This series provides compilation of daily CURRENT AFFAIRS of Anthropology. It is aimed at addressing the requirement of aspirants to add contemporary aspects of the subject to the answers. It also helps in understanding the trends of anthropology across India and the world.

**NOTE:** Please attempt the questions given at the end of the document and can upload on the [telegram channel: Sosin for Anthropology Q&A](https://t.me/SosinforAnthropologyQandA), for peer review.
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Note - For convenience, the respective reference links have been dropped at the end of every topic.
A) 1. Evolution
Terms to understand:

**Evolution** - Evolution is change in the heritable characteristics of biological populations over successive generations.

These characteristics are the expressions of genes that are passed on from parent to offspring during reproduction.

**Genes** - Basic unit of heredity.

**Alleles** - Different versions of the same gene.

Evolution occurs when the proportion of these alleles in the population changes over multiple generations.

**Highlights:**
- Alleles in a population often help certain individuals survive in their own environment. This means that evolution isn’t about becoming the fastest, or the strongest, or the smartest, because it all depends on the environment.
- Two of the most important and consequential evolved traits are walking on two legs and having a large brain.
- Walking on two legs probably helped our ancestors to move between forest patches that were shrinking due to a changing climate.
- Relative to the size of our bodies, humans have the largest brains on the planet. That explains the high cognitive ability.

Reference: [https://www.google.co.in/amp/s/theconversation.com/amp/how-did-humans-evolve-and-will-we-evolve-more-156715](https://www.google.co.in/amp/s/theconversation.com/amp/how-did-humans-evolve-and-will-we-evolve-more-156715)
2. Stone Age Ancestors
Were stone-age humans specialized carnivores or were they generalist omnivores? The following instances and explanations help draw the necessary conclusion.

- Producing and maintaining strong acidity require large amounts of energy, and its existence is evidence for consuming animal products. Strong acidity provides protection from harmful bacteria found in meat, and prehistoric humans, hunting large animals whose meat sufficed for days or even weeks, often consumed old meat containing large quantities of bacteria, and thus needed to maintain a high level of acidity.

- Another indication of being predators is the structure of the fat cells in our bodies. In the bodies of omnivores, fat is stored in a relatively small number of large fat cells, while in predators, including humans, it's the other way around: we have a much larger number of smaller fat cells. Significant evidence for the evolution of humans as predators has also been found in our genome. For example, geneticists have concluded that "areas of the human genome were closed off to enable a fat-rich diet, while in chimpanzees, areas of the genome were opened to enable a sugar-rich diet."

- Evidence from human biology was supplemented by archaeological evidence. For instance, research on stable isotopes in the bones of prehistoric humans, as well as hunting practices unique to humans, show that humans specialized in hunting large and medium-sized animals with high fat content.

- The remains of large animals found in countless archaeological sites are the result of humans' high expertise as hunters of large animals.

Thus, the claim that humans were apex predators throughout most of their development may provide a broad basis for fundamental insights on the biological and cultural evolution of humans.

Reference: [https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210405113606.htm](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210405113606.htm)

B) 1. Structural Racism

Definition: Structural Racism in the U.S. is the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. It is a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy – the preferential treatment, privilege and power for white people at the expense of Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab and other racially oppressed people.

Scope: Structural Racism encompasses the entire system of white supremacy, diffused and infused in all aspects of society, including our history, culture, politics, economics and our entire social fabric.
Structural Racism is the most profound and pervasive form of racism – all other forms of racism (e.g. institutional, interpersonal, internalized, etc.) emerge from structural racism.

Indicators/Manifestations: The key indicators of structural racism are inequalities in power, access, opportunities, treatment, and policy impacts and outcomes, whether they are intentional or not. Structural racism is more difficult to locate in a particular institution because it involves the reinforcing effects of multiple institutions and cultural norms, past and present, continually producing new, and reproducing old forms of racism.


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**UPSC Previous year questions based on today’s concept:**

1. Basic tenets of structural functionalism (10 Marks - 2017; Paper 1; Chapter 6)
2. Categorize genes that influence human survival (10 Marks - 2018)

**DAILY PRACTICE QUESTION/S FOR MAINS 2021.**

Pl do not forget to upload your answer sheet for a peer review on the telegram channel: Sosin for Anthropology Q&A

1. Structural Racism (10 marks)
2. Factors influencing biological and cultural evolution. (15 marks)