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# Promoting Craft Entrepreneurship by Rejuvenating Tambat Craft in Old Tambat Ali, Nashik

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#### **Abstract**

Tambat Ali<sup>1</sup> is a part of ancient settlements in Nashik. The settlement houses craftsmen who are highly skilled in making handmade copper and brass utensils by their traditional techniques. The settlement is a living heritage of the city due to its unique craft, culture and traditional architecture. Today, Tambats are suffering a sharp decline in craft, and hence architecture is getting affected. This is mainly due to rapid changes in consumer preferences and taste, inadequate publicity, increased prices of raw materials and unexploited resources in the area. The article presents challenges faced by Nashik Tambat craftsmen for handicraft survival. It analyses strategies to keep pace with demanding market changes. The study proposes to promote craft entrepreneurship and rejuvenation of Old Tambat Ali through conserving a 'spirit of place' with strong identity, making the area vibrant, appealing to live in and visit.

## **Keywords**

Tambat craft, craft entrepreneurship, traditional settlement, culture, spirit of place

### Introduction

The art and craft of India are diverse and rich in history. The cultural heritage of any region can be valued by the richness of its craft tradition. The state of Maharashtra showcases a beautiful blend of varied cultures that have been shaped over time by various factors such as the political history, geographic location, richness of raw materials and the unique traditional craft skills of people. Nashik is one of the pilgrim cities in Maharashtra. The city is well known for its traditional handicraft such as filigree and silverware (*chandi che kaam*), metal ware (*Tambat kaam*) and metal embossing (*Uthavache kaam*) (Craft Council of India). Old *Tambat Ali* in Nashik city is a part of ancient settlement of coppersmiths located in the historic core of the city. These coppersmiths known as *Tambats* are famous for making highly skilled handmade copper and brass utensils which form an essential part of both ceremonial rituals and

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