The Vice President called on the government and civil society to work hand-in-hand to preserve India’s rich cultural heritage

**Context:**

The Vice President was addressing the gathering after inaugurating and dedicating to the nation ‘Shyamoli’.

**Details:**

- The Vice President emphasised on our duty and responsibility to protect every single monument and every single art form and pass it on to posterity so that they grow up in complete comprehension of India’s glorious history.
- He cautioned that we simply must not let our architectural gems lie buried under the weight of neglect and inertia.
- He applauded the Archaeological Survey of India for the great restoration work of Shyamoli carried out by them.

**Shyamoli:**

- ‘Shyamoli’ is an experimental mud-house built at Santiniketan in 1935.
- It is the heritage house of Rabindranath Tagore that house has been recently renovated by the Archaeological Survey of India as a deposit work and is a property of Visva-Bharati at present.
- Rabindranath, out of a traumatic and claustrophobic childhood-experience of his own education at school within the boundaries of four walls, set up a school for children at Santiniketan in 1901.
- He then built 5 new houses at the Northern corner of the Santiniketan ashram which is now known as Uttarayana and named them Konark, Udayan, Shyamali, Punascha and Udichi.
- History says that Shri. Rabindranath Tagore stayed in these houses at various points of time and took special interest in the planning of the houses according to his requirements.
- He hoped that Shyamali would encourage poverty-stricken families of rural Bengal to have earthen roofs instead of thatched roofs prone to be destroyed in fire. Large and empty earthen vessels were intentionally placed inside the thick mud walls and roof of one of the rooms of Shyamali for the purpose of introducing a natural cooling system.
- Rabindranath immortalised this house by publishing a book of Poems entitled ‘Shyamali’ in 1936.