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**, for peer review.
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Note - For convenience, the respective reference links have been dropped at the end of every topic.
A) TRIBAL AFFAIRS

1. ‘Anamaya’ - Tribal Health Collaborative

Context:
Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare along with Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has launched ‘Anamaya’, the Tribal Health Collaborative

Aim:
- To build a sustainable, high-performing health ecosystem to address the key health challenges faced by the tribal population of India.

Highlights:
- It is an initiative bringing together governments, philanthropists, national and international foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to end all preventable deaths among the tribal communities of India.
- It will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities of India.


2. Exhaustive survey on tribal habitations

Context: Governor of Telangana, Tamilisai Soundararajan has emphasised on the need to conduct an exhaustive survey to identify the community, family and individual based needs of primitive tribal habitations in the State.

Highlights:
- Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has emphasised on the need to conduct an exhaustive survey to identify the community, family and individual based needs of primitive tribal habitations in the State.
- The survey would help in taking up individual needs based nutritional interventions, she said, directing officials to come up with other infrastructure and development initiatives necessary in these habitations.


B) BIOLOGICAL/PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

1. A new Genome test shows child’s risk of a disease before they are born

Context: A new genome test is making it possible to quantify risks of disease in a child before it is born.

Highlights:
- The saliva-based genetic test analyzes both partners' DNA and looks for 10 diseases: breast cancer, prostate cancer, heart disease, atrial fibrillation, stroke, type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer's disease.
By evaluating the whole genome of both partners, the test can combine the results to determine their future child's risk profile.

The model of how both partners' DNA are going to recombine in their future child will be made so to derive the risk estimate.

Genetics is complex because there is more than one gene that causes the disease. There are millions of variants that contribute to the risk of major diseases, such as heart disease or schizophrenia.

The main advancement that has happened in genomics in recent years is the ability to measure genetic susceptibility for diseases that have a more complex architecture, which means there are millions of variants that are collectively involved in determining how low or high risk that individual is for developing a disease.


2. Living fossils: Microbe discovered in evolutionary stasis for millions of years

Context:
Research led by Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences has revealed that a group of microbes, which feed off chemical reactions triggered by radioactivity, have been at an evolutionary standstill for millions of years. The discovery could have significant implications for biotechnology applications and scientific understanding of microbial evolution.

Highlights:
- The microbe, Candidatus Desulforudis audaxviator, was first discovered in 2008 by a team of scientists.
- Found in a South African gold mine almost two miles beneath the Earth's surface, the microbes acquire the energy they need from chemical reactions caused by the natural radioactive decay in minerals.
- They inhabit water-filled cavities inside rocks in a completely independent ecosystem, free from reliance on sunlight or any other organisms.
- Using advanced tools that allow scientists to read the genetic blueprints of individual cells, the researchers examined the genomes of 126 microbes obtained from three continents. Surprisingly, they all turned out to be almost identical.
- The microbes did not change much since their physical locations separated during the breakup of supercontinent Pangaea, about 175 million years ago. They appear to be living fossils from those days.
- What this means for the pace of microbial evolution, which often happens at a much more accelerated rate.
Microbial enzymes that create copies of DNA molecules, called DNA polymerases, are widely used in biotechnology. Enzymes with high fidelity, or the ability to recreate themselves with little differences between the copy and the original, are especially valuable.

These findings are a powerful reminder that the various microbial branches we observe on the tree of life may differ vastly in the time since their last common ancestor.

Reference: https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/04/210408131423.htm

UPSC Previous year questions based on today’s concept:
1. Describe how various tribal development programmes and plans have impacted the process of social transformation among tribes (15 marks - 2016)
2. Role of Governor in 5th Schedule Areas (10 marks - 2015)
3. Genetic counselling (Short note - 2002)

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. Human Genome (10 marks)
2. Health and nutritional status of tribes of Deccan region. (20 marks)