

METALLURGICAL HERITAGE OF INDIA : PRESERVATION AND REJUVENATION

K. L. SAHOO[#], D. MANDAL, K. K. PAUL AND SUKOMAL GHOSH

India is reputed for its metallurgical heritage since the 4th century BC. CSIR-NML uncovered some of the secrets of the archaeological monuments of India such as the corrosion resistance of Delhi iron pillar and Konark Temple and the structural integrity of the Nilchakra of the Puri temple using some modern tools and techniques. Although these monuments have stood the test of time, traditional artisan practices may become extinct without science and technology interventions to make them competitive in the market. CSIR-NML has been working with clusters of metalworking artisans towards implementation of total technology packages that improve the quality and economy of production of traditional items without compromising on the traditional practices and heritage. The important works on 'Bidri wares', casting of brass and bell metals, rural blacksmithy are highlighted.
