

Current affairs summary for prelims

08 November, 2022

Tribal Huts by AnSI

❖ Context

> The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has recreated the huts of several communities at its different regional centres.

Key Highlights

- It is a first-of-its-kind bid to showcase the heritage of tribal communities, especially those of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- These huts have come up outside five regional centres of the AnSI in consultation with the local communities.
- The huts also contain artefacts which are used by tribals, thus offering a rare glimpse into the lives of these communities.
- These include:
 - Jarawa hut (A & N islands)- A distinctive beehive-shaped hut, called a chadda.
 - Shompen hut (A & N islands) crafted with leaves of junglee supari.
 - Nicobarese hut (A & N islands) made using the thin stems of local cane covered by thick dry grasses.
 - Betta Kuruba hut (Karnataka)
 - Dorla tribal hut (Chattisgarh)





About Anthropological Survey of India

- It is the **only research organisation to pursue anthropological research** in a Governmental setup.
- The Zoological and Anthropological section of the Indian Museum became the Zoological Survey of India in 1916.
- In 1945, the Anthropology section of the Zoological Survey was carved out to become the **Anthropological Survey of India (An.S.I)** with Dr B.S.Guha as the founding Director.
- The head office was shifted from Banaras to Calcutta in 1948.
- It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture.

The Food & Agriculture Pavilion

❖ Context

There will be dedicated discussions on food and agriculture at the first official Food and Agriculture Pavilion at the 27th COP.



Key Highlights

- The Pavilion is hosted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, CGIAR and The Rockefeller Foundation.
- According to the FAO, the Pavilion will put the transformation of agrifood systems at the heart of the COP agenda for the first time as an important part of the solution to the climate crisis.
- Food systems have not been addressed comprehensively at any climate COP as most countries' climate plans do not include plans to take action on food systems.
- Agriculture, though, is a victim of climate change but it is also responsible for more than a third of all greenhouse gas emissions.

❖ Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)

- The only programme under UNFCCC that focuses on agriculture and food security was the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA).
- It was established in 2017 at COP23 in Bonn, Germany.
 It has since been considered the formal mechanism for discussing food at COP.

Greenwashing Industrial Agriculture

- One of the major issues to be in focus is Greenwashing.
- Greenwashing is when an organisation spends more time and money on marketing itself as environmentally friendly than on actually minimising its environmental impact.
- Agri Food corporations, international philanthropic organisations, and some governments are using the term 'nature-based solutions' to "hijack the food system sustainability agenda".
- They are bundling it with unproven carbon offsetting schemes.
- Under the guise of 'nature-based' or 'climate smart' solutions, they are perpetuating the centralised, polluting, vulnerable system of industrial monoculture farming.
- For instance, the United States and United Arab Emirates-led Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) has been criticised for favouring big businesses and promoting uncertain techno-fixes. The mission was launched at COP26.

Reservation to the EWS

Context

Recently, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the Constitution (103rd) Amendment, which came into effect in January 2019.











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Key Highlights

- The amendment was challenged, and the challenge was referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench in August 2020.
- The challenge was based on the argument that the 103rd amendment violated the "basic structure" of the Constitution.
- Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) Reservation
- EWS reservation was granted based on the recommendations of a commission headed by Major General (retd) S R Sinho.
- The 103rd Amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) in the Constitution.
- Article 15(6): It empowers the Government to introduce special provisions for the EWS among citizens except those in the classes that already enjoy reservation.
 - It allows reservation in educational institutions, both public and private, whether aided or unaided, excluding those run by minority institutions, up to a maximum of 10%.
- Article 16(6): It facilitate reservation in employment.
- The new clauses make it clear that the EWS reservation will be in addition to the existing reservation.

- The amendment also empowered state governments to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness.
- Income Criteria for EWS.

EWS, AS DEFINED

- Persons who are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs and whose family has gross annual income below Rs 8 lakh are to be identified as EWSs for benefit of reservation
- Income shall also include income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession, etc. for the financial year prior to the year of application
- Persons whose family owns or possesses any of the following assets shall be excluded from being identified as EWS, irrespective of the family income: 5 acres of agricultural land and above; Residential at of 1000 sq ft and above; residential plot of 100 sq yards and



The next hearing in the Supreme Court is on January 6. Express Archive

above in notified municipalities; residential plot of 200 sq yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities

-DoPT, JAN 31, 2019

<u>Carbon Billionaires : The Investment Emissions of the World's Richest People</u>

Context

Recently, an Oxfam report titled, **Carbon Billionaires: The investment emissions of the world's richest people**, has said the world's richest people emit "unsustainable amounts of carbon," as compared with an ordinary person.



Key Highlights of the Report

- This report is based on the fact that every human on Earth has a carbon footprint, which can be divided into-
 - Personal consumption emissions.
 - Emissions through government spending.
 - Emissions linked to investments.
- It demonstrated that on average, billionaires are responsible for emitting "3 million tonnes" of carbon a year.
 - It is, "more than a million times the average for someone in the bottom 90% of humanity.
- The 125 billionaires taken as a sample fund about **393** million tonnes of CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per year.
 - This is equivalent to the "annual carbon emissions of France," which is a nation of 67 million people.
- In comparison, it said, "it would take 1.8 million cows to emit the same levels of CO2e as each of the 125 billionaires.

❖ Significance of the Report

- It takes a critical look at the relationship between economic inequality and climate crisis.
- The report comes at a time when discussions to meet the globally agreed target of limiting the world's temperature to below 1.5°C is underway at COP 27 in Egypt
- It has significant implications for climate policymaking.

❖ Oxfam

- Oxfam is an international non-governmental organisation.
- It was founded in 1995.
 - The name "Oxfam" comes from the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, founded in Britain in 1942.
- The Oxfam International Secretariat is based in Nairobi, Kenya.
- It works with others to challenge inequality, overcome poverty and work with people to thrive, not just survive.
- There are **21 member organizations** of the Oxfam International confederation.

News in Between the Lines

Kali Syahi

Context

➤ Keeping alive a tradition dating back to the reign of the Kachhwaha rulers, a family in the Jaipur makes an indelible black ink, or kali syahi.

Key Highlights

- It was used 250 years ago for writing royal firmans (decrees) and ledgers.
- The fourth generation of the family now produces the ink every Deepavali.







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- The ink was believed to ward off evil and bring prosperity to its users.
- The black ink is prepared on a no-moon night with the chanting of mantras.
- It is made of kaajal (homemade mascara), gondh (edible gum) and other locally sourced herbal ingredients.
- The ink has **medicinal properties**, as some of its ingredients were used in the traditional Ayurvedic system for the treatment and healing of wounds.

Grevy's Zebra



❖ Context

Kenya's worst drought in 40 years has taken a heavy toll on its wildlife, with the wildebeest and zebra populations among those worst affected.

Key Highlights

- Grévy's zebra (Equus grevyi), also known as the imperial zebra, is the largest living wild equid.
- It is the **most threatened of the three species of zebra** (the plains zebra and the mountain zebra). Its current IUCN status is **Endangered**.
- Grevy's zebras live in **semi-arid scrub & grasslands** and prefer hot, dry regions.
- It largely inhabits **northern Kenya**, with some isolated populations in **Ethiopia**. It has been extirpated from Somalia, Eritrea and Djibouti.
- The two major characteristics that set them apart from their two closest relatives are their very distinct black & white stripes & their untamable wild nature. The black & white stripes appear all over the zebra's body, even on their mane & ears.
- They are herbivores. Unlike all other species of zebras, Grevy's zebras do not form permanent herds or permanent social bonds between adults.

World Trade Report 2022 : Climate Change and International Trade



❖ Context

➤ A report on international trade and climate change was released by the WTO at the on-going COP27 meet in Sharm El-Sheikh.

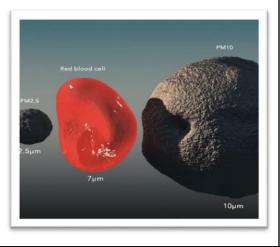
Key Highlights

- The elimination of tariffs and the reduction in Non-Tariff Measures on EREG (energy related environment goods) and EPP (environmentally preferred products) would raise global exports of the goods in 2030.
- This could make a contribution to reducing carbon emissions while contributing to an increase in exports and GDP in all regions.
- The WTO also provides trade-related technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries and LDCs, which can help to build climate resilient trade capacity.
- Current initiatives include Aid for Trade, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

❖ India's Stand

- India and several other developing countries have not been in favour of elimination of tariffs on environmental goods.
- There are apprehensions that it could lead to tariff reduction for dual use goods that are used also for non-environmental purposes.
- This could be to the detriment of the domestic industry.

PM 2.5 and Anaemia



Context

➤ A study has found that **long-term exposure** to PM 2.5 pollutants may **increase the prevalence of anaemia** among **women of reproductive age (WRA)** through **systemic inflammation**.

Key Highlights

- Among PM 2.5 sources, sulphate and black carbon are more associated with anaemia than organics and dust.
- Among sectoral contributors, **industry** was the biggest followed by the unorganised sector, domestic sources, power sector, road dust.
- The World Health Organization has set a global target to halve anaemia among women of reproductive age by 2053.
- The National Family and Health Survey 2019–2021 (NFHS-5) reported that 57% of WRA and 67% of children under five were anaemic in India.

Face to Face Centres





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 India launched a programme under the POSHAN Abhiyaan aiming to make the country 'anaemia-free' and set a target of reducing anaemia in WRA to below 35% by 2022.

Loss and Damage



❖ Context

> The ongoing climate change conference, COP27, made a promising start on Sunday by including the issue of 'loss and damage'.

Key Highlights

- So far, loss and damage had been discussed in a separate channel, with very little progress made on it.
- About Loss and Damage :
 - "Loss and damage" refers to costs the rich and developed countries should pay to poorer nations that have made negligible contribution to pollution but are more vulnerable to extreme climate events.
 - Rich and developed countries are majorly responsible for industrial emissions that pollute the environment.
 - Example- the devastating floods in Pakistan recently.
 - While the vulnerable countries have been asking for climate damage finance for decades now, the rich countries have resisted it.
 - Also, it is difficult to define and assess damage caused purely due to climate change.
- Side Note: The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damages, set up in 2013, was the first formal acknowledgment of the need to compensate developing countries struck by climate disasters.

Partial Stubble Burning



Context

Many farmers this year said that they are not burning the paddy stubble completely and are instead resorting to partial burning or burning only the loose straw.

Key Highlights

- After harvesting, farmers opting for partial burning let the **loose straw dry for a couple of days** and then they set these dumps on fire to prepare the field for the next crop.
- In such cases, the standing stubble, which is mostly green, does not get burnt fully but it gets scorched close to those places in the field where loose straw is burnt.
- In the case of air pollution, it will be around 40-50% less as they only burn around 50% to 60% of the total stubble in such cases.

Total Lunar Eclipse



Context

A total lunar eclipse will occur on 8 November, 2022 (17 Kartika, 1944 Saka Era).

Key Highlights

- Lunar Eclipse occurs on a full moon day when the earth comes in between the Sun and the Moon and when all the three objects are aligned.
- When that happens, the Earth partially or completely blocks sunlight from reaching the Moon. This causes a shadow on the Moon's surface
- There are three types of lunar eclipse: a total lunar eclipse, a penumbral lunar eclipse and a partial lunar eclipse.
- Total Lunar Eclipse: It will occur when the whole moon comes under the umbral shadow of the Earth.
 - This is sometimes called a 'blood Moon.
- Partial Lunar Eclipse: The partial lunar eclipse occurs when only a part of the moon comes under the shadow of the Earth.
- Penumbral Lunar Eclipse
 - When the Moon passes into the outer shadow, we call this a penumbral lunar eclipse.
 - The Moon only gets very slightly darker, and it is normally difficult to notice, even with a telescope.

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