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. The Tribal Shades Of India

**GOND TRIBE, CHHATTISGARH**

Found in Central India, mostly in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, Gonds are known for their unique lifestyle.

**SANTHAL TRIBE, WEST BENGAL**

The Santhals majorly live in West Bengal’s Bankura and Purulia districts. The main occupation of Santhals is agriculture and livestock.

**APATANI TRIBE, ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

The Apatanis live in the Ziro Valley in the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. This tribe is known for their unique look and bamboo houses.

**KODAVA TRIBE, KARNATAKA**

One of the distinct races in India, the Kodayas are noted for their bravery since ages. These people are quite fond of music and dance.
**KHASI TRIBE, MEGHALAYA**

The ethnical group of Khasi tribes is full of music. These people love playing musical instruments like guitars, flutes and drums.

**IRULA TRIBE, SOUTH INDIA**

Irula people are expert snake and rat catchers. They live in most parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

**BODO TRIBE, ASSAM**

Bodos are also said to be the early settlers of Assam and mostly found in Udalguri and Kokrajhar districts. Bodo culture is quite unique and colourful and their handloom products are amazing.

**BHIL TRIBE, RAJASTHAN**

Bhils can be mostly seen in the Aravalli Ranges of Sirohi in Udaipur. These artsy people are noted for their ghoomar dance.
2. Tribal Extinction

Context:
The Brazilian government is planning to open up the land of uncontacted tribes to deadly exploitation, by scrapping the emergency orders that currently protect their territories.

Highlights:

● Experts say the plan could drive several uncontacted tribes to extinction, and destroy around 1 million hectares of rainforest.

● These tribes are especially vulnerable as their territories are not officially mapped out and protected. Currently the only thing standing between them and well-funded and heavily-armed loggers, ranchers and land-grabbers are the orders.

● Seven territories are currently protected by these orders, most of which have to be renewed every few years. Three of them are due to expire between September and December 2021, and are particularly vulnerable.

● One of these protects the forest home of the last of the Piripkura tribe – after a series of massacres only three members of this tribe are known to exist, though some studies indicate others may still survive in the depths of the forest.

● A recent study by Brazilian NGO ISA showed that 962 hectares of forest in the Piripkura territory were razed last year, the equivalent of more than 1,000 football pitches.

Reference:
Protection Orders are a cutting-edge tool of public policy in Brazil, which can be deployed quickly to safeguard the lives and land rights of uncontacted indigenous peoples. They’re the highest expression of the precautionary principle, provided for in national and international laws. Doing away with them will mean the extermination of indigenous peoples, or some groups of them, without there even being time to recognize their existence in order to guarantee their rights. It will silence little-known lives and impoverish humanity. Therefore, it’s vital to strengthen these instruments, start demarcating these areas and remove all invaders.

Reference:
https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12595

3. Tribal Arts

The heritage of tribal arts and crafts is not a free flowing expression of an individual creativity but an intellectually processed expression accepted by collective beliefs. Tangkhul tribe is one of the largest tribes of Manipur and they have been known for distinct traditions and culture of their own. Tangkhul tribe are living in the Indo-Burma border area occupying the Ukhrul district of Manipur and Somra Tangkhul hills in Upper Burma (Myanmar). It is believed that they came to Manipur from China through Myanmar. According to a Greek astronomer and geographer, the Tangkhuls were believed to be settled in Samshok (Thuangdut) in Myanmar and they began to disperse from Samshok in different directions. According to the elders of the community, the word ‘Tangkhul’ was derived from the Meitei dialect (largest ethnic group of Manipur). Tangkhul is a combination of the words “Tada” and “Khul”. Tada means elder brother and Khul means village. Therefore, Tangkhul means the village of the elder brother.

Tangkhul tribe has a legendary textiles heritage in terms of traditional costumes, colours, specific design and motifs with significance and symbolism. The traditional textiles of the tribe are not only derived from the environmental physiology, but also marked socio-cultural meanings that reveal the societal norms. They reflect age, sex, social status and sacred or profane activities which appear in various contexts.

Both unmarried and married women were engaged in the art of weaving. They made the requirement of their family for everyday use and for ceremonial wear.

Traditionally, it was considered to be one of the basic skills to be learnt by a woman before getting married.

Cotton was the most preferred yarn to weave their fabrics. In earlier times, most of the Tangkhul villages not only wove cotton cloth but also cultivated cotton and spun it into yarn.
B. LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY

1. AI to save Endangered Languages

- Google has devised a new strategy for retaining endangered languages. Google is now providing different cultures the AI resources to require to safeguard their languages.
- Google has come up with an open source photo translation user interface named Woolaroo. It is accessible for PC, Android and IOS users via Google Arts & Culture that uses artificial intelligence and image identification to help conserve languages on the verge of extinction.
- This feature can be used by different communities to extend their vocabulary words in their own contexts. If there is a doubt that certain words are not added in the software, one can actually enlist the word easily along with the pronunciations. This is extremely crucial for languages that lack specific terms to explain advanced concepts such as phones and computers.
- At first, the software allows users to explore ten languages from all over the world, namely Maori, Yiddish, and Australia's indigenous Yugambeh. However, it would be great if it starts expanding the language range.
- According to UNESCO, at least 2,572 of the world's recorded 6,000 languages are endangered.
- Even though Woolaroo will not ensure that these languages will remain actively usable, it can help to prevent them and their backgrounds from disappearing into extinction.
- In this way, Woolaroo will help to preserve the languages that were gone into extinction or endangered long ago.
- This update was due for so long to help people protect their languages and continue to use their native tongue.
- The fact that it is an open source platform, anybody can easily change or modify the meaning of any word or add any new word at any time.

Reference:
https://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2021/05/to-save-endangered-languages-googles-ai.html?m=1

2. Irish Language

Context:
Irish language ‘definitely endangered’ as linguists predict it will vanish in the next century
Highlights:

- Irish is one of 12 languages in the EU at most risk of extinction, according to language learning platform Busuu.
- The study, which was collated using data from UNESCO’s Atlas of World Languages in Danger, lists Irish as “definitely endangered”.
- Busuu ranked the 12 languages in one of four categories used in the Atlas: vulnerable, definitely endangered, severely endangered or critically endangered.
- Linguists predict that at least 43pc of languages currently spoken in the world today will likely disappear in the next century, including Irish.
- UNESCO’s Atlas, along with Google, estimates that there are between 20,000 and 40,000 Irish speakers in the world.
- People learn languages that they see as useful and functional and that kind of limits the ability to really dive into the debts of some of the languages that are much more culturally significant to them but maybe not one that they are going to learn to high levels of proficiency.
- When asked how Ireland can encourage the language to be spoken more, the language expert said he believes a lot is already being done.
- Most governments to some extent or another are trying to save languages, Wales is with Welsh, Scotland is trying to save Scots Gaelic, and Isle of Man is trying to save Manx, yet all of these languages are still going.

Reference:

UPSC Previous year questions based on today’s concept:

1. State the theories regarding the origin of spoken languages in human societies both from biological & cultural point of view. (30 Marks - 2010)

2. Linguistic Anthropology (10 Marks - 2002)

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTION/S FOR MAINS 2021.

1. Protection of endangered languages- Anthropological approach (20 Marks)