

GANJIFA CARDS OF MYSORE

Ganjifa art is one among the several well-known traditional crafts of Mysore that has gained international recognition. Ganj, which translates to "treasury," has evolved into the Ganjifa card game. Ganjifa cards often feature embellishments such as gold leaf or gemstones, adding to their aesthetic appeal and historical value. The Mughal emperors promoted this art. About one to five artists from over the nation were invited by Akbar. He believed that artists are closest to God. They got inspiration from great religious works such as the Kuran, the Babar Nama, the Kabune and the Aina-E-Akabari treatises that discuss Ganjifa art.

Uniqueness

Ganjifa cards are uniquely characterized by their exquisite craftsmanship and cultural significance. These playing cards are renowned for their elaborate hand-painted designs that vary widely across regions, showcasing diverse art styles and cultural motifs. Crafted from materials like ivory, wood, or stiffened cloth. Each deck can embody rich narratives from mythology, literature, or daily life, reflecting the cultural identity and values of its creators.

Raw Materials

Cloth, leather, paper, ivory

Price

₹1000/- to ₹2000/-
approx

Class of Goods

16

Proof of Origin

16th century

Type of Goods

Handicraft

Geographical Location

Mysore



Method of Production

The production of Ganjifa begins with the selection of suitable materials, traditionally ivory, tortoise shell, or wood, although modern versions may use paper or cardstock. The chosen material is carefully cut into circular or rectangular shapes to form the cards. Skilled artisans then meticulously hand-paint each card, employing natural pigments and brushes to depict elaborate patterns, mythological scenes, deities, or cultural motifs. Some cards may undergo further embellishment with gold leaf or other decorative elements, adding richness and symbolic value.