ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS DIARY

(AND)

20.11.2021

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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UPSC ANTHROPOLOGY PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS ................................................................. 06

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PEER REVIEW .................................................................................. 06

Note - For convenience, the respective reference links have been dropped at the end of every topic.
1. Gujjars, Bakarwals - Demands

Context:
The Gujjar Bakerwal Ethaad Council functionaries today organized a programme at Kokernag to discuss various countrywide laws extended to Jammu and Kashmir to benefit Tribal population at large. They demanded more laws and schemes to benefit tribes.

Highlights:
- In his Presidential address, Chowdhary Haroon Khatana stated that during the visit of Home Minister of India, Shri Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir, the Gujjars widely hailed the new laws including Forest Rights Act, SC/ST Atrocities Act, Constitution of Delimitation and they termed it as a historic steps to correct the discrimination, injustice meted out to tribal people and forest dwellers of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- While informing the tribal, he said that the Gujjar Bakerwal Ethaad Council in its meeting with Union Home Minister expressed heartiest gratitude to Prime Minister of India Shri Naredendra Modi for historic initiatives including implementation of FRA, grant of reservation to schedule tribes in Panchayat and local urban bodies besides extension of all the Centrally sponsored scheme to tribal areas which will empower the tribes Socially, economically and educationally.
- The president hoped that the Central government would accede to the long pending demands we put before the Home Minister regarding inclusion of Gojri Language in 8th schedule of Indian constitution, reservation in promotion to ST employees, recruitment of youths of tribal community in Central forces etc.
- Regarding FRA Ch Haroon said The Act gave back to traditional forest dwellers their rights to freely access, independently manage and govern forest lands and all other resources related to forests, within village boundaries, which had been controlled by the Forest Department of erstwhile State of J&K.

Reference:
http://brighterkashmir.com/gujjars--bakarwal-demanded-more-laws-schemes-to-befit--jk-tribes

2. Tribes India - Retail Network

Context:
Shri Munda inaugurated the 144th, 145th, 146th and 147th Tribes India showrooms in Patna and Chennai virtually in a grand opening ceremony.
Highlights:
● As India moves ahead with its strategy for India@75 and focuses on converting development into a mass movement, TRIFED is working with its roots in ground realities and emphasizing the welfare both in design and implementation.
● With the focus on "Vocal for Local" and building an "Atma Nirbhar Bharat", TRIFED is undertaking several path-breaking activities, while re-dedicating its efforts towards tribal empowerment.
● TRIFED is doing stellar work in promoting and marketing tribal produce and products.
● The Government is leaving no stone unturned to meet the aspirations of the tribal people across the country. It is for this reason that a large number of transformational initiatives have been taken up in recent times for livelihood, employment, education and quality of life improvement of the tribal people.
● The programme held importance since it was an effort to connect the products of tribals living in remote areas to markets throughout the country. They also envisaged and are working on taking these products to the international markets.
● Van Dhan programme and MSP for MFP are the backbones of livelihood programme for the tribals which brings the fair price to them for their products and the Tribes India outlets offer an excellent platform for marketing the same.
● TRIFED is committed to protecting and furthering the interests of the tribal communities across the country. Its main objective is to empower the tribals and help boost their livelihoods.
● The 147 Tribes India outlets and e-commerce platform (www.tribesindia.com) cater to different types of needs. From the natural and immunity-boosting tribal produce such as organic haldi, dry amla, wild honey, black pepper, ragi, Triphala, and lentil mixes such as moong dal, urad dal, white beans, and Dalia to artefacts such as paintings be it in the Warli style or Pata Chitras; from jewellery handcrafted in the Dokra style to bead necklaces from the Wancho and Konyak tribes of the North-East to the rich and vibrant textiles and silks, namely; from colorful puppets and children's toys to traditional weaves such as Dongria shawls and Bodo weaves; from metal craft to bamboo products; any and every type of gift item is available here.
● These can be customised into attractive and customisable gift packs and hampers, depending on the requirements and makes for ideal gifts for any occasion.

Reference:
3. Culture & Climate Change

Context:
Indian and international performers at the second edition of Chhattisgarh's National Tribal Dance Festival express respect for nature on the eve of the United Nations Climate Conference in Glasgow.

Highlights:
- Taking place on the eve of the UN climate summit in Glasgow, the three-day festival saw representatives of tribal communities from India and abroad put up a united front: from Bastar to Birbhum and Uganda to Uzbekistan, tribal communities expressed a desire to return to traditional cultures that place respect for nature at the centre of daily life.
- Launched in 2019, the National Tribal Dance Festival is attended by troupes from across the country. Participants from abroad include performers from Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Palestine, Swaziland and Mali.
- The festival, which aims to promote cultural heritage, was cancelled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- "There is a direct link between climate change and cultural degradation," explains Ugandan National Cultural Centre's Musiitwa Robert who was accompanying a seven-member dance troupe from the East African nation to the National Tribal Dance Festival. "We are experiencing climate change because of the erosion of our cultures. We must preserve and popularise traditional cultures around the world to protect our planet," he adds.
- For centuries, our ancestors have worshipped trees maintaining a balance in nature. Our tribal communities continue the tradition today because trees represent our ancestors.
- Indigenous communities have traditions in tandem with nature. By promoting these traditions, we are showing to the world that we can align our culture with development.
- One of the major highlights of the festival is the karma dance, Chhattisgarh's most famous tribal dance form. During the performance, karma dancers gather around a tree while swaying and singing to the beats of drums.
- In Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, folk dances like Gaur Sing of the Muria tribe performed at the festival carry on a culture of obeisance to the environment. A new state-backed Bastar Academy of Dance Art and Literature Foundation is helping new generations among the tribal communities preserve their cultural heritage.

Reference:

4. NSTFDC & Tribal Entrepreneurs

Context:
To boost entrepreneurial ventures of aspiring scheduled tribes in the Northeast, a grand one-day event was conducted by the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), an apex organisation for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, of India on October 21 at Hotel Japfu, Kohima, and Nagaland.
Highlights:

- This event was designed to give a boost to the lending schemes of NSTFDC and to spur collaborative arrangement with KVIC, and facilitate implementation of the flagship scheme of the Central Government, Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).
- As part of celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence, NSTFDC felicitated successful tribal entrepreneurs from the states of Northeast for their excellence in various entrepreneurial ventures.
- The Minister of Tribal Affairs and Higher Education, Nagaland was the chief guest of the event. The Minister spoke on the simplicity of tribal way of life and enormous scope of entrepreneurship in Nagaland. He appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NSTFDC in organizing such a programme and emphasised that such types of Programmes would boost and motivate budding youth entrepreneurs to take up innovative livelihood activities.
- He also suggested that more awareness camps should be organised to disseminate the various schemes of the government among the target group and to simplify the rules and procedure for availing benefits under such schemes.
- On the occasion, the CMD of NSTFDC emphasised on taking up sustainable livelihood ventures, thereby motivating youth to be job givers rather than job seekers. CMD, thanked the Minister for gracing the occasion and motivating the youth entrepreneurs.
- Fifty three tribal entrepreneurs who have been successful in establishing business units in various sectors from the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura were felicitated during the programme.

Reference:

5. Africa & Genetic Library

- Only about 2% of the genomes mapped globally are African, and a good proportion of these are African American. This comes from a lack of prioritising funding, policies and training infrastructure, he says, but it also means the understanding of genetic medicine as a whole is lopsided.
- Estimates of genetic risk scores for people of African descent that predict, say, the likelihood of cardiomyopathies or schizophrenia can be unreliable or even misleading using tools that work well in Europeans.
- To address these inequities, Prof Wonkam and other scientists are talking to governments, companies and professional bodies across Africa and internationally, in order to build up capacity over the next decade to make the vision a reality.
- The number of three million is the minimum he expects to accurately map genetic variations across Africa. As a comparison, the UK Biobank currently aims to sequence half a million genomes in under three years, but the UK’s 68 million population is just a fraction of Africa's 1.3 billion.
- The Centre for Proteomic and Genomic Research (CPGR) in Cape Town works with biotech firm Artisan Biomed on a variety of diagnostic tests. The firm says it is affected by the gaps in the availability of genomic information relevant to local populations.
● For example, it may find a genetic mutation in someone and not know for certain if that variation is associated with a disease, especially as a marker for that particular population.
● The more information you have at that level, the better the diagnosis, treatment and eventual care can be for any individual, regardless of your ethnicity.

Reference:

UPSC Previous year questions based on today’s concept:
1. Tribal Displacement (L.Q. - 1987)
2. Genome study (10 Marks - 2012)

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. Tribal markets in current times. (15 Marks)