A golden glow

The Sacred Metal Of Today And Tomorrow

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Since time immemorial, few metals have commanded the devotion of gods, the anxiety of emperors, and the jewellery boxes of grandmothers quite like gold. From the sparkle of festive jewellery to the gleam of temple idols, this precious metal has woven itself into our beliefs, and even our technological adventures.

Memories and mementos

Across Indian households, gold is a keeper of memories. From a grandmother's treasured bangles to a bride's dazzling wedding jewellery, these ornaments often carry stories of generations and celebrations. Passed down through families, gold jewellery is also associated with *stridhan* - a woman's personal wealth. Whether tucked away or brought out for a celebration, every piece has a story to tell.

Temples and telescopes

Why gold for the gods? In Hinduism, gold embodies Goddess Lakshmi, goddess of wealth; bringing it home symbolically invites divinity. In Buddhism, gilding statues can be an expression of devotion and generosity, while the 'Satapatha Brahmana' associates gold with immortality and fire. But this metal's magic extends far beyond the sacred. Gold is remarkably malleable; a troy ounce can be beaten into a sheet covering several square metres, while a gold leaf can be thinner than human hair. Its resistance to tarnishing, electrical conductivity, and ability to reflect infrared radiation make it valuable in modern technology. From electronic components to protective coatings on spacecraft, gold has some truly out-of-this-world applications!



Illustration: Aadya Anand
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Dhanteras and divinity

The one day when gold truly gets its moment is *Dhanteras*! Marking the beginning of Diwali festivities, the occasion honours Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Dhanvantari. It is connected with the emergence of *Amrit Kalash*, the vessel containing the divine nectar of immortality, during *Samudra Manthan*. Another popular lore tells of a young bride who outwitted Yama, the god of death, by piling gold and silver ornaments outside her husband's chamber and illuminating the entrance with countless lamps. Dazzled by the brilliant display, Yama was unable to enter and eventually departed. Whether through this tale or the age-old association between gold and prosperity, the metal has become an enduring part of *Dhanteras*.

From a gold coin to a family's first festive purchase, every gleaming addition carries a wish for happiness. And as homes light up for Diwali, gold adds its own little sparkle to the celebrations.

Upcycled diya holders



Shanvi Agrawal, AIS Gurugram 43, IV B

Materials required

Old bangles .....6 pcs
Gold beads ..... as required
White beads..... as required
Colourful wool scraps ....as required
Golden lace ..... 2 metres
Golden ribbon ..... 2 metres
Tea light candles .....6 pcs
Hot glue gun sticks.....as required

Method

- Wrap wool around the edges of some old bangles, alternating between different colours.
- For the second layer, wrap it with golden ribbon by keeping some space in between so that the colours peek through.
- Once done, paste the gold and white beads on the edges of the bangles using hot glue gun sticks under supervision.
- Then, glue the golden lace at the bottom to give it a base.
- While waiting for the glue to dry, use the rest of the golden lace to make circles, roughly the size of a tealight candle's circumference.
- Carefully hot glue one edge of these circles on the base of the bangles to mimic a holder.
- Place the tealight candles inside the holders and make your Diwali shine even brighter!

Illustration: Aadya Singh, AGS Noida, LS2

The inner flame

POEM

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Bright diyas banish the night
And darkness fades away
Rivers of tiny flickering flames
Burn bold and bright today

But as we watch this pure glow
A question stirs within my mind
Do our hearts mirror the same
And leave the shadows behind?
The true light inside ourselves
A sacred spark, so divine
Why do we keep it caged in
When we could let it shine?

This Diwali, let's take an oath
To nurture our inner fire
To fill our hearts with hope
And soar a little bit higher!

ColouringFun

Name: _____Class_____School_____



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