

**DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS
ANALYSIS**



LAKSHYA ACADEMY®

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

1 – About Vishwakarma scheme:

GS II

Government Policies and Interventions:

- **Context:**

- On Vishwakarma Jayanti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the PM Vishwakarma initiative in New Delhi, which aims to benefit those who labour in traditional trades.
- With regards to the Vishwakarma scheme:
 - It is a brand-new programme that costs Rs 13,000 crore to implement and is entirely sponsored by the Central government.
 - According to Hindu mythology, Vishwakarma was the divine carpenter and master craftsman who created the gods' weapons as well as their cities and chariots. He is also known as the builder of the gods.
 - According to certain stories, he was the architect of the legendary city of Lanka that appears in the Hindu epic Ramayana. He is also credited with creating the magnificent figure of Jagannatha that can be found at Puri, Odisha.
 - He is revered as the patron god of labourers, craftspeople, and artists.

- **Eligibility:**

- Professionals who have practised traditional crafts and trades for centuries, frequently learning them from family elders, have encountered some issues.
- These include a dearth of current tools, a lack of professional training for their line of work, a problem with distance from markets that matter to them, and a lack of available funds for investment.
- These artists will be protected.

- **Benefits:**

- The goal of the programme is to help people in these industries improve their abilities and make it simple for them to get loans to boost their income.
- According to the plan, the biometric-based PM Vishwakarma portal will be used to register Vishwakarma employees for free.
- After that, they will receive recognition via an ID card and certificate from PM Vishwakarma.

- They will receive basic and advanced training in order to upgrade their skills, as well as a toolbox incentive of \$15,000, collateral-free credit support up to \$1 lakh (in the first tranche) and \$2 lakh (in the second tranche) at a reduced interest rate of 5%, a reward for digital transactions, and marketing assistance.
- **Source** → *The Hindu*

2 - Gaja dwar and the new Parliament building:

GS II

Indian Parliament

- **Context:**
- At the Gaja Dwar of the new Parliament building, India's vice president raised the flag of the country.
- **Regarding the Gaja Dwar:**
- The six entrances of the new Parliament each represent a distinct duty.
- Given that the elephant is a symbol of knowledge, wealth, intelligence, and memory as well as the goals of the democratically elected legislators, an elephant sculpture, or Gaja, has been placed to guard the entry to the north.
- The northern orientation is connected to the planet Mercury, which is the wellspring of greater intellect, according to Vastu shastra.
- Kubera, the god of wealth, is the Lord of direction.
- The Gaja is thus positioned to the north.
- **Religious symbolism:**
- In the New Parliament Building, auspicious animal sculptures made of red sandstone have been erected as 'guardian statues' at each of the six entrances in accordance with the Vaastu Shastra research, their significance in Indian culture, and their attractiveness, virtues, and positive attributes.
- **Other than the Gaja dwar, there are:**
- **Asva:**

- A sign of endurance and strength, power and speed, and also a description of the standard of administration, Asva, or the horse, stands alert and prepared at the southern gate.
- **Garuda:**
 - The eagle-like Garuda, which guards the eastern ceremonial entrance, represents the ambitions of the populace and the government.
 - The rising sun, which stands for optimism, success, and the grandeur of victory, is connected to the east.
- **Makara:**
 - The Makara, a mythical aquatic creature that mixes the body parts of several animals, stands for the nation's citizens' diversity and unity.
- **Shardula:**
 - Another mythical monster, Shardula, is thought to be the strongest and most important of all living things, representing the strength of the nation's people.
- **Hamsa:**
 - The ability to perceive and self-realize born of wisdom is the most significant trait of a democratic populace.
 - The Hamsa, or swan, at the main entrance to the north-east serves as a reminder of this crucial aspect.
- **Symbolic entrances:**
 - Three of these six gates are intended to serve as ceremonial entrances, to welcome distinguished visitors, and to commemorate significant occasions.
 - Gyan, Shakti, and Karma are their given names, and they stand for the Indian knowledge system, national pride, and creative traditions, respectively.
- *Source → The Hindu*

3 - What is driving the Global Biofuels Alliance:

GS III

Environmental Conservation

- **Context:**

- The organisation, known as the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), would make an effort to bring nations together to collaborate on research, speed up technological advancements in manufacturing, and promote the use of biofuels, particularly in the transportation industry.

- **Key information:**

- Argentina, Canada, Italy, and South Africa, all G-20 members, joined the three founding members of India, the United States, and Brazil.

- **About biofuels:**

- Biofuels are defined by the International Energy Agency (IEA) as liquid fuels made from biomass and used as an alternative to liquid transportation fuels based on fossil fuels, such as petrol, diesel and aviation fuels.

- **Are there any biofuels that can replace fossil fuels?**

- Biofuels and sustainable biofuels are distinguished from one another.
- Biofuels are made from plants like sugarcane, corn, or soybeans that are grown particularly for that purpose.
- It is also known as first-generation biofuel or 1G ethanol.
- Utilising leftover cooking oil, processed animal fats, and agricultural waste, sustainable biofuels can be produced.
- Second-generation, or 2G, is the term used to describe it.
- This contrast has now become quite clear as climate change quickens, raising concerns about the threat to food security as well as an increase in the loss of forests and biodiversity since more land is needed for cultivation.
- According to estimates, just over half of the world's vegetated land is currently under cultivation, making agriculture one of the industry's biggest carbon emitters.
- The GBA has made it clear that 2G ethanol development would be a priority.

- **Why are biofuels now again in the spotlight?**

- Following the conflict in Ukraine, there have been significant disruptions to the world's crude oil supplies, and various nations have been frantically searching for alternatives to their reliance on imported petrol and diesel.
- For instance, India imports 87% of its crude oil, and this represents the bulk of its reserve currency spending.
- In an effort to hasten the decarbonization of the transportation sector, which is responsible for about one-fourth of global carbon emissions, several nations have announced policies governing the production of batteries and electric vehicles (EVs), and a number of established automakers have entered the EV market.
- However, some modes of transportation, such as long-haul trucking, shipping, and aircraft, will have a harder time reducing carbon emissions than, say, motorcycles or self-driving automobiles.
- Here, 2G ethanol might serve as a useful stand-in.

- **Do biofuels help with the energy transition?**

- Today, the majority of biofuels are mixed to varied degrees with petrol or diesel.
- As an illustration, India already mixes 10% or so of biofuels and wants to double this amount in the upcoming years.
- The continuing energy transition must prioritise boosting EV uptake and creating substitutes like green hydrogen, while 2G ethanol would mitigate the imminent disruption.
- This would be accomplished by allowing for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while extending the lifespan of internal combustion engines, giving automakers time to create reliable alternatives, raising farmer incomes, and creating jobs.

- **Moving ahead:**

- The three GBA founding members generate 85% of the world's biofuels and use around 81% of them.
- By 2025, the United States plans to replace around 1,40,000 barrels per day of imported crude oil with biofuels by amending its "Renewable Fuel Standard" significantly.
- In order to achieve 20% ethanol blending by 2025, India had already announced the construction of 12 new refineries as early as 2018.
- Following India's promise that it would achieve net zero emissions by 2070 (removing as much carbon from the atmosphere as it produces), this becomes even more important.
- The IEA estimates that three growing economies—India, Brazil, and Indonesia—will account for nearly two thirds of the world's biofuel demand.
- They have a variety of policies they can use to boost demand, as well as plenty of domestic feedstocks, extra production capacity, relatively low production costs, and these factors.
- It will be interesting to observe if this actually accelerates the decarbonization of the energy sector.

- **Source → *The Hindu***

4 - London's India Club:

GS II

International Issues

- **Context:**

- After decades of existence, London's India Club, a rest stop for Indians in the United Kingdom during the independence movement, is scheduled to permanently close.

- **What the Club Is:**

- The restaurant offered Indian cuisine and also acted as a hangout for people with connections to India in the UK.
- London is where the club is located.
- The India League, a British organisation that initially promoted Indian independence and self-rule (swaraj), founded it in 1951.
- Elite members of British society were present.
- It afterwards sought to contribute to the development of Indo-British friendship in the post-independence era.

- **The India Club then quickly developed into a hub for organisations benefiting the Asian community, like the league, such:**

- The Association of Indian Journalists
- and the Indian Workers Association
- British Indian Socialist Group.

- The structure served as the headquarters for the India League's new wings, which operated a free legal aid office and a research and study section out of this location.

- **Source** → *The Hindu*

5 - Project to reconstruct an ancient ‘stitched ship’:

GS II

Government Policies and Interventions:

- **Context:**

- The Indian Navy, Hodi Innovations, and the Ministry of Culture recently came together to reconstruct a historic stitched ship that is reminiscent of the ships that travelled the seas on India's ancient maritime trade routes as far ago as 2,000 years ago.

- **Regarding the Project:**

- Collaboration between various ministries and departments is required for the project.
- The Indian Navy is supervising the design and building of the ship and will be navigating it through historic maritime trade lanes.
- The initiative is entirely supported by the Ministry of Culture.
- The initiative will receive support during its execution stage from the shipping and external affairs ministries.
- The National Implementation Committee, which is presided over by the Home Minister, gave the initiative its approval.

- **Stitched ship technology definition:**

- Using the conventional steaming technique, the wooden planks are shaped using this age-old approach to fit the contour of the hull.
- According to an ancient Indian shipbuilding method, each plank will then be joined to the next using cords or ropes and sealed with a mixture of coconut fibre, glue, and fish oil.
- After the British arrived in India, where the wooden planks were nailed to hold the recoil of canons, the ancient stitching method nearly went extinct.
- The 40+ metre long Egyptian burial boat, which dates back to 2,500 BC, is the earliest known example of a sewn boat.
- Some ancient Greek ships were later discovered in various regions of the world.
- Up until the 1920s, small stitched boats were only built in Finland, Russia, Karelia, and Estonia.

- **The Journey:**

- Once the ship is prepared, a crew of 13 members of the Indian Navy will depart from Cuttack in Odisha and travel to Bali in Indonesia.

- The journey would be a component of the effort to honour and revive India's former maritime trading routes.
- Additionally, this fits in with the greater decolonization initiative launched in the run-up to India's 100th year of independence.
- **Initiative Mausam:**
 - Project Mausam from the Ministry of Culture and this project work together harmoniously.
 - It strives to reestablish connections and communication amongst nations in the Indian Ocean region in order to foster awareness of shared cultural values and issues.
 - The objective of Project Mausam is to reestablish maritime cultural ties with the 39 nations that border the Indian Ocean.
 - According to rumours, Project Mausam is India's response to China's Maritime Silk Road.
 - India is to ask UNESCO to grant Project Mausam, which was introduced by India at the 38th World Heritage Session in Doha in 2014, transnational heritage designation.
- *Source → The Hindu*



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