

By Urbs Prima in Indis

BEYOND THE BLADES



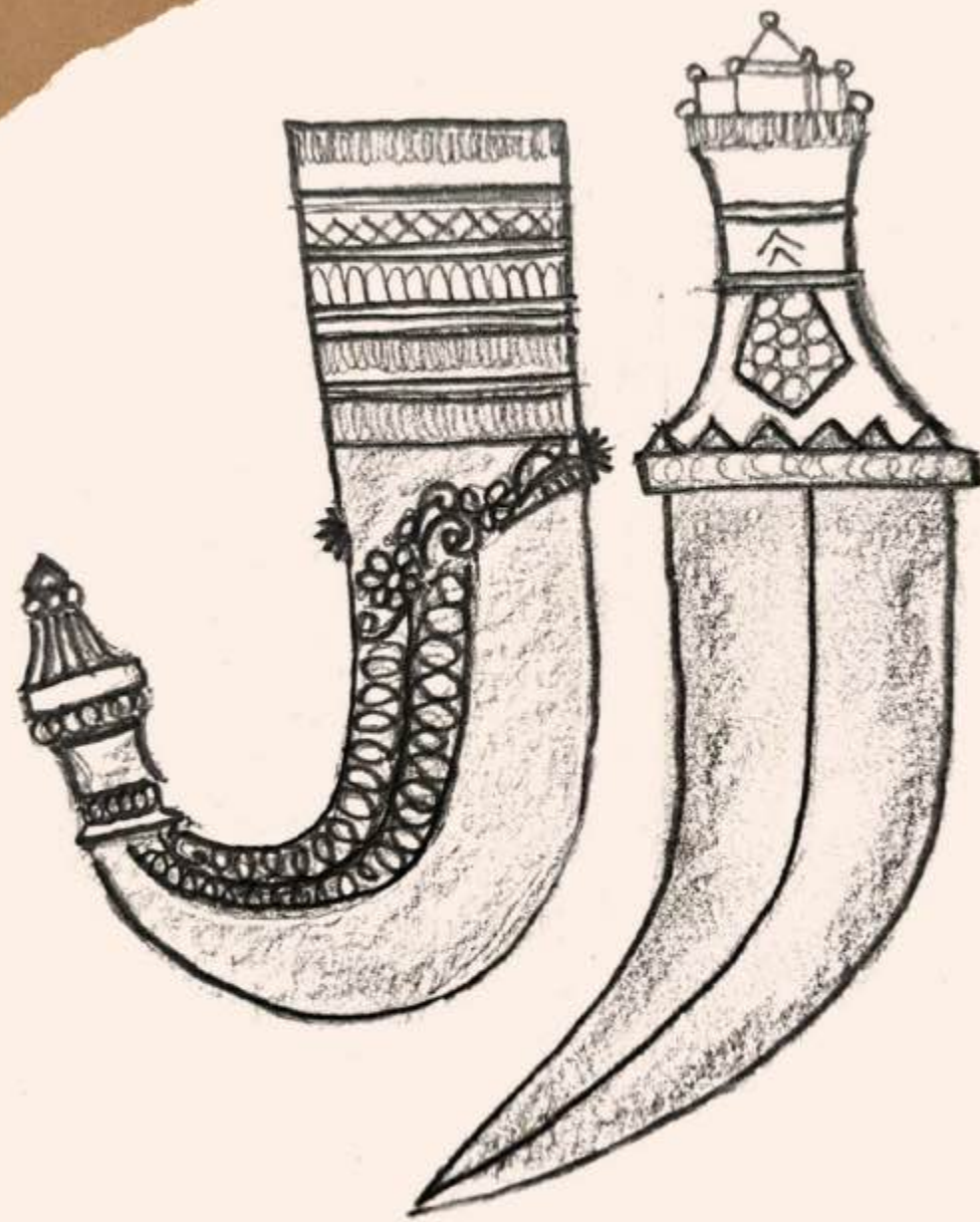
WONDER WHY?

Have you ever wondered why do we have weapons?

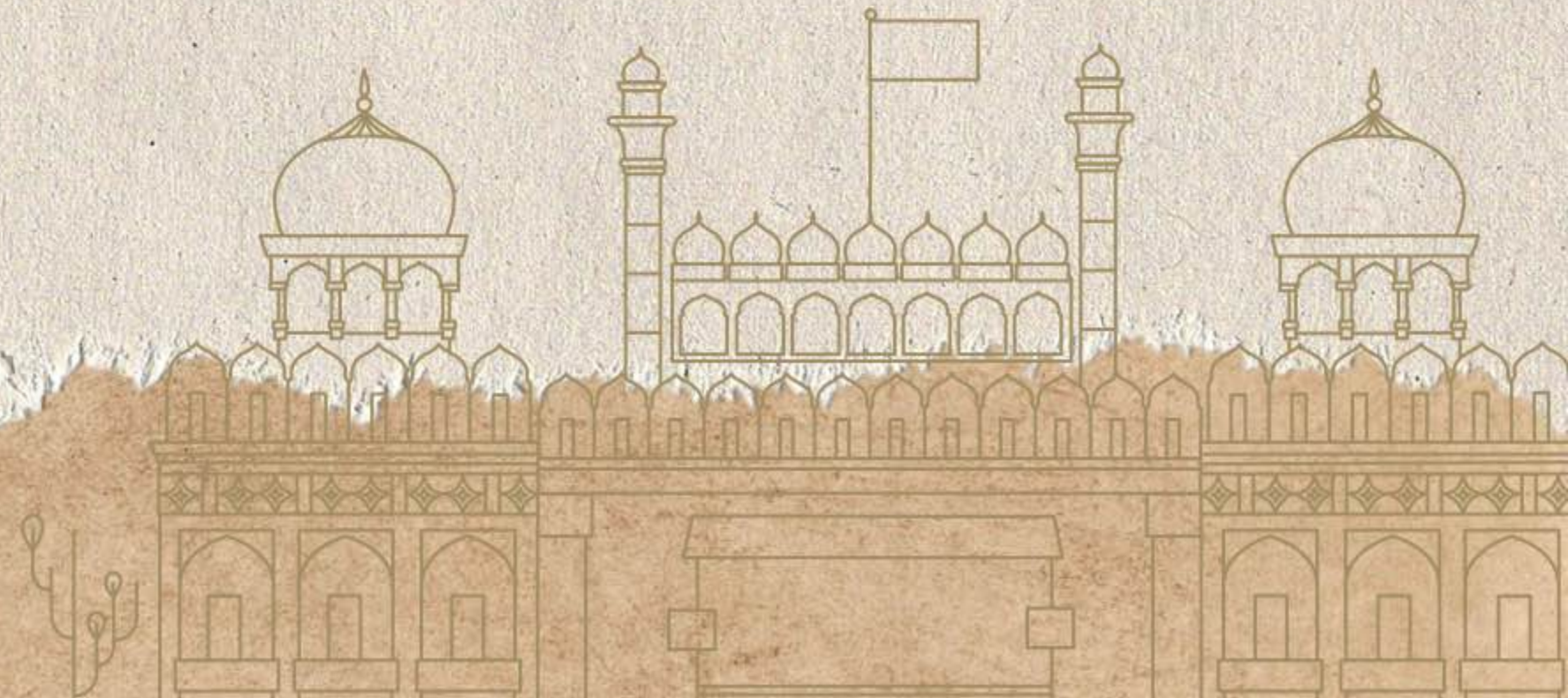
Humans don't have sharp claws or big teeth like wild animals but we needed something to protect ourselves against the man-eaters and thus the search began. From raw to sharpened stone tools, weapons evolved with the discovery of iron and steel.

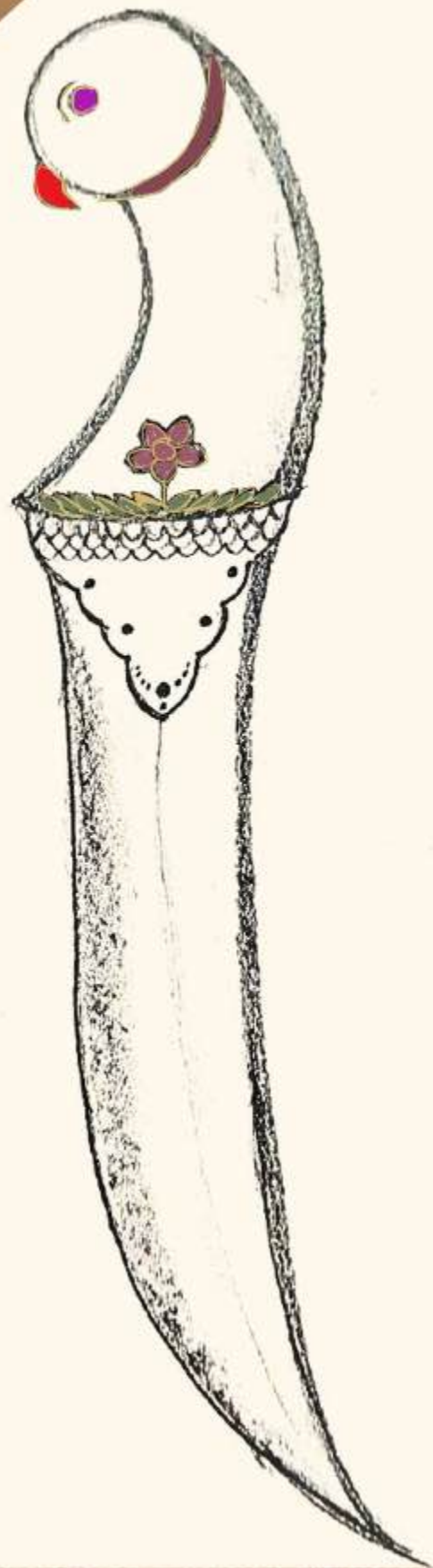
In different corners of the world people had their personal style and anomalous techniques which gave birth to multiple weapons and sometimes different variants of same weapons. These were later traded across the globe. In this gallery, one can see the Indian sword - *Talwar*, the Persian variant of *Samsheer* and Arabic *Tegh* - either produced or used in India.



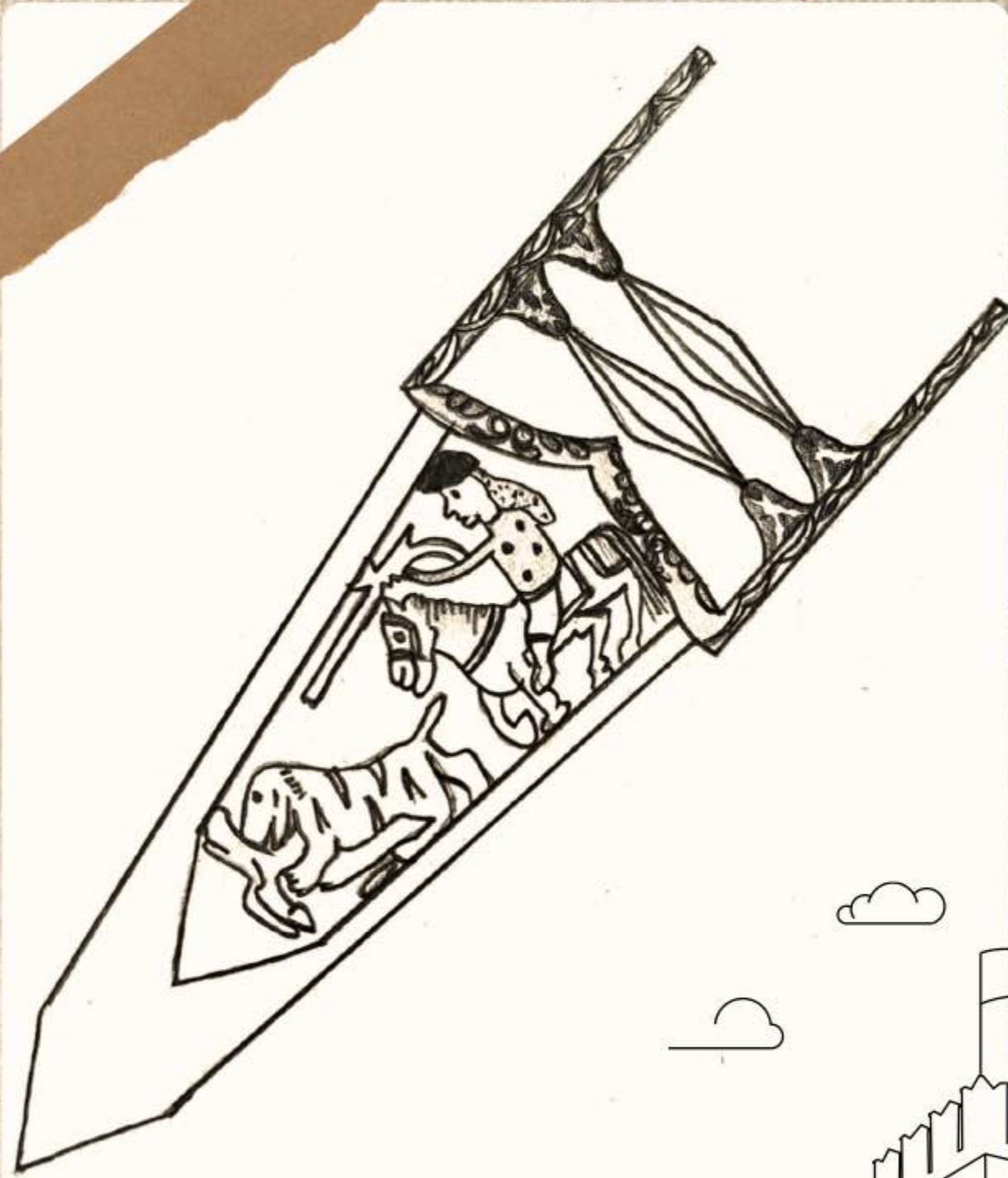


- **Name:** Jambiya
- **Origin:** Arab and Yemen
- **Time period:** 16-19th century
- **Material:** Steel blade
- **Special features:** Engraved blade, double edged pointed tip, intricate designs and decorated hilt

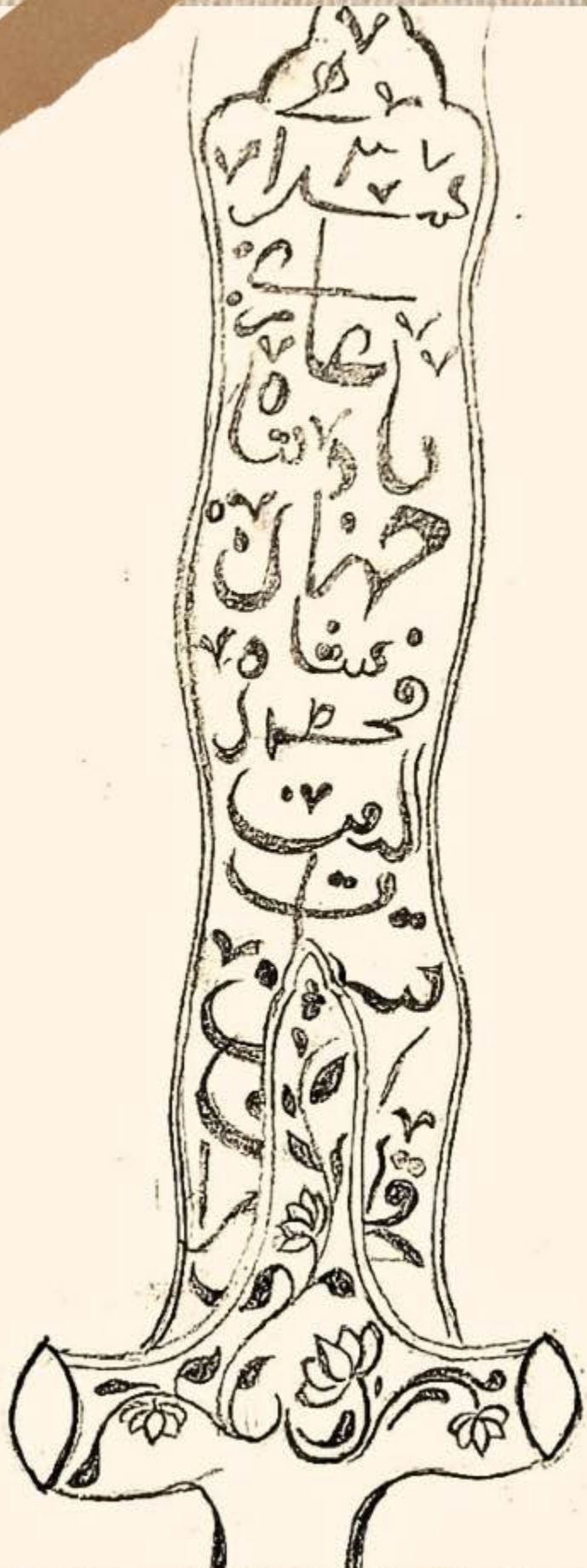




- **Name:** Khanjar
- **Origin:** Sultanate of Oman
- **Time Period :** 9th to 18th century
- **Material:** Wootz steel
- **Special features:** Curved blade with hilt made of crystal glass
Adorned with gold, ruby, emerald and other precious metals.
The part where glass meets the blade seemed to be wrapped with gold intricate details.
- Mughal khanjars often reflected artistic styles that depicted animals, birds (such as parrots), and floral motifs.
- These decorations represented power, status, and luxury, clearly indicating that the swords belonged to rulers of high social standing.
- Additionally, swords adorned with stones were often worn for ceremonial occasions, it symbolized appreciation and also served as tokens of love.



- **Name:** Katar
- **Origin:** India
- **Time period:** 14-19th century
- **Material:** Iron blade
- **Special features:** Gold koftgari floral designs. Blade features embossed figures.
- One figure appears to be a horse and hunter on top and another figure is a lion/ tiger killing a rabbit/ hare. This depicts a hunting scene. The man with the gun also depicts that this Kattar was made after the invention of guns.
- **Fighting style:** Thrusting weapon, inflict deep wounds, surprise attack and close combat.



Name: Sword

Shape and size: Long serpent shaped curved blade.

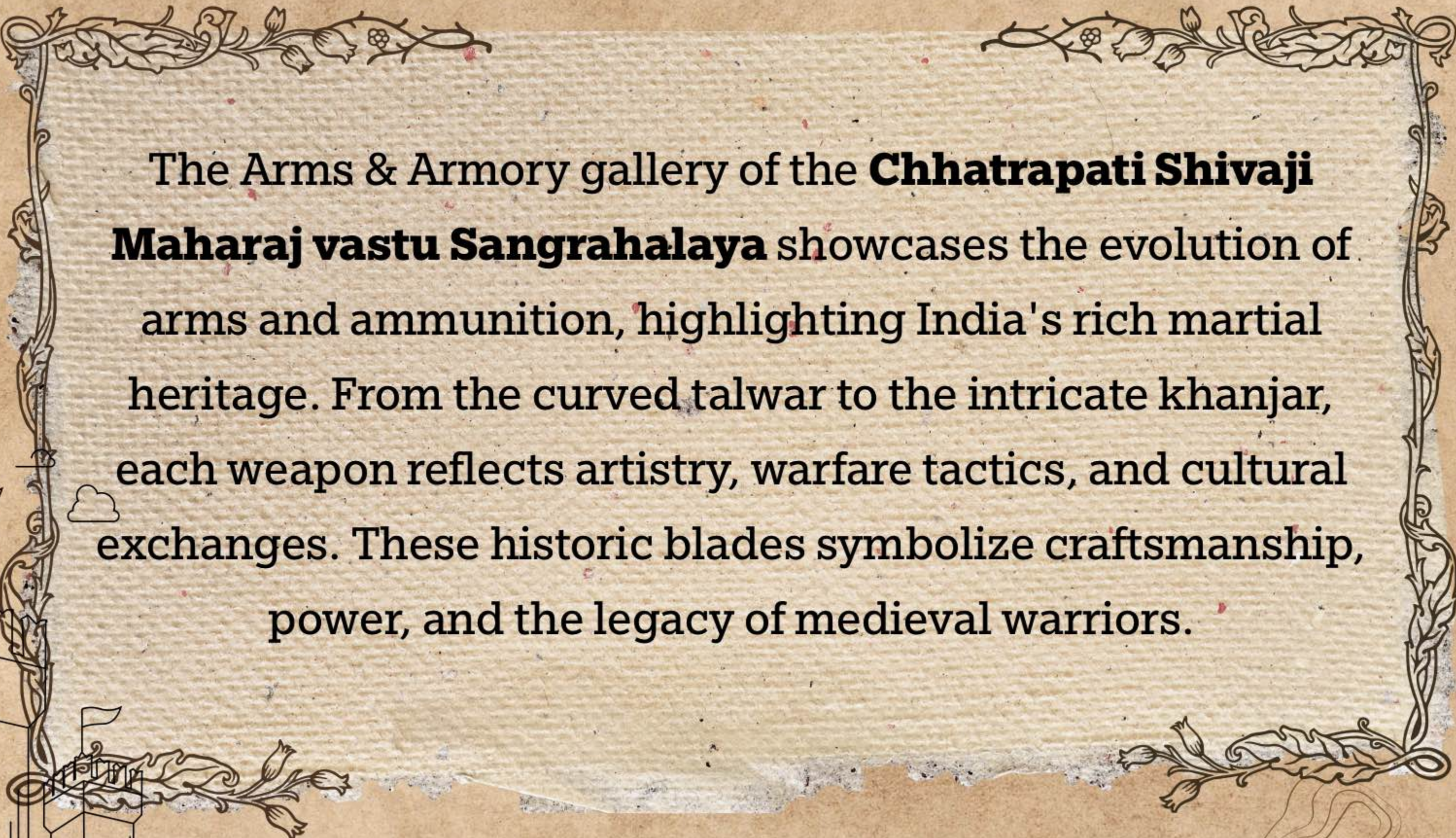
Date mentioned on the inscription: 1037 AH in Hijri Calendar (1628 AD)

Name and title is inscribed as Shahab-Ud-Din which is the name of Shan Jahan.

Material: Decorative items like red gemstone, gold intricate designs

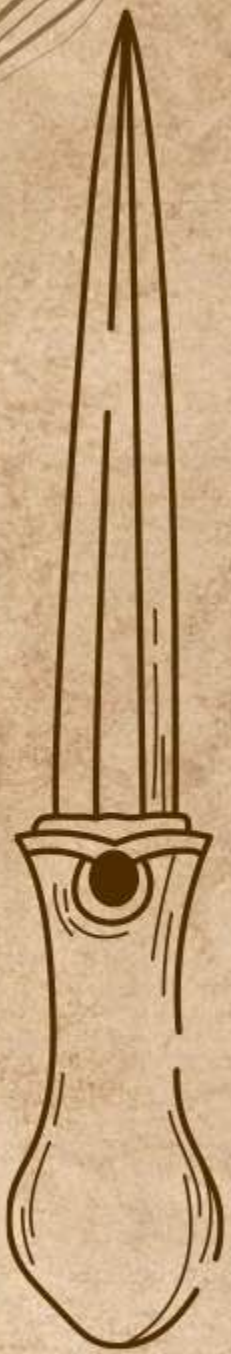
Purpose: Ceremonial display

Inference: Shah Jahan's year of coronation was within the time frame mentioned in the sword. The name and year indicates that this sword corresponds to the early part of Shah Jahan's reign. This could be one of his first weapons after the coronation.

A decorative border made of brown ink floral and vine motifs surrounds the central text. The border is thicker on the left and right sides and thinner on the top and bottom.

The Arms & Armory gallery of the **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj vastu Sangrahalaya** showcases the evolution of arms and ammunition, highlighting India's rich martial heritage. From the curved talwar to the intricate khanjar, each weapon reflects artistry, warfare tactics, and cultural exchanges. These historic blades symbolize craftsmanship, power, and the legacy of medieval warriors.

A line drawing of a fort or castle with multiple towers and battlements, situated in the bottom left corner of the page.



THANK YOU

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