



## CURRENT AFFAIRS



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# **Karuppur kalamkari paintings & Kallakurichi wood carvings : India' s Traditional Art (GS paper 1 : Art and culture )**

### **Context :**

Recently, Traditional Indian Art kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings both of Tamilnadu are recognized with GI tag because of its reputation . These traditional arts have been popular in Tamilnadu for a long time.

### **Kalamkari Painting**

- The term kalamkari is derived from two terms Kalam and kari. Qalam is a persian term which means Pen and Kari is also a persian term which means crafting through a particular skill. Hence kalamkari means an skill of crafting something on cotton by using pen and brush
- This art is popular in Andhra Pradesh . but gradually this art has become flourished in various part of Southern India also
- The brush using in this art are made of generally from the bamboo tree or coconut tree both are available in abundance in southern India
- This art has many forms and major forms of the art are from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh . machalipatta, is another important region of Andhra pradesh for the kalamkari painting The Srikalahasthi style of Kalamkari is related to these regions
- There are almost 17steps of the kalamkari painting starting from block making followed by cloth treating, printing, and washing etc
- The theme of Srikalahasthi style of Kalamkari is the stories of Myths and Epics like ramayana and Mahabharata
- The colours used in kalamkari painting are generally made from vegetables
- All colours are natural colours . A village of Andhra Pradesh Lepakshi, is the most promoter of this type of painting
- Although only three colours are used traditionally . These are — black, red and yellow. But gradually artisans had started to use 'pale blue' colour also mainly in the regions of *Tamil Nadu*
- Besides, We observe some other other innovations in this traditional art which varies from region to region like the Kanyakumari cloves, Dindigul locks, Mahabalipuram stone sculpture, Nilgiri (orthodox) tea, Virupakshi hill banana, Thanjavur doll, Thanjavur paintings, Coimbatore wet grinder, Kancheepuram silk and saree etc
- Recently the people of tamilnadu who are making the paintings on wood, maily on furniture received GI tag by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar). It is received for Kallakurichi wood carvings jointly with the Kallakurichi Wood Carving with the effort of Handicrafts Industrial Cooperative Limited Society, and the Chinnasalem and Vriksha Association of Wood Carving Artisans self-help group.

- Like most other art, It is also a temple art or art for home. Now this traditional folk tribal art has been brought into the mainstream . This thing is appreciable

## GI Tag

- GI is a tag used on products with a specific geographical origin, and ones that possess a reputation due to that origin.
- GI tag Provides special status
- There are many varieties of any art popular in various regions of India But if one specific style of art has its own long history and become polar because of its own specific style and got its recognition and reputation at national and International level
- the owner of the GI tag has 'exclusive rights' over the product, and can even sue someone for trying to duplicate it
- This GI tag ensures the protection of Intellectual Property right which also comes from the paris Convention for the protection of Intellectual Property right
- GI, In India is regulated and administered through geographical Indication of goods (registration and Protection ) Act 1999.

Kalamkari Art is not limited to the painting of religious myths on temples and on religious buildings . Present days many artisans of kalamkari art are using this style on sarees and modern dress for female maily. Many models of India and abroad also are promoting the dresses of kalamkari painting . Therefore this traditional Indian art has now modernised and internationally recognised

**DR ANSHUL BAJPAI**

# **Sculpting Idols of the God instead of Taj miniature in Agra City : A Changing Trend because of the Covid 19 (GS Paper 1 : Art and Culture)**

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## **Context :**

India has been facing the problem of the coronavirus pandemic for more than one and half years and because of this pandemic the number of foreign tourists in Agra has decreased drastically . The artisans who are expert in miniature art of tajmahal, now are facing the problem of decreased demand of the miniature of taj. Therefore most of them had changed their path and started to sculpt the idols of Hindu God and Goddess whose demand is still good and continuously increasing in the local market .

## **Miniature art :**

- Miniature art is a form of art in which we either make painting or sculpting any idols in its small form . even though this term was used during the 16th century by British Artisans to explain its form. In fact the art work in its minor form is called miniature art. If we observe its history we see that from the 3rd, 4th century in India we get the evidence of miniature sculptures in large numbers . Even though the history of miniature painting goes back up to the paleolithic period.

Cave painting in India is a type of miniature painting . But the miniature sculpting is not older than 3rd century AD

- The terms miniature art is used by a British Sir Philip Sydney
- Besides india , we find the evidence of standard miniature painting of 3rd 4th century Ad from Turkey, egypt, Iran etc

## **Famous Miniature artists of India**

- **Ganesh Subramanyan**

He is the famous personality of Miniature art. He belongs to Kerala He has done more than 50 miniature works till date . the nano sculptures of Ganesh could not be seen by your naked eye . It can be seen by using lenses only. He used Gold in developing miniature models of Taj Mahal and Hindu god and goddess . His most challenging work so far has been a number lock he made a few years ago. The work also holds a world record for being the smallest functioning gold code lock ever made.

- **Agnika Banarjee**
- A Bengali artist , 31st year old, MBA graduate , expert in miniature art (sculpting ). She used clay for sculpting and All her clay miniatures are made up of polymer clay (a kind of clay which hardens when baked in an oven).
- She also used chalk pastels and glaze for added effects. The common tools used are blades, needle tools, rolling pin and shape cutters.

## **Kailash Babu**

- A 24-year-old boy from Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu has carved more than 200 miniature sculptures on pencil lead – some as small as 0.7 mm in diameter.
- He is an engineering graduate and uses his engineering skill in such art .
- Among them have been sculptures of bookshelves, alphabets, farmers, birds, vehicles, faces, tools, and even a newborn attached to the umbilical cord.

India is a big market for miniature sculpture. The miniature sculptures look very beautiful and are used in home decoration also. Definitely when we overcome the corona pandemic, the market of miniature idols of agra will also expand. Indian miniature is diversified in its nature

**DR ANSHUL BAJPAI**

## **THE CAATSA TEST AND COURSE OF INDO-US RELATIONSHIP [GS II, International Relation]**

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**CONTEXT:** The Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, recently said that the delivery of the S-400 Triumf air defence systems from Russia is expected according to schedule. USA reacted that under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), enacted by the U.S. Congress→ India's receiving the missile systems could attract sanctions.

A/c Sherman, U.S. thinks it's "dangerous" for "any country that decides to use the S-400".

India is scheduled to receive five squadrons of the surface-to-air missile systems under the \$5.43 billion (₹40,000 crore) agreement it signed three years ago.

### **Enactment of CAATSA**

Even though CAATSA was signed into law by then President Donald Trump in 2017.

The CAATSA was passed when the U.S. sought to discourage trade in the defence and intelligence sectors of Russia, as Russia was considered to have interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

India has stressed on the tactical importance of the defence missile systems considering the environment in the Indian subcontinent.

**CAATSA** : The Act mandates the President to impose at least 5/12 sanctions on persons engaged in a "significant transaction" with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

These sanctions include:-

- Suspending export licence
- Banning American equity/debt investments in entities

- Prohibiting loans from U.S. financial institutions
- Opposing loans from international finance institutions

The Act also built in a safety valve in the form of a presidential waiver i.e. “modified waiver authority”. This waiver depends on following considerations:-

- Whether the move is in American interest
- That it does not endanger the country’s national security
- Whether it affect its military operations in an adverse manner
- whether the country in question is taking steps to bring down its inventory of defence equipment from Russia
- Whether the country in question cooperate with Washington on matters of critical security

Whether India can secure a waiver from President Joe Biden when the time comes for the White House to make a decision has to be awaited.

**AN ADDITIONAL PROVISION**– allowing for sanctions waivers for 180 days, provided the administration certifies that the country in question is scaling back its ties with Russia.

The debate in the U.S. hovers around the efficacy of CAATSA-related sanctions against India when the geopolitical situation in the region is undergoing a change.

**CHANGING GLOBAL ALLIANCES-** Today, there is a growing relationship between China and Russia with both countries seeking to expand

engagement in Afghanistan from where the U.S. withdrew its military after two decades of war.

## **INDIA'S STANCE W.R.T USA EXIT FROM AFGHANISTAN AND THE DIPLOMACY-**

India turned a bit hostile over the U.S. negotiation of the exit deal with the Taliban. Yet, on the strategic plane, India remained on course by agreeing to the upgrading of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and sharing the same vision as the U.S. on the Indo-Pacific construct.

**EFFECTS OF SANCTION-** If sanctions are made, they have the tremendous potential of downgrading the bilateral relationship trajectory between the U.S. and India, which now covers 50 sectors, especially in the field of defence. And as per U.S.'s concern, it may drift India towards Russia again along with the belief that Washington cannot be relied upon as a partner.

## **INDIA-RUSSIA TRADING SITUATION-**

According to a report by a defence think-tank SIPRI-

- India's military purchase from Russia has steadily declined over the last decade
- Between 2011-15 and 2016-20, India's arms import decreased by 33%

In recent years, though, there have been some big-ticket deals worth \$15 billion including S400, Ka-226-T utility helicopters, BrahMos missiles and production of AK-203 assault rifles.

## **INDIA-USA TRADING SITUATION-**

- Government-to-Government deals with the U.S. ,over the past decade, have reached to \$20 billion
- Additionally, They have negotiated with approx \$10 billion deals

## **US GIFTS TO INDIA–**

- The U.S. designated India as a Major Defence Partner in 2016
- USA further gave India Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 which allows access to critical technologies.

Today, manufacturers in both countries are exploring ways to co-develop and co-produce military equipment.

## **WILL THE SANCTIONS BE IMPOSED ON INDIA LIKE CHINA AND TURKEY?**

There are three clear steps/options in the current scenario:-.

1. The presidential determination on waiver
2. The referral to the Congressional Committees
3. clearance by these panels

While referral to the Armed Services is spelled out, it is a distinct possibility that this will be sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committees.

**TO CONCLUDE-** This CAATSA test is going to determine the future course of the India-U.S. relationship. The role of Indian-Americans and the Indian-diaspora should be significant just as they showed support for the historic Civil Nuclear Deal in the face of resistance from Democrats opposing this nuclear proliferation deal. This development will go a long way in moulding the INDO-US INDO-RUSSIA relationship and also has the power to impact the current global balance with respect to India in particular.

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