



# कौटिल्य एकेडमी

[www.kauilyaacademy.com](http://www.kauilyaacademy.com)

IAS • IPS • MPPSC • CJ-II

# CURRENT AFFAIR

**17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**



1. PM's visit to France
2. PM Modi's 5th UAE Visit
3. Lambani Tribe
4. Namda Art

## PM's visit to France

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** reached Paris for his official two-day visit to France. PM Modi has been invited as the guest of honour at the Bastille Day Parade at the invitation of **French President Emmanuel Macron**.
- ➔ On reaching Paris, Prime Minister Modi was welcomed by **French PM Elizabeth Borne** herself. During this, PM Modi was given a guard of honour.



- ➔ **Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** attended Bastille Day celebrations in 2009 when **French President Nicolas Sarkozy** invited him.
- ➔ Prime Minister Modi along with **French President Emmanuel Macron on 14 July 2023** launched a vision roadmap of 25 years in all areas from space, culture and environment to digital technology.
- ➔ **The roadmap for bilateral relations has three pillars** – partnership for security and sovereignty, partnership for science and technology, and partnership for people.
- ➔ The Prime Minister's visit coincides with the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, so there will be an opportunity to set the course for the next 25 years, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of India's independence in the **'Vision Statement 2047'**.
- ➔ The two countries began their strategic partnership soon after India's nuclear tests when most Western countries severed ties with India.
- ➔ France was the first country to recognize India's strategic importance after the nuclear test **in 1998**. The partnership with France is India's most important strategic partnership in Europe.



- ➔ As talk of a US-India deal on the transfer of technology for the **'GE F414 jet engine'** for the **'Tejas Light Combat Aircraft'** intensified, the French introduced their own **'Safran engine'** that would be completely made in India. While the US proposal, which signalled a major breakthrough in Indo-US defence ties, does not involve the transfer of a significant portion of the technology.
- ➔ Continuing cooperation on fighter jets and submarines, following the timely delivery of **36 Rafale jets** to the Indian Air Force and the success of the **P75 program** (6 Scorpene submarines).
- ➔ In a significant decision on 13 July 2023, the Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) approved proposals for the procurement of 26 Rafale maritime aircraft and three additional Scorpene submarines for the Indian Navy.
- ➔ **The twin-engined Rafale M** has been specifically designed to operate from 40,000-tonne class aircraft carriers.

- **The Rafale M aircraft** will come with associated accessories, weapons, simulators, spares, documentation, crew training and logistics support. Their procurement from the French government is on the basis of an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA).
- With the **MiG-29Ks** planned to be phased out in a few years, the procurement of these aircraft is an interim arrangement for the Navy's aircraft carriers, INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant, until they can acquire indigenous double-engine deck-based aircraft (TEDBF).
- Which is currently under development by **Aeronautical Development Agency** (ADA) under DRDO.
- Three additional Scorpene submarines will be procured under the transfer of technology and will be built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- **MDL** is building six Scorpene-class submarines under 'Project-75' under transfer of technology from Naval Group, a \$3.75 billion deal signed in October 2005.

- The fifth submarine under this project, **INS Vagir**, was commissioned in January 2023. Others - **INS Kalvari**, **INS Khanderi**, **INS Karanj** and **INS Vela** were commissioned between 2017 and 2021. In May 2023, the sixth submarine Vagshir began its sea trials.
- **Indo-French relations** will focus on co-development rather than co-production.
- Scientific and commercial partnership is being enhanced through a number of agreements between **CNES** of **France** and **ISRO** of **India**, especially with regard to reusable launchers. Finalization of '**Joint Earth Observation Satellite (TRISHNA)**', the first phase of a constellation of ocean surveillance satellites in the Indian Ocean and protection of Indo-French satellites in orbit against the risk of collisions.
- Both sides welcomed the progress on the **6- EPR power plant project** in Jaitapur. They started a cooperation program on Small Modular Reactors and Advanced Modular Reactors.

- ➔ Adopt a roadmap for joint action in the Indo-Pacific that covers all aspects of our regional strategy.
- ➔ Work on finalizing an **'Indo-French Development Fund'** for the Third World, which will enable joint funding of sustainable development projects in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ➔ Strengthening cooperation between the **GIGN** of France and the National Security Guard of India.
- ➔ Strengthen cooperation on cutting-edge digital technology, especially supercomputing, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and quantum computing.
- ➔ The agreement signed in civil aviation to support the expansion of routes between France and India.
- ➔ Partnership in Planetary Context, strengthening cooperation between global issues.
- ➔ A commitment to adopt an **'international treaty'** to end plastic pollution throughout the life cycle of plastic products.

- ➔ The signing of letter of intent on health and medicine to structure cooperation in hospitals, medical research, digital technology, biotechnology, public health and combating microbial resistance as part of the 'One Health' approach.
- ➔ A new target is to welcome 30,000 Indian students in **France by 2030**. Issuance of 5-year short-term 'Schengen Visa' to Indian students having Master's degrees who have studied in a French University.
- ➔ Interacting with members of the Indian community in Paris, Prime Minister Modi announced that an agreement has been reached for the use of India's '**Unified Payments Interface**' - or UPI - in France.
- ➔ The Consulate of India in Marseille and the Bureau de France in Hyderabad were announced.
- ➔ France and India will jointly increase funding of the **Indo-French Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA)** to finance new projects.



- ➔ The signing of a Letter of Intent to structure cooperation in this area, especially with a view to major upcoming sporting events.
- ➔ Aim to double the number of international volunteers of solidarity and civil service in India and France by 2025.
- ➔ Appealed for reform of the **UN Security Council** and said, “How can the UN Security Council claim to speak for the world when its most populous country and its largest democracy is not a permanent member? ,
- ➔ The Global South has emerged as an important part of India’s diplomacy in the upcoming G20 summit which India will host **in September 2023.**



## → What is the Legion of Honor?

- The 'National Order of the Legion of Honour' or 'The Legion of Honour' is the highest French honor both civilian and military and one of the most famous national honors in the world.
- The award was established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.
- The motto of the award is Honor et Patrie, French for Honor and Fatherland.



## → Which award has been received by Prime Minister Modi?

- The Legion of Honor has five degrees of increasing distinction; three ranks—Chevalier (Knight), Officer (Officer) and Commander (Commander) and two titles—Grand Officer and Grand-Croix (Grand Cross).
- On 13 July 2023, Prime Minister Modi was awarded the 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour', France's highest civilian and military honour. He is the first Indian PM to receive this honour.

→ **Bastille incident** - During the French Revolution, on 14 July 1789, a Parisian mob stormed the Bastille fortress, broke down the doors and freed the prisoners. The fall of Bastille was an epoch-making event which symbolized the fall of autocracy and the victory of the people. In fact, it was the proclamation of revolution and that is why July 14 is celebrated as Independence Day in France.



## PM Modi's 5th UAE Visit

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was on a one-day visit to the West Asian country of **'The United Arab Emirates (UAE)'** on 15 July. PM Modi met **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan** in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.
- ➔ PM Modi told **UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan**, "You have a huge contribution in the way the relations between our countries have expanded," reported news agency PTI. Everyone in India sees you as a true friend."
- ➔ Three important MoUs have been signed between India and the United Arab Emirates in the banking and education sectors.
- ➔ Two agreements were signed regarding the use of local currency in the banking sector. Its objective is to promote the use of local currencies and facilitate the interconnection of payment and messaging systems.



- ➔ **India's instant payment system** - integration of UPI with UAE's instant payment platform and integration of Indian Rupay card switch and UAE card switch.
- ➔ Under the agreement in the education sector, IIT in the United Arab Emirates. The Delhi campus will be opened.
- ➔ Meanwhile, delegation-level talks and meetings were held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the **United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.**
- ➔ Areas of wide-ranging bilateral cooperation including trade and investment, fintech, energy, environmental action, higher education and people-to-people contacts were discussed.
- ➔ Areas of wide-ranging bilateral cooperation including trade and investment, fintech, energy, environmental action, higher education and people-to-people contacts were discussed.



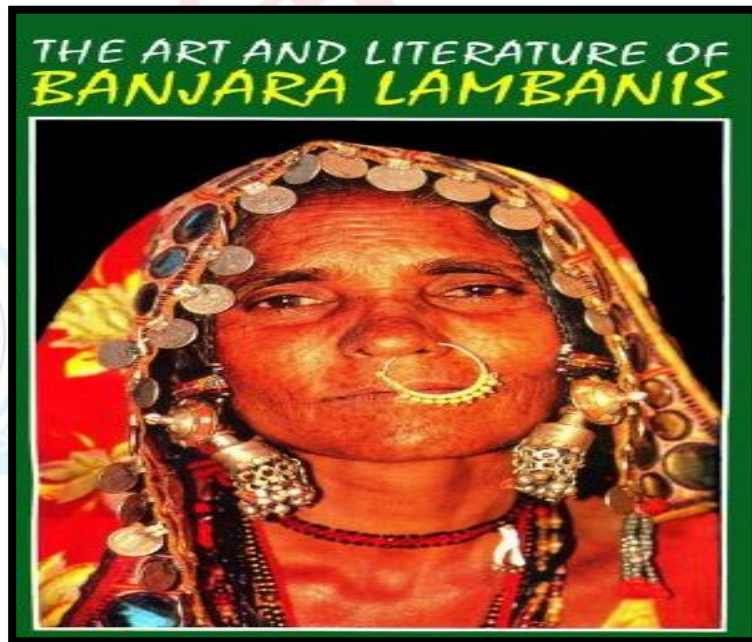


## Lambani Tribe

- The Prime Minister of India appreciated the Guinness World Record for the '**Largest Display of Lambani Objects**' by the **Lambani Tribe** with a total of 1755 objects at **Sandur Kushal Kala Kendra** during the 3rd G20 Culture Working Group meeting in **Hampi, Karnataka**.
- Lambani was mainly a tribe of Rajasthan. It has alternate names like Lamani, **Lambadi** and **Banjara**.
- "**Laman**" is a word of Sanskrit origin derived from the word lavana (salt) and by now the Laman Banjaras have spread their roots across the Indian subcontinent.
- They are a nomadic tribe and are believed to have come from the **Gor province of Afghanistan**. They were originally merchants of oxen and salt.
- Lambani embroidery is a vibrant and intricate form of textile ornamentation, characterized by a rich array of coloured threads, mirror work and stitch patterns.



- Lambani art is practised in many villages of Karnataka such as **Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariammanahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur and Kamalapur.**
- The language of the Lambani tribe is a part of the Indo-Aryan language group. They speak what is known as Gor Boli and their sound is similar to **Romani, Lomavarn, Rajasthani and Marwari.**
- Apart from following their personal deities, they also follow Hinduism. They worship their deities which include saints like **Seva Lal** and a dacoit named **Mitka Bhukiya.**



## Namda Art

- ➔ Skill India project is moving towards successfully reviving the vanishing Namda art of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- ➔ Namada is said to have originated in the 16th century when the Mughal Emperor Akbar wanted to make a cover for his horses to protect them from the cold.
- ➔ The word Namda is derived from **Nabi**, the name of the person who came up with the idea of felted **woolen carpets**.
- ➔ It is believed that a Sufi saint named **Shah-i-Hamdan** introduced Kashmiris to Namda art.
- ➔ Namda carpets and rugs are made by felting wool.
- ➔ Namda is practised by the **Pinjra** and **Mansuri** communities in Kutch and by the **Sama Muslims**.
- ➔ Today **Namda** is an endangered craft of Kashmir which needs efforts for its revival. Although many NGOs are working in this direction.
- ➔ The wool is spread in a thick layer on a mat, and then soapy water is sprinkled over it, after which the layer can be pressed using a tool called a **pinjra**.



➔ After this, the mat is rolled and tied with a rope and with the help of hands and feet, pressure is applied by rolling it on the floor. Then, the rope is untied and the mat is unfolded.



**Namda Arts of Kashmir**