SHILPSUTRA
INTERNATIONAL OPEN ELECTIVE 26
4-15 JANUARY, 2027

राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Kinnal Art

Koppal, Karnataka

Seats Available 13

OE26B22
Bengaluru Campus

History: The craft traces its roots back to the Vijayanagara Empire (15th–16th centuries), with historical evidence visible in the intricate carvings of the Hampi chariot and local temple murals.

Process: Artisans use lightweight Ponki wood, plant-based paste, and a unique traditional finishing style involving tinning and Lajjawari to create detailed religious idols, toys, and large installations. A piece of wood is taken and given a shape, wood powder (tamarind seed powder) is applied to it, a cotton cloth is put on it and white paint is applied to it like home-made paint and then a suitable color is applied to it.

Themes: Creations feature mythological gods and goddesses, animals, and lifelike replicas of fruits and vegetables.

GI Tag: Kinnal craft received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag (GI Tag No. 159) to protect its authentic heritage.

Santhoshkumar Chitragar

Santoshkumar is a master artisan from Kinnal village in the Koppal district of North Karnataka who is dedicated to reviving and preserving the 500-to-700- year-old traditional wooden craft known as Kinnal art (or Kinhal craft). He belongs to a traditional Chitragar family and has worked to create sustainable livelihoods for local craftspeople.