

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 01-07-2024

### Santhal Hul (Santhal Rebellion), 1855-56

In Jharkhand, June 30 marks the 169<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Santhal Hul, one of the earliest peasant uprisings against the British.

- Santhal Hul of 1855 is an **organized revolt** against imperialism of British in **Jharkhand**.
- **Leaders** - The revolt is led by
  - **4 brothers** - Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu, along with
  - **Sisters** - Phulo and Jhano.
- **Revolted against** - The Santhals also fought against the upper castes, zamindars, darogas, and moneylenders, described by the umbrella term 'diku', to safeguard the economic, cultural, and religious aspects of their lives.
- **Reason for the uprising** - Certain areas were delimited as 'Santhal Pargana' or 'Damin-i-Koh' in 1832.
- It comprises present-day Sahibganj, Godda, Dumka, Deoghar, Pakur, and regions of Jamtara, in present-day Jharkhand.
- The area is allocated to the Santhals displaced from Birbhum, Murshidabad, Bhagalpur, Barabhum, Manbhum, Palamau, and Chhotanagpur, all areas of the Bengal Presidency.
- While the Santhals were promised settlement and agriculture in Damin-i-Koh, what followed is the repressive practice of
  - Land-grabbing and
  - Begari (bonded labour) of 2 types - kamioti and harwahi.
- The Murmu brothers led around 60,000 Santhals against the East India Company and engaged in **guerrilla warfare**.
- More than 15,000 Santhals were killed, and 10,000 villages were laid to waste.
- The British hanged Sidhu to death on August 9, 1855, followed by Kanhu in February 1856.
- The insurrection ended, but the impact it left is everlasting.
- **Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1876** - In result of this uprising the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act of 1876 (SPT Act) is enacted by the British.
- The act prohibits the transfer of **Adivasi lands (urban or rural land) to non-Adivasis**.
- The land can only be inherited as per the Act, thus retaining the rights of Santhals to self-govern their land.

**Chhotanagpur Tenancy Act, (CNT Act)**

- It is enacted by the British in 1908 as a result of the Birsa Movement, allows land transfers within the same caste and certain geographical areas with the approval of the District Collector.
- This Act also restricts the sale of Adivasi and Dalit land, while allowing land transfers between Adivasi individuals from the same police station and Dalits in the same district.

## Reference

[The Indian Express | Santhal Hul and the land tenancy Acts](#)

## Saubhagya scheme (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana)

*The Meghalaya government recently issued notifications for the alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Saubhagya scheme in the state.*

- It is a scheme to ***ensure electrification (24x7) of all willing households*** in the country in rural as well as urban areas.
- **Aim**
  - Last mile connectivity and electricity connection to all un-electrified households in rural areas;
  - Last mile connectivity and electricity connection to all remaining economically poor un-electrified households in urban areas.
- **Launched in** - 2017.
- **Nodal agency** - Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC).
- **Implemented by** - Ministry of Power.
- **Target** - The States and Union Territories are required to complete the works of household electrification by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 and further extended to March, 2019.
- **Beneficiaries** - The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.
- Non-poor urban households are ***excluded*** from this scheme.
- It is a concurrent program to ***Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti***.

*Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti is a scheme designed to provide continuous electricity supply to rural India.*

- **Solar for remote areas** - Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible areas.
- It also includes the Repair and Maintenance (R&M) for 5 years.

## References

1. [Hindustan Times | Suabhagya scheme](#)
2. [Vikaspedia | Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana](#)

## Painted lady Butterfly (Vanessa Cardui)

A recent discovery is made on the painted lady butterflies that travelled 2,600 miles to the French Guiana beach.

- The painted lady also called as the ***thistle butterfly***, is native to Canada and cannot survive colder climates.
- **Scientific Name** - Vanessa cardui.
- The insect is a champion of long-distance travel, routinely crisscrossing the Sahara on a trek from Europe to sub-Saharan Africa, and covering up to 9,000 miles.
- **Appearance** - It has orange wings with black tips. The upper side of the forewings have a pattern of white spots and thick black lines.
- This is visually similar to the American lady, but it can be distinguished by the four eyespots instead of two on its hindwing.
- **Habitat** - This butterfly can be found almost anywhere, from the seashore and town gardens, to the tops of the highest mountains.
- **Distribution** - It is one of the world's most widespread butterflies, but it isn't found in ***South America***.
- **Diet** - It fed on Thistles, the primary food plant of this species.
- This is one of the few species that can breed in intensive farmland since even these sites typically contain a patch of Thistles.
- **Breeding** They reproduce when conditions are favorable, this includes ***year round mating*** in warmer climates.
- **Conservation status** - This species is not legally protected in India under any schedules of WildLife (Protection) Act, 1972.



*DNA Metabarcoding allows for simultaneous identification of many taxa within the same sample.*

## References

1. [The Indian Express | The painted lady \(Vanessa cardui\)](#)
2. [iNaturalist | Painted Lady](#)

## Kangaroo Courts

*Tajimul Islam, known for presiding over such 'salishi sabhas' (kangaroo courts) recently arrested after a video of him whipping a woman and a man surfaced on social media.*

- It is as **unofficial court** held by a group of people used to refer to proceedings or activities where a judgement is made in a manner that is unfair, biased, and lacks legitimacy.
- Their decisions are **not legally binding**.
- Kangaroo courts first appeared in the United States at the time of the 1849 California Gold Rush, and the term was first used in the southwestern United States.
- It first appeared in print in 1853 in a Texas book.
- Some dictionaries say the association with the animal could have a relation to Australians, though the term probably originated in America.
- **Drawbacks of the courts**
  - **No legality** - These informal courts, run by individuals with no legal authority. They operate outside the bounds of the official judicial system.
  - **Unfairness** - The rule of law gives way to the rule of individuals wielding unchecked power.
  - The procedure here is only conducted as a formality.
  - **Lack of Accountability** - Judges and decision-makers are frequently not accountable to any higher authority, it is difficult to hold them accountable for any wrongdoing.
  - **No appeal** - The courts doesn't allow for appeal against their judgment.
  - **Swift and Harsh Punishments** - Kangaroo courts frequently impose swift and harsh punishments, often without regard for the gravity of the crime or the circumstances of the accused.
  - **Mob Mentality** - Rather than pursuing justice, kangaroo courts may be motivated by mob mentality or a desire for vengeance.
- **Examples of kangaroo courts** - Lynch mobs, military tribunals that do not follow due process, and workplace tribunals that are set up to target employees unfairly.

## Reference

[The Indian Express | Kangaroo courts](#)

## Oropouche Fever

*Italy reported its first case of Oropouche fever recently.*

- It is a ***mosquito-borne disease*** common in Latin and South America.
- **Caused by** - Oropouche virus, which is transmitted most often through the bite of the *Culicoides paraensis* midge. It is an RNA virus, belonging to the family ***Bunyaviridae***.
- **Transmission** - It is transmitted through the bites of infected midges and mosquitos.
- There is ***no evidence of human-to-human transmission*** of the disease.
- **Symptoms** - Similar to dengue, and typically start between 4 and 8 days after the bite, includes fever, headaches, pain, chills, joint stiffness, and sometimes nausea and vomiting.
- Severe clinical presentation is rare, but it may result in aseptic meningitis.
- **Affecting age** - Illness can occur in people of any age. Most patients recover in about 7 days.
- **Treatment** - There is no specific vaccine or antiviral treatment available for the disease.
- Outbreaks are periodically reported in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Panama, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.

## Reference

[Hindustan Times | What is Oropouche fever?](#)

