

Design Resource

Stone Studded Photo Frame - Srikalahasti

The Art of Stone Studded Idol Framing

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/stone-studded-photo-frame-srikalahasti>



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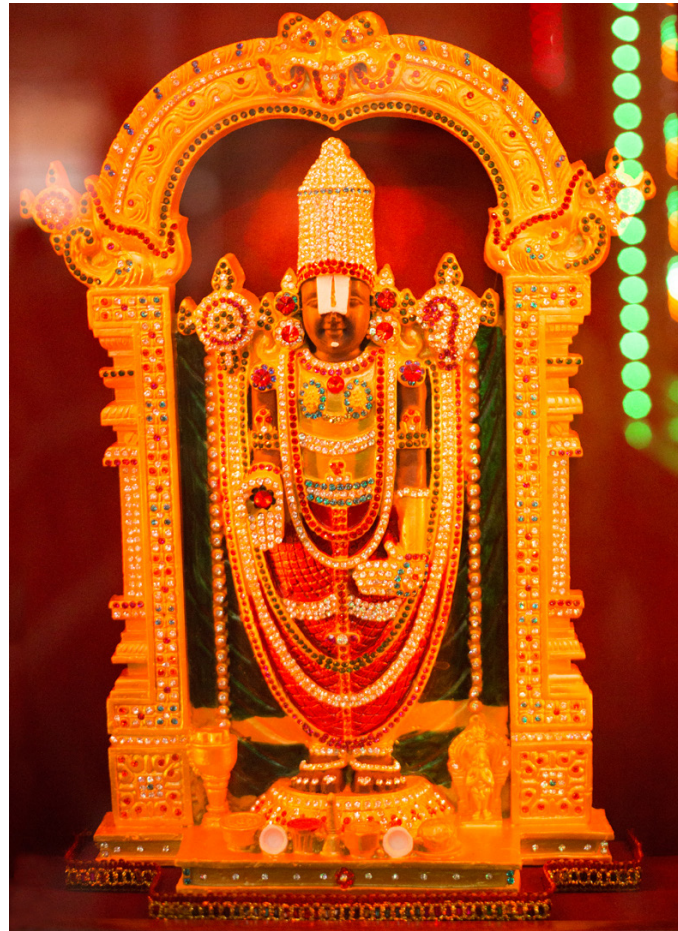
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Introduction

Most of the tea shops at Srikalahasti had the similar type of the serial lighted, with different coloured stone studded frames with the idol of the Lord Tirupati. Srikalahasti is one of the major place in the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, where most of the stone studded frames of Lord Tirupati are made and produced in large numbers. These are mostly decorated with the deep greens, chalk white, vivid reds, turquoise blues and also more use of gold foil, inset glass beads that makes these types of frames a unique one. The use of the semi-precious stones and the different art work makes it a colourful one compared to others.



Beautifully embellished idol of Lord Sri Venkateswara.



Artificial stones decorating the crown of the Idol.



Lord Balaji ornamented with colourful stones.

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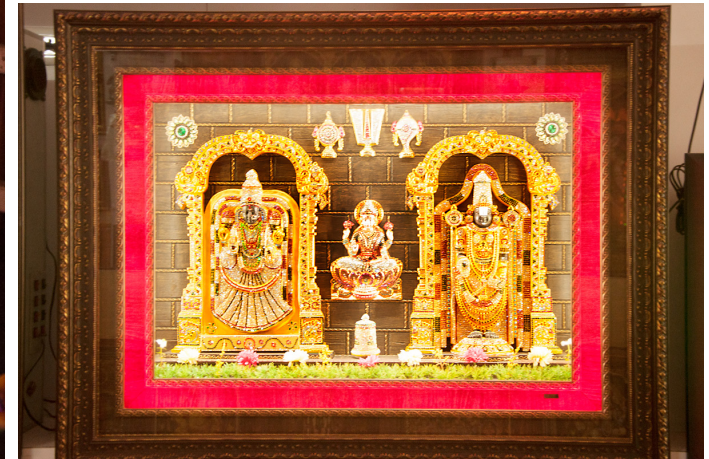
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Goddess Durga adorned with ornaments and decoratives.



Women Artisans involved in the craft of Stone studded Photo Frame.



Stone studded photo Frame of God and Goddess enhanced with lights.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are some of the tools and raw materials used for the production:

- **Tweezers:** It is generally used for picking the small objects for easy handling.
- **Stones:** Stones of red, blue, green, yellow, light blue, Dark blue: Different coloured stones are used to highlight the image of the paintings.
- **Frame Pieces:** It is used to fit together the pieces for a shape and support.
- **Cardboard:** It is a generic term for heavy duty paper of various strengths of corrugated layers.
- **Wood Sheet:** As per the heavy work on the photo frames the thickness of the wood sheets are selected to balance it.
- **Frame Glass:** It is generally used as a covering which is transparent in viewing the inner objects.
- **Screws:** It is generally used to hold the objects together and position them.
- **Electric Wires:** It redirects the electrical charges to the lamps and also protects people and property from electric shock.
- **Pliers:** It is a firm tool used to hold the objects firmly.
- **Serial Lights:** It is used to highlight the effect of the photo frame.
- **Screw Drivers:** It is usually used in turning/ removing screws.
- **Cutter:** It is used to cut out the left over wires.
- **Cellotape:** It is used to keep the frames held together.
- **Hammer:** It is used to join the two parts of the frames together firmly.
- **Nails:** Small iron nails are generally preferred for nailing the parts together.

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- **Mould:** The mould of Lord Venkateswara is mostly bought from shops.
- **Glue:** Glue is used in studding the stones into the mould.
- **Paints:** Various colours are used in painting the idol.
- **Brushes:** Brushes help in painting.



Brushes are used for painting the idol.

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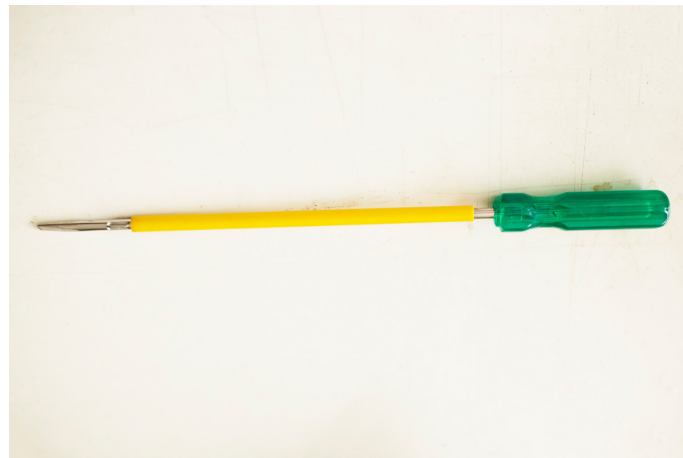
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Back of the frame is been made.



The wooden frame is used to secure the idol.



Screwdriver is used to fix the serial lights to the frame.



Hammers are used to make the wooden frames.

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Posters colours are used in painting the idol.

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Masking Tape helps in fixing the serial lights.



Scissors are used to cut the masking tape.



The glue used for sticking stones.



Tweezers are used in holding the artificial stones.

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Artificial stones of various colours.

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Making Process

Customized moulds of Gods and Goddesses are purchased from local factory in bulk. The artificial stones are bought from local markets. Both male and female artisans participate in this craft. Together they create beautiful idols of wonderful work for the common people to cherish the beauty of the idols. The customized moulds are segregated as per their identifications of the gods and goddess. Artificial stones of various colours are used in decorating the idols. Lord Venkateswara mould is the most common idol among others. The customized moulds which are painted in golden colour are redecorated by the artificial coloured stones. The artisan observes the mould and decides on the colours to be filled. Sometimes the idols are painted to differentiate the body from the jewellery. Face of the idol is usually painted black along with a white iconography on the forehead of the idol. Different colours of stones are used in decorating the idol and enhancing the appearance. Each part of the mould is divided with coloured stones which differentiates the features of the idol. The artisan studs the stones into the idol with the help of tweezers and fixed them with glue. After embellishing the whole mould with the artificial stones and painting the frame of the mould is prepared. The decorated frames are prepared with wooden blocks. The frame is been covered with the glass which secure the craft from dust. The back frame is prepared with the wooden planks which gives a base for the idol to be placed. Sometimes the back frames are decorated with velvet paper or mirrors to high light the craft. To obtain the lustrous aspect of the idols the serial lights are fixed throughout the wooden frame. After the serial lights are checked the glass frame is ensured to the frame and finishing is given to it by covering it with the paper and tape.

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The casting of Lord Sri Venkateswara idol.



An artisan is working on embedding the colour studded stones on the idol accordingly.

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The artificial stones are fixed to the idol to embellish it.



The stones are picked with the help of tweezers.



Each stone is ensured and intricately fixed onto the idol.



Wooden frame is being made to secure the idol.

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Artisan is fixing the serial lights into the frame.



The entire frame is framed with serial lights for decoration.



The idol is completed with embedding stone studs and paints.

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Finished product along with the casting of the idol.

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Products

These are the photo frames which generally depicts the traditional figures of the Hindu deities, people who have created impact on to the history. The stone studded photo frames of Srikalahasti are done for the idol of the Lord Tirupati as it most commonly worshiped here. The length of the stone studded photo frames measure about 8x12, 8x10 size and thereby respectively as per the choice of the craftsmen.



Lord Venkateswara's crown and goddess padmavathi and Lakshmi.

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Lord Venkateswara idol.



Lord Subramanya idol.

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Stone studded sculpture of Lord Venkateswara's hastha (Hand).

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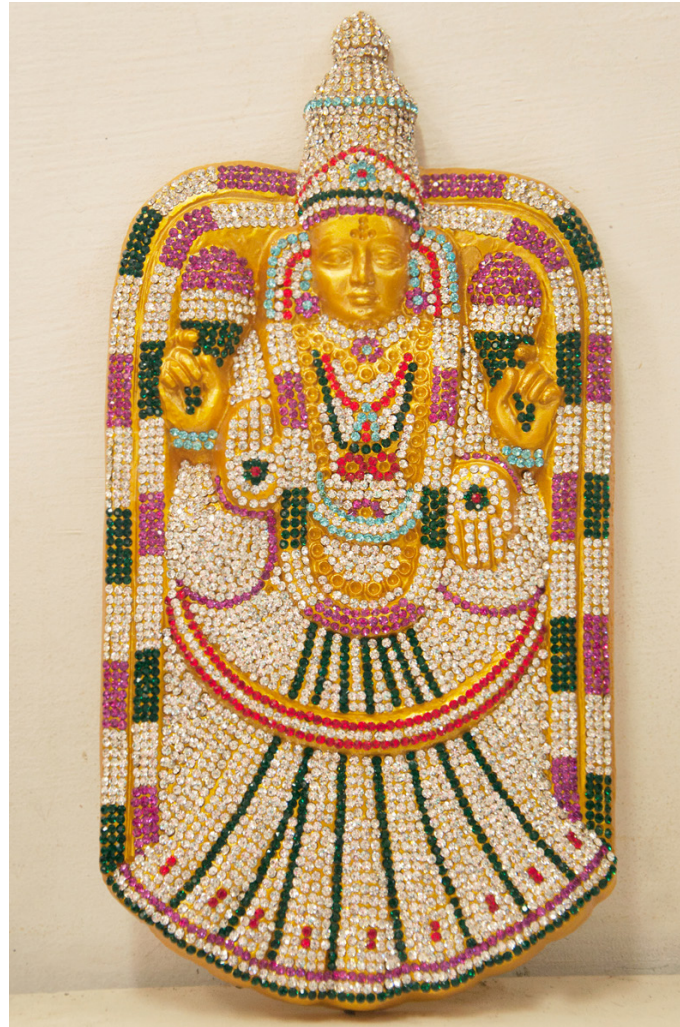
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Idol of Goddess Padmavathi.



Lord Venkateswara with the decorated arch above.

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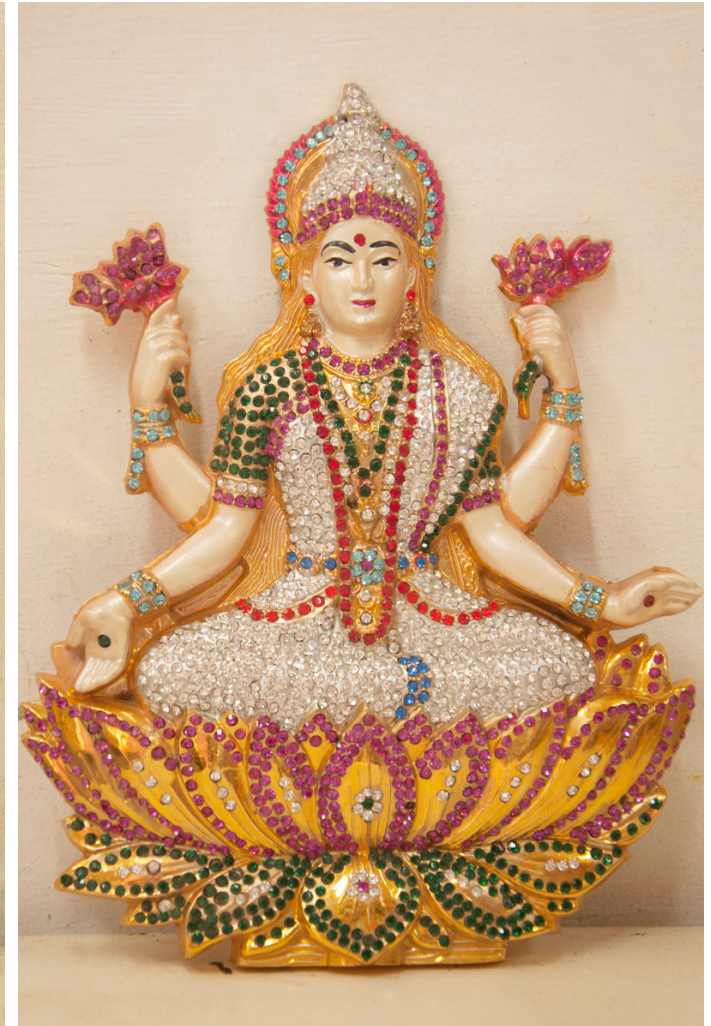
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Stone studded idol of Lord Venkateswara.



Idol of goddess of saraswathi embedded with studded stones.

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Stone studded idols of gods and goddess.

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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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