



## Dokra Artwork

### Why in News?

Recently, the Indian **Prime Minister** gifted **French President Emmanuel Macron** a meticulously crafted **Dokra artwork** of musicians adorned with **studded stonework**, showcasing **India's rich tribal artistry**.

- He also **presented France's First Lady** with an exquisite **silver hand-engraved table mirror** featuring **floral and peacock motifs**.



### Key Points

- **About Dokra:**
  - Dokra, a centuries-old metal-casting craft from Chhattisgarh, uses the **lost-wax technique to create intricate brass and copper sculptures**.
  - The gifted piece portrays traditional musicians in dynamic poses, highlighting the deep **cultural significance of music in tribal life**.
  - **Lapis lazuli and coral accents** enhance the artwork's visual appeal, showcasing India's rich indigenous craftsmanship.
- **Silver Table Mirror:**
  - **The silver table mirror** features detailed **floral and peacock engravings**, representing India's legacy of fine metalwork.

- Its intricate design merges **artistic elegance with cultural symbolism**, making it a treasured keepsake.

## 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 (Harrapan Civilization)** is one of the earliest dhokra artefacts that is now known.
- Dokra Art is **still used to craft artefacts, accessories, utensils and jewellery**.