

From 4,000-Year-Old Dhokra to Tribal Heritage, Chhattisgarh's Cultural Story Comes Alive at the 8th PM Mementos

Collection showcases Chhattisgarh's ancient metal-casting traditions, tribal heritage, devotional art and contemporary cultural identity

You can bid for these mementos through the official PM Mementos portal

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An ancient metal-casting tradition takes centre stage in a collection of 16 mementos from Chhattisgarh, bringing together the state's rich tribal heritage, devotional traditions and contemporary cultural identity.



At the heart of the collection is Dhokra, the traditional lost-wax metal-casting craft having a history of more than 4,000 years in India. Several Dhokra works showcase the distinctive character and versatility of the tradition, including an Elephant Head Nandi, Standing Nandi and Madia-Madin Tribal Couple Bust.

The story of tribal Chhattisgarh continues through a traditional ceremonial headgear featuring a peacock-feather cluster, cowrie shells, metallic discs and brass bells.

Beyond tribal craft, the collection brings together the many cultural influences that shape the state. A Ramnami Samaj chanting stole, covered with repeated inscriptions of "Ram Ram", represents a distinctive expression of faith and devotion. Other mementos depict

important religious and cultural landmarks, including Hatkeshwar Mahadev, Budeshwar Mahadev, Jai Maa Kudargadi and Madheshwar Mahadev.



The collection also captures a more contemporary Chhattisgarh. A woodcut panel depicting the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, a memento marking the Rajat Jayanti of the Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha, and models representing institutions in Nava Raipur reflect the state's evolving present alongside its traditional heritage.

The collection's central message is one of continuity. Traditions that have been shaped over generations continue to find expression in contemporary objects, carrying the cultural memory of Chhattisgarh forward.

The auction is currently live and has been extended until 31 October 2026. Proceeds from the auction will support the Namami Gange Project.

Interested bidders can place their bids online through the official PM Mementos e-Auction portal: <https://pmmementos.gov.in> .

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