
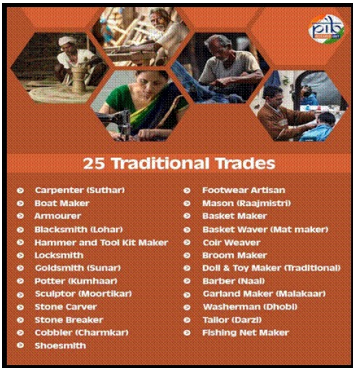




05 November 2024

National and International News

<p>Asian Buddhist Summit 2024</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) is being held in New Delhi on November 5-6, 2024. The summit is organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). <p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme of the summit is "Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia." <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The summit aims to bring together Sangha leaders, scholars, experts, and practitioners from various Buddhist traditions across Asia to foster dialogue, promote understanding, and address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community. The President of India is expected to attend the summit as the Chief Guest.
<p>PM Vishwakarma Yojana</p>  <p>25 Traditional Trades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carpenter (Suthari) ○ Boat Maker ○ Armourer ○ Blacksmith (Lohari) ○ Hammer and Tool Kit Maker ○ Locksmith ○ Goldsmith (Suntari) ○ Potter (Kumbhaari) ○ Sculptor (Moortikari) ○ Stone Carver ○ Stone Breaker ○ Cobbler (Channan) ○ Shoemath ○ Footwear Artisan ○ Mason (Rasmintri) ○ Basket Maker ○ Basket Waver (Mat maker) ○ Coir Weaver ○ Broom Maker ○ Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional) ○ Barber (Khal) ○ Garland Maker (Malakaari) ○ Washerman (Dhobi) ○ Tailor (Darsi) ○ Fishing Net Maker 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PM Vishwakarma Yojana, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2023, is a government initiative to empower traditional artisans and craftspeople in India, known as Vishwakarmas. <p>About Vishwakarma Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PMVKYS) or Vishwakarma Scheme is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India on 17th September 2023. Aim is to provide support to traditional artisans and craftspeople. The scheme targets a vital segment of the workforce engaged in the informal or unorganized sector, where artisans, referred to as Vishwakarma, work with their hands and tools in occupations such as blacksmithing, goldsmithing, pottery, carpentry, and sculpting. These skills are often passed down through generations, adhering to the guru-shishya model of mentorship and training, which fosters the continuity of age-old traditions. <p>Key Points:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme provides opportunities for skill enhancement through basic and advanced training programs, with a stipend of Rs. 500 per day. • Artisans will receive a toolkit incentive of up to Rs. 15,000 in the form of e-vouchers to support their work. • Collateral-free loans of up to Rs. 3 lakh will be provided in two tranches, with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
<p>ICMR announces 'First in the World Challenge'</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched the "First in the World Challenge" to encourage scientists to come up with innovative solutions to tackle health issues. • This initiative aims to foster novel, out of the box, futuristic ideas, new knowledge generation, discovery / development of breakthrough health technologies (vaccines, drugs/ therapeutics, diagnostics, interventions etc.), which has never been thought of, tested or tried in the world till date. <p>Refer to Addapedia notes for detailed info on ICMR</p>
<p>Kodo Millet</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly ten elephants from a herd of 13 died in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. • The deaths were linked to the consumption of kodo millet, a staple food for many in the region. <p>Reason:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When consumed in large quantities or under specific conditions, kodo millet can produce mycotoxins, which are toxic substances produced by fungi. • These mycotoxins can cause severe illness and even death in animals, including elephants. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kodo Millet (Paspalum scrobiculatum) is a drought-resistant crop cultivated in India, Asia, and Africa. • It's a staple food for many tribal communities and is known for its nutritional value and health benefits. • Origin: India, primarily Madhya Pradesh • Other Names: Kodra, Varagu • Nutritional Value: Rich in vitamins, minerals, fiber, gluten-free, and has a low glycemic index. <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) unanimously accepted India's proposal to develop global standards for five Indian millets: Finger millet, Barnyard millet, Kodo millet, Proso millet, and Little millet. <p>Additional information:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) finalized quality standards for five spices at its 7th session, which was held in Kochi from January 29–February 2, 2024: Small cardamom, Turmeric, Juniper berry, Allspice, and Star anise.
<p>Government Marketplace (GeM)</p>	<p>e Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government e Marketplace (GeM) has introduced 170 new seed categories on its portal, featuring nearly 8,000 seed varieties. This initiative aims to simplify access to quality agricultural and horticulture seeds for farmers. The newly populated categories can be procured by Central and State PSUs and other governing bodies for further dissemination across the country. The seed categories were created after consultation with stakeholders including state seed corporations and research bodies. This move aligns with GeM's broader strategy to promote category-based procurement across its platform

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