

GI tag to Gond painting

April 18, 2023

In news— Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh has received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.

What is Gond painting?

- The word 'Gond' comes from the Dravidian expression 'Kond' which means 'green mountain'.
- Gond painting is a **famous folk art of the Gond tribal community of central India.**
- It is a form of **painting from folk and tribal art that is practiced by one of the largest tribes in India** – the Gond, who are predominantly from Madhya Pradesh, but can also be found in pockets of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.
- The history of the Gond people dates nearly 1400 years. Blended with mystery, pattern, blend of colours and humour, these art pieces depict a modern psyche.
- **The paintings use vibrant colors like orange, yellow, blue and red,** and are created with articulately drawn lines and dots as the method to bring it to life.
- **Natural colors obtained from various sources like flowers, stones, etc. are used** for the creation of these beautiful paintings.
- Over the years, the Gond artists have developed their own devices to work with various contemporary mediums and materials.
- They would first make dots and calculate the volume of the images. These dots would be connected to bring about an outer shape, which would then be filled with colours.
- As they respond to the immediate social situation and environment, each object they come across in life is aesthetically transformed.
- **The images are tattoos or minimalist human and animal**

forms that include, chameleons, butterflies, elephants, cows, lions, fish, peacocks and other birds.

- Although Gond paintings have been centuries-old, with the passage of time, this art form has gradually shifted from the mud walls of the houses to canvas and papers.
- Apart from **deriving inspirations from legends and myths, these paintings majorly feature nature as their main subject.**
- However, there are other well-depicted themes in this painting style as well, including Hindu Gods and Goddesses (especially Ganesha), tree of life, and jungle scenes.

Further reading: <https://journalsofindia.com/gond-tribe/>