

Kathputli Puppetry

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | India Art & Culture

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](#)

