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/sosinanthropology), 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. Maoists & Tribals
   • The banned CPI (Maoist) has appealed to the tribal people and social activists to lend their support and make the bandh called on July 1 a success.
   • The Maoists called a bandh in the Andhra Odisha Border (AOB) area in protest against the encounter in which six of their members had been killed at Theegalametta of Koyyuru mandal in Visakhapatnam Agency.
   • The Maoist leader alleged that the State government had failed in providing medical support in the Agency areas. He also alleged that COVID-19 tests were not conducted properly in the tribal region and there were no doctors to help.
   • The Maoists claimed they had provided medicines and food to the tribal people during the pandemic.
   • According to the home ministry’s annual report for 2018-2019, some 3,749 people have been killed in 10,660 incidents of Maoist violence across 10 Indian states since 2010. Chhattisgarh reported the highest number of casualties, with 1,370 people dead in 3,769 violent incidents.
   • The Tribal people living in this region do feel conflicted about the troubles between rebels and police forces. While they see the injustice people here suffer because of government policy and actions, they can also be harmed by Naxalites.

Reference:

2. TN Nilgiris & Vaccinations
   • The Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu has achieved a milestone in managing to administer the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to all eligible tribal people under its jurisdiction.
   • According to authorities, a total of 21,435 tribal people were vaccinated over the last month, amid the second wave of COVID-19.
   • The tribal people live in remote areas in small units — sometimes as small as five to 10 families. Around 90% of the tribal people in the area have route connectivity while 10% are yet to be covered as they live deep in the forest.
   • Initially, there was a lot of hesitancy among the people because many rumours were doing the rounds.
   • In the first wave, tribal communities were unaffected, none of the colonies had seen even a single positive case. In the second wave, tribal people who were working elsewhere had contracted the infection and as they’re a close-knit community, the infection started spreading.
   • When the second wave was at its peak, a meeting was held with officials and members of a Scheduled Tribes council — where every tribe is represented by a nominated leader.
The role of Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) workers, doctors and ASHA workers, who had to travel through very difficult terrain, even early in the mornings or late in the nights sometimes, was crucial. Sometimes, the tribal people would have left for work and the team would stay till they returned in the evening, and then vaccinate them.

Everything was executed as per an action plan, and every evening we would draw up another action plan and rectify any mistakes.

Teams would visit the tribal people on the first day to convince them to get vaccinated, and on the second visit they would carry out the drive.

Multiple visits were undertaken, to ensure that every single person in the village was inoculated. It was a collective effort and the entire team was motivated.

Reference:

3. Tribals & Climate Change

Nestled in the remote forested hills of Odisha's Malkangiri district, Bonda Ghati is home to the Bonda tribe, one of the 13 PVTGs in the state. Some 12,321 Bonda people lived in 32 hilltop villages. Malkangiri is among the 100 most underdeveloped and poverty-stricken districts of India.

The Bonda people belong to the Austro-Asiatic ethnic group.

Their lives interwoven with the forest land they inhabit, for generations the tribe has sustained itself by cultivating traditional crops, collecting minor forest produce and brewing indigenous liquor.

But in the past few years, climate change has irrevocably affected their subsistence living.

Heavy rainfall (table below) washes away the fertile topsoil from the slopes. The advent of modern ways of agriculture has influenced their traditional farming practices--from millet-centered mixed cropping systems, the Bonda farmers have gradually shifted to paddy which has affected the availability of their staple food.

Bonda women, however, are addressing these issues by reverting to cultivation of native millet varieties--finger (ragi), foxtail (kakum or kangni), barnyard (sanwa), proso (chena) and pearl (bajra) millets--which are climate-resilient and ensure the community's food and nutritional security.

The awareness created by Bonda youth volunteers and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about cultivating millets through improved farming techniques to meet nutritional and climatic challenges, and the institutional impetus given by the Odisha Millets Mission--such as assured purchase and higher prices--is steadily yielding results.
Reference:

B. PALEONTOLOGY
1. Cretaceous Period Bird
   ● Paleontologists have described a new enantiornithine bird with a well-preserved skull from the Early Cretaceous of northeastern China.
   ● The newly identified bird species lived in what is today China’s Liaoning province during the Early Cretaceous epoch, some 120 million years ago.
   ● The ancient creature had a 2-cm- (0.8-inch) long skull with a mix of dinosaurian and bird features.
   ● It belongs to Enantiornithes (opposite birds), an extinct group of toothed birds known exclusively from the Cretaceous period and predominantly from fossils discovered in Asia.
   ● Enantiornithes are the most diverse group of birds from the time of the dinosaurs in the Cretaceous and have been found all over the world.
   ● “In living birds, the quadrate is one of the most movable bones in the skull and allows for the unique feature of living birds known as ‘kinetic skull,’ which allows the upper jaw to move independently of the brain and the lower jaw.
   ● The new enantiornithine bird has two bony arches for jaw muscle attachment like those found in reptiles such as lizards, alligators, and dinosaurs, making the rear of the skull rigid and resistant to movement among the bones.
   ● The fossil bird and dinosaurs also lack the discrete contact between the pterygoid and quadrate near the palate that is used in skull kinesis in living birds.
   ● Having a ‘dinosaur’ skull on a bird body certainly did not stop the enantiornithines, or other early birds, from being highly successful in places all around the world for tens of millions of years during the Cretaceous.
Reference:

2. Dinosaurs in Decline
   ● The death of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago was caused by the impact of a huge asteroid on the Earth.
   ● However, paleontologists have continued to debate whether they were already in decline or not before the impact. Scientists now show that they were already in decline for as much as ten million years before the final death blow.
In a new study, published today in the journal *Nature Communications*, an international team of scientists, which includes the University of Bristol, show that they were already in decline for as much as ten million years before the final death blow.

Then, 76 million years ago, they showed a sudden downturn. Their rates of extinction rose and in some cases the rate of origin of new species dropped off.

The team used Bayesian modelling techniques to account for several kinds of uncertainties such as incomplete fossil records, uncertainties over age-dating the fossils, and uncertainties about the evolutionary models.

The models were each run millions of times to consider all these possible sources of error and to find whether the analyses would converge on an agreed most probable result.

The dinosaurs were mostly so huge they probably hardly knew that the furry little mammals were there in the undergrowth.

But the mammals began to increase in numbers of species before the dinosaurs had gone, and then after the impact they had their chance to build new kinds of ecosystems which we see today.

*Reference:*
https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/06/210629130518.htm

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

1. Fossil Men (S.N. - 1999)
2. Tribe & Scheduled Tribe (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. How can anthropology help in dealing with left wing extremism? 20 Marks