

- On the basis of tool topology, this site may be from about 1,00,000 to about 15,000 years ago. But there are also found evidence of later habitation, even up to 8th-9th century AD.
- It may be one of the biggest Palaeolithic sites in the Indian subcontinent, where Stone Age tools were recovered from different open-air sites as well as from rock shelters.

#### 4.2 Santhali Sohrai Murals

- It is one of the oldest art forms of wall painting of the Santhals that has continued since 10,000–4,000 BC.
- Sohrai paintings are age-old tribal traditional paintings based on nature themes like forest, people, and animals.
- These paintings, which can be monochromatic or colorful, are part of a long tradition of the Santhal community that dominates
  - Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha;
  - East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts of Jharkhand;
  - Purulia district of West Bengal.

#### Sohrai Art

- In 2020, Jharkhand received a Geographical Indication tag for its Sohrai art for the murals painted by women in Hazaribagh district who do not belong to the Santhal tribe.
- But, these are quite different from the murals created by the Santhal tribe.



- Occasion** –Santhali women usually paint the walls of their houses to mark **Sohrai**, a harvest festival coinciding with Diwali or Kali Puja.
- The art also adorns walls during ceremonies or special occasions, such as weddings and childbirth.
- Apart from the **Santhals**, the **Bhumij** community in the district also paints them.
- Difference** - The Hazaribagh murals are more primordial with different motifs, whereas the Santhali Sohrai art features only geometric shapes.
- Besides, the women of Hazaribagh only use earth colors - red, black and white - for their murals.
- The north Karanpura valley of the district and its Satpahar and Sati hill ranges are rich in coal, iron and manganese deposits.
- Hazaribagh women soak these deposits and wash them to obtain the desired paint.
- Santhali women** use similar clay materials for black and white color.
- But for red, they use gravel or *morrum* derived from cutting earth, instead of haematite.
- Morrum is thought to be termite resistant and does not fade easily with rain.

Colour	Source for Hazaribagh Murals
Black	Rivers flowing through these hills thus carry Manganese-rich black clay
White	Creamy white clay or Kaolin obtained from places where the rivers spread out
Red	Haematite or iron ore deposits in the rock shelter or prehistoric caves of the valley

#### 4.3 Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings

Recently, Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings from Tamil Nadu have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

- Kalamkari means creating something with a 'kalam', or a brush.
- The paintings are intricately made on a cotton cloth using pens or brushes made out of bamboo tree and coconut tree stems.
- Traditionally, only three colours are used — black, red and yellow. But lately, 'pale blue' has also started being used.
- Documentary evidence shows that Karuppur Kalamkari paintings evolved under the patronage of Nayaka rulers in the early 17th century.
- It is predominantly used in temples for umbrella covers, cylindrical hangings, chariot covers and asmanagiri (false ceiling cloth pieces)