ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS DIARY

AND

31.08.2021

FOR UPSC CSE MAINS

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. Tendong Lho rum Faat
   - It is celebrated by Lepchas, Takes place on Tendong Hill in South Sikkim and other parts of
   the state n The name, Tendong is derived from the Lepcha dialect, which literally translates
to ‘the hill of the raised horn’.
   - The Lepchas celebrate this occasion to commemorate the almighty who saved their ancestors
   from a calamity and to pay respect to the hill. n During the festivities, people make a model
   of the mountain in the facade of their homes and worship it.
   - It is exclusively made of nine stones and the people dance and sing wearing traditional masks
to get the blessings of the almighty.
   - As per the Lepcha mythology, at the time of creation, Tendong Hill had risen from the horns
   of a deity.
   - It was a volcanic peak that erupted and destroyed Naho and Nather Pokh, the sources of the
   Teesta and Rangeet rivers which caused a deluge. As the lower region started to flood causing
   loss of life and property, the horn rose miraculously and the tribesmen hurriedly started to
   ascend the Tendong Hill, which became their only chance for survival.

Reference:
https://www.sikkimtourism.gov.in/Public/ExperienceSikkim/FairsAndFestivalDetails/FF20A083?type=Festival

2. Karigar Mela
   - Amazon India announced the launch of Karigar Mela in partnership with Tribes India, wherein
   the e-commerce platform will feature a dedicated storefront for traditional tribal and local
   Indian handicrafts.
   - As part of the initiative, customers will be able to access and shop from a selection of over
   1.2 lakh unique traditional tribal and local Indian handicrafts and handloom selections.
   - Some of the unique art forms that will be available in products listed for purchase as part of
   Karigar Mela include Bidri, Dhokra, Ikkat, Patachitra, blue art pottery, etc.
The tribal artisan and weaver community are at the nucleus of the Indian economy. It is also one of the segments that have been most severely hit due to the ongoing pandemic. The launch of Karigar Mela will play an important role in helping artisans and weavers revive their livelihoods and accelerate their growth during these challenging times.

The long-term partnership of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Amazon is helping increase visibility for local products by bringing the offerings to the forefront.

Such initiatives will help in driving deeper sentiment of ‘vocal for local’ among Indian consumers and help in boosting Prime Minister’s vision to be an Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

Reference:

3. Tribals losing Homes

INTACH’s report “Tribes in Transition: The Changing Identity of the Kandhas and Gadabas of Odisha” was released at the Tribal Museum at Koraput.

An approximate 22.85% of Odisha’s population, as per the 2011 Census, constituted Scheduled Tribes. With 62 different indigenous tribes, having different lifestyles, customs and outlooks, two tribes, the Kandhas and Gadabas of Koraput, were chosen for study.

The findings are an in-depth analysis of the fast-changing and metamorphosing lifestyle of the two tribes. According to Dhir, who compiled the study of the Dongria and the Kutia Kandhas, even after seven decades of independence, tribal communities have been striving for their basic rights and entitlements.

What is happening in the tribal hinterland are not cataclysmic events that hog mainstream media attention but a slow insidious cancer that has been eating into the vitals for over a century and continues unabated.

It is the story of displacement, dispossession and theft of what belongs to the tribal people. In Odisha, the phenomenon is more severe and acute; it has remained obscured from the main historical current of development.

Industrialisation and mining operations have led to the uprooting of tribal villages, forcing them to live like industrial nomads.

Even though the tribals are slowly but surely becoming aware of and assimilating some of the modern values while continuing their traditions and conventions, the changes in culture are clearly visible in their language, dress, ornaments, food, health, education, religion and rituals.

Policy planning, implementation and delivery efficacy should be properly audited under academic guidance.

Reference:

B. BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

1. Macro Genetics

The burgeoning field of macro genetics is the focus of a new review published in Nature Reviews Genetics by a global, multidisciplinary team of researchers seeking to better answer fundamental biodiversity questions.
The goal of macro genetics is to use thousands of datasets to answer a core question about life on earth: Why do some regions of the world have more biodiversity than others?

Until recently, the authors say, large-scale analyses in population genetics, evolutionary biology and molecular ecology were extremely rare due to high costs and complicated methodologies.

However, advances in technology, molecular biology, statistics and the widespread availability of large datasets, among other factors, have paved the way for the new field of study, addressing questions at a larger scale than ever before.

Science is moving towards a more collaborative model of work in which researchers publish their full data online in easily searchable databases, so that others can reuse them for other purposes, including macro genetics and conservation.

Hoban indicated that genetic diversity is a key driver of complexity and resilience in systems, allowing populations to thrive and adapt, but that its conservation is often neglected in public policy.

Ultimately, according to the authors, observations of large-scale patterns must be linked to national legislation and global initiatives like the Convention on Biological Diversity or the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For this to occur, macro geneticists must extend the communication of their scientific studies to the general public, industry and policymakers, the authors stressed.

Reference:

2. Genome Link

The DNA analysis of the fossil of a young hunter-gatherer woman shows a human lineage with similarities to modern Andamanese people.

Researchers have discovered an ancient human genome from Southeast Asia that shows the movement of early modern humans in the region. It was unknown till now. This movement could have been through India, enhancing its genetic diversity.

The research looks at the movement of early Homo sapiens between the Sunda Shelf (comprising mainland Southeast Asia and the continental islands of western Indonesia) and Pleistocene Sahul (Australia-New Guinea).

They also describe Denisovan (believed to be an extinct species or subspecies of ancient humans) and deep Asian-related ancestries in the genome and infer their large-scale displacement from the region.

The study states that so far, only two pre-Neolithic human genomes have been sequenced from this region. Both are from mainland Hòabinhian (related to prehistoric Southeast Asian population and artifact) hunter-gatherer sites: Pha Faen in Laos, and Gua Cha in Malaysia.

Reference:
UPSC Previous year questions based on today’s concept:
1. Society & Culture (10 Marks-2015)
2. Tribal Displacement (15 Marks-2010)

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. Tribes in transition. (10 Marks)