

BRASS & BELL METAL



Brass and Bell-metal works of Kantilo in Nayagarh district are well known throughout the State. The precious places, for producing Brass and Bell-metal works are Kantilo, Banigochha (Daspalla), Belapada (Gania), Khalisahi, Itamati, Sarankul, Sunakhala, Ranpur etc. The craft is a centuries-old tradition in Nayagarh, deeply rooted in the district's heritage. Artisans create a variety of products using traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations.

Materials Used: Brass: An alloy of copper and zinc. Bell Metal: A type of bronze alloy, primarily composed of copper and tin, known for its resonant properties.

Artisan Techniques: From ancient time, the artisans of Odisha knew the scientific process of preparing an alloy of zinc and brass known as bell-metal. The daily utility utensils are produced in artistic designs. Utensils of various sizes and different designs cover all sorts of articles a man uses in day-to-day life. The artisans follow two processes of production – one by way of casting in moulds and the second by constant beating to get the required size and shapes.

Products: Decorative items like lamps, figurines, and bells. Utility items such as utensils, plates, and bowls. Ritualistic products for temples and religious purposes.

Cultural Value: It is a custom in Odisha to give some utility utensils of Bell-metal during the daughter's marriage. These utensils are also considered as assets of a family. The craft is integral to local festivals and rituals. Items are often used in temples, showcasing their spiritual importance.

Economic Importance: Provides livelihood to thousands of artisans in Nayagarh. Products are in demand domestically and internationally, especially in the niche handicraft market.

Sustainability: Uses recyclable materials like scrap metal. Promotes eco-friendly practices with minimal waste.