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Conch Bangles from West Bengal: A Traditional Craft

Conchbangles (locally called Shankha) are traditionalhand-crafted banglesmade from the white conchshell (shankh). They are considered auspicious in Bengali culture, especially for married women.

Uses of Conch Bangles



Cultural Significance

Worn byBengali marriedwomen during weddings and festivals



Traditional Rituals

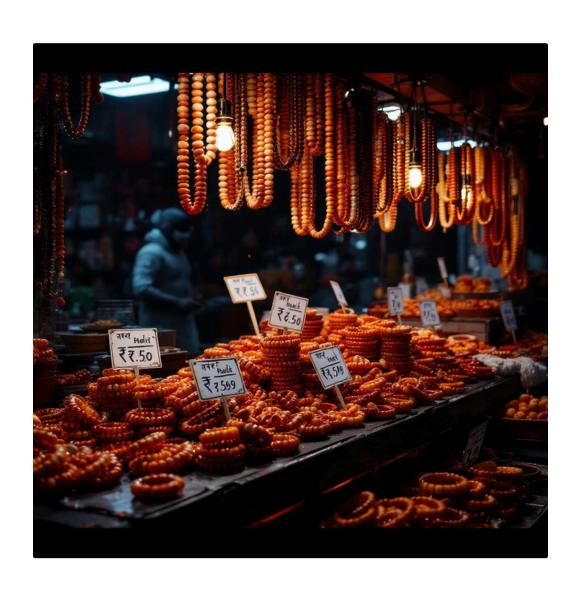
Usedintraditionalrituals as a sign of prosperity



Commercial Value

Exported as handicraft/jewelry items and used as souvenirs and cultural gifts

Price Comparison: Domestic vs Export



¹150-& ¹500-&

Indian Price

Per pair, depending on design & carving complexity

Export Price

Per pair,especiallyin
USA/EU markets where
cultural jewelryhasdemand



Product Varieties

Plain White Shankha

Traditionalsimplewhiteconch bangles

Red Shakha-Pola

Shankhawithcoral/polished red resin accents

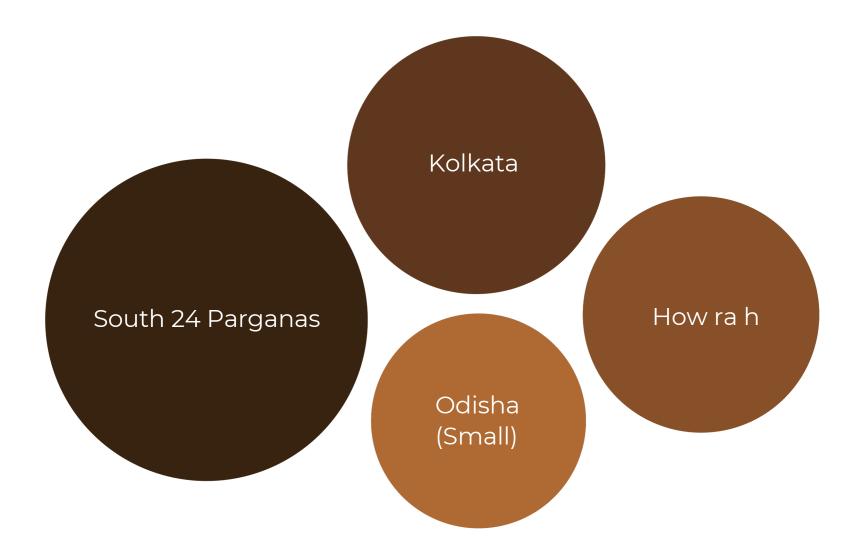
Designer Carved

Intricately carved bangles with traditional patterns

Customized Jewelry

Earrings, pendants, necklaces made from conch

Production Regions in India



West Bengal (Main): South 24 Parganas (Dakshin Barisha, Bishnupur), Kolkata (Shyambazar, Burrabazar), and Howrah

Odisha: Small-scale production centers



Manufacturing Tools & Equipment

Conch bangles are primarily handmade with minimal tools:

- Cutting machines for conch shell
- Polishing machines
- Carving/engraving tools

- Buffing machine
- Small hand-tools for shaping

Manufacturing Hubs



South Kolkata

BarishaandBurrabazar areas



Bishnupur & South 24 Parganas

Traditional craft clusters



Midnapore

Smallscaleproduction centers



Wholesale Markets

Kolkata Markets

Burrabazar, Shyambazar, and College Street are the primary wholes ale hubs

Coastal Regions

Digha&South24Parganas craft clusters offer direct access to ar tisans



Quality Grades

Grade A

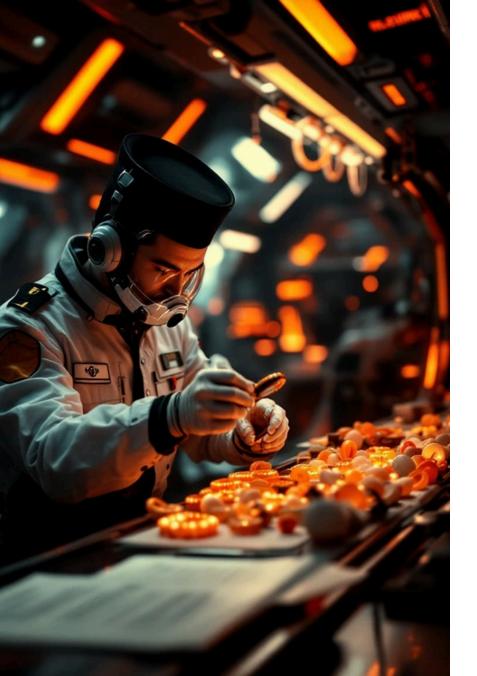
Purewhite, no cracks, high polish, premium carved designs

Grade B

Slightlyoff-white, minor imperfections, medium polish

Grade C

Local/low-quality with cracks or basic designs



Quality Inspections & Certifications

- Qualityinspectionforcracks&polish
- Dimension & weight check
- Certificate of Origin (for authenticity)

- Handicraftcertification (for exportashandicraft, not plastic)
- Fumigation & packaging inspection (to meet international import rules)

These certifications are essential for international buyers and ensure the authenticity and quality of the traditional craft.