



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Tankai Method

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Why is in news? The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy sign an MoU to revive the “ancient stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)”

In a remarkable initiative to **revive and preserve the 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding** known as the ‘**stitched shipbuilding method**’, the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Tankai method is an **ancient shipbuilding technique** that **involves stitching wooden planks together to construct ships, rather than using nails**.

This method offers flexibility and durability to the ships, making them less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars.

The Indian Navy will oversee the implementation and execution of the entire project. As custodians of maritime security and experts in the field, the Indian Navy's involvement ensures seamless project management and adherence to the highest standards of safety and precision.

Their invaluable experience and technical knowledge will play a pivotal role in the successful revival of the ancient stitching method and the construction of the stitched ship.

The stitched ship holds significant cultural value in India, given its historical importance and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship.

Throughout history, India has had a strong maritime tradition, and the use of stitched ships played a vital role in trade, cultural exchange, and exploration.

These ships, constructed by stitching wooden planks together rather than using nails, offered flexibility and durability, making them less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars.

Although the arrival of European ships led to a shift in shipbuilding techniques, the art of stitching ships has survived in a few coastal regions of India, primarily for small local fishing boats.

Reviving and rejuvenating this fading art is crucial to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations. The proposal to construct an **ocean-going wooden stitched sail ship** using the ancient Indian art of stitching is a commendable initiative.

The project aims to **leverage the expertise of the remaining traditional shipwrights** in India and showcase their exceptional craftsmanship.

By sailing along ancient maritime routes using traditional navigational techniques, the project seeks to gain insights into the historical interactions across the Indian Ocean, which facilitated the flow of Indian culture, knowledge systems, traditions, technologies, and ideas.

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The significance of the stitched ship project extends beyond its construction. It **aims to revive the maritime memory and instill a sense of pride in India's rich maritime heritage** among its citizens.

Additionally, it aims to promote cultural memories among the Indian Ocean littoral countries. Thorough documentation and cataloging of the project will ensure that valuable information is preserved for future reference.

This project **not only represents a unique boat-building endeavor but also serves as a testament to India's diverse cultural heritage and ancient seafaring traditions.**