Kathputli Puppetry

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Why in News?

Families in Kathputli Nagar of Jaipur preserve Kathputli, one of Rajasthan's oldest folk-art forms.

- **Puppet –** A puppet is an ***inanimate or representational figure***, animated or manipulated by a puppeteer.
- **Origin of puppetry –** The origins of puppetry date back to the ***Indus Valley Civilisation around 2500 B.C***., where archaeologists discovered a terracotta doll with a detachable head.
- The earliest evidence of puppets has also been traced to Egypt, dating to around 2000 B.C.
- **Kathputli Nomenclature –** The name Kathputli comes from kath (wood) and putli (doll). It is one of Rajasthan's oldest folk-art forms.
- It is a type of ***string puppet*** carved from wood and dressed in bright, colourful costumes.
- **Manufactured in –** ***Kathputli Nagar in Jaipur***'s 'Pink City'.
- **Type -**String puppetry (marionettes).
- **Themes -**Folk tales, epics (*Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*), heroic ballads, social messages.
- **Cultural Significance –** Performances are accompanied by dholak, harmonium, folk music, and narration.
- Shows include humour, music, satire, and social reflection.
- Kathputli performances continue to carry Rajasthan's cultural identity across generations.

World Puppetry Day
• World Puppetry Day is celebrated every year on ***21 March*** as a tribute to the puppeteers. • The World Puppetry Day was first established in 2003 by the Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA).

References

1. The Hindu | Kathputli puppetry
2. Egyankosh | Performative art forms

