<u>Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav</u> <u>Inaugurated</u>

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[GS Paper 1 - Diversity of India, Indian Art forms]

The 12th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 was inaugurated at Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh.

The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was inaugurated under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Key Highlights

- It is a celebration of India's diverse cultural heritage and is an event from 26thMarch to 3rd April taking place in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The 1st leg of RSM 2022 was inaugurated in Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh.
- The 2nd leg will be inaugurated in Warangal, Telangana on the 29th of March while the 3rd leg will be inaugurated in Hyderabad from 1st to 3rd April 2022.

Significance

• It has been playing a pivotal role to take the vibrant culture of India out to the masses instead of confining it to auditoria and galleries.

- It has been instrumental in showcasing folk and tribal art, dance, music, cuisines & culture of one state in other states reinforcing the cherished goal of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".
- It also provides an effective platform to the artists and artisans to support their livelihood and reconnects the people (especially the youth) with their indigenous culture, its multifaceted nature, magnificence, and historical importance in the context of 'India as a Nation' over the millennia.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav - a note:

- It was first held in 2015 and after the first event itself, it gained numerous positive responses and hence it was organized every year.
- It is the flagship festival of the Ministry of Culture and receives active participation from Seven Zonal Culture Centres.
- The aim is to promote and showcase the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the country in varied forms of folk paintings, handicrafts, sculpture, classical dance, music,etc. with the cherished slogan of " Ek Bharath Shreshtha Bharath".
- It proves to be a giant platform for the art and artists to showcase their talents and presenting states.

About 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'

- It was launched in 2015 to promote engagement amongst the people of different States/UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education. Every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT for a time period, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc