad is a city in Uttar Pradesh renowned for its exquisite brass work and has carved a niche for itself in the handicraft industry throughout the world. The techniques involved in the creation of brass ware include-casting, engraving, embossing, chasing and repoussé etc. The brass ware industry in Moradabad continues to blend traditional craftsmanship with modern techniques, producing a wide range of decorative and functional items that are sought after both nationally and internationally.



EXAMINE THE DHOKRA ART WORK GIVEN HERE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT DEPICTS?
WRITE YOUR INTERPRETATION IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.



Filigree Metal Craft

Filigree craft known as "Tarakashi," is a centuries-old traditional art form characterized by the intricate and delicate manipulation of fine metal wires to create decorative patterns and designs. This exquisite traditional craft has been practiced in various regions such as Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Some of the objects made using this crafts include brooches, buttons, earrings and various other personal ornaments. A lot of hard work goes into making these products as the threads are curled, twisted and plaited at different times. The timeless beauty and intricacy of Tarakashi contribute to its enduring popularity both within India and on the global stage.

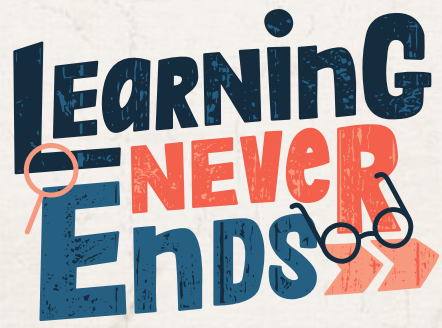


NEVER STOP READING Books to read

The collage includes the following book covers:

- SURVEY OF INDIAN Metal Sculpture** by B. BANDYOPADHYAY
- MARVELS OF INDIAN IRON THROUGH THE AGES** by R. Balasubramaniam
- magical metal clay** by Anurupa Singh, Mithu Chatterjee, and Lakshmi Anand
- THE Metal Craft** by Jyoti Basu
- Bidri Ware** by Susan Stronge
- CURIOS AND ANTIQUES** (Examples showing general style and form of Indian and Persian metal work)
- TODAY A READER TOMORROW A LEADER**

Advertisement for Bidri ware from the British period - Ankita Raj via issuu



FUN PAGE!



MARK THE STATES ON THE MAP WHERE THE DIFFERENT CRAFTS ARE FOUND.

- BIDRI
- THATERAS
- DHOKRA
- LONGPI POTTERY
- BLUE POTTERY
- PAPIER-MÂCHÉ
- CHIKANKARI EMBROIDERY
- APATANI
- MUGA SILK
- MADHUBANI PAINTING
- GOND ART
- BALUCHARI SILK SAREES

Hands- on Activity

Create Your Metal Craft:
Using simple materials like foil, wire, or clay, create a small metal-inspired craft.

CAN YOU NAME THE METAL CRAFTS THAT HAVE BEEN THE STATUS OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION TAGS.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



References:
<https://www.caleidoscope.in/art-culture/metal-crafts-of-india-a-malleable-melange>
https://www.indianetzone.com/7/metal_craft.htm
<https://www.craftsnchisel.in/blogs/indian-handicraft/metallic-craft-of-india>