Handicrafts

**Tea Crafts:**

Considering that Darjeeling is known as the “Queen of Tea,” it should come as no surprise that the most well-known product in the area serves as a source of inspiration for many local artists. Popular handcrafted items include artisanal tea strainers, handwoven tea cozies, and elaborately painted tea cups and saucers. These things not only improve the experience of sipping tea, but they also create interesting mementos.

Mithila Painting

The Maithil people of India and Nepal create folk art known as mithila painting. It began as a ritual painting on the mud floors and walls of the homes, using cotton or bamboo brushes and natural colors. The paintings feature Hindu gods and goddesses, ordinary life, mythological themes, and auspicious symbols. Also referred to as Madhubani painting, mithila paintings have many styles depending on the caste and community of the artists.

Zari and Zari goods

West Bengal's traditional handicrafts, particularly in the districts of Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Coock Behar and Alipur duar, are zari and zari items. Zari is a kind of metallic thread used to adorn textiles, particularly silk saris. It is comprised of gold, silver, or copper. Brocades, borders, motifs, and accessories like belts, purses, and bags are examples of Zari items. An age-old art form, zari work showcases West Bengal's exquisite craftsmanship and rich cultural legacy.

Carpet and other f loor coverings

Among West Bengal's traditional handicrafts are carpets and floor coverings, particularly in the districts of Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Birbhum, and Nadia. They include elaborate designs and patterns that draw inspiration from nature, culture, and religion. They are constructed of a variety of materials, including cotton, wool, jute, silk, and coir. In offices, public spaces, and residential settings, carpets and other floor coverings provide comfort, insulation, and aesthetic appeal. In West Bengal, Bhalla's Carpets and Square Foot are two well-known carpet and floor covering brands.

Pottery and Clay idols

In West Bengal, clay idols and pottery are two of the most ancient and well-liked types of handicrafts. The Ganges river clay is used by the potters, also known as kumors, to make a variety of items, including toys, pots, utensils, and holy statues. In Kolkata's Kumortuli, the most well-known potters' colony, hundreds of workshops create lifelike idols of Hindu gods and goddesses, particularly for the Durga Puja celebration. West Bengal's clay idols and pottery are a testament to the craftsmen' talent, long heritage, and culture.

Wall Hanging

Wall hanging is a decorative handicraft of West Bengal, made by using various materials such as cloth, paper, metal, wood, bamboo, and clay. The wall hangings display artistic designs and motifs influenced by the culture, religion, and history of the state. Some of the common themes are folk tales, festivals, deities, animals, and flowers. Wall hanging is a popular souvenir and gift item, as well as a way of beautifying the interiors of homes and offices.

Stone carvings

West Bengali stone carvings are a traditional handcraft that highlights the talent and imagination of the regional craftspeople. The art consists of carving a variety of items, including utensils, idols, panels, and plaques, out of stones including sandstone, phulpathar, and phyllite. The state's history, culture, and religion are all reflected in the stone carvings, which are utilized for heritage preservation, decoration, and worship. Among the well-known stone-carving hotspots in West Bengal are Kumortuli, Dainhata, and Simulpur.

Embroidered Sarees and shawls

West Bengali embroidered shawls and sarees are exquisite handicrafts created from a variety of materials, including wool, cotton, and silk. Using vibrant threads and needles, the embroidery is done by hand to produce complex patterns and motifs on the fabric. The state's history, culture, and religion all have an impact on the needlework designs, which frequently feature folktales, holidays, gods, animals, and flowers. In addition to being a popular clothing item and gift, embroidered shawls and sarees are a representation of West Bengal's artistic legacy.

Conch shells

West Bengali shawls and sarees with embroidery are wonderful handicrafts made of cotton, silk, and wool among other materials. The embroidery is done by hand to create intricate patterns and motifs on the fabric using colorful threads and needles. The needlework designs, which usually include folktales, holidays, gods, animals, and flowers, are influenced by the state's history, culture, and religion. Embroidered shawls and sarees are not just a common fashion accessory and present; they are a symbol of West Bengal's creative heritage.

Ceramic Work

Ceramic Works in West Bengal Ceramic works in West Bengal is a traditional handicraft art form that showcases the skills and creativity of the artisans of the state. Ceramic works include tiles, pots, vases and sculptures made from clay. The clay is glazed and then fired in the kilns. Ceramic works are a reflection of the culture, religion and history of West Bengal. They are used for decorative, utility and art purposes. Some of the renowned centres of ceramic works are Bharat marble & mineral works, somany global, and central glass & ceramic research institute

Hand printed textile Scarves

Textile Scarves in West Bengal Textile scarves in West Bengal are hand-printed on fabrics like cotton, silk and wool. The technique of hand-printing textile scarves is based on wood blocks and natural dyeing. Hand-printed textile scarves are one of the traditional handicrafts of West Bengal. They are a tribute to the craftsmanship and creativity of local artisans in West Bengal. Textile scarves are used for various purposes such as fashion, utility and art. Hand-printed scarves represent the culture, tradition and diversity of West Bengal.

# Thangka Painting:

Thangka painting is an ancient art of Tibet that is practiced in Darjeeling. These paintings are like scrolls that show Buddhist gods, stories, or symbols. The artists use natural colors and gold to make thangkas on cloth. They have to be very careful and precise in their work. The paintings are valued for their religious meaning and aesthetic appeal.

# Handwoven Textiles:

Handwoven textiles are a prominent craft in Darjeeling. The weavers make fabrics that show the diverse culture of the area. The textiles range from colorful Bhutia patterns to fine silk sarees. They represent the artistry and the traditions of the native people of Darjeeling.

# Woodcarving: Sculpting Nature

Woodcarving in Darjeeling shows the craftsmen’s strong bond with nature. The carvers use their skill to make detailed statues from wood, usually with themes of wildlife, gods, or culture. These woodworks are useful and beautiful, and they adorn houses and places of worship..