



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

SECURE SYNOPSIS

MAINS 2019

GS-I

FEBRUARY 2019



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.

INSIGHTSIAS



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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) Benode Behari Mukherjee made great strides in Indian paintings besides his physical disability. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the contribution and legacy of B.B Mukherjee towards Indian art and culture.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the B.B Mukherjee. E.g Born into a highly literate family, a childhood illness had left him blind in one eye and myopic in the other. Unable to pursue formal education, Santiniketan is where Mukherjee gave new life to the close association he had built with nature.

Body-

Discuss in points the works and contribution of B.B Mukherjee towards Indian art and culture. E.g

- *Back in Santiniketan, in 1946-47 Mukherjee designed what has been described as “perhaps the single most important work painted in modern India” — his mural Life of the Medieval Saints which featured the numerous saint-poets of India.*
- *In the exhibition, we see the mountainous terrain with sloping roofs and cloudy skies. The landscape changes in the '50s, when Mukherjee moves to Mussoorie*
- *With further deterioration in his eyesight, there is a visible change in the line detailing of his landscapes.*
- *Appointed educational adviser at the Art School of Patna in 1954, he began to draw more from memory.*
- *“The definite strokes, the graceful web of assured touches, and the measured wash of colour, characteristic of his work so far, give way to vague scribbles, harder edges, and thicker layers of pigment etc.*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

Benode Behari Mukherjee is one of the first students of **Kala Bhavan at Shantiniketan** who transformed the institution into a seminal centre in India. Born into a highly literate family, a childhood illness had left him blind in one eye and myopic in the other. Unable to pursue formal education, Shantiniketan is where Mukherjee gave new life to the close association he had built with nature. He was awarded **Padma Vibhushan in 1974, Rabindra Puraskar and Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad award in 1980.**

Body:

The **works** of B.B Mukherjee towards Indian art and culture are

- He was involved in exploring the rationale underlying different pictorial conventions finally bringing together the **skeins of folk and Indian classical styles, Far Eastern calligraphic painting and early Renaissance conventions with post-cubist idiom.**
- Mukherjee was painting his surroundings and **the self, known as quasi-autobiographical paintings.**



- His visit to Japan made him learn various techniques from the **Japanese masters like Sesshu and Sotatsu**, are visible in the manner in which he painted **scrolls and flowers**.
- In 1946-47, Mukherjee designed what has been described as “perhaps the single most important work painted in modern India” — his mural **Life of the Medieval Saints** which featured the **numerous saint-poets of India**.
- With its conceptual breadth and synthesis of **elements from Giotto and Tawaraya Sotatsu**, as well as from the **art of such ancient Indian sites as Ajanta and Mamallapuram**, it is among the greatest achievements in contemporary Indian painting.
- The landscape changes in the '50s, when he moved to Mussoorie after travelling to Banaras and Banasthali. With further deterioration in his eyesight, there is a visible change in the line **detailing of his landscapes**. Appointed educational adviser at the Art School of Patna in 1954, he begins to draw more from memory.
- Post 1958, apart from drawings, he produced several collages and paper cuts, some of which were later turned into coloured lithographs.
- In 1979, he wrote **Chitrakar**, a collection of writings in Bengali.

Contributions to Art and Culture:

- He was an art teacher at Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan from 1925 to 1949.
- In 1951, he established Banasthali Vidyapith, a women’s educational center in Rajasthan.
- The very next year he set up an Art Center along with his wife Leela to impart training to both artists and art teachers, Mussourie.
- Two years after losing his eyesight completely, in 1958 he joined as a professor in the Art Theory Faculty at Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan.

Conclusion:

- A tribute came from his student Satyajit Ray. In the 1973 biographical film, **The Inner Eye**, Ray painted a picture of the life story of the modernist, ending with Mukherjee’s now famous observation: “**Blindness is a new feeling, a new experience, a new state of being**”.

Q) Discuss the emergence and evolution of Buddhist art in India. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail as to how Buddhist art and architecture emerged in India and how did it evolve over the course of time.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the early Buddhist art. E.g “Early Buddhist art did not show the Buddha in human form. In relief sculptures at early stupa sites, his presence is indicated by symbols such as the lotus (signifying purity), the eight-spoked wheel (emblem of the Buddha’s law), the parasol (ancient symbol of royalty), and a footprint (the Buddha’s presence).

Body-

Discuss how Buddhist art emerged and evolved in India. E.g

- *There is no Buddhist art that dates back to period when Buddha was alive nor is there any from and the centuries that followed.*
- *Not until the first century A.D., more than five hundred years after his death, do images of the Buddha in human form begin to appear.*
- *In the first century A.D., under the Kushan rulers, the Buddha began to be depicted in human form.*
- *Different styles of art emerged from the two Kushan capitals, one in the Peshawar area of Gandhara and the other at Mathura further southeast in India.*



- *After Mahayana Buddhism began to take hold in the A.D. 1st century “a whole pantheon of Mahayana Buddhist deities began to appear to aide the devotee—Buddhas of the past, bodhisattvas such as Maitreya (Buddha of the Future), and Vajrapani (“thunderbolt bearer”), who had evolved from the chief Vedic god Indra.*
- *“In the Gupta period, artists developed a vocabulary of idealized forms derived from nature with which they constructed images of transcendent beings: for example, eyes like lotus petals, head oval like an egg, eyebrows like an archer’s bow, and chin like a mango stone. These conventions continued to be used in India after the Gupta period etc.*

Conclusion— based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

Buddhist art is the artistic practices that are influenced by Buddhism. It includes **art media which depict Buddhas, bodhisattvas, and other entities; notable Buddhist figures, both historical and mythical; narrative scenes from the lives of all of these.** Buddhist art spread far and wide in the Indian subcontinent and beyond

Body:

- **Early Buddhist Art:**
 - There is **no Buddhist art** that dates back to period when **Buddha was alive** or is there any from and the centuries that followed.
- **Mauryan Era:**
 - The Buddhist Art origins dates from 350 BC to 100 BC had **non-iconographic representations** of the teachings of Buddha are found in sculptures, votives, and friezes during the **Mauryan reign**
 - It is believed that the earliest Buddhist art is seen in the architecture of the **Mahabodhi temple at Bodhgaya and in the frescoes at the Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra.**
 - In relief sculptures at early stupa sites, his presence is indicated by symbols such as **the lotus** (signifying purity), **the eight-spoked wheel** (emblem of the Buddha’s law), **the parasol** (ancient symbol of royalty), and **a footprint** (the Buddha’s presence).
- **Post-Mauryan era:**
 - The earliest noted **anthropomorphic form of Buddha** in artwork can be seen from 100BC in Northern India, from the **Gandhara** area (North West province, now in Pakistan) and the region of Mathura, in central North India.
 - The **Gandhara Buddha** had distinct **Greek influences** and the **concept of human-god was a Greek concept.** In comparison, the **Mathura School Buddha** presents a **strong Indian traditional influence** with divinities such as **Yakshas.**
 - Both the Mathura and Gandhara regions art influenced each other too, as the two regions were politically united under the **rule of the Kushans** and both were the capitals of the empire. The **Kushan** period lasted from **30 – 375AD.**
 - Buddhist art represented in the form of **paintings** can be seen today at the **Ajanta caves and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra.** The **oldest group of caves** are believed to be built in **200 BC**, while the **second cluster of caves, were built (cut out) around 400-560 AD.** The caves **constitute monasteries and worship halls (chaityas)** with different Buddhist traditions carved and painted upon, depicting past lives, **rebirths of the Buddha, tales from Jatakamala, and rock cut sculptures of Buddhist deities.** The murals and frescoes are made of dry fresco pigments laid on dry plaster surface.
- **Gupta period:**
 - Buddhas created in the **Gupta period in northern India**, from the **4th to 6th century**, had an “ideal image” and featured a downward glance, spiritual aura, hair arranged in tiny curls, and a sensuous body visible beneath a transparent robe. These became the models for future images created by artists in India, Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia.
- **Southern-India:**
 - **Amravati School:** Buddhist art flourished under the **later Andhra dynasty reign, the Satavahanas** from **1st Century AD to 320 AD.** Parts of the **Ajanta cave murals** are attributed to this empire, especially the 9th and 10th caves which were influenced by the **aniconic symbolism of Buddha from the Hinayana phase.** The artworks were ornamental paintings on the concepts of Buddhism.



- The South – Western India and the North Deccan region was ruled by the **Vakataka dynasty** between **500 – 700AD**, during which the second phase of the mural paintings and frescoes were found in the **Chaitya caves at Ajanta**. The Buddha is depicted from the classical form under the influence of Mahayana Buddhism. These can be seen in the **decorative, ornamental, sensual forms of Bodhisattva Vajrapani, Avalokitesvara, Padmapani and Gandharvas and Apsaras** depicted in the cave paintings on the walls of caves no.-1, 2, 16 and 17.
- Contemporary times:
 - In **today's contemporary times**, the teachings of the Buddha and the figure of the Buddha in paintings is still seen as a **favourite in figurative art among Indian artists**.

Conclusion:

From moving beyond depictions of gods and goddesses to the interpretations of philosophies and teachings, Buddhist art brings to the visual culture a strong sense of evolution and acceptance of the evolving Buddha forms. However much the iconography of the Buddha changes, the essence seems ingrained in Indian art and minds, and that is something to be aware of especially in these turbulent contemporary times.

Q) Avadhana is a unique classical Indian art of spontaneous creation. Discuss. (250 words)

[Reference](#)

[wikipedia](#)

[The hansindia](#)

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the Avadhana as an art form and write at length about the creativity involved therein.

Structure of the answer

Introduction- write a few introductory lines about the Avadhana. E.g Avadhana literally means concentration. Avadhana is a unique classical Indian art of spontaneous creation. It is a feat of the mind.

Body-

Discuss in points about Avadhana, in detail and discuss the creativity involved in the art form. E.g

- *In an avadhana, a person is expected to simultaneously cogitate and answer questions on a variety of topics related to literature, music, astronomy, medical science and more.*
- *The oldest available details of Ashtavadhana are recorded in Kannada language, dating back to 1200 A.D. In ancient India, the method of “avadhana-kala” or “art of concentration” was developed to memorize the Vedas.*
- *It involves the partial improvisation of poems using specific themes, metres, forms, or words.*
- *The true purpose of an Avadhanam event thus is the showcasing, through entertainment, of superior mastery of cognitive capabilities – of observation, memory, multitasking, task switching, retrieval, reasoning and creativity in multiple modes of intelligence – literature, poetry, music, mathematical calculations, puzzle solving etc.*
- *Avadhānam can be considered as the Divided attention (clinical model of attention) as it is the highest level of attention and it refers to the ability to respond simultaneously to multiple tasks or multiple task demands.*



- *There were many types of avadhanas which have been developed, depending on the number of examiners and the types of questions which are posed to the subject. If there are eight examiners, it is called ashtavadhana (ashta = eight in Sanskrit).*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

Avadhanam is a **literary performance** popular from the very ancient days in India. Avadhanam originated as a **Sanskrit literary process** and is **revived by Telugu poets** in modern times.

Body:

- In an avadhana, a person is expected to simultaneously cogitate and answer questions on a variety of topics related to literature, music, astronomy, medical science and more.
- The oldest available details of Ashtavadhana are recorded in Kannada language, dating back to 1200 A.D. In ancient India, the method of “avadhana-kala” or “art of concentration” was developed to memorize the Vedas.
- It involves the **partial improvisation of poems using specific themes, metres, forms, or words**.
- Structurally, Avadhanam has eight components, namely, **Nishiddhakshari** (prohibiting a letter), **Samasya Puranam** (problem-solving), **Datthapdi** (giving words to compose a poem), **Varnana** (giving a theme to compose a poem), **Aasuvu** (spontaneously composing a poem) , **Vysthakshari** (memorising letters and their position in a sentence), **Purana Patanam** (chanting a poems from the epic), **Aprasthuta Prasangam** (unnecessary talk).
- There will be eight persons, each handling one component to test the Avadhani, one after another.
- It demonstrates how one with a focused mind **could multi-task despite being pulled in different directions**.
- All the tasks are memory intensive and demand an in-depth knowledge of literature, and prosody.
- The tasks vary from making up a poem spontaneously to keeping a count of a bell ringing at random.
- No external memory aids are allowed while performing these tasks except the person’s mind.

Relevance for today’s generation:

- This will help younger generation how much innate capacities they have steering clear of all the obstacles that they come across and to take charge of their life and to succeed.
- It pumps up the confidence and increases the creative talent of an individual.
- It helps in propagation and continuance of such literary heritages over generations.
- Telangana government has taken it as part of skill development initiative will help in spreading this tradition and hand over the same to the future generations.

Conclusion:

The true purpose of an Avadhanam event thus is the **showcasing, through entertainment, of superior mastery of cognitive capabilities** – of observation, memory, multitasking, task switching, retrieval, reasoning and creativity in multiple modes of intelligence – literature, poetry, music, mathematical calculations, puzzle solving.

Q) Literary account of foreigners proved extremely useful in writing the history of Ancient India. Discuss. (250 words)

Key demand of the question

Literary account of foreigners have played a useful role in writing the history of ancient India. The question expects us to discuss the account of such travellers and how they enabled us to write the history of ancient India.

Directive word

Discuss – Here your discussion needs to focus on highlighting the account of foreigners and how they enabled us to understand in detail the society, polity, economy etc of Indian society.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Highlight that Foreign travelers in the past played a more profound role than tourists of the present day. They were agents of civilizational contact and exchange, bringing with them new ideas, skills and technologies and returning with new knowledge.

Body – discuss how Greek and Roman literary account has proven useful by discussion some works and highlighting it’s significance in writing the history of ancient Indian.

- *Hsuan-Tsang – Account during Harshavardhan’s era.*



- *Al Beruni (AD 973 – 1048) – Mahmud of Ghazni. Culture of Indians especially the Hindus.*
- *Abdur Razzaq – Vijaynagar Empire*
- *Fa-Hien – Account of the Gupta Period. An extensive account of society. first to talk about the caste system and Shudras. Shudras were kept outside the town and entered the town by making a noise with a stick. Fahien had also mentioned about Shaiv and Vaishnav religion.*

Conclusion – Highlight the impact and importance of such accounts.

Introduction:

From very ancient times, foreigners visited India. They were agents of **civilizational contact and exchange, bringing with them new ideas, skills and technologies and returning with new knowledge**. Some of these visitors have left a valuable account of the places they visited, people they met, events they witnessed and the experiences they underwent.

Body:

Greeks:

- The oldest accounts of India which have come down to us from abroad are of the **Greeks**. But although **India figures in the writings of Herodotus and Ctesias**, these consist largely of incredible tales. The most realistic and perhaps the most important of these is **Indica by Meagasthenes**.
- **Meagasthenes** was an ambassador sent by Seleucus Nikator, a general of the Alexander the Great, to the court of **Chandragupta Maurya**. He resided at Pataliputra, near modern Patna, and also travelled around the country. He describes India's two largest rivers – Sindhu and the Ganga;
- He has described the people of India with admiration. He has given a graphic account of their physical features, their dresses, diet and social customs. According to him the people of India were divided into seven classes according to their occupation: Philosophers; Peasants; Herdsmen; Craftsmen and Traders; Soldiers; Overseers and Spies; Councillors or Assessors.

Romans:

- Apart from the Greeks, India had a flourishing trade with Rome: hence, it was natural that contemporary Roman authors too mention India in their narratives. Thus we have a geographical account of India by **Ptolemy in his book Geography of India**, written in about 130 A.D.
- Yet another account of India comes to us from the pen of **Pliny**. In his work **Natural History**, Pliny wrote about Indian plants, animals and minerals. The most interesting observation of his was that Rome was losing a lot of bullion to India through its import of luxurious goods.

Chinese:

- With the spread of Buddhism we have a number of pilgrims from the east — especially **China** — who have left us very valuable accounts which help us to reconstruct the history of the period. The earliest of these is **Fa Hian**, a Buddhist monk who was in India between A.D. 405 and 411.
- Fa Hian's book **A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms** tell us a great deal about India of 1,500 years ago.
- Although main mission of Fa Hian was to collect Buddhist manuscripts and visit the monasteries, he has left an account which throws invaluable light about India in the fifth century during the rule of Chandragupta Vikramaditya.
- Following the footsteps of Fa Hian, **more than sixty Chinese travellers** visited India and have left accounts of their travels. The most important of these was **Hieun Tsang**, who visited India two hundred years after Fa Hian.
- Hieun Tsang carefully noted down all that he saw, but unlike **Fa Hian and I Tsing**, his observations were not confined to religious matters alone. His travel account, known as Travels or Records of Western Lands, comprises of twelve books, containing details of political, social, economic and religious lives of the 7th century Indians and the rule of Harshvardhana.
- Hieun Tsang then reached his destination –Nalanda, the great seat of learning in those days. He spent a couple of years in Nalanda, learning Sanskrit, and studying Buddhist texts.
- No account of Harsha and his reign and even the contemporary political and religious condition of India during this period can be satisfactory unless the historian turns to the account of Hieun Tsang.

Arabs:

- From the 8th century onwards, when the Arabs conquered Sindh, India figured prominently in the chronicles written by the Muslim scholars. Of these the most important is Abu Rihan, better known as **Alberuni**.



- During the years of his exile in India, Alberuni availed of the opportunity to study its people and their culture. He even learned Sanskrit, studied the ancient texts and was familiar with such diverse subjects as mathematics, chemistry, philosophy, religious rites, customs, astronomy and astrology of India.
- Alberuni translated or wrote about twenty-four books in Arabic, among which his work on India, his **Kiatb-ul-Hind**, is the most outstanding. This voluminous book is considered as the most comprehensive account of India ever written by a foreigner.
- **Ibn Batuta** was a Moroccan traveller and visited India during the reign of Muhammad-Bin-Tughlaq. His book “Rihla” (the travelogue) provides extremely rich and interesting details about the social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century.
- **Abdur-Razzaq Samarkhandi** gave one of the most important descriptions of the city of Vijayanagara in the fifteenth century. He was a diplomat who came visiting from Herat.

Europeans:

- **French jeweller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier** travelled to India at least six times. He was particularly fascinated with the trading conditions in India, and compared India to Iran and the Ottoman empire.
- Some of the travellers, like the **Italian doctor Manucci**, never returned to Europe, and settled down in India.
- **François Bernier, a Frenchman**, was a doctor, political philosopher and historian. Like many others, he came to the Mughal Empire in search of opportunities. He was in India for twelve years, from 1656 to 1668, and was closely associated with the Mughal court, as a **physician to Prince Dara Shukoh**, the eldest son of Emperor Shah Jahan, and later as **an intellectual and scientist**, with Danishmand Khan, an Armenian noble at the Mughal court.

Conclusion:

The travellers account help in reconstructing the India’s History. It helps us to understand the social, political and economic situations of the past where not much recorded information is available. All these accounts are a **treasure-trove of information** – a boon to the chronicler of the past.

Q) Kabir was one of the chief exponents of the Bhakti movement in the medieval period. Discuss the Relevance of the teachings of Kabir in Contemporary India ? (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to highlight the status of Kabir within the folds of bhakti movement and explain his teachings in detail. Thereafter, the question expects us to relate his teachings to the problems faced in contemporary India and how his teachings prove relevant.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Give a background of Kabir.

Body

Discuss his teachings and the relevance of his teaching in modern India.

- *He preached a religion of love which aimed at promoting unity amongst all castes and creeds. In fact he was the first saint who tried to reconcile Hinduism and Islam. Kabir was not interested in organising any religion*
- *Kabir did not believe in extreme asceticism and abstractions from the world. He condemned idolatry and useless ceremonies. He believed in the equality of man and declared that before the high throne of God all were equal.*
- *He wished to abolish the caste system as well as the antagonism of the religions based on blind superstition or on the selfish interest of the minority exploiting the ignorance of others. He desired to establish social and religious peace among the people who lived together, but who were separated from one another by religion.*
- *Kabir made an attempt at a fusion of Islamic mysticism, having as its object a loving devotion to a single God, and Hindu traditions”. Kabir’s teachings do not give preference either to Hindus, or Muslims. On the other hand he admired whatever was good in the two cults and condemned whatever was dogmatic.*



Conclusion – explain how application of his views would prove beneficial for India and its contemporary challenges.

Introduction:

Kabir Das was a **15th-century Indian mystic poet and saint**, whose writings influenced Hinduism's Bhakti movement. He is known for being **critical of both Hinduism and Islam**, stating that the former was misguided by the Vedas, and questioning their meaningless rites of initiation such as the sacred thread and circumcision respectively. His most famous writings include his **dohas or couplets** and verses are found in Sikhism's scripture Guru Granth Sahib.

Body:

Kabir was a great social reformer whose teachings are as relevant on present day as in his time.

- **Equality:** Kabir taught us to follow the **path of equality and harmony**. The same principles have been carried forward by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ambedkar, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Ram Manohar Lohia etc.
- **Anti-Discrimination:** Kabir had a clear vision and approach towards **social equality**. He created awareness to end discrimination in the society. An individual should be valued on the grounds of humanitarian qualities instead of caste or religion.
- **Communalism** is a lurking evil in the Indian societal context the essential syncretism and universalism which are part of Kabir can help in solving this issue to a certain extent.
- **Morals of life:** Kabir highlighted simple virtues like honesty, love, truth, faith in oneself, encouraging introspection, and more.
- **Antagonist of caste system and evil practices:** Kabir was a great opponent of the caste system. He stressed that in God's creation all were equal. He advised his followers to give up such inhuman practices as untouchability, feelings of high and low etc. He further opposed the worship of stone images, or even the worship of different gods and goddesses and was against rituals and ceremonies in religion.
- **Love and Tolerance:** Love for all was Kabir's principal tenet. He emphasized that love was the only medium which could bind the entire human kind in an unbreakable bond of fraternity. Kabir detested the frivolities and rituals in Hinduism and Islam for, these could never bind together mankind. He advised all to give up hatred and perpetuate love for one and all.
- Kabir was strictly **against the practice of hypocrisy** and didn't like people maintaining double standards. He always preached people to be compassionate towards other living beings and practice true love. Which is somewhat missing in present days.
- He urged **the need to have company of good people that adhere to values and principles**.
- Today's world is bogged down by the **excessive materialism** of the world. The deep seated **economic inequalities of the world** are leading to a simmering discontent across the world. Kabir's principles of compassionate ethics are relevant
- **Corruption** is the deep seated problem in India which is eating away the vitals of the nation inside out the emphasis on honest livelihood by Kabir if understood in the right spirit will provide a way of changing the individual perspective.

Conclusion:

Kabir Das is one of India's '**Priceless Gems**' – who is called a saint because of his writings – full of wisdom, and teachings for the masses. The simplicity and wisdom of 15th century mystic saint-poet Kabir's dohas have never been more relevant than in today's fractured times

Q) The Vijayanagar empire architecture was heavily borrowed from the earlier dynasties of the region. Analyze. (250 words)

Reference

Ncert

Directive word

Analyze-here we 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.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to look deeper into the Vijaynagar architecture and bring out how it was heavily borrowed from the art of earlier dynasties.

Structure of the answer



Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the Vijaynagar empire. E.g Vijayanagara or “city of victory” was the name of both a city and an empire. The empire was founded in the fourteenth century. In its heyday it stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula

Body-

Discuss in detail about the Vijaynagar architecture and write in detail about its relationship with the art and architecture of the earlier dynasties that ruled the southern parts of India. Give examples to corroborate your views. E.g

- Vijayanagar era architecture can be broadly classified into religious, courtly, and civic architecture.
- Its style is a harmonious combination of the Chalukya, Hoysala, Pandya, and Chola styles that evolved in earlier centuries and represents a return to the simplicity and serenity of the past.
- It is also influenced by later Deccan and Dravidian styles.
- Preferred for its durability, local hard granite was the building material of choice, as it had been for the Badami Chalukyas.
- Vijayanagar temples are surrounded by strong enclosures and characterized by ornate pillared kalyanamandapa (marriage halls); tall rayagopurams (carved monumental towers at the entrance of the temple) built of wood, brick, and stucco in the Chola style; and adorned with life-sized figures of gods and goddesses.
- This dravida style became popular during the reign of Krishnadeva Raya and is seen in South Indian temples constructed over the next two centuries.
- The courtly architecture of Vijayanagar is generally made of mortar mixed with stone rubble and often shows secular styles with Islamic-influenced arches, domes, and vaults.
- Some famous temples exemplifying the Vijayanagar style include the Virupaksha Temple at Hampi and the Hazara Rama temple of Deva Raya I etc.

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

Vijayanagara or “city of victory” was the name of both a city and an empire. The empire was founded in the **fourteenth century**. In its heyday it stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula. People remember it as **Hampi**, a name derived from that of the local mother goddess, Pampadevi.

Body:

- The rulers of Vijayanagara borrowed concepts and building techniques which they then developed further. **Vijayanagar architecture** is a vibrant combination of the **Chalukya, Hoysala, Pandya, and Chola styles**, which evolved from prior empires in earlier centuries.
- It is also influenced by **later Deccan and Dravidian styles**. Preferred for its durability, **local hard granite** was the building material of choice, as it had been for the Badami Chalukyas. However, soapstone, which was soft and easily carved, was also used for reliefs and sculptures.

Vijayanagar era architecture can be broadly classified into **religious, courtly, and civic architecture**.

- **Religious Architecture:**
 - Vijayanagar temples are surrounded by strong enclosures and characterized by ornate **pillared kalyanamandapa** (marriage halls); **tall rayagopurams** (carved monumental towers at the entrance of the temple) built of wood, brick, and stucco in the **Chola style**; and adorned with life-sized figures of gods and goddesses.
 - This Tamil dravida-influenced style became popular during the rule of king Krishnadevaraya and is seen in South Indian temples constructed over the next 200 years.
 - Examples of Rayagopuram are the Chennakesava Temple in Belur and the temples at Srisailem and Srirangam.



- In addition to these structures, medium-size temples have a closed circumambulatory (Pradakshinapatha) passage around the sanctum, an open mahamantapa (large hall) and a temple tank to serve the needs of annual celebrations.
- Vijayanagar temples are also known for their **carved pillars**, which depict charging horses, figures from Hindu mythology, and yali (hippogriffs).
- Some of the larger temples are dedicated to a male deity, with a separate shrine intended for the worship of his female counterpart.
- Some famous temples exemplifying the Vijayanagar style include the Virupaksha Temple at Hampi and the Hazara Rama temple of Deva Raya I etc.
- Hampi Stone chariot is influenced by Rathes made in Mahabalipuram by Pandayas. Example: Dharmaraya rath, Draupadi Rath etc.
- **Palaces and Courtly Architecture:**
 - Most of the palaces faced east or north and stood within compounds surrounded by high, tapering stone and earth walls.
 - They were built on raised granite platforms with multiple tiers of mouldings decorated with carved friezes.
 - The courtly architecture of Vijayanagar is generally made of mortar mixed with stone rubble and often shows **secular styles with Islamic-influenced arches, domes, and vaults**.
 - Examples are the Lotus Mahal palace, Elephant stables, and watch towers.
- **Civic Architecture**
 - Gateways were distinctive architectural features that often defined the structures to which they regulated access.
 - The arch on the gateway leading into the fortified settlement as well as the dome over the gate are regarded as typical features of the architecture **introduced by the Turkish Sultans**.
 - Located on one of the highest points in the city, the “**mahanavami dibba**” is a massive platform rising from a base of about 11,000 sq. ft to a height of 40 ft. There is evidence that it supported a wooden structure.

Conclusion:

The Vijayanagara style is an amalgamation of the Chalukya, Hoysala, Pandya and Chola styles evolved earlier in the centuries when these empires ruled and is characterised by a return to the simplistic and serene art of the past. The architecture was also in keeping the local conditions and topography in mind.

Q) The cultural creativity and intellectual efflorescence that were the hallmarks of the European Renaissance were conspicuous by their absence in the Indian situation. Comment. (250 words)

The hindu

Directive word

Comment- here we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to express our knowledge and understanding of the Indian renaissance and express our opinion as to whether or not, cultural creativity and intellectual efflorescence that were the hallmarks of the European Renaissance were absent in Indian renaissance.

Structure of the answer

Introduction- write a few introductory lines about the western renaissance. E.g The European Renaissance was characterised by the discovery and triumph of humanism and the re-emergence of man to the centre of history with sensitivity to his creative ability, reflected in his achievements in the past.

Body-

Discuss about the cultural and intellectual aspect of the renaissance and form an opinion as to whether they were a part of Indian renaissance as in Europe, or not. E.g



- *The social and religious reforms witnessed in 19th century India were neither a continuation of past efforts nor their reinvocations to face contemporary challenges.*
- *While the pre-colonial movements were trapped in feudal ethics, the 19th century regeneration occurred in the context of an emerging middle class which mainly developed its social vision, political beliefs and cultural ethos from the history of Western societies, received through the medium of the ideological apparatuses of the colonial state.*
- *Modernity in India had a different trajectory. Its origin was not in indigenous intellectual and cultural churning but in the influences disseminated by the colonial state and its agencies.*
- *The relationship between the traditional and the “colonial-modern” was not dialogical but mainly one of domination. Restricted by prevailing caste and religious practices and attracted by the “colonial-modern” life, this new breed of Indians experienced the tension between what was possible in the new world and what was practised in the traditional.*
- *The changes in the social and cultural life they sought to materialise emerged out of this tension.*
- *The participation in the colonial order demanded a refashioning of the social world of the colonised, at the same time there was considerable social pressure to maintain traditional social practices.*
- *The social and religious reform witnessed in 19th century India, which was an attempt to reconcile the cultural world of the middle class with the demands of the new way of life, emerged out of this dynamic.*
- *As a result, unlike in Europe, reformation took precedence over renaissance in India.*

Conclusion- based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- The **Renaissance** is a period from the **14th to the 17th century**, considered the bridge between the Middle Ages and Modern history. It started as a **cultural movement in Italy** in the Late Medieval period and later spread to the rest of Europe.
- The philosophy of humanism began to emerge in Italy. **Humanism** emphasizes that **man is the center of the universe and that all human achievements in art, literature, and science** should be regarded. It emphasized the dignity of man

Body:

The cultural and intellectual aspect of the renaissance

- The European Renaissance was characterised by the **discovery and triumph of humanism** and the re-emergence of man to the centre of history with sensitivity to his creative ability, reflected in his achievements in the past.
- The **Renaissance paintings** that celebrated the human body are a reflection of the rebirth of man.
- The emergence of man to the centre stage also meant **emancipation from social bonds, particularly religious bonds**, which provided the inspiration for the Reformation and the necessary **intellectual freedom for Enlightenment**.
- A **new world of scientific knowledge and social thought** were opened before him.
- **Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment** formed an interconnected triad from which modernity drew its strength, character and vision.

The cultural creativity and intellectual efflorescence that were the hallmarks of the European Renaissance were conspicuous by their absence in the Indian situation

- In the absence of an innovative and critical spirit, **orthodoxy and obscurantism**, which sapped the energy and initiatives in society, reigned supreme.
- The social and religious reforms witnessed in 19th century India were neither a continuation of past efforts nor their re-involutions to face contemporary challenges.
- While the pre-colonial movements were trapped in feudal ethics, the 19th century regeneration occurred in the context of an emerging middle class which mainly developed its social vision, political beliefs and cultural ethos from the history of Western societies, received through the medium of the ideological apparatuses of the colonial state.



- Modernity in India had a different trajectory. Its origin was not in indigenous intellectual and cultural churning but in the influences disseminated by the colonial state and its agencies.
- The **newly emerging middle class**, who were drawn towards a new cultural situation through their association with the colonial rulers as trading intermediaries and subordinates in the administration, were the propagators of this modernity.
- Restricted by prevailing caste and religious practices and attracted by the “colonial-modern” life, this new breed of Indians experienced the tension between what was possible in the new world and what was practised in the traditional.
- The social and religious reform witnessed in 19th century India, which was an attempt to **reconcile the cultural world of the middle class with the demands of the new way of life**, emerged out of this dynamic.
- As a result, unlike in Europe, **reformation took precedence over renaissance in India**.
- The period of renaissance **was not particularly known for creativity**, which received an impetus only when renaissance and reformation merged with nationalism and tried to usher in an alternative modernity.
- The social space thus vacated by these movements have been **colonised by conservative and obscurantist forces**, giving way for the return of the socio-religious practices that the reformation had tried to eliminate.
- The transition from feudalism to colonial modernity, however, attracted **critical engagement with prevalent religious practices**.
- Social reforms **mainly centred on the emancipation of oppressed and marginalised groups** such as women and Dalits. The reformers intervened to ensure their right to life and freedom of choice.
- The “lower castes”, variously described as “untouchables”, “Harijans”, Scheduled Castes and Dalits, could not be part of the social mainstream: they could not enter temples, use public roads or draw water from wells. This **inhuman treatment was opposed by reform movements**, particularly by those from within the “lower castes”.
- The reason for this denouncement can be partly traced to the internal weaknesses of the renaissance itself. The first was a **disjunction between political and socio-cultural concerns**. Secondly, **tradition was conceived in religious terms and rationalisation of or opposition to change was drawn from religious texts**.

Conclusion:

- Many of the ills of contemporary Indian society can be traced to the unfinished agenda of the Indian renaissance. Although the renaissance brought about a qualitative change in perspectives and practices, its impact was limited to a very small section of society.
- Yet, it did generate a cultural and intellectual break without which the later movements would not have been possible.

Q) Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment. (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to explain what constitutes Indian art and heritage, why this heritage is under threat, why we need to safeguard India’s art heritage and the steps that need to be taken for the same.

Directive word

Comment – When you are asked to comment, you have to pick main points and give your ‘opinion’ on them based on evidences or arguments stemming from your wide reading. Your opinion may be for or against, but you must back your argument with evidences.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Explain about what all is included in India’s art heritage – paintings, sculpture, monuments etc

Body

Highlight that preserving our heritage is enshrined as a fundamental duty

Examine the threats to art heritage such as



- *Lack of public awareness -This makes the local administrator break the buildings and replace it with other structures.*
- *Duplication of paintings and art forms*
- *Theft*
- *Smuggling etc*

Discuss why it is crucial to safeguard such heritage such as maintaining identity and pride of our country, tourism etc

Discuss the way forward such as

- *Strengthening institutions – Ministry of Culture, ASI, Museums, Archives, etc.*
- *Cultural awareness programs etc*

Conclusion – *Summarize on why this issue requires attention and what needs to be done.*

Introduction:

- India has a vast basket of living and diverse cultural traditions, traditional expressions, intangible cultural heritage comprising masterpieces which need institutional support and encouragement with a view to addressing areas critical for the survival and propagation of these forms of cultural heritage.
- Preserving our heritage is enshrined as a Fundamental Duty in our Constitution.

Body:

- The term heritage has wide connotations spanning across nature, culture, food and other dimensions.
- Indian Art heritage primarily refers to the tangible heritage comprising of **Paintings and art forms; Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites; Sculptures; Scriptures; Artefacts.**

Threats to Indian Art Heritage:

- **Theft:** The incidents of thefts have been observed usually from unprotected monuments, ancient temples. The thefts cases have also been seen in the protected monuments and museums as well. It is due to negligence of security guards in museums, monuments etc.
- **Smuggling:** illicit traffic and smuggling in antiquities. Illicit traffic is motivated often by profit and sometimes by the demand for luxuries.
- **Tourism:** Unregulated tourism, tourist activities run by touts, private agents have affected the art heritage places. The Culture Ministry of India has reported that up to 24 Indian monuments have been declared “untraceable” or “missing” by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- **Issues with security of museums:** Most of the museums are poorly guarded due to shortage of manpower leading to theft of artefacts, fire accidents etc.
- **Lack of public awareness:** This leads to poor maintenance, vandalism, spoiling the monuments artefacts. Replacing the structures or building structures close to the monuments leading to
- **Duplication:** Fakes of paintings and art forms leading to threat to livelihoods of artists.
- **Poor Maintenance:** The state of the wall paintings in Ajanta caves is continuously getting worse, which can be attributed to humidity as well as to a lack of care.
- **Encroachment of monuments:** Another miss from the ministry has been encroachments of monuments. Over 278 centrally protected monuments have been encroached upon or have illegal occupants, as per government data.

Rationale behind safeguarding the art heritage:

- Evolution of human consciousness is a continuous process: History here serves as a laboratory and the past serves as a demarcation to understand the regional laws and social structures. This understanding helps in our progress towards an ideal society.
- The art heritage is the identity and pride of our country. It is duty of every citizen to protect, preserve and perpetuate the cultural richness.
- Tourism potential for art monuments and museums is very high. Tourism generates revenue for the state as well as private artists due to the money-multiplier quality.
- Infrastructure development takes place in and around the areas. Eg. Hampi despite being a small town has excellent infrastructure.
- It creates jobs for a lot of people from art industry and tourism industry as well



- It creates a feeling of oneness and a sense of attachment by enhancing a sense of belonging to a culture or a region.
- Every historical site has an important story to tell and these stories have inspired many people to strengthen their convictions and commitment to fight injustice and oppression.

Way forward

- **Strengthening Legislations and Initiatives:**
 - The Antiquity Act of 1947, Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972 particularly provide for the prevention of smuggling and illegally dealing in antiques.
 - Recent bill to amend The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act which allowed construction within 100m of the protected monuments should be avoided.
 - In 2015, the ministry launched an initiative of e-ticketing services in over 116 monuments under the ASI and launched an initiative to digitise cultural resources.
- **Strengthening institutions:**
 - The CAG report on Preservation and Conservation of Monuments and Antiques clearly indicates that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for this purpose needs to be more proactive and vigilant in its efforts and the ministry needs to develop an aggressive strategy for the same
 - Tapping of the Public —Private Partnership models for sustenance of Arts and Crafts.
 - Setting up at least one museum in each district with different chambers for visual and other forms of art, architecture, science, history and geography with regional flavour.
 - Artistes from the field of architecture, sculpture, painting, handicrafts, puppetry, music, dance, theatre, and literature will be graded by the Centre on the basis of their performance.
- **Cultural awareness:**
 - Curriculum modification – Identification and inclusion of heritage as an asset in school, Open departments of Heritage management on the lines of Ahmedabad University
 - Introduction of a compulsory offline and online training for tourism purposes willing to undertake ventures.
 - Heritage depiction and promotion through immersive technology & augmented reality
 - Re-Classify heritage and announce awards for people with exceptional heritage sense.
 - Greater involvement of universities in schemes promoting arts and culture as well as inclusion of Fine Arts as a subject in universities.
- **Adaptive reuse of heritage sites:**
 - Restoring the historical sites in the form of festivals and inducing festivity link perceptions.
 - Recognizing ‘cultural heritage tourism’ as an upcoming industry by building cultural resources with an adaptation of scientific and technological knowledge to local circumstances as well as forming partnerships between local and global bodies.

Conclusion:

It is the duty of every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture. The art and culture of our nation are a vast continuum, evolving incessantly since time immemorial. Naturally, preservation and conservation of India’s rich cultural heritage and promotion of all forms of art and culture, both tangible and intangible, including monuments and archaeological sites, anthropology and ethnology, folk and tribal arts, literature and handicrafts, performing art of music-dance-drama and visual arts of paintings-sculpture-graphics is essential and assumes a lot of importance.

Q) During the age of the Guptas, literature flourished and a number of literary masterpieces were produced. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the growth and development of the literature during the Gupta age- main contribution, major literary artists and their works.



Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the Gupta age and its glory. E.g The Gupta Empire stretched across northern, central and parts of southern India between c. 320 and 550 CE. The period is noted for its achievements in the arts, architecture, sciences, religion, and philosophy.

Body-

Discuss in points the contribution of the Gupta empire towards Indian literature and also mention the important literary figures of the time and their works. E.g

- Sanskrit once again attained the status of a lingua franca and managed to scale even greater heights than before.
- Poet and playwright Kalidasa created such epics as *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, *Malavikagnimitram*, *Raghuvansha* and *Kumarsambhava*.
- Harishena, a renowned poet, panegyrist and flutist, composed *Allahabad Prasasti*,
- Sudraka wrote *Mricchakatika*, Vishakhadatta created *Mudrarakshasa* and Vishnusharma penned *Panchatantra*.
- Vararuchi, Baudhayana, Ishwar Krishna and Bhartrihari contributed to both Sanskrit and Prakrit linguistics, philosophy and science.
- Varahamihira wrote *Brihatsamhita* and also contributed to the fields of astronomy and astrology.
- Genius mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata wrote *Surya Siddhanta* which covered several aspects of geometry, trigonometry and cosmology.
- Dhanvantri's discoveries helped the Indian medicinal system of ayurveda become more refined and efficient etc.

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- After centuries of political disintegration an empire came to be established in A.D. 319, under the Guptas. The empire stretched across northern, central and parts of southern India between c. 320 and 550 CE, keeping north India politically united for more than a century.
- It was responsible for the **Indian Golden Age**, an era of peace in which great advances were made in arts, architecture, sciences, religion, and philosophical pursuits. Hindu culture also started to take form during this period.

Body:

Both Samudragupta and Chandragupta II were patrons of art and literature. Chandragupta II is credited with maintaining in his court **Navaratnas (nine luminaries) or great scholars**. The contribution of the Gupta Empire **towards Indian literature** and the important literary figures of the time and their works are:

Sanskrit language and literature after centuries of evolution, through lavish royal patronage reached to the level of classical excellence. Sanskrit was the **court language of the Guptas**.

- **Religious literature:**
 - **The Puranas** had existed much before the time of the Guptas in the form of **bardic literature**; in the Gupta age they were **finally compiled** and given their present form.
 - The period also saw the **compilation of various Smritis** or the law-books written in verse. The Smritis of **Yajnavalkya, Narada, Katyayana and Brihaspati** were written during this period.
 - The two great epics namely the **Ramayana and the Mahabharata** were almost completed by the 4th century A.D.
 - Buddhist and Jaina literature in Sanskrit were also written during the Gupta period Buddhist scholars Arya Deva, Arya Asanga and Vasubandhu of the Gupta period were the most notable writers.
 - Siddhasena Divakara laid the foundation of logic among the Jainas.
 - The Gupta age witnessed the evolution of many Prakrit forms such as Suraseni used in Mathura and its vicinity, Ardhamagadhi spoken in Oudh and Bundelkhand, Magadhi in Bihar and Maharashtri in Berar.



- **Secular literature:**

- The Gupta period is remarkable for the production of **secular literature**.
- Among the known Sanskrit poets of the period, the greatest name is that of **Kalidasa** who lived in the court of Chandragupta II. The most important works of Kalidasa were the **lyrical poems like Ritusamhara and Meghaduta, epic poems of Raghuvamsa and Kumarasambhava, and dramas like Malavikagnimitram, Vikramorvasiya and AbhijnanaShakuntalam**.
- **Harishena**, a renowned poet, panegyrist and flutist, composed **Allahabad Prasasti** praising Samudragupta. Mandasor Inscription of Kumaragupta and other inscriptions were written in Sanskrit.
- **Shudraka** wrote the drama **Mrichchakatika** or the little Clay cart and **Vishnusharma** penned **Panchatantra**.
- **Vishakadatta** is the author of the **Mudrarakshasa**, which deals with the schemes of the shrewd Chanakya.
- The **Devichandraguptam** another drama written by **Vishakadatta**, has survived only in fragments.
- **Bharavi**, the author of **Kiratarjuniyam** and **Bhatti**, the author of **Bhattikavyu** were the products of the Gupta Classical Age.
- **Ganadhya's Brihat Katha, Dandi's Kavyadarsha** and **Dasakumaracharita**, and **Subandhu's Vasavadatta** are some of the priceless creations of the age.
- The Gupta period also saw the development of **Sanskrit grammar based on Panini and Patanjali**.
- This period is particularly memorable for the compilation of the **Amarakosha** by **Amarasimha**, who was a luminary in the court of Chandragupta II.
- A Buddhist scholar from Bengal, **Chandragomia**, composed a book on grammar, named **Chandravyakaranam**.
- The Gupta rulers themselves were writers of repute. For example, Samudragupta earned the title Kaviraj (King of Poets).

- **Scientific Literature:**

- **Varahamihira** wrote **Brihatsamhita** and also contributed to the fields of astronomy and astrology.
- Genius mathematician and astronomer **Aryabhata** wrote **Surya Siddhanta** which covered several aspects of geometry, trigonometry and cosmology. His **Aryabhattiyam** reveals that geometry, trigonometry and algebra were equally developed
- **Shanku** devoted himself to creating texts about **Geography**.
- **Dhanvantri's** discoveries helped the Indian medicinal system of **ayurveda** become more refined and efficient. Doctors were skilled in surgical practices and inoculation against contagious diseases was performed.
- The prominent physician was **Vaghabhatta I** who ranked along with the most celebrated Charaka and Susruta and his books **Astanga Sangraha** and **Astanga Hriday Samhita** were invaluable gems of medical literature.

- This intellectual surge was not confined to the courts or among the royalty. People were encouraged to learn the nuances of Sanskrit literature, oratory, intellectual debate, music and painting.

- Several educational institutions like Nalanda University were set up and the existing ones received continuous support.

Conclusion:

Gupta culture has carved a **niche for itself** in the annals of Indian history by virtue of its individuality and perfection. The period evolved **an all-India norm** which in due course was designated as the **classical tradition of the country**. No description of Indian culture can be complete without reference to the high standards of Gupta cultural heritage which attained its zenith of excellence.

Topic- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues; The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.

Q) What was the third battle of Panipat all about? Examine whether the battle had distinctly religious undertones? What were the consequences of the battle ? (250 words)

[Indianexpress](http://www.indianexpress.com)



Why this question

The article examines the 3rd battle of Panipat and discusses whether the battle had only religious undertones. It discusses the impact of the battle and the parallels that can be drawn in current times. The article gives us an opportunity for us to revise the battle and its impacts.

Key demand of the question

The demand of the question is clearly spent out in the question. We need to answer the three parts of the question in sequence.

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

Body – Highlight the stakeholders in the battle and its outcome.

Highlight the details of the battle – who were involved, causes of the battle and the outcome

Examine whether the battle was solely motivated by religious reasons

- The combined army of Durrani and his allies were numerically superior to the Maratha army. Shuja-ud-daulah's support also proved decisive as he provided the necessary finances for the Afghans' long stay in northern India.
- The century saw an array of social movements, organised around religion, community articulations, and agrarian expansion, often crystallising into coherent political entities. It was a period made for political adventurism, with shifting alliances making any political calculation virtually impossible.
- In terms of realpolitik, what mattered was the steady growth of Maratha power northward, in the form of both territorial control as well as mediation in matters of deciding succession in regional states. Maratha operations were not especially well received — for example, by Jat ruler Surajmal.
- Durrani chief was able to enlist the support of several malcontents (the Rohilla chief, the Nawab of Awadh) and most impressively, of the warrior ascetics, the Naga sanyasis and Gosains etc

Discuss the impact of the battle

- More than anything, the Marathas' inability to persuade the Rajputs, Jats and Sikhs to fight on their side proved fatal for the Marathas and such divisions allowed the east India company to establish their dominance
- Battle of Panipat temporarily halted the Maratha advance, and enabled the East India Company to maintain a low profile for a while, consolidate its early gains in Bengal, and subsequently make a strong bid for supremacy in the subcontinent.

Conclusion – Give your view on the impact of the third battle of Panipat on modern Indian history.

Introduction:

The Third battle of Panipat was fought between the Marathas, led by Sadashivrao Bhau and Durrani of Afghanistan, by Ahmed Shah Abdali in 1761. The Third Battle of Panipat changed the power equations in India, the Afghans could hardly rule any further, but paved **the way for British Rule in India**.

Body:

The main reasons for the battle

- The weakness of Mughal emperors and the division of the nobility in contending groups.
- The ambition of the Marathas to gain influence in the North and, for that purpose, their promise, of support to the Mughal emperor.



- Lastly, the ambition of Abdali to capture Kashmir, Multan and Punjab and, for that purpose, his support to the Turani group of nobility.

Outcomes of the battle:

- The third battle ended the Maratha attempt to succeed the Mughals as rulers of India and marked the virtual end of the Mughal empire.
- The Maratha army, under the Bhao Sahib, uncle of the peshwa (chief minister), was trapped and destroyed by the Afghan chief Ahmad Shah Durrani.
- This began 40 years of anarchy in north-western India and cleared the way for later British supremacy.

18th Century:

- The 18th century was a period of profound change in the Indian subcontinent as the Mughal Empire gave way to regional powers, many of whom, like the Marathas, aspired to, and almost achieved, imperial status.
- The century saw an array of social movements organised around religion viz. **Bhakti Movement**, community articulations, and agrarian expansion, often crystallising into coherent political entities.
- It was a period made for political adventurism, with shifting alliances making any political calculation virtually impossible.
- In this cauldron was a heady mix of religious invocation that did not always correspond to the cleavages that we assume to exist between Hindus and Muslims.
- Durrani chief was able to enlist the support of several malcontents (the Rohilla chief, the Nawab of Awadh) and most impressively, of the warrior ascetics, the Naga sanyasis and Gosains

Thus, we can see that there were mostly political undertones than religious undertones.

The impact of the battle:

- setback to expansionist policy of Maratha and rise of Sikh in Punjab.
- The fragility of alliances and the overriding greed for immediate gain undercut possibilities of any long-term balancing of imperial aspirations with those of local powerholders.
- The precarity of hastily conceived alliances, the extreme cynicism that accompanied all political and diplomatic engagements, blurred distinctions between friend and foe.
- It was certain then that the Battle of Panipat temporarily halted the Maratha advance, and enabled the East India Company to maintain a low profile for a while, consolidate its early gains in Bengal, and subsequently make a strong bid for supremacy in the subcontinent.

Conclusion:

Contemporary political scene seems to have resemblances to cynical power politics. But it is certain now that the stakes are high, the **narrative overcharged with religious symbols**, while on the ground, all contenders have to grapple with the realities of power and go beyond the equations of caste, community,

Q) The case of Bastar reaffirms the central role of British colonialism in producing tribal conflict in India. Comment. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

Bastar is a notorious region of central India, inflicted with naxalism. It has also a long history of armed revolt against outside forces. In this context it is important to discuss the role of British colonialism on the region.

Directive word

Comment- here we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue of tribal conflict in the Bastar region and adjoining areas. It wants us to express our opinion as to how British colonialism has been an important factor behind the same.

Structure of the answer

Introduction- write a few introductory lines about the Bastar region. E.g In February of 1910 the tribal population of the princely state of Bastar in eastern India rose in rebellion against a small



British force stationed within the kingdom. This event, referred to as bhumkal (earthquake), established Bastar as a major battleground for tribal revolt during the colonial period.

Body-

Discuss the historical role of British colonialism on the tribal conflicts in the region. E.g British rule brought a degree of disruption and suffering among the peasantry which was, it seems likely, more prolonged and widespread than had occurred in Mogul times; new colonial policies, such as the commandeering of forest lands and increased rural taxation, led to widespread discontent and rebellion among indigenous groups; Although the British did exert final authority over the native states, princes often had large amounts of internal discretion within their territories, and these kingdoms—at the very least—featured less of a colonial footprint; colonial officials took direct control over the forests, they displaced tribals from their land, and they heavily interfered in succession to the throne, which upset the native population etc.

Discuss how the modern India has also failed to address the root causes of tribal discontent. E.g Despite the transition from colonial to independent status, forest resource management changed little;; exclusionary processes accelerated to consolidate state authority over forest resources etc.

Conclusion- *based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.*

Introduction:

- The 150 years history of protests and rebellion in Bastar culminated in the **Bhumkal rebellion of 1910** meaning the great people's upsurge. This event established Bastar as a major battleground for tribal revolt during the colonial period. Almost exactly 100 years later, in April 2010, 76 members of the Indian Central Reserve Police Force were ambushed and massacred by Naxalite rebels, most of them adivasis, in the thick jungles of the Bastar region.
- The puzzling fact about Bastar, however, is that unlike so many other regions of India beset by tribal conflict, **it never came under the direct control of the British during the colonial period.**

Body:

The historical role of British colonialism on the tribal conflicts in the region:

- British rule brought a degree of disruption and suffering among the peasantry which was, it seems likely, more prolonged and widespread than had occurred in Mughal times.
- Agrarian disturbances in many forms and on scales ranging from local riots to war-like campaigns spread over many districts were endemic throughout the first three quarters of British rule until the very end of the nineteenth century.
- New colonial policies, such as the **commandeering of forest lands and increased rural taxation**, led to widespread discontent and rebellion among indigenous groups.
- **Resentment against moneylenders** boiled over most readily into violence among tribal people.
- The British approached the jungles with an overarching goal of **bringing 'primitive' peoples under the control of a modern, centralized bureaucracy.**
- The official classification of tribal populations like the **Criminal Tribes Act in 1871**, which sought to control the movement of certain tribes with a history of criminal activity, which led to **widespread social stigmatization.**
- Religious sentiment of tribals was disregarded, the tribals believe in nature worship which was considered primitive and crude.
- Three specific policies were implemented in Bastar that engendered tribal revolt.
 - First, colonial officials took direct control over the forests.
 - Second, they displaced tribals from their land.
 - Third, they heavily interfered in succession to the throne, which upset the native population.
- A 1905 proposal by the government to **reserve two third of the forests and ban tribal activities in the reserved area** led bitterness amongst them.
- The situation grew worse with **the famines of 1899–1900 and again in 1907–08.**
- Due to the excessive revenue demands of the colonial rule, several tribal villages were given on **lease to thekedars** who adopted **extremely oppressive means to collect revenues** from the tribals.
- The monopoly on liquor brewing was also a cause for unrest. The tribals considered **liquor as prasad of Gods**, and the order banning liquor brewing amounted to interference in their religious affairs to them.



The modern India has also failed to address the root causes of tribal discontent:

- After independence, the new Indian government did not reform a number of colonial-era policies, especially those dealing with forestry.
- Tribal conflicts continued to occur throughout the country, especially in former areas of direct British rule like Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand.
- The Naxalite movement became the main vehicle for tribal revolt in contemporary India.
- Indian government continued—often in uncannily similar ways—most of the same colonial-era policies in the region that had initially led to tribal uprisings
- Inhumane legislations like the Criminal Tribes Act are still persistent which goes against the **Constitutional guarantee of Equality**.
- The **Forest Rights Act** which was enacted to **undo the historical injustice meted out to Tribals** is poorly implemented.
- The recent SC judgement to evacuate the tribals from forests increases the mistrust against the state.
- High levels of poverty, lack of socio-economic development, rising inequalities, lack of security of livelihoods have driven tribals of Bastar to take up violent means.

Conclusion:

The continuing violence in Bastar concurrently implicates the post-colonial government in failing to end the root causes of the bloodshed. The need of the hour is **to give tribals their due autonomy in their socio-political-cultural affairs**, implementation of **recommendations of the Virginius Xaxa committee**.

Q) Dadabhai Naoroji played an important role in India's history and its freedom struggle. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the role played by one of the most prominent and celebrated freedom fighters of India- Dadabhai Naoroji. We have to write in detail about his social, economic and political achievements.

Structure of the answer

Introduction- write a few introductory lines about the Dadabhai Naoroji. E.g Dadabhai Naoroji was a legendary Indian political and social leader, academician, and intellectual. Famously called the 'Grand Old Man of India,'

Body-

Discuss in points his social, economic and political achievements vis a vis his role towards India. E.g

- *He played an instrumental role in the formation of the Indian National Congress. He was a member of the Second International.*
- *Naoroji also served as a Member of Parliament (MP) in the United Kingdom House of Commons as a Liberal Party member. He was the first Indian to become a British MP.*
- *Naoroji was a prominent Indian nationalist and critic of the economic policy of the British Raj in India.*
- *Through his book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India,' he put forward the 'theory of drain of wealth,' which highlighted the exploitation of Indian resources for the benefit of Britain.*
- *He brought out the economic adversities faced by India before the English audience and this he made possible by presenting himself as an Imperial citizen.*



- *He said that Indians were either subjects or slaves of the British, which depended on the extent of Britain's wish to give the institutions already operated by them to India.*
- *He was instrumental in the formation of the 'London Indian Society' in 1865. The objective of the society was to discuss Indian social, political and scholarly subjects.*
- *He also helped in setting up the 'East India Association' in 1867 that aimed at conveying the Indian perspective to the Britain public etc.*

Conclusion- based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917) – one of the makers of modern India – known as the **Grand Old Man of India**, was a Parsi intellectual, educator, cotton trader, and an early **Indian political and social leader**.
- He played an instrumental role in the formation of the **Indian National Congress**. He was a **member of the Second International**. Naoroji also served as a **Member of Parliament (MP)** in the **United Kingdom House of Commons** as a Liberal Party member. He was the **first Indian** to become a British MP.

Body:

He was associated with the innumerable societies and organisations through which he voiced grievances of the Indian people and proclaimed their aims, ideals, and aspirations to the world at large

- **Political achievements:**
 - He was instrumental in the formation of the '**London Indian Society**' in 1865, whose objective was to **discuss Indian social, political and scholarly subjects**.
 - He also helped in setting up the '**East India Association**' in 1867 that aimed at conveying the Indian perspective to the Britain public. The association is counted among the precursors of the Indian National Congress that played an instrumental role in the Indian independence movement.
 - In 1874, Naoroji became the Dewan (Minister) to the Maharaja of Baroda State thus commencing his public life. After becoming the Prime Minister of Baroda in 1874, he also remained a member of the Legislative Council of Mumbai between 1885 and 1888.
 - Naoroji was also member of the **Indian National Association**, founded in 1876 by **Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose**.
 - The **Indian National Congress**, founded later on December 28, 1885, **merged with Indian National Association** and Naoroji was elected as the Congress President in 1886.
 - Thrice he was elected to the post of the President of the Indian National Congress, in 1886, 1893 and in 1906.
 - During his third term, he prevented a split between moderates and extremists in the party. The Congress' demand for **swaraj (self-rule)** was first expressed publicly by him in his presidential address in 1906.
- **Economic achievements:**
 - Naoroji concentrated his work on drainage of wealth of India to Britain during the British Raj in India and systematically introduced the '**Drain of Wealth theory**' to elucidate his perspective.
 - He resolved to form an approximate idea of the net national profit of India and the effect the country faced due to colonisation.
 - He made effort to prove that money was being drained out of India by Britain.
 - Six factors were elucidated by him that in his opinion were resulting in such external drainage.
 - The first of them was the fact that India was under the governance of a foreign government.
 - The second factor points out that, immigrants were not drawn by India that would have brought both labour and capital for the growth of the economy.
 - According to the next point, the expenses of civil administrations as well as occupational army of the British were borne by India.
 - The fourth point stresses that the empire-building costs, both within and outside the borders of India were also borne by India.
 - The fifth point mentioned that India was actually being exploited in the name of free trade as highly paid jobs were offered to foreign nationals.
 - The sixth factor very importantly mentioned that as the main income-earners were mostly foreign personnel, they would either leave India with the money or buy outside the nation, thus draining money out of the country in both cases.



- He later published a book in 1901, titled '**Poverty and Un-British Rule in India**' where he estimated the loss of India's revenue to Britain amounting to 200–300 million pounds, which were never returned.
- As a liberal MP in the UK, he brought out the economic adversities faced by India before the English audience and this he made possible by presenting himself as an Imperial citizen.
- The principal reason that led to the formation of the **Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure** in 1896 was the work on the Drain of Wealth theory by Naoroji, who also remained a member of the Commission.
- **Social achievements:**
 - From his early childhood, he was sympathetic towards the social condition of the Indians. So for the betterment of his countrymen, he founded the **Dnyan Prnasarak Mandali (Society for Promotion of Knowledge) to educate the women.**
 - He was the first Indian to become a professor at the Elphinstone Institute, Mumbai, where he taught **mathematics and natural philosophy.**
 - He taught in the **special classes** which were held to encourage **education for women.**
 - In pursuit of restoring the sanctity of the Zoroastrian religion, Naoroji established the **Rahnumae Mazdayasne Sabha** (Guides on the Mazdayasne Path).
 - He joined hands with Parsi scholar and a reformer from Bombay Kharshedji Rustomji Cama to start the **Anglo-Gujarati fortnightly publication, the Rast Goftar** (or The Truth Teller). The paper promoted **Parsi social reforms** among Western Indian Parsis and voiced the **grievances of the Parsis belonging to the poor and middle class.**
 - He founded the religious, cultural and social organization for Zoroastrians, '**The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe**' (ZTFE) along with Muncherjee Hormusji Cama.

Conclusion:

Dadabhai Naoroji was instrumental in the establishment of the **Indian National Congress** founded by A.O. Hume in 1885. Dadabhai Naoroji believed in **non-violent and constitutional methods of protest**, as was thus known as '**Moderate**'.

Q) Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to discuss the role played by foreigners who settled in India in the various social, political, cultural movements that took place in India. We have to discuss their contributions and examine its impact.

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 that a lot of foreigners throughout history have made India their home and contributed immensely to the nation including during the freedom struggle.

Body

Discuss the contributions of some of the foreigners to the various movements that took place in the pre independence era

- *The members of Asiatic Society of Bengal were well acquainted with Indian traditions and led the debate in favor of Eastern education in vernacular language. Though they could not succeed in their efforts, it highlights the respect and recognition to Indian tradition.*
- *The efforts of Annie Besant for Home Rule along the Irish lines in India denote the reach of the moral voice of the Indian National Movement against British exploitation. She not only led the Home Rule League but was also elected as first woman President of Indian National Congress.*



- *The most significant event perhaps was A.O Hume's contribution towards founding of Indian National Congress, which spearheaded the freedom struggle. etc*

Conclusion – Summarize your answer by examining the impact of these contributions.

Introduction:

Along with the hundreds and thousands of Indians who dedicated their lives for the cause of their motherland, there were a number of noble and courageous foreigners who stood shoulder to shoulder with their Indian counterparts in this struggle.

Body:

The contributions of some of the foreigners to the various movements that took place in the pre independence era are:

- **William Jones & James Princep:**
 - The members of Asiatic Society of Bengal were well acquainted with Indian traditions and led the debate in favour of Eastern education in vernacular language. Though they could not succeed in their efforts, it highlights the respect and recognition to Indian tradition.
- **Margaret Elizabeth Noble (Sister Nivedita)**
 - From Ireland. Joined Swami Vivekananda's Ramakrishna Mission.
 - Criticized the racial policies of the British, helped during Bengal famine and plague epidemics, worked for upliftment of Women.
 - She attacked Lord Curzon for the Universities Act of 1904 and partition of Bengal in 1905.
 - She held the British responsible for disastrous state of Indian economy; she attended the Benares Congress in 1905 and supported the Swadeshi Movement.
 - She helped Nationalist groups like the Dawn Society and the Anusilan Samiti.
 - She propagated for the cause of India throughout America and Europe. Swami Vivekananda described her as a **real Lioness**.
- **Satyanand Stokes:**
 - Samuel Evans Stokes Jr. was scion of a Wealthy American family. Came to India to work in a leaper home in Himachal.
 - fought relentlessly against labour exploitation in the Shimla hills
 - Only American to attend Congress session in Nagpur (1920)
 - Only foreigner to sign Congress manifesto in 1921 that called upon Indians to give up government service and join the freedom movement.
 - Arrested on charges of Sedition, jailed for six months.
- **Dr Annie Besant:**
 - A strong votary of truth, she came to India in 1893 at the age of 46, impressed as she was by its great religion and philosophy. On arrival, she found that the state of things in India were bad.
 - She was watchful that Indian revival must be through Indian traditions and customs and not through any of the European concepts.
 - As early as 1898 and later in 1902 she urged Indians to wear native dress, use and develop Indian manufacturers and also develop a national language.
 - Annie Besant entered active politics in 1914. She demanded Home Rule for India and suffered internment for it from June to September 1917. By then she had tried and achieved unification of the Congress and Hindus and Muslims in 1916.
 - She fittingly became the president of Indian National Congress in 1917. Tilak declared that if we were nearer our goals, it was due to Dr. Annie Besant's sincere efforts. **Gokhale considered her a true daughter of Mother India.**
- **Charles Freer "Dinbandhu" Andrews**
 - English missionary philanthropist who extended his wholehearted support to the freedom struggle and criticized the British for their unjust and racial policies.
 - Took part in political and social movements launched by Indian leaders.
 - championed the rights of labourers, railway workers and cotton weavers
 - actively worked with BR Ambedkar for Harijan demands, campaigned against untouchability
 - Gandhiji gave the title of "Dinbandhu" for his compassion for poor.
 - Advocated the rights of Indian settler in South Africa, East Africa, West Indies, Fiji and the English colonies in other parts of the world.



- He used his influence in England to arouse public opinion against colonial exploitation.
- Even negotiated with the government in England for Gandhi's release from prison.
- **O Hume:**
 - His most significant contribution was towards founding of Indian National Congress, which spearheaded the freedom struggle.
 - Although there has been a debate of '**safety value**' theory, historians have concluded that Hume's genuine sympathies to the Indian miseries motivated him.
- **Nellie Sengupta:**
 - Nellie joined Indian freedom struggle along with her husband by participating in non-cooperation movement in 1920.
 - After her husband's imprisonment during the Assam-Bengal Railwaymen's strike, she forcefully protested against the District authorities' imposition of a ban on assembly, addressed mass meetings and courted arrest.
 - She defied the law by selling Khadi door to door.
 - In 1931 she suffered four months' imprisonment at Delhi for addressing an unlawful assembly.
 - She was elected as the president of Indian national congress at its 47th annual session at Calcutta in 1933. She was also elected on a Congress ticket to the Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1940 and 1946.
- **Mira Behn:**
 - Madeleine Slade known as Mira behn, who brought up in affluent environment of a proud aristocracy came to serve the cause of India's freedom by identifying herself completely with the life and work of Gandhi.
 - She tried to become a bridge between the East and the West.
 - She renounced the life of luxury and worked in the service of India.
 - She accompanied Gandhi to England in 1931 and undertook a tour of America and Britain in 1934 to enlist sympathy for the Indian cause. She suffered imprisonment in 1932-33 and 1942-44 for the cause of India's Independence.
- **Verrier Elwin**
 - British by birth, came to India in 1927. He was associated with **Seva Sangh of Pune**.
 - On Gandhi's advice, worked for tribal upliftment, setup **Gond Seva Mandal**.

Conclusion:

India's unassailable position in peaceful assimilation and integration of cultures and her love to respect differences led to the numerous foreigners making India their homeland. It sheltered the persecuted populations, from Parsis to Jews. Those who made India their homeland contributed to its unique cultural heritage and development. They also actively participated in various movements when they sympathized with Indian causes.

Q) The Raiyatwari and the Zamindari system shared certain fundamental similarities. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the key similarities between the two kinds of revenue systems put in place in India by the British.

Structure of the answer

Introduction- write a few introductory lines about the British land revenue system. E.g After gaining full control over Bengal in 1765, Company followed traditional land assessment system in the starting but gradually modified the existing land settlement from time to time to collect maximum possible land revenue which was a need of colonial administration. They initiated auction based farming system as the first experiment in 1772, where land revenue collection rights had been allotted on contract basis. This farming system slowly developed into three major land settlements,



viz., Zamindari in Bengal, Raiyatwari in Madras and Bombay, and Mahalwari in North Western Provinces

Body-

Discuss in points about the similarities between the two systems. E.g

- *In both cases, the British had favored certain categories of right holders to the detriments of the others by conferring on them full and undivided ownership of the land.*
- *Owing to the practice of the judicial sale of the properties of defaulting tax payers, on the one hand the domains of Zamindar were divided into medium and small properties, and on the other, Raiyats became medium or big owners by successive acquisitions.*
- *The introduction of ownership- and of a judicial conception of agrarian relation on a contractual basis- initially only reinforced in the villages the local power of the already dominant individuals or groups, who were to become the first users or the principal beneficiaries of the colonial legislative and legal machinery.*
- *Both the systems were exploitative and aimed at securing maximum revenue at the cost of Indian farmers and agriculture etc.*

Conclusion– *based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.*

Introduction:

- The establishment of **East India Company** worked as the tool of colonial plunder which operated through monopoly of trade and realization of land revenue. They **super-imposed** a system over the **existing land settlement pattern** in tune with **British customs and laws** relating to land.
- After gaining full control over Bengal in 1765 (year of Diwani rights acquisition), Company followed traditional land assessment system in the starting but gradually modified the existing land settlement from time to time to collect maximum possible land revenue which was a need of colonial administration.

Body:

- **Zamindari System:**
 - Also known as Permanent Settlement System, it was introduced by Cornwallis in 1793 through **Permanent Settlement Act**.
 - It was introduced in provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Varanasi.
 - Zamindars were recognized as owner of the lands. Zamindars were given the rights to collect the rent from the peasants.
 - The realized amount would be divided into 11 parts. 1/11 of the share belongs to Zamindars and 10/11 of the share belongs to East India Company
- **Raiyatwari System:**
 - It was introduced by Thomas Munro in 1820.
 - Major areas of introduction include Madras, Bombay, parts of Assam and Coorg provinces of British India.
 - The ownership rights were handed over to the peasants. British Government collected taxes directly from the peasants.
 - The revenue rates of Ryotwari System were 50% where the lands were dry and 60% in irrigated land.

The Raiyatwari and the Zamindari system shared **certain fundamental similarities**.

- In both cases, the British had favoured certain categories of right holders to the detriments of the others by conferring on them full and undivided ownership of the land.
- The group of powerful individuals who became full-fledged proprietors did not include all the cultivators. It consist of a peasant elite like intermediaries of others settlement area that employed agricultural labour, and whose land were often cultivated by tenants.
- Owing to the practice of the judicial sale of the properties of defaulting tax payers, on the one hand the domains of Zamindar were divided into medium and small properties, and on the other, Raiyats became medium or big owners by successive acquisitions.
- The introduction of ownership- and of a judicial conception of agrarian relation on a contractual basis- initially only reinforced in the villages the local power of the already dominant individuals or groups, who were to become the first users or the principal beneficiaries of the colonial legislative and legal machinery.



- Both the systems were exploitative and aimed at securing maximum revenue at the cost of Indian farmers and agriculture

Conclusion:

British revenue systems led to the impoverishment of peasantry by undermining the rights of peasants. Forcible growing of commercial crops led the peasants to buy food grains at high prices and sell crops at low prices. The stability of the Indian villages was shaken and the entire set up of the rural society began to break up. By making land a transferable property, the British facilitated rise of absentee landlords, oppressive moneylenders and pushed the peasant further into misery.

Q) The Gurdwara reform movement of Punjab made an important contribution towards India's freedom struggle. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the Gurdwara reform movement of the Punjab and bring out its contribution towards Indian freedom struggle.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the Gurdwara reform movement. E.g The establishment of SGPC and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) proved to be a turning point in the history of the Sikhs. A new movement called Gurdwara Reform Movement was started against the Mahants and their mentor.

Body-

Discuss in points, the details of the movement and how it contributed towards Indian freedom struggle. E.g

- *The SGPC sent many Akali jathas to various historical Gurdwaras to liberate them from the Mahants.*
- *Under these pressure many Mahants either surrendered to the Akalis or in many cases, agreed to work as employees of the SGPC.*
- *But the Mahants of prominent Gurdwaras like Panja Sahib, Taran-Taran, Nankana Sahib and Guru-Ka-Bagh did not agree to handover their Gurudwaras to the Akalis.*
- *They rather tried to resist them. In all these cases, the Akalis had to launch Morchas to get hold of these Gurudwaras.*

Discuss the Nankana Gurdwara tragedy and the role of the British in it.

Discuss about the keys affairs of the Golden Temple.

- *The Indian National Congress declared its support for the Akali agitation in the special congress session in Delhi.*
- *The Akali's were the joined by several freedom fighters, including Jawaharlal Nehru and Kasturirangan Santhanam. Nehru and other were arrested during one such march etc.*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

The **Akali Movement** also known as **Gurdwara Reform Movement** came into full swing from the early 1920's. Its aim was to bring reform in the working and management of Sikh Gurdwaras. The Akali Movement was created to free the Sikhs historic Gurdwaras from Mahants who were supported by the British rule. The **Sikh Gurdwara Bill in**



1925 placed all the historical Sikh shrines in India under the control of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC).

Body:

Contribution towards India's freedom struggle:

- The Akali Movement developed on a purely religious issue but ended up as a powerful episode of India's freedom struggle.
- The movement arose with the objective of freeing the Gurdwaras (Sikh temples) from the control of ignorant and corrupt mahants (priests).
- Apart from the mahants, after the **British annexation of Punjab in 1849**, some control over the Gurdwaras was exercised by Government-nominated managers and custodians, who often collaborated with mahants.
- The Government gave full support to the mahants. It used them and the managers to preach loyalism to the Sikhs and to keep them away from the rising nationalist movement.
- The **Sikh reformers and nationalists**, on the other hand, wanted a thorough reformation of the Gurdwaras by taking them out of the control of the mahants and agents of the colonial regime.
- The nationalists were especially horrified by two incidents — when the priests of the Golden Temple at Amritsar issued a **Hukamnama** (directive from the Gurus or the holy seats of the Sikh authority) against the **Ghadarites**, declaring them renegades, and then honoured General Dyer, the butcher of Jallianwala massacre and declared him to be a Sikh.
- The reformers demanded that 'this foremost seat of Sikh faith should be placed in the hands of a representative body of the Sikhs,' and organized a series of public meetings in support of their demand.
- To **control and manage the Golden Temple, the Akal Takht and other Gurdwaras**, a representative assembly of nearly 10,000 reformers met in November 1920 and elected a committee of 175 to be known as the **Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee (SGPC)**. Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee is also called Parliament of the sikh nation.
- Under the influence of the **contemporary Non-Cooperation Movement** — and many of the leaders were common to both the movements — the **Akali Dal and the SGPC** accepted **complete non-violence** as their creed.
- The Akali movement faced its first baptism by blood at Nankana, the birth place of Guru Nanak, in February 1921. The mahant of the Gurdwara there, Narain Das, was not willing to peacefully surrender his control to the Akalis. The **Nankana tragedy** was a landmark in the Akali struggle. **Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Shaukat Ali, Lala Lajpat Rai** and other national leaders visited Nankana to show their solidarity.
- In May 1921, the SGPC passed a resolution in favour of non-cooperation, for the boycott of foreign goods and liquor, and for the substitution of panchayats for the British courts of law. The Akali leaders, arrested for the breaking of law, also refused to defend themselves, denying the jurisdiction of foreign-imposed courts.
- A major victory was won by the Akalis in the '**Keys Affair**' in October 1921. The SGPC advised Sikhs to join the hartal on the day of the arrival of the Prince of Wales in India. The Non-Cooperation Movement was at its height in the rest of the country.
- The Government once again decided not to confront Sikhs on a religious issue. It released all those arrested in the 'Keys Affair' and surrendered the keys of the Toshakhana to Baba Kharak Singh, head of the SGPC. Mahatma Gandhi immediately sent a telegram to the Baba: 'First battle for India's freedom won. Congratulations.'
- The culmination of the movement to liberate the Gurdwaras came with the heroic non-violent struggle around **Guru-Ka-Bagh** Gurdwara which shook the whole of India. Guru ka Bagh excited religious fervour to a degree unapproached during the 70 years of British rule. The judicial trials of the volunteers were followed with close interest and, when those convicted were being removed to jails to serve their sentences, mammoth crowds greeted them en route

Conclusion:

But the Akalis could not achieve much success on the issue since it neither involved religion nor was there much support in the rest of the country. In the meanwhile, the Government had succeeded in winning over the moderate Akalis with the promise of **legislation which was passed in July 1925** and which **handed over control over all the Punjab Gurdwaras to an elected body of Sikhs** which also came to be called the **SGPC**.



Q) Bal Gangadhar Tilak played a vital and major role in India's freedom struggle. Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about Bal Gangadhar Tilak- his role and contribution towards India's freedom struggle.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about Tilak. E.g Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an Indian social reformer and freedom activist. He was one of the prime architects of modern India and probably the strongest advocates of Swaraj or Self Rule for India.

Body-

Discuss in points about his contribution towards India's freedom struggle. E.g

- *Gangadhar Tilak joined the Indian National Congress in 1890.*
- *He soon started vocalizing his strong opposition to the moderate views of the party on self-rule. He maintained that simple constitutional agitation in itself was futile against the British.*
- *Following the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon, Tilak wholeheartedly supported the Swadeshi (Indigenous) movement and Boycott of British goods. But his methods also raised bitter controversies within the Indian National Congress (INC) and the movement itself.*
- *During 1908-1914, Bal Gangadhar Tilak spent had to undergo six years of rigorous imprisonment in Mandalay Jail, Burma.*
- *Tilak returned to India in 1915 when the political situation was fast changing under the shadow of the World War I. There was unprecedented celebration after Tilak was released.*
- *Deciding to reunite with his fellow nationalists, Tilak founded the All India Home Rule League in 1916 with Joseph Baptista, Annie Besant and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.*
- *Bal Gangadhar Tilak published two newspapers - 'Maharatta' (English) and 'Kesari' (Marathi). Both the newspapers stressed on making the Indians aware of the glorious past and encouraged the masses to be self reliant etc.*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an Indian social reformer and freedom activist. He was one of the prime architects of modern India and probably the strongest advocates of Swaraj or Self Rule for India.
- His famous declaration "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it" served as an inspiration for future revolutionaries during India's struggle for freedom.
- The **British Government** termed him as the "**Father of Indian Unrest**" and **his followers** bequeathed upon him the title of '**Lokmanya**' meaning he who is revered by the people.

Body:

Tilak's contribution towards India's freedom struggle:

- **Ideology:**
 - Tilak joined the **Indian National Congress** in 1890. He soon started vocalizing his strong opposition to the moderate views of the party on **self-rule**.
 - He maintained that **simple constitutional agitation** in itself was **futile** against the British. This subsequently made him stand against the prominent Congress leader, Gopal Krishna Gokhale.



- He wanted an armed revolt to broom-away the British. Following the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon, Tilak wholeheartedly supported the Swadeshi (Indigenous) movement and Boycott of British goods.
- Due to this fundamental difference in outlook, Tilak and his supporters came to be known as the **extremist wing** of INC.
- Tilak's endeavours were supported by fellow nationalists **Bipin Chandra Pal** of Bengal and **Lala Lajpat Rai** of Punjab.
- **Protests and Imprisonment:**
 - Under directives from Pune Commissioner W. C. Rand, the police and the army invaded private residences, violated personal sanctity of individuals, burned personal possessions and prevented individuals to move in and out of the city.
 - Tilak protested against the oppressive nature of the British efforts and wrote provocative articles on it in his newspapers on the epidemic of Plague in Pune and adjacent regions
 - His article inspired the **Chapekar brothers** and they carried out assassination of Commissioner Rand and Lt. Ayerst on June 22, 1897. As a result of this, Tilak was imprisoned for 18 months on Sedition charges for inciting murder.
 - During 1908-1914, Bal Gangadhar Tilak spent had to undergo six years of rigorous imprisonment in Mandalay Jail, Burma.
 - He openly supported the revolutionaries Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki's efforts to assassinate Chief Presidency Magistrate in 1908. He continued to write during his years of imprisonment and the most prominent of which is **Gita Rahasya**.
- **Tilak and All India Home Rule League:**
 - Tilak returned to India in 1915 when the political situation was fast changing under the shadow of the World War I.
 - He then returned to politics with a mellowed down outlook. Deciding to re-unite with his fellow nationalists, Tilak founded the **All India Home Rule League** in **1916** with Joseph Baptista, Annie Besant and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
 - By April 1916, the league had 1400 members that increased to 32,000 by 1917.
 - He rejoined the INC but could not bring about reconciliation between the two opposite-minded factions.
- **Newspapers:**
 - Towards his nationalistic goals, Bal Gangadhar Tilak published two newspapers – '**Mahratta**' (English) and '**Kesari**' (Marathi).
 - Both the newspapers stressed on making the Indians **aware of the glorious past** and **encouraged the masses to be self reliant**. The newspaper actively propagated the cause of national freedom.
 - Tilak fearlessly published reports about the havoc caused by famine and plague and the government's utter irresponsibility and indifference about '**Famine Relief fund**'.
- **Social Reforms:**
 - After completing his education, Tilak spurned the lucrative offers of government service and decided to devote himself to the larger cause of national awakening.
 - He was a great reformer and throughout his life he advocated the **cause of women education and women empowerment**.
 - Tilak proposed Grand celebrations on 'Ganesh Chaturthi' and 'Shivaji Jayanti'. He envisioned these celebrations inciting a **sense of unity** and **inspiring nationalist sentiment among Indians**.

Conclusion:

Tilak had a long political career agitating for Indian autonomy from the British rule. Before Gandhi, he was the most widely known Indian political leader. Unlike his fellow Maharashtrian contemporary, Gokhale, Tilak was considered a radical Nationalist but a Social conservative.

Q) The Legislative Councils Act of 1861 although a landmark act, brought no real reforms and only disappointed the Indians. Examine. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word



Examine- here we have to probe deeper into the topic, get into details, and find out the causes or implications if any.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to dig deep into the Legislative Councils Act of 1861 and bring out why it introduced no real reforms and only disappointed the Indians.

Structure of the answer

Introduction- write a few introductory lines about the Act of 1861. E.g mention about the revolt of 1857 and then introduction of the Act of 1858 and then 1861.

Body

Discuss why it brought no real reform and disappointed the Indians. E.g

Discuss about the salient provisions of the act. E.g

- *It provided for portfolio system;*
- *executive council of governor general was expanded;*
- *restructuring and enlargement of governor general's legislative council;*

Discuss why the act was hollow of any significant reforms. E.g

- *No real powers to the legislature because of ordinance powers of the Governor General;*
- *Certain bills related to debt, religion, military or foreign relations could not be passed without the consent of the governor general;*
- *Imperial legislative council was essentially an advisory body which could not even discuss the budget etc.*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- The Revolt of 1857 gave a severe jolt to the British administration in India and compelled it to reorganise its structure. This 1858 act is coterminous with Queen Victoria's declaration, 1858.
- The Indian Councils Act 1861 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which was enacted to better the provisions of 1858 act.

Body:

Provisions of 1861 Act:

- This act is known to have made notable changes in the composition of the Governor General's council for executive & legislative Purposes.
- The council of the Governor General of India performed dual functions of executive and legislature.
- For executive functions the notable change was that **Council of the Governor General** was expanded and a fifth member of law was added.
- With the Indian Councils Act for the first time **Portfolio system** started (Cabinet type). Each member of the Council of the Governor General was allocated portfolio of a particular department.
- For the purpose of Legislation, the **Governor General's Council** was restructured and enlarged. Now the additional new **not less than 6 and not more than 12 members** were now to be nominated by the Governor General and they were to hold the office for two years.
- Out of these, not less than half were required to be Non-Official (English or Indian). This was a beginning towards the establishment of legislative system by adding legislative non official members to the Council of the Governor General.
- It was laid down that **without the assent of the Governor General** a bill relating to the public revenue or debt, religion, military, naval or foreign relations cannot be passed. However, any such act might be dissolved by the crown acting through the secretary of State of India.
- The Viceroy was allowed, under the provisions of the Act, to overrule the council on affairs if he deemed it necessary.
- The Act restored the power of legislation to the governor-in-councils of Madras and Bombay in respective matters.



- The legislative council at Calcutta was given extensive authority to pass laws for British India as a whole, while the legislative councils at Bombay and Madras were given the power to make laws for the “Peace and good Government” of their respective presidencies.
- The act also laid down the provision for the **formation of legislative councils in other provinces**.
- The Governor General was given the power to create new provinces for legislative purposes. He also could appoint Lt. Governors for the same . He could promulgate ordinances, without the concurrence of the legislative council, during and emergency.

Limitations of the Act:

- Imperial legislative Council was merely an advisory body and didn't have the power to discuss, question the budget. The role of council was limited to advice. No financial discussion could take place.
- Legislative Council's scope was fixed in legislation purpose alone; they had no right to move some kind of vote of no confidence.
- It allowed for the decentralisation of administration with the vesting of legislative power to the presidencies of Bombay and Madras.
- Further, there was no statutory / specific provision for the nomination of Indians.
- The functions of nominated members were limited to the legislation and it had not to do any other function except the consideration or enactment of legislative measures.
- The ordinance making power of the Governor General allowed him to make laws at his own whim.

Conclusion:

The Secretary of State for India at the time the Act was passed, Sir Charles Wood, believed that the Act was of immense importance: “the act is a great experiment. That everything is changing in India is obvious, and that the old autocratic government cannot stand unmodified is indisputable.” However from India's point of view the act did little to improve the influence of Indians in the legislative council.

Q) The formation of the government under the Congress was a unique experiment in India's freedom struggle. Discuss. (250 words)

India's Struggle for independence by Bipin Chandra Pal (TWENTY-EIGHT MONTHS OF CONGRESS RULE)

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail the Congress rule during British India and bring out how it was a unique experiment in India's freedom struggle.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the GOI act, 1935 and the formation of ministries by the Congress. E.g After a few months' tussle with the Government, the Congress Working Committee decided to accept office under the Act of 1935. During July, it formed Ministries in six provinces: Madras, Bombay, Central Provinces, Orissa, Bihar and U.P. Later, Congress Ministries were also formed in the North-West Frontier Province and Assam.

Body-

Discuss about the main aspects of the Congress rule and how it was a unique experiment. E.g

- *To guide and coordinate their activities and to ensure that the British hopes of the provincialization of the Congress did not materialize, a central control board known as the Parliamentary Sub-Committee was formed.*
- *A party which was committed to liquidate British rule took charge of administration under a constitution which was framed by the British and which yielded only partial state power to the Indians; this power could moreover be taken away from the Indians whenever the imperial power so desired.*



- *The Congress was now to function both as a government in the provinces and as the opposition vis-a-vis the Central Government where effective state power lay.*
- *It was to bring about social reforms through the legislature and administration in the provinces and at the same time carry on the struggle for independence and prepare the people for the next phase of mass struggle.*
- *Thus the Congress had to implement its strategy of Struggle-Truce-Struggle (S-T-S') in a historically unique situation etc.*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- The 28 month congress rule based on the provisions of Government of India Act, 1935 was significant. During July 1937, it formed Ministries in six provinces: Madras, Bombay, Central Provinces, Orissa, Bihar and U.P. Later, Congress Ministries were also formed in the North-West Frontier Province and Assam.

Body:

Congress ministries tried to bring a lot of reforms in their sphere of jurisdiction. The reforms brought in with the achievements and limitations are as follows:

- **Civil liberty:**
 - **Achievements:**
 - Emergency powers related laws repealed.
 - Restrictions and ban on press, certain books, newspapers, and illegal organisations was lifted.
 - In Congress provinces, police powers were curbed and the reporting of public speeches and the shadowing of political workers by CID agents stopped.
 - c Thousands of political prisoners were released and many revolutionaries involved in kakori & other conspiracies released
 - **Limitations:**
 - Yusuf Meherally and S.S.Batliwala were arrested for inflammatory and seditious speeches.
 - K.M.Munshi used CID against communist and leftist.
- **Agrarian Reforms:**
 - **Achievements:**
 - Legislated a number of laws relating to land reforms, debt relief, forest grazing fee, arrears of rent, land tenure sect.
 - In Bihar, Congress signed pact with Zamindars regarding the provisions of the Tenancy Bill .
 - Kisan Sabha launched number of movements at regional level to remind congress to implement Faizpur Agrarian Programme
 - In Bombay, They were able to restore lands to original owners which were confiscated due to no rent campaign of congress
 - **Limitations:**
 - Most of these benefits went to statutory and occupancy tenants while sub-tenants did not gain much.
 - Agricultural labourers did not benefit as they had not been mobilised.
- **Social welfare reforms:**
 - **Achievements:**
 - Measures for welfare of Harijans taken-temple entry, education, etc.
 - Encouragement was given to khadi and indigenous enterprises.
 - In 1938 national planning committee set up under congress president Subhash Chandra Bose.
 - Reforms in education, public health, sanitation as well as in prisons were undertaken.
- **Economic Reforms:**
 - Encouragement given to indigenous enterprises
 - Develop planning through National Planning Committee set up under Congress President Subhash Bose in 1938.
- **Labour:**
 - **Achievements:**
 - Goodwill sought to be created between labour and capital with mediation of ministries.
 - Efforts were made to improve workers condition and secure wage increase for them.
 - Labour Committee appointed by Congress accepted a programme with Holidays with pay, Employment insurance, to devise a way to fix minimum wage, leave with pay during sickness.



- **Limitations:**
- Ministries failed in Bombay as mediator.
- Leftist critics were unsatisfied.
- Ministries took recourse to section 144 and arrested the leaders.

Conclusion:

Congress ministries resigned in October 1939 after the outbreak of the Second World War. Indian self-government was necessary for radical social transformation got confirmed. It weakened the myth that Indians were not fit to rule. It did good work with minimum financial resources.

Q) What were the reasons responsible for the decline of the Mughal empire in India. Discuss. (250 words)

Modern Indian History by BIPIN CHANDRA PAL (NCERT TEXTBOOK OLD)

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the fall of the Mughal empire and the reasons responsible for it.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the decline of Mughal empire. E.g the beginnings of the decline of the Mughal empire can be traced back to Aurangzeb who inherited a large empire and yet adopted an expansionist policy.

Body-

Discuss in points about the reasons as to why the Mughal empire declined. E.g

- *The objective of Aurangzeb to unify the entire country under one Central political authority was justifiable in theory but not in practice.*
- *Unwillingness to accept the regional autonomy inability to forge regional alliances. Aurangzeb absence from the north for over 25 years and his failure to subdue the Marathas led to the deterioration of the administration really, undermined the prestige of the empire and its army which further led to the neglect of the vital NWFP.*
- *The strength of the Mughal empire was challenged at its nerve center, Delhi by Satnami, the Jat and the Sikh uprisings.*
- *Aurangzeb's religious orthodoxy and his policy towards the Hindus damaged the stability of the Mughal empire.*
- *In the absence of a fixed rule for succession, the empire was always plagued after the death of a King by a civil war between the princes resulting in loss of life and property and of capable military commanders.*
- *After Bahadur Shah's reign came a long list of weak, worthless and luxury-loving Kings.*
- *The condition of the Indian peasants worsened during the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries and the burden of land revenue increased on the peasants and agriculture deteriorated, which further led to peasant discontent etc.*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

The period of the Great Mughals, which began in 1526 with Babur's accession to the throne, ended with the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. Aurangzeb's death marked the end of an era in Indian history. When Aurangzeb died, the



empire of the Mughals was the largest in India. Yet, within about fifty years of his death, the Mughal Empire disintegrated.

Body:

The reasons responsible for the decline of the Mughal empire in India are:

- **Wars of Succession:**
 - The Mughals did not follow any law of succession like the law of primogeniture.
 - Consequently, each time a ruler died, a war of succession between the brothers for the throne started.
 - This weakened the Mughal Empire, especially after Aurangzeb.
 - The nobles, by siding with one contender or the other, increased their own power.
- **Aurangzeb's Policies:**
 - Aurangzeb failed to realise that the vast Mughal Empire depended on the willing support of the people.
 - Aurangzeb's religious orthodoxy and his policy towards the Hindus damaged the stability of the Mughal empire
 - He lost the support of the Rajputs who had contributed greatly to the strength of the Empire.
 - They had acted as pillars of support, but Aurangzeb's policy turned them to bitter foes.
 - The wars with the Sikhs, the Marathas, the Jats and the Rajputs had drained the resources of the Mughal Empire.
- **Weak Successors of Aurangzeb:**
 - The successors of Aurangzeb were weak and became victims of the intrigues and conspiracies of the faction-ridden nobles.
 - They were inefficient generals and incapable of suppressing revolts.
 - The absence of a strong ruler, an efficient bureaucracy and a capable army had made the Mughal Empire weak.
 - After Bahadur Shah's reign came a long list of weak, worthless and luxury-loving Kings.
- **Empty Treasury:**
 - Shah Jahan's zeal for construction had depleted the treasury.
 - Aurangzeb's long wars in the south had further drained the exchequer.
- **Invasions:**
 - Foreign invasions sapped the remaining strength of the Mughals and hastened the process of disintegration.
 - The invasions of **Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali** resulted in further drainage of wealth.
 - These invasions shook the very stability of the empire.
- **Size of the Empire and Challenge from Regional Powers:**
 - The Mughal Empire had become too large to be controlled by any ruler from one centre i.e. Delhi.
 - The Great Mughals were efficient and exercised control over ministers and army, but the later Mughals were poor administrators.
 - As a result, the distant provinces became independent. The rise of independent states led to the disintegration of the Mughal Empire.
- **Rise of independent states in the 18th century:**
 - With the decline of the Mughal Empire a number of provinces seceded from the empire and several independent states came into existence.
 - Hyderabad:**
 - The State of Hyderabad was founded by Qamar-ud-din Siddiqi, who was appointed Viceroy of the Deccan, with the title of Nizam-ul- Mulk, by Emperor Farrukhsiyar in 1712.
 - He established a virtually independent state but returned to Delhi during the reign of Emperor Mohammad Shah.
 - In 1724, he was reappointed Viceroy of the Deccan with the title of Asaf Jah.
 - Bengal:**
 - Bengal in the 18th century comprised Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
 - Murshid Quli Khan was the Diwan of Bengal under Aurangzeb.
 - Farrukhsiyar appointed him Subedar (governor) of Bengal in 1717.
 - Awadh:**
 - The subah of Awadh comprised Benaras and some districts near Allahabad.



- Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk was appointed Governor of Awadh by the Mughal Emperor.
- But he soon became independent.
- **Deterioration of land relations**
 - Shahjahan and Aurangzeb opted for jagirs and Paibaqi instead of paying directly from state treasury to the officials.
 - Jagirs refer to temporary allotment of lands to officials for their services which may be according to the satisfaction of the Emperor.
 - Paibaqi refers to revenue from reserved lands which were sent to the central treasury.
 - There was a constant clash of interest between the nobles and zamindars.
- **Rise of the Marathas**
 - Marathas consolidated their position in Western India
 - They started making plans for a greater Maharashtra empire.

Conclusion:

The decline of the Mughal Empire was due to social, economic, political and institutional factors. By 1813, the British government took away the power that allowed the East India Company's monopoly and later, the company worked on behalf of the government. In 1857, the Indian Rebellion occurred which prompted the British colonial office to exile the last emperor, Bahadur Shah II, and take complete control of the Indian subcontinent.

Q) Discuss the social and economic conditions of the people of India in the eighteenth century. (250 words)

Modern Indian History by BIPIN CHANDRA PAL (NCERT TEXTBOOK OLD)

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to look into the social and economic conditions of the people in India, in the eighteenth century.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the eighteenth century India. E.g India of the 18th century, failed to make sufficient economic, social or cultural progress necessary to save the country from collapse.

Body-

Discuss in points, the social and economic conditions of the people of Indian in the eighteenth century. E.g

- *The increasing revenue demands of the state, oppression by the officials, the greed and rapacity of the nobles, revenue farmers and zamindars, marches and counter-marches of the rival armies made the life of the people wretched.*
- *Extreme poverty of the peasants existed side by side of the extreme luxury of the powerful nobles.*
- *Techniques of production remained stationary for years.*
- *Even though Indian villages were largely self-sufficient and imported little from outside, extensive trade within the country and with other countries of Europe and Asia was carried on under the Mughals.*
- *However constant warfare, d*

Conclusion- based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

**Introduction:**

- India of the 18th century failed to make progress economically, socially, or culturally at a pace, which would have saved the country from collapse. There is a complete dearth of authentic figures which can help in drawing a picture of socio-economic life of India in the eighteenth century.
- The British records, which also relate to the whole of peninsula, are available only after the census which took place only in 1880 for the first time. The record left by the Court historians of the native rulers was more overshadowed, by pessimism.

Body:**Social Conditions:**

- Social life and culture in the 18th century were marked by stagnation and dependence on the past.
- There was, of course, no uniformity of culture and social patterns all over the country. Nor did all Hindus and all Muslims form two distinct societies.
- People were divided by religion, region, tribe, language, and caste.
- Moreover, the social life and culture of the upper classes, who formed a tiny minority of the total population, was in many respects different from the life and culture of the lower classes.
- **Hindus:**
 - Caste was the central feature of the social life of the Hindus.
 - Apart from the four varnas, Hindus were divided into numerous castes (Jatis), which differed in their nature from place to place.
 - The caste system rigidly divided people and permanently fixed their place in the social scale.
 - The higher castes, headed by the Brahmins, monopolized all social prestige and privileges.
 - Caste rules were extremely rigid. Inter-caste marriages were forbidden.
 - There were restrictions on inter-dining among members of different castes.
 - Caste was a major divisive force and element of disintegration in India of 18th century.
- **Muslims:**
 - Muslims were no less divided by considerations of caste, race, tribe, and status, even though their religion enjoined social equality.
 - The Shia and Sunni (two sects of Muslim religion) nobles were sometimes at loggerheads on account of their religious differences.
 - The Irani, Afghan, Turani, and Hindustani Muslim nobles, and officials often stood apart from each other.
 - A large number of Hindus converted to Islam carried their caste into the new religion and observed its distinctions, though not as rigidly as before.
 - Moreover, the sharif Muslims consisting of nobles, scholars, priests, and army officers, looked down upon the ajlaf Muslims or the lower class Muslims in a manner similar to that adopted by the higher caste Hindus towards the lower caste Hindus.

Economic Conditions:

- The increasing revenue demands of the state, the oppression of the officials, the greed and rapacity of the nobles, revenue-farmers, and zamindars, the marches and countermarches of the rival armies, and the depredations of the numerous adventurers roaming the land during the first half of the 18th century made the life of the people quite despicable.
- Extreme poverty existed side by side with extreme rich and luxury.
- On the one hand, there were the rich and powerful nobles steeped in luxury and comfort; on the other, backward, oppressed, and impoverished peasants living at the bare subsistence level and having to bear all sorts of injustices and inequities.
- **Agriculture:**
 - Indian agriculture during the 18th century was technically backward and stagnant. The techniques of production had remained stationary for centuries.
 - The peasants tried to make up for technical backwardness by working very hard.
 - Even though it was peasants' produce that supported the rest of the society, their own reward was miserably inadequate.
- **Trade**
 - Even though the Indian villages were largely self-sufficient and imported little from outside and the means of communication were backward, extensive trade within the country and between India and other countries of Asia and Europe was earned on under the Mughals.



- India imported – pearls, raw silk, wool, dates, dried fruits, and rose water from the Persian Gulf region; coffee, gold, drugs, and honey from Arabia; tea, sugar, porcelain, and silk from China;
- India's most important article of export was cotton textiles, which were famous all over the world for their excellence and were in demand everywhere.
- India also exported raw silk and silk fabrics, hardware, indigo, saltpeter, opium, rice, wheat, sugar, pepper and other spices, precious stones, and drugs.
- Constant warfare and disruption of law and order, in many areas during the 18th century, banned the country's internal trade and disrupted its foreign trade to some extent and in some directions.
- The decline of internal and foreign trade also hit the industries hard in some parts of the country.
- Nevertheless, some industries in other parts of the country gained as a result of expansion in trade with Europe due to the activities of the European trading companies.

Conclusion:

India during the eighteenth century AD was seeped in tradition. It failed to imbibe the scientific knowledge that the West had to offer. Politically, it was extremely disunited. All these factors made it easy for the Europeans to colonize India.

Q) The battle of Plassey is of immense historical importance. Discuss. (250 words)

Modern Indian History by BIPIN CHANDRA PAL (NCERT TEXTBOOK OLD)

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the battle of Plassey and discuss at length as to why it is of immense historical importance for India.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the battle of Plassey. E.g

Body-

Discuss in points as to why the battle of Plassey was of immense historical importance for India. E.g

Conclusion- based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- The Battle of Plassey was a war fought between the British East India Company and the Nawab of Bengal and his close allies, who were mainly the French troops. The battle was won on June 23, 1757, leading to the **consolidation of the British** in Bengal and later expanding other territories of India.
- The Battle of Plassey was fought at **Palashi**, on the banks of the **Bhagirathi River near Calcutta** and **Murshidabad** which was the **public capital of Bengal**. It was **more of skirmishes than a battle** according to some historians, who were part of the seven years' war fought in India by the British.

Body:

Background:

- The Company had a strong presence in India and were located in three main stations; Fort St. George, Fort William, and Bombay Castle.
- The British allied themselves with the Nawabs and princes in exchange for security against rebels and any form of external and internal attack.
- The **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle** of 1748 stopped the direct hostility between the British and the French powers. The treaty did not last long before the two powers were again involved in indirect hostilities.
- When Alvardi Khan who was the Nawab of Bengal died in April 1756, his son Siraj-Ud-daula succeeded him. The young Nawab immediately laid siege to Calcutta, capturing it and imprisoning several British officials in June 1756.
- Clive concluded that the only way to secure the interest of the Company was to replace Siraj with a friendly Nawab. General Mir Jafar was found as a possible replacement. And a secret agreement was passed to Mir Jafar's residence.



The beginnings of British political sway over India may be traced back to the battle of Plassey in 1757, when the English East India Company's forces defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal. The significance of battle of Plassey can be studied under the following consequences:

Financial and Political consequences

- The Company was granted undisputed right to free trade in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- It also received the Zamindari of the 24 Parganas near Calcutta.
- The new Nawab, Mir Jaffar, was dependent on the British for the maintenance of his position in Bengal. An English army of 6000 troops was maintained in Bengal.
- The wealth paid to British immediately after Plassey was a sum of £800,000
- Mir Jaffar regretted the deal that he struck with British later when he was reduced to a puppet leader only.
- Prior to 1757 the English trade in Bengal was largely financed through import of bullion from England; but after that year not only bullion import stopped, but bullion was exported from Bengal to China and other parts of India, which gave a competitive advantage to the English Company over its European rivals.

Position of British after the Battle

- The battle of Plassey was of immense historical importance. It paved way for British Mastery of Bengal and eventually the whole of India.
- It boosted British prestige and at a single stroke raised them to the status of major contender for the Indian Empire. Before the battle, it was only just another European company trading in Bengal. But after Plassey they **monopolized trade of Bengal**.
- Plassey had brought about a gradual transformation in the character of the Company. In the context of the then politics, **military control was synonymous with political body**. Thus, the Company played a role of commercial-cum-military-cum- political body.
- The **rich revenues of Bengal** enabled them to organize a strong army and meet the cost of conquest of the rest of the country.
- Control over Bengal played a **decisive role in the Anglo French struggle** where British were finally victorious.
- The victory of Plassey enabled the Company with its **servants to amass untold wealth at the cost of helpless people of Bengal**.
- The conflict at Plassey was also crucial for the East India company's triumph over its French rivals.

Conclusion:

Robert Clive became the Baron of Plassey. Affairs that occurred after the victory at the Battle of Plassey had changed the British East India Company from a trading company to a central power. Thus, the Battle of Plassey marked the beginning of political supremacy of the English East India Company in India.

Topic – World history; Events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,

Q) Afghanistan is rightly called the graveyard of empires. Discuss. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question

The article discusses the various failed attempts made by the powers of the world in subjugating Afghanistan due to its strategic significance. All such attempts including the US war on Afghanistan has failed to bring any fruit for the aggressors. The question would enable us to revise British foreign policy and cold war.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to discuss the various attempts made by several countries in exerting control over Afghanistan but ended up counting their wounds. The question expects us to discuss the reasons for it. We can relate the question to the present context where USA is facing a similar situation in Afghanistan and discuss its impact.

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 about the US war on Afghanistan and how it turned out for USA.

Body

Discuss the various attempts made at subjugating Afghanistan such as the Anglo Afghan wars and its result, the result of USSR's intervention in Afghanistan and lastly the result of the current US war on Afghanistan.

Discuss the reasons for the failure of several world power in exerting their control over Afghanistan – tough geography, lack of understanding of the tribal loyalties of the country etc

Discuss the impact of likely withdrawal of USA from Afghanistan and how it impacts India

Conclusion – Give your view on how apt it is to call Afghanistan as the graveyard of empires.

Background:-

- Afghanistan is a notoriously difficult country to govern. Empire after empire, nation after nation have failed to pacify what is today the modern territory of Afghanistan, giving the region the nickname “Graveyard of Empires, ” even if sometimes those empires won some initial battles and made inroads into the region.
- In the 19th century there was the Great Game, when the British and Russian empires faced off across its forbidding deserts and mountain ranges. At the end of the 20th century it was the Cold War, when the Soviet and American rivalry played out here in a bitter guerrilla conflict. And in this century, it is the War on Terror and a constantly shifting Taliban insurgency, with USA promising a **renewed military commitment**.

Why is Afghanistan called the graveyard of empires:-

- **Historical:-**
 - When the Arabs arrived in the region at the dawn of the 8th century, it was a patchwork of small but tough principalities. Attempts to conquer the Zunbils of Kandahar failed spectacularly, the first major setback faced by the Arabs after their great conquests began and same was the case with other empires like Mongols.
- **British:-**
 - **Over an 80-year period, the British fought three wars in Afghanistan, occupying or controlling the country in between, and lost tens of thousands of dead along the way. Finally, exhausted by the First World War, Britain gave up in 1919 and granted Afghanistan independence**
- **Soviet Union:-**
 - **The Soviet Union spent the postwar period pacifying and modernizing its Central Asian republics with great success. But it was mistaken in assuming that the same program could stick in Afghanistan.**
 - **The Soviets invaded in 1979 to try to quell a brewing civil war and prop up its allies in the Afghan government, and they limped out in 1989.**
- **USA:-**
 - **The first American military battle of the 21st century was fought in Afghanistan shortly after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. After nearly 16 years of fighting a shifting host of militant groups and the new Taliban insurgency, and now even a local affiliate of the Islamic State, there is no clear end on the horizon.**
- **Afghanistan is particularly hard to conquer primarily due to the intersection of three factors.**
 - **First**, because Afghanistan is located on the main land route between Iran, Central Asia, and India, it has been invaded many times and settled by a plethora of tribes, many mutually hostile to each other and outsiders.
 - **Second**, because of the frequency of invasion and the prevalence of tribalism in the area, its lawlessness lead to a situation where almost every village or house was **built** like a fortress, or qalat.
 - **Third**, the physical terrain of Afghanistan makes conquest and rule extremely difficult, exacerbating its tribal tendencies. Afghanistan is dominated by some of the highest and more jagged mountains in the world.
- Global Powers have come to realise that while it is possible to conquer territory in Afghanistan temporarily, and defeat Afghans militarily in open battle, it is virtually impossible to hold the region down for long, when it is filled with guerrillas, tribes, and castles that can constantly weigh down a foreign power.



Q) Discuss how developments in Education have transformed the world. (250 words)

[epw](#)

Why this question

Education is a quintessential parameter to measure and attain human development. In this context it is important to discuss how increase in education and its development has impacted the world.

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. We also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the role and contribution of education in transforming the world, globally. We have to present the transformation in economy, health, income growth, globalisation etc.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the importance of education. E.g write some famous quotation on education relevant to the current discussion.

Body-

Discuss in points the transformation brought out by education, on a global level. E.g discuss about the

- Education and its role in social transformation like in terms of higher age of marriage, child planning and better health parameters.
- Education as a tool to loosen the grips of superstitions and traditional restrictive beliefs.
- Education as a tool for political enlightenment.
- Education as a tool for gainful employment.
- Education and growth of globalization.
- Education as a harbinger of modern democratic values.
- Education and decrease in inequality and decreasing gap between developing and developed countries etc.

Conclusion- based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Introduction:

- **“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”** – Nelson Mandela. The classic definition of education is **“the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university”**.
- But education is much more than that. It is a process of continuous learning which can be acquired anywhere at any time and any age. It is the fundamental right of every citizen because it promotes empowerment and ensures development benefits.

Body:

Education has helped bring about the following transformation on a global level.

- **Education and social transformation:**
 - Education has a history of fostering positive social change, by encouraging things like political participation, social equality, and environmental sustainability.
 - Through its collaborations, it promotes engagement with communities, industries, governments, and the media.
 - It helps to change many social beliefs in terms of higher age of marriage, child planning and better health parameters.
 - Education lights every stage of the journey to a better life, especially for **the poor and the most vulnerable**.



- It spreads awareness against Blind faith and superstitions which bog down society. People misled by false beliefs do more harm than good to society.
- Education helps us question, gives us an analytical mind and helps us reject superstitions. An educated mind asks for logic and scientific reasoning behind all actions.
- It can be used for the upliftment of society since it helps elevate the social and economic conditions in the marginalized sections of society
- Education helps lower crime rate. That's because the educated can differentiate between what's right and what's wrong. Research has shown that increasing the high school completion rate by just 1 percent for all men ages 20-60 would save the U.S. up to \$1.4 billion per year in reduced costs from crime. This is true for other regions as well.
- Many researches have proven that in countries where women are subjected to gender bias, education helped them stand up against marital violence, improved their decision making capabilities and helped them take charge of their own lives.
- **Education as a harbinger of modern democratic values:**
 - It makes us better citizens by teaching us how to conduct ourselves through life by following rules and regulations and giving us a sense of conscience
 - It broadens the mind and provides alternative perspectives, and this can change our students' outlook and their approach to the world.
 - Education and decrease in inequality and decreasing gap between developing and developed countries.
- **Education as a tool for political enlightenment:**
 - Many people find themselves taken advantage of constantly because they do not know their rights, or understand why things work the way they do.
 - Education gives them the tools to recognize when they are being mistreated and stand up for themselves.
 - Helping someone become educated is helping them protect themselves and their friends from harm.
- **Education as a tool for gainful employment:**
 - Education is the first step for people to gain the knowledge, critical thinking, empowerment and skills they need to make this world a better place.
 - Better education opens up a host of opportunities and this is especially relevant in the times we live in where technology and education ensure that opportunities are not bound by geography.
 - Education can stimulate economic growth less directly, by increasing innovation, productivity, and human capital.
- **Education and growth of globalization:**
 - Digital education has helped achieve this. Education has given students from across borders opportunities to connect and communicate and work towards building a better future and a better world.
 - For example, a professor in India can help inspire a student in Afghanistan to study and travel the world, help herself and a whole generation after her, to lead a better life.
- **Education helps to save the planet:**
 - Overall climate transformation and the consequences increased number of natural disasters and cut down the agricultural production.
 - This may turn 122 million people into poverty by 2035.
 - The establishment of green industries will depend on high-skilled, literate workers. Agriculture grants 1/3rd of all greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Therefore, schooling can provide future farmers with relevant knowledge about great challenges that can be adopted to reduce greenhouse effect from agriculture.

However, Education's unique power to act as a catalyst for wider development goals can only be fully realized, however, if it is equitable. Quality of education is vital for economic and sustainable growth.

Conclusion:

To quote Nobel laureate **Malala Yousafzai**, "books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first". Therefore Education has the latent potential to initiate change, not only at the heart of a person, but in society, and in time the world. It is this deep-rooted nature of change that makes Education one of the most powerful weapons to impact the human race – to change the world.



Topic- Salient features of Indian Society; Effects of globalization on Indian society

Q) Critically analyze whether globalisation accelerated language shift in India ? (250 words)

Reference

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to discuss the impact of globalisation on the indigenous language and whether globalisation promotes uniformity in languages which affect the linguistic diversity in the country.

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. 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 – Highlight that the impact of globalisation is manifold.

Body

Explain that globalisation has had multiple impacts and one of the impact it is said to have is standardization of language.

Discuss that globalisation leads to the promotions of a global language which is English and give arguments that linguistic diversity of India has been impacted

Highlight that still the nature of country is such , and the constitutional protections are such that linguistic diversity is not impacted.

Conclusion – Based on arguments made above, give a fair and balanced opinion on the impact of globalisation on linguistic diversity.

Background:-

- Language is not only the harbinger of socio-cultural change but also the last vestige to go. As an impact of globalization, language is changing very rapidly and People must think about its future.

How globalisation is accelerating language shift:-

- **Mother tongue neglected:-**
 - If a language is not learned as a mother tongue for wider purposes of communication and governance, there are possibilities that the concerned language will gradually vanish from the society as an effective medium, and will assume the role of an identity marker only.
- **Global language like English gained significance:-**
 - Globalisation has accelerated the use of English. Irrespective of the translation tools, information is available in English much before in other languages.
 - Urban India created a demand for English as the language of education. globalization is making English especially important not just in universities, but in areas such as computing, diplomacy, medicine, shipping, and entertainment.
 - Due to this the linguistic diversity has been impacted as vernacular languages are neglected.
- **Education:-**
 - In the era of globalisation, people are going away from their mother tongue as a language of schooling and as a medium of instruction.
- **Globalisation has altered our perception of language.**
 - Socio-linguists find it difficult to explain linguistic fluidity within a theoretical framework. The ease of explaining language within the Classical, Imperialist and Nationalist templates vanishes before the non-conformity of globalisation.
 - Inertia in policy implementation, ambivalent attitudes, people’s choice of a language cutting across class and creed need academic explanation.
- One of the impact it is said to have is standardization of language.



- **However there are some positives as well :-**
 - It allows languages and their cultures to spread and dominate on a global scale.
 - Modern globalization can also bring about trends which are positive for Minority languages. It can reveal the fact there are endangered languages all round the world, and so **give their speakers a motive to contact one another, and build solidarity networks**
 - The biggest reverberation of globalization in languages is that people have learned foreign languages as an addition to their mother tongue.
 - **Reinforcing culture:-**
 - People living in urban areas do speak English in their offices but speak their mother tongue at home because that is what makes them remind of their own culture.

Conclusion:-

- Despite the threat globalisation poses to languages of India, the nature of country is such , and the constitutional protections are such that linguistic diversity is not impacted.

Q) Indian family structure has has grown to embrace individual choices and social realities. Analyze in the context of new family structures and notions in India. (250 words)

[The hindu](#)

Why this question

The article tries to provide a glimpse of the changes that Indian Family system has been quietly witnessing. It discusses how individual choices are gaining more voice at the cost of weathering of the patriarchy embedded in an Indian family system.

Directive word

Analyze-here we 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.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to dig deep into the modern Indian family and bring out how it has grown embrace individual choices and social realities. We have to analyse the present family structures and notions in India.

Structure of the answer

Introduction— write a introductory lines about the traditional Indian family system. E.g mention the patriarchal setup, joint family system, adherence to traditional social mores and choices.

Body-

Discuss in points as to how the modern family system in India has developed in India and how it has strengthened individual choices and changed the social realities. E.g

- *The Indian family is changing. There's no 'ideal family' defined by children or lineage.*
- *It comes in different shapes and sizes. And it has grown to embrace individual choices, and social realities: single children, divorce, double incomes, sexual freedom.*
- *The concept of 'family' has always been fluid, even in traditional set-ups, but today "the new generation is seeing much more of the world; they're exposed to Western norms of individualism and autonomy.*
- *A family could now be the quasi-family where a group of people cohabit and share their lives and belong to each other in a fundamental way, but have no single figure of authority.*
- *Stigma against widow/ women remarriage is decreasing.*
- *Some of the changing perceptions are thanks to popular culture, movies, movie stars*
- *The change is however no revolution and it is still marginal etc.*



Conclusion— based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Background:-

- Due to economic liberalisation and globalisation, the world has become a “global village”. There is increasing interaction between people of different countries.
- The different aspects of globalisation like economic, political, social and cultural have important implications for human life, including the family life.
- In India, the traditional joint family system with features such as patriarchal in nature, members of family had no individual identity, the decision-making power lied exclusively with the eldest male member of the family etc underwent rapid changes due to

New family structures and notions in India :-

- **Decline of Extended Family System:-**
 - There is a worldwide movement towards small, nuclear family maintaining a separate and independent household and breaking down of the traditional extended (joint) family system and other types of kin groups.
 - Their influence is declining in every field of life. **A modified extended family structure is emerging in which individual nuclear families retain considerable autonomy and yet maintain connections with other nuclear families or so-called ‘joint family’.**
- **Changing Authority Pattern :-**
 - There is a change in the division of labour and authority in the family. Male authority is declining in the modern family. The authority is slipping from the hands of family elders because of new economic and political opportunities.
 - Young couples do not rely on family elders for job instructions or education of their children. Because of the dual-career marriages, there is a significant change in the attitude towards equality between married partners.
- **Changing Status of Women :-**
 - The rights of women are becoming more recognized in respect to both initiation of marriage and decision-making in the family.
- **Changing Economic Functions :-**
 - Modern family is no longer united by shared work on the farm. It is now a unit of consumption instead of a unit of production as it was in the agrarian society. **It is now united by feelings of companionship, affection and recreation only.**
- **Decline in Family Size :-**
 - Economic considerations force the young to have smaller family with one or two children.
- **Changing Attitudes towards Marriage:-**
 - There is an increase in male-female couples who choose to live together without marriage. This has given rise to the concepts of ‘living together,’ ‘living arrangements’ or ‘live-in relationships.’
 - Also new types of families crop with where same gender couples also cohabit.
- There’s no ‘ideal family’ defined by children or lineage. It comes in different shapes and sizes. And it has grown to embrace individual choices, and social realities: single children, divorce, double incomes, sexual freedom.
- **Declining Trend in Non-essential Functions:-**
 - The most of the socializing functions today, like child raising, education, occupational training, caring of elderly, etc., have been taken over by the outside agencies, such as creches, media, nursery schools, hospitals, occupational training centres, etc. These tasks were once exclusively performed by the family.
 - Increasing mobility of younger generation in search of new employment and educational opportunities allegedly weakened the family relations. The family bondings and ties started loosening due to physical distance as it rendered impracticable for members of family to come together as often as earlier. This affected the earlier idealized notion of ‘family’ as the caring and nurturing unit for children, the sick and elderly.
- **As a part of the revolution, the nuclear family emphasizes the importance of the freedom of the individual to choose his/her own life and control his/her own destiny.**
- **Accelerated rate of rural-urban migration, diversification of gainful economic activities and individual-friendly property laws, have had consequential impact in terms of drastic reduction in the size of family in the country.**
- **Discrimination against Widow remarriage is decreasing.**



- **Family is now essentially democratic and most of the decisions in the family are taken collectively.** However, the extent of autonomy and democracy may vary from region to region, community to community and caste to caste, depending upon the degree of its adaptation of the modern values and the urban way of life.
- **Marriage is considered not as a sacred one but a social contract.** It has been found that, divorces and separation are on the increase.
- **Much distress has been witnessed in the social relationships between husband and wife.** No doubt, the technology has elevated the social status of women in the family. But at the same time it has put the fabric of social relationships at stake.
- **Improved HDI as a result of globalization and urbanization.** This has also led to better education, less social stratification among Indian caste system.

Topic- Role of women and women's organization

Q) Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view. (250 words)

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to examine whether the women's movement of India has failed to successfully address or bring into limelight the problems faced by women of lower strata in India. Thereafter, we need to substantiate our view with examples of such movement and actions taken by the government and its impact on women. We need to highlight the severity of problem and discuss way forward.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Highlight that women's movement in India has come a long way since the advent of such movements by the early Indian social reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy etc.

Body

Highlight the nature of issues faced by the women of lower strata in different spheres such as economic, political, social etc

Discuss that after independence it was felt that the developmental work being carried out by the government, it was thought, would automatically enhance the status of women. However it was the towards equality report which opened the eyes of everyone regarding the poor status of women that continued to afflict Indian society.

Discuss the steps taken to improve the status of women and how socially disadvantaged section has failed to take advantage of it

Conclusion – Highlight that the society should be forthcoming to support women and the way forward.

Introduction:

Women's movements are among the most important crusade of modern social movements. It started off with the efforts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar to fight for women's rights due to inhumane practices like Sati. The upper strata women faced these mostly, however, today Women of lower social strata belonging to lower castes, minority religion or economically backward regions continue to face hardships.

Body:

- The women's movements during the independence struggle were initially mostly revolving around the **upper-class, educated and those from politically influential families**. For instance, Swarnakumari Devi, less heard of than her brother Rabindranath Tagore, started the Ladies Theosophical Society (a multi-religion association of women) way back in 1882 and later became a member of the Indian National Congress.
- These movements were concerned with the **politics of social change** and was noticed mostly in the **Urban India**. They were also considered **western**, influence of Imperialism and unsuitable in the Indian context.
- Consequently, post Independence, the socio-economic status of majority of women in India was very poor. It is seen even today.



The nature of issues faced today by the women of lower strata

- **Economic realm:**
 - **Very poor Labour force participation rate** of women to the tunes of 24%.
 - The **Global Gender Gap report** reveals that the wage gap remains prominent for semi-skilled and unskilled workers.
 - Feminization of poverty is very high. Economic dependence on spouse make them more vulnerable.
 - Women ownership of resources is abysmal. Hardly 5-8% of lands are registered in women's name.
 - Unable to breach the glass ceiling to reach the top echelons of the corporate.
- **Political realm:**
 - 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act made 33% reservation mandatory for women in Panchayats and ULBs. However, this is misused under **Tokenism** and men make the decisions.
 - Educated middle class and upper class women occupy offices in governments, panchayats and other bodies.
- **Social realm:**
 - The worst forms of Patriarchy is more prominent in the lower social strata. Haryana with primarily agricultural economy had the poorest child sex ratio.
 - Early marriages, child marriage, female infanticide and foeticide, dowry deaths, no widow remarriages and menstruation taboos are some of issues still prominent among the lower strata women.
 - They are **denied healthcare, education, nutrition** which are basic to human dignity.

Post independence, the women movements like **anti-liquor movements, SHG-revolution, strong legislations like Domestic Violence Act, PCPNDT act etc., governmental schemes like BBBP**, etc. and recent MeToo movement has impacted the women in the lower strata in a positive way. Women empowerment can happen when everyone works towards it – the government, society, families, and individuals. The government programs targeted towards women empowerment have started to bear fruits. However, there is still a lot of scope to improve the status of lower-strata women in India.

Conclusion:

The women's movements have grown in size and scope of its activities. With the spread of ICT and autonomous women's organisations, other women's groups, women's studies centres, etc., has played no small role in the bringing about of this change. Thus, over the last 40 years, the women's movement has affected the socio-political environment in India.

Topic– Salient features of world's physical geography.

Q) Explain the reason and impact of shifting magnetic poles ? (250 words)

[Indianexpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the reasons as to why the earth's magnetic poles are shifting. It also wants us to write in detail about the implications of such a phenomenon for the world.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Explain that the Earth's magnetic behaviour is far more complex than that of a simple bar magnet. Its north poles and south poles move around sometimes erratically. Over large periods of time, they change their locations significantly, sometimes even interchanging their positions

Body

Explain that the shifting of poles is a periodical affair with no fixed time period, however research and shown that the pace of shift has accelerated in recent years – Scientists have now realised the pace of this movement has suddenly increased, quite significantly, from about 14-15 km per year till the 1990s to about 55 km per year in the last few years. This led to scientists on Monday updating the World Magnetic Model (WMM) that tracks this movement. It was a year ahead of schedule

Discuss why this is happening – The movement of liquid iron and other metals in the outer core of the Earth is known to influence the magnetic field, but this movement is chaotic and turbulent.



Scientists do not fully understand how the movement happens or why. The study of the phenomena happening inside the earth can only be done indirectly or through computer modelling, because of the extremely hot temperatures prevailing there. Scientists hope that this acceleration in the shifting of magnetic north pole would throw some new insights into the phenomena happening deep inside the Earth's surface.

Discuss its consequences – impact on transportation sector, some birds that use magnetic fields to navigate, An overall weakening of the magnetic field isn't good for people and especially satellites and astronauts. The magnetic field shields Earth from dangerous UV radiation etc.

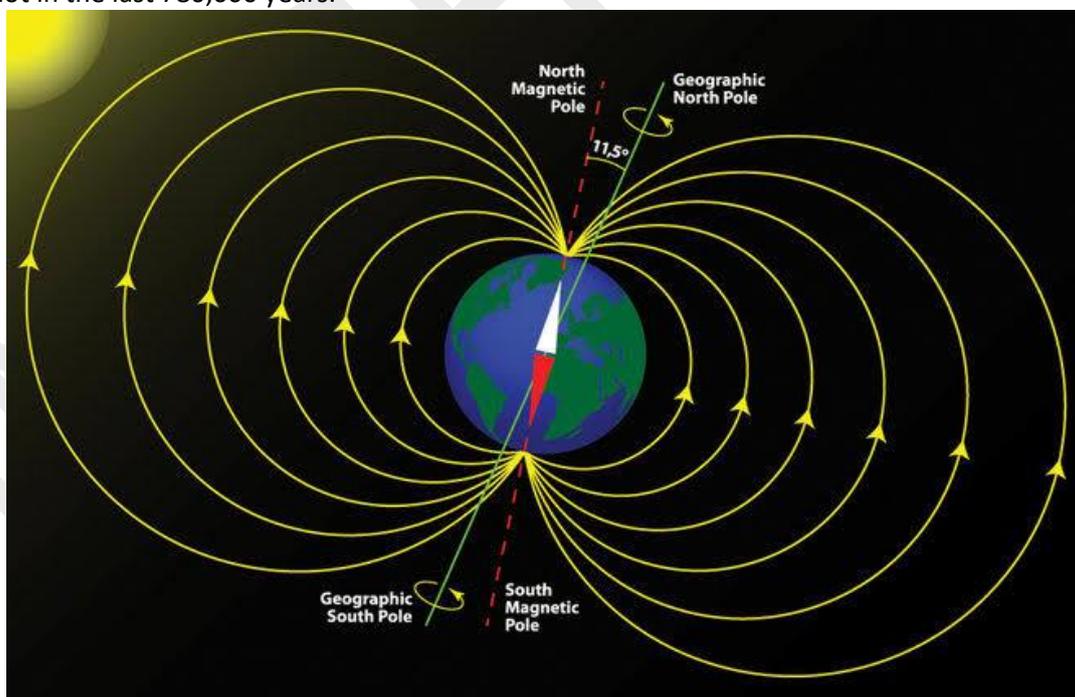
Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Background:-

- Earth's north magnetic pole has been drifting so fast in the last few decades that scientists say that past estimates are no longer accurate enough for precise navigation. The magnetic north pole is wandering about 55 kilometers a year.
- Since 1831 when it was first measured in the Canadian Arctic it has moved about 2300 kilometers toward Siberia.
- The magnetic south pole is moving far slower than the north

Reasons why Earth's magnetic pole is shifting:-

- This shift is caused by convection a slow rotation of fluid rock and molten metal in the earth's outer core .
- They happen when **patches of iron atoms in Earth's liquid outer core become reverse-aligned**, like tiny magnets oriented in the opposite direction from those around them. . There is a hot liquid ocean of iron and nickel in the planet's core where the motion generates an electric field.
- When the reversed patches grow to the point that they dominate the rest of the core, Earth's overall magnetic field flips.
- The last reversal happened 780,000 years ago during the Stone Age, and indeed there's evidence to suggest the planet may be in the early stages of a pole reversal right now.
- Earth's magnetic field is getting weaker, leading scientists to say that it will eventually flip, where north and south pole changes polarity, like a bar magnet flipping over. It has happened numerous times in Earth's past, but not in the last 780,000 years.



Implications:-

- constant shift is a problem for **compasses in smartphones and some consumer electronics**.
- Airplanes and boats also rely on magnetic north, usually as backup navigation.
- The military depends on where magnetic north is for navigation and parachute drops, while NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Forest Service also use it.
- Airport runway names are based on their direction toward magnetic north and their names change when the poles moved.



- **Birds and animals:-**
 - Shifting would bother some birds that use magnetic fields to navigate.
- overall weakening of the magnetic field isn't good for people and **especially satellites and astronauts.**
- The magnetic field **shields Earth from some dangerous radiation.**
 - The alteration in the magnetic field during a reversal will weaken its shielding effect, allowing heightened levels of radiation on and above the Earth's surface.
- Other adverse impacts are decreasing accuracy and frequent update of instruments, increased cost and inconvenience.

TOPIC: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc

Q) What do you understand by an earthquake swarm. Discuss the reasons behind the earthquake swarms being witnessed across India. (250 words)

Reference

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the meaning and give a brief description of the term earthquake swarm. It also wants us to discuss in detail about the reasons behind the Earthquake Swarms being witnessed across many parts of India.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the term earthquake swarm. E.g 'earthquake swarm' which is a series of low magnitude earthquakes that occur in a localised region and over a period of time ranging from days, weeks to even months. Body-

Describe the term in detail. E.g

- *"When seismic energy piles up inside the Earth and is released in small amounts from certain points, such a series of earthquakes can occur,"*
- *Sometimes, these rumblings of the Earth are also accompanied by acoustic or sound emissions.*
- *The situation cannot be taken lightly as many earthquakes have been preceded by earthquake swarm activity.*
- *They come as foreshocks to the main earthquake which could be much greater in magnitude etc.*

Discuss the reasons behind earthquake swarms being witnessed across India. E.g

- *Latur and Koyna earthquakes of 1993 and 1967, respectively.*
- *Deccan plateau*
- *an earthquake swarm near Bamhori village of Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh between February and May, 2000. The swarm consisted of as many as 350 tremors.*
- *Rampur area of Himachal Pradesh. This Himalayan swarm was later attributed to low strength of the earth's crust in the area which could not hold the tectonic energy etc.*

Conclusion- based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Earthquake swarm:-

- Earthquake swarms are **generally defined as a sequence of events closely clustered in time and space without a single outstanding shock.**



- There are a series of low magnitude earthquakes that occur in a localised region and over a period of time ranging from days, weeks to even months. When seismic energy piles up inside the Earth and is released in small amounts from certain points, such a series of earthquakes can occur.
- They are differentiated from earthquakes succeeded by a series of aftershocks.
- When seismic energy piles up inside the Earth and is released in small amounts from certain points, such a series of earthquakes can occur.
- Sometimes, these rumblings of the Earth are also accompanied by acoustic or sound emissions.
- The situation cannot be taken lightly as many earthquakes have been preceded by earthquake swarm activity.

Reasons why earthquake swarms take place :-

- Swarms are **observed in volcanic environments, hydrothermal systems, and other active geothermal areas, according to geophysicists.**
- In India, sequences of low-intensity quakes are common in areas that have been hit previously, like Saurashtra in Gujarat and Koyna in Maharashtra, but they are also seen in areas without a history of seismic activity.
- They are the result of seismic activity, hydro-seismicity due to water percolation post-monsoon, or magmatic activity in the region.
- In the Rampur area of Himachal Pradesh the earthquake swarm was later attributed to low strength of the earth's crust in the area which could not hold the tectonic energy etc.

TOPIC: Changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Q) What is a polar vortex ? Examine whether the extreme chill seen in USA is related to climate change ? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

The extreme chill seen in USA has been in the news. Also the tweets of a famous president has questioned the link between such extreme chill and global warming. We need to be aware of the reasons and how global warming is cooling the planet.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to explain what polar vortex is and thereafter bring out its impact on weather and how is it related to climate change.

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 extreme cold weather in USA and explain that they have been caused due to polar vortex.*

Body

Explain that polar vortex is found around the north pole. It's a band of strong winds, high up in the atmosphere that keeps bitterly cold air locked around the Arctic region. This circulation isn't considered a single storm, or even a weather pattern as such.

Explain that Occasionally, the vortex can become distorted and meander far further south than normal. The phenomenon became widely known to Americans during a particularly frigid spell in 2014, when the media first started using the term "polar vortex". It was also a factor in the "bomb cyclone" that battered the US east coast last year. This time, the polar vortex has broken in two, bringing the coldest conditions in decades to the midwest US. On Wednesday, Chicago was 10 degrees F colder than Antarctica.

Discuss how is it related to climate change – Scientists also point to a complex sequence of events involving sea ice, which is rapidly diminishing in the Arctic. As the ice retreats, summertime heat is



absorbed by the dark ocean that lies underneath. This heat is released into the atmosphere during winter, spurring winds that can disrupt the polar vortex.

Conclusion – Give your view and discuss way forward

Background:-

- The polar vortex, a swirl of low-pressure air six miles up in the atmosphere, blasted much of the American Midwest and Northeast in late January 2019 with temperatures cold enough to bring on frostbite within minutes.

Polar vortex :-

- The polar vortex is a great gyre of air that forms each winter and circulates above the North Pole, way up in the stratosphere.
- The polar vortex forms every winter because of the temperature difference between the equator and the poles.
- In the polar stratosphere, sunlight basically gets cut off during the late fall and early winter and that makes it really cold, while the equator remains quite warm.
- A jet forms to balance this temperature difference. This jet is what is called the polar vortex or the polar night jet. It flows in a complete circle around the pole, 10 kilometers or a little over six miles above the Earth's surface.
- **Impact :-**
 - The polar vortex hitting the U.S. led severely cold temperatures that cancelled flights, closed schools and left dangerous conditions around the country .

Polar vortex is due to climate change :-

- The term “polar vortex” has been around since the late 1940s. It forms every winter and breaks up in the spring. **But for the last 20 years or so, the polar vortex has been very, very disturbed in the middle of winter.**
- **Increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere cools the polar stratosphere, which could increase the temperature difference between the pole and the equator and strengthen the polar vortex.**
- There's also some model evidence that the waves that are propagating upwards in the troposphere are getting more energetic as the planet warms, leading to a more perturbed polar stratosphere.
- **There's some evidence that the jet stream, a meandering air current that flows over North America and Europe, is slowing and becoming wavier as the planet warms.** The jet stream interacts with the polar vortex, helping bring numbing temperatures further south.
- **Scientists also point to a complex sequence of events involving sea ice, which is rapidly diminishing in the Arctic.**
 - As the ice retreats, summertime heat is absorbed by the dark ocean that lies underneath. This heat is released into the atmosphere during winter, spurring winds that can disrupt the polar vortex.
- Scientists have observed that more and more Arctic sea ice is melting during the summer months. As the ice melts, the Arctic Ocean warms, and radiates that excess heat back to the atmosphere in winter. Because that heat somewhat reduces the contrast between the Arctic air and the atmosphere in regions farther south, it reduces the intensity of the winds that form the barrier between the two areas. That, in turn, weakens and disrupts the polar vortex.





Q) Why are the earth's magnetic poles shifting. Discuss. Also discuss its implications. (250 words)

The hindu

Directive word

Discuss- this is an all-encompassing directive which mandates us to write in detail about the key demand of the question. we also have to discuss about the related and important aspects of the question in order to bring out a complete picture of the issue in hand.

Key demand of the question.

The question wants us to write in detail about the reasons as to why the earth's magnetic poles are shifting. It also wants us to write in detail about the implications of such a phenomenon for the world.

Structure of the answer

Introduction– write a few introductory lines about the shift in earth's magnetic poles. E.g Earth's north magnetic pole has been drifting so fast in the last few decades that scientists say that past estimates are no longer accurate enough for precise navigation.

Body-

Discuss the reasons as to why the magnetic poles are shifting. E.g

- *Since 1831 when magnetic North Pole was first measured in the Canadian Arctic it has moved about 2300 kilometers toward Siberia. Its speed jumped from about 15 km/h to 55 km/h since 2000.*
- *The reason is turbulence in Earth's liquid outer core. There is a hot liquid ocean of iron and nickel in the planet's core where the motion generates an electric field.*
- *The magnetic south pole is moving far slower than the north*
- *In general Earth's magnetic field is getting weaker, leading scientists to say that it will eventually flip, where north and south pole changes polarity, like a bar magnet flipping over. It has happened numerous times in Earth's past, but not in the last 780,000 years.*

Discuss its possible implications for humans, animals and the world in general. E.g

- *some birds that use magnetic fields to navigate.*
- *An overall weakening of the magnetic field isn't good for people and especially satellites and astronauts.*
- *The magnetic field shields Earth from dangerous UV radiation etc.*

Conclusion– based on your discussion, form a fair and a balanced conclusion on the given issue.

Background:-

- Earth's north magnetic pole has been drifting so fast in the last few decades that scientists say that past estimates are no longer accurate enough for precise navigation. The magnetic north pole is wandering about 55 kilometers a year.
- Since 1831 when it was first measured in the Canadian Arctic it has moved about 2300 kilometers toward Siberia.
- The magnetic south pole is moving far slower than the north

Reasons why Earth's magnetic pole is shifting:-

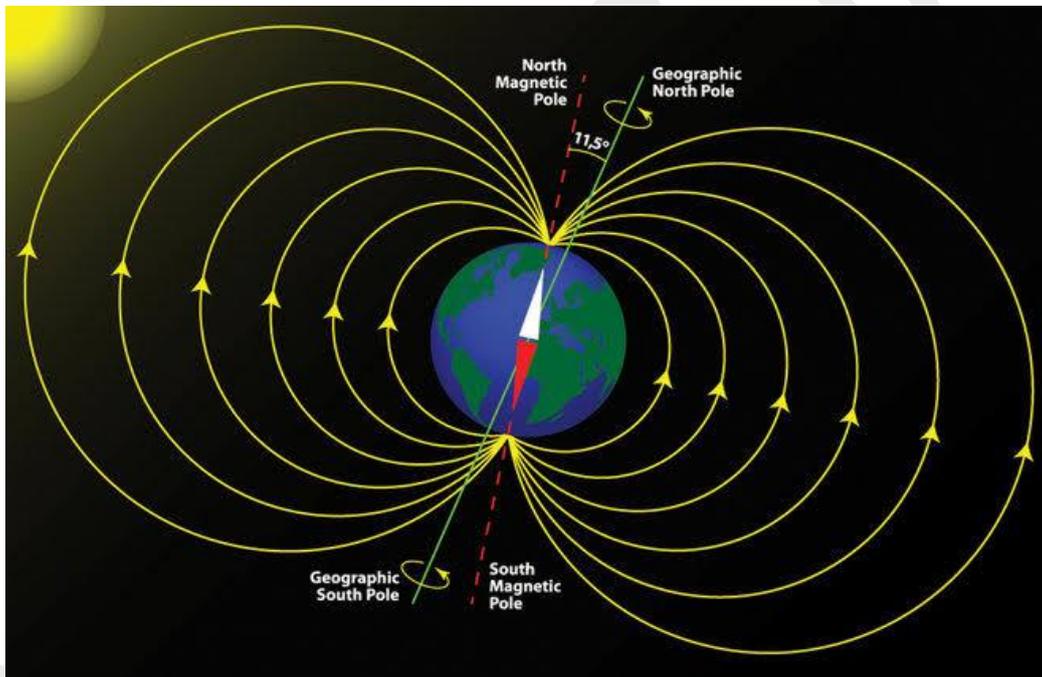
- This shift is caused by convection a slow rotation of fluid rock and molten metal in the earth's outer core .
- They happen when **patches of iron atoms in Earth's liquid outer core become reverse-aligned**, like tiny magnets oriented in the opposite direction from those around them. . There is a hot liquid ocean of iron and nickel in the planet's core where the motion generates an electric field.
- When the reversed patches grow to the point that they dominate the rest of the core, Earth's overall magnetic field flips.



- The last reversal happened 780,000 years ago during the Stone Age, and indeed there's evidence to suggest the planet may be in the early stages of a pole reversal right now.
- Earth's magnetic field is getting weaker, leading scientists to say that it will eventually flip, where north and south pole changes polarity, like a bar magnet flipping over. It has happened numerous times in Earth's past, but not in the last 780,000 years.

Implications:-

- constant shift is a problem for **compasses in smartphones and some consumer electronics**.
- Airplanes and boats also rely on magnetic north, usually as backup navigation.
- The military depends on where magnetic north is for navigation and parachute drops, while NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Forest Service also use it.
- Airport runway names are based on their direction toward magnetic north and their names change when the poles moved.
- **Birds and animals:-**
 - Shifting would bother some birds that use magnetic fields to navigate.
- overall weakening of the magnetic field isn't good for people and **especially satellites and astronauts**.
- The magnetic field **shields Earth from some dangerous radiation**.
 - The alteration in the magnetic field during a reversal will weaken its shielding effect, allowing heightened levels of radiation on and above the Earth's surface.
- Other adverse impacts are decreasing accuracy and frequent update of instruments, increased cost and inconvenience.



Q) Examine the impact of climate change on Himalayan rivers ? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

A recent report highlighting the threat to Himalayan glaciers and consequently to the Himalayan rivers needs to be discussed in greater detail. Hence this question.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to bring out the details of the report which highlights the impact of climate change on Himalayan rivers and examine the consequences. Finally, we need to discuss the 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 – explain that Himalayan glaciers feed Himalayan rivers which are under threat.

Body

Discuss the details of the report

- According to the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Report, more than a third of the Himalayan glaciers could melt away by 2100, even if carbon emissions are dramatically cut and global warming limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The situation would be even more perilous if governments fail to limit greenhouse gases as promised

Explain the impact of it – HKH glaciers that the major rivers of South Asia and China have their origin. These sustain over 240 million people living in the HKH region's mountains and hills and some 1.5 billion people living in river basins fed by waters from the HKH's glaciers. Melting glaciers of the HKH region would therefore impact the lives and livelihoods of almost a fifth of the world's population. Changes in river flows could not only cause more erosion and landslides in the mountains but also destroy dams and impact hydropower production. Etc

discuss how to deal with this crisis

Conclusion – Emphasize on the seriousness of the threat and discuss way forward.

Background:-

- According to the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Report, more than a third of the Himalayan glaciers could melt away by 2100, even if carbon emissions are dramatically cut and global warming limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Impact of climate change on Himalayan rivers:-

- The Hindukush Himalayan **region's snow is the source of 10 major river systems** including the Ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra and Mekong in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China and Myanmar.
 - Large-scale warming could drastically alter the river flows in these countries.
 - The receding glaciers could cause a deluge in the rivers during the monsoon while the flows are likely to plummet during the dry seasons, with serious implications for irrigation, hydropower and ecosystem services.
- **Livelihood affected:-**
 - Melting glaciers of the HKH region would therefore impact the lives and livelihoods of almost a fifth of the world's population.
- Changes in river flows could not only **cause more erosion and landslides** in the mountains but also destroy dams and impact hydropower production.
- A global temperature increase of 1.5°C could mean at least a 1.8°C temperature rise in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, the ICIMOD study warns.
 - Rise in global temperatures could destabilise the hydrology of large parts of South Asia, China and Myanmar. This will have a major bearing on the ice-fields, which are the largest repository of permafrost outside the polar regions.
- **Impact of climate change:-**
 - The number of intense precipitation days and intensity of extreme precipitation have increased overall in the last five decades. If these trends persist, the frequency and magnitude of water-induced hazards in the (Hindu Kush Himalaya) region will increase.
 - Given the speed at which these glaciers are melting and retreating due to changes in climatic conditions, there will be frequent and unpredictable devastating glacial lake outbursts and floods, causing severe damages to lives, livestock and livelihood.
- **Impact on monsoons:-**
 - Developments in the Himalayas are known to have a spin-off on the monsoon in the Subcontinent.
 - Water sources of countries in the Himalayan region vitally depend on the monsoon rains and streams emanating from the Himalayas. It is pretty clear now that climate change and global warming have heavily affected rainfall patterns, the concentration of snow and ice and eventually the flow of streams in the Himalayas.



What needs to be done:-

- Cross-border dialogues and cooperation are necessary to put in place an effective cooperative mechanism to find and promote amicable solutions to the river water sharing problems.
- **Integrated water resources management** could prove to be a great tool to augment water resources, improve quality of water and bring countries in the Himalayan region together to manage transboundary basins collectively.
- **International experiences :-**
 - Experiences from the Arctic Council – an intergovernmental panel in the Arctic region and the Alpine convention an international treaty for sustainable development of the Alps need to be shared to provide learnings for the HKH cooperation efforts.

Q) Explain the difference between smog and haze ? Examine the impact of haze on warming in South Asia ? (250 words)

Reference

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to explain what smog and haze is and explain the difference between them. Thereafter, it expects us to how haze impacts warming in South Asia.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Explain that precipitation comes in several form including smog and haze.

Body

Explain what smog and haze is

- Haze is traditionally an atmospheric phenomenon where dust, smoke and other dry particles obscure the clarity of the sky (No condensation). Sources for haze particles include farming (ploughing in dry weather), traffic, industry, and wildfires.
- Smog = smoke + fog (smoky fog) caused by the burning of large amounts of coal, vehicular emission and industrial fumes (Primary pollutants).
- Unlike fog and mist, haze is a suspension of very small, dry molecules in the air. Smog is a type of air pollution. It is a mixture of smoke, gases, and chemicals that makes the atmosphere appear thick and dark or yellow in colour.
- Smog is similar to haze but there is condensation in smog

Discuss the impact of haze on warming in South Asia.

- composition of a class of carbon-carrying aerosols in the haze changes as it travels from above the landmass to the oceans. The light absorption capacity of brown carbon — a key component of the haze — decreases during transport but its bleaching half-life is 3.6 days compared to 9 to 15 hours in other regions. This means that brown carbon stays in the South Asian atmosphere for a longer duration and thereby may contribute to warming of the region, according to researchers.

Conclusion – Discuss what needs to be done.

Difference between smog and haze :-

- Haze is the reflection of sunlight off air pollution, while smog is what happens when pollution causes low-lying ozone.
- Haze is very fine solid particles (smoke, dust) or liquid droplets (moisture) suspended in the air, slightly limiting visibility while smog is a noxious mixture of particulates and gases that is the result of urban air pollution.
- Most of the time, haze occurs in areas far from the original source of the pollutants, which are carried by wind currents to where they ultimately gather. Haze forms when light reflects off airborne pollution particles and interferes with visibility .
- Haze is traditionally an atmospheric phenomenon where dust, smoke and other dry particles obscure the clarity of the sky (No condensation). Sources for haze particles include farming (ploughing in dry weather), traffic, industry, and wildfires.



- Smog = smoke + fog (smoky fog) caused by the burning of large amounts of coal, vehicular emission and industrial fumes (Primary pollutants).
- Unlike fog and mist, haze is a suspension of very small, dry molecules in the air. Smog is a type of air pollution. It is a mixture of smoke, gases, and chemicals that makes the atmosphere appear thick and dark or yellow in colour.
- Smog is similar to haze but there is condensation in smog

Impact of haze on warming in South Asia :-

- The haze over Delhi and Northwest India seen during winters is not only causing problems to people on the ground but also **impacting atmospheric climate**.
- **Brown carbon, a key component of haze stays in the South Asian atmosphere for a longer duration** and thereby may contribute to warming of the region, according to researchers.
- haze, also called atmospheric brown cloud (ABC), contains several types of particles emanating from vehicular pollution, biomass burning and other sources. **This layer of polluted air plays critical role in regional climate as it both absorbs and scatters incoming solar radiation.**
- Even earlier studies point to the fact that **Brown clouds of pollution that stretch over the Indian Ocean during the dry season are warming the climate just as much as greenhouse gases.**
- According to a study, published in the journal Nature, these 'atmospheric brown clouds' could be directly responsible for the **melting of glaciers in the Asian Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountain ranges**, and may lead to water shortages in southern and eastern Asia. The soot particles that make up these pollution blankets can both absorb and disperse light, and therefore both warm and cool the climate.
- brown clouds have most likely contributed to the increase in air temperature in the region, which in turn is in part responsible for the observed melting and receding of glaciers. **This could have an effect on the amount of water that flows down many major Asian rivers**, such as the Yangtze, the Indus and the Ganges, reducing the amount of water available to the people who live along them.

Topic– Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)

Q) Discuss the issues with sugarcane farming in India and suggest way forward ? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question

India is the 2nd largest producer of sugarcane in the world and despite that the woes of the sugarcane farmers in India are often in the news. This article gives an in-depth analysis of the issues faced by sugarcane farmers and also discusses the way forward.

Key demand of the question

The question expects us to discuss in detail the issues faced by sugarcane producers in the country and discuss solutions to their problem.

Directive word

Discuss – Here the discussion expects you to delve into the problems faced by sugarcane producers of the country and discuss ways to alleviate those problems.

Structure of the answer

Introduction – Highlight that India is the second largest sugarcane producing country in the world and despite that fact the woes of the sugarcane farmers are neverending.

Body

Discuss the issues faced by sugarcane farmers in the country

- *Non payment of arrears due to supply demand gap of sugarcane and ineffective policies of the government*
- *Resource intensive nature of sugarcane and the problems that it leads to*



- *Mill owners barely make profits, thanks to additional GST and transportation costs, among other woes etc*

Discuss solutions tried by the government for upending the problems such as sugar subsidies, exporting excess production of sugar, production of ethanol from sugarcane to use in cars and buying excess sugar and hoarding it as buffer stock. Highlight that introduction of HYVs has further added to supply demand mismatch. Highlight that Brazil has successfully implemented ethanol production policies to effectively reduce oil import. But implementing the same in India poses a grave threat to groundwater levels, the depletion of which is already a grim ecological catastrophe to be fix.

Discuss some potential solutions

- *The Tuteja, Thorat, Nanda Kumar and Rangarajan committees have all contributed to sugarcane price policy in the country*
- *striking a balance between ethanol blending policies and shifting farmers away from sugarcane etc*

Conclusion – *give your view and discuss way forward.*

Introduction:

- India is the **second largest producer of sugar** (17.1%) in the world after Brazil.
- Within India, **Uttar Pradesh (36.1%), Maharashtra (34.3%) and Karnataka (11.7%)** are the three largest producers.
- Sugar production in India has increased from 24.8 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 32.25 million tonnes in 2017-18 and is expected to touch 35.5 million tonnes in 2018-19. But the domestic demand remains stagnant at around 25 million tonnes.
- More than 50 million farmers engaging in sugarcane cultivation in over four million hectares of land (with over five lakh employees in sugar mills).
- Increasing mismatch has further depressed sugar prices, resulting in increasing sugar arrears.

Body:

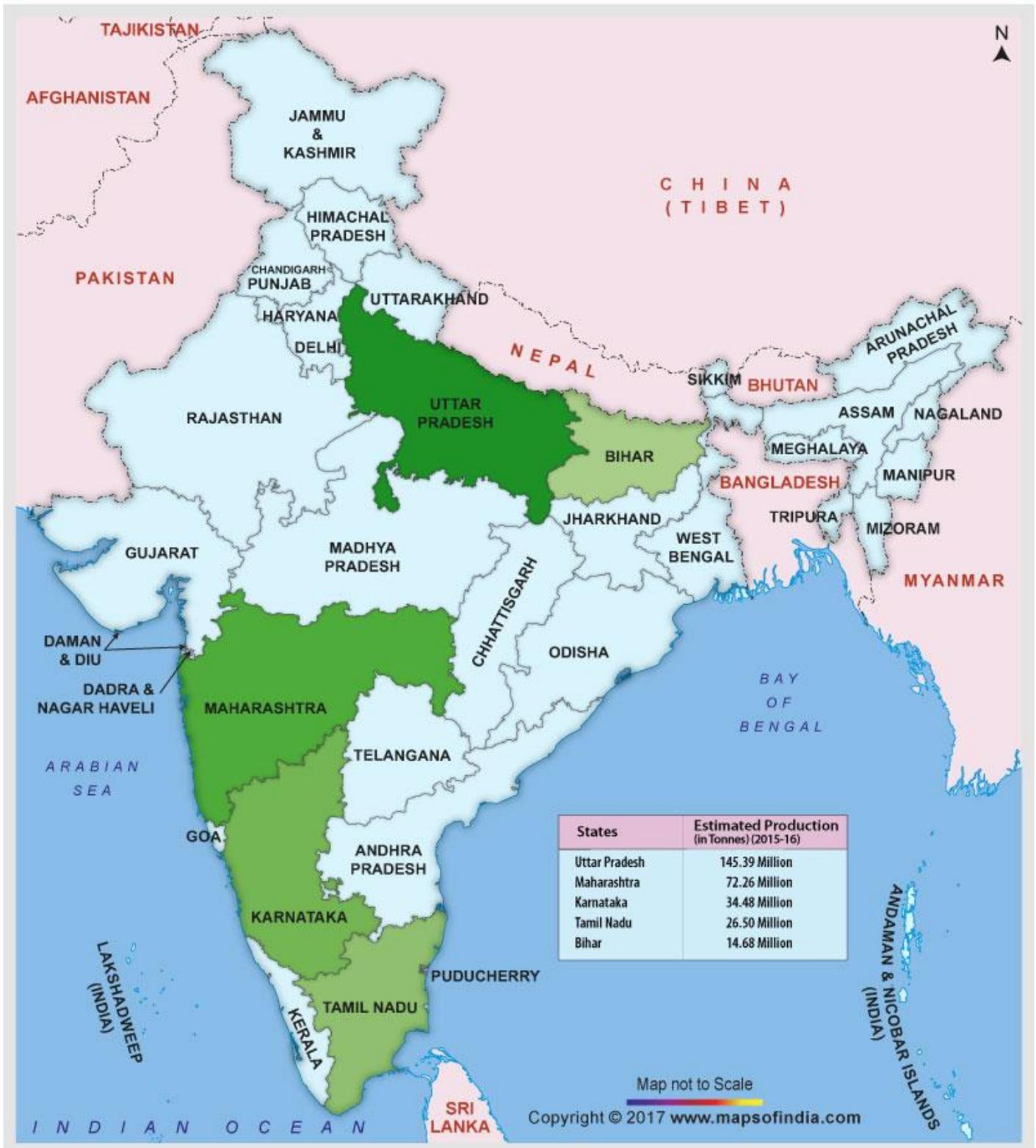
A high yield sugarcane variety, India witnessed bumper harvests in the last 3 seasons, but sugar prices have fallen and sugarcane farmers have been incurring heavy losses. The issues faced by sugarcane farmers in the country are

- **Multiple Prices:**
 - Fixation of **Fair Remunerative Price** is another bone of contention between the Centre and sugar mills. The **Centre decides FRP annually** and the **states** can hike it by issuing a **state advisory price** or SAP. **But mills want the price of sugarcane to be linked to the price of sugar.**
 - The higher FRP and SAP poses a grave threat to groundwater levels, the depletion of which is already a grim ecological catastrophe in India.
- **Glut in Production:**
 - New seed variety, **CO-0238**, the country has witnessed bumper harvests in the last three seasons, particularly in 2017-18.
 - But sugar prices have fallen because of the demand-supply mismatch and sugarcane farmers have been incurring heavy losses.
 - 36 MMT of sugar, against consumption of 26 MMT, is being produced since 2018, which involves high risks like high storage costs and spoilage.
- **Unpaid dues to farmers:**
 - The sugar production by mills also went up across the country, due to which the sugar prices plummeted so much that the sugar mills in India cumulatively owe Rs 22,000 crore to farmers for cane supplied in 2017-18.
- **Mismanaged policy:**
 - In December 2009, the government announced its National Policy on Biofuels, which called for blending petrol with 5 per cent ethanol.
 - In 2015, the target was raised to 10 per cent. But this was never achieved. Brazil, the world's biggest sugarcane producer, depends on ethanol, and not sugar, as main revenue source from sugarcane and blends 27 per cent ethanol with petrol.



- There are several impediments to the solutions proposed by the government which include sugar subsidies, exporting excess production of sugar, production of ethanol from sugarcane to use in cars and buying excess sugar and hoarding it as buffer stock

WHICH STATE IS BIGGEST SUGARCANE PRODUCER?



Delay in payment of late fees:

- After the crushing season is over, the mill is supposed to transfer the money to farmers’ bank accounts within 14 days, failing which it should pay 15 per cent interest annually on the amount, says the Union government’s Sugarcane Control Order of 1966. But mills rarely pay on time.



- **Infrastructure issues:**
 - Sugarcane is a **weight-losing crop** which needs to be crushed at the earliest from time of harvest.
 - The **poor connectivity, lack of transportation facilities and distant sugar-mills** cause huge losses to farmers due to decline in quality of sugarcane.
- **Miscalculations:**
 - In October 2016, Uttar Pradesh announced the average sugarcane yield estimates for every district for 2017-18. These estimates are the basis on which the mills buy sugarcane. Farmers say that these estimates have turned out to be much less than the actual yield.

Way forward:

- **Rangarajan committee (2012)** proposed **decontrol of sugar industry and linking sugarcane prices with market price of sugar to account for this structural imbalance.**
- Based on the report, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommended a hybrid approach of fixing sugarcane prices, which involved fair and remunerative price (FRP) or floor price and revenue sharing formula (RSF). Under this approach farmers' revenue from sugarcane would be higher if the price of sugar and by-products is high.
- This is similar to many other committees formed by the government to recommend the sugar industry decontrol. Committees under **Mahajan (1998), Tuteja (2004), Thorat (2009) and Nandakumar (2010) had similar recommendations.**
- Ease the market control of government on export and import. The move is to help India (17% of world production) to enable its exports (only 4% of world export), but leaving it all to the market is risky.
- Do away with minimum distance between mills to enable competition.
- The new **national policy on biofuels 2018**, expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice.
- Policy modifications to increase the ethanol blending vis-à-vis the foreign countries like Australia which has 85% blending. Better prices for ethanol can also help in export of the same.
- **To diversify crops and ensure that sugarcane production falls.** This requires long-term investment, and the government will have to encourage farmers to cultivate crops like pulses and oilseeds.
- **Better irrigation techniques** to reduce the water usage.
- **Reducing the information asymmetry** to improve farmer's knowledge about the possible output in a year using BigData technique.

Case-study: In 2012, the sugarcane-water stories of farmers in Barwani, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajgoli, Maharashtra, were replete with sour details when International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group intervened along with Olam International and Solidaridad. The collaboration, called '**Madhu Shree**', recognised water as a key risk-factor, because in 2015, it was rated as the highest global risk by the World Economic Forum, considering its contribution to three of the top five global risks.