Engineer’s Day

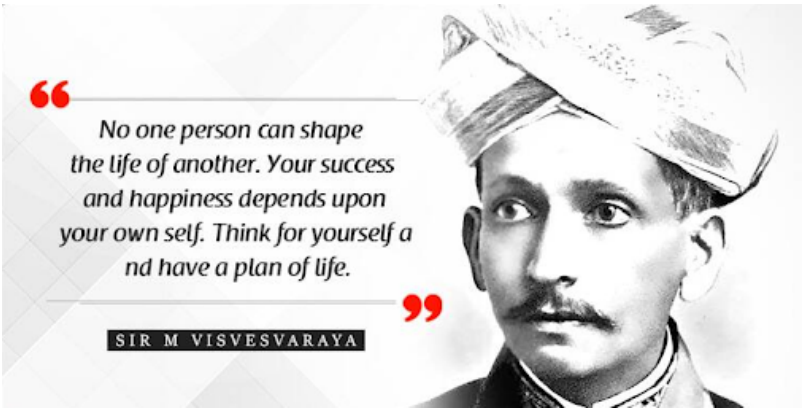
Why in News

Every year on **15th September,** India along with Sri Lanka and Tanzania celebrate National Engineer’s day to recognise and honour the **achievements of the great engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.**

- The day is observed to **commemorate the great work of engineers** and to encourage them for improvement and innovation.
- It is different from the **World Engineers’ Day** celebrated annually by **UNESCO** on 4th March.

Key Points

- **About Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya:**



  - Born in Karnataka in **1861,** he studied Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the University of Mysore and then **studied civil engineering from the College of Science in Pune** and went on to become one of the most eminent engineers in the country.
  - He was an **engineering pioneer of India** whose genius **reflected in harnessing of water resources and building and consolidation of dams** across the country.
  - His work was becoming so popular that the **Government of India sent him to Aden (Yemen)** to study water supply and drainage systems **in 1906-07.**
    He designed a project based on his study which was implemented in Aden.
  - He served as the **Chief Engineer of Mysore State in 1909** and as the **Diwan of the princely state of Mysore in 1912,** a position he held for seven years.
    As the Diwan, he made an immense contribution towards the overall development of the state.
  - He was **knighted as a Knight Commander** of the British Indian Empire by King George V for his contributions to the public good in **1915.**
  - He was an Engineer who had **planned the Indian Economy in 1934.**
  - He was awarded an Honorary Membership of **London Institution of Civil Engineers** for an unbroken 50 years.
  - He was conferred India's highest honour, the **Bharat Ratna in 1955.**
  - He **died in 1962 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- **Books Written by him:**
  'Reconstructing India' and **'Planned Economy of India'.**

- **Major Contributions:** During the course of his professional life, he has contributed a lot towards society by being part of several notable construction projects in **Mysore, Hyderabad, Odisha** and **Maharashtra.**
    - He was the **chief engineer responsible for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam** in Mysore.
        This work of his was instrumental in converting the barren lands into fertile grounds for farming.
    - He was instrumental in designing and patenting a system of **automatic weir floodgates** in Khadakwasla reservoir in Pune in 1903.
    - After the devastating floods (Musi River) in Hyderabad in 1908, he designed a **drainage system** to protect the city from these floods in the future.
    - He is the one who **designed a plan for road construction between Tirumala & Tirupati.**
    - He played a key role in developing a system to **protect Visakhapatnam port from sea erosion.**
    - He also commissioned several new **Railway lines in Mysore state.**
    - He had designed and carried out the **waterworks for the Municipality of Sukkur in 1895.**
    - He is also **credited with the development of the Block System** which would prevent the wasteful flow of water in dams.
    - He was **responsible for founding** the Mysore soap factory, the Mysore Iron & steel works (Bhadravathi), Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic Institute, The Bangalore Agricultural University, and the State Bank of Mysore.

Source: IE