



# Revival of Glass Work Art of Purdilnagar, Hathras, U.P.

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*Abstract: There was a time when approximate more than 15000 individual small artisan were engaged in manufacturing of glass beads and their glass products at their residence/home. Presently, there are not more than 1000 people engaged in this art. To investigate the root cause of vanishing of this 400 years old craftsmanship, and find out the permanent and long-term solution to the existing problems, brainstorming was done. Discussions were held with people and community who could provide support in form of ideas or actions to revive Purdilnagar Artists community.*

*After many brainstorming sessions and elaborative discussions on issues and problems of the artists, visits were conducted in Purdilnagar. District Magistrate, Sh. Amit Singh not only provided required information but also participated in all discussions and brain storming sessions. He also arranged for visit to Purdilnagar and Firozabad. An elaborative questionnaire was prepared to gather information from all the concerned stake holders. Visit was taken up and Workers, local Merchants, exporters/ tradesman were interviewed in Purdilnagar Firozabad, being a Flourishing market of glass work products, provided information and ideas to come out with solutions to problems of Purdilnagar artist's community.*

*Keywords: Glass bead, artisan, local merchants, artist, interview*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The word "Beads" is derived from Anglo-Saxon verb "Biddan" to "pray" and "bede" meaning prayer. Glass beads is a handicraft item produced by skilled artisans out of block glass or colourful glass rods. The Glass bead made with simple machines and a tool are used to make artificial jewellery and is used to decorate garments also. Glass Beads play a decisive role in almost all areas of industrial and daily life.

They are also required in artificial jems & jewellery making like rings. ear rings, garlands, neckless, imitation stones, decorating of textiles like sari, bed sheets, dupatta, blouse, salwar, kurta, table clothes, curtains, footwear decoration, bags & purse decoration, decorating of artistic handicraft items, wood, brass, plastic, cloth es, stones etc. are also used seat covers of automobiles etc.

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## 2. HISTORY OF GLASS BEADS MAKING IN INDIA

In India, Glass Beads are manufactured in Purdilnagar (Hathras), Firozabad, in U.P. Purdilnagar, a town near the glass city Firozabad, is very popular for production of glass beads by the rural artisans, the history dates back to more than 400 years.

Purdilnagar is also known as Shrangar Nagar. Purdil nagar made Glass beads are based on traditional craft. The beads of Purdilnagar are used for manufacturing of jewellery, artware goods and other decorative items. The manufacturing of Glass Beads in Purdilnagar is in an organized sector. The work of Glass was started with the making of Glass bangles at Purdilpur in the period of Timur Lung. In the 14th century while Timur Lung was returning after invading India, he advised some soilders who were interested in Glass work to stay back, some soilders who were glass bangles makers, settled at Sikandra Rao, Distt- Hathras (U.P.) . They requested the emperor of Sikandra Rao to provide some land so that they can start their work of glass bangles making for their living. The emperor granted a piece of land about 4 Km, away from Sikandra Rao. It was a dense forest at that time. Thus all the glass bangles makers, who belonged to the Muslim community, were shifted to the allotted place, which is now called Purdilnagar.

## 3. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The notification of creating district Hathras was released on 06 May 1997. Purdilnagar is a small town famous for its beads and ceramic produce in Hathras Distt. U.P. It is located 43 Kms

## 4. PROCESS OF MANUFACTRING -PRESSED /ROLLING METHOD

The glass beads industry is highly labour intensive. Process of making – Pressed/Rolling method is employed by artists of Purdilnagar.

A skilled artisans takes glass rods as a raw material into a pot furnace and melt it at a temperature of 500 to 600°C by the

fuel of wood. Take molten glass and rolled on a tip of a iron rod and pressed into given design/shape. Almost 7 to 15 artisans do their work at a time on a single furnace and pot capacity of glass 2 to 5 kgs.

## 5. REVIVING THE ART AND ARTISTS

There was a time when approximate more than 15000 individual small artisan were engaged in manufacturing of glass beads and their glass products at their residence/ home. Presently, there are not more than 1000 people engaged in this art. To investigate the root cause of vanishing of this 400 years old craftsmanship, and find out the permanent and long-term solution to the existing problems, brainstorming was done. Discussions were held with people and community who could provide support in form of ideas or actions to revive Purdilnagar Artists community.

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### *The following problems were identified on the basis of visits and discussions:*

1. The artists in Pudilnagar are still using wood as fuel, which is not only harming environment and their health, but also results in less production. If they are provided with alternative fuel source like LPG, their production will increase by 30 to 40 percent.
2. The artists produce glass beads or bangle as per the sample presented to them, by local merchants or exporters. It will not be farfetched to say that the artists work as labourers for, local merchants/ traders. They are provided with raw material and sample of glass bead/ bangle. On delivering the beads/ bangles, artists receive payment on piece rate or weight. Every artist gets 200 to 250 rupees on an average every day. The artists also share the expense of wood consumed, in the furnace.
3. Most of them are literate but not much educated
4. Due to Chinese beads available in market, demands for Purdilnagar beads have reduced, substantially.
5. They lack knowledge of available market nationally or globally. They have no education of means of marketing available.

6. Few exporters had hired artists who creates beautiful glass work items by using beads or other material. They were also paid either on hourly or piece rate basis.
7. In the residence, women are also engaged in creating glass bead jewelry like necklaces for local merchants/ exporters. The raw material, is provided by exporters. Women are also paid on piece rate basis.
8. The artists had no knowledge of loan or government aid they could receive.
9. Due to malnutrition and in hailing of glass fumes, average life span has also reduced.
10. The most motivating finding was that, artists were satisfied with the work they were engaged in. They reported that this was the art they had inherited and did not want to quit it.
11. Firozabad, which is few kilometer from Purdilnagar is a flourishing market. But it works on different model. It is not producing handmade crafts. Unlike Purdilnagar, It is heavily mechanized.

### *On the basis of information received and visits made, following solutions as sequenced, are proposed:*

1. Enrolment of the artists -They may be issued an Identity Card, mentioning the artistic skill owned by the artists.
2. Motivating them to form an association of artists.
3. Providing the enrolled artists alternative fuel on subsidized and long term sustainable rates. Providing them LPG will help them to work from home. The women in the house will also be able to contribute in the work, thus increasing their production
4. Branding- Artists and traders should be educated to market themselves as Purdilnagar hand made glasswork, nationally as well as internationally
5. The artists association should be helped as to get their stalls at places like Dilli Haat, run by Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC).
6. The artists association should be educated to display and sell their products in various *Utsavs* and *Melas* organized by government and various Societies and trust e.g. Shiromani Gurdwara *Prabandhak* Committee organizes *Melas* on various occasions all over India.They can be requested to provide stall to the Artists association during those *Melas*.
7. NGOs working in this area may also be requested for their inputs in form of guidance in designing and branding to those artists.
8. E-marketing of their products - a website may be created and maintained for display and selling off for their products.



CRAFTMEN AND THEIR CRAFT



### USE OF WOOD VS USE OF LPG

*For implementation of these suggestions, multidimensional efforts are required:*

The observations and suggestions are based upon interview held with artisans and local traders. The study was conducted in July, 2017

1. Discussion with government department/ ministry to provide CNG to artists
2. Students from universities in vicinity can be educated and brought together to help in this project
3. Enrolment of Artists and registration of their association is most important work. Association of government machinery, team members and positively guided students will be able to complete this work at the earliest.
4. For E-marketing experts/ professionals from this area can be requested to provide support.
5. Efforts to educate the artists about loans and government aid available should be made.
6. Holding talk with NGOs and Social groups to provide needed help.

### FURTHER PROGRESS NEEDED

- There Has Been A **Demand-Supply Mismatch For Lpg**. Last Financial Year, The Country Imported 8.33 Million Tonnes (Mt) Of Lpg, While The Total Consumption Was 18.2 Mt. In The Previous Financial Year, Imports Stood At 6.61 Mt And The Total Demand At 16.29 Mt. Ioc & Bpcl Is Working Towards Setting Up Of Lpg Import Facility Plants In Different Parts Of Our Country. At Present, They Are Setting Up An Lpg Import Plant In Paradip In Odisha. State-Run Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (Bpcl) Plans To Build An Import Terminal At West Bengal's Haldia, With An Estimated Cost Of Rs 1, 200 Crore. The Terminal Will Help The Company.
- On Enquiring The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited About Purdilnagar Area Problem, We Came Out With The Following Conclusions:

**A. Install Capsule Plant: The Capsule Plant Will Have Big Capsule Along With + 2 Bullets +2 Vapouriser +1 Compressor And It Will Require At Least 1000 Sq. Yards Land + Pipelines Cost Etc. It Will Take Some Time Also. Moreover, Hpcl Is Asking For The Group Who Will Run This Project?**

Or

**B. Install Lpg Cylinder (Commercial 47.5kg Gas) Costing Rs.2600 / Per Cylinder For Each Bhatti. Make Bhatti's (Pot Furnaces)Strong Like In Ferozabad.**

- **Request The Centre For Developing Energy-Efficient Gas-Fired Muffle Furnaces With The Aim To Replace Existing Coal-Fired Units Through State Government.**



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