

Design Resource

Decorative Idols - Aligarh

Hindu Deities with Diverse Postures and Symbols

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/decorative-idols-aligarh>



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Introduction

Aligarh is located at the western part of Uttar Pradesh which has very chief education and profitmaking hub of India. Aligarh is also center part of various monuments that have facilitated in re-shaping of India. It is known as one of the commercial center of Uttar Pradesh also known as a center for brass hardware and statues. It is about 140 kms from national capital

The name Aligarh is believed to be taken from Aligarh also called as Aligarh Qila was built by French engineers below the appreciation of French officers. Aligarh has a raise of approximately 178 meters, where it is an elevation of the land-living between the Ganges and Yamuna rivers. This place has monsoon-influenced of the typical north and central part of India. The average temperature ranges from 28-33 C and its annual rainfall of about 800 millimeters in these months, fog and cold snaps are at extreme levels.

It is also an agricultural trade center where processing and manufacturing is of importance. It is one of the business center famous for its padlock industry also famous for brass hardware and statue. It holds thousands of productions, exporters and dealers in brass, bronze, iron and aluminium industries. It is also a big center for zinc die casting there are thousands of inflatable hot chambers machines. The city hosts the renowned Die-casting which meets the International quality norms, also hosts the power stations of two huge power stations.

The religious figures of the traditional classical style are usually seen in sculptures and in small sizes such as dolls. Few of the folk figures are made in couples with indications of clothing and ornaments on them and called by their special names. Mouth and eyes are generally drawn with black lines that put life into eyes and expressions with mouth. In case of real women clothes and body are fully decorated. Some of the dolls are made with old cloths and dyed anew and stuffed with waste material, it has its share of jewellery. These dolls are secular as well as religious that represent the different Hindu deities with diverse postures and symbols with different characters. For dolls engaged in rituals orange or rose color is generally preferred, white and grey for people engaged in personal labor.

These decorative Idols are generally made by the women of Aligarh who make these idols with the locally available materials in their village by training and making with a group of women. They make these idols mainly with the dehusked coconut, formica sheets, decorative laces, velvet cloth, silver coated foam sheets etc. Mainly the materials taken for the making are usually taken from the locally available markets.

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Idol of Lord Krishna decorated with lace and designed fabric.

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A show piece decorated with beads and artificial feathers.



Idol of Lord Ganesha embellished with beads and lace.

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Decorative idol of Krishna embellished with various types of accessories.



Craftsmen preparing the body of the idol.

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Crown is being placed on the head of the idol.

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Craftsmen decorating the idol with accessories.



Various designs of costumes made for the idol.

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Idol of Bala Gopal decorated with striking costume embellished with pearls and beads.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and materials used for making decorative idols are very basic, which is used in everyday life. The artisan purchases raw materials from the markets of Aligarh. Formica Sheet-are used as a base for placing the idols.

- **Dehusked Coconut:** The head portion of the idol is supported using coconut.
- **Fiber Fill:** Are used as stuff inside the velvet cloth.
- **Foam Sheet:** Are used for making the parts of the idol.
- **Thermocol:** The idols are placed on Thermocol for better support.
- **Adhesive:** Used for sticking accessories on the idol.
- **Measuring Tape:** Used for measuring length of the cloth.
- **Sparkles:** Used for drawing the designs and to obtain a shiny look.
- **Hammer:** Used for fasten the nails as per the required size and shapes.
- **Lace:** Used for decorating the edges of stand as support.
- **Velvet Cloth:** Used as an outline material for the body parts.
- **Sewing Needle and Thread:** Used for stitching the ends of velvet cloth.
- **Scissors:** Used for cutting the cloths and threads.
- **Ball Pins:** Used for fastening the decorative beads, velvet cloths firmly.
- **Papers:** Coconut shell are wrapped using papers.
- **Beads and Stones:** Used to decorate the handmade idols.
- **Cotton Threads:** Used to tie the parts firmly.

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Coconut is used to make the body of the idol.



Scissors are used to cut fabric and papers.



Decorative lace is used to decorate the idol and its stage.



Artificial stones are used to decorate the idol.

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Sparkle foam is used to decorate the stage and attached as accessories to the idol.



Plastic beads designed like eyes are pasted on the face of the idol.



Box made of wood is used to make the stage for the idol.



Readymade fabric embellished with lace work is used to decorate the body of the idol.

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Ball pins are used to attach the fabric and accessories to the idol.



Adhesive is used to stick the accessories.



Velvet fabric is used to decorate the stage or platform made for the idol as well as to make the body of the idol.



Measuring tape is used to measure the required length of fabric to be used.

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Hammer is used to nail the pins while rest making the platform.



Sparkles is used to embellish the idols.

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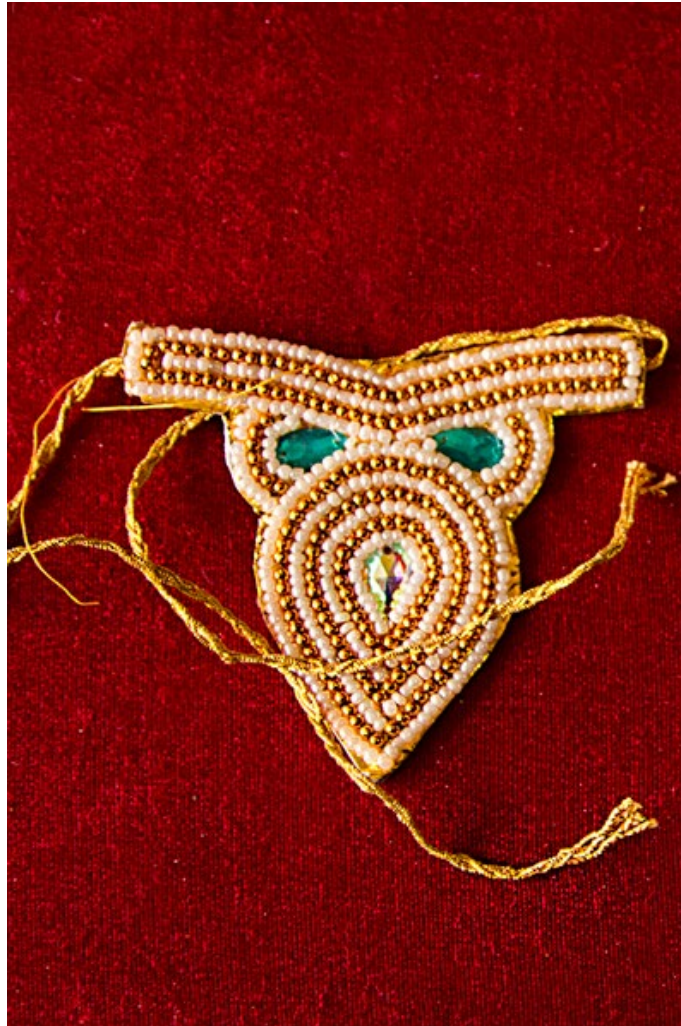
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Crown made embellished with pearls and stone is tied to the idol.



Artificial fiber is used to make the body of the idol.



Shola pith sheet is used to make design cut out to make decorate the idol.

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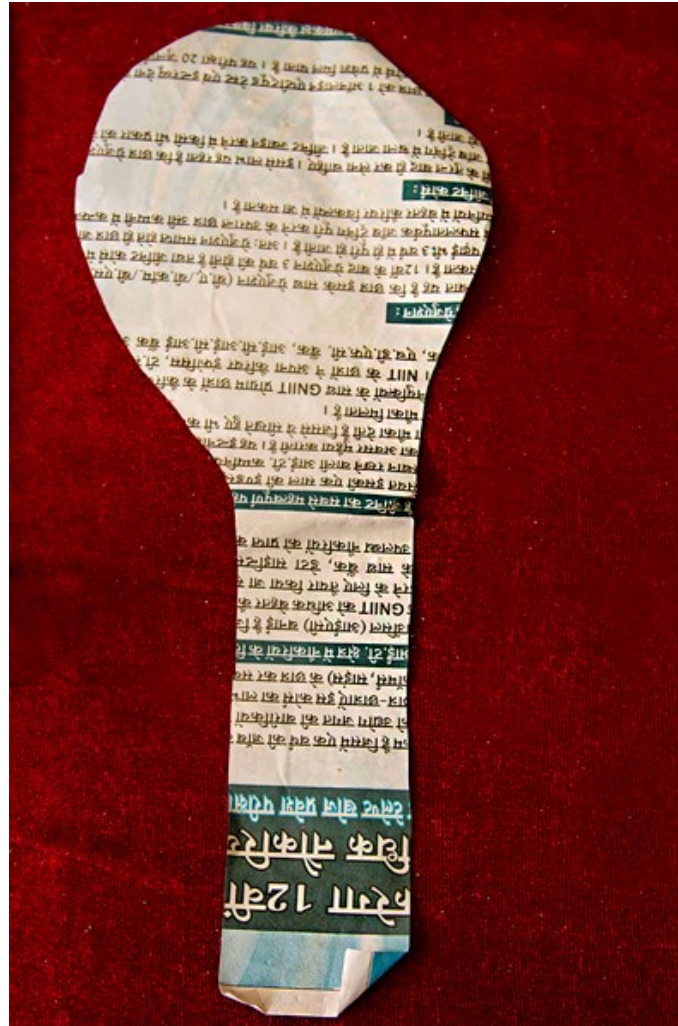
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Cut out stencil used to the measurement to make the idol of Ganesha idol.



Parts used to make the body of the idol.



Things used to make the idols and to make stage for the idol.

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Dress and crowns are purchased from local market and the put to the idols to decorate them.

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Making Process



Krishna Making



Ganesha Making

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Krishna Making

Dehusked coconut with one finger pointing out are made of the cloth are tied together with thread and fixed to the thermocol stand by sticking many layers of thermocol together. It is wrap with newspaper thoroughly and the head made with clay are fixed to the space allotted for it. To which the orange colored cloth of the velvet material are glued and wrapped around thoroughly. Plastic hands are fixed firmly by nailing them. The outer covering of the cloth are glued and pasted, then the hair of woolen black threads are stuck and embellished with laces of golden threads are wrap and pasted, and then the head gear of Krishna is placed on it to which the peacock feathers are placed to held.



Three layers of thermocol piece is glued on each other to make the base or the idol.

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Body of the idol is tied to a coconut.

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A hole is made in the middle of the thermocol base to place the coconut.



Glue is applied in the hole and the coconut is placed on the base.

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Coconut and the base is covered with newspaper to make the body.



Small head is fixed to the prepared body of the idol.

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Idol's head is made of clay and painted with facial details.



A platform is prepared for the idol.

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Body of the idol is glued to the platform and dried.



Velvet fabric is attached to the idol to decorate the body.



Adhesive is applied on the fabric.

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Fabric is covered on the prepared body.



Fabric is pinned to the body using ball pin.

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Hands are attached to the idol.



Hands made of plastic is fixed to the idol.



Adhesive is applied to the costume.

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Costume is tied at the waist level of the idol.



The corners of the costume are pinned to the idol.



Adhesive is applied on the head of the idol to stick accessories.



Artificial hair made of threads are glued on the head of the idol.

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Glittering lace is cut into required measurement.



Lace is used to decorate the upper body of the idol.

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Glue is applied on the crown piece.

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Crown is placed on the head of idol and tied from backside.

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Readymade garland is worn to the idol.



Designed lace is fixed on the wrist to embellish them.

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Backside of the costume is raised to form a decorative circle at the background of the idol.



A cardboard piece covered with velvet cloth is placed behind the raised costume as a support.



Final product of decorative idol of Krishna.

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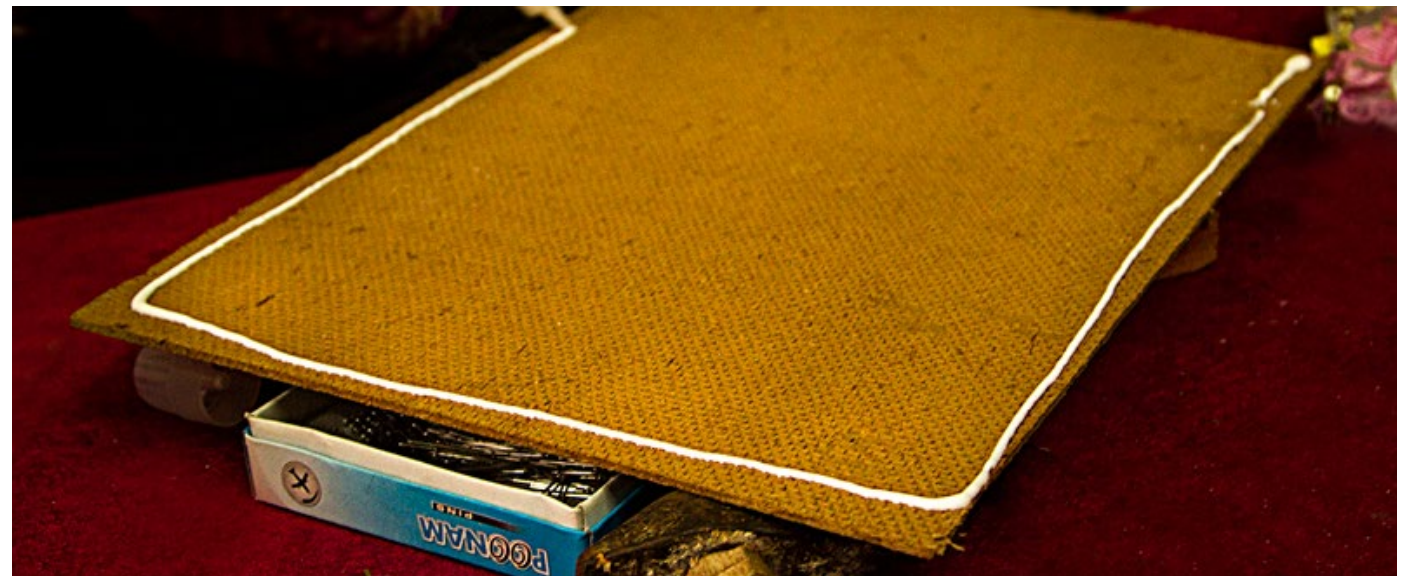
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Ganesha Making

In Ganesha decorative Idol making Formica sheet of wood is taken on which the adhesives are applied to which the locally called shaneel fabric (velvet material) are spread evenly on the surface to stick firmly, of the required sizes in the horizontal and vertical direction. With reference to the pattern paper of Ganesha trunk and hands the cut outs made of fabric are stitched at the corners to firmly hold together on the three sides of the fabric to which the fiber fills are stuffed to the full. Trunk part of the cloth are stitched where the center hole is made from which the fiber fills are filled.

Dehusked coconut shells are rolled with cloth and folded neatly which is then placed on the thermocol with hole to the required shape such a way that the dehusked coconut shell is firmly fixed, the trunk and the hands of Ganesha separately made are fixed to the stand. As per the sizes of the ears, hands etc. form sheet is marked and cut to the required length. After the trunk, hands are fixed with ball pins to the frame structure the foam cut pieces are placed on the structure for the ear, head and back part of the idol. Metallic ribbon or decorative ribbon are generally preferred to be used on the corners to highlight the stand or back end of the idol that is locally made. It is cut to required shapes and sizes, pasted firmly to highlight the corners of the stand. The handmade idols are placed on the stage or stand to embellish the idols, then the eyes are fixed to which the sliver and green colored sparkles are drawn to give the detailing of the idols. The precious stones are stuck to the trunk and the other parts to highlight the details of the idol.



Adhesive is applied on a piece of Formica sheet.

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The sheet is covered with velvet fabric.



Adhesive is applied on a rectangular wooden box to make a platform for the idol.



The box is covered with velvet fabric as well.



Excess fabric is cut with scissors.

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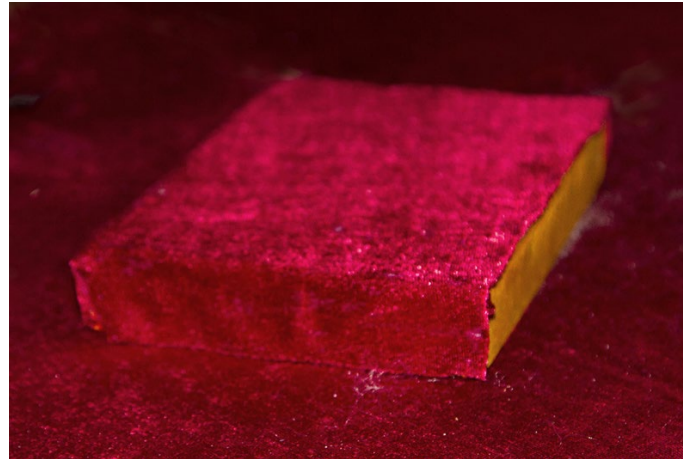
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Platform for the idol is prepared.



The platform is ready.



Prepared sheet is nailed to the box to formulate a complete platform.

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Coconut is covered in a designed lace fabric.



Ball pins are pinned to fix the fabric on the coconut.



The pins are hammered so that it could sit firmly inside the coconut.



Layer of thermocol piece is pasted on the platform.

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Decorative Idols - Aligarh

Hindu Deities with Diverse Postures and Symbols

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/decorative-idols-aligarh/making-process/ganesha-making>

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A hole is made in the middle of the thermocol.



Adhesive is applied in the whole and the coconut is placed and fixed.

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With the help of the stencil parts of the body is cut out.

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Parts of the hand and trunk is cut out in fabric.

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The parts are stitched together.



Hands and Trunk of Lord Ganesha is stitched.



Stitched parts.



A small hole is made in the stitched part.

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Artificial fiber is filled in the parts through the hole.



Fiber is stuffed in all the parts made.



Accessories to decorate the idol is drawn on a glitter foam.

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The designs are cut using scissor.



Cut out design from the foam sheet.

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Adhesive is applied on the cut out design.



Cut out piece is glued at the base in the shape of a flower.

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Trunk is fixed to the body of the idol.



Hands are pinned to the either side of the body.



Both the ends of the hands are joined and pinned at the base.

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Adhesive is applied on the corners on the background.



Decorative lace is cutout in strips.



Lace strips are glued on the background corners.



Crown is placed on head of the idol.

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It is fixed using ball pins.



Eyes are placed and fasten on the face.



Facial features are drawn using silver color glitter tubes.



Golden color glitter tube is used to decorate the crown.

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Ears are embellished with green glitter tube.

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Artificial stones is glued on the trunk.



Final product of Ganesha decorative idol.

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Products

The decorative idols made in Aligarh have traditional importance. The products are made of good quality materials which has more durability. Products are sold only in Aligarh.

Listed below are some of the products made:-

Lord Ganesh - Different types of Ganesh idol are made with golden laces, beads that gives an ornamental effect. The cost of small size Ganesh idol costs from Rs 60 which exceeds up to Rs 2000 depending on the size.

Lord Krishna - The cost of the Krishna idols ranges from 400rs and above depending on the size.



Idol of Lord Krishna holding a flute.

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Different type's idols of Lord Ganesha embellished with beads and lace.



Green color costumes decorated with colorful lace.



Idol of Bala Gopal decorated with salient costume adorned with beads and pearls.



Red shade costumes decorated with embroidery work and golden lace.

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Yellow shade costume embellished with embroidery work and beads.

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Decorative idol of Lord Ganesha.



Crown decorated with pearls and beads is placed on idol's head.

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Decorated idol of Lord Krishna.

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Panorama



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Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Lija M. G. at [NID Campus, Bengaluru](#).

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