

Unlocking Skills on Bamboo Crafts in Tripura



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Excellent variety of handicrafts using bamboo and cane are made by different ethnic groups which have earned great name and fame throughout the country. From time immemorial Tripura has carved out a name for itself in the field of Handicrafts. The gifted artisans produce wonderful objects of crafts from simple material like cane and bamboo. Their rare artistic skill has not been streamlined in the manufacture of exquisite household pieces. Tripura's unique topography and the gracious nature bestowed their choicest blessings on the hereditary artisans of Tripura. Here three distinct cultures viz. Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam have converged together to give shape and content to a unique tradition that found eloquent expression through memorable work of crafts made out of very simple materials like cane, bamboo, clay, wood, palm leaf etc. With the passage of time, there has been changes in the demographic character of the state. But in each phase of her history, Tripura has shown remarkable inner strength of assimilation of synthesis, while retaining her own traditional heritage. With the original distinct tribal motifs were added the skills of other communities' artisans who came subsequently to settle in this land. Time has changed and so also the quick adaptability of our gifted artisans who never failed to respond to the demands of contemporary tastes.

- ✦ Bamboo and Cane occupy a distinctive place in the life of Tripura. From cradle to grave, there is hardly any occasion, complete without the use of cane & bamboo.
- ✦ Today the magnificent skill of artisans has been directed to produce of a wide range of more than 200 exquisite products. Presently, about 10,000 skilled artisans are engaged in production of various handicrafts in the state. However, the industry remains largely unorganized. There is a need to organize the industry in order to build up a proper production base capable of responding to the market requirements and to introduce the modern techniques. The state government has already initiated steps in this direction, in view of the vast potential of the industry to grow, both in domestic as well as international markets. The state also welcomes private enterprise in this field.

- ✦ Bamboo handicrafts of Tripura are acknowledged to be among the best in the country, due to their beauty, elegance and exquisite designs. A vast range of items are produced, including Furniture, Panels and Partitions, Table Mats & other Mat products, Lamp Shades etc. Tripura handicrafts are also being exported to various countries.
- ✦ For interior decoration Tripura handicrafts offer a wide range of false ceilings, paneling, plaques, Pot containers (Planters) etc. made of Gossamer thin bamboo mattress. Ornated with wood inlay and cane & bamboo. The household items have blended utility with artistic beauty. Panels and partitions provide another wide range of utility items made out of solid but thinly splitted bamboo pasted on plywood.
- ✦ The interior decoration works in hotels, conference rooms, show rooms interiors of different Govt. buildings with their beautiful bamboo & cane materials of Tripura on turnkey basis.
- ✦ Lamp shades made of fine strips of bamboo add distinct touch and glamour to the living room. Exhibiting a rare combination of tradition and talent, there products would brighten up the interiors demonstrating the taste and feeling of the connoisseurs. The supply capacity is much less for the exquisite item.
- ✦ Furniture of Tripura once exclusive to royal palaces continue to have its excellence and exquisite workmanship. For the elegant Drawing Rooms there are Bamboo-Cane, Sofa sets, Garden Chairs, Dinning Chairs, Baby Chairs, Centre & Side Tables, Morah, Apple Morah etc.
- ✦ Baskets knitted out of Bamboo Strips, offer a whole range of products. Exquisite tray Planters, Fruit Baskets of different shapes, sizes, pattern and designs as a rare combination of art and utility. A wide range of baskets and baskets with divisions are being used for making gift packages with some traditional artistic touches by the consumers.
- ✦ Mat and mat articles, bamboo mat etc. have good demand in the market. There are different types of roll mats weaved in multicolored designs which are familiar for making door & window screen, and also have various uses for room decoration.
- ✦ Amongst the Mat articles ladies' bag, Hand fans, Portfolio bag (for seminar) etc. are the most popular items.
- ✦ On the cosmetic table as well, there are quite a number of items to present. Some of those are small framed mirror, hair clips, powder case, decorative trays etc.

Tising : Traditional Basketry

