



Dokra Metalcraft

Why in News?

West Bengal's Lalbazaar is not just an art hub, but is also becoming a center for dokra, a popular metalcraft.

- In 2018, Dokra craft from West Bengal was presented with the [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#).

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What is Dokra?

- Dokra is a **form of ancient bell metal craft** practiced by the Ojha metalsmiths living in states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana.
- However, the style and also the workmanship of this artisan community varies in different states.
- Dhokra or Dokra, is also known as **bell metal craft**.
- The name '**Dhokra**' comes from the **Dhokra Damar tribes**, who are the traditional metal smiths of West Bengal.
 - Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting.
 - The Dokra artifacts are **made in brass and are unique in that the pieces do**

not have any joints. The method is combining metallurgical skills with wax techniques employing the lost wax technique, a unique form where mould is used only once and broken, making this art the only one-of-its-kind in the world.

- The tribe extends from Jharkhand to Orissa to as far ahead to Chattisgarh, Rajasthan and even Kerala.
- Each figurine takes about a month to make.
- The dancing girl of **Mohenjo-Daro (Harappan Civilization)** is one of the earliest dhokra artefacts that is now known.
- Dokra Art is **still used to craft artefacts, accessories, utensils and jewellery.**

What are the Other Crafts?

- **Bronze Crafts:**
 - Rare Jain imagery and icons (Karnataka)
 - Pahaldar Lamps (Jaipur and parts of Uttar Pradesh)
 - Pambarthi craft (Telangana)
- **Other Metal Crafts:**
 - Marori work of Rajasthan
 - Tarkashi (Rajasthan)
 - Bidri Craft (Karnataka)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Years Question (PYQ)

Q. Kalamkari painting refers to (2015)

- (a) a hand-painted cotton textile in South India
- (b) a handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India
- (c) a block-painted woollen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
- (d) a hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

Ans: (a)

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