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CSB IAS ACADEMY

The Road Map to Mussoorie...



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SHOMPEN TRIBE

Context: The Great Nicobar Project is expected to cause serious disturbances to the Shompen.



ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS



About Shompen Tribe

- They reside in dense tropical rain forests of the Great Nicobar Island of **Andaman and Nicobar** group of Islands.
- Around 95% of the island is covered in rainforest.
- They are one of the most isolated tribes on Earth.
- They are one of the least studied Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.
- The Shompen habitat is also an important biological hotspot, and there are two National Parks and one Biosphere Reserve, namely **Campbell Bay National Park, Galathea National Park, and Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.**
- **Population:** Though according to the Census (2011), the estimated population of Shompen is 229, the exact population of Shompen is unknown till today.
- Most of them remain in the forest and have little or no contact with outsiders.
- They are **semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers** and their main sources of livelihood are hunting, gathering, fishing, and a little bit of horticultural activities in a rudimentary form.
- They live in small groups, whose territories are identified by the rivers that criss-cross the rainforest.

- Being nomadic, they typically set up forest camps where they live for a few weeks or months, before moving to another site.
- They collect a wide variety of forest plants, but their staple food is the pandanus fruit, which they call larop.
- Shompen speak their own language, which has many dialects.
- They are of short to medium stature, have a round or nearly broad head shape, narrow nose, a broad facial profile, and distinctly exhibit Mongoloid features such as light brown to yellow brown skin and oblique eye features.
- Shompen have nuclear families comprising husband, wife, and their unmarried children.
- A Shompen family is controlled by the eldest male member, who controls all activities of the women and kids.
- Monogamy is the general rule, although polygamy is allowed too.

Tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands which have originally been the abode of six aboriginal tribes i.e., the **Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens**.
- Except Nicobarese, the rest of the 05 tribes are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- The tribes of the Islands belong to two different races.
- The Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges and the Sentinelese living in the Andaman group of islands belong to the Negrito group while the Nicobarese and Shompens, living in Nicobar Islands belong to the Mongoloid group.

The Great Nicobar Island Project

- The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project, launched in 2021, is a mega project to be implemented at the southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- It involves developing a trans-shipment port, an international airport, township development, and a 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant on the island.
- The project was implemented after a report by NITI Aayog which identified the potential to utilise the advantageous position of the island, which is approximately equidistant from Colombo in Sri Lanka to the southwest and Port Klang (Malaysia) and Singapore to the southeast.

Source : 'Shompen of Nicobar prize their freedom above all' (The Hindu)

ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Context: Concerns regarding AMR is growing day by day.

About AMR

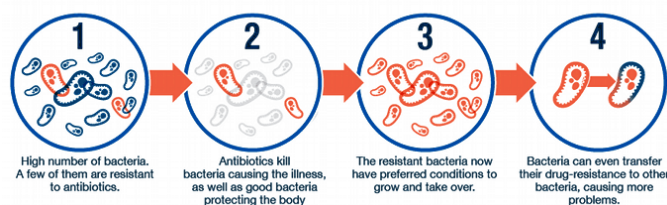
- Antimicrobial resistance is the resistance **acquired by any microorganism** (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, etc.) **against antimicrobial drugs** (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics) that are used to treat infections.
- As a result, **standard treatments become ineffective**, infections persist, and may spread to others.
- It is a natural phenomenon as bacteria evolve, making drugs used to treat infections less effective.
- Microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance are sometimes referred to as **“superbugs”**.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified AMR as one of the top ten threats to global health.

Reasons

- High burden of communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, etc. that require antimicrobial treatment
- Hygiene lapses in hospitals and clinics facilitate the spread of resistant bacteria.
- Unregulated over-the-counter availability and affordability of antibiotics fuel self-medication and inappropriate use

How does antibiotic resistance occur?



- Low public understanding of AMR and proper antibiotic use encourages misuse.

Implications

- AMR can render previously effective antibiotics ineffective against bacterial infections.
- Treating resistant infections often requires more expensive and prolonged therapies
- Surgeries, cancer chemotherapy, and organ transplants become more hazardous due to the increased risk of infections that are resistant to standard antibiotics.

Source : *Hidden pandemic of AMR poses challenge (The Hindu)*

TERMS IN NEWS

Jaish-e-Mohammad



- Jaish-e-Mohammad (JEM), meaning Army of Mohammad is a **Pakistan-based Deobandi jihadist terrorist group active in Kashmir.**

- The group's primary motive is to separate Kashmir from India and merge it into Pakistan.

- The group fought with the Taliban against US and coalition forces in

Afghanistan from 2001 until the Taliban came to power in 2021.

- JEM uses suicide bombers, car bombs, small arms, light and heavy machineguns, IEDs, and rocket-propelled grenades in attacks primarily against Indian security personnel, bases, camps, convoys, and government buildings.
- Jaish-e-Mohammed is viewed as the "deadliest" and "the principal Islamic terrorist organisation in Jammu and Kashmir".
- The group was responsible for several terror attacks: the 2001 attack on Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly, the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, the 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, the 2016 attack on the Indian Mission in Mazar-i-Sharif, the 2016 Uri attack, and the 2019 Pulwama attack, each of which has had strategic consequences for India–Pakistan relations.

Houthis



- The Houthis, officially known as Ansar Allah (Partisans of God), are an **Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim terror group in Yemen**.
- The group emerged in the 1990s and takes its name from the movement's late founder, Hussein al-Houthi.
- The Houthi movement began as an effort to maintain tribal autonomy in northern Yemen,
- The Houthis took over the Yemeni

capital Sanaa in September 2014 and seized control over much of north Yemen by 2016. Currently, Houthis controls approximately one-third of Yemen's territory.

- The Yemen civil war reflects long-standing regional rivalries, with Iran backing the Houthis on one side and Saudi Arabia supporting the Yemeni government.
- The Houthis' involvement in the Israel-Hamas war is also seen as part of these broader regional dynamics.
- The conflict has raised concerns about the **safety of shipping routes in the Red Sea**.
- Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen are strategically located along the **Bab el-Mandeb Strait**, a crucial maritime chokepoint.
- Houthi rebels have targeted shipping in the Red Sea through attacks on vessels, including both commercial and military ships.
- These actions raise concerns about the security of maritime traffic in the region.

Hezbollah



- Hezbollah was formed in 1982 as a **Shia resistance group** inspired by the formation of a theocratic Islamic government in Iran in 1979.
- It has huge support from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
- It is the **world's most heavily armed non-state actor**, with a large and

diverse stockpile of unguided artillery rockets, as well as ballistic, antiair, antitank, and antiship missiles.

- It is also designated as a **terrorist organization** by several countries across the globe.
- It opposes Israel and Western influence in the Middle East.

- Hezbollah’s positioning also reflects West Asia’s two major powers and their rivalry – the Sunni Muslim-dominated Saudi Arabia and the majority Shia Muslim-dominated Iran.
- The US, which is a staunch ally of Israel and Saudi Arabia, estimates that Iran supplies hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to Hezbollah and that it has thousands of fighters.

AN-32 Aircraft



- The AN-32 (Antonov AN-32) is a **Soviet-origin** military transport aircraft.
- It is designed and manufactured by the Antonov Design Bureau of Ukraine for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- It was purchased by India from the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1984. The IAF has a fleet of around 100 AN-32 planes.
- It can take off and land on rough

airfields and dirt runways.

- The aircraft can transport either 7.5 tons of cargo, 50 passengers, 42 paratroopers, or 24 patients and three medical crews over domestic and international air routes.
- It also has a limited bombing role and is used for para-trooping operations.
- The Indian Air Force is planning to procure a new transport aircraft to replace the **aging An-32 fleet**

PLACES IN NEWS

Lebanon

- Lebanon is a country in the **Levant region** of West Asia, bordered by Syria to the north and east, Israel to the south, and the Mediterranean Sea to the west; Cyprus lies a short distance from the country's coastline.
- It is at the crossroads of the Mediterranean Basin and the Arabian Peninsula.
- It’s capital is **Beirut**.
- Human civilization in Lebanon dates to 5000 BC. In 64 BC, the region became part of the **Roman Empire**, and later the **Byzantine Christian Empire**.
- After the 7th century, with the birth of Islam, the region witnessed the rise of Islamic empires.
- It came under the rule of different caliphates, including the Rashidun, Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphate.
- The **Ottomans** ruled the region for almost 500 years till it's decline after the world war 1.
- After the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire following World War I, Lebanon was administered by **France**, which established Greater Lebanon.
- It went through a stable and peaceful years after independence from France but this was ultimately shattered by the outbreak of the **Lebanese Civil War** in the 1970s.



the country unstable.

- It was fought between Lebanese **Christian militias and Palestinian insurgents**.
- In the 1980s, **Hezbollah**, a Shiite Islamist militant group came into existence through the efforts of Shiite clerics who were financially supported and trained by Iran.
- Arising in the aftermath of the 1982 war and drawing inspiration from the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Hezbollah actively engaged in combat as well as suicide attacks, car bombings and assassinations.
- Their objectives encompassed eliminating Israel, fighting for the Shia Islamic cause against the Lebanese Christians and establishing a **Shiite Islamic state in Lebanon**.
- Lebanon's economy went through a meltdown during the civil war and it is still facing serious socio economic and political instability.
- Hezbollah's control over southern Lebanon and its armed conflict with Israel at the borders keeps

SPECIES IN NEWS

Halari Donkey



- Halari Donkey is one of the important livestock in the semi-arid landscape of **Saurashtra's Jamnagar and Dwarka district of the state of Gujarat**.
- The **Bharwad and Rabari** pastoralists are the main communities that use this donkey as a pack animal to carry luggage during migration with small ruminants.
- The **Kumbhar** (potter) community also uses this animal for pottery work in the Jamnagar region.
- The Halari donkey's milk is also said to be one of the most expensive in the world which can go upto Rs 1000 for its medicinal values.
- A survey of Halari Donkey and its keepers in 2015 found that only 1200 individuals of the breed were existing.
- Halari Donkey is currently in a threatened state and requires immediate steps towards conservation to reverse the declining trend in the population.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 : Shompen, Onges, Jarawas are tribes found in which of the regions in India?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Andaman and Nicobar
- c) Orissa
- d) Chhattisgarh

Q5 : Which among the following is incorrectly matched?

- a) Hezbollah : Lebanon
- b) Houthis : Yemen
- c) Boko Haram : Nigeria
- d) Jemaah Islamiyah : Libya

Q2 : The term *superbug* is often seen in the news. It is associated with which of the following?

- a) Chinese Cyber Attacks
- b) Israeli Spyware
- c) Anti Microbial Resistance
- d) Nano Bots used in surgeries

Q3 : Jaish-e-Mohammad is a Deobandi terrorist group based on which of the following countries?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Iran

Q4 : Which among the following is the correct option regarding the location of Lebanon.

- a) West of Ionian Sea
- b) West of Cyprus
- c) South of Israel
- d) East of Egypt

Answers

- 1. B
- 2. C
- 3. A
- 4. D
- 5. D