

HAS THE ANTI-DEFECTION LAW FAILED IN INDIA?

In News:

- Maharashtra is in the throes of a constitutional crisis. All indications are that there is a planned mass defection underway.

Anti-Defection Law

- The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution is commonly known as the anti-defection law.
- It was introduced in 1985 with a view to curb the tendency among legislators to switch loyalties from one party to another and facilitate the toppling of regimes and formation of new ones.
- The law provides for the **Presiding Officer** of the legislature to disqualify any defector on a petition by another member.

Key features of the law

- The law contemplates two kinds of defection:
 - by a member voluntarily giving up membership of the party on whose symbol he got elected
 - by a member violating a direction (whip) issued by his party to vote in a particular way or to abstain from voting.
- On both the instances, the legislator shall be disqualified as per the law.

Exemptions

- As per the law, a member of a House shall not be disqualified if “his original political party merges with another political party.
- This merger, in turn, only holds if, and only if, not less than two-thirds of the members of the legislature party concerned have agreed to such merger.
 - Hence, if two-thirds of the MLAs/MPs agree to defy the party leadership, they legally can. The Anti-Defection Law will not apply to them.

Defection law: source of dispute and litigation

- While voting contrary to the party’s whip is quite a straightforward instance of defection, the other mode of defection has proved to be a source of dispute and litigation.
- A member voluntarily giving up membership does not refer to a simple resignation letter and formally joining another party.

- It is often an inference drawn by the party that loses a member to another based on the legislator's conduct.
- The Supreme Court has also ruled that 'voluntarily giving up membership' can be inferred from the conduct of a person.
 - g., an MLA or MP attending public rallies for a rival party could be held to have "voluntarily given up his membership" and be charged with defection.

SC rulings on this law

• **Anti-defection law proceedings under judicial review**

- In 1992, a five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court said that the anti-defection law proceedings before the speaker are akin to a tribunal.
- Hence, it can be placed under judicial review.

• **Ravi Naik vs. UoI case (1994)**

- The Supreme Court, in Ravi Naik vs. UoI case (1994), has interpreted the phrase 'voluntarily gives up his membership'. It says: "The words 'voluntarily gives up his membership' are not synonymous with 'resignation' and have a wider connotation.
- Even in absence of a formal resignation from membership, an inference can be drawn from the conduct of a member that he has voluntarily given up his membership of the political party to which he belongs.
- The act of giving a letter requesting the Governor to call upon the leader of the other side to form a Government itself would amount to an act of voluntarily giving up membership of the party on whose ticket the said members had got elected. This was again reiterated by Supreme Court in Rajendra Singh Rana vs. Swami Prasad Maurya case of 2007.
- Even after expulsion from the party, an MP must abide by the party whip to prevent disqualification from the house.

• **Balchandra L. Jarkiholi Vs. B.S. Yeddyurappa 2010**

- The Supreme Court in 2010 Karnataka case made it clear that independent MLAs joining the Ministry in a coalition govt., without joining the ruling party, will not sacrifice their independent identity. Hence joining Council of Ministers doesn't point to such eventuality.

• **SC highlights taking away disqualification power from Speakers**

- In January 2020, the Supreme Court asked Parliament to amend the Constitution to strip Legislative Assembly Speakers of their exclusive power to decide whether legislators should be disqualified or not under the anti-defection law.
 - This was the second time the court has highlighted the issue of taking away the disqualification power under the Tenth Schedule from Speakers.
 - **SC removed Manipur minister**
 - In March 2020, the Supreme Court removed Manipur minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar Singh from the state cabinet and restrained him from entering the legislative assembly till further orders.
 - Disqualification petitions against the said minister were pending before the speaker since 2017.
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PM HEADS TO GERMANY FOR G-7 SUMMIT

In News:

- Prime Minister Modi left for Germany to attend the G7 Summit. This year's G7 Summit will be held under the German Presidency on 26-27 June 2022.

In Focus: G7

Origin

- The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.
- In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.
- These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany (West), Japan and Italy.
- These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.

Current Members

- US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan are the current members of this group.
- It can be said that the members of this group are the most developed and the advanced economies of the world.
- The European Union is also represented within the G7.
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Purpose of G7



- To determine the course of multilateral discourse
- To shape political responses to global challenges.
- Basically, G7 provides a platform to discuss and coordinate solutions to major global issues, especially in the areas of trade, security, economics, and climate change.

Significance:

- **Economic Significance**

- As of 2018, the G7 nations account for:
 - close to 60 percent of global net wealth (\$317 trillion),
 - 46 percent of global gross domestic product, and
 - about 770 million people or 10 percent of the world's population.

- **Political Significance**

- Political heavyweights are capable of shaping the response of Multilateral challenges.
- In 1999, it created the Financial Stability Forum in order to manage the international monetary system

- **G7 & COVID-19 Pandemic**

- 47th G7 summit (held in June 2021) focused on the recovery from ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- It promised to distribute 1 billion vaccines to poorer countries
- Its theme was Global Action to Build Back Better.

- **Developmental Significance**

- G-7 provided \$300 million in 1997 to help build the containment of the reactor meltdown at Chernobyl.
- G7 played crucial role in setting up a global fund to fight malaria and Aids in 2002.
- In October 2020, G7 finance ministers backed an extension of a G20 bilateral debt relief initiative for the world's poorest countries.
 - It is also known as Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).
 - It means that bilateral official creditors are, during a limited period, suspending debt service payments from the poorest countries that request the suspension.

Power of G7

- The G7 is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office. The agenda of G7 is set by the presiding nation.
- It cannot pass any laws because it is made up of separate nations with their own democratic processes.
- However, decisions taken by G7 have global effects as the member countries are political and economic heavyweights.

G7 & G8

- In 1998, Russia was formally inducted in the group, which transformed G7 into G8.
- However, Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. As a result, it was suspended from the grouping.
- Hence, the group became G7 again in 2014.

India's Participation in G-7 so far

- Since 2014, this is the third time the Prime Minister will be participating in a G7 meeting.
 - India had been invited by the G7 French presidency in 2019 to the Biarritz Summit as a "Goodwill Partner".
 - India was also invited at the 47th G7 Summit held under the presidency of UK.
 - The US under President Donald Trump had extended an invitation to India in May 2020.
 - However, due to the pandemic and the US election outcome, that did not happen.
- During Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure, India attended the G8 Summit five times.
 - In March 2014, Russia was indefinitely suspended following the annexation of Crimea, reducing G8 to G7.

News Summary

- PM Modi will be visiting Schloss Elmau, Germany for the 48th G7 Summit under the German Presidency.

Key Highlights:

- **Theme**
 - Theme of this year's G7 summit is - Progress towards an equitable world
- **Five major goals of current G 7 Summit**
 - Strong alliances for a sustainable planet
 - Setting the course for economic stability and transformation

- Enhanced preparedness for healthy lives
 - Sustainable investments in better future
 - Stronger together
 - **Other countries invited**
 - Besides India, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit.
 - This is to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity.
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ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD (ONORC)

Assam has become the 36th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).



About:

- With this, the ONORC plan is successfully implemented in all the 36 states/UTs, making food security portable throughout the country.
 - It was initiated in August 2019. During the last two years of COVID-19 pandemic, ONORC plan has significantly contributed in ensuring subsidized foodgrains to NFSA (National Food Security Act) beneficiaries, especially migrant beneficiaries.
 - The objective of this program is to empower all NFSA beneficiaries to become AtmaNirbhar for their food security anywhere in the country, through portability of their existing ration cards enabling them to seamlessly lift their entitled subsidized foodgrains (in part or full) from any Fair Price Shop of their choice.
 - Another dimension under ONORC plan is the 'MERA RATION' mobile application which has been rolled out to take maximum advantage of the ONORC plan. The mobile app is providing a host of useful real time information to the beneficiaries and is available in 13 languages.
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PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION FOR PROMOTION OF YOGA

The Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion of Yoga has been announced for the year 2021.



About:

- Bhikkhu Sanghasena from Ladakh, Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues from Brazil and two organisations, The Divine Life Society from Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga from United Kingdom have been chosen for the award.
- Ayush Ministry said, the winners will be felicitated with a trophy, certificate and cash award of 25 lakh rupees.
- The award was first announced by the Prime Minister Modi on the occasion of the second International Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh in 2016.

‘SVADHA’- WELLNESS WEAR COLLECTION IN KHADI

Keeping in view the core ideology of Yoga, the design team at Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) has designed a range of ‘Wellness wear’ ‘Svadha’ to showcase the versatility of khadi on International Yoga Day.



About:

- In Atharva veda, ‘Svadha’ means ease, comfort or pleasure, which are truly the attributes of this collection.
- The wellness clothing ‘Svadha’ range emphasizes the values of mindfulness and perseverance and is aimed to attract all age groups from Gen Z to young at heart. The wellness wear has used hand-spun khadi in natural hues.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- Center of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) has been set up by KVIC, Ministry of MSME at NIFT, with the objective to help Khadi Institutions (KIs) to effectively design, produce and market high quality differentiated khadi products in the Indian and global market.
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