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राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Iron Craft

Dindori, Madhya Pradesh

Seats Available 13

OE26B18
Bengaluru Campus



The Iron Craft of Dindori, primarily practiced by the Agaria tribe in Madhya Pradesh, is a remarkable Tradition of “Loha Shilp” that transforms raw metal into intricate art. Historically, the Agaria (meaning “workers of fire”) extracted iron from local ores called kaleji patthar using small, hand-built clay furnaces and foot-operated bellows—a process so ancient it is oftencompared to early alchemy.

Today, artisans meticulously heat scrap iron in a traditional bhatti and hand-forge it into shape using only hammers and anvils, notably without the use of any molds. Their most iconic creation is the Laman Diya (a versatile hanging oil lamp), alongside expressive figurines of birds, elephants, and deities. While modern industrialization has challenged the craft, it remains a vital symbol of tribal heritage, recently gaining recognition in contemporary home decor for its raw, primitive elegance.



Santu Maravi

Santusingh Maravi is a fifth-generation Loh Shilp artisan who works closely with his wife, Rambai.

Combining inherited iron craft skills with sharp market insight, they are consciously diversifying products to strengthen and sustain their practice.