

Major Handicrafts of Telugu States

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Handicrafts symbolize man's creative impulse to present beauty in its varied forms. In countries like India with civilization transcending limitations of time and excellence, the emotive stimulus has, over the centuries, influenced the social fabric to build, nurse and preserve a well orchestrated craft tradition that sound continuous expression in the rendering of an immense variety of utilitarian articles with strong aesthetic appeal. Simultaneously, craft, through the centuries, has played and continues to play an important role in the economic life of the community is a major source of providing means of livelihood to many and help in sustaining our rural economy. Many of our traditional crafts have, over the centuries, left their impress beyond India's geographical boundaries and have succeeded in gaining access to new areas and to new peoples. So, today there is virtually no region in the world to which Indian handicrafts have not found their way. This is as much due to the superb skills preserved and inherited as to the resilience and flexibility to change nurtured by our craftsmen and their organizations.

Telugu States offer variety of Handicrafts made on different types of media such as Stone, Clay, Wood, Metal, and Textile etc., for the Tourists. The following is the description of some of the significant art objects available.

Kalamkar¹².

Falls under the category of printed cotton textiles, which are produced in different parts of India. By printed textiles is meant all fabrics on which a pattern is produced subsequent to the weaving of the cloth, by the application of dyed or pigment to the surface of the fabric. The Machilipatnam work is of the painted

— printed style with the outlines printed with beautifully carved blocks and the interior spaces filled in vegetable dye with 'kalam' (wooden pen) from which the word kalamkari is derived. The Kalahasti style on the other hand involves free hand drawing and application of colours with a kalam from start to finish. Important kalamkaries find a place of honour in many national and international art Museums.

Toys & Dolls:

Toy-making has a continuous history. It is perhaps the earliest in point of time and the most common craft, which engaged the attention of craftsmen in a number of centres. The universal appeal of toys is explained by their capacity to rouse the imagination of the children with their curious features and to attract the elders in equal measure by offering religious, mythological and other themes, which often go to enrich the home decor.

Kondapalli Toys (Krishna District)³:

Originating in the 14th century with the arrival of a few families of artisans from Rajasthan, the craft grew up under the patronage of the local rulers, while the easy availability of 'Punk' wood, main raw material, in the neighboring forest provided an ideal location for the growth of the craft. Kondapalli depicts rural life in all its variety and colour having as its themes the ordinary village occupations as well as mythological figures glorifying the beauty and valour of Hindu gods and goddesses.

Nirmal Toys (Adilabad District)⁴:

This craft has an ancient origin and is known to be in existence for at least six hundred years. While its sustenance and growth is mainly attributed to the patronage of the local feudal families, the products themselves, mostly consisting of models of birds, animals, fruits and vegetables and human occupations have an extensive appeal by virtue of their close resemblance to life.

Etikoppaka Wooden Toys (Visakhapatnam Dist.)⁵,

The origin of this craft is traced to the neighboring Nakkapally before it spread to Etikoppaka, its present home for nearly eighty years, The proximity to the forest area with plenty of yield of 'Ankudu Karra', a

light species of wood, mainly prompted the concentration of this craft in Etikoppaka, though there are small pockets of craftsmen.

Tiruchanur Toys (Chittoor Dist.) 6

The craft of making toys out of red sander ('Rakta Chandanam') had its birth just about one hundred and fifty years back in the Yogima//avaram village near Tirupati and gradually spread to Tiruchanur, and other villages in the vicinity. Eda/acheruvu, Madhavamala and Gundrallametta villages are the other important seats of this craft. Traditionally Tirupati town, as the main pilgrim centre, has provided a secure market for the products of this craft.

Bidriware 7.

Bidri — derived from ancient city Bidar, the place of its origin in the Deccan Plateau — is a metal alloy, Unique in the art of encrusting one metal on the other. It has a common ancestry with the older art of inlaying gold and silver on steel or copper practiced in Persia, but evolved its own identity in respect of the base alloy which is a composition of zinc with small proportions of other non-ferrous metals.

Similar Telugu States is also same for creative and innovative, handicrafts such as Madhavamala wooden craft, Settiguda wood craft, Nirmal, Siddhipeet, Nakashi and Savara paintings, Warangal Dhurries, Rumals of Warangal, Banjara Fabrics, Narsapur lace work, Banjara Jewellery, Durgi Stone craft, Buduti Brass ware, Makavaripalem lamps, and Textiles are most wanted souvenirs for the tourists visiting Telugu States

Madhavamala Wooden Craft⁸:

20 km from Tirupati. Tirupati is well connected by Air, Rail & Road) from Tirupati Madhavamala is connected by road and the tourists have to depend private transport. Private transport is available from Tirupati.

About 50 families of Madhavamala, Pallamala, Sri Kalahasti and its surroundings villages are engaged in caning objects of wood, these artisans started off with wooden toys, particularly the Raja-Rani jodu bommalu, wooden elephants and nadulu or bull toys. This practice of making wooden toys went on all 1960. But in due course, the priority shifted to ornamental wooden carvings, and they made kurudimmelu, or the circular wooden carvings resembling the wheel of a chariot.

Settiguda Wooden Crafts:

25 Kms from Rajampeta and 100 kms, from Cuddapah in Cuddapah district. From Rajampeta Settigunta is connected by road and the tourist have to depend on private transport. Private transport is available from both Rajampeta and Cuddapah.

Made of Nakkina wood, these combs are broadly classified into oil combs and carp combs. The second types of combs are made in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Nirmal Paintings 10:

89 kms from Adilabad in Adilabad district. Nirmal is connected by road and there are frequent buses from Adilabad. Private transport is available.

The artists themselves using cardboard and Luppam make the canvas. The canvas is first painted black, which forms the background for all the paintings Enamel and other plastic colours are used for these paintings, which lends them a glow.

Siddipet Paintings¹¹:

75 kms from Medak in Medak district. From Medak Siddipet is connected by road and there are frequent buses from Medak and Hyderabad Private transport is available from both Medak and Hyderabad. Nakashi Paintings¹²:

There are several places in Northern - Telugu States. From Hyderabad all the places are connected by road and there are frequent buses from Hyderabad These places are mainly in Warangal, Adilabad, Karimnagar and Nizamabad.

Paintings done by the tribal using natural colours and dyes are famous in North Coastal Andhra, particularly in Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram and Visakhapatnam regions.

Savara Paintings¹³.

Srikakulam is 100 kms, from Visakhapatnam. From Visakhapatnam Srikakulam is connected by road and rail. There are frequent buses from Visakhapatnam, On a wall-coloured red with red soil mixed paper in water, white paint prepared from rice powder and water are used Black colour is prepared with coconut ash mixed castor oil. Tender bamboo are used as brushes after chewing their ends very delicately. Actually, these paintings resemble the prehistoric rock art. Triangular- shaped structures, which are very common In rock art, can be seen

in Savara paintings.

Warangal Durries¹⁴.

120 kms. From Hyderabad. From Hyderabad Warangal is connected by road and rail. There are frequent buses and trains from Hyderabad. In due course, many Muslims families were engaged in making pile carpets, which flourished till the 1930s, as nearly 10,000 carpets per month were exported. Later, the industry declined due to various reasons, one being the poor quality of the carpets.

Rumals of Warangal¹⁵.

120 kms from Hyderabad. From Hyderabad Warangal is connected by road and rail. There are frequent buses and trains from Hyderabad. Clothes and fabrics have always tempted us and have managed to draw our attention their variety and designs.

Banjara Fabrics 16..

120 kms from Hyderabad. from Hyderabad Warangal is connected road and rail. There are frequent buses and trains from Hyderabad. With some tiny oddments like cowries shells and inexpensive colorful beads, and of course, toner of ingenuity, Banjara tribal — the first unofficial fashion designers of India created a rage among the fashion-conscious 'Chic', it is courtesy the Banjaras and their dress sense, With bright colour combination of red, green, yellow and black and mirrors knitted on cloth, handmade Banjara garments occupied a prominent place in the mainstream ethnic wear of the Indian youth, particularly girls. The Banjaras, also known as Lambadies in Telugu States

Narsapur Fabrics¹⁷:

98 kms from Eluru in West Godavari district. From Eluru Narsapur is connected by road. There are frequent bus facility from Eluru.

Banjara Jewellery¹:

Devarakonda is 64 kms From Nalgonda in Nalgonda district. From Nalgonda Devarakonda is connected by road. The frequency of public transport is very less and thus the tourists have to depend on private transport. Private transport is available from Nalgonda

Durgi Stone Craft¹⁸:

Durgi is 10 kms from Macherla in Guntur district. From Guntur Macherla is connected by road and there are frequent buses from Guntur to Macherla. But, the frequent of public transport from Macherla to Durgt is very less and thus the tourists have to depend on private transport. Private transport is available from Guntur.

Budithi Brass Ware 20:

This craft is practiced in three North-Costal Districts of Telugu States (Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam). All three districts are connected by road and rail. Metal ware in India can be roughly divided into objects of religious and ritualistic importance and those of utility. The commonly used metals are brass copper and bell metal, while brass is an alloy of copper and zinc, bell metal is a mixture of copper and tin.

Pambarthi Metal Crafts¹⁹:

Pambarthi is 60 kms from Janagaon in Warangal district From Warangal Janagama is connected by road and there are frequent buses from Warangal to Janagaon. Private transport is available from Warangal. Pambarthi, a small town in Warangal district, located on the Highway running to Janagaon from Hyderabad, Is a symbol of the past glory of sculpture and metal work traditions in Telugu States.

Makavaripalem Lamps²⁰:

Makavaripalem a village and a mandal headquarter in Visakhapatnam district has two Kamsali families specializing in Bhajan lamps. The lamps are intricately ornamented, and come with multiple designs. The village has the tradition of being the center of Bhajan lamps since long ago The craftsmen make lamps that are more than feet high. These lamps are used as ornamental piece in cities. As alloy of brass and copper, in the form of sheets are used in making the lamps.

Every tourist wants to keep his/her memory of the tour cherished for ever through purchasing one or two souvenirs collected from the areas where they visited. They may include leather goods, metal images, embroiders' items etc. to gain the confidence of the tourist Telugu States Government are ensuring quality service at the shopping areas. Telugu States Tourism has opened Gnapika counters to offer tourist souvenirs in addition to the shopping emporia of different stage. However many of the coming up destinations do not have any shopping areas, which

have to be addressed immediately.

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