PM’s Mementos e-Auction 2025

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The recent Prime Minister’s Mementos e-Auction 2025 brings together over hundreds of special items gifted to the Hon’ble Prime Minister from around the country.

- **PM Mementos –** It is an open auction portal of government of India, that enables the buyers to participate in the online auction for the items in display after due registration.
- **Nodal Ministry -** Ministry of Culture.
- **Purpose -** The proceeds from these e-auctions are used to fund the Namami Gange Project, a flagship initiative for the conservation of the river Ganga.
- **Items for auction -** The 2025 auction features items, including:
    - Paintings and intricate handicrafts.
    - Sculptures and ceremonial objects.
    - Folk and tribal artifacts from various regions, including North East India, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.
    - A special collection of sports memorabilia from the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- **Physical exhibition -** The mementos are also displayed for public viewing at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in New Delhi.

Key highlights from the 2025 auction

- The collection reflects the cultural and artistic diversity of India through specific items from different states.
- Exquisite artefacts and crafts from North East India, representing Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh among all other.

State	Artefact	Description

Nagaland	**Mithun** 	• Wooden Sculpture of a Bull, presented by the Governor of Nagaland. • Carved in bold detail and polished to a sheen, stands as a symbol of wealth and social prestige among the Naga people.
Nagaland	**Handloom Naga Shawl** 	• With a deep-coloured base accented by bright red panels and embroidered motifs of spears and shields, the shawl embodies courage and honour. • In Naga society, these shawls record social standing and personal achievement, telling stories that are passed through generations.
Meghalaya	**Cane Ship Model** 	• Skilfully assembled from local cane, this model ship reflects Meghalaya's tradition of bamboo and cane craftsmanship. • Built with layered decks and finely engraved patterns.
Assam	**Garuda Wall Mask** 	• This Garuda mask comes *from Majuli*, the world's largest river island and cultural heart of Assam. • It represents Garuda, the divine bird from mythology used in classical performances and rituals. • Created out of clay and cane using traditional mask-making skills.
Assam	**Traditional Assamese Japi** 	• Woven from *bamboo and palm leaves, and decorated with vibrant colored shapes*, the *Japi is a rain guard and symbol of honor across Assam*. • Traditionally worn by farmers and given to guests, it highlights the link between daily work, hospitality, and pride in rural culture.

Assam	**Muga Silk Angavastra** 	• This golden-hued angavastra, woven from Assam's famous muga silk, illustrates the unique silk tradition of the state.
Sikkim	**Brass Sculpture of Lord Buddha** 	• The elegant brass depiction of Lord Buddha, crafted by Sikkimese artisans, shows the Buddha in serene meditation.
Arunachal Pradesh	**Wancho Wooden Craft – Tribal Couple** 	• Beautifully carved from wood and set on a single base. • Represents a traditional Wancho couple from Arunachal Pradesh. • The figures, shown in local attire, exemplify the woodcraft skills and symbolic storytelling of the Wancho community.

Reference

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