



*Art and Culture*

*Unifies Us*

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# Art and Culture Unifies Us

"Art reacts to the culture it springs from."  
- Sonia Sanchez

Art and culture unify us better than anything that mankind has ever created. And India brims with such mesmerizing artworks and cultures which will leave one, awestruck. Three states of India, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur are our country's pride, when it comes to art and cultures.

The artistic and cultural wonders of Madhya Pradesh confirm the fact that this state has been blessed by the Creator in the best manner possible. Holding the central position in India, both geographically and usefully, Madhya Pradesh is rightly called 'The Heart of India'.

The history of Madhya Pradesh has been glorious and so are its art and crafts. With each growing year, the craftsmanship in the state is redefining in its own.



The works of art include bamboo and cane carvings, dunnies, folk paintings, iron crafts, gite works, paper mache, stone carving, terracotta, textile weaving, woodcraft and zari embroidery.

## Bamboo and Cane

Bamboo and cane occupy an important place in rural life: utility articles such as agricultural implements, fishing traps, hunting tools, and baskets are made of bamboo. In Madhya Pradesh these are generally made by a community called Basar or Basod. The Gond, Baiga and Korku tribal communities are highly skilled in the craft of bamboo.

## Folk Paintings

Folk paintings of Madhya Pradesh, specially the wall paintings of Bundelkhand, Gondwana, Nimar and Malwa are living expressions of people, intrinsically linked with the social-cultural ambience of the area. They aren't mere decorations but spontaneous outpourings of religious devotions.



## Culture...

Culture of Madhya Pradesh is heavily influenced by indigenous traditions and customs of the tribes inhabiting a large portion of the state. Three distinct tribes namely Gond tribe, Bhil tribe and Ason tribe influence the culture of Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh is extensively recognised for its musical extravaganza and dancing rhythms. The region is also justified by bhankul songs calligated with evoking Danteshwari, a goddess, and the 'chait parakh

Some of Madhya Pradesh's folk dances are :-

1. Tamara Nach
2. Phulpoti
3. Guida Dance
4. Mathi

## Nagaland...

The Nagas have a rich tradition of art and craft rooted in a lifestyle that has always been in harmony with environment they live in. Skilled tribal craftsmen and artisans have always been the pillars of a tribal society that had, for many centuries, been self-sufficient. They lent their skills to creating items of utility as well



as those with ritualistic and aesthetic value. It was these craftsmen, weavers and artisans who foraged the forest in search of wood, barks, dyes and other resources that were utilized to carve out fine works of art and weave colourful clothes that distinguished each Naga tribe.

The various art and crafts that were known to the early Nagas and are still practiced to this day are :-

## Basketry

Naga baskets woven from fine strips of cane and bamboo are well known and sought after for their utility and aesthetic value. The cane baskets of Khonoma village are particularly well known for their intricate weaves. Hudgous and mats are also woven from fine bamboo and cane strips.

## Wood Carving

Nagas are excellent woodcarvers. Making use of simple rudimentary tools and implements such as the local dao, hand drill and chisel, skilled craftsmen



produce great works of art. One of the finest specimens that epitomize the skill of Naga craftsmen is at Shangkryu village in Mon district. The work of art at Shangkryu consists of a massive wooden panel that has carvings depicting objects of art as well as those of ritual and utility value.

## Culture

Nagaland is referred to as 'The Galvan Capital of the World'. It supports a flamboyant tribal culture which leaves anybody visiting the place amazed and dazzled. Nagaland has an ancient history of tribes whose count seems to be as much as 66 including the sub-tribes. Out of these, 16 are considered as major tribes.

These tribes carry certain folklores depicting the gallant acts of their ancestors in their costumes. The design of shawl denotes the social status of the wearer. The attire worn by the males include a conical red headdress decorated with Hornbill's black and white feathers and wild boar's canine teeth.



Some of the famous festivals are :-

1. The Hornbill Festival
2. Ngada Festival
3. Huga Festival.

Major folk dances are :-

1. Madse
2. Saluyattu
3. Changri dance.

## Manipur ...

Its own art-forms and cultural ramifications distinctly showcase Manipur to the world. Love of art and beauty is inherent in the people and it is difficult to find a Manipuri who isn't artistic.

This state is one of the largest producers of bamboo crafts in India. Block painting, hand embroidery, decorative ivory, bamboo and cane work are some of the many crafts of this state.

## Dance Forms :-

1. Ras Leela
2. Nupa Pala
3. Pung Chalam