Prelim Bits 07-06-2019

Ancient North Siberians

- About 200,000-300,000 years ago, Homo sapiens — the modern humans evolved from their early hominid predecessors in Africa.
- They migrated out of Africa about 70,000-100,000 years ago to parts of Europe and Asia.
- Recently scientists have identified a previously unknown group of ancient people who lived in north eastern Siberia during the last Ice Age that lasted from about 126,000 to 11,700 years ago.
- During the Last Glacial Maximum (about 26,500 to 19,000 years ago), hunter-gatherer populations made their way from Siberia to North America through a land bridge at what is now Bering Strait.
- It was submerged at the end of the last Ice Age (that lasted from about 126,000 to 11,700 years ago).
- The people, known as the Ancient North Siberians, endured extreme conditions during the late Pleistocene (often referred to as the Ice Age).
- They were ancestors both to the first humans who inhabited the Americas (the first Peoples) and to a subsequent Siberian group (the Ancient Palaeo-Siberians).

Folk arts of Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh has two stylistic streams of art and culture - classical or courtly (the Great Tradition) and folk (the Little Tradition).
- The figures of Hindu deities such as Shiva, six-headed Karttikeya or Kumara, Gaja-Lakshmi, Krittika, Rishi Vishvamitra, etc were engraved on the coins issued by the chieftains of the janapadas (republics) such as the Kunindas, the Malavas, the Audumbaras, etc. by the 3rd century BCE.
- The stone statues of Vishnu and numerous reliefs carved in the Sarnath style are found in Ambika Mata and Parashurama temples in Nirmand in Kulu district, popularly known as the Kashi of the Himalayan region, dated to the 4th-5th centuries CE.
- Free standing wood statues of Surya and one of his attendants Dandi and Pingala, and four door frames featuring flowing forms of Hindu goddesses executed in Gupta and post-Gupta style, i.e. late 6th-early 7th centuries

CE are found in wooden temple of Surya that has been reconstructed and dedicated to Docha-Mocha (a village deity) in Gajan hamlet in Kulu valley.

Shortwave Radio Transmissions

- Shortwave radio is radio transmission using shortwave radio frequencies, the range always includes all of the high frequency band (HF), and generally extends from 3-30 MHz (10 to 100 meters), above the medium frequency band (MF), to the end of the HF band.
- Radio waves in the shortwave band can be reflected or refracted from a layer of electrically charged atoms in the atmosphere called the ionosphere.
- Therefore, short waves directed at an angle into the sky can be reflected back to Earth at great distances, beyond the horizon.
- This is called skywave or "skip" propagation, thus shortwave radio can be used for very long distance communication, in contrast to radio waves of higher frequency which travel in straight lines (line-of-sight propagation) and are limited by the visual horizon, about 64 km (40 miles).
- Shortwave radio is used for broadcasting of voice and music to shortwave listeners over very large areas, sometimes entire continents or beyond.
- It is also used for military over-the-horizon radar, diplomatic communication, and two-way international communication by amateur radio enthusiasts.

Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap

- The Navy is pressing ahead with its eco-friendly programme, the Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap (INECR).
- The road map comprises specific action plans covering the gamut of operations, maintenance, administration, infrastructure and community living.
- Under the INECR, numerous policies aimed at reduction of energy consumption and environment sustenance have been formulated and disseminated to all ships, as well as shore establishments.
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) projects has been one of the focus areas of the Navy since the inception of the INECR.
- To promote use of biodiesel, the Navy has plans to replace High Speed Diesel (HSD).

Olive Ridley

- The Olive Ridley sea turtle are the second smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- This species of sea turtle is found in warm and tropical waters, primarily in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- They can also be found in the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean.
- These turtles, are best known for their unique mass nesting called arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- The Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is the largest rookery of the Olive Ridley turtles in India.



Olive Ridley Research Centre

- A proposal has been made to establish a permanent research center near the Rushikulya rookery on the Odisha coast.
- The center will study the mass nesting of Olive Ridley and the environmental factors related to it.
- The center would also carry out a detailed study of the habits and the habitat of the turtles and the coastal flora and fauna.
- Rushikulya River is one of the major rivers in the state of Odisha , which originates from Daringbadi hills of the Eastern Ghats range.
- The place from where the river originates, Daringbadi is called the ' Kashmir of Odisha.
- The river meets the Bay of Bengal at Puruna Bandha in Ganjam, It has no delta as such at its mouth.

Source: PIB, the Hindu

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