



## Aranmula Kannadi: Kerala's Mysterious Metal Mirrors



## INTRODUCTION

The Aranmula Kannadi is a rare, handcrafted metal mirror made in the village of Aranmula, Kerala. The word “kannadi,” which means “mirror” in Malayalam and Tamil, hints at its cultural roots. Unlike ordinary glass mirrors, the Aranmula Kannadi is crafted entirely from a special metal alloy.



## THE ORIGIN

The Aranmula Kannadi dates back centuries to the Travancore kingdom. Local legend says artisans, while crafting temple and palace ornaments in Aranmula, discovered a unique metal alloy with remarkable reflective properties. This breakthrough led to the creation of the famed Aranmula Kannadi.



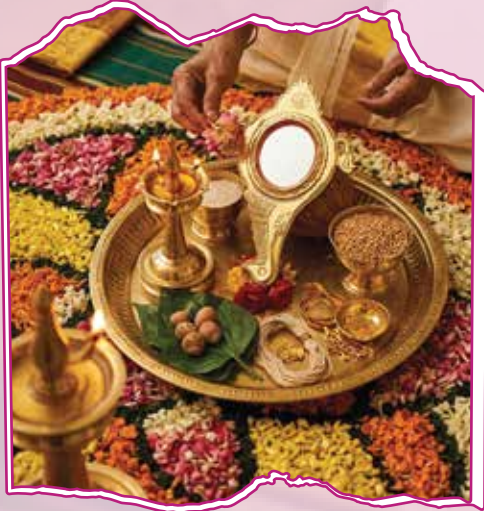
## MYSTERIOUS METAL COMPOSITION

This remarkable craft has been preserved over generations, with the technique closely guarded within a handful of artisan families. Even today, the exact composition of the alloy remains a well-kept secret, adding to the mirror's enduring mystery and allure.

# WHAT MAKES ARANMULA KANNADI UNIQUE?



## CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS IMPORTANCE



### Part of Ashtamangalyam

The Aranmula Kannadi is one of the eight auspicious objects, or Ashtamangalyam, used in traditional Kerala rituals

### Importance in Weddings

This mirror plays a vital role in Kerala wedding ceremonies, symbolizing beauty, harmony, and good fortune for newlyweds. It is often a treasured part of a bride's trousseau.



### Emblem of Kerala's Heritage

Beyond its functional value, the Aranmula Kannadi reflects Kerala's artistic excellence and cultural traditions.

### Decorative and Spiritual Value

Many families display the mirror as both a decorative piece and a spiritual symbol in their homes.





## GI HERITAGE

The unparalleled uniqueness of the Aranmula Kannadi has earned it international acclaim. In 2005, it received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, safeguarding its authenticity and traditional identity. This recognition ensures that only mirrors made in Aranmula using traditional methods can bear the name Aranmula Kannadi.

The GI tag has been instrumental in preserving this ancient craft, supporting local artisans, and enhancing the mirror's reputation in national and international markets.



## About RIPA

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