

Ektal Dhokra Art : The Jewel in the Crown

Raigarh district has get its national recognition on the basis of art, Culture & dense tribe population. We can clearly see that at Dhokra Shilp district where Jhara tribes make statues of metals (Mixed brass or bell metal). this art has get fame notional as well as international.

The Centre of this art are villages like, Ektal, Baighandeeh , Kandulpali, Damdarha, Ghoraghati lie at



20 to 80 Km Range from Raigarh. Dhokra Art is main source of income for jharas. There was a time when Jharas used to wander, village to another for selling of their crockery, statues etc. while living under tree shades.

they were preparing different handicraft items and female fashionable item by moving place to place stretching from Orrissa, Chota Nagpur, Bad Nagpur and Chhattisagr. Generally they were expertise in Ear rings, wrist ring, Payal (Ring use in leg), Kamarbandh, necklace, bettle box, Idols of god and goddess and other home appliances.

Around hundred years ago, several Jhara artists settled in Ektal village by constructing small cottages . They were living their life by exchanging their article with Rice and paddy and necessary food items.



Ektal is situated 20 Km from Raigarh is a center hub for this art. Basically the tribes are farmers here, but they have a great mystery in this art. Around 100 families were have been traditionally making bell Metal Sculptures. Around 1984, some senior officers of Bhopal (MP) based National humanity museum (Bharat–Bhawan) visited Raigarh and purchased the idol of “Raksh Dev” and “Budhi Mai” and took it to Bhopal. These idols got a good credit in the exhibition organized in Bhopal This year Mr.Arjun Singh, Then chief Minister of MP presented Sikhar Sanman award to Mr Gobind jhara for the tremendous achievement in traditional art .

After that the many artist got opportunity to show their art in India international trade fair organizes



in Delhi every year. These art and article got the internal and international recognition in dhokra art . In thse exhibition no of jhara artist received national and state level award from . They shoed their potentiality in the different national and international statges of art and craft . This art is popular in national and international level.

The prominent persons in the field are Govind Ram Jhara, Ramdas Jhara and other who have been awarded on national and state level.

Method of Dhokra casting is vary fascinating. It uses oldest methods of metal melting . it includes a structure like thread of wax comes from bunch of bees. Yeild coming of wax en-coated by soil layer & placed in sun light for consolidation. Having done, this is poured into the models (Make by metal) & it comes out as a desired structure.

This is really a daunting task. This can't be reformed in industry like thigs. Thought of this art is always derived from tribal culture, nature & their

religious & traditional stories. Including picturesation of their marriage festivals etc. this takes hearty effect the viewer.

