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Revival of Monpa Handmade Paper

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Why in News

Recently, **the Monpa Handmade Paper** (1000-year old heritage art) of Arunachal Pradesh has been revived by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**.



Key Points

- **About Monpa Handmade Paper:**
 - The fine-textured handmade paper, which is called **Mon Shugu** in the local dialect, is **integral to the vibrant culture** of the local tribes in Tawang.
 - The paper has great historic and religious significance as it is the paper **used for writing Buddhist scriptures and hymns in monasteries.**
 - The **Monpa handmade paper** is made from the **bark of a local tree called Shugu Sheng**, which has medicinal values too.
- **Monpa Handmade Paper Industry:**
 - The art of making **Monpa handmade paper** originated over **1000 years ago**. Gradually the art became an **integral part of local custom and culture** in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - Once produced in every household in Tawang, this **handmade paper was a major source of livelihood for the locals.**
 - The handmade paper industry almost disappeared in the last 100 years.
- **Revival Program:**
 - An **attempt** for the revival of this handmade paper industry was made **in 1994** but **failed.**
 - KVIC commissioned a Monpa handmade paper making unit in Tawang which not only aimed at reviving the art but also **engaging the local youths with this art professionally and earn.**
 - The revival is aligned with the Prime Ministers Mantra of **Vocal for Local.**
- **Future Programs:**
 - Tawang is also known for **two other local** crafts:
 - **Handmade pottery**
 - **Handmade furniture**
 - KVIC announced that within six months **plans will be rolled out for revival of these two local arts.**
 - Revival of **handmade pottery** will be taken up on priority under **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana** very soon.
 - **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana (KSY):** It was launched in 2018 to strengthen and improve the living of potters in the country by making them self reliant.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- KVIC is a statutory body established under the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.**
- The KVIC is charged with the **planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries** in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.**

Source: PIB