



National Handicraft Award to Madur Mats

Why in News

Recently, the **National Handicraft Award** was given to two women from West Bengal in recognition of their **outstanding contribution to the development of crafts, 'Madur floor mats'**.

Key Points

▪ About:

- **Shilp Guru Award, National Award and National Certificate of Excellence** are one of the **highest awards for handicraft artisans in the country**.
 - They are presented by the **President of India**.
- Shilp Guru Award was **instituted in the year 2002** on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year of handicrafts resurgence in India.
- While the **National Award was instituted in the year 1965** and the **National Certificate of Excellence was instituted in the year 1967**.
- **Shilp Guru** is the **country's highest award in the field of handicrafts** given to artisans aged above 50 with 20 years of experience.
- Similarly, **National Award is conferred on a craftsman** in recognition of his/her outstanding contribution towards the development of crafts and who is **above the age of 30 years and is having 10 years of experience** in the field of handicrafts.
- And the **National Certificate of Excellence is conferred on Master craftsmen in recognition of their body of work**, work undertaken to promote the crafts, dissemination of the same and his/her skill level and **who is above the age of 30 years and is having 10 years experience** in the field of handicrafts.

▪ Madur Floor Mats:

- An intrinsic part of the Bengali lifestyle, **Madur mats or Madhurkathi are made of natural fibres**.
- It was awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the GI Registry in April 2018.
- It is a **rhizome-based plant** (*Cyperus tegetum* or *Cyperus pangorei*) found abundantly in the alluvial tracts of Purba and Paschim Medinipur of West Bengal.

▪ Other Items with GI Tags From Bengal:

- Wooden Mask of Kushmandi, Purulia Chau Mask, Gobindobhog Rice, Tulapanji Rice, Bengal Patachitra, Darjeeling Tea, etc.

[Source: TH](#)

