

PM Modi's gifts for world leaders at G7 Summit

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In news- The Prime Minister of India has recently gifted various products to the heads of governments at the G7 Summit.

Various gifts by PM to world leaders-

Black Pottery pieces for Japanese PM-

- The **Black Pottery of Nizamabad in Uttar Pradesh** uses a special technique to bring out black colours.
- This involves ensuring that there is **no scope for oxygen to enter the oven** as pottery pieces are kept inside and the **heat level remains high**.
- The **presence of oxygen can turn the pottery red**.
- The glaze on the pottery comes from the **high zinc content of the soil** and the **layer of mustard oil applied** before firing the pottery.
- It comes with and without inlay.

Dokra art to presidents of Argentina and South Africa-

- Dokra art is **non-ferrous metal casting art that uses the lost-wax casting technique**.
- This technique has been in use for over 4,000 years in India, and is **still practised by artisans in central and eastern India**.
- It is in great demand in domestic and foreign markets because of **its primitive simplicity, folk motifs and forceful form**.
- **An art-piece from Chattisgarh, a figure of 'Nandi – The Meditative Bull'**, was presented to the Argentinian president.
- According to Hindu mythology, Nandi is considered as the vehicle (mount) of Lord Shiva.

- For South Africa's President, the art-piece was based on the Ramayana theme.

Gulabi Meenakari brooch, cufflink set to US president-

- Gulabi Meenakari is a **GI-tagged art-form of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.**
- A piece of **pure silver is moulded into a base form,** and a chosen design is embossed in the metal.
- **The motifs primarily use the colour pink (Gulabi), which lends its name to the craft.**
- These cufflinks were prepared for the US president with a matching brooch for the First Lady.

Hand painted tea set to UK PM-

- **A tea set from Bulandshahr district** (Uttar Pradesh) was presented to the British PM, with **its base form hand painted and fired at 1,200 degrees Celsius.**
- **In this craft form,** the embossed outlines are laid on manually with a mehendi cone. Each shape is then separately filled with colour and the entire cup is fired again.
- The crockery was outlined with platinum metal paint in honour of the Queen's platinum jubilee being celebrated this year.

Itr bottles in Zardozi box to French president-

- **Crafted in Lucknow, the Zari Zardozi box was hand embroidered on khadi silk and satin tissue in colours of the French National Flag.**
- The **motifs were traditional Indo-Persian, lotus flowers hand-**embroidered with metal wire in blue, and a pendant used in Kashmiri carpets and motifs from Awadhi architecture.
- This box contained a selection of **fragrances from Kannauj, produced using the 5,000-year-old traditional deg and bhapka method.**

- **The scents included Attar Mitti – a unique attar where petrichor, the fresh odour of first rain coming on earth is captured over sandalwood oil; Attar Shamama, capturing the essence of herbs and spices of age-old Vedic formulation; Attar Gulab – having odour most close to natural rose petal; Exotic Musk, a modern fragrance crafted with jasmine, rose and musk; and Garam Masala, to celebrate the French appreciation for good cuisine.**

Marble inlay table top for Italy's PM-

- **Pietra Dura or marble inlay has its origins in opus sectile – a form of Pietra Dura popularised in the ancient and medieval Roman world** where materials were cut and inlaid into walls and floors to make a picture or pattern.
- This particular table top **from Agra was made of semi-precious stones with gradients in their colour**, making it very similar to Italian marble inlay work.

Metal Marodi carving matka for German Chancellor

- This nickel coated, hand-engraved brass vessel is a **masterpiece from Moradabad, the “brass city” of Uttar Pradesh.**
- After casting the pot, the design that has to be engraved is first sketched on paper.
- An outline of the whole design is done with a fine engraving tool hammered with a wooden block.
- This particular type of engraving is called Marodi, owing to the curved lines used to fill up the negative space in this design.
- The importance of the engraving craft of Moradabad is in its ability to elevate items of everyday use into objects of intrigue.

Moonj baskets, cotton durries for Senegal's president

- In Senegal, the tradition of hand weaving is passed down

from mother to daughter, adding to its importance as a vehicle for cultural expression and family livelihood – driven by strong women.

- The same is done in Prayagraj, Sultanpur and Amethi districts of the state of Uttar Pradesh, where **Moonj or Saccharum Bengalense plant is now acting as a sustainable source of income for rural women.**
- **Like Senegalese baskets, Moonj craft also utilises bright, jewel tone colours.**
- This particular piece is by a master craftswoman from Prayagraj. The cotton durries are handwoven in Sitapur.

Lacquerware Ram Durbar to Indonesian president-

- **The GI-tagged lacquerware art-form has its roots in the temple town of Varanasi.**
- The process is a tedious one, requiring assembly of a base wooden form with separate limbs, which is covered layered by layer with distemper or lac-based paint. The items always come in bright, jewel tones.
- **This particular piece is made of Goolar wood.**
- The **principal characters in the artwork are Lord Ram, Sita, Hanuman and Jatayu.**
- It is believed that the **Indonesian version of Ramayana was written during the Medang Kingdom** (8th to 11th century) in Central Java.
- The story of Ramayana was narrated to the people through shadow puppetry (wayang kulit and wayang purwa).

Hand-knotted Kashmiri silk carpet to Canada's PM-

- These carpets are famous all over the world for their softness and craftsmanship.
- Each Kashmiri silk carpet is considered to be a never-before-seen piece of hand-made art.
- The Kashmiri silk carpets, **made predominantly in Srinagar, are hand-knotted on the warp threads,** one at a time, in accordance to a strict code of colours in the

order of their appearance in the pattern.

- **The knotted product is clipped with shears to smoothness**, and then treated with several brightening processes.

G7 countries

- It is an inter-governmental political forum.
- **Members** of the G7 are – the **United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, Italy, France and Japan.**
- Its members are the world's advanced economies and wealthiest liberal democracies.
- The group is officially organised around shared values of pluralism and representative government.
- It originated from an ad hoc gathering of finance ministers in **1973.**
- The G7 is **not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office**; its presidency rotates annually among the member states, with the presiding nation setting the group's priorities, and hosting and organizing its summit.