

Anti-defection Law (ADL)

- ✓ The Tenth Schedule also known as Anti-defection Law, was inserted in the Constitution in 1985, by the 52nd Amendment Act.
- ✓ It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.
- ✓ It seeks to provide a stable government by ensuring the legislators do not switch sides. It seeks to prevent such political defections which may be due to reward of office or other similar considerations.
- ✓ The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.
- ✓ Disqualification under ADL
- ✓ Members: There are two grounds on which a member of a legislature can be disqualified:
- ✓ If the member voluntarily gives up the membership of the party, he shall be disqualified. Voluntarily giving up the membership is not the same as resigning from a party.
- ✓ Even without resigning, a legislator can be disqualified if by his conduct the Speaker/Chairman of the concerned House draws a reasonable inference that the member has voluntarily given up the membership of his party.
- ✓ If a legislator votes in the House against the direction of his party and his action is not condoned by his party, he can be disqualified.
- ✓ Independent Members: He becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.
- ✓ Nominated Members: If he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.
- ✓ Exceptions under the law: Legislators may change their party without the risk of disqualification in certain circumstances:
- ✓ If there is a merger between two political parties and two-thirds of the members of a legislature party agree to the merger, they will not be disqualified.
- ✓ If a person is elected as the speaker of Lok Sabha or the Chairman of Rajya Sabha then he could resign from his party, and re-join the party once he demits that post.

WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2020

- ✓ Recently, eighth edition of World Happiness Report released by
- ✓ Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Findings of the report
- ✓ Finland topped the report as happiest country amongst 156 nations surveyed.
- ✓ India dropped to rank 144 from previously at 140 and
- ✓ became new entrant to the bottom-fifteen group.
- ✓ India ranked lower than neighbours Nepal at 92, Pakistan at 66, Bangladesh at 107 and Sri Lanka at 130.
- ✓ According to the index, the urban-rural difference in India
- ✓ was high and peri-urban population was happier than urban population.
- ✓ The happiness study ranks the countries of the world on the basis of questions from the Gallup World Poll. The results are then correlated with other factors, including GDP and social security.

INDIA'S SOFT POWER

Recently, India has ranked 27th, in the Global Soft-Power Index 2020

ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) declared the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
- ✓ National Chambal Sanctuary
- ✓ National Chambal Sanctuary, also known as National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary, was declared a national sanctuary in 1979 and sits across three states: Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- ✓ It was formed to protect the Chambal river eco-system. It is home to naturally living population of 75% of gharial. The sanctuary also harbours national aquatic animal - the freshwater Gangetic dolphins, 9 species of freshwater turtles and more the 290 species of migratory birds.
- ✓ National Chambal Sanctuary is the first and only tri-state riverine protected area in India for breeding population of Gharial.
- ✓ About Gharial
- ✓ Native Extant (resident): Bangladesh; India; Nepal
- ✓ Threats: Habitat destruction due to Dam, barrages, Sand mining and water abstraction, entanglement in fishing nets, Egg harvesting for subsistence food use by riparian residents
- ✓ Conservation Status: Listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as Critically Endangered on IUCN Red List.

PM Van Dhan Yojana

- ✓ Launched in 2018, the scheme is implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department and
- ✓ TRIFED as Nodal Agency at central level.
- ✓ Under this, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras will be established, to provide skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.
- ✓ Van Dhan Vikas Kendras form a cluster of 10 Self Help Groups comprising of 30 tribal Minor Forest Produce gatherers each.
- ✓ It seeks to create processing facilities at primary, secondary and tertiary level, involving big corporates under
- ✓ PPP model.
- ✓ First model Van Dhan Vikas Kendra was set up in Bijapur District of Chattisgarh. A total 799 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra in the 24 states have been opened since the launch.

Indian Systems of Medicine

India has recognized **six systems of medicine viz. Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy.**

➤ Ayurveda

- As per the fundamental basis of Ayurveda, **all objects and living bodies are composed of five basic elements, called the Pancha Mahabhootas**, namely: Prithvi (earth), Jal (water), Agni (fire), Vayu (air) and Akash (ether).
- The treatment approach in the Ayurveda system is holistic and individualized having preventive (Svasth- Vritta), curative Aushadhi (drugs), Ahara (diet) and Vihara (life style), mitigative, recuperative (Rasayana) and rehabilitative aspects.

➤ Unani

- **Originating in Greece (Yunan)**, it was introduced in India by the Arabs and Persians around the eleventh century.

- Unani system of medicine **described four mode of treatment viz.**, Ilaj-bil-Tadbir (Regimenal Therapy), Ilaj- bil-Ghidha (Dietotherapy), Ilaj-bilDawa (Pharmacotherapy) and Ilaj-bil-Yad (Surgery).
- **Siddha**
 - The Siddha System of medicine in India having **its close relation with Dravidian culture.**
 - The term Siddha means achievements and Siddhars are those who have achieved perfection in medicine.
 - **Eighteen Siddhars are said to have contributed towards the systematic development of this system** and recorded their experiences in Tamil language.
- **Yoga**
 - It is primarily a way of life, first **propounded by Maharshi Patanjali in systematic form Yogsutra.** The discipline of Yoga consists of eight components namely, restraint (Yama), observance of austerity (Niyama), physical postures (Asana), breathing control (Pranayam), restraining of sense organs (Pratyahar), contemplation (Dharna), meditation (Dhyan) and Deep meditation (Samadhi).
 - The United Nations General Assembly had declared **June 21st as the International Yoga Day on December 11, 2014.**
- **Naturopathy:**
 - Naturopathy is a **cost effective drugless, non-invasive therapy** involving the use of natural materials for health care and healthy living.
 - It is based on the theories **of vitality, boosting the self healing capacity of the body and the principles of healthy living.**
 - Naturopathy promotes healing by stimulating the body's inherent power to regain health with the help of
 - five elements of nature – Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Ether.
- **Homoeopathy:**
 - "Homoeopathy" was introduced as a scientific system of drug **therapeutics by a German Physician, Dr. Christian Frederick Samuel Hahnemann in 1805.**
 - **Hahnemann postulated** the key principle of Homoeopathy, the **Law of Similars**, logically evolving it **as an experimental science**, according to the method of inductive reasoning after exact observation, correct interpretation, rational explanation and scientific construction

SUN SPOT CYCLE

- Researchers from IISER Kolkata identified Sunspots that herald the start of a new Sun Spot cycle. What are Sun Spots?
- Sunspots are areas that appear dark on the surface of the Sun and are cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface.
- They form at areas where magnetic fields are so strong that they keep some of the heat within the Sun from reaching the surface.
- What is Sun Spot cycle?
- Sun Spot's number waxes and wanes as the amount of magnetic flux that rises up to the Sun's surface varies with time in a cycle called the solar cycle. This cycle which lasts 11 years on average is referred to as the sunspot cycle.
- So far, astronomers have documented 24 such cycles, the last one ended in 2019. Recent observations point to the signs that 25th cycle has just begun.
- Solar activities affect space weather, which can have an impact on space-based satellites, GPS, power grids and so on.
- Sunspot Cycle was discovered in 1843 by German astronomer Samuel Heinrich Schwabe.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR

- ✓ Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was mentioned in TIME magazine's list of the 100 most powerful women who defined the last century.
- ✓ About Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Early Life
- ✓ Amrit Kaur was born in 1889, to the royal family of Kapurthala.
- ✓ She was educated in Oxford and returned to India in 1918, and began to be drawn towards the work and teachings of MK Gandhi.
- ✓ Involvement in Social work
- ✓ She was a champion to the cause of women's rights and worked towards eradication of the purdah system, child marriage, child illiteracy, and the devadasi system.
- ✓ In 1927, she helped in founding All India Woman's Conference along with Margaret Cousins.
- ✓ She also founded the Delhi Women's League (the Delhi branch of AIWC) alongwith Rameshwari Nehru.
- ✓ Participation in India's Freedom Struggle
- ✓ She took an active part in the salt campaign and was arrested for her participation in the Dandi March.
- ✓ She became a secretary to Mahatma Gandhi in 1930, serving him for 16 years, and moved to Gandhiji's
- ✓ ashram in 1934.
- ✓ She condemned the Communal Award and moved a resolution against it at the All India Women's Conference held in 1932.
- ✓ She was appointed a member of the Advisory Board of Education by the British government but resigned in 1942 in support of the Quit India Movement
- ✓ Contribution to Constitution Making
- ✓ She was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Central Provinces and Berar and was one of the 15 women Constituent Assembly Members.
- ✓ Achievements post-Independence
- ✓ She was the only woman in the Independent India's first Cabinet, thus becoming the first woman to hold a cabinet rank in free India.
- ✓ She was appointed as the Health Minister and remained in that position for 10 years.

CHAPCHAR KUT

- ✓ Recently Chapchar Kut, festival of Mizos, was celebrated across Mizoram. About Chapchar Kut
- ✓ Chapchar Kut is a festival held during the period when the bamboos and trees that have been cut down are being awaited to dry to be burnt for jhumming.
- ✓ Jhum cultivation, also known as the slash and burn agriculture, is the process of growing crops by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.
- ✓ Different tribes of Mizoram come together on a common ground to showcase their dance or musical talent during this festival.
- ✓ One of the greatest highlights of Chapchar Kut is the performance of various folk dances of Mizoram, like:
- ✓ Cheraw, the popular bamboo dance, which features men tapping the bamboo sticks according to the rhythm of the dance and women adjust their dance with moving sticks.
- ✓ Khuallam which is an auspicious dance performed by a group of dancers celebrating new beginnings. It is also a welcome dance for guests during community festivities.
- ✓ Chheihlam which is another community dance performed by both men and women.
- ✓ Solakia which is a war dance performed by both male and female members of the community. It is accompanied by rhythmic beating of the drums.

Freedom In the world Report

- ✓ In the Freedom in the World 2020 report India was ranked at the 83rd position among 195 countries along with Timor-Leste and Senegal.
- ✓ India was near bottom among the countries categorized as “Free”, with only Tunisia receiving a lower score.
- ✓ India’s score saw the worst decline among the world’s 25 largest democracies this year.
- ✓ India scored 34 out of 40 points in the political rights category, 37 out of 60 in the civil liberties category.
- ✓ The report is released by Freedom House, U.S.- based non-governmental organization.

SVALBARD SEED VAULT

- ✓ It is located at the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen in the Arctic Svalbard archipelago.
- ✓ The hope for this cold storage facility is that, if there is a global emergency, like a nuclear war, a pandemic or a natural catastrophe that leaves future generations without food supplies, these seeds could grow new food crops.
- ✓ For this reason, this seed bank is often referred to
- ✓ as the ‘Doomsday Seed Bank’.
- ✓ It represents the world’s largest collection of crop diversity.

Gormati Art

- ✓ On the occasion of Women’s Day, Vijaya Pawar from rural Maharashtra got a chance to promote Gormati art through PM’s social media accounts.
- ✓ Gormati art belongs to the handicrafts of the
- ✓ Banjara community of rural Maharashtra.
- ✓ Banjaras are basically nomadic tribes involved in trade.
- ✓ The word ‘banjara’ is derived from vanaj meaning to trade, and jara meaning to travel.
- ✓ In India they reside in various parts including states like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu Bihar, Uttarakhand etc.

NAVROZ

- ✓ Recently, Navroz festival was celebrated by the Parsi community in India.
- ✓ Navroz (‘New Day’) is the Parsi New Year, Iranian New Year or the Persian New Year.
- ✓ It is a holy festival for the Zoroastrians and is also celebrated among some Muslim and Iranian communities.
- ✓ It marks the first day of spring, and it usually takes place on March 21.
- ✓ It is celebrated among the Parsi community by conducting spring cleaning (known as Pateti) a day before Navroz, dressing up in their traditional attire, decorating their homes with lights and rangoli and preparing traditional Parsi dishes.
- ✓ Parsis also visit the Agiary or the Fire Temple and offer fruits, sandalwood, milk and flowers to the fire on this auspicious day.