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. ‘Sankalp se Siddhi ‘ Drive

Context:
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GOI has launched the 'Sankalp se Siddhi'- Village and Digital Connect drive to transform the tribal ecosystem across the country.
- The main purpose of the drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) located in the tribal villages.
- Earlier in 2021, TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Village and Digital Connect initiative.
- During the course of the initiative, the regional officials of the TRIFED went to the identified villages having a significant tribal population and supervised the implementation of various programmes and initiatives.

Highlights:
- The 'Sankalp se Siddhi'- Village and Digital Connect drive aims at transforming the tribal ecosystem in the country.
- Sankalp se Siddhi is a 100-day drive that will entail 150 teams visiting 10 villages each.
- It is to be noted that 10 teams in each region will be from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/Mentoring Agencies/Partners.
- At least 100 villages in each region and 1,500 villages in the country will be covered in the next 100 days.

Reference:

2. Tribal Clashes in Papua New Guinea

Context:
Police are warning a “all-out war” could erupt in Eastern Highlands province in Papua New Guinea, after 19 people were killed in tribal violence late last week.

Highlights:
- High-powered weapons, as well as a hand grenade, were used in fighting, causing 19 deaths, with many more people unaccounted for, and properties destroyed.
- The fighting, between the Agarabi and Tapo clans, was over a land ownership dispute and broke out just miles outside from Kainantu Town in Eastern Highlands Province.
- Tribal conflicts are a frequent occurrence in Papua New Guinea's highlands, but an influx of automatic weapons has made clashes more deadly and escalated the cycle of violence.
- In 2019, at least 24 people including two pregnant women and their unborn children were killed in Hela province when highland clans clashed apparently over control of local gold deposits in the region's mineral-rich soil.
Reference:


B. ARCHAEOLOGY
1. Labourers stumble on “treasure” in Telangana Village
Context:
Local authorities have taken over a site in Telangana’s Jangaon district after labourers stumbled upon a metal pot containing gold and silver ornaments.

Highlights:
● Pembartthi village, about 5 km away from Janagaon town, is known for metal craft and brassware.
● The copper pot contained 189 gram of gold and 1.2 kg of silver ornaments.
● Though it is estimated to be around 80 to 100 years old, the experts from the state archaeology department have started the examination of the pot and the ornaments. If the property is over 100 years old, it belongs to the government.
● There is no need for any notification then as per the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878. If anyone claims ownership of the property, that should be proved by that person.
● According to the website of the Department of Heritage Telangana (state archaeology department), Sarvay Papa Rayudu of Quilla Shapur was a famous local leader who had revolted against the Golconda rulers and defied the Mughal-imperial authority, with his activities centred around Tatikonda, Shahpur, Golconda, Bhuvanagiri, Warangal, Elgandal and Kaulas, etc.

Reference:

2. Archaeologists discover “Lost Golden City” in Egypt
Context:
Archaeologists unearth ‘ancient Egyptian Pompeii’ near Luxor

Highlights:
● Archaeologists uncovered a large ancient pharaonic city that had lain unseen for centuries near some of Egypt’s best known monuments.
● The city was built more than 3,400 years ago during the opulent reign of Amenhotep III, one of Egypt’s most powerful pharaohs.
● They unearthed the well-preserved city that had almost complete walls and rooms filled with tools of daily life along with rings, scarabs, coloured pottery vessels and mud bricks bearing seals of Amenhotep’s cartouche.

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Reference:

C. BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
1. Predicting effects of Gene Mutations
For Tomato Genes, One Plus One Doesn’t Always Make Two

![Image of tomatoes]

Different combinations of mutations can affect the size of tomatoes unpredictably. In this image, the first column shows an unmutated (WT) tomato. The second and third columns show tomatoes with a single mutation in a region of the promoter (R1 or R4) for fruit size gene SlCV3. The individual mutations have little effect on fruit size. But the combination of these two mutations (R1 + R4) yields a much bigger fruit.

● Both people and tomatoes come in different shapes and sizes. That is because every individual has a unique set of genetic variations — mutations — that affect how genes act and function.

● Added together, millions of small genetic variations make it hard to predict how a particular mutation will impact any individual.

Study Methodology:
● CRISPR, a highly accurate and targeted gene-editing tool, was used on two tomato genes that control fruit size, SICV3 and SIWUS.

● Over 60 tomato mutants were generated by removing little pieces of DNA in the promoter regions, areas near the genes that control their expression.

● In some cases, individual mutations increased the size of the tomatoes by a little bit.
● Some pairs of mutations did not change fruit size at all.
● A few synergistic combinations caused a dramatic, unpredicted increase in fruit size.

This range of interactions for any two mutations models the consequences of a single mutation occurring in different genetic backgrounds. The effect is comparable to those found in some human diseases, where some people might have certain pre-existing mutations that protect them from disease-causing mutations.

Reference:

2. Similar phage communities in human and primate intestines

Highlights:
● The researchers first examined the evolutionary relationships of primate phages with each other.
● They found that for some groups of phages, their relationships mirror the evolutionary history of the primates that harbor them, an observation previously made for the bacterial component of the gut microbiome.
● This pattern, known scientifically as co-divergence, suggests that some phages maintained an association with particular primate strains over millions of years.
● This was possible even though in some cases these primates shared the same ecosystem with other primates with divergent phage communities, and in some cases even consumed them regularly.
● In a next step, the researchers investigated how flexible or permanent the connections between primates and their phage communities are.
● In principle, wild primates have maintained their phage composition over millions of years.
● The research team thus analyzed phages living in primates in zoos. They found that primates in captivity lose the phages they normally harbor in the wild.

Overall, the study provides new insights into the evolutionary and ecological origins of phages associated with humans and opens interesting perspectives for further research.
Reference:

UPSC Previous year questions based on today’s concept:
1. Give an account of the field methods used in the study of archaeological anthropology (15 marks - 2018)
2. What is genetic load and what factors influence it? (30 marks - 2009)

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. TRIFED (10 Marks)
2. Gene mutations (10 Marks)