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SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

- IAS SELF STUDY GUIDE -

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NOTE: Please remember that following '*answers*' are *NOT* '*model answers*'. They are *NOT* synopsis too if we go by definition of the term. What we are providing is content that both meets demand of the question and at the same time gives you extra points in the form of background information.



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General Studies Paper - I

TOPIC: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times ;

Q) The ultimate aim of Ashoka's Dhamma was to create a harmonious atmosphere in the state, where all people irrespective of their religious and cultural diversities, lived in peace and harmony with each other. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The question is an important and controversial topic INDIRECTLY related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Key demand of the question

The question wants us to dig deep into the policy of Dhamma adopted by Ashoka, identify the reasons behind the policy, its achievements. We have to provide justification in the form of facts/arguments to support our identification of the reasons.

Directive word

Examine- we have to look into the details of the Ashoka's policy of Dhamma and find out how the ultimate aim of the policy was to create a harmonious atmosphere in the state, where all people irrespective of their religious and cultural diversities, lived in peace and harmony with each other.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – *mention that the word Dhamma is derived from the Sanskrit word dharma and has no equivalent meaning in the English language, because of a specific context in which the term developed and applied.*

Body-

- *Discuss in points, how the policy of Dhamma was meant to reduce various conflicts and discords present in the Mauryan society at that time.*
e.g socio-economic condition- use of iron, the growth of Commerce and urban centres demanded a flexible social organization but the society was sharply divided by the caste system. Buddhism appeal to the lower sections of the society.
- *Mention the rock edicts which give us an idea of the purpose of the policy of Dhamma.*
- *Take help of the article attached to the question to frame your answer.*

Conclusion– *mention that Ashoka's Dhamma was an answer to the socio-political needs of the contemporaneous situation.*

Reasons why Dhamma had come into existence:-

- **Economical conditions which led to dhamma:-**
 - The **use of iron resulted in surplus production**, and the economy changed from being a simple, rural economy to a pattern of economy in which urban centres became important.
 - The use of Punch-marked silver coins and some other varieties of coins, the conscious intervention of the State to safeguard trade routes and the rise of urban centers point to a structural change in the economy, requiring adjustments in the society.



- The commercial classes had come to the forefront of society. **The emergence of urban culture demanded a flexible social organization.** The incorporation of tribes and peoples from the outlying areas into the social fabric also presented a problem.
- **Socio-religious conditions:-**
 - The response of the Brahmanical social order, which was based on the four-fold varna division, was to make the caste system more rigid and deny a higher status to the commercial class. **The rigidity of the Brahmanical class system sharpened the divisions within the society.**
 - The **Brahmanical hold over society, assiduously built through the later Vedic period, was coming under increasing attack.** The privileges of the priests, the rigidity of the caste system and the elaborate rituals were being questioned.
 - The lower orders turned to various heterodox sects and this created social tensions. It was this situation which emperor Ashoka inherited when he ascended the Mauryan throne.
 - Buddhism opposed the dominance of the Brahmans and the concept of sacrifices and rituals. It thus appealed to lower social orders and to emerging social classes. The human approach to relations in society preached by Buddhism further attracted different sections to itself.
 - Another element in these heterogeneous strands, co-existing during the Mauryan period was the presence of a large foreign population in the North-West.
 - It was essential to bring about a climate of harmony and mutual trust. In many tribal areas, people were unfamiliar with Brahmanical or heterodox ideas. To make the empire survive and to bring some cohesion within the empire in the midst of this diversity, some common patterns of behaviour and common approaches to the society's problems were needed which culminated into the policy of Dhamma.
- **Political conditions:**
 - **The complexity of the state system demanded an imaginative policy from the emperor which required minimal use of force** in such a large empire having diverse forms of economy and religions.
 - A more feasible alternative was the propagation of a policy that would work at an ideological level and reach out to all sections of the society. The policy of *Dharmawas* such an endeavour.

Ashoka's Dhamma:-

- Ashoka's dhamma was neither a new religion nor a new political philosophy. Rather, it was a way of life, a code of conduct and a set of principles to be adopted and practised by the people at large. Dhamma related to generalized norms of social activities and behaviours.

Achievements :-

- It is an important document of his essential humanity and an answer to the socio political needs of the contemporaneous situation.
- It was not anti brahminical because respect for brahmins and sarmanas is an integral part of dhamma.
- One of the striking features of Asoka's edicts is that he regards himself as a father figure. He constantly speaks of the father-child relationship between the king and his populace. **In spite of his religious eclecticism, Ashoka denounced all useless ceremonies and sacrifices held under the influence of superstition. The first Rock Edict prohibits the ritual of animal sacrifice and festive gatherings.**
- **While different major rock edicts talk about various aspects of the dhamma, the Major Rock Edict XI contains an elaborate explanation of the dhamma, apart from dealing with charity and kinship of humanity.**
- The **second Rock Edict describes the various measures taken by him such as the construction of roads and medical centres for men and animals.** This is followed by advice to be liberal and generous to both Brahmins and sramanas. This again stresses the fact that the ruler was not bigoted about one religion.
- In the **seventh Pillar Edict he orders the dhamma-mahammatas to look after the Brahmins and Ajivikas.** The Dhamma-mahammatas were a special cadre of officials started by Asoka in the fourteenth year of his reign and they were responsible for the practical aspects of the propagation of dhamma and the welfare of the different religious sects.



- **This indicates that the moral precepts preached by him were different from Buddhism. Asoka also started a system of dhammayatas or Yatras whereby he toured the country and preached the dhamma to the people.**
- **Throughout his edicts Ashoka stresses the importance of the family. The emphasis is on respecting elders including religious elders,** a humane and just attitude towards servants and slaves and a high degree of social responsibility and civic ethics.
- Dhamma was not given any formal definition or structure. Ashoka pleaded for tolerance of different religious sects in an attempt to create a sense of harmony. **The policy of Dhamma also laid stress on non-violence, which was to be practiced by giving up war and conquests and also as a restraint on the killing of animals.**
- **Ashoka set an example of vegetarianism by almost stopping the consumption of meat in the royal household.**
- Since he wanted to conquer the world through love and faith, he sent many missions to propagate Dhamma. Such missions were sent to far off places like Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka. The propagation of Dhamma included many measures of people's welfare.

Failure:-

- His policy of dhamma failed to achieve the desired goal of reducing social tension .
- Power of official dhammamahamattas to interfere in the lives of people increased over time .There was resentment against officials.
- None of Ashoka successors continued the propagation of dhamma.
- The Ashoka policy of Dhamma has been the subject of controversy and debate amongst scholars. Some have said that Ashoka was a partisan Buddhist and have equated Dhamma with Buddhism.

Conclusion:-

- Ashoka's "Dhamma" could not survive him; as such it was a failure. However, he was not establishing a new religion but was trying to impress upon the society the need for ethical and moral principles.

Q) Ancient Indian temple architecture evolved over the centuries from simple rock-cut cave shrines to massive and ornate temples. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The question is related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the origin and evolution of Indian temple architecture. We have to discuss how the ancient temple architecture was shaped around India and how it evolved over the time.

Directive word

Discuss- This is an all-encompassing directive which means that we have to write in detail about the origin of temple architecture in India, how they evolved over time different temple styles in India, their main features etc.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – *Mention the reasons for building the early temples and mention the bhakti movement which laid down the model temple architecture for the coming millenia.*

Body–

- *Discuss the main parts of the temple and how further parts were added to the parent structure.*



- Discuss the Buddhist influence, contribution of further dynasties like the Guptas etc.
- Bring out the important differences and common points between two main temple architecture styles in India (Dravidian vs Nagara style).
- Mention the materials used and how they changed over time. Mention a few important temples of India with marvellous architecture.

Conclusion- Mention the regional variations which produced exquisite samples of beauty but more or less the temple architecture in India followed a similar plan and evolution.

Background:-

- There was a gradual evolution starting from the **rock cut- cave temples** to **monolithic rathas** which finally culminated in **structural temples**.

Transition:-

▪ **Cave temples:-**

- Influenced by early **Buddhist** structures such as the **stupa**, the first Hindu temples were built from rock-cut caves and repeated the idea of relief panels and the decorative *gavaska* window form.
- Then, with the arrival of **Gupta architecture** in the 4th to 5th century CE, the first free-standing Hindu temples were constructed with features such as towers and projecting niches.
- **Materials used:-**
 - The first materials used were wood and terracotta, but architects gradually moved on to brick and stone, especially sandstone, granite, schist, and marble.
 - No mortar was used in the older temples and so precise cutting of dressed stones was required.
- Outstanding examples of influential cave temples include those at Udaigiri in Malwa and date to the 5th century CE. Early free-standing temples survive at Deogarh and include the 6th century CE Dasavatara temple dedicated to Vishnu.
- Although freestanding structural temples were being built by 6th century (**Shore temples, Mahabalipuram**), rock-cut cave temples continued to be built in parallel. Subsequently, rock-cut cave architecture became more sophisticated as in the Ellora caves, culminating ultimately the monolithic **Kailashanāth Temple**

▪ **Hindu temples:-**

▪ **What is it?**

- The Hindu temple (*mandir*) is laid out according to the eight cardinal directions, and a god representing each one (*dikpala*) may sometimes be represented in sculpture on the temple's exterior.
- Built on an elaborately carved platform (*adhithana*), the temple is often referred to in ancient Hindu texts on architecture (the *Vastu Shastras*) as the sacred mountain

▪ **Examples:-**

- 11th century CE Kandariya Mahadeva temple at **Khajuraho** and 12th century CE Rajarani temple at **Bhubaneswar** are outstanding examples of this effect.

▪ **Characteristics changed over time:-**

- Early temples consisted of only a *garbhagriha*, but over time additions were built and copied across temple sites to create, by the 10th century CE, a canonical architectural style.
- The most obvious of these features were a portico entrance (*ardhamandapa*) and pillared hall (*mandapa*) which led to the *garbhagriha*
- Above the *garbhagriha* huge tower was constructed, the *sikhara*.
- Other features like Mandapa, Kalasha, Dhvaj stambh got added later.



- One of the earliest examples incorporating these features can be found in Aiholi and the 8th century Durga temple, whilst one of the most ornate is the 12th century CE Nataraja Temple at **Chidambaram** in the Tamil Nadu.

Classification of temples into Nagara, Dravida and Vesara :-

- Architecture evolved slightly differently in different regions with mostly North Indian temples having Nagara style and South Indian having Dravida style.
- **Nagara style:-**
 - It is common here to build an entire temple on a stone platform with steps leading up to it.
 - Unlike in south India, it doesn't usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.
 - Earliest temples had only one *shikhara* (tower), but in the later periods, multiple shikharas came.
 - The *garbhagriha* is always located directly under the tallest tower.
- **Dravida style:-**
 - Unlike the nagara temple, the Dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall.
 - The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, which is known as **Gopura/ Gopuram**.
 - The shape of the main temple tower is known as Vimana (shikhara in nagara style).
 - The vimana is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving shikhara of north India.
 - In south India, the word Shikhara is used only for the crowning element at the top of the temple which is usually shaped like a small stupika or an octagonal cupola (this is equivalent to the amalaka or kalasha of north Indian temples).
- The **Vesara style** has characters of both.
 - The **Gadag style** is a feature of the Western Chalukya temples and it is characterized by ornate columns.
 - The **Kalinga architecture** is different. It has Rekha Deula, Pidha Deula and Khakhara Deula types of temples. Out of them the Khakhara Deula is essentially of a female deity such as Durga or Chamunda. Konark Sun temple is a Pidha Deula.

Conclusion:-

- Temple architecture evolved over the centuries and despite some regional variation it arrived at a standard arrangement which involved a huge walled complex with massive decorative gateways giving entrance to a sacred space of lesser shrines dominated by the main temple and its monumental series of towers.

Q) Discuss the contribution of Mughal rulers to Indian painting. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The issue is related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to deliberate upon the role of Mughal rulers in the development and evolution of Indian painting. We have to give an account of contribution of the Mughal rulers to Indian painting.

Directive word

Discuss- This is an all-encompassing directive, which wants us to write in detail about the contribution of Mughal rulers to Indian painting. We have to provide examples of different Mughal rulers and their contribution.



Structure of the answer

Introduction – mention the ancient origin and gradual evolution of Indian painting.

Body- mention that Mughal rulers further enriched the Indian painting. They introduced Persian court culture into Indian paintings. Then give an account of contribution of different Mughal rulers. From this period book illumination or individual miniatures replaced wall painting as the most vital form of art.

E.g Emperor Akbar patronised artists from Kashmir and Gujarat; Humayun brought two Persian painters to his court. Mention Baburnama, Akbarnama, Abd-us-Samad Dasawanth and Basawan and their works. Take the help of the article attached to the question to frame your answer.

Conclusion- Form a concise and a fair conclusion on the above issue, based on your discussion.

Background:-

- Indian painting is the result of the synthesis of various traditions and its development is an ongoing process. However while adapting to new styles, Indian painting has maintained its distinct character.

Contribution:-

- Generally made as miniatures either as book illustrations or as single works, **Mughal painting evolved from the Persian school of miniature painting with Hindu, Buddhist and Jain influences.**
- These paintings evolved during the rule of various Mughal Emperors in India. The paintings often revolved around themes like battles, legendary stories, hunting scenes, wildlife, royal life, mythology, etc. These paintings also became an important medium to narrate the tall tales of the Mughal emperors.
- The art of textual illustration got a new look under the Mughals.
- Akbar:-**
 - Akbar ordered the creation of many paintings and also paid close attention to the final output of all these artworks. He was very particular about the details and the artistic elements involved.
 - Akbar had an impressive number of painters in his court. Between 1560 and 1577, he commissioned a number of massive painting projects. One of the earliest painting projects commissioned by Akbar was 'Tutinama' which literally translates to 'Tales of a Parrot.' There is Hamzanama as well.
 - Akbar and his successors brought revolutionary changes to painting and sensual illustrations. From this period book illumination or individual miniatures replaced wall painting as the most vital form of art.
 - Akbar also encouraged the art of making portraits.
- Jahangir:-**
 - Since Jahangir was largely influenced by European painting, he ordered his painters to follow the single point perspective used by European artists. This gave a whole new perspective to the Mughal painting.
 - Jahangir even used European paintings that portrayed the images of Kings and Queens as references and asked his painters to take a leaf out of these paintings.
 - As a result, most of the Mughal paintings commissioned by Jahangir had finer brush strokes and lighter colors. One of the major projects commissioned by him was the 'Jahangirnama.'
 - Several individual portraits of Jahangir were also made by his painters. However, he also commissioned many paintings of birds, animals and flowers which were portrayed in a realistic manner.
 - Artists began to use vibrant colours such as peacock blue and red and were able to give three dimensional effects to paintings
- Shahjahan:-**
 - The paintings that were displayed in the court became increasingly rigid and formal. However, he commissioned a large number of paintings meant to be his personal collection.
 - These paintings were based on themes like gardens and pictures that gave great aesthetic pleasure.



- He also ordered many works that portrayed lovers in intimate positions. One of the most important works produced during his reign was the 'Padshanama.'
- Shahjahan's eldest son preferred depicting natural elements like plants and animals in his painting.
- However withdrawal of royal patronage to painting under Aurangzeb led to the dispersal of artists to different places in the country.
- During the reign of **Muhammad Shah**, Mughal painting received a brief revival as he was a patron of arts. He encouraged and supported paintings, and two of the best artists – Nidha Mal and Chitarman – of the time served in his court.
- Unfortunately, the Mughal painting declined after the death of Muhammad Shah. When the Mughal Empire was in decadence, various other schools of painting with Mughal influence emerged in several regional courts, including the Rajput and Pahari paintings.

Q) Although the contact between the Macedonians and ancient Indians was for a brief period, its impact was fairly wide in range. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

Greek invasion of northwest India and contact with the Indian civilization though short lived had a profound impact. The issue is important as far as UPSC mains exam is concerned and is indirectly related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Key demand of the question.

The question simply wants us to describe at length, the effect of Greek contact with India. We have to dig deep into the issue and describe how the Greek contact affected India's economy, polity, society etc.

Directive word

Discuss- This is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question- what was the impact of Greek contact with India.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – briefly discuss the Alexander's invasion of north-western India and (brief but with significant impact) extension of Macedonian empire.

Body–

Discuss in points about the impact of contact between Macedonians and ancient Indians.

E.g It brought Europe, for the first time, in close contact with India, as routes, by sea and by land, were opened between India and the West. A close commercial relation was also established, Greek writers left many valuable geographical accounts of this region, it paved the way for political unification of north western India, Gandhara art school developed, making of coins, the date of Alexander's invasion – 326 BC provides a definite 'marker' for arranging the sequence of historical events in India. Etc.

Name the Greeks who have left an account of the period e.g Arrian, admiral Nearchus, and Megasthenes.

Conclusion– Form a balanced and concise opinion based on your discussion.

Background:-

- During the fourth century BC, the Greeks and the Persians fought for supremacy over West Asia. The Achaemenid empire was finally destroyed by the Greeks under the leadership of Alexander of Macedon.



Contact between Macedonians and ancient Indians :-

- When Alexander tried to conquer India north western India had lack of unity and was divided into number of small principalities. So it helped the Greeks to conquer these principalities one after another.
- Alexander's army refused to march ahead when they heard about the vast army and the strength of the Nandas of Magadha. He divided his territorial possessions covering parts of eastern Europe and a large area in western Asia into three parts and placed them under three Greek governors.

Impact:-

- **Economic:-**
 - **Routes established:-**
 - Alexander's invasion brought Europe, for the first time, in close contact with India, as routes, by sea and by land, were opened between India and the West.
 - A close commercial relation was also established. The traders and craftsmen used to follow these routes.
 - The Greek writers have left many valuable geographical accounts of this region for Indians.
- **Political:-**
 - Alexander's invasion paved the way for political unification of north western India by conquering the warring tribes of this region.
 - It seems that by his campaigns Alexander made Chandragupta Maurya's work of annexing this area easier.
 - Soon after Alexander's departure, Chandragupta defeated one of his generals, Seleucus Nikator and brought the whole of north western India upto Afghanistan under his control.
- **Art :-**
 - The influence of Greek art is found in the development of Indian sculpture as well. The combination of the Greek and the Indian style formed the Gandhara School of art.
 - Indians also learnt the art of making well-shaped and beautifully designed gold and silver coins from the Greeks.
 - The Greeks had some influence on Indian astrology as well.
 - Many valuable information about the social and economic condition of northern and north western India of that time **are known from the Greek accounts left by Arrian, admiral Nearchus, and Megasthenes.**
 - They speak about the developed condition of many crafts, existence of a brisk trade with the outside world, and about the general prosperous condition of the country.
 - Much has also been said in these accounts of carpentry as a flourishing trade in India
- **World came to know more about India:-**
 - Alexander's adventure also helped the West to know something about the Indian life and thinking.
 - **Philosophy:-**
 - It has been said that the ideas and notions of Indian philosophy and religion which filtered into the Roman empire flowed through the channel opened by Alexander.
 - As the Greek writers left dated records of Alexander's campaign, it helped India a great deal to frame the chronology of ancient Indian history. The date of **Alexander's invasion – 326 BC provides a definite 'marker' for arranging the sequence of historical events in India.**



Q) The Chola State during the imperial period (850-1200) was marked for its uniqueness and innovativeness. Comment. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The issue is indirectly related to GS- 1 syllabus under the following heading-
salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to bring out the uniqueness and innovativeness of the Chola empire during the imperial period (850-1200). We have to dig deep into the socio-economy and polity of the Chola state during the said period and form our answer accordingly.

Directive word

Comment- We have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and based on our discussion we have to form a concise opinion on the issue. Our discussion should present justification in the form of arguments/ facts as a stand to our opinion.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – mention that the Chola dynasty was one of the longest-ruling dynasties in the history of southern India which has left a lasting legacy behind. Vijayalaya was the founder of the Imperial Chola dynasty which was the beginning of one of the most splendid empires in Indian history.

Body– Discuss in points the innovations and uniqueness of Chola empire

E.g King's orders were recorded in great detail in the inscriptions, usually on the walls of temples. A special type of official recorded the oral orders immediately on palm leaf manuscripts; A powerful bureaucracy assisted the king in the tasks of administration and in executing his orders and was well organized than in other contemporary states; careful balance between central control and local independence was maintained and non-interference in local government was sacrosanct (local self government was born); constant audit and scrutiny of bureaucrats and other officials; revenue records were carefully maintained records of land rights, based on complete enquired and accurate surveys, and were kept up-to-date by regular surveys; Village assemblies exercised large powers in deciding local disputes. Small committees called Nyayattar heard matters that did not come under the jurisdiction of the voluntary village committees. The punishments in most cases were in the form of donations to the temples or other endowments etc.

Conclusion– form a fair, balanced and a concise conclusion on the overall issue, in accordance with the above-held discussion.

Background:-

- Cholas were by far the most important dynasty in the subcontinent at this time, although their activities mainly affected the peninsula and Southeast Asia

Chola state is unique and innovative due to the following reasons:-

- Cholas were the first dynasty who tried to bring the entire South India under a common rule and to a great extent succeeded in their efforts.
- Orders recorded in details:-**
 - King was the supreme commander and a benevolent dictator. His share in the administration consisted of issuing oral commands to responsible officers when representations were made to him.
 - Such orders were recorded in great detail in the inscriptions, usually on the walls of temples.
- Bureaucracy:-**
 - A **powerful bureaucracy assisted the king** in the tasks of administration and in executing his orders.



- The Chola bureaucracy was **highly organized in nature**. A careful balance between central control and local independence was maintained and non-interference in local government was sacrosanct .
- There was a **definite hierarchy** of the bureaucracy and the tenure of the officials was simply dependent on the 'Crown's pleasure'.
- One of the important officers were the Revenue officials responsible for the receipts and expenditures of the government
- **Fairness in king's orders:-**
 - Due to the lack of a legislature or a legislative system in the modern sense, the fairness of king's orders were dependent on the goodness of the man and in his belief in Dharma – sense of fairness and justice.
- **Local governance:-**
 - Every village was a self governing unit . Number of such villages constituted a Korram or nadu or Kottam in different parts of the country.
 - At the height of the Chola Empire there were eight or nine of these provinces including Sri Lanka.
 - An inscription of the eighth century BC describes the **constitution of the local council, eligibility and disqualifications for the candidates, the method selection, their duties and delimits their power**
 - It appears that the administration of a common village Ur or Oor was different from that of a village gifted to brahmins.
 - As the head of the civil administration, the king himself occasionally toured the country and carried out inquests into the local administration.
 - Besides the tax collected by the central government, several local bodies enjoyed the privilege of collecting tolls and other imposts charges.
 - Justice was mostly a local matter in the Chola Empire, where minor disputes were settled at the village level.
- **Audit:-**
 - The activities of the officials of the bureaucracy were under constant audit and scrutiny.
- **Land assessment:-**
 - An extensive resurvey was done around 1089 to record the extents of lands and their assessment, boundaries of villages and the common rights inside the village, including the communal pastures.
- **Tax collection and revenue officials :-**
 - Revenue officials were responsible for the tax collection. The Chola government was very mindful of the need for the fair and accurate collection of tax to run the state machinery.
 - The revenue records were not manuals of extortion but carefully maintained records of land rights, based on complete enquired and accurate surveys, and were kept up-to-date by regular surveys.
 - The duties of revenue officials included many other spheres of responsibilities. They also regulated receipts and expenditures of temples.
 - They were also seen to purchase land on behalf of village assemblies. They attested and certified important documents drawn up by local government agencies such as village councils.
 - They were also shown to act as magistrates.
- **Justice:-**
 - The punishments for minor crimes were in the form of fines or a direction for the offender to donate to some charitable endowment.
 - Even crimes such as manslaughter or murder were punished by fines.
 - Capital punishment was uncommon even in the cases of first-degree murder.



- **Nyayattar:-**
 - **Village assemblies** exercised large powers in deciding local disputes.
 - Small committees called Nyayattar heard matters that did not come under the jurisdiction of the voluntary village committees.
 - The convicted person would remit their fines at a place called Darmaasana.

Q) Throw light on the nature of migration in Assam. Examine whether the National Register of Citizens will address the issues arising thereunder? (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question

With the deadline for final draft of the Supreme Court-monitored National Register of Citizens (NRC) nears, it is prudent to understand the issue of migration in Assam and how far NRC can resolve the issues.

Key demand of the question

In the first part of the question, we have to throw light on the history of migration, the communities who migrated and the issues it has created. In the subsequent part, we need to examine whether NRC will resolve issues or create new ones.

Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any .

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Give an overview of the current situation to explain why this question.

Body – In the first part, examine the nature of migration. Mention the history of migration – in 8th century Turks and Arab traders and sailors came to the Brahmaputra Valley and settled in the Darrang region, during British time, how tea plantation workers from other parts were taken to Assam pre independence, migration from Bangladesh etc. Highlight the issues arising out of migration – demography change, resource crunch, struggle for political power etc

In the subsequent part, explain the need for NRC, and the pros and cons of its implementation.

Conclusion – present your view on NRC and way forward.

Nature of migration in assam :-

- Migration into Assam is not a new phenomenon. Tribes from different parts of the world belonging to different races came to Assam throughout history.
- The Mongoloid race from West China, The Austric race, the Drabian race, and finally the Aryan race from the Gangetic plains have all immigrated to Assam before 1st century A D.
- In 8th century Turks and Arab traders and sailors came to the Brahmaputra Valley and settled in the Darrang region.
- Successive Mongoloid rulers invited Brahmin priests to Assam and got converted to Hinduism. Around 12th century, the Ahom rulers from Burma established their long lasting rule (till the advent of British).
- The Ahom rulers also converted to Hinduism but encouraged the co-existence of all other religions.
- British conquered entire region of Assam and brought together the various tribes in Assam under the administrative umbrella of Assam province. The British, soon after their occupation of the region found the soil and climate highly conducive to the cultivation of tea. **So they brought large number of labourers from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to work in tea gardens.**



- **The** British also imported large numbers of tillers from East Bengal, who were Muslims. The influx of Muslims into the region was constant and thorough.
- There is also immigration from different parts of India for commercial purposes .
- The large volume of influx of migrants have modified the population structure of Assam in respect of ethno-religious composition, literacy and education pattern, occupation structure, age-sex composition, economy, work force etc. and host of associated population problems in changing socio-political disturbance like ethnic clash etc.

National register of citizens:-

- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the register containing names of Indian citizens.
- It is a part of a much-awaited list that aims to separate the genuine residents of border state Assam and illegal Bangladeshi immigrants
- Nearly 32 years after the Assam Accord was signed, the first draft of an updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) for the State listed 1.90 crore names out of the 3.29 crore applicants.
- Assam is the only State in the country that prepared an NRC in 1951 following the census of that year and has become the first State to get the first draft of its own updated NRC.
- The NRC, 1951, is updated in Assam with the names of applicants whose names appear in NRC, 1951, or any electoral rolls of the State up to midnight of March 24, 1971, and their descendants and all Indian citizens, including their children and descendants who have moved to Assam post March 24, 1971.

Concerns and Challenges:-

- The initial publication of the register has caused confusion as **many legal residents of Assam have found their names missing.**
- The **sudden appearance of a separate category of “original inhabitants”** in the list. It is governed by the Citizenship Rules of 2003, which does not define “original inhabitants”. Even though the category has reportedly been withdrawn, it is not clear what criteria had been used in the first place.
- The **possible disqualification of lakhs of applicants who had submitted panchayat documents** as proof of identity. The Guwahati High Court said they had no statutory sanctity. This left about 48 lakh people who had submitted such documents in the lurch.
- There is a renewed conviction that the exercise of counting Assam’s citizens is a political one, and the new register will be a **document of exclusion, not inclusion.**
- The issue has become much larger than a cut-and-dried question of who is an Indian citizen and who is not. **There are important humanitarian concerns at play, concerns that go beyond identification and numbers.**
 - Nearly five decades have elapsed since the cut-off date of March 25, 1971, and individuals who have sneaked in illegally have children and grandchildren by now.
- **Muslim fears:**
 - **Compounded older fears of discrimination that haunt Muslims in the state**, which has never quite recovered from the Nellie massacres of 1983.
 - The concerns of the Bengali speaking Muslims have peaked due to the proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955. The amendment would allow illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.
- **It embodies the paranoia of a volatile state.**
- **Paper issues:**
 - The process depended on countless fragile, fading documents, where entire family histories may be wiped out by a spelling mistake, a name misheard by surveying officials decades ago, a page missing from an old electoral roll.



- The bureaucratic ledgers are permeated by memory and hearsay, the document flickers between the official and the personal. It may have been this subjectivity in the counting process that laid it open to charges of political manipulation.
- In all least 10 districts the records are incomplete or unavailable.
- The concern for many in India is that a **number of people may be deprived of citizenship through this process.**
- **Forged documents:**
 - Authorities detected a sizeable number of cases of persons trying to use forged documents to establish their Indian citizenship. Most of the persons who submitted forged documents are suspected to be illegal migrants
- **Delay in process:-**
 - Most of the documents sent to authorities outside Assam are taking a lot of time. For instance around 65000 documents were sent to different authorities in West Bengal, only 30 have been sent back after verification so far.

There are some positives as well:-

- These are misplaced fears. The number of people who might get left out would be 50,000 at most. **Even then, they will get an opportunity to prove their citizenship through claims and objections**
- Despite concerns the initiative is praised by many experts as a necessity to reduce the migrant issue in Assam.
- NRC is the long awaited process for the people of Assam AASU and many other students' organisation as well as social organisation wants it is the part of historical Assam accord.
- The publication of the updated NRC is indeed a positive step in so far as it puts to rest wild speculations about the extent of the illegal migrant population in Assam and the resulting polarisation that political parties have been exploiting to make electoral gains.

Conclusion:-

- The need of the hour therefore is for the Union Government to allay apprehensions presently in the minds of the people of Assam and take steps to contain any adverse fallout after the publication of the final draft of the NRC. At the same time, it also needs to spell out what it intends to do with the persons whose names do not figure in the final NRC.

Q) Critically examine the need for conducting caste based census in Indian society? (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question

The article raises some pertinent questions regarding the nature of Indian society and whether caste based data would strengthen the existing biases or help us in better analyzing the need of some of the positive action measures for one. SECC was in news a lot and considering the history of census in India where caste based data has not been collected, the debate over the need of its inclusion is justified.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to delve deeper into the benefits of collecting caste based data in census as well as the harms it might cause in light of the reality of Indian society.

Directive word

Critically examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, all you need to do is look at the good and bad of something and give a fair judgement.



Structure of the answer

Introduction – Give a brief history of census in India highlighting that caste based census has not been conducted in post independent India. Mention about SECC

Body

- Discuss the cons – creates chasms within society, historical apprehensions when such data was used to further divide and rule policy, the reality of Indian society and the implications that it would have in a situation of trust deficit between communities, it would be a process of recording caste generated a conception of community as a homogeneous and classifiable community and thereby influenced the processes of political representation.
- Discuss the pros – lack of accurate data related to many affirmative action programmes of the government, helpful in the debate related to reservation policy, targeted poverty reduction programmes etc
- Discuss the challenges in collecting caste based data – subdivisions within caste, elaborate administrative exercise etc

Conclusion – Based on above arguments give a fair and balanced view.

Background:-

- Caste is a social reality which determines one's social status and the limits of the social relations and also opportunities for advancement in the life of an individual.

Why caste based census is necessary in India:-

- **Data is required:-**
 - Indian political systems, civil society and courts continue to assume that broad caste-based social categories Dalits, Adivasis, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and upper castes defined largely using data from 1931 Census and a few special purpose surveys **continue to shape economic conditions in 21st century India.**
 - **Without accurate data at a granular level for each of these categories consisting of thousands of jatis (castes) and upjatis (subcastes), India has no way of knowing whether this is correct.**
- **Indian society has undergone a tremendous transformation since 1931:-**
 - Land ownership that bolstered the power of upper castes has lost its hold.
 - Land fragmentation and decades of agricultural stagnation have turned many upper caste landowners into marginal farmers barely eking out a subsistence.
- **Economic growth benefitted the downtrodden:-**
 - Economic growth of the past century, combined with strong affirmative action undertaken by successive governments of the independent nation, may have changed relative fortunes of various groups.
 - Some jatis may have managed to pull themselves out poverty and marginalisation, while others may have sunk into it. Hence, it is time to collect data that reflects the current situation.
- The proponents of caste census offer that **without knowing the actual numbers, adequate affirmative action cannot be taken by the States.**
- If caste census provides figures on caste and these are analysed objectively, **the ideas represented by the India's upper castes and their disproportionate claim over the country's resources will stand exposed.**
- A caste census would, on the one hand, bring forward **anthropological facts**, and on the other, provide the basis for framing sound development policies required for **social justice.**
- **A caste census is also important because there are hundreds of such castes which are nomadic and even today, deprived of an identity and development. Obtaining factual information about them would make it possible to design programmes for their security and growth.**
- The country will also come to know about those castes which have profited a lot already and those for which development hasn't even been able to touch.



Criticism:-

- Colonial Censuses, beginning with the first Census in 1871, included questions about caste and used these data to divide and conquer India by first privileging Brahmins as interpreters of Indian culture and then targeting them as the roots of caste-based oppression and inequality. **Consequently, post-Independence Censuses have shied away from including questions about caste.**
- **Collection of data on castes is inherently risky** and also a major challenge. This will **lead to social fragmentation** and increase caste enmities.
- There is already a **permanent list for the country showing the** number of backward classes is continuously being updated and would be readily available.
- The argument of exact number of people belonging to various castes like Vashists, Yadavs, Kurmis, Kapurs **will serve no purpose** except to create an artificial bond of kinship on one side and unnecessary antagonism to the other castes.
- The judgment of the Supreme Court held that the collection of data on castes, through a census (or any other means), is against the law.

Conclusion

- The day caste is obliterated, untouchability, discrimination, inequality, casteist hatred, caste genocides and the fight for reservations will automatically get wiped out and nor will politicians be able to play politics on the basis of caste.

TOPIC: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.

Q) Why did the Soviet Union sign the Non-Aggression Pact with Germany? What did Germany gain from it? Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Reference

Key demand of the question

The question asks us to explain the reason why Soviet union signed the Molotov Ribbentrop pact which took the world by surprise. Discuss what Soviet and Germany gained from the pact. Also discuss, why the pact broke and the overall impact of the pact.

Directive word

Discuss – Here, in your discussion, bring out the aspects mentioned in the discussion above.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Briefly mention the contents of the pact and the overall geopolitical situation when the pact was signed.

Structure of the answer

- *Discuss the content of the deal*
- *Explain USSR's motivation – lack of agreement over collective security deal with UK and France, German threat in eastern Europe and the prospect of facing it alone, the submissiveness of western powers at Munich conference etc*
- *Explain Germany's motivations – secure itself on one front from USSR's threat*
- *Explain what ended the pact and how it helped Russia to prepare its army as it got the luxury of time*

Conclusion – *discuss the overall impact of the pact.*



Background:-

- Foreign minister of Nazi Germany, Joachim von Ribbentrop, and his Soviet counterpart, Molotov in 1939 signed a non-aggression pact.

Non aggression pact:-

- The two countries agreed to take no military action against each other for the next 10 years.
- The proposal also stipulated that neither country would aid any third party that attacked either signatory.
- Finally, the proposal contained a secret protocol specifying the spheres of influence in Eastern Europe both parties would accept after Hitler conquered Poland. The Soviet Union would acquire the eastern half of Poland, along with Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.
- The German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact fell apart in June 1941, when Nazi forces invaded the Soviet Union.

Why Russia signed non aggression pact with Germany:-

- With Europe on the brink of another major war, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin viewed the pact as a way to keep his nation on peaceful terms with Germany
- The signing of the pact would also give him time to build up the Soviet military. German chancellor Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) used the pact to make sure Germany was able to invade Poland unopposed.
- Lack of agreement over collective security deal with UK and France
- The submissiveness of western powers at Munich conference :-**
 - Munich Agreement** was a settlement permitting Nazi Germany's annexation of portions of Czechoslovakia along the country's borders mainly inhabited by German speakers, for which a new territorial designation, the "Sudetenland", was coined.
- Stalin claimed his pact with Hitler was a necessary measure to bring about the end of capitalism.

Consequences:-

- Germany:-**
 - Within days of signing the pacts, now confident that the Soviets would not oppose him, Hitler invaded Poland.
 - Britain and France declared war on Germany, and the war was underway.**
 - It allowed Hitler to avoid a two-front war until June 22, 1941.
 - Germans at Hitler's behest violated the pact by invading the Soviet Union under Operation Barbarossa.
 - Western Poland, occupied by the Nazis, underwent a racial reorganization.
- Russia :-**
 - The agreement Stalin reached with Hitler was that Stalin would invade the Baltic countries and Poland at the same time Hitler invaded Poland. Stalin invaded Poland and created a buffer state it would control for over forty years.
 - The Red army invaded Poland violating the 1932 Soviet-Polish Non aggression pact and **occupied the Polish territory assigned to it by the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.**
 - Germany would control Western Poland and Lithuania and the Soviets would control Eastern Poland, **Romania, Finland, Estonia and Latvia.**
 - In both zones people such as Jews, Catholic clergymen etc were systematically detained, dispossessed, and killed. Those lucky enough to survive, particularly in the Soviet zone, were subject to deportation that winter.
 - Stalin had designs on the **Baltic countries**, Finland, and eastern Poland lands that belonged to the Russian Empire in the time of the czars.



Q) Analyze the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles of 1919 and examine the validity of Germany's objections to the treaty. (250 words)

[Indian express](#)

[Financial express](#)

Key demand of the question

The question asks you to delve deeper into the provisions of the policy to examine whether Germany was hard done by, and its feeling of angst at the injustice meted out leading to world war 2.

Directive word

Analyze – When asked to analyze, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Briefly introduce the treaty of Versailles.

Body

- *Mention the provisions of the treaty and the fact.*
- *Analyze the reasons why the provisions might have seemed harsh to Germans. Also provide counter arguments as to why the provisions were not that harsh.*
- *Dictated peace*
- *Several points not taken from Woodrow Wilson's 14 point speech, loss of territory*
- *Etc*
- *Provide conclusion on the lines of – Germans had certain causes of communication pain but the treaty could have been harsher.*

Background :-

- World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.
- It was mainly negotiated among the Allied powers with little participation by Germany, its 15 parts and 440 articles reassigned German boundaries and assigned liability for reparations.
- After strict enforcement for five years, the French assented to the modification of important provisions.

Treaty of Versailles and its important provisions :-

- **Territories surrendered:-**
 - Germany had to surrender all of its overseas territories. Germany had a number of territories, particularly in Africa and Asia. These were converted into League of Nation mandates and were administered by the Allied Powers.
 - In Europe, Germany also lost a lot of territory. All the lands it had gained from Russia in the Brest-Litovsk treaty were stripped away and given independence.
 - German land was also ceded to France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Denmark. In total, Germany lost about 25,000 square miles.
 - Alsace and Lorraine were returned to France.
 - The coal mines in the German area called Saar were ceded to France for 15 years. But the area was to be governed by the League of Nations.
- **Military:-**
 - The size and strength of Germany's military was severely restricted. Germany was limited to a purely defensive army of just 100,000 men. They also had to surrender all of their modern warships.



- Germany was forbidden from sending its military into the Rhineland that bordered France, and it had to allow this land to be occupied by Allied forces.
- **Responsibility:-**
 - Germany had to officially accept responsibility for the war.
- **Reparations:-**
 - Germany was required to pay war reparations to the Allied powers
 - Eventually, in April 1921, the League of Nations agreed a sum of £6.6 billion.
- Germany and Austria were forbidden from merging.

German objections:-

- The Germans hated the Treaty of Versailles because they had not been allowed to take part in the Conference.
- The **Germans hated Clause 231** (which blamed Germany for causing the war), because it was the excuse for all the harsh clauses of the Treaty, and because they thought Russia was to blame for starting the war.
 - The Germans hated clause 231 because accepting it gave the Allies the moral right to *punish* Germany
- **Germany's military power was reduced, and it was not allowed any troops in the Rhineland.** Germans said this left them powerless against even the tiny countries.
- **Germany had to pay £6,600 million 'reparations'**, a huge sum which Germans felt was just designed to destroy their economy and starve their children.
- Finally, **Germans hated the loss of land.** Alsace-Lorraine was given back to France which was considered a national humiliation. Huge areas of Germany were given to countries like Poland, and Germany was not allowed to unite with Austria. The Germans thought this was unfair, because other nations were given self-determination.

Their objections were valid:-

Firstly, the Germans did not think that they *had* caused the war (for the Germans, the war was a war of self-defence against Russia, which had mobilised 31 July 1914).

Although the Allies did not allow Germany an army, they did not let her join the League of Nations. This was an insult, and it also meant the Germany had no way ever to get fair treatment by other states – neither armies nor argument.

- **To claim Germany is solely responsible for World War I is completely unrealistic** as it was Austria-Hungary who declared war on Serbia starting a chain of events resulting in a war involving most of Europe.
- The **reparations to be paid by Germans** to the allies was very high and that the allies were simply trying to make a profit out of the war.
 - In all probability Germany could not afford this sum as the Germans had already lost around 10% of its industry and 15% of its agricultural land through the war and their economy was at the lowest it has been for many years.
 - The allies were effectively trying to ruin the whole German economy by making them pay back these huge debts.
- **Military restrictions:-**
 - For a strong military nation like Germany their army was reduced to a humiliating low level. Germany obviously had strong objections to this term. Germany claimed that they would no longer be able to defend itself if these restrictions were in place making the country defenceless against an extremely hostile Europe at the time.
- **Territorial loss for Germany:-**
 - This was the clause that destroyed Germany role as a global super power. The Germans argued that this term has destroyed all the work that Germany had done in the last century to get so powerful and it also depleted the Germans economy as, less people means less income for the government.



Not valid:-

- However Germany's claims that the attacking Russia was an act of self defence was not completely true as **Germany was in no direct danger and it is likely that Austria-Hungary plight was an excuse to take on Russia.**
- Some of Germans objections were not justified, such as **military restrictions, as the Allies have just been involved in a war and had to reduce the threat imposed by Germany.**
- **Germans could have hardly expected good treatment because of the harsh treatment they meted out to Russia** when signing Brest-Litvosk during the war.
- The Germans claimed that they had been promised terms based on Wilson's 14 points but not all provisions were based on that. **But the 14 points have never been accepted officially by any states involving including Germany.**
- Alsace Lorraine was captured by Germany during Franco Prussian war in 1871 and **now they were given back to France which was totally justified**

Conclusion:-

- The treaty could have been even harsher .When compared to other features imposed by Germany this treaty was moderate.

Q) The British exploitation of India can be divided into three main stages. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The British conquest of India was gradual and in stages. Similarly The exploitation of Indian resources was also done in stages. It is an important question as far as mains exam is concerned. The issue is related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.

Key demand of the question.

The question simply wants us to write in detail about the British exploitation of India and describe the three main stages in which it can be divided.

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which wants us to write exhaustively about the three main stages of British conquest of India.

We have to write in detail about the nature of those three stage.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– *briefly discuss the start of British colonialism in India and mention the battle of Plassey.*

Body– *Discuss the three stages of British exploitation of India.*

- *The period of 'merchant capital' dating from 1757 to 1813.*
- *The period of 'industrial capital' dating from 1813 to 1858.*
- *The period of 'finance capital' starting from last decades of 19th century and continuing till independence.*
- *Describe the salient characteristics and nature of the three stages in detail while restricting yourself to the word limit.*

Conclusion– *form a fair and a balanced conclusion based on the above discussion.*



Background:-

- With the victory of the British in the Carnatic wars and more importantly in the Bengal battles began the process of their conquest of India. By 1765 the British had not become the virtual rulers of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, but also begun to dictate terms to the Nawabs of both Carnatic and Awadh. This was a gradual process by the end of which, all parts of India came under British control.

British conquest of India in stages:-

- The British colonial rule in India is generally divided into three stages:
 - **First stage(1757-1813) represents the mercantile phase**
- This 'mercantilist' phase **was marked by direct plunder and the East India company's monopoly trade functioning through the investment of surplus revenues** in the purchase of Indian finished goods for export to England and Europe.
- During the mercantile phase **the aim of all activity was to accumulate wealth**. In order to pursue a favourable trade, the British company started aggressive policies in India.
- The government passed the Regulating Act and the Pitt's India Act to gain more and the direct control over the affairs of the company. The company officials transferred their fortunes acquired in India to England. The financial bleeding of India started with the British gaining hegemony over Indian territories.
- New revenue settlements were imposed upon the agrarian structure.
- They fought several wars, crushed many princely States and brought them under the colonial authority. Soon the mercantile phase came to an end.
 - **Second stage(1813-1860) represents the free trade phase**
- By the dawn of the 19th century, the British became an industrial power following Industrial Revolution in England. It was in need of raw material to feed its industries. The emerging capitalist class found the Company a stumbling block for its market.
- During this period, India was converted rapidly into a market for British textiles and a great source for raw materials. Traditional handicrafts were thrown out of gear
- The Company's monopoly in India was bitterly attacked by the British industrial community. Thus, **the need for raw material and markets for the British manufactured goods resulted in the formulation of free trade policy towards India**.
- The special feature of this policy was that it was a one way traffic wherein British goods entered India virtually free while Indian products entering Britain faced high tariffs.
- The protective policy towards British trade was thoroughly guarded, leaving India-made products to face stiff competition.
- Revenue and expenditure policies of the Britishers were also exploitative in nature. Huge expenditure (expenditure on army, pensions and salaries of Englishmen, etc.) incurred by the British imperial power had been borne by Indians by paying high doses of taxes.
 - **Third stage(1860 onwards) represents the finance capital phase**
- During this phase, finance-imperialism began to entrench itself through the managing agency firms, export-import firms, exchange banks, and some export of capital.
- Britain, of course, kept India as her most important colony where British capital could hope to maintain a haven. For her survival, Britain decided to make massive investments in various fields (rail, road, postal system, irrigation, European banking system, and a limited field of education, etc.) in India by plundering Indian capital. It is said that 'railway construction' laid the foundation for a new stage of colonial exploitation
- With the opening up of the country, private capitalist investment from Britain came to India. But unfortunately, such British investment was not meant for India's industrial development.
- The basic motive behind such investment was the commercial penetration of India, its exploitation as a source of raw materials and markets for British manufactures.



- This was, in fact, one of the principal contradictions of imperialism-colonialism in India.

Conclusion:-

- Britain's supremacy in the world economy for nearly 200 years lay in the utter neglect and plunder of her most important colony India. India's economic life was redirected towards servicing the interests of British imperial power. Internal needs of the country were of no concern to the lone colonizer of the world.

Q) Examine why BR Ambedkar called Article 32 as the heart and soul of the constitution? (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question demands us to answer the significance of article 32 and what makes it one of the most important provisions of the constitution.

Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any .

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Explain what article 32 is

Body – Highlight the significance of article 32 which makes it one of the most significant provisions of the constitution. Mention that without article 32, fundamental rights lose their importance, it is a part of basic structure . Mention that it is only by granting the power to SC as the protector of the constitution we are securing the rights of the people. Discuss the impact of article 32 through some cases.

Conclusion – Mention that article 32 is the pillar on which part 3 of our constitution rests and thus it becomes the soul of the constitution.

Background:-

- Article 32 provides the right to Constitutional remedies which means that a person has right to move to Supreme Court (and high courts also) for getting his fundamental rights protected. While Supreme Court has power to issue writs under article 32, High Courts have been given same powers under article 226.
- Further, the power to issue writs can also be extended to any other courts (including local courts) by Parliament via making a law for local limits of jurisdiction of such courts.

Why Article 32 is the heart and soul of the constitution:-

- Supreme Court has included it **in basic structure doctrine**. Further, it is made clear that right to move to Supreme Court cannot be suspended except otherwise provided by the Constitution. **This implies that this right suspended during a national emergency under article 359**
- **Article 32 makes the Supreme Court the defender and guarantor of the fundamental rights**. Further, power to issue writs comes under original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. This means that a person may approach SC directly for remedy rather than by way of appeal.
- **Article 32 can be invoked only to get a remedy related to fundamental rights**. It is not there for any other constitutional or legal right for which different laws are available.
- **The law provides an assured remedy** for enforcing the Fundamental Rights as the person can directly approach the Supreme Court without having to follow a lengthier process of moving lower courts.
- Impact:-
 - Deciding the matter regarding the Supreme court's power to remit or pardon, the judgment held the argument that when a pardon or remission can be given under Article 72 or 161 of the Constitution by the constitutional authority, this Court can exercise the similar power under Article 32 of the Constitution of India is absolutely based on an erroneous premise.



- It further said that Article 32 of the Constitution can be only invoked when there is violation of any fundamental right or where the Court takes up certain grievance which falls in the realm of public interest litigation.
- The impact of article 32 has been huge with landmark cases like *Shreya Singhal v Union of India* where supreme court struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2008, *Meera Santosh Pal and Others v Union of India and Others* where Supreme Court gave judgment on medical termination of pregnancy of a 24-week foetus etc.

TOPIC: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars.

Q) The American War of Independence deprived Great Britain of one empire, but it strengthened the foundations of another. Examine. (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to examine whether the loss of British Control in America led to changes in its approach which enabled it to strengthen its hold over another empire (India). Thus we need to point out the steps British took in India post American declaration of independence that enabled it to strengthen its hold over India.

Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Mention that post American declaration of independence we lived in the era of pax Britannica which meant that Britain took learnings.

Body – Here we have to examine the steps taken by the British to consolidate its hold over India and the learning that British took from American revolution which enabled it to take these steps. Eg Pitts India act 1784, posting experience people in India like Cornwallis, Lord Wellesley's policy of territorial expansion etc

Conclusion – Mention your view on the assertion made in statement based on arguments made.

Background:-

- The American war of independence (1776-1783) was concluded by which British had to recognize the freedom of the 13 American colonies. British had lost their territories and market for their factory goods especially the monopoly of Tea etc. They also lost their source of raw materials like cotton in America. So they shifted their focus towards east.
- Britain's defeat in the American War of Independence meant the loss of the American colonies and the end of the 'first British Empire'.

Steps taken by the British to consolidate its hold over India :-

- Britain regarded itself as 'ruler of the waves'. The songs 'Rule Britannia' and 'Land of Hope and Glory' show this. Many British people at the time thought that they were doing the right thing by taking the British government and Christianity to the rest of the world, ending slavery and barbaric traditions and bringing 'civilisation' and an international 'Pax Britannica', or 'British peace'. The British generally felt that the way they lived their lives was the right way.
- Empire was now more than just about discovering new lands and building them up. Most of the world was now known and belonged to someone. Therefore, **the British had to colonise established countries with populations and leadership systems of their own.**
- Great Britain's attitude toward how to build its empire changed as well. Britons began to think of colonization more in terms of conquest and annexation and, as a result, it governed its colonies in a **more authoritarian manner.**



- **It led to Pitts India act in 1784**, by which British government brought the East India Company's rule in India under the control of itself. This Act provided for the appointment of a Board of Control, and provided for a joint government of British India by both the Company and the Crown with the government holding the ultimate authority.
- It was done in the wake of fear of losing monopolies and market of India and to prevent Indian people to revolt on the lines on America. **The governor general post was** established in British India to control the administration under the crown rule directly.
- **The new administration expended their military strength and focused on the expansion of the territory by any means.** Lord Cornwallis who played in controlling the American Revolution to some extent was transferred to India to use his experience and not to repeat the mistakes which have been done earlier.
- Britain had to find new market for its factory goods and raw material for their factory and to protect its monopoly of trade in India to compensate the loss in America. **It initiated differential trade tariff and started building railways to give competitive effect to their goods in Indian market and use India as raw material hub.**
- **It** uses both expansionist tactics like subsidiary alliance and friendship to consolidate their control over the administration of country.
- British also took initiative to knock out French from India by annexing Yanam and Pondicherry and also defeated their alliance of Mysore.

The learning that British took from American revolution which enabled it to take these steps:-

- American Revolution influence even the colonial policy towards white dominated colonies like South Africa, Canada Australia and New Zealand. Earlier they were give the concession in course of time they were offered even dominion status. Furthermore in context of India, Pits India act was introduced after losing America. Britain move towards India and gave this colony higher value. After American revolution British modified its policy even to Ireland.
- Great Britain may have lost the thirteen colonies in America, but it still had Canada and land in the Caribbean, Africa, and India. Great Britain began to expand in these regions, building up what has been called the Second British Empire, which eventually became the largest dominion in world history.
- Indeed, some historians argue that support for the crown grew. **Political life quickly settled into much the same patterns as before the war, albeit with a greater emphasis placed on public opinion, a stronger sense of political parties** and more concern with economic reform and corruption.
- Demobilisation caused temporary difficulties, but **low tariffs helped to stimulate trade and the economy recovered rapidly:** by the 1790s, Americans were purchasing twice as much from Britain as they had as colonists in the 1760s.

Conclusion:-

- In the end, although Great Britain suffered temporarily due to the American Revolution, it eventually became an even more powerful and expansive empire as a result of it.

Q) Bismarck united Germany not by majority of votes and speeches but by a policy of Blood and iron. Critically analyze. (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question makes an assertion that Bismarck's policy of blood and iron was the major reason behind Germany's unification. We have to, thus, explain what policy of blood and iron meant. We have to understand Bismarck's contribution to the cause of German Unification and examine whether it was only his policy of blood and iron that led to unification, or there were other factors like his focus on coal and steel, industrialization etc that led to unification.



Directive word

Critically analyze – When asked to analyze, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. You need to conclude with a fair judgement, after analyzing the nature of each component part and interrelationship between them.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Talk about the situation in Europe during German Unification and that Bismarck employed several strategies to achieve the impossible.

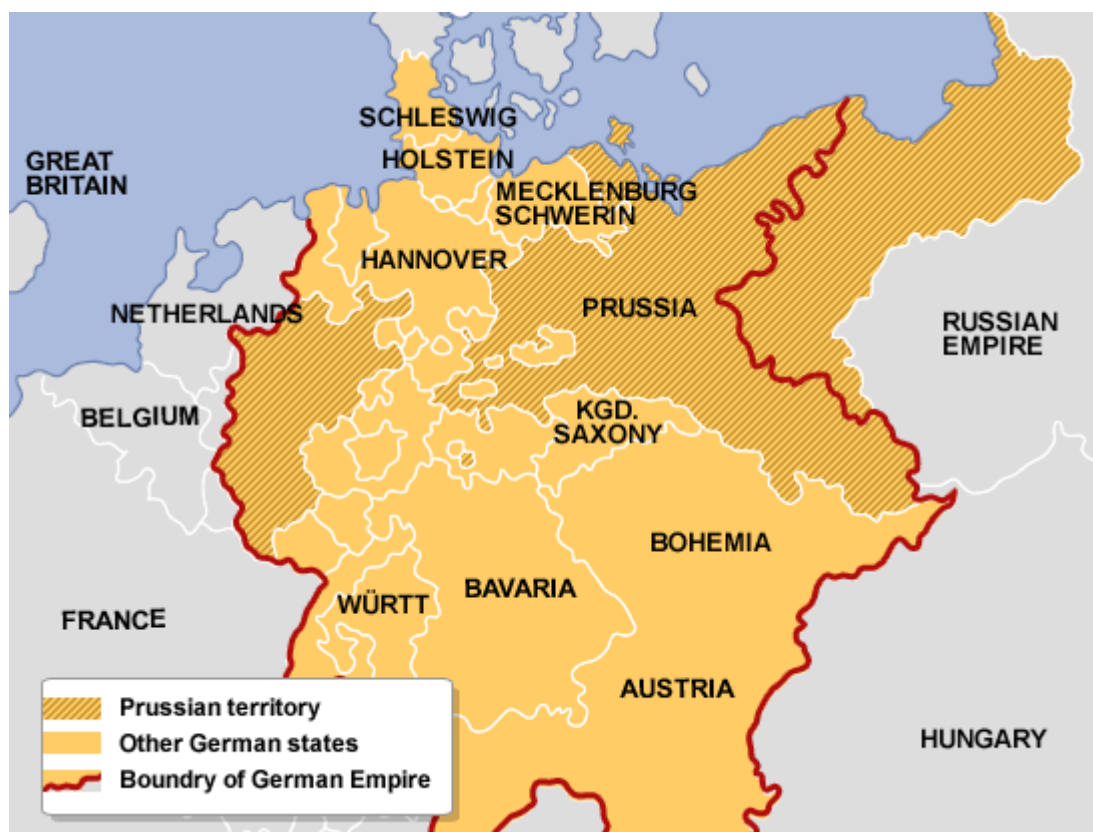
Body

- *Explain what policy of blood and iron is and how Bismarck employed it in the 3 wars he fought, and how it brought Germany closer to the goal of unification.*
- *Explain the various other policies of Bismarck which led to German Unification.*
- *Analyze if it was only his policy of blood and iron that led to unification, or was it a combination of various factors.*

Conclusion – provide your view on the assertion made in the question by summarising your arguments above.

Background :-

- During the early nineteenth century, **Prussia was the only German state that could match the power and influence of the Austrian Empire.**
- They were comparable in terms of size, population and wealth. Austria opposed the idea of German unification as it saw this as a threat to its own empire. Although they were a minority, there was a significant percentage of German-speakers in the empire. Austria had lost key allies and was losing influence in Europe
- Prussia was producing more key resources such as coal and iron than Austria and it had surged ahead of its rival in building road and rail networks to help promote trade
- Prussia had successfully set up an economic alliance (Zollverein) with other German states that made trade between states easier and more profitable.





Bismarck:-

- The man who did most to unite the German states was Otto Von Bismarck. He was the Prussian Chancellor and his main goal was to strengthen even further the position of Prussia in Europe. His primary aims were to:-
 - Unify the north German states under Prussian control
 - weaken Prussia's main rival, Austria, by removing it from the Bund
 - make Berlin the centre of German affairs – not Vienna
 - strengthen the position of the King of Prussia, William I, to counter the demands for reform from the Liberals in the Prussian parliament (the Reichstag).

Bismarck policy of blood and iron:-

- Blood and Iron policy is the policy, perceived to be followed by Prussia after 1848 to achieve the goal of German unification.
- It was a **policy based on military might to militarise Prussia in order to win wars which Prussia would eventually needed to fight in order to achieve German unification.**
- **Bismarck favoured a militarily powerful Prussia.** He carried out an ambitious plan to strengthen Prussia militarily even though the Prussian Parliament rejected it.
- The first aim he pursued was the elimination of Austria from the Germanic Confederation. He aligned with Austria in a war against Denmark over the possession of Schleswig and Holstein. **After Denmark's defeat, he entered into an alliance with Italy against Austria, defeated Austria and dissolved the Germanic Confederation.** Thus Austria was separated from other German states.
- He never hesitated to use war as tool of propagating Prussian interests. He carried out military expedition to claim two Dutch areas.
- **In place of the old Confederation, he united 22 states of Germany into North German Confederation in 1866.** The constitution of this Confederation made the king of Prussia the hereditary head of the Confederation. The unification of Germany was completed as a result of a war between Prussia and France. **The war of Sedan in 1870 with France completed the process of German unification.**
- He used his unparalleled diplomatic skills to make the wars looked like an imposed ones and got international and public support for his actions. **Hence the military might i.e. "Iron and blood" policy played a great role in German unification.**

Other factors also led to German Unification:-

- **Economic factors:-**
 - Vienna Congress had allotted mineral rich Rhine Land to Prussia, which led to industrial revolution and Prussia became the most industrialized state among German provinces
 - Between 1830 and 1860, rapid integration of German market took place. In 1834, an **all German custom union (except Austria) called Zollverein came to existence under Prussian leadership.**
 - Development of railways in 1830s made the physical integration of German areas possible. The industrial revolution gave birth to a capitalist class, which was striving for a unified Germany for greater economic benefit.
 - This economic leadership of Prussia gave it the advantage in comparison to Austria which had long resisted any unification attempt.
 - Thereby the economic factors made the unification of Germany under Prussian leadership more plausible. It created a base for Prussia's militarism. **Both the factors i.e. Economic and Military, played an essential part in German unification and complemented each other.**



Q) The era of Pax Americana, witnessed in full bloom in the era post World Wars, is being challenged by Trump. Analyze. (250 words)

Indian express

Why this question

Ever since Trump came to power, several changes in American foreign policy has taken place, which reflect that American hegemony is on the decline, and America is ready to accept this truth. What is the meaning of Pax Americana and American hegemony, what are the challenges to it in Trump era, how relevant is it in the changing geopolitical environment are important topics to be discussed.

Key demand of the question

The question demands us to bring out the meaning of Pax Americana, the history of it as well as the implications of it. Thereafter, we need to describe the policies of Trump which is challenging American hegemony and the impact of it.

Directive word

Analyze – When asked to analyze, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Explain what is meant by Pax Americana.

Body

- *Mention how post world war, American hegemony grew and it became the global policeman*
- *Explain what are the components of American hegemony – pole position in Human Rights, global policeman, wide definition of national interest etc*
- *Examine how Trump’s policies are reversing this trend. Examine the major changes brought by his foreign policy (as explained in the article) and its impact on the global order*

Conclusion – *Mention that it will have a huge impact on power relations across the world and India must adapt to prosper.*

Background:-

- Post-1945 international order is often called Pax Americana, in **which the United States employed its overwhelming power to shape and direct global events. That era of American dominance is drawing to a close as the country’s relative power declines, along with its ability to manage global economics and security.**

Pax Americana:-

- The term applied to the concept of relative peace in the Western Hemisphere and later the world beginning around the middle of the 20th century, thought to be caused by the preponderance of power enjoyed by the United States.
- Pax Americana is primarily used in its modern connotations to refer to the peace among great powers established after the end of World War II in 1945, also called the Long Peace. In this modern sense, it has come to indicate the military and economic position of the United States in relation to other nations. For example, the Marshall Plan, which spent \$13 billion to rebuild the economy of Western Europe, has been seen as the launching of the pax americana.
- For more than 70 years, the United States has been the world’s leading champion of free trade, democracy, and international institutions, particularly in Europe and East Asia.

It’s been challenged by trump:-

- has signalled “end of the west” as a coherent ideological and geo-political entity by disrupting the G-7.
- He is making it clear that America does not want to sustain Pax Americana. It is not willing to pay the price for it in terms of troops or financial commitments.



- He is putting America first, and in rhetoric, rolling back on post-Cold War globalization and signaled that a radical reorientation of American foreign policy may be in the offing.
- The starkness with which he pursues them has also exposed the contradictions of dominant liberal approaches to international order.
- Trump's three disruptions i.e., **the end of the West, the accommodation with authoritarian great power rivals and therefore signalling the end of Pax Americana**, and his attack on globalisation have an odd coherence to them. The traditional foreign policy establishment thought it could hold on to these ideas without paying the price for the pathologies that went with them: Western privilege, imperial overreach, and inequality.
- He took steps that alienated American allies, strengthened enemies, undercut institutions and alliances on which US have depended for three-quarters of a century.
- Trump called NATO obsolete and promoted the breakup of the European Union
- Trump sent the dollar tumbling after he said he favored a weaker dollar so as to reduce the trade deficit, abandoning traditional policy.
- Trump's other pronouncements and, even more strongly, his protectionist personnel picks, indicate that he may be gearing up for a trade war against nations such as China and Mexico that he views as unfair competitors.

However Trump alone cannot be blamed:-

- Pax Americana has been an idea in trouble for quite a while, torn between overreach and underinvestment.
- On the one hand, the overreaching interventions in Iraq and Libya created the conditions for protracted instability. These interventions also convinced states that possessing nuclear weapons is a necessary currency of power.
- On the other hand, the sense that America does not wish to fully finance Pax Americana has also been evident for a while.
- But there was a tension in American approaches. On the one hand, it wants to, not entirely unjustifiably, resist Chinese and Russian ascendancy. It also wants to wear the mantle of liberal internationalism. But it did not want to pay the price.

Conclusion:-

World may finally be seeing the long-predicted breakup of the Pax Americana not because of external pressures but because of an internal decision that the burden of global leadership is no longer worth shouldering.

Topic: Events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.

Q) In Russia, Lenin was the father of socialism, organiser of the revolution and the founder of the new Russian society. Examine. (250 words)

Reference

Key demand of the question

The question basically asks us to examine the role played by Lenin during the course of the Russian revolution, post the Russian revolution in laying down the foundation of Russia society and polity. in terms of his political philosophy, how he turned implemented his interpretation of Marxism in his country and what it entailed.

Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any .



Structure of the answer

Introduction – Mention the situation in Russia prior to revolution and that Lenin channeled the anger prevailing amongst the people of USSR.

Body

- Highlight how Lenin organised the Bolshevik Party and played a key role in Russian revolution
- Thereafter focus on his political philosophy. Highlight that like Marx he denigrated private property and took steps to abolish it, believed that state should be at the forefront of economic activity and ensure equality of outcomes – highlight how.
- Post analyzing, Lenin's version of socialism, highlight the changes he brought in Russian society. Here your points should encompass all dimensions like changes brought in economy, society, education, award of Mother Heroine which reflected his view on women etc

Conclusion – Discuss the overall impact Lenin had on Russian history.

Background:-

- Vladimir Lenin was a very important figure in the history of Russia's return from ruins. After being obliterated by German forces during WWI, Russia was in total chaos. The economy was severely crippled, and the citizens were furious. As a revolution came forth, the Bolshevik party chose Vladimir Lenin to be the new leader of Russia. Lenin's efforts would lead him to become the architect of the new Soviet Union.

Lenin was father of socialism in Russia and his impact :-

- Lenin was against the notion that the full industrialization is a necessary prerequisite for commencement of communist revolution. He wanted the revolution immediately by compensating for lack of workers majority by including peasants. Lenin used state and its institutions for promoting communism.
- So from the above explanation Marxism and Leninism are slightly different but one notion is same where both believe that capitalism was the real cause of imperialism and colonialism.
- Even though Lenin got influenced by Marx, Lenin made Marxist thinking revolutionary and well known all around the world as Russian revolution

Impact of Lenin on Russian society:-

- To bring economic and political stability to the country **new economic policy was framed** which had the following provisions:
 - Peasants were now allowed to keep surplus produce after payment of a tax representing the certain portion of the surplus
 - Private trade was reintroduced and food production increased. Small industries and trade in their products is also restored to private ownership.
 - Incentives such as higher wages for improved production were offered to the labourers.
 - Strikes in factories were banned and strict discipline was imposed.
 - A new currency was introduced on the basis of gold standard.
 - Individuals could buy and sell goods for profit
 - Government kept control of major businesses but small ones were given to private ownership.
 - Lenin also tried to encourage foreign investment
 - Special concession to small scale industries
 - Nationalisation of agriculture
 - Factories producing same goods are brought under one organization called "Syndicates"
 - Better labour and trade union policy



- He brought back old managers who were removed after the revolution of 1917. This was done to improve factory output
- Introduced capitalist measures like piece wage rates, bonus etc

He was organiser of the revolution:-

- Bolsheviks under Lenin wanted a small, disciplined party of professional revolutionaries who would work full time to bring about revolution.
- They believed they have to work with peasants and get them involved in the revolutionary activity
- Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power.
- A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviet under Leon Trotskii to organise the seizure.
 - **The Military Revolutionary Committee ordered its supporters to seize government offices and arrest ministers.** Lenin with his tactics and courage led the October revolution to success within an overnight, thus surely he was organizer of revolution.
- Trotsky, leader of the Petrograd soviet urged on by Lenin took the crucial decision to attempt to seize power. Bolshevik red guards occupied all key points and later arrested the provisional government ministers.
- The Bolsheviks were in control in Petrograd as a result of their coup.
- **Growing economic chaos with inflation, rising bread prices**
 - Bolsheviks efficient leadership and clear cut policies to end war and demand for transfer of land to peasants attracted people.
- **Lenin presented Bolsheviks as a nationalist government fighting against foreigners.**
- Lenin took decisive measures **known as war communism** to control state economic resources.
 - All factories were nationalized with no private trade
 - Food and grain seized from peasants to feed the troops so this was successful for short term

However there were some who criticized Lenin:-

- He expelled almost one third of the party members when members tried to put forward their views.
- Trade unions were not 100% free.
- In 1918 armed opposition (known as whites-consisting of social revolutionaries, Mensheviks, Ex-czarist officers etc) to the Bolsheviks was breaking out in many areas leading to civil war. Even soldiers were discontented with the way Bolsheviks treated the soviets.
- After the elections post 1917 revolution, Bolsheviks disbanded a constituent assembly preventing democracy from taking root
- During red terror many of his opponents were killed
- He left in precedents which were misused by Stalin like:
 - One party state
 - Ban on factionalism which implied curbing dissent in the party
 - Use of secret police against opponents
 - Decreasing the voice of trade unions.



Q) What were the main aims of the foreign policy of the United States? What was the reason for the military intervention of the United States in Vietnam? What were its consequences? (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to discuss the principle objective of the foreign policy of USA which has guided its world view. Thereafter, the reasons why US intervened in Vietnam and the impact of it.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Mention that the events in the question happened during cold war and it was a period when two superpowers were playing the game of one-upmanship.

Body – discuss the key contents of the foreign policy of USA in 20th century and post 2nd world war which guided its outlook – can look at Woodrow Wilson's 14 point agenda. Thereafter, mention the reason that led to USA's involvement in Vietnam – Domino theory. Finally, discuss the impact that Vietnam war had on USA and the world.

Conclusion – Mention that USA believed that it had to play the role of global policeman which is being challenged with the emergence of multiple superpowers today.

American foreign policy:-

- ❖ America's foreign policy has changed over time reflecting the change in its national interest. As a new nation after the Revolutionary War, America's prime national interest was to maintain its independence from more powerful European countries. Through the 19th century, **America concentrated on creating a nation that spanned the continent, and it avoided foreign entanglements.** Once industrialized and more prosperous, it began looking for foreign markets and colonies.
- ❖ By the turn of the 20th century, the United States had become a minor imperial power, fighting a war with Spain for Cuba and the Philippines and annexing Hawaii and several other territories. World War I engaged the United States in European affairs, but after the war, **a wave of isolationist feeling swept the country. Refusing membership in the League of Nations, America turned inward once again.**
- ❖ Emerging from World War II as the most powerful economic power on Earth, the United States changed its foreign policy dramatically. **It took the lead in founding the United Nations. It invested billions of dollars through the Marshall Plan to help strengthen war-devastated European democracies. It created a system of alliances, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).**
- ❖ Central to America's foreign policy in the post-war period was the **containment of the Soviet Union and communism. During the Cold War, the United States and its allies competed with the Soviet Union and its allies militarily, economically, and ideologically. Both sides created massive military forces and huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons.** Although the two superpowers never went to war, **the policy of containment led the United States into the bloody Korean and Vietnam wars.**

Reason for US to intervene in Vietnam:-

- **Communist threat:-**
 - The US **Government** viewed its involvement in the war as a way to prevent a communist takeover of South **Vietnam. This was part of the domino theory of a wider containment policy,** with the stated aim of stopping the spread of communism.
 - The idea that if one country in Southeast Asia fell to the communists, the entire region would fall, and the ripple effects would be felt throughout the Asia-Pacific world, informed US thinking
 - Kennedy asserted that Americans would “pay any price, bear any burden” to support democratic nation building as a way to counter communist advances in Asia
 - American policymakers desires to prove that the U.S. was actually committed to stopping the spread of communism formed the ideological foundation of America's approach to Vietnam over the course of four presidencies.



▪ Cold war tensions:-

- The global context is also important because Cold War tensions between the U.S., the Soviet Union, and China also shaped events related to the Vietnam War.
- As the U.S., the Soviet Union, and China vied for alliances with newly independent countries, Vietnam became one of the proving grounds on which all three countries tried to make their mark. The U.S. gave economic and military aid to South Vietnam, while the Soviet Union and China offered similar assistance to North Vietnam.
- **S. intervention was a gradual process that included economic aid, diplomacy, politics, presidential personalities, and military force.** Regional alliances in Southeast Asia and superpower tensions between the U.S., China, and the Soviet Union set the international context for the war.

Consequences:-

❖ Impact on Vietnam:

- The North Vietnamese army – the NVA – **massacred** thousands of South Vietnamese after the Americans had left. Many people tried to **flee** South Vietnam (eg the “boat people”).
 - The Vietnamese had to fight wars against Cambodia and China before their independence was secured.
 - Vietnam was **ruined** – its infrastructure was destroyed, thousands of its people had been killed, and its farmland was polluted by American chemical warfare. It remains one of the poorest countries in the world.
 - The most immediate effect of the Vietnam War was the staggering death toll.
 - The war killed an estimated 2 million Vietnamese civilians, 1.1 million North Vietnamese troops, 200,000 South Vietnamese troops, and 58,000 U.S. troops. Those wounded in combat numbered tens of thousands more
 - In 1969, around 1,034,300 hectares of forest was destroyed. “Agent Orange”, one of major herbicides used, has left a serious ecological and human impact on Vietnamese people’s lives.
- **America:**
 - **58,000 Americans died** in Vietnam.
 - The war had cost so much that President Johnson’s Great Society programme of social reform had to be cancelled.
 - America had failed to “contain” communism. In 1973, Nixon announced that America was abandoning the Truman Doctrine. It was nearly 20 years before America again intervened militarily in world affairs.
 - The domino theory was proved to be **wrong**. The fall of South Vietnam to communism was **not** immediately followed by a similar effect in other countries.
 - Combined with the Watergate scandal, it inspired widespread public distrust of the U.S. government and made the military less popular, at least in the short term.
 - News of atrocities such as the killings at My Lai lost the US its claim to moral superiority, and its status as the world’s defender of freedom and right.
 - 700,000 Vietnam veterans suffered psychological after-effects.
 - U.S. government spent around \$350 billion to \$900 billion on the Vietnam War including veteran benefits and interests, which left a heavy burden on its economy.
 - The Vietnam War thoroughly changed the way the American approaches military actions.
 - **World:-**
 - Lead to the propagation of NAM as a popular way of attainment of individual national identities instead of aligning with the super powers.
 - Communist countries still existed and slowly China started rising.



Q) Examine the contrast in the story of ASEAN vs SAARC? (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question wants us to delve deeper into the difference in growth trajectories of ASEAN and SAARC. The focus is to remain on bring out the contrast and examining the reasons why.

Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any .

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Explain ASEAN and SAARC.

Body

- Highlight the contrast in economic, political, social progress of SAARC and ASEAN
- Examine the reasons why – external enemy vs internal enemy, disproportionate size of India which led to mistrust etc

Conclusion – bring out what should SAARC do to emulate ASEAN.

Background:-

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is among the world's largest regional intergovernmental organisations. SAARC was established with similar aspirations like ASEAN in south Asia.

Progress:-

- **Integrating the region:-**
 - Since ASEAN inception, the countries in the region have become more integrated through enhanced intraregional trade and connectivity.
 - The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) over time has failed to deliver. It has been unable to integrate the region through trade and connectivity and continues to be stuck in the quagmire of regional politics and rivalry and stagnates from historical distrust and old animosity.
- **Issues dealt:-**
 - In its first two decades, **ASEAN focussed on a limited range of issues, but over time its mandate expanded and now includes climate change, disaster management, counterterrorism, drugs and human trafficking.**
- **Dispute resolution:-**
 - ASEAN's greatest success has been its ability to deftly resolve disputes. In the early years, for instance, its unity was challenged by the Philippines-Malaysia dispute over Sabah, but the founding members found a peaceful mechanism to mitigate opposing claims.
 - **In the case of SAARC, political squabbles, deep mistrust and military conflict between India and Pakistan have frustrated regional cooperation.** The whole region is suffering from lost potential due to India-Pakistan hostility leading to even cancellation of SAARC summit.
- **Economic:-**
 - Trade in ASEAN has grown rapidly and it has focused on promoting rapid economic growth and modernisation.
 - It has created the Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), which ensures liberalisation and protection of cross-border investments operations, together with best practices for the treatment of foreign investors and investments.
 - On the other hand, trade amongst the SAARC members stands at 3.5% of their total volume of trade.
 - Initiatives under the South Asian Free Trade Association have failed to make much headway. Subregional initiatives like the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement also have stalled.



- **Projects covered:-**
 - **ASEAN:-**
 - The Federation of ASEAN Travel Associations (FATA) has called on the ASEAN nations to waive entry requirements amongst the member states. A feasibility study has been conducted on the development of a rail link from Singapore to Kunming in southern China to enhance seamless connectivity among the ASEAN nations to boost intraregional trade and people-to-people connectivity.
 - Projects aimed at promoting the region as a tourist destination have also been undertaken.
 - On the other hand, the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme only allows certain categories of dignitaries to be exempt from visas, excluding ordinary citizens from accessing unimpeded travel in the region. It is difficult for Indians to enter Pakistan and vice versa. Even citizens of other SAARC countries who have visited either India or Pakistan before and now wish to travel to the other face hassles during visa issuance by either country. **And SAARC infrastructural problems plague connectivity.**
- **Shared perceptions and values**
 - **One of the reasons for ASEAN's consolidation in its formative decade was a common threat.** The concern about the spread of communism acted as a glue to bind the member states and subsequently gave international visibility to the Association when it opposed Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia. Over time, there developed a common commitment to ensure a harmonious and peaceful regional order.
 - By contrast, South Asian countries **hold widely divergent views on many important issues and lack a common political culture.**
- **Excluding nations:-**
 - **SAARC**
 - India is trying to exert leadership by forming subregional initiatives like the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
 - Another objective is to isolate Pakistan.
 - **Such attempts to forge sub-regional ties at the cost of jeopardising the regional vision for unity have not been witnessed in ASEAN.** When ASEAN was criticised for taking in Myanmar in spite of its military rule, the grouping emphasised the importance of keeping open the channels of communication and engagement as a better means to influence the regime. Bilateral bickering never got in the way of trade and travel.
 - ASEAN members have avoided showing outward hostility against each other and have tried to resolve differences through dialogue, engagement and cooperation. Politicians in SAARC have mostly catered to their domestic constituents without having any broad regional vision, so that it takes years to sign agreements and even more time to implement them.

Lessons to be learnt from ASEAN :-

- **Regular meetings:-**
 - One big lesson from ASEAN is that having regular meetings makes a huge difference to trust levels. SAARC should consciously study ASEAN and build a habit of regular meetings at all levels.
- **India should be in a much better position to have better relations with every SAARC country than China has.**
- India must integrate Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, etc. so closely economically, that they will always have to consider India's views. **In addition, as the biggest country in the region, India should study Indonesia's role in ASEAN which let the smaller countries of ASEAN run the group, and took a back seat**
- **A good start can be adopting a 'South Asia First' policy, making SAARC countries import products first from within the region.**
 - For example, major garment-manufacturing countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka import more than 80% of raw materials from outside SAARC, even though India and Pakistan are net exporters in this sector.



Q) European nationalism, in its modern sense, was born out of the desire of a community to assert its unity and independence. Comment. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The issue is related to GS- 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to express our knowledge and understanding on the issue on the rise on nationalism in Europe and bring out whether it was born out of the desire of the community to assert its unity and independence.

Directive word

Comment- Here we have to form an opinion based on our knowledge and understanding and discuss the issue (give an account of history) vis a vis our stand. We have to necessarily justify our opinion.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – *mention that Nationalism is the ideological basis for the development of the modern nation-state and it was an important factor in the development of Europe.*

Body- *Discuss how nationalism in Europe arose and spread. Give historical accounts of landmark events to support your answer.*

E.g French revolution; unification of Italy- The Italians imbibed the revolutionary ideals of liberty and nationalism and became conscious of the need for their own national integration.; Unification of Germany; series of revolutions spanning almost whole of Europe etc.

Conclusion– *In the end, form a fair, concise and a balanced opinion on the rise and growth of nationalism in Europe.*

Background:-

- Nationalism has its basis in a sense of unity among a certain group of people; this is formed by a common identity based on a common language, history, culture, ethnicity, or religion.
- Nationalism developed in different areas for a variety of different reasons that are unique to the aspirations of each nationalist group. Nationalist movements often led to violence because of their tendency to conflict with the views of ruling empires.

Factors leading to rise of European nationalism:

- Sparked in part by the **outcome of the American and French revolutions**, populations throughout Europe began to unite in order to overthrow existing power structures and develop new ones based on liberty and national identity.
- The **French Revolution initiated the movement toward the modern nation-state and also played a key role** in the birth of nationalism across Europe where radical intellectuals were influenced by Napoleon and the Napoleonic Code, an instrument for the political transformation of Europe.
- In France, it rose from the need to find a different form of government from that of a monarchy.
- **Napoleonic conquests:-**
 - **Italy:-**
 - During the reign of Napoleon, Italy was unified for a brief time.
 - However, The Congress of Vienna divided Italy into smaller states and territories that were controlled by Austria and Spain



- Italians wanted to free themselves of foreign control and once again become a unified nation
- **The rise of the Enlightenment ideas helped to encouraged the nationalism and self-expression of the nation.**
- Romantic movements in art and culture beginning in the early 19th century led to the development of various national identities in Europe.
- **A strong resentment of what came to be regarded as foreign rule began to develop.**
 - In Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Greece, Poland, Hungary, and Norway local hostility to alien dynastic authority started to take the form of nationalist agitation. The first revolt in the Ottoman Empire to acquire a national character was the Serbian Revolution (1804–17).
 - Nationalism was seen as a way to get rid of foreign rule or a form of government not liked by the people
- Nationalism wasn't about support for your ruler but rather support for your "fatherland"
- Slowly nationalism developed a more powerful voice, spurred by nationalist writers championing the cause of self-determination. In 1848, revolutions broke out across Europe, sparked by severe famine and economic crisis and mounting popular demand for political change.

Some of the examples of the rise of European nationalism are:-

- Serbia was the first national state after its movement in 1804-1817.
- Greece followed Serbia after an 8 year war (1821-1829) with the Ottoman Empire.
- Belgium gained its independence in 1830 from the Netherlands.
- During the mid to late 19th century, nationalist "realpolitik" spurred the **unification of two major European nations: Italy and Germany.**
- **Germany:-**
 - The Congress of Vienna in 1815 created the Germany Confederation, a loose organization of 39 separate states each having it's own laws, currency, and ruler
 - King William I wanted Prussia to become a military power in Europe and wanted to unify the German states under one ruler.

However unity and independence were not the only factors which gave rise to European nationalism:-

- The invention of a symbolic national identity became the concern of racial, ethnic or linguistic groups throughout Europe as they struggled to come to terms with the rise of mass politics, the decline of the traditional social elites, popular discrimination and xenophobia.
- Within the Habsburg empire the different peoples developed a more mass-based, violent and exclusive form of nationalism. This developed even among the Germans and Magyars, who actually benefited from the power-structure of the empire.

Conclusion:-

- The ideals of European nationalism had been exported worldwide which developed, competed and threatened the empires ruled by colonial European nation-states.

TOPIC: Salient features of Indian Society; Effects of globalization on Indian society

Q) Secularism in the Indian setting calls for the maintenance of a "principled distance" between state and religion. Examine the above statement in light of constitutional provisions related to secularism and the practice of secularism by state. (250 words)

[The hindu](#)

[The hindu](#)



Why this question

Indian definition of secularism has a lot of controversies associated with it. This question examines one of the key confusion in the definition of secularism in India – *Sarva dharma sambhava vs dharma nirpekhshta*.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to highlight what is meant by principled distance in Indian context of secularism, how this principle manifests itself in the constitution and the practice of secularism by state and the impact of it.

Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any .

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Explain what is meant by principled distance – means that the state is not equidistant from all religions, but the definition of state’s secularism changes with context.

Body – Examine why is it that the assertion has been made. Highlight the instances when the state involves itself in the affairs of one religion and doesn’t do so for other religions. For eg. Art 25(2) in the case of constitution and the earlier practice of providing subsidy for haj Yatra. Post explaining what this means, the focus should shift on explaining the impact and the controversies associated due to not maintaining equal distance from all religions. Finally, bring out the problems associated with this model of secularism.

Conclusion – Conclude by mentioning whether there is a need to change the meaning of secularism in India and how should it be modified.

Background:-

- Secularism in India does not mean that the state cannot intervene in religion and its affairs, but that any intervention should be within the limitations prescribed by the Constitution.
- According to the concept of principled distance a secular state may keep a principled distance from religion to promote peace between communities and it may also intervene to protect the rights of specific communities.
 - The state gives equal preference to every religion and respects them all equally .However the state may interfere if religious groups try to exercise their power on the political and social life of the people.
- India maintained idea of a ‘principled distance’ that the state maintained, depending on the context or by pointing towards an alternative imagination of *samadharma samabhava*, where all religions are treated as equal.

Secularism in India:-

- Constitution doesn’t acquire its secular character merely from the words in the Preamble, but from a collective reading of many of its provisions, particularly the various fundamental rights that it guarantees.
- The Indian Constitution allows the state to play a legitimate role in the affairs of religion. For **instance Article 25** permits the state to regulate/restrict the secular activities of the religion
- Unlike the ideology of the American wall of separation, **in India legitimate principled intervention of the state in religion and vice versa is constitutional**. The two are distanced but not completely separated.
- **Indian secularism follows a strategy of non interference at the same time some times it interferes as well.**
 - For instance with respect to untouchability the Indian constitution bans this practice. Here the state is intervening in order to end a social practice that it believes discriminates and excludes and that violates the fundamental rights of lower caste people.
- State intervention **does not always prohibit** but rather facilitates the free exercise of religion.
- The recognition of a religious community is a **positive act on the part of the state**.



- For example Granting rights to religious minorities is a form of state intervention so that they can build and maintain their own educational institutions, something large religious communities routinely do without the need for special rights.
- The intervention of the state can also be in the form of support. For instance the earlier practice of haj subsidy for muslims .
- The Indian state decides which special days associated with religion are to be declared national holidays
- If hierarchical caste structure and patriarchy are intrinsic to the doctrine and practice of religions, then the state can legitimately interfere into religious matters through constitutional ban on untouchability, the opening of temples to all Hindus, judicial reform of Personal Laws etc.
- **The values like freedom, equality and social harmony** that prohibit the state from encroaching upon religion also allow permit the entry of religious considerations into the state.
- In the recent judgment in **Abhiram Singh v. C.D. Commachen** Supreme Court rejected the identification of a secular state with any one particular religion or non-religious philosophy.

Issues :-

- There have been instances where people made statements that recognition of India as a Hindu state, in which secularism lies not at the Constitution's bedrock, but entirely outside the document's aims and purposes.
- The state intervention has created a number of issues such as polygamy, unequal inheritance rights, extrajudicial unilateral divorce rights favourable to some males, conflicting interpretations of religious books and public management of Hindu temples.
- In focusing on the question of the desired distance between religion and state or politics, the idea that secularism essentially promoted a social philosophy of life got sidelined.
- Indian secularism has promoted 'secular sectarianism' of the minorities.
- Political parties in India have tended to use religion and caste factors for the promotion of their political interests and thus greatly undermined the secular values.

Way forward:-

- If secularism is a social philosophy of thick friendships and cross-cultural bonds, then it has to be guided by compassion and not merely a policy of tolerance. Such social concern has to be nurtured and made an integral part of the political culture of any nation.
- State could devise policies in accordance with population percentage to make it mandatory in government housing schemes for individuals from different religious, caste and ethnic groups to co-habit
- In the case of India, Minority social and political organisations need to learn to speak about the issues of the tribals, Dalits and others. It is this voluntary apportioning of social responsibility that stalls the process of social ghettoisation of the religious minorities in India.

Q) Dalit women in India face the double whammy of caste based and gender based violence. Critically analyze this statement and suggest measures to improve the status of Dalit women? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

Incidents of caste and gender based violence are on the rise with several incidents coming into the limelight in recent months. In this regard, analyzing the status of Dalit women in India who have to bear the brunt of much discrimination becomes important.



Key demand of the question

The question expects us to analyze the status of Dalit women in India, whether they are still bearing the brunt of both caste and gender based violence or whether their status has improved to a certain extent. We are also expected to suggest steps to improve their status.

Directive word

Critically analyze – When asked to analyze, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. You need to conclude with a fair judgement, after analyzing the nature of each component part and interrelationship between them.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Highlight the growing incidents of caste and gender based violence and the effort by coalition of Dalit women activists.

Body

- Give arguments and illustrate with recent examples that highlight the plight of Dalit women in India suffering under both caste and gender based violence. Bring out the fact that despite many promises, their status has not seen substantive improvement. Highlight the forms of economic, social, physical, mental violence that they have to suffer from.
- Give arguments showing that not all hope is lost. Bring out the aspects which have seen improvement in their status
- Suggest steps that could led to their empowerment – you may divide your suggestions under various heads like social, economic etc

Conclusion – Provide a fair and balanced view based in arguments made above.

Background:-

- Dalit women constitute a vast section of India's population. They have been socially excluded and humiliated for a long period of time.
- Government through 'Positive interventions', 'affirmative measures' have consistently developed policies for their economic, social and political empowerment. Though these policies have brought some positive change, however, the process of transformation has been extremely slow.

Caste based and gender based violence in Dalit women :-

- International reports note that discrimination begins early, and is evident in factors such as a **mother's access to healthcare and an infant's access to adequate nutrition. This continues into the education system.**
- **Failure of policies:-**
 - The policies are inadequate to minimize the handicaps and disabilities of the past and in reducing the gaps between them and the rest of the Indian society.
 - Dalit women continue to suffer from a high degree of poverty, gender discrimination, caste discrimination and socio-economic deprivation.
- **Violence:-**
 - Girls face violence at a younger age and at a higher rate than women of other castes. According to the National Family Health Survey by the age of 15, 33.2% scheduled caste women experience physical violence. The figure is 19.7% for "other" category women.
 - The violence continues, largely due to a sense of impunity among dominant castes.
- **Political power does not help:-**
 - Even when Dalit women acquire political power, as when they are elected as sarpanches, there is often no protection against the social power that sanctions violence and discrimination against them.
 - In a village with a Dalit woman sarpanch, a Dalit woman was burned, but no action was taken.



- **Attitude of dominant castes:-**
 - There is a mind-set among the dominant castes that make them feel that they can do anything they want with dalit girls and that they will get away with it.
 - The discrimination faced by Dalit women at the cost of the Brahmanical obsession with “purity and pollution” has had a detrimental effect on all the dimensions of development.
 - Even today Dalit women along with their families are commonly clustered in segregated hamlets at the edge of a village or mohallas in one corner of the village, devoid of civic amenities, drinking water, health care, education, approach roads etc.
 - In urban areas their homesteads are largely found in slum bases normally located in very unhygienic surrounding.
 - The exploitation of them under the name of religious such as “Nude Worship,” practice of devdasi system and such other similar types of practices make them more submissive to violence, and discrimination.
 - The UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women has noted that Dalit women face targeted violence, even rape and murder, by the state actors and powerful members of the dominant castes used to inflict political lessons and crush dissent within the community.
- **Cases withdrawn and lack of justice:-**
 - Very often cases are withdrawn and witnesses turn hostile because of pressure outside the system without adequate protection given to them.
 - Sanctioned impunity on behalf of offenders is a major issue in India, and the police often deny or purposefully neglect and delay Dalit women’s right to legal aid and justice. There is a consistent pattern of delay in report filing and irregularities regarding criminal procedures, which leads to widespread impunity and creates serious barriers to justice for Dalit women.
- **Workplace violence:-**
 - The risky workplaces compounded with a lack of labour rights protection measures render migrants dalit women more vulnerable to occupational injury.
 - Further, the emerging problem of sub-contracting short-termed labour makes it more difficult for them to claim compensation when they are injured at work places.
 - Dalit women are most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by employers, migration agents, corrupt bureaucrats and criminal gangs.
 - The enslavement trafficking also contributes to migration of large proportion of dalit women.

Aspects which improved so far :-

- Majority of educated Dalit women pursuing public sector jobs were only able to access temporary, low paid, work which lacked social security and labour rights.
- Most of them were employed in typically female jobs, with 50% in New Delhi being employed as teachers in government schools, often below their own skill level.
- In the **private sector, liberalisation did result in increased employment for educated Dalit women**. These women, over 70% of whom were between 20-30 years, and 80% of whom were single, had accessed education through the reservation policies.
 - They were improving their technical and computer skills to meet the needs of the business that had started, especially in the growing services sector, and working for sub-contractors of larger companies.
- Some of the Dalit women employees did gain some respect from their families and communities, even if patriarchal norms continued their subordination to male authority within the household.

Measures to improve :-

- Sensible labour laws reforms to give exit options to Dalit women trapped in a system.
- Integrating social and cultural transformation with an economic alternative is critical.



- **Huge investments will be needed in upskilling and educating women** and government needs to create an abundance of new jobs within the formal sector and lowering barriers to job creation
- Increased availability of stable-wage jobs for women is critical to preventing their socio-economic exploitation
- **With bridging the deep-rooted biases through sustained reconditioning:-**
 - It is only possible by promoting the idea of gender equality and uprooting social ideology of male child preferability.
- **They should be given decision-making powers and due position in governance.** Thus, the Women Reservation Bill should be passed as soon as possible to increase the effective participation of women in the politics of India.
- **Bridging implementation gaps:**
 - Government or community-based bodies must be set up to monitor the programs devised for the welfare of the society.
- Dalit women need group and gender specific policies and programmes to address the issue of multiple deprivations.
- Dalit women require comprehensive policies on health, especially on the maternal and child health
- Make credit available by pooling the women to form self help groups. The example of Kudumbashree model of Kerala can be emulated.

Q) Critically analyze the Jajmani system, as was prevalent in several parts of India. (250 words)

[Reference](#)

[Reference](#)

[Reference](#)

Why this question

The issue is related to GS- 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to delve deep into the issue of Jajmani system, identify and discuss the benefits as well as harms associated with the system and then come up with a personal opinion on the issue.

Directive word

Critically analyze- We have to dig deep into the question, identify the essential characteristics of the Jajmani system as was prevalent in India; its benefits as well as disadvantages. Based on our discussion, we have to form a personal opinion on the issue.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – give a brief definition of Jajmani system.

Body-

- *Briefly discuss its essential features. E.g barter system, durable relationship, hereditary, idea of paternal relationship etc.*
- *Discuss the benefits of the system. E.g economic and food security, intimate and close relationship, peaceful coexistence, self sufficiency etc.*
- *Discuss the cons of the system. E.g source of exploitation, artificial and rigid division of society into upper and lower class, impediment to social as well as economic mobility, propagation of caste system etc.*



Conclusion– Mention that Jajmani system had several benefits but the system was gradually manipulated to serve the needs of the rich and landed class etc. Also mention the role of socioreligious organizations in eradicating the Jajmani system.

Background:-

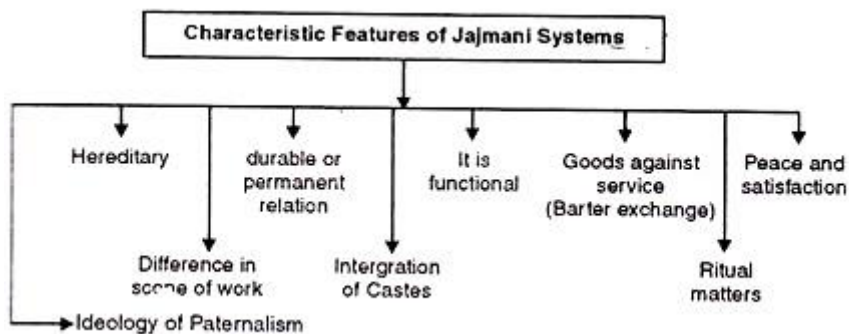
- Jajmani system is considered as the backbone of rural economy and social order. It is a system of traditional occupational obligations. In rural India Jajmani system is very much linked with caste system.

Jajmani system:-

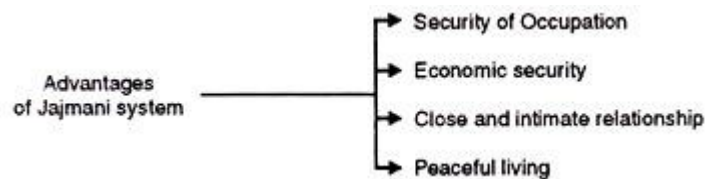
- Jajmani system is a system of distribution whereby high caste land owning families are provided services and products of various lower castes such as Khati (Carpenter), Nai (Barber), Kumhars (Potters), Lobars (Blacksmiths), Dhobi (Washer man), Sweeper (Chuhra) etc.
- The servicing castes are called Kamins while the castes served are called Jajmans. For services rendered the servicing castes are paid in cash or in kind (grains, fodder, clothes, animal products like milk, butter etc.)

Characteristics:-

- Hereditary: Jajmani ties are hereditary.
- Jajmani relations are not like wage-relations which can be terminated after the transaction is over. They are durable.
- Goods Against Services (Barter exchange)
- This system brought peace and satisfaction to the villagers.
- There was wide difference in scope of work of kamins.



Advantages:-



Security of Occupation:

- Security of occupation is guaranteed in case of jajmani system. Since this system is hereditary, the kamin is assured of his occupation. He knows that if he breaks his family occupation he shall not be able to earn his livelihood.

Economic Security:

- It provides economic security to kamins as the jajman looks after all of their needs. The kamins are assured of their economic security. In every monetary crisis the jajman helps the kamins. They extend all possible help to the kamins. So there is economic security in the jajmani system.

**▪ Close and Intimate Relationship:**

- There is close and intimate relationship between the jajman and kamin. This relationship is not purely economical but it is sentimental and internal. A spirit of fellow feeling and brotherhood develops under this system. Both jajman and kamin know full well each other's limitations as well as plus points.
- So, they try to adjust each other. This system creates an atmosphere conducive to peaceful living and co-operation.

▪ Peaceful Living:

- The cut-throat-competition for work or employment is almost absent in jajmani system. No jajman goes without service nor any kamin goes without food. So this system creates an atmosphere of peaceful living by creating the spirit of fellow-feeling and co-operation.
- Jajmani system is functional. It gives security to lower castes that they will never go hungry.

Disadvantages:-**1. Source of Exploitation:**

- Jajmani system is exploitative. The agricultural castes, which are invariably upper castes, seek the services of the occupational castes, which are generally lower castes. The exploitation of lower castes continues under the garb of paternal ties.
- Like the caste system, this system has become a source of suppression, exploitation and discrimination.

2. Feeling of Superiority and Inferiority:

- In this system, the kamins are considered low whereas the jajmans are placed high. This has resulted in social inequality and feeling of superiority and inferiority in the minds of both Jajman and kamin.
- Because this system is based on heredity, the kamin cannot take other Job or occupation and the advantage of latest scientific developments to improve his economic condition.
- This system has resulted in lowering the economic standard of the kamins. They are treated as inferior. They are sometimes exploited and abused by the Jajmans. They become helpless before the money power of their Jajmans. This is a system which is based on the sense of high and low.

3. Impediment to Occupational and Social Mobility:

- Jajmani system has stood on the way of occupational mobility and resulted in lowering economic standard of the kamins. This system is hereditary, so there is no possibility of changing the occupation. In this way the system has checked social mobility. The conditions of the kamins remain miserable because of their economic weaknesses.

4. Supported by Caste System:

- Caste system is the basis of jajmani system. So this system suffers from all the evils of caste system.
- They are ill-treated by the Jajmans. This system leads to widespread discrimination. There is exploitation and coercion.

5. Effect of Transport and Communication:

- Due to rapid expansion of transport and communication, the system is in a decline. Because it has made easy for the kamins to seek job or other occupation outside their village. Now the kamins are no longer compelled to do the Job of Jajmans.

6. Impact of Social Reform Movement:

- Due to the impact of social reform movements, the suppressed castes get benefits. They try to rise up in the social ladder. Various religious reform movements, like Arya Samaj have produced one of the greatest setback to the Jajmani system.



Conclusion:-

- Jajmani system had several benefits but the system was gradually manipulated to serve the needs of the rich and landed class etc. Due to socio-religious organisations slowly Jajmani system faded away.

TOPIC: Role of women and women's organization. Social empowerment;

Q) Discuss the role of women in farming in India. Also, discuss the problems faced by women farmers in India. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

Women form the major agricultural workforce and increased rural-urban migration has resulted in further feminization of agriculture. India's socio-economic structures and institutions further worsen their situation. The issue is related to GS1 syllabus under the following heading-

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Key demand of the question

The question wants us to bring forward the role of women in agriculture in India, discuss their contribution and also write in detail about the problems faced by women farmers in India.

Directive word

Discuss- we have to write in detail about both the aspects of the question- role played and problems faced.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – *Mention some statistics related to involvement of women in agriculture in India.*

Body-

- *Discuss the agricultural and livestock related activities dominated by women farmers generally, increased migration and involvement of women in farming activities etc.*
- *Discuss the problems faced by them. E.g lack of ownership and control over land, lack of access to credit, lack of knowledge and skills etc.*

Conclusion– *Form a concise, fair and a balanced opinion and suggest the way forward based on your discussion.*

Background:-

- Economic survey 2017-18 recognised and spoke of the need for women farmers to get access to land, water, credit, technology and training.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization says that if women farmers had the same access to resources as men, they would increase output by 20-30% which would mean a dramatic reduction in hunger. This could raise total the agricultural output in developing countries by up to 4%.

Role of women in farming on India :-

- Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture varies greatly from region to region.
- **Intensive jobs:-**
 - Rural women perform numerous labour intensive jobs such as weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds from fibre, keeping of livestock and its other associated activities like milking, milk processing, preparation of ghee, etc.



▪ **Agriculture**

- Mainly rural women are engaged in agricultural activities in three different ways depending on the socio-economic status of their family and regional factors. They work as
 - Paid Labourers
 - Cultivator doing labour on their own land.
 - Managers of certain aspects of agricultural production by way of labour supervision and the participation in post harvest operations.
- The types of agricultural activities taken up by women include Sowing, nursery management, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, fertilizer application, plant protection, harvesting, winnowing, storing etc.

▪ **Livestock:-**

- Studies have revealed rural women earn extra income from the sale of milk and animals. Mostly women are engaged in cattle management activities such as cleaning of animal and sheds, watering of cattle, milking the animals, fodder collection, preparing dung cakes, collection farm yard manure etc.
- It is evident that the women are playing a dominant role in the livestock production and management activities.

▪ **Poultry**

- Poultry farming is one of the major sources of rural economy. The rate of women participation in poultry farming at household level is central in poultry industry.
- Globally, there is empirical evidence that **women have a decisive role in ensuring food security and preserving local agro-biodiversity.**
- With **women predominant at all levels-production**, pre-harvest, post-harvest processing, packaging, marketing of the agricultural value chain.
- Maintaining the ancillary branches in this sector, like **animal husbandry, fisheries and vegetable cultivation, depends almost solely on women.**

Problems faced by women farmers:-

▪ **Migration:-**

- Over the last decade, as farming became less and less profitable and small and marginal farmers began migrating to cities, rural jobs for full-time women daily-wage labourers (those who do not own land but work at least 183 days in a year in someone's farm) in the agricultural sector have shrunk alarmingly.
- They have no choice with men moving to urban areas for work.

▪ **Land ownership issues:-**

- While there are more women in agriculture today, they have just a dismal 12.8% of holdings despite being crucial to the whole production chain from farm to market.
- Despite a huge presence in farming, women in Uttar Pradesh own a little under 18% of the land, and in Kerala it is just 14%. In other words, women can labour on farms but cannot hope to own them. Since land is passed on through inheritance, it is usually handed down to male heirs.

▪ **No political will:-**

- Unfortunately, the role of women in farming has got no mention at all among political parties and very little among policy-makers.
- Not much focus on gender inclusiveness in agriculture.

▪ **Difficulties in getting credit:-**

- Getting loans, participating in mandi panchayats, assessing and deciding the crop patterns, liaising with the district officials, bank managers and political representatives and bargaining for MSPs (minimum support prices), loans and subsidies, remain male activities.



- Since women have limited ownership of land, they face many hurdles, the main one being getting credit from a bank or even accessing government schemes meant for farmers.
- **Wage issues:-**
 - Even in the southern states where the labour unions are strong, women farm workers get less than men; in the northern states, the wage gap is more.
- **Less support from family and society :-**
 - Women farmers work with very little support from their families or the state.
 - Unlike male farmers and cultivators, their female counterparts remained doubly burdened during their peak productive period with their reproductive role seen as fundamental to their gender while the duties it entailed were socially created.
 - **So even as women laboured in fields, they continued to have and rear children almost single-handedly, the report showed.**
- **Farmer suicides:-**
 - In 2014, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, of 8,007 farmer suicides, 441 were women. Also 577 women labourers committed suicide that year.
- **Lack of equipment:-**
 - Designed farm tools available are mainly used by male farmers, and rural women are left to use traditional tools and procedures resulting in low efficiency, drudgery, occupational health risks, and low income.

Way forward :-

- **Formal education, availability of economically viable agricultural machinery for women, training, extension services, social engineering, and gender budgeting** is need of the hour.
 - Gender budgeting would assess the quantity and adequacy of allocation of resources for women and establish the extent to which gender commitments are translated into budgetary commitments.
 - Agricultural extension efforts should help women improve food production while allowing them to shift more of their labor to export production.
- **The government plans to launch an awareness campaign looking at how Agricultural Science Centres (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) can play a significant role in empowering women farmers** and shifting existing, biased perceptions of women's roles in agriculture.
- **An 'inclusive transformative agricultural policy'** should aim at gender-specific intervention to raise productivity of small farm holdings, integrate women as active agents in rural transformation, and engage men and women in extension services with gender expertise.
- Similarly, changes in legal, financial, and educational systems must be undertaken in order to enhance women's social and economic contributions to rural development in the long term.
- **There is a need to examine carefully the implications of land tenure laws and regulations for women.** And educational policies and funding must be changed to reflect the very high social and economic returns to women's primary education and literacy.
- **The differential access of women to resources like land, credit, water, seeds and markets needs to be addressed.**



Q) Gender equality offers a sizeable economic opportunity for any country. India, however, has lagged behind in taking advantage of this economic opportunity. Discuss. (250 words)

Financial express

Why this question

The economic losses suffered due to lack of gender parity is a very important topic for mains. Such questions are often asked including in essays. This article provides several fodder points on this issue.

Key demand of the question

The question makes two statements, both of which needs to be discussed. How is gender equality related to economic progress and the status of India on this parameter needs to be discussed.

Directive word

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Highlight that several reports including the present one, the power of parity etc have highlighted this linkage and the need for countries to take steps in this regard.

Body

- *Discuss how gender empowerment is linked to economic progress*
- *Highlight the status quo in India – discuss the poor LFPR of females in India, their poor performance on other indicators of development which indirectly impact their ability to become meaningful contributors to economy*
- *Highlight the benefits that India would accrue if it focuses on gender empowerment – limit yourself to benefits directly or indirectly related to economic growth*
- *Discuss the steps taken so far and what more could be done*

Conclusion – Highlight the importance of focussing on this issue to reap economic dividends.

Background:-

- A new research from the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) finds that Asia-Pacific economies could boost their collective GDP by \$4.5 trillion per year by 2025, just by accelerating progress toward gender equality.
- India is the country that stands to gain the most from inclusion, with the potential to increase its usual GDP by a staggering 18% through increased participation, amounting to a total of \$770 billion by 2025.

Measures taken:-

- Nationally, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao directly tackles pre-birth sex-determination and along with Sabla and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana supports the empowerment of girls.
- “One stop shop” centres for survivors of violence against women have been set up and are being utilised.
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Yojana, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram and Janani Suraksha Yojana support pregnant women, new mothers and infants.

Why India is lagging behind:-

- Women **remain subject to traditional attitudes** that define their primary role as being in the home. As a result, women often lack access to the financing needed to start or expand a business, and to the training needed for the modern labour market.
- The primary issue is **one of participation**. Currently, only a quarter of the workforce in India is female.



- **Barriers:-**
 - **There are significant barriers to improving** increasing female presence in more productive roles (19%), and increasing the number of hours worked by women (9%).
- **Level of unpaid care work carried out by women in India, which stands at ten times the amount carried out by men.** If the volume of unpaid work carried out by women was compensated even with the minimum wage, India's economic output could increase by as much as \$300 billion.
- **Legal protection offered to women is another challenge,** wherein the existing infrastructure is sufficient in terms of sexual harassment and paid maternity leave, but legal mandates for equal pay and parental leave are severely lacking.
 - Deficiencies in the legal framework can further be attributed to another key challenge – unequal legislative representation for women. A mere 11% of the members of parliament in India's lower house are currently female.
- **Other challenges include crucial socio-economic challenges such as sex-selective abortions and violence against women.**

Measures needed:-

- **Women's labour force participation and access to decent work are important** and necessary elements of an inclusive and sustainable development process.
- **Policy makers in India and throughout the region should take a comprehensive approach** to improving labour market outcomes for women.
- **Improving access to and relevance of education and training programs,** skills development, access to child care, maternity protection, and provision of safe and accessible transport.
- Policy-makers should be more concerned about whether women are able to access better jobs or start up a business, and take advantage of new labour market opportunities as a country grows.
- A policy framework encouraging and enabling women's participation should be constructed with active awareness of the "gender-specific" constraints that face most women.
- **Gender responsive policies need to be contextually developed.**
- **Increasing labour market flexibility** allowing more women, many of whom are working in the informal sector, to be employed in the formal sector.
- **Supply-side reforms to improve infrastructure** and address other constraints to job creation could also enable more women to enter the labour force.
- **Higher social spending, including investment in education,** can also lead to higher female labour force participation by boosting female stocks of human capital.
- **Rural women:-**
 - Dedicated efforts in skilling, re-skilling and improving their educational outcomes through infrastructure development.
 - Female teacher availability, incentives along with creating an adequate number of favourable job opportunities are necessary to harness their potential.
 - Focus on microfinance-supported self-help group-centred activities, which will make them economically active along with handling domestic duties.

Q) Discuss the rights enjoyed by minority educational institutions? Examine why, despite constitutional protections, there is a debate over the status of MEI like AMU ? (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question basically expects us to discuss the rights and protection accorded to MEI and the debate surrounding the status of MEI like Jamia Millia and AMU.



Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any .

Structure of the answer

Introduction – highlight that constitution award fundamental rights to protect community rights in article 29 and 30

Body

- *Discuss the content of article 29 and 30 wrt MEI*
- *Examine the debate over the status of AMU and why in that case the constitutional protections accorded to MEI is not sufficient.*

Conclusion – Mention that the question needs quick resolution to ensure that the confusion over who MEI is gets resolved sooner rather than later.

Background:-

- Out of the many provided fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution, it also specifically provides for the educational rights of the minorities to establish and administer the educational institutions of their choice under Article 30.

Constitutional Provisions regarding Minority Educational Institutions:-

- Article 30(1) recognizes linguistic and religious minorities but not those based on race, ethnicity. It recognizes the right of religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions, in effect recognizing the role educational institutions play in preserving distinct culture. A majority community can also establish and administer educational institution but they will not enjoy special rights under Article 30(1)(a).
- The right of any section of citizens, under Article 29(1) having distinct language, script or culture of their own to conserve the same entitles them to establish and maintain an educational institution for this purpose.
- **Special rights enjoyed by religious minority institutions are:**
 - Under Art 30(1)(a), MEI enjoy right to education as a Fundamental Right. In case the property is taken over by state, due compensation to be provided to establish institutions elsewhere
 - Under Article 15(5), MEIs are not considered for reservation
 - Under Right to Education Act, MEI not required to provide admission to children in the age group of 6-14 years upto 25% of enrolment reserved for economically backward section of society
 - In St Stephens vs Delhi University case, 1992, SC ruled that MEIs can have 50% seats reserved for minorities
 - In TMA Pai & others vs State of Karnataka & others 2002 case, SC ruled that MEIs can have separate admission process which is fair, transparent and merit based. They can also separate fee structure but should not charge capitation fee

Reasons for the debate are:

- While a number of minority educational institutions exist, there are issues with regard to minority universities. This is because for incorporating any university, a statute is needed and that is done by state
- Those who oppose the tag of MEI being accorded to AMU and JMI argue that since these universities are established through an Act of Parliament, these institutions are not MEIs
- Those who argue against the current government's stand hold that there is a difference between incorporation and establishment. The statutes incorporate these institutions as universities but they are still established by minorities and hence are liable to enjoy the special rights accorded to MEI mentioned above.
- Supreme court gave a judgment that "A religious or linguistic minority in India can choose to establish and run an educational institution on a non-minority basis but it cannot lose its right to change its mind and assert its minority character on a subsequent date."



- In certain cases, state governments have denied minority status to educational institutions on the ground that the aims and objectives of the societies/trusts setting them up did not clearly specify that they were meant to serve the interests of the minority community.
- A number of minority institutions similarly face enormous problems in getting approval from the Income Tax department under section 80(g) which provides for exemption of donations from payment of income tax. Many tax officers have ruled that religious minority institutions are not eligible for such exemption.
- The issue is that both JMI and AMU are run mostly through Government- Grant and they are given Central University status and a university cannot be at the same time both Central university and Minority institution.

Stand of the government:

- Centre argues that conferring minority status to AMU or any institution set up by a parliamentary enactment or state enactment would be contrary to Article 15 of the Constitution, which prohibits discrimination by state on grounds of religion
- Centre also states that minority status to AMU and Jamia Millia Islamia universities is “unconstitutional” and “illegal” since these two government-run institutions were discriminating against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes by using the minority tag.

Way forward:-

- **More freedom to universities could help higher education**
 - Course correction would be in the form of a regulatory body that has a vision for higher education, monitors quality, but allows universities to operate freely, instead of controlling them
- **Letting it go:**
 - The other step to reduce regulation is the government’s intention to select 10 public and 10 private universities and make them autonomous.
 - 20 universities have been invited to decide their own fate, without the interference of the government.
- **Need to change the government’s stance in dealing with the issue:-**
 - The government has chosen to cancel the minority status of these AMU and Jamia milia Islamia universities, even though these are not the only ones that have minority status.
 - The government’s stance on Jamia and AMU, instead of underscoring ideology, should have opened up the debate on the larger regulatory mess in higher education.

Conclusion:-

- The constitution explicitly recognizes the right of minorities to establish and administer MEI. It is the duty of the government to ensure that the rights guaranteed to minorities are not turned into a teasing illusion and promise of unreality. These guarantees are essential in a democratic and pluralistic country like India. The fundamental right of minorities to set up their own educational institutions benefits Indians of all religions depending on which state they happen to live in.

TOPIC: Salient features of world’s physical geography (including India).

Q) Indian ocean has a great political and economic significance. Comment. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The question is related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Salient features of world’s physical geography.

Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);

The question is also related to GS 3 syllabus under the following heading-



Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to bring out the economic as well as the political importance of Indian ocean in the present times.

Directive word

Comment- We have to express our understanding and knowledge on the above issue. We have to answer both the aspects of the question.- economic part, as well as the political aspects.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – *Mention that Indian Ocean covers almost 20 percent of the world's waters and includes Andaman Sea, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Flores Sea, Great Australian Bight, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Java Sea, Mozambique Channel, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Strait of Malacca, Timor Sea, and other tributary water bodies.*

Body-

- *Discuss the economic importance of Indian ocean. E.g Strait of Hormuz connects the oil fields of Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean and carries almost 88 per cent of the Persian Gulf oil to the world; Strait of Malacca connects the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, this strait serves as the shortest route between the Persian Gulf and its markets in Asia. etc. Similarly, discuss the economic role of other such areas of the Indian ocean.*
- *Discuss the political importance of the Indian ocean. E.g involvement of world powers in the area, presence of military bases in various islands, increasing naval presence and posturing of world powers etc.*
- *Take the help of the article attached to the question and other references to frame your answer.*

Conclusion– *Bring out a fair, concise and a balanced conclusion on the overall importance of the Indian Ocean and mention the imperative for free trade lanes and peace in the region.*

Background:-

- Indian Ocean has gained tremendous importance over the years and has now become the most concerted area where global economic activity conjoined political interests.
- The combination of economic growth and slowdown, military expansion, increasing demand for natural resources, demographics combined with the geo-political situation, increased presence of nuclear capable actors and variances in regional structures of governance, highlights the geo-political significance of this area.

Indian ocean has a political significance:-

- It is a home to **world's busiest waterways and chokepoints** such as the Suez Canal, Bab al Mandeb, Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Malacca. All these chokepoints and waterways are highly important for the rising nations of the world.
- More than **half the world's armed conflicts** are presently located in the Indian Ocean region.
- It is also home to
 - **Continually evolving strategic developments including the competing rises of China and India**
 - Potential nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan
 - The US interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan
 - Islamist terrorism
 - Growing incidence of piracy in and around the Horn of Africa
- **There has been a gradual to an accelerated expansion of maritime forces and their capabilities in the region.** The growing presence of extra regional powers and nuclear capable nations has further altered the existing



security framework. This is affecting the existing military balance and the impending imbalance could create a new architecture that could affect the prevailing security scenario.

▪ **Naval bases:-**

- US uses the island of Diego Garcia as a major air-naval base and logistics hub for its Indian Ocean operations.
- France, meanwhile maintains significant presence in the north and southwest Indian Ocean quadrants, with naval bases in Djibouti, Reunion, and Abu Dhabi.

▪ **India:-**

- India imports about 70 percent of its oil through the Indian Ocean Region to its various ports. **As a consequence, it has been enhancing its strategic influence through the use of soft power, by becoming a major foreign investor in regional mining, oil, gas, and infrastructure projects.**
- In addition, India has aggressively expanded its naval presence reportedly to include the establishment of listening posts in the Seychelles, Madagascar and Mauritius
- Its governance and security are under constant threat of being undermined, whether by non-state actors such as **pirates, smugglers, and terrorists, or by furtive naval competition between states**

Economic significance:-

- It enjoys a privileged location at the **crossroads of global trade, connecting the major engines of the international economy in the Northern Atlantic and Asia-Pacific.** This is particularly important in an era in which global shipping has burgeoned.
 - Today, the almost 90,000 vessels in the world's commercial fleet transport 9.84 billion tonnes per year. This represents an almost **four-fold increase in the volume of commercial shipping since 1970**
- The Indian Ocean has vital sea lanes of communication crisscrossing it and which feeds Asia's largest economies. **Around 80 per cent of the world's seaborne oil trade passes through the choke points of this ocean and therefore it literally connects the east to the west** with 40 percent passing through the Strait of Hormuz, 35 percent through the Strait of Malacca and 8 percent through the Bab el-Mandab Strait.
- The Ocean's vast drainage basin is important in its own right, **home to some two billion people.** This creates opportunities, especially given the high rates of economic growth around the Indian Ocean rim, including in India, Bangladesh, Southeast Asia, and Eastern and Southern Africa.
- The Indian Ocean is **rich in natural resources.**
 - Forty per cent of the world's offshore oil production takes place in the Indian Ocean basin.
 - **Minerals:-**
 - Mineral resources with nodules containing nickel, cobalt, and iron, and massive sulphide deposits of manganese, copper, iron, zinc, silver, and gold present in sizeable quantities on the sea bed.
 - Indian Ocean coastal sediments are also important sources of titanium, zirconium, tin, zinc, and copper.
 - Additionally, various rare earth elements are present, even if their extraction is not always commercially feasible.
 - **Energy security and resources** are absolutely critical. The Indian Ocean Region is immensely rich in that
 - **Fishing:-**
 - Fishing in the Indian Ocean now accounts for almost 15 per cent of the world's total.
 - Aquaculture in the region has also grown 12-fold since 1980. Although global fishing is reaching its natural limitations, the Indian Ocean may be able to sustain increases in production.
 - The largely unregulated overexploitation of its fishery resources. The consequences of over fishing, which is actually largely a result of activity by countries outside the region, could eventually have serious consequences for littoral states that depend heavily on maritime resources to feed their populations and also provide valuable export revenues.



▪ **Indian trade:-**

- 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 68 per cent of trade by value come via the Indian Ocean.
- India captured 4.1 million tonnes of fish in 2008, placing it sixth in the world and its fishing and aquaculture industries employ some 14 million people.

Q) Discuss how geology of an area determines its biodiversity. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

Geology has a prime bearing on the biodiversity of an area. The question is related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Salient features of world's physical geography. Distribution of key natural resources across the world.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to bring out the relationship between the geological features of an area and the biodiversity of life it possesses.

Directive word

Discuss- we have to write in detail about the link between geology and biodiversity of an area. We have to describe in detail about how the two are related.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– *Mention that geology of an area and its biodiversity are closely related and geology has an important bearing on the evolution as well as survival of all the life forms associated with it.*

Body-

Mention that geological influences the biodiversity can be split into two basic areas:

- *the direct influence of rock type(its physical characteristics like degree and direction of slope, topography etc.) and*
- *the indirect role that it plays in soil formation (chemical composition, rate and extent of weathering, erosion) and the development of structures that influence the distribution of plants and animals.*

Take the help of the article attached to the question and also go through other relevant material to frame your answer.

Conclusion- *mention that besides geology, climatic conditions and history, and human activities also have a bearing on biodiversity of an area.*

Background:-

- Geology has strong ties with biodiversity, in that the nature of the substrate, as usually determined by the nature of the underlying rock, is a key factor in determining the distribution of habitats and species.

How geology of an area determines biodiversity:-

- **Influence of geology and geomorphological processes may be manifested through a number of factors, both direct and indirect.**
- **The direct influence of rock type itself and the indirect role that it plays in soil formation and the development of structures** influences the distribution of plants and animals at a range of scales.
- There are limited examples where it can be shown that the direct influence of rock type has a significant effect on plant presence and distribution.



- Generally these examples relate to groups of organisms and species which directly attach to a rock face (for example lichens and some vascular plants) and for which direct contact with the rock and its utilisation forms an integral part of the life cycle (for example uptake of mineral nutrients).
- **The immediate and direct influence of rock type can be seen in the distribution of lichens, with many species favouring either calcareous (basic) or acidic substrates** on which to grow
- However, even in these cases, lichens can modify the local chemistry and the rock outcrop may act as more of a physical structure than a specific substrate requirement for growth.
- The direct influence of rock type can be **related to both its chemistry and its physical structure**. There are numerous examples of how bare rock or rocky slopes act as a habitat for a wide variety of species and community types (for example talus slope communities) and at this level it can be said that **rock exposure provides an important function within ecosystems and the biosphere**.
- However, many of the species/assemblages which **utilise rock as a habitat do so regardless of its composition (i.e., sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic)**, although general characteristics such as hardness vs softness are important factors in determining the suitability of rock types for specific ecological functions (as nesting habitat for birds or insects).
- **Certain rock types do support recognisable and distinct communities** and that these associations must, in some way, be related to the particular properties of the rock itself.
- **However, other factors, such as climate and aspect are also very important** in defining the boundary conditions (i.e., the niche space) that support species populations.
- Significant variations may therefore exist in the distribution of species from one place to another depending on the interaction between these physical variables.

Q) Discuss how plateaus are classified and also discuss their economic significance. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The question is related to GS-1 syllabus under the following heading –

Salient features of world's physical geography.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to classify the plateaus of the world and also write in detail about their economic significance.

Directive word

Discuss- we have to provide the classification of plateaus and write in detail about the economic benefits they provide us or hold for us.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Give a brief definition of the term plateau and mention that plateaus cover about 18% of the earth's surface.

Body-

- *Present the classification of plateaus on the basis of their geographical location and structure of rocks- a) Intermontane Plateaus (b) Piedmont Plateaus (c) Continental Plateaus. Describe the each type, briefly along with examples. You can also draw a diagram for illustration purposes.*
- *Discuss in points, their economic significance. E.g mineral storehouse, generation of hydel power, cool/ pleasant climate and tourism, good for agriculture and livestock rearing, polar plateau- Antarctica- storehouse of ice, rich wildlife and biodiversity etc.*

Conclusion– Form a fair and a concise conclusion on the overall importance of plateaus.



Background:-

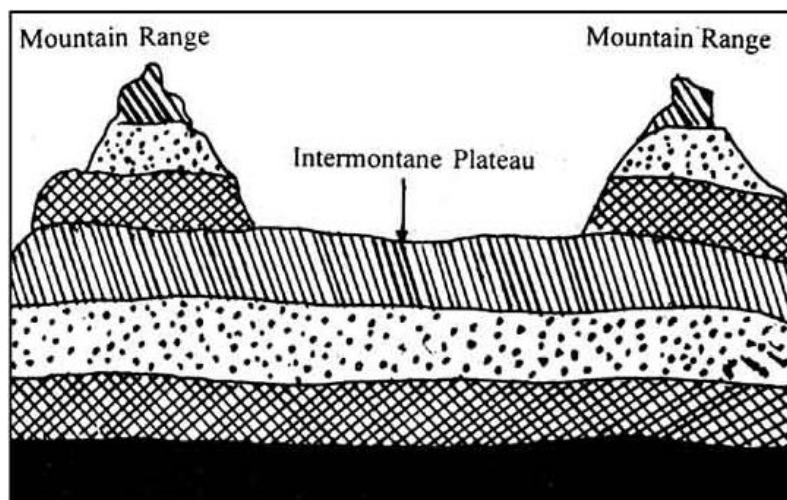
- The plateaus cover about 18% of the earth's surface. This landform has a large elevated area on its top unlike a mountain and has nearly even surface out there.

How are plateaus classified:-

On the basis of their geographical location and structure of rocks, the plateaus can be classified as:

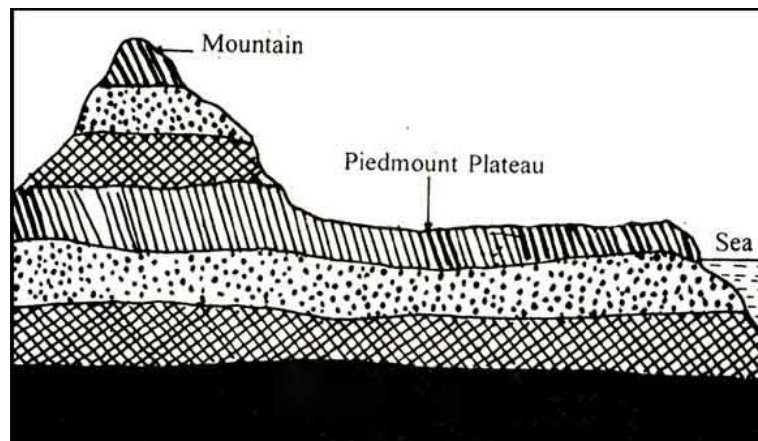
▪ **Intermontane Plateaus :-**

- The plateaus which are bordering the fold mountain range or are partly or fully enclosed within them are the intermontane plateaus
- Vertical movements raise this extensive landforms of nearly horizontal rocks to thousands of metres above sea level.
- The extensive and over 4500 metres high plateau of Tibet is one such example. It is surrounded by folded mountains like Himalaya, Karakoram, Kunlun, Tien Shah on its two sides.
- Plateau of Mexico, Bolivia and Iran are all other examples of this type.



▪ **Piedmont Plateaus :-**

- The plateaus that are situated at the foot of the mountains and are bounded on other sides by a plain or an ocean are called piedmont plateau
- The plateau of Malwa in India, the Appalachian in U.S.A are their
- In their case, the areas once high have now been reduced by various agents of erosion. For this reason, these are also called the plateaus of denudation.

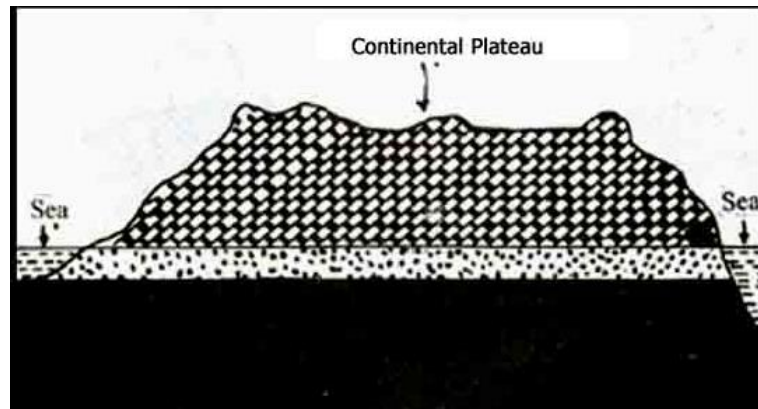


▪ **Continental Plateaus:-**

- These are formed either by an extensive continental uplift or by the spread of horizontal basic lava sheets completely covering the original topography to a great depth.



- The volcanic lava covered plateau of Maharashtra in India, Snake River Plateau in North West USA etc
- These are also, called the plateau of accumulation.
- All continental plateaus show an abrupt elevation in contrast to the nearby lowland or the sea.
- As compared to other, these plateaus, cover a vast area like the Great Indian Plateau .They may be tilted on one side without any disturbance in the horizontal nature of underlying rock strata as in the case of Great Indian plateau.



Economic significance:-

- Plateaus are extremely useful to mankind in the following ways:
 - **Storehouse of Minerals**
 - Most of the minerals in the world are found in the plateaus. Besides, the extraction of minerals is relatively easier on plateaus. These minerals are indispensable as raw material for our industries.
 - Gold from the Plateau of Western Australia; copper, diamonds and gold from the Plateaus of Africa and coal, iron, manganese and mica from the Chota Nagpur Plateau in India.
 - **Generation of Hydel-power:-**
 - Rivers falling down the edges of plateaus form water-falls. These water-falls provide ideal sites for generating hydel-power.
 - **Cool Climate:-**
 - The higher parts of the plateaus even in tropical and sub-tropical regions have cool climate. Hence they have attracted Europeans to settle there and develop their economy e.g. South and East Africa.
 - **Useful for Animal-rearing and Agriculture :-**
 - Plateaus have large grassland areas suitable for animal-rearing specially sheep, goat and cattle.
 - The lava plateaus as compared to all other plateau are richer in agriculture since their soil is very fertile.
 - However according to studies plateaus are not very useful for agriculture. The hard rocks on plateaus cannot form fertile soil but agricultural activities are promoted where lava soils have developed.
 - **Polar plateau** or Antarctica which is the storehouse of ice has rich wildlife and biodiversity etc. This plateau is very important for science because of its profound effect on the Earth's climate and ocean systems.



TOPIC: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc. Changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Q) What do you understand by, Decade Volcanoes. Discuss the aim and importance of the Decade Volcano project. (250 words)

[Wikipedia](#)

[Reference](#)

Why this question

The issue has become more important in the wake of several volcanic eruptions and associated loss of life and property. The issue related to GS 1 syllabus under the following heading-

Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to simply describe in detail the meaning of Decade volcanoes. It also wants us to discuss the aim and importance of the Decade Volcano project.

Directive word

Discuss- we have to write in detail about the meaning of the term, aim and role of the project.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– Mention the formation of the Project as a part of United Nations-sponsored International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Body-

- Describe the meaning of the term, Decade Volcanoes.
- Discuss the aims of the Decade Volcanoes project. Read the articles properly before writing about the aims.
- Discuss the role of the project. E.g it has provided us with rich and deep insights into the geomorphic process of volcanism, it has helped in taking necessary precautions etc.

Conclusion– Mention the need to revise the list and further strengthen the organization etc.

Decade volcanoes :-

- The **Decade Volcanoes** are 16 volcanoes identified by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) as being worthy of particular study in light of their history of large, destructive eruptions and proximity to populated areas.
- They are named Decade Volcanoes because the project was initiated as part of the United Nations-sponsored International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in the 1990s.
- The following characteristics can be attributed to designate a Decade Volcano:-
 - If it exhibits more than one volcanic hazard (people living near the Decade Volcanoes may experience tephra fall, pyroclastic flows, lava flows, lahars, volcanic edifice instability and lava dome collapse)
 - It shows recent geological activity
 - Is located in a populated area (eruptions at any of the Decade Volcanoes may threaten tens or hundreds of thousands of people, and therefore mitigating eruption hazards at these volcanoes is crucial)
 - Is politically and physically accessible for study
 - There is local support for the work.



Decade volcano project :-

- Despite the challenges scientists face in predicting volcanic eruptions, the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) Decade Volcano Programme has identified the volcanoes which pose the greatest threat.
- Their list is based not simply on which volcanoes are most likely to erupt, but rather on which volcanoes are located within highly populated regions and also capable of producing lethal volcanic eruptions including lava flows, pyroclastic flows, lahars and ash falls.
- 16 volcanoes are covered under this project and some of them are
 - Mount Rainier, in Washington, United States
 - Mount Vesuvius in Italy
 - Mount Etna
 - Mount Merapi
- **Aim is:-**
 - To direct attention to a small number of selected, active volcanoes world-wide and to encourage the establishment of a range of research and public-awareness activities aimed at enhancing an understanding of the volcanoes and the hazards posed by them.



- **Importance:-**
 - The Decade Volcanoes project **encourages studies and public-awareness activities at these volcanoes**, with the aim of achieving a better understanding of the volcanoes and the dangers they present, and thus being able to reduce the severity of natural disasters.
 - The general approach of Decade Volcano projects has been to convene a planning workshop, **identify the major strengths and weaknesses of risk mitigation at each volcano, and to plan how to address the weaknesses identified**.
 - One of the difficulties faced in mitigating hazards at volcanoes is ensuring that geoscientists and those who will enact the mitigation measures communicate adequately with each other, and the **Decade Volcano program has attempted to ensure this by making sure both groups are well represented at Decade Volcano workshops**.
 - The Decade Volcano program **has achieved a number of successes in predicting volcanic events and mitigating disasters**. One of the most notable was the successful diversion of a lava flow and blanket at Mount Etna in 1992.
 - **The eruptive history of Galeras volcano is now much better established than previously**, and at Taal Volcano the importance of water in driving its explosive eruptions has come to light.
 - **Studies at many volcanoes have led to a clear reduction in the risk faced by nearby settlements.**
 - **It has been a success that has furthered the science of volcanology greatly.**



- Due to the Decade Volcano Program scientists now know a lot more about how to mitigate volcanoes, and they also know much more about how volcanoes operate. Due to all of the studies done scientists now know so much that they can point the finger against other and more dangerous volcanoes.
- **Problems with this project:-**
 - **Predictions failed:-**
 - Eruptions at Mount Unzen which began shortly before it was designated a Decade Volcano were heavily monitored, but despite this, a large pyroclastic flow killed 43 people, including three volcanologists.
 - Civil unrest in the vicinity of several volcanoes.
 - **Funding issue:-**
 - Scarce resources for volcano studies have led to programs competing for limited funding.

Way forward:-

- Good Decade Volcano Program should, if possible, support countries that need added scientific help and resources. There is an added bonus of studying volcanoes that are understudied today and needs to be the next focus.

Q) Composite Water Management Index developed by NITI Aayog is the first of many steps required for tackling the water crisis in India. Examine. (250 words)

[The hindu](#)

[Reference](#)

Why this question

Water crisis is a common news event, with the crisis in Shimla being the latest incident. NITI Ayog has flagged the issue in its report and has also come out with the index to deal with the crisis by leveraging the spirit of cooperative competitive federalism. Examining this step along with discussing other steps required to address the water crisis is necessary.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to explain the index, its purpose, the impact it would have. The question also mentions that it is one of the many steps required for dealing with the crisis. We need to examine the other steps required, and the impact that it would have. We need to end with a way forward.

Directive word

Examine – When you are asked to examine, you have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any .

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Highlight the dreary picture related to water issues that NITI Ayog paints.

Body – Explain what composite water management index is. Examine how will it help in resolving the issues related to water. Discuss whether benchmarking exercises and instilling sense of competition would suffice. Highlight the other steps needed to tackle the existing issues related to water in the country. Here divide your answer in parts like administrative, infrastructure creation, policy changes etc.

Conclusion – Discuss the necessity of tackling this issue ASAP and the way forward.

Background:-

- Decades of the mismanagement of resources, a lack of awareness about the need for conserving fresh water, an absence of a well-thought-out water conservation policy, coupled with the menace of a population explosion and the public's general indifference towards keeping our rivers and lakes clean have lead to water crisis in India.



- India is suffering from the worst water crisis in its history and around 600 million people face a severe water shortage, according to a government think tank.
- Approximately 200,000 people die every year due to inadequate access to clean water and it's only going to get worse as 21 cities are likely to run out of groundwater by 2020.
- By 2030, the country's water demand is projected to be twice the available supply.

Composite water management Index:-

- CWMI has been developed by NITI Aayog **comprising 9 broad sectors with 28 different indicators covering various aspects of ground water, restoration of water bodies, irrigation, farm practices, drinking water, policy and governance**
- According to the Composite Water Management Index developed by NITI Aayog, 70% of the water resources are identified as polluted. This is based primarily on data supplied by States for calculating the index.
- The system of ratings for States is based on their performance in augmenting water resources and watersheds, investing in infrastructure, providing rural and urban drinking water, and encouraging efficient agricultural use.
- States such as Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Telangana have initiated reforms for judicious water use, while populous ones such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have failed to respond to the challenge.

How does it benefit:-

- Awarding an index rank should help advance such schemes, **making States feel the need to be competitive.**
 - Composite water management index's ranking of states/UTs will ensure that principle of competitive and cooperative federalism is actualised in India's water management system.
- It will **help build pressure on states who have not performed well to improve their water management techniques** as this is directly linked to agriculture prosperity in different states.
- It can be also **utilised to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.**
- It will provide **useful information for States** and also for concerned Central Ministries and Departments enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.
- The CWMI is an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States/ Union Territories in efficient management of water resources.

What it will not be able to do:-

- Such approaches may **not resolve seemingly intractable inter-State river disputes.**

What more needs to be done?

- **Technical measures:-**
 - Need urgent measures like augmentation of watersheds that can store more good water, for use in agriculture and to serve habitations, and strict pollution control enforcement.
- **Administrative:-**
 - Mihir Shah committee has called for a user-centric approach to water management, especially in agriculture. It advocates decentralisation of irrigation commands, offering higher financial flows to well-performing States through a National Irrigation Management Fund.
 - Pervasive groundwater governance may optimistically lead to possibilities of transforming the country from a 'groundwater-deficient' to 'groundwater sufficient' nation.
 - Another important issue that needs to be addressed, particularly in urban areas, is the leakage of pipes providing water. Putting in place an efficient piped supply system has to be top on the agenda of policymakers and planners.



- **International solutions:**

- **Israel**

- Today, Israel is the most efficient to handle water crisis by adopting innovative technologies, dedicating its greater resources and social consciousness to the water crisis.

- **Waste water recycling**

- In many countries waste water is not treated at all, polluting rivers and oceans. Whereas in Israel, nearly 85% of the sewage water is recycled and reused for agriculture.

- **Peru**

- **Fog Catcher**

- It is an invention which traps water drops from fog.

- **Other measures needed are :-**

- **Rain water harvesting**

- Both in urban and rural areas, digging of rainwater harvesting pits must be made mandatory for all types of buildings.

- **Restoring and maintaining water bodies by reviving traditional storage systems:-**

- In the ancient past, different types of indigenous water harvesting systems were developed across the subcontinent and such systems need to be revived and protected at the local level. Micro irrigation practices like drip and sprinkler systems have to be promoted in a big way for efficient use of water for agriculture.

- Growing tress

- Mandatory Water recycling in all the apartments, industries and textiles.

- Reusing the waste water from RO. During RO purification process nearly 70% water gets wasted. We can store and reuse it.

- Revolutionize the agriculture practice .

- Creating social awareness among the people about effective usage of water.

- Conscious efforts need to be made at the household level and by communities, institutions and local bodies to supplement the efforts of governments and non-governmental bodies in promoting water conservation.

- Sustained measures should be taken to prevent pollution of water bodies, contamination of groundwater and ensure proper treatment of domestic and industrial waste water.

Topic: Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Q) Evaluate whether air pollution is the biggest challenge to urbanization? Discuss measures to tackle the menace of air pollution in Indian cities? (250 words)

[Indian express](#)

Why this question

Recently, we saw AQI of Delhi reach alarming levels. AQI levels of our cities are constantly off the roof, which is now creating various challenges for urban spaces. Clean Air is a basic necessity and has become one of the most elusive resource in our cities. Hence this question.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to bring out why air pollution is a huge challenge for urbanization – bring out the economic impacts, societal impacts, health impacts etc. Examine the causes behind air pollution in cities and measures to address the same.



Directive word

Evaluate – When you are asked to evaluate, you have to pass a sound judgement about the truth of the given statement in the question or the topic based on evidences. You have to appraise the worth of the statement in question. There is scope for forming a personal opinion here.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Highlight some cases of air pollution in urban areas and point towards its severity.

Body

- Discuss impact that air pollution has in urbanization under various heads like economy, society etc
- Provide your view on whether it is one of most difficult challenge for Indian cities – take help of WEF study and others to substantiate your point.
- Analyze the causes behind air pollution and suggest measures to tackle the same

Conclusion – Highlight the importance of dealing with this issue and the way forward.

Background :-

- The WHO global air pollution database report that ranked 14 Indian cities among the 15 of the world's most polluted, in terms of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 concentration, received great attention in India

Air pollution is biggest challenge to urbanisation:-

- **Economical:-**
 - Cities provide 60 per cent to 65 per cent of India's GDP and 45 per cent to-50 per cent of our consumption.
- Cities are often the primary avenue that allow people escape out of poverty, especially from traditional agriculture.
- Now with high air pollution people in cities would also be affected with respiratory diseases .This can push people to move away from cities leading to threatening of industrial growth.
- Air pollution often plagues industrialized cities, particularly during their early development. Episodes of high levels of sulfurous smog killed or sickened thousands. Other cities primarily in the industrialized regions of the United States and Europe—also suffered from notoriously bad air quality.
- At the same time it will help peripheral and rural areas develop further so that people will stop migrating to major cities.

Air pollution in India :-

- India's urban pollution as measured by PM 2.5 level is already about 40 per cent above the global safe limits across major Indian cities. If we disaggregate urban pollution, we find 70 per cent to 80 per cent of it (as measured by PM 2.5) comes from vehicular emissions, domestic activity, construction activity, industry activity and road dust.

How to tackle air pollution in India :-

- Need to speed up the **journey towards LPG and solar-powered stoves.**
- **Addressing vehicular emissions** is within India's grasp but requires a multi-pronged approach. **It needs to combine the already-proposed tighter emission norms (in form of BS VI), with a push for shared mobility and public transport and adoption of alternate mobility technologies.** While shared mobility can moderate the demand for individual vehicle ownership and usage, technology solutions today can allow for a sharp reduction in emissions per vehicle.
- **Incentives for adoption of alternate mobility technologies:-**
 - India might need to consider pushing for battery localisation. Cell investments would need a long lead-time to materialise



- **Restrictions on elements that contribute negatively to strategic objectives (such as congestion charges on polluting technologies):-**
 - London imposes congestion charges during working hours on weekdays to vehicles entering the city centre.
 - All these disincentives to traditional cars help in the push for electric vehicles.
- **Enabling infrastructure.:-**
 - There is an early need to standardise charging infrastructure/equipment to ensure interoperability and make it widespread.
- Stubble burning issue in North India need to be looked into seriously.
- Attention to non-technological aspects such as urban planning, to reduce driving, and to increase cycling, walking, and use of public transport are needed.