

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND  
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

9<sup>th</sup> March - 14<sup>th</sup> March



## 1. Namda Traditional Art

### Why in News?

Recently the **Nari Shakti Puraskar** was awarded to Arifa Jan for reviving the Kashmiri traditional art **Namda**.

### Key Points

- Namda is a local term used for traditional felted wool floor coverings, handcrafted out of a coarse variety of wool.
- Namda comes from the root word Namata - Sanskrit for woollen.
- Namda making is practised as a craft in several cultures, especially in the countries throughout Asia - Iran, Afghanistan and India.
  - Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir and Tonk in Rajasthan are the two major namda making centres in India.
- In India, it is known to have come from Iran and was actively promoted in the state under the patronage of the Mughal monarchs and the Rajput royals.
- Unique rich themes and floral patterns are the essence of its designs.

## 2. Banjara Community

- Banjara is a nomadic tribe of India.
- The word Banjara is derived from the Sanskrit word vana chara (wanderers in jungle).
- Banjaras live in several states and are known by different names like
  - Lambada or Lambadi in Andhra Pradesh
  - Lambani in Karnataka
  - Gwar or Gwaraiya in Rajasthan
- Classification:
  - Scheduled Tribe in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand and Orissa
  - Other Backward Class in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan
  - Scheduled Caste in Karnataka, Delhi and Punjab.
- The language of Banjara is known as “Gorboli” “Gor mati Boli” or “Brinjari” an independent dialect.
  - The dialect falls in the category of Indo-Aryan language.
  - It is either written in Devnagri script or in the script of the local language such as Telugu or Kannada.
- Fire dance and Chari dance are the traditional dance forms of the Banjaras.

## 3. Warli Tribe

- The Warlis or Varlis are an indigenous tribe or Adivasis.

- They spread across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Goa and the Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- The Warlis speak an unwritten Varli language which belongs to the southern zone of the Indo-Aryan languages.
- They are small-scale cultivators and cultivate rice, pulses and vegetables.
  - They also sell toddy, mahua and fuelwood to their tribesmen and neighbouring communities for a living.
- Warlis are nature worshippers.
- Warli art stems from their belief system shaped by their centuries-old subsistence on forest land.
- They did not have a written word until recent times and their art was a way of transmitting their belief systems from one generation to the next.
- Their drawings revolve around community traditions, the tools they use and their association with nature.

#### 4. **Attukal Pongala**

##### **Why in News?**

- The annual “Attukal Pongala”, one of the largest all-women religious congregations began at Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

##### **Attukal Pongala**

- The ten-day- long celebration begins in the Malayalam month of Makaram-Kumbham (Feb - March).
- The festival commences with the musical rendering of the story of the Goddess (Kannaki Charitam) during the "Kappu Kettu ceremony".
- The story invokes the presence of Kodungallur Bhagavathy and the slaying of the Pandyan King.
- Pongala ceremony is on the auspicious day of Pooram star which coincides with full moon.
  - Pongala, which means 'to boil over', is the ritual in which women prepare sweet payasam (a pudding made from rice, jaggery, coconut and plantains cooked together) and offer it to the Goddess or 'Bhagavathy'.

##### **Attukal Bhagavathy temple**

- This temple is dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathy.
- Attukal temple is also called 'women's Sabarimala' as only women perform the ritual.
- The temple is built with elements of Kerala architectural style and Tamil architectural style as well.
- The main building comprises Goddess Kali, Goddess Parvathy, Lord Shiva, Goddess Sri Rajarajeswari.