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.
# INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>SYLLABUS</th>
<th>PAGE NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jane Goodall</td>
<td>PAPER I, 1.5;</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalaikoothal</td>
<td>PAPER I, 2;</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Culture</td>
<td>PAPER I, 2;</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies &amp; Tribal Development</td>
<td>PAPER II, 6, 7;</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Division</td>
<td>PAPER I, 1.7;</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UPSC ANTHROPOLOGY PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS**

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PEER REVIEW**

*Note - For convenience, the respective reference links have been dropped at the end of every topic.*
1. Jane Goodall

- Jane Goodall is an English primatologist, ethologist and conservationist, best-known for conducting her long-term (forty-five year) study of chimpanzee social and family life in Tanzania.
- Louis Leakey, British paleoanthropologist and archaeologist believed that studying other primates anatomy and behavior would help scientists to understand early hominid societies.
- Under him, Jane Goodall started the Gombe chimp observation in 1960. It is the world’s longest running continuous wildlife research project as she was completely accepted by the chimpanzee group she set out to study in almost two years.
- Her works on it include- “In the Shadow of Man (1971)” and “The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior (1986)”.

Method of her Study

Jane used the simple method of observation of chimpanzee groups and imitated the animals, writing down copious notes in a field journal. She named each animal she studied, instead of assigning each a number.

**Important contributions of Jane Goodall on Primates behaviour:**

1. Eating Habits: The first main contribution from her was on eating habits when she discovered that chimpanzees are omnivorous, not vegetarian as had been supposed. On several occasions, she observed the chimps hunting and eating small mammals.

2. Tool Making: The second and most important observation from her in the field of primatology was the discovery of tool making in chimpanzees. She discovered that some chimps employed modified twigs or grass to “fish” for termites from termite mounds. The termites would grab onto the blade of grass or twig with their mandibles and the chimpanzees would then just pull the grass out and eat the termites. At that time only humans were thought to use tools, and tool-making was considered the defining difference between humans and other animals. This discovery convinced several scientists to reconsider their definition of being human, as Leaky said on her discovery- “Now we must redefine ‘tool,’ redefine ‘man.’ Or accept chimpanzees as humans.”

3. Cooperative Hunting: Another characteristic of the chimpanzee that Jane Goodall discovered was their cooperative hunting of red colobus monkeys.

4. Complex social system: The use of tools with cooperative hunting practices lead to next discovery on the complex social system existing within the chimpanzee groups. Jane’s work has documented unique personalities displayed by each chimpanzee with a complex social system, acts of warfare between rival groups, murder, brutality, and even cannibalism in competition for food, sex, or territory, or under emotions of jealousy, fear, or revenge, their behavior proved as dark and troubling as that seen in humans. At the same time, they displayed ritualized behavior of mutual sharing including use of the social embrace to comfort an animal in mourning. They display altruism by the adoption of orphaned chimps by others in the band.

5. Primitive Language: Another main argument made by her through the study is that the chimpanzees show the beginnings of a primitive language system that includes more than 120 sounds with specific meanings.

Criticism of her work:

- Some scientists have criticized the book for Jane’s habit of naming the animals she observed.
● Some other primatologists have criticized Goodall's methods, especially her use of bananas in feeding stations to attract chimps. They claim that the food causes higher levels of aggression and conflict, distorting normal behavior. But other research has shown similar levels of conflict without feeding stations. Also, some other primatologists consider it as a successful balance between scientific documentation and exciting story telling. It introduced the public to the serious scientific work being done on primates behavior. Since then, other researchers have observed chimpanzees using more than half a dozen tools for assorted purposes as well as other animals like birds and dolphins using the tools.

Reference:
https://janegoodall.org/

2. Thalaikoothal

● The inhuman and illegal practice of Thalaikoothal is a form of geronticide or involuntary euthanasia where the elderly are forced to undergo the procedure against their will.

● About 30 percent of the respondents of a study acknowledged that geronticide was being practiced as a ritual killing in the State, while 22 per cent of the respondents acknowledged that death-hastening ceremonies were performed to terminate the life of the elderly.

● The offenders choose from a range of 26 different methods to kill. The respondents have cited a variety of reasons for the illegal practice including ‘concern’ for their parents, irreversible physical or mental condition (of the elderly) and poor economic situation.

● Contentions such as the respondents not wanting their parents to suffer during old age, claiming a situation where there was no scope for improvement in physical or mental condition of the elderly and poor economic conditions continue to be the major reasons behind the illegal practice.

● This bone-chilling crude ritual, 'Thalaikoothal' is practiced in more than 40 villages of the state and is still popular among the locals. Known as 'the last bath', 'Thalaikoothal' is literally translated to 'thalai' meaning head and 'Koothal' giving bath.

● To give thalaikoothal the elderly are massaged with a special concoction of oil made of 100ml each of coconut, castor and sesame oils and then are given a cold bath and put to bed. This drops the temperature of the already weak person and to accelerate the process he is also made to drink glasses of tender coconut water, which worsen the condition of the person and he dies due to high fever and renal failure within a few days.

● The locals, although, claim that they have buried this cruel tradition and due to strict law no-one dares to perform thalaikoothal but in reality this senicide has now taken on a silent form. Now people do it secretly and don't inform or invite their relatives.

Reference:

3. Family Culture

Family culture can relate to just your immediate family or be representative of your extended family and ancestors. To understand the definition of family culture, it's best to break apart these two words.

● One broad definition of family is "a social group in society consisting of people related to each other by various means."
● The definition of culture is "a particular set of customs, morals, codes and traditions from a specific time and place."
● Put these words together and the definition of family culture is "a particular set of customs, morals, codes, and traditions shared by a social group of related people." Characteristics of a Family Culture Each family culture is as unique as the family who exemplifies it. While it's impossible to define uniform characteristics of a family culture, there are some things that typically make up family culture.
● Unspoken - Families don't often discuss their culture, they just know what's expected and accepted.
● Elder Expectations - Older generations have a high expectation that younger generations will keep the same values, customs, and overall family culture.
● Reciprocal Relationships - All family members are held to the same standard and expected to reciprocate what's given to them or how they are treated.

Types of Family Cultures with Examples

Faithful Family Culture
These families take their cues from church or religious communities, including Christianity, Judaism, or Islam.
● They are defined by a strong moral compass that requires all members to have a powerful sense of right and wrong as defined by their belief system.
● Individual happiness and success is not as important as reflecting your God's purpose.
● An example would be a traditional Arab Family where grandparents are always consulted for big decisions like marriage because the Koran says the elderly are esteemed.

Engaged Progressive Family Culture
This type of family culture is all about personal responsibility and personal freedom.
● Family members operate off The Golden Rule and what feels right to each person.
● Kids from this type of family culture generally have more freedom at younger ages than other kids.
● This type of family culture is the least religious of all four types.
● A traditional Brazilian Family could be an example of this family culture because personal values are important and people respect and expect honesty from each other. Detached Family Culture Detached families don't spend a lot of time together because they generally believe all the bad influences of the world will overshadow their influence.
● Low income families are more likely to fall in this category.
● This type of family culture includes a hands-off strategy to parenting and relationships where the belief is that whatever will be, will be.
● Parents who don't keep tabs on their child's grades or school work and families that only eat together when they're watching TV are examples of detached family cultures.

Reference:
https://family.lovetoknow.com/cultural-heritage-symbols/what-is-family-culture-definition-examples
4. Policies & Tribal Development

- The state administration has overseen the implementation of several welfare schemes to provide tribal students housing, food, and scholarships and ensure they learn, upskill, and become ‘atma nirbhar’ (self-reliant).
- As per data from the census, the tribal population in India was at 105 million in 2011. Madhya Pradesh has the largest tribal population at over 15.32 million. Over 21 percent of the state's population is tribal. Within the state, Alirajpur district has the highest tribal population at 89 percent, while Bhind district has the lowest tribal population at 0.4 percent. From the Gond tribe, the country's largest tribe, to the Bhil tribe, the largest tribe in Madhya Pradesh, and Baiga, Kol, Sahariya, and Bhariya tribes, the state has sizable populations of varied tribes.
- Tribal welfare has, through the decades, been a topic that has attracted scant attention. This is particularly true on the implementation front, where the rubber meets the road.
- Tribal people have a unique ability to thrive in adversity and make the most of available resources, with respect and reverence for the environment. In my years working closely with the tribal population,
- I have seen how a growing number of tribal people have taken the initiative and left a mark by making opportunities count. Over the past few years, the metrics of tribal well-being in Madhya Pradesh have improved — across health, education, access to resources like land and water, and employment opportunities for tribal youth.
- The state administration has been sensitive to the development of the tribal population. Madhya Pradesh's budget for tribal welfare in the financial year 2020-21 was Rs 8,085.99 crore, 10 times more than the budgetary provision made in 2003-04.
- The state administration has overseen the implementation of welfare schemes such as the Mukhyamantri Awas Sahayata Yojana, the Kanya Saksharta Protsaahan Yojana, and the Vimukt Jati Hostel Yojana to provide tribal students housing, food, and scholarships and ensure they learn, upskill, and become ‘atma nirbhar’ (self-reliant).

Reference:

5. Cell Division

- There are two types of cell division: mitosis and meiosis. Most of the time when people refer to “cell division,” they mean mitosis, the process of making new body cells. Meiosis is the type of cell division that creates egg and sperm cells.
- Mitosis is a fundamental process for life. During mitosis, a cell duplicates all of its contents, including its chromosomes, and splits to form two identical daughter cells. Because this process is so critical, the steps of mitosis are carefully controlled by certain genes. When mitosis is not regulated correctly, health problems such as cancer can result.
- The other type of cell division, meiosis, ensures that humans have the same number of chromosomes in each generation. It is a two-step process that reduces the chromosome number by half—from 46 to 23—to form sperm and egg cells. When the sperm and egg cells unite at conception, each contributes 23 chromosomes so the resulting embryo will have the usual 46. Meiosis also allows genetic variation through a process of gene shuffling while the cells are dividing.
Reference:
https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/understanding/howgeneswork/cellsdivide/

UPSC Previous year questions based on today’s concept:

1. Senescence (S.N. - 1995)
2. Linguistic elements in Indian Population (10 Marks – 2016)

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. Jane Good all’s method of field research. (20 Marks)