

## **Nalanda Metal Icon Art (Dhatu-Silpa)**

**Sawarna**

### **ABSTRACT**

Nalanda metals has significant value in the history of metals. We find metals different types of excavation. The technology/methodology is totally depends upon literary sources. The Nalanda metal, icon-casting in bronze and other metals or materials is to be modelled in moist clay, wax and plaster. Again, clean and smooth, moist clay inconsistent texture is generally preferred. Clay models sprinkled with water and covered by moist cloth while casting are wrapped between the sessions of the artisan work. Piece mold process may be applied if necessary for decoration of an icon.

The composite multi-metalled elements in an icon is believed to represent various powers and forces attributed to the deity. For instance, Bhagavan holds six faces and Ishvara is possessed with eight attributive powers. Besides the composite base metals, the technique of gilding and enamellings of the cast form generally exuberate the quality of the metal product. The Nalanda icon-gilt technique is said to have excelled that of other metal-producing centres as Kanchipuram and Mathura etc. The Bangala and the Magadhan metal artisan workmanship had been famous in those days.

*Keywords: Nalanda metals, Dhatu-Silpa, Nalanda icon-gilt technique*