

## SIKKIM

The people of Sikkim have exceptional skill in the making of handicrafts. Woollen carpets and blankets with typical Sikkimese motifs, and the foldable Choktse table, are highly in demand. Every community in Sikkim has the expertise to make at least one handicraft product. The products are special as traditional methods of production are still used.



### Choktse Table

Choktse tables are traditional collapsible wooden tables with Tibetan carved designs. These are made in different designs and lions and are a special product of Sikkim.



Source: Rhythms of Life - Folk Traditions of Eastern India by Gouri Basu

### Carpets



Sikkim is known for its hand-knotted carpets, with traditional Tibetan and modern designs, which are made by one of the oldest techniques of carpet weaving in the world, using a frame loom. The women of the Bhutia Community are expert carpetweavers.

### Wood Carving

Wood carvings of Sikkim are unique and very different from the carvings seen in the other parts of the country. Several Sikkimese symbols and icons of good luck and fortune are carved

in wood. The famous Mask dance of Sikkim is also portrayed through the wood carvings. In many of the monasteries of Sikkim, exquisite wood carvings and wooden sculptures are seen. Masks made from wood and papier mache are also quite common.

## Cultural Calendar - January 2017

### “Dushayanta Shakuntala” (Hindi Drama)

Based on Kalidasa’s “Abhijñānaśākuntalam”

By Hindi students of ICC

Venue: Panibharata Auditorium  
University of Visual and Performing Arts,  
No.21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07

# 6

Friday  
4.00pm

# 10

Tuesday  
4.00pm

### World Hindi Day Celebration- 2017

Venue: ICC Auditorium

### Bharathanatya Recital

by the Students of Vimalothaya Classical Bharatha Natya Kendra

Venue: ICC auditorium

# 13

Friday  
6.00pm

# 18

Wednesday  
6.00 pm

### “Stepping into Prosperity”

#### A lecture on Zodiac Luck

by S.B.S. Surendran,

Vaastu and Feng-sui Expert from India

Venue: ICC auditorium

### 68<sup>th</sup> Republic day of India Celebration Cultural programme

Venue: Bishops College Auditorium

No.11, Perahera Mw., Colombo 03

(Admission by invitation)

# 25

Wednesday  
6.30pm

Programmes subject to change

Admission to all programmes are on first come first serve basis. Except 25th Event

**All are cordially invited**



Indian Council for Cultural Relations  
संस्कृति संबंधितालय  
INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

# Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

January 2017



UNIE ARTS, 2330195

# Cultural Tapestry

Continued...

## Handicrafts of Eastern India

### ODISHA

Many of the handicrafts found in Odisha are in some way linked to the rituals and traditions of Lord Jagannath, the presiding deity of the Puri temple. All the handicrafts of the state exhibit the artistic excellence of the artisans.

### Silver Filigree Work



The most unique handicraft of Odisha is the silver filigree work, in which extremely delicate silver wires are shaped into intricate designs. The process involves drawing silver through a series of small holes to produce strands of fine wires of varying thickness. The craftsmen then bend the wires into different designs



and solder them. Cuttack, the former capital of the state, is famous for this craft. Scenes from the Mahabharata are depicted through filigree work, the most famous being the chariot of Arjuna driven by Lord Krishna. The beauty of the chariot, the proud stance of the horses, minute details of the chariot wheels and true to life figures all contribute to making it a majestic piece of art. Other popular objects include the palanquin, the Mayurpankhi ship, the Konark wheel and the hand-pulled Rikshav, among others.

Jewellery items made of filigree work are very popular as are vermilion boxes used by married women.

### Stone Carving



Stone-carving is an ancient craft of Odisha, as is evident from the numerous archaeological monuments, rock-cut sculptures, temples decorated with intricately-carved statues, etc., for the past several centuries. The tradition of



stone carvings has been kept alive in Odisha as a hereditary craft. The most popular carved items includes replicas of the temples of Odisha, images of gods and goddesses, the Konark wheel and figurines like Alasa Kanya (the indolent damsel), Salabhanjika (lady leaning against the branch of a Sal tree), Surasundari (celestial beauty) and Patra Lekhika (lady writing a letter). The surfaces of the statues are smooth and shining. The stone carvings of Odisha have reached a level of perfection, through the efforts of generations of artisans.

### Brass and Metalware



Odisha also has artefacts made of brass, bell metal and bronze. Lamps made of metal and decorated with engravings are used during the worship of the deities. Rice measuring bowls are a typical brass item of Odisha. Intricately decorated elephants and

horses, containers for betel leaves and other household utility items are both decorative and useful.

### Horn Handicraft



An interesting tribal handicraft of the state is the art of making combs. Only twelve to fifteen of the sixty-two tribes inhabiting the state know this craft. An interesting feature of tribal life in Odisha is that no one buys combs.

Those who do not make them, either receive them as gifts from the communities that make them, or receive them in a barter system, in exchange of agricultural surplus. A variety of designs, colours, shapes and sizes is seen in the combs. Also, several kinds of materials are used for making the combs. This is because of the differences in the socio-economic conditions, religious beliefs and cultural traditions of the different tribal communities. The horn used to make the combs is polished smooth and has a lustrous sheen.

Though traditionally horns were used to make just combs, nowadays, several other items like flower vases, pen-stands, and figurines of birds and animals are also made.

### Wood Carvings

Wood carvings of Odisha can be painted or just plain wood. In the first

category are the painted wooden toys of Puri, and Bargarh masks, idols and chariot decorations. The wooden artefacts of the second category are different from similar items of other states as they are plain and shining, with a smooth polish without even a coating of lacquer on them. All the items are made and polished on hand-operated machines.



### Terracotta and Pottery



Earthen pots are made by the potters of Odisha, for use in religious and social functions. The pots are decorated with different motifs to make them visually appealing. Fish and flower motifs and geometrical designs are popular for decorating the pottery. Terracotta figures of horses and elephants are made specifically for certain religious ceremonies. These are offered to the village deity to ward

off evil and danger. Clay toys, simple in design, are also popular.

### Applique work



Applique is a technique by which a decorative effect is obtained by sowing on patches of coloured fabrics on a basic fabric. Applique work is very popular in Pipli, near Puri. Giant-sized umbrellas of Applique work are used on festive occasions. The rich splashes of yellow, white, green, blue, red and black lend a festive air to the social or religious occasion. The large-sized umbrellas are also popular as garden umbrellas. Applique wall hangings and other decorative items are used for interior decoration in homes and commercial establishments. Large canopies decorated with Applique work are hung over deities to protect them from dust. Canopies are also an integral part of wedding celebrations. The Applique tailors cut out figures of animals, birds, flowers, as well as geometrical shapes, which are sewn symmetrically onto the other piece of cloth, creating eye-catching designs.