

GORAKHPUR TERRACOTTA



Why in News?

Gorakhpur has got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its traditional terracotta craft.

About Terracotta

- ✓ Terracotta is a unique and special kind of ceramic craft.
- ✓ It is the term normally used for sculptures made in earthenware, and also for various utilitarian products including vessels water and waste water pipes, roofing tiles, bricks, and surface embellishment in building construction.

Features

- ✓ The terracotta work of Gorakhpur is a centuries-old traditional art form, where the potters make various animal figures like horses, elephants, camel, goat, ox, etc. with hand-applied ornamentation.
- ✓ Some of the major products of craftsmanship include the Hauda elephants, Mahawatdar horse, deer, camel, five-faced Ganesha, single-faced Ganesha, elephant table, chandeliers, hanging bells etc.
- ✓ The entire work is done with bare hands and artisans use natural colour, which stays fast for a long time.
- ✓ The clay used in the terracotta products is 'Kabis' clay which is found in the ponds of Aurangabad, Bharwalia and Budhadih village areas.
- ✓ Also, such clay is found only in the months of May and June, as for the rest of the year, the ponds are filled with water.
- ✓ The potters do not use any colour, they only dip the clay structure in a mixture of soda and mango tree barks, and bake it.
- ✓ The red colour of terracotta does not fade for years.