

Toran/Torana/Toranam

Indologist art historian and archaeologist [Percy Brown](#) has traced the origin of torana from the [grama](#)-dvara (village-gateways) of the [vedic era](#) (1500 BCE – 500 BCE) village which later developed as a popular adornment for cities, places, sacred shrines.^[7] According to the [vedic text](#), the [Arthashastra](#), the gateways of different forms were to adorn the entrance to a city or a palace.^[7]

There are many different types of toranas, such as, [patra](#)-torana (on the [scrolls](#) or gateway adornment made of [leaves](#)), [puspa](#)-torana (made of flowers), [ratna](#)-torana (made of precious stones), [stambha](#)-torana (made on pillars), [citra](#)-torana (made of paintings), [bhitti](#)-torana (adornment made on walls, such as over the [wall recess](#) or false [portals](#) and windows, could even be a specific type of [wall painting](#)) and [dvara](#)-toranas (appended adornment over a gateway (e.g. toran) or an adorned gateways itself).^{[7][1]} These are mentioned in the medieval [Indian architectural treatises](#).^[1]

Torana (Kannada: ತೋರಣ), also known as **Bandanwal**, refer to a decorative door hanging in [Hinduism](#), usually decorated with [marigolds](#) and [mango](#) leaves, or a string that is tied on the door with the flower on it as a part of traditional [Hindu culture](#) on the occasion of festivals and weddings. A toran may feature colours such as green, yellow and red. They can be made of fabrics or metals which are usually made to resemble [mango](#) leaves. [Peepal](#) tree leaves are also used to make torans at some places in India. They also have other decorative features depending on the region.^[1]

The origin of torans can be traced to Puranas (Hindu mythological work). Torans are used to decorate the main entrance of the home. The main idea behind decorating the homes is to please and attract the goddess of wealth, [Lakshmi](#). These torans are the first thing that welcomes guests.

Thoranam ([Tamil](#): தோரணம் [IAST Tōraṇam](#)) are hanging decorations in [Tamil Nadu](#).^[1] These decorations are rooted in [Tamil culture](#).^[2] The history of this decoration extends back to the [Sangam period](#). In those days there were no printed invitations, so the decorations served to indicate to people visiting that place whether it is a happy occasion or mourning. Thoranam is made up of tender coconut leaf blades and is made in two different types.

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torana>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toran_\(art\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toran_(art))
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thoranam>
4. www.livehistoryindia.com
5. www.heritage-india.com
6. Wikimedia commons