

FORM GI - 1

Received Rs. 15000 in cash/  
Cheque/NDNF on 1-8-07  
vide entry no. 0274 in the  
register of retailers

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF GOODS  
(REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION) ACT, 1999**

**Application for Registration of a geographical indication in Part A of  
the Register; Section 11(1), Rule 23(2)**

**ANDHRA PRADESH LEATHER PUPPETRY**

Application is hereby made by for the registration in Part A of the Register  
of the accompanying geographical indication furnishing the following  
particulars :-

**NAME OF APPLICANT:**

**AndhraPradesh Handicrafts Development  
Corporation Ltd.**

**ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:**

"Hasthkala Bhavan",  
Musheerabad,  
Hyderabad-20

**TYPE OF GOODS :**

**Class 18** - Goods made of leather

**Class 27-** Wall Hangings( Non Textile)

**Class 28** - Games, Playthings and Toys

**SPECIFICATION:**

Interestingly, the Ramayana theme predominates in the designs  
with huge puppets of Hanuman, Ravana with ten heads, Vinayaka  
seated regally, all being depicted in vivid colours. Even on the  
lampshades, deities hold sway along with animals and floral  
designs. For drawing the contours, an outlining hand brush is used  
and thereafter the colours are filled in with vegetables dyes -

brilliant reds, greens, whites, yellows, browns and orange ruling the roost. The lampshade is made to look more attractive by chiseling small holes in a decorative pattern on it. The perforation executed on the coloured leather gives an appearance of rich ornamentation against the background of light. The use of light to depict and narrate epics on screen and puppets modelled representing mythological characters created artistically out of leather have contributed to the uniqueness of these lampshades. The creators of these puppets have discovered lampshades on leather to be the best medium to not only keep their traditions and art alive but also serve as a source of livelihood. Though the medium of expression has changed, the form continues to be the same. The beautiful and colourful spectrum of lampshades depicting episodes from folklore, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Krishna leela and a host of other characters continue to a narrative form. The most important characteristic of these leather puppets is that the 'Punching Work' that is done. The more the intricate work on the leather the more is the demand for the product.

**NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION:**

**ANDHRA PRADESH LEATHER PUPPETRY**

**DESCRIPTION OF GOODS:**

Today, the leather puppet makers are being forced to diversify their ware into utility items, such as beautiful and colourful lampshades for instance, and toys for another, to provide the much-needed fillip to their sales. Infact, the art of making lampshades has its origin in leather puppetry. This form of art popularly known as '**Tholu Bommalata**' in Telugu is one of the earliest performing arts.

Presently Lampshades, wall hangings, Partitions, Door Pelmet, Wall lamps and leather puppets are being made.

### **GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF PRODUCTION:**

The geographical area of production comprises of Nimmalakunta in Anantpur District and Narsaraopet of Guntur District, both Districts located in the State of Andhra Pradesh in India. *The latitude and longitude of these places are as to be furnished in the Statement of Case.*

### **PLACE OF ORIGIN:**

This form of art popularly known as 'Tholu Bommalata' in Telugu is one of the earliest performing arts, dating back to the 3rd century B.C. and reaching its pinnacle during the days of the Vijayanagar Empire. These puppets are folk-lore in style, conception and execution

This art goes back to more than 100 years when a group of people migrated from Maharashtra and wandered in AP and finally settled in Nimmalakunta as the demand for the art was more here. It is said that Mr. D Kade Rao was the one who had started this art and since then it is being followed and transferred from generations to generations.

The group of people/ artisans involved in the art are a mixed breed of Marathi and Telugu speaking people. The artisans have imbibed this art of manufacturing from their forefathers and have now practiced it for many generations.

## **METHOD OF PRODUCTION:**

The production process involves the following;

1. Usually the craftsmen approach the Leather Puppet Society in the state for their requirements of raw materials ie. leather.
2. Thereafter, a rigorous spring-cleaning of the leather is undertaken, the stuff being soaked in a pit of lime-water for 10-15 days. When the top portion becomes a bit smooth, it is scrapped clean with a knife. Then follows another round of water soaking - this time along with kadaka powder, a local vegetable dye for another ten days.
3. The leather now assumes its natural colour of light brown and is ready for the designs to be drawn on it.
4. Even on the lampshades, deities hold sway along with animals and floral designs. For drawing the contours, an outlining hand brush is used and thereafter the colours are filled in with vegetables dyes - brilliant reds, greens, whites, yellows, browns and orange ruling the roost. The lampshade is made to look more attractive by chiseling small holes in a decorative pattern on it. Interestingly, the Ramayana theme predominates in the designs with huge puppets of Hanuman, Ravana with ten heads, Vinayaka seated regally, all being depicted in vivid colours.
5. After the leather is dried, the chief artisan draws the desired character or subject in a paper and the same is replicated on the leather. No tracing is done. The drawing is done free hand on the leather. After the outline of the figure is drawn on the leather with a pencil or a small pin, a black color synthetic camel ink is used to draw the outline of the figure.

6. After drying the Nakashi work is done with the tools to get the groove and demarcation. Also, round perforations are made on the leather itself and then color is painted with the brush. The red color which is used is obtained from a natural fruit which is dried, crushed and boiled to get the same. Other colors used are synthetic. Once the leather is ready, it is cut out by a knife to get the shape of the puppet.
7. For the lampshades the iron frame is made from outside and on that the Leather is stitched to get the shape and then the drawing is done and holes and nakashi work is done with colors filled in it. Also machine finished leather is now a days used for lamp shades which is more of white in color.

Further particulars as regards production are as to be furnished in the Statement of Case.

#### **UNIQUENESS:**

The creators of these puppets have discovered lampshades on leather to be the best medium to not only keep their traditions and art alive but also to serve as a source of their livelihood. Though the medium of expression has changed, the form continues to be the same. The beautiful and colourful spectrum of lampshades depicting episodes from folklore, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Krishna leela and a host of other characters continue to a narrative form. Further details of uniqueness are as to be detailed in the Statement of Case.

#### **INSPECTION BODY:**

An inspection body is in the process of being set up.

All communications relating to this application may be sent to the following address in India.

**Address for service:  
Anand And Anand, Advocates,  
New No.31, Old No.13, Flat GA, AR Villa,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,  
Chennai- 600 020.**

  
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**FOR APPLICANTS  
ANAND & ANAND, Advocates**

**To,  
The Registrar of Geographical Indications  
The Geographical Indications Registry  
Chennai**

**Fee of Rs.15,000/-.**