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GS- I

MARCH 2020



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

Discuss in detail the various policies and programmes aimed to preserve and promote languages, folk dance, Art and culture of tribals in the country.(250 words)

Reference: PIB.GOV

Why this question:

Union Minister of Culture has informed Lok Sabha about the various schemes implemented by the Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) to preserve and promote languages, folk dance, Art and culture of tribals. Thus the context of the question.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the significance of preserving and promoting languages, folk dance, Art and culture of tribals in the country along with detailed elaboration of schemes and policies in this direction.

Directive:

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:

Briefly explain why we should preserve and promote our language and culture in general.

Body:

The question is pretty much straight forward and one must discuss the relevance of preserving and promoting the language, culture and art of the tribals. List out various schemes and policies in this direction – Guru Shishya Parampara, shilpgram, octave, National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP) etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of such schemes and policies.

Introduction:

India has traditionally been the home of different cultures and people. Unity in diversity is one of the most prominent features in the people of India. Among the diversified population a significant portion is comprised of the tribal people, the original inhabitants of the land. The tribal culture of India and their traditions and practices pervade almost all of the aspects of Indian culture and civilization.

Body:

To preserve & promote various forms of folk art and culture of the tribals throughout the country, the Government of India has set up **seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs)** with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes all over the country on regular basis. These ZCCs under Ministry of Culture are also implementing a number of schemes for promoting the folk/tribal art and culture, details of which are as below

- **Award to Young Talented Artists:** The Scheme “Young Talented Artists” is carried out to encourage and recognize the young talents especially in the field of rare art forms. Talented youngsters of the age group of 18-30 years are selected and given a onetime cash award of Rs. 10,000/-.



- **Guru Shishya Parampara:** This scheme envisages transmitting our valued traditions to the coming generations. Disciples are trained under veterans in art forms which are rare and vanishing. Rare and vanishing art forms of the region are identified and eminent exponents are selected to carry out the training programmes in 'Gurukula' tradition. The monthly remuneration for Guru – Rs. 7,500/-, Accompanist – Rs. 3,750/- and Pupils – Rs. 1,500/- each for the period of six month to maximum 1 year for one scheme. The names of the Gurus are recommended by the State Cultural Affairs Departments.
- **Theatre Rejuvenation:** To promote theatre activities including stage shows and Production oriented workshops, etc. Honorarium Up to Rs. 30,000/- per show excluding TA & DA is paid. The groups finalized on the basis their credentials as well as the merit of project submitted by them.
- **Research & Documentation:** To preserve promote and propagate vanishing visual and performing art forms including folk, tribal and classical in the field of music, dance, theatre, literature, fine arts etc. in print/ audio – visual media. The art form is finalized in consultation with state Cultural Department.
- **Shilpgram:** To promote folk and tribal art and crafts of the zone by organizing seminar, workshops, exhibitions, craft fairs, design development and marketing support to the artisans living in the rural areas.
- **Octave:** To promote and propagate the rich cultural heritage of North East region comprising of eight States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura to the rest of India.
- **National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP):** It can be termed as the lifeline of the Zonal Cultural Centers. Under this scheme, various festivals of performing arts, exhibitions, yatras etc are organized in member States. Artists from other zones/states are invited to participate in these programmes. Participation of artists from the Zone in festivals held in other parts of the country are also facilitated. Zonal centres also participate in Major festivals happening in member States by arranging performances during these festivals where large number of audience get chance to enjoy and understand art forms of other regions. These festivals provide opportunity to taste and understand various cultures of our country.

Conclusion:

Tribal culture in India should be appreciated to understand the uniqueness of their culture. Warm hospitality, simple ways of living and sincere judgment of the opinions are some of the traits that mark the tribal cultures of India. Their custom depicts their belief in simplicity. Most of the tribes in India have their own gods and goddesses that reflects the dependence of Tribal people on nature. Except for the few most of the tribes in India is sociable, hospitable, and fun loving along with strong community bonds. Some of the tribes shares patriarchal cultural ties and some of the tribal societies are women oriented. They have their own festivals and celebrations. The tribal people are clinging to their identity despite of the external influences that threatened the tribal culture especially after their post-independence turbulent period.

Examine the significance of prehistoric paintings found in India. Also, trace the changes that occurred in the painting styles during this period.(250 words)

Reference: Indian art and culture by Nitin Singhania

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the significance of prehistoric paintings found in India and the changes that occurred in the painting styles during this period.

**Directive:**

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

Briefly explain what constitute prehistoric paintings.

Body:

Discuss the following key aspects in the answer body viz. –

Enumerate some key characteristics of pre historic paintings.

Discuss significance: what these paintings tell about prehistoric life, help understand the social life of mankind.

Changes in painting: styles, themes techniques evolution.

Conclusion:

Conclude by highlighting how it influenced future art themes in the country.

Introduction

The distant past when there was no paper or language or the written word, and hence no books or written documents, is called prehistory, or, as we often say, prehistoric times.

In India Bhimbetka caves surrounded by the northern boundaries of Vindhya mountain ranges near Bhopal have more than 600 caves that have the oldest prehistoric paintings in India. These caves had been used as a shelter by people from the earliest periods. There are paintings of all periods starting from the Paleolithic era to the medieval era. The paintings turn out to be a mirror showing evolution of humanity through time.

Body**Significance of prehistoric paintings in India**

- The way people lived in those times is difficult to surmise. It was only until scholars began to discover the places where prehistoric people lived.
- Excavation at these places brought to light old tools, pottery, habitats, bones of ancient human beings and animals, and drawings on cave walls.
- By piecing together the information deduced from these objects and the cave drawings, scholars have constructed fairly accurate knowledge about what happened and how people lived in prehistoric times.
- These prehistoric paintings help us to understand about early human beings, their lifestyle, their food habits, their daily activities and, above all, they help us understand their mind—the way they thought.
- Prehistoric period remains are a great witness to the evolution of human civilization, through the numerous rock weapons, tools, ceramics and bones.

More than anything else, the rock paintings are the greatest wealth the primitive human beings of this period left behind.

Changes in painting styles**Upper Paleolithic**



Prehistoric paintings have been found in many parts of the world. There is no proof if Lower Paleolithic people ever produced any art objects. But by the Upper Paleolithic times we see a proliferation of artistic activities.

- Around the world, the walls of many caves of this time are full of finely carved and painted pictures of animals which the cave-dwellers hunted. The subjects of their drawings were **human figures, human activities, geometric designs and symbols**.
- In **India** the earliest paintings have been reported from the Upper Paleolithic times.
- The paintings of the Upper Palaeolithic phase are linear representations, in green and dark red, of huge animal figures, such as bisons, elephants, tigers, rhinos and boars besides stick-like human figures.
- The rock shelters on banks of the River Suyal at **Lakhudiyar**, about twenty kilometers on the **Almora– Barechina road**, bear these prehistoric paintings.
- The richest paintings are reported from the Vindhya ranges of Madhya Pradesh and their Kaimurean extensions into Uttar Pradesh. These hill ranges are full of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains, and they are also full of forests, wild plants, fruits, streams and creeks, thus a perfect place for Stone Age people to live.
- **Bhimbetka** : The themes of paintings found here are of great variety, ranging from mundane events of daily life in those times to sacred and royal images. These include hunting, dancing, music, horse and elephant riders, animal fighting, honey collection, decoration of bodies, and other household scenes.

There is a **superimposition** of paintings in Bhimbetka from all the three periods.

Mesolithic Painting

- The largest number of paintings belong to Period II that covers the Mesolithic paintings. During this period the themes multiply but the paintings are smaller in size.
- Hunting scenes predominate during this period. The hunting scenes depict people hunting in groups, armed with barbed spears, pointed sticks, arrows and bows. In some paintings these primitive men are shown with traps and snares probably to catch animals. The hunters are shown wearing simple clothes and ornaments.
- The hunting scenes depict people hunting in groups, armed with barbed spears, pointed sticks, arrows and bows.
 - In some paintings these primitive men are shown with traps and snares probably to catch animals. The hunters are shown wearing simple clothes and ornaments.
- **Sites: Langhnaj** in Gujarat, **Bhimbetka and Adamgarh** in Madhya Pradesh, **SanganaKallu** in Karnataka.

Chalcolithic Painting

- The paintings of this period reveal the association, contact, and mutual exchange of requirements of the cave dwellers of this area with settled agricultural communities of the Malwa plains.
- Many a time Chalcolithic ceramics and rock paintings bear common motifs, **e.g., cross-hatched squares, lattices**.
- The artists of Bhimbetka used many colours, including various shades of white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green and black.



- The paintings, though from the remote past, do not lack pictorial quality. Despite various limitations such as acute working conditions, inadequate tools, materials, etc., there is a charm of simple rendering of scenes of the environment in which the artists lived.
- The men shown in them appear adventurous and rejoicing in their lives. The animals are shown more youthful and majestic than perhaps they actually were. The primitive artists seem to possess an intrinsic passion for storytelling.
- In one of the scenes, a group of people have been shown hunting a bison. In the process, some injured men are depicted lying scattered on the ground. In another scene, an animal is shown in the agony of death and the men are depicted dancing.

It is interesting to note that at many rock-art sites often a new painting is painted on top of an older painting. At Bhimbetka, in some places, there are as many as 20 layers of paintings, one on top of another.

Conclusion

Prehistoric paintings are a lens through which Archeologists have been able to predict the evolution of human kind with more accuracy. Various tools, objects and paintings tell us the type of social background of the people. It helps in verifying the social Darwinism as well as the growth trajectory of our ancestors. It is very important to preserve these sites, that have immense information stored through means of paintings.

Discuss the European influence on the architecture of Modern India with suitable examples. (250 words)

Reference: Indian art and culture by Nitin Singhania

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and is from the static portions of GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the influence of Europeans on the art and architecture of Modern India.

Directive:

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:

Briefly explain why European influence came into picture in the Indian scenario.

Body:

Start discussing with the onset of Europeans in India.

The Europeans who came to India for trade established their settlements at various places. In these settlements they built European style houses, besides the factories. When their foothold became strong, they began to construct more durable structures such as strong fortresses and imposing churches.

Highlight that the Portuguese at Goa established impressive churches in the style of Iberian architecture, and the English, though in a less ambitious manner, built churches resembling the English village churches. A distinct type of building thus began to emerge in India. However, the Victorian style itself, being imitative rather than original, did not have a vitality of its own to inaugurate in India what could have been an Indo-British (like the Indo- Islamic) style of architecture. Explain suitable examples and substantiate upon the influence.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of such influence and its impact even as of today.



Introduction

Europeans who started coming from the **sixteenth century AD** constructed many churches and other buildings. Portuguese built many churches at Goa, the most famous of these are Basilica Bom Jesus and the church of Saint Francis. The British also built administrative and residential buildings which reflect their imperial glory. Some Greek and Roman influence can be observed in the colonnades or pillared buildings. Parliament House and Connaught Place in Delhi are good examples of this architecture.

Body

Like all other aspects of society, the colonization of India also had a great impact on architecture. Colonization marked a new chapter in Indian architecture. Though the Dutch, the Portuguese and the French made their presence felt through their buildings but it was the English who had a lasting impact on architecture of India. In the beginning of the colonial rule there were attempts at creating authority through classical prototypes. In its later phase the colonial architecture culminated into what is called the **Indo-Saracenic architecture**.

European influence in architecture of Modern India

• British architecture

- **Kolkata:** Its colonial capital Calcutta (now Kolkata) was embellished with edifices in the style of **European Neo Classicism** (the tendency to design new buildings in ancient Greco-Roman styles), such as the huge Government House.
 - **Eg: Victoria memorial Hall**
- **Bombay:** On the other hand in Bombay (now Mumbai), in concert with the Gothic Revival movement in the suzerain, not only Christian churches but also commercial buildings were magnificently built in **Gothic style**, manifesting the opulent strength of the Empire. The Library and Convocation **Hall of Bombay University** designed by George **Gilbert Scott** are its best representatives.
- However, recognizing that these unilateral compulsions of Western civilization helped engender the Indian Mutiny against the British army during 1857-59, the colonial government turned its cultural policy in the direction of adopting Indian traditional factors into colonial buildings. The result is the thriving of the '**Indo-Saracenic style**', which made a compromise between Western and Mughal architectures, from the 1880s.
- **Delhi:** The British leading architects **Edwin Lutyens** (1869-1944) and **Herbert Baker** (1862-1946) were invited to design the city of New Delhi and its important edifices such as the **Viceroy's House (Rashtrapati Bhavan)** and the Secretariats.
 - A great demerit of that unique experiment to synthesize the different styles of Indian architecture within a broader European fabric was that simplicity, modernity and utility were considerably compromised for the purpose of so-called beauty and structural majesty.

• French architecture

- **Pondicherry:** French grid patterns, clear sectors and perpendicular streets are the three distinct features that comprise the plan of the town. The two clear sectors include French Quarter referred as 'Ville Blanche' or 'White Town' and the Indian quarter referred as 'Ville Noire' or 'Black Town'.
 - The 'Ville Blanche' features traditional colonial style including stately walls and large compounds while in the 'Ville Noire' houses are lined with verandas and adorn large French doors and grills.



- **Portuguese architecture**
 - The missionary spirit of Portuguese colonizers saw construction of several churches, cathedrals, seminaries and basilicas in Goa that showcases a mix of Indian, Islamic and Portuguese styles of architecture.
 - Among the many sites of Goa the 'Basilica of Bom Jesus' holds a special significance as an architectural wonder displaying one of the finest examples of **baroque style** of architecture.
 - Many Goan houses, display remarkable Portuguese architecture. Distinct features of these Portuguese – Catholic houses included facing the street with **vibrantly painted exterior** so as to get recognized from the sea by the owning sailors, distinctly large and decorated windows that open to the **verandas**, covered verandas and porches, **false wooden interior ceilings**, vividly colored interior walls compared to earthly colored furniture and **exquisitely carved** compound walls and **gateposts**.

Conclusion

Thus we see aspects of European architecture mixed with the indigenous style that evolved over time. The significance of this architecture style in India is that we see a melting pot of cultures and diversity within India, that were influenced during the 16th to 20th centuries by the Europeans. These architectures attracts foreign footfall in India improving the tourism sector significantly.

Discuss the factors responsible for distinct architectural style of temple construction in different parts of India. (250 Words)

Reference: Indian Art and culture by Ntin Singhania

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I from the theme of art and culture of India.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the factors responsible for distinct architectural style of temple construction in different parts of India.

Directive:

***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:

Briefly explain the prominence of different styles of architecture witnessed in temples of India.

Body:

Highlight the basic features of a Hindu temple style. Broad Orders of temples – Nagara style, Dravida style and Deccan style. Highlight different temple styles of India, listing out their characteristics as influenced by geography, ethnic, racial, historic and linguistic diversities. Then correlate how these factors had played a vital role in the architectural styles of Temple construction in the history of India.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of diversity of culture present in India and their advantages as highlighted by the architectural marvels in the temples of India.

Introduction:

Temple architecture of high standard developed in almost all regions during ancient India. The distinct architectural style of temple construction in different parts was a **result of geographical,**



climatic, ethnic, racial, historical and linguistic diversities. Ancient Indian temples are classified in three broad types. This classification is based on different architectural styles, employed in the construction of the temples. Three main style of temple architecture are the **Nagara or the Northern style, the Dravida or the Southern style and the Vesara or Mixed style.** But at the same time, there are also some regional **styles of Bengal, Kerala and the Himalayan areas.**

Body:

In India, every region and period produced its own distinct style of temples with its regional variations. However, the basic form of the Hindu temple comprises the following:

- A cave-like sanctum (garbhagriha) – a small cubicle with a single entrance where the main icon is kept.
- Entrance to the temple which may be a portico or colonnaded hall known as mandapa.
- Freestanding temples tend to have a mountain like spire which can take the shape of curving shikhara or Vimana.

Nagara Style

- This style of architecture was popular in northern India.
- These temples were commonly found to be built on a stone platform which was upraised due to the frequent flood in the region.
- Earlier temples had just one tower or shikhara, later ones had several. The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower
- Material used: Sandstone and baked bricks were used, sourced from Western UP and Rajasthan.
- Water surplus in the area ensured no need for construction of the water ponds in the temple premises. However, there were wells dug up for water usage.
- As temples served as places of social gathering, there were presence of huge mandaps or assembly halls

The Nagara school further developed sub-schools:

Odisha school – exterior walls lavishly decorated, interiors walls plain, no use of pillars

Khajuraho school/ Chandel school – Developed by Chandel rulers in which both interiors and exterior walls were decorated don't have boundary walls.

Solanki school – popular in Gujarat by Solanki rulers stepped tank, on steps, there are small temples.

Dravidian Style

- Temple architecture of South India which reached perfection under the Cholas. It is the oldest style of architecture.
- Big temple complexes under compound walls were made which also became the administrative centres for the adjoining areas.
- Gopuram or huge gateway was also a part of the structure. The main temple tower called VIMANA is like a stepped pyramid which rises up geometrically rather than curving.
- The word Shikhara is used only for the crowning element at the top of the temple called STUPIKA or an octagonal cupola.
- The region is drought prone and were on plateaus leading to digging up of temple ponds. They acted as source of water for temple as well as the people in the villages.



- Temples displayed the supremacy of the kings by their huge structures like Gopuram of the big temple of Thanjavur.
- Materials used: Granite and soapstone.

Vesara style:

- Inspired both by north and South Indian styles were used and were known as VESARA. It consists of two important components - Vimana and Mandapa joined by Antarala.
- This style did not have a covered ambulatory around the sanctum. The pillars, door frames and ceilings are intricately carved. For example, Lad Khan temple at Aihole.
- Materials used: Granite and soapstone.

Conclusion:

Thus, it can be ascertained that temple architecture was influenced by geographical, ethnic, racial, historical and linguistic diversities of Indian sub-continent.

Medieval literature of India played a key role and led to the modern Indian languages taking shape and being born. Elucidate. (250 words)

Reference: CCRT.INDIA.GOV.IN

Why this question:

The question aims to analyse the key role played by the development of the medieval literature that led to the birth of Modern Indian languages.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the significance of the medieval literature in the Indian context and detail upon the evolution of modern Indian languages.

Directive:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly highlight the timeline of medieval literature; their origin and evolution.

Body:

Around 1000 A.D. local differences in Prakrit grew more and more pronounced. Discuss that the most powerful trend of medieval Indian literature between 1000 and 1800 A.D. is devotional (bhakti) poetry which dominates almost all the major languages of the country. India's middle ages brought about a very rich tradition of devotional literature of remarkable merit. Explain that Bhakti literature is the most important development of the medieval period; discuss the contributors to this period and how they led to development of languages like Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, and Kannada etc. Discuss apart from Bhakti tradition, the Sufi tradition also brought in many folds of improvement in languages; evolution of Urdu etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of modern Indian languages and their coming.

Introduction:

The most powerful trend of medieval Indian literature between 1000 and 1800 A.D. is devotional (bhakti) poetry which dominates almost all the major languages of the country. Unlike the dark middle ages of Europe, India's middle ages brought about a very rich tradition of devotional



literature of remarkable merit which dispels the superstitious assumption of a dark period of India's history. Bhakti literature is the most important development of the medieval period.

Body:

The conception of bhakti did away with the elite tradition of Sanskrit and accepted the more acceptable language of the common man. Kabir (Hindi) says that Sanskrit is like water of a well stagnant, Bhasa like flowing water.

Tamil:

A seventh century Shaiva Tamil writer Manikkarvachakar has something similar to say about in his book of poetry Thiruvachakam. Bhakti also attacked the age-old caste system and devoted itself to the worship of humanity, because the catch-word of bhakti is that God is there in every human being. The movement was in essence subaltern, as most of its poets belonged to the so-called 'lower' castes. Bhakti is antitheology and against any kind of conceptual erudition. The power of ancient bhakti poetry in Tamil set in motion what might well be considered a pan-Indian efflorescence.

Kannada:

After Tamil, Pampa's great court epics were composed in Kannada in the 10th century. Devotional literature in Kannada, the Vachanas (sayings) of the various saints of the Krishna, Rama and Shiva cults, is well known. Basavanna was a famous Kannada poet, a Shiva devotee and a great social reformer. Allama Prabhu (Kannada) wrote great poetry under the garb of religion.

Marathi:

Chronologically, Marathi, the close successor of Kannada, became the next venue for bhakti. Gyaneswar (1275 A.D.) is the first and foremost bhakti poet in Marathi. In his teens (he died at the age of 21) he became famous for his poetic contribution to bhakti for Vithal (Vishnu). Eknath wrote his short poetic narratives and devotional abhangas (a literary form), and after him it was Tukarram (1608-1649 A.D.) whose songs cast a spell all over Maharashtra.

Gujarati:

And then it is Gujarati in the 12th century. Gujarati poets like Narsi Mehta and Premananda occupy a prominent place in the galaxy of the Vaishnava poets.

Other languages:

Afterwards, the sequential order is as follows: **Kashmiri, Bengali, Assamese, Manipuri, Oriya, Maithili, Braj, Avadhi (the last three languages come under the umbrella language, Hindi) and other languages of India.** Chandidas, a Bengali poet, is acclaimed as a great genius for the lucidity and sweetness of his poems. Similarly, Vidyapati in Maithili created a new poetic language. Lal Ded, a Kashmiri Muslim poetess, gave a new dimension to mystical bhakti. Jayadeva, a Sanskrit lyric poet of the 12th century, influenced a large number of devotional Bengali poets like Govinda Das (16th century), Balaram Das and others. Sri Chaitanya (1486-1533), a great Bengali saint, helped Vaishnavism to turn into a religious and literary movement, made it a living faith and became a source of never-ending inspiration to a host of Bengali poets, including Jiva Goswami. Sankardev (1449-1568), an Assamese devotional poet, used plays (Ankiya-Nat) and Kirtan (devotional songs) to propagate Vaishnavism and became a legend.



Medieval Muslim Bengali poets like Daulat Kazi and Saiyad Alaoal (17th Century A.D.) wrote narrative poems based on Sufistic philosophy, betraying a happy cultural and religious synthesis of Islam and Hinduism. In fact, bhakti became a great platform for Hindu-Muslim unity. Kabir (Hindi) is the foremost among the poets of the sant tradition (faith in one omnipresent god and not in many gods like Rama and Krishna). Kabir's poetry touches upon the various aspects of devotion, mysticism and social reforms.

Hindi:

Hindi literature, with its supra-regional character, attracted Namdev (Marathi) and Guru Nanak (Punjabi) and others to write in Hindi, which by then had developed into a conglomeration of many languages and dialects, and came to be known as an umbrella language. The centrality of Hindi and its vast geographical area was the reason for it. Surdas, Tulsidas and Meera Bai (15th to 16th Century A.D.) point to the great heights of Vaishnavite lyricism achieved by Hindi. Tulsidas (1532 A.D.) was the greatest of the Rama-bhakti poets who wrote his famous epic, the Ramacharit Manas (the lake of the deeds of Rama). In fact, epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata received a rebirth in the new languages.

Punjabi:

Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru, wrote in many languages, but mostly in Punjabi, and was a great poet of inter-religious communication. Nanak says truth is supreme, but above truth is truthful living. Guru Nanak and other Sikh Gurus belong to the sant tradition, which believes in one omnipresent God, and not in many gods like Rama and Krishna. The poetry of the Sikh Gurus is collected in the Guru Granth Sahib (the Revered Book), a multilingual text which talks about the unchanging one reality (Sat) the cosmic law (Hukum), meditation (Satnam), compassion and harmony (Daya and Santosh).

Conclusion:

The languages, conditioned by the regional, linguistic and ethnic environment, assumed different linguistic characteristics. Constitutionally recognised modern Indian languages and Konkani, Marathi, Sindhi, Gujarati (Western); Manipuri, Bengali, Oriya and Assamese (Eastern); Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada (Southern) and Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Maithali, Nepali and Sanskrit (Northern). Two tribal languages, Bodo and Santhali are also recognised by the Constitution. Out of these 22 languages, Tamil is the oldest modern Indian language maintaining its linguistic character with little change for about 2000 years. Urdu is the youngest of the modern Indian languages, taking its shape in the 14th century A.D., deriving its script from an Arabic-Persian origin, but vocabulary from Indo-Aryan sources, i.e. Persian and Hindi. Sanskrit, though the oldest classical language, is still very much in use, and hence is included in the list of modern Indian languages by the Constitution of India.

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

Underlining the achievements of chatrapati Shivaji, describe how his policy was helpful in the expansion of Marathas? Also discuss the reasons for the fall of the Marathas.

(250 words)

Reference: Modern Indian history by Spectrum publications

Why this question:



The question underlines the contributions of Shivaji to the construction of Maratha empire as well as expects one to present reasons for the fall of the empire.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the significant contributions made by Shivaji in building the Maratha empire and the causative factors that led to its decline.

Directive:

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:

Briefly explain about Chatrapati Shivaji.

Body:

Shivaji was an able general and a skilled politician who, through his efforts, laid the foundation for a strong Maratha empire. Briefly present his achievements – he increased the influence of the Maratha Empire from Deccan to Karnataka and gave it a place at the all India level, he built an efficient administrative system, set up an authentic revenue system for income and broadened the economic base of the empire through Chauth along with Sardeshmukhi, army based on cash payment etc. Then move onto discuss the factors that led to fall of the Maratha empire.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of his contributions in the Indian modern history.

Introduction

Various factors contributed to the rise of Marathas in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The physical environment of the Maratha country shaped certain peculiar qualities among the Marathas. The mountainous region and dense forests made them brave soldiers and adopt guerilla tactics. They built a number of formidable forts on the mountains. The spread of the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra inculcated a spirit of religious unity among them.

The Marathas held important positions in the administrative and military systems of Deccan Sultanates of Bijapur and Ahmadnagar. But the credit of establishing a powerful Maratha state goes to **Shahji Bhonsle and his son Shivaji**. The political unity was rendered by Shivaji Maharaj.

Body

Shivaji was born at Shivner in 1627. His father was Shahji Bhonsle and mother Jija Bai. He inherited the jagir of Poona from his father in 1637.

Achievements of Chhatrapati Shivaji

- **Initial phase**

- He first conquered Raigarh, Kondana and Torna from the ruler of Bijapur.
- After the death of his guardian, Dadaji Kondadev in 1647, Shivaji assumed full charge of his jagir.
- He captured Javli from a Maratha chief, Chanda Rao More. This made him the master of Mavala region.
- In 1657, he attacked the Bijapur kingdom and captured a number of hill forts in the Konkan region.



- The Sultan of Bijapur sent Afzal Khan against Shivaji. But Afzal Khan was murdered by Shivaji in 1659 in a daring manner.
- **Military Conquests of Shivaji**
 - Shivaji's military conquests made him a legendary figure in the Maratha region. The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb was anxiously watching the rise of Maratha power under Shivaji.
 - Aurangzeb sent the Mughal governor of the Deccan, Shaista Khan against Shivaji. Shivaji suffered a defeat at the hands of the Mughal forces and lost Poona.
 - But Shivaji once again made a bold attack on Shaista Khan's military camp at Poona in 1663, killed his son and wounded Khan.
 - In 1664, Shivaji attacked Surat, the chief port of the Mughals and plundered it.
 - A second attempt was made by Aurangzeb to defeat Shivaji by sending Raja Jai Singh of Amber. He succeeded in besieging the **fort of Purander**.
 - **Treaty of Purander 1665:**
 - According to the treaty, Shivaji had to surrender 23 forts to the Mughals out of 35 forts held by him.
 - The remaining 12 forts were to be left to Shivaji on condition of service and loyalty to Mughal empire.
 - On the other hand, the Mughals recognized the right of Shivaji to hold certain parts of the Bijapur kingdom.
 - **Renewed war against Mughals**
 - Surat was plundered by him for the second time in 1670.
 - He also captured all his lost territories by his conquests.
 - In **1674** Shivaji crowned himself at Raigarh and assumed the **title Chatrapathi**.

Shivaji's policy and Expansion of Marathas

- **Administrative Policies**
 - He laid the foundations of a sound system of administration. The king was the pivot of the government. He was assisted by a council of ministers called **Ashtapradhan**.
 - Peshwa – Finance and general administration. Later he became the prime minister
 - Sar-i-Naubat or Senapati – Military commander, a honorary post.
 - Amatya – Accountant General.
 - Waqenavis – Intelligence, posts and household affairs.
 - Sachiv – Correspondence.
 - Sumanta – Master of ceremonies



- Nyayadish – Justice.
- Panditarao – Charities and religious administration.
- **Revenue Policies**
 - **Lands** were measured by using the measuring rod called **kathi**. Lands were also classified into three categories – paddy fields, garden lands and hilly tracks.
 - **Taxes : Chauth and sardeshmukhi** were the taxes collected not in the Maratha kingdom but in the neighbouring territories of the Mughal empire or Deccan sultanates.
 - Chauth was one fourth of the land revenue paid to the Marathas in order to avoid the Maratha raids.
 - Sardeshmukhi was an additional levy of ten percent on those lands which the Marathas claimed hereditary rights.
 - **Military Policies**
- Shivaji was a man of military genius and his army was well organized.
- The regular army consisted of about 30000 to 40000 cavalry supervised by **havaildars**. They were given fixed salaries.
- There were two divisions in the Maratha cavalry –
 - **Bargirs**, equipped and paid by the state;
 - **Silahdars**, maintained by the nobles.
- In the infantry, the **Mavli** foot soldiers played an important role.
- Shivaji also maintained a navy.
- **The forts** played an important role in the military operations of the Marathas. By the end of his reign, Shivaji had about 240 forts. Each fort was put under the charge of three officers of equal rank as a precaution against treachery.

The above conquests and policies of Shivaji was the major reason for Maratha stronghold in the region against Mughals. They became a formidable enemy of neighboring kings.

Marathas after Shivaji

The Maratha kingdom was, however, certainly weakened at the start of 18th century due to various internal and external factors.

- A full-scale civil war broke out between the forces of Shahu (grandson of Shivaji) and those of Tarabai (Rajaram's widow). The loyalty of Maratha sardars and Deshmukhs kept on shifting from one block to another.
- Since the time of Balaji Viswanath, the office of the Peshwa became powerful. He died in 1720 and was succeeded by his son Baji Rao, who was in power till 1740.
- After the death of Baji Rao in 1740, Shahu appointed his son Balaji Bajirao (1740-1761) as Peshwa. This was indeed the peak period of Maratha glory.



- In 1761, after the third battle of Panipat Madhav Rao became the Peshwa. In 1772, Madhav Rao died of consumption.
- After the death of Madhav Rao, the struggle for power occurred between Raghunath Rao and Narayan Rao. In 1773 Narayan Rao was killed.
- Madhav Rao Narayan succeeded his father Narayan Rao.
- Raghunath Rao tried to capture power with the help of British. This led to the 1st Anglo- Maratha war.
- Madhav Rao died in 1794. Bajji Rao II, son of Raghunath Rao succeeded Madhav Rao.
- At the end of 3rd Anglo- Maratha war Peshwa was dethroned and pensioned off while other Maratha states remained as subsidiary states.

Reasons for fall of Marathas

- **War of Succession :**
 - There ensued a war of succession after the death of Shivaji between his sons, Shambaji and Rajaram. Shambaji emerged victorious but later he was captured and executed by the Mughals. Rajaram succeeded the throne but the Mughals made him to flee to the Ginjee fort.
- **Political structure: Divisions within**
 - The other reason for downfall of Maratha empire was its own structure. Its nature was that of a confederacy where power was shared among the chiefs or sardars (Bhonsle, Holker etc).
- **Weak Revenue Administration**
 - Marathas depended on the collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi and on their exploits from plunder and loot. They failed to develop an efficient system of revenue administration. New territories were conquered but much less focus was on the administration. Rulers were mainly interested in raising revenue from peasantry through taxation.
- **Weak Diplomacy**
 - Marathas did not take the trouble to find out what was happening elsewhere and what their enemies were doing. There was no far-sighted statesmanship or effective strategy. They failed to cultivate alliances with forces around them.
- **Anglo-Maratha Wars and Subsidiary Alliance**
 - In 1802, Peshwa Bajji Rao II accepted subsidiary alliance by signing Treaty of Bassein. This marked the downfall of Maratha empire. By 1818 the Maratha power was finally crushed and the great chiefs that represented it in central India submitted and accepted the over lordship of the East India Company.

Conclusion

Shivaji was really a constructive genius and nation-builder. His rise from jagirdar to Chatrapathi was spectacular. He unified the Marathas and remained a great enemy of the Mughal empire. He was a daring soldier and a brilliant administrator. Post his rule, infighting, disunity amongst Maratha confederacy became the major reason for their downfall.

What do you mean by Renaissance describe the main features of Indian renaissance?(250 words)

Reference: Modern Indian history by Spectrum publications

Why this question:



The question is straightforward and aims to examine the key features of Indian renaissance.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the concept of renaissance and the key features of renaissance specific to the Indian context.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly explain what renaissance is.

Body:

Social and cultural awakenings in India were a result of Indian renaissance that was inspired by the Western concept of reason, equality and liberty. Renaissance meaning revival or rebirth was the great transitional movement of Europe that swept away medieval unprogressive ideas and substituted it with individualism, material emancipation, skepticism, nationalism, a more sound economic system and self-expression. Indian Renaissance was started under the influence of the western thinkers. Main

features of Indian Renaissance were as follows:

A new way of studying Indian past was brought in.

Reinterpretation of Indian religious text and rituals was made, which brought Irregularities and mal-practices in our religion into light at that time.

A new movement for socio-religious reforms were started under Raja Ram Mohan Roy and other intellectuals.

It was influenced by western thinkers.

Indian Renaissance gave rise to study of English literature thoughts, philosophies and books of history.

Over political movements it has some influence and later on it was perfectly adopted by political movements.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of it to Modern Indian history.

Introduction

The socio intellectual revolution that took place in the nineteenth century in the fields of philosophy, literature, science, politics and social reforms is often known as Indian Renaissance. An important part of this Renaissance was reforming Hinduism from within on the basis of Post Enlightenment rationalism. The Renaissance was especially focused in Bengal and is popularly known as the Bengal Renaissance.

However, the use of 'renaissance' is slightly problematic as in European history it is used to refer to the "rebirth" or revival of Greco-Roman learning in the fifteen and sixteenth centuries after the long winter of the dark medieval period. But in Indian context, it implied rediscovering rationalism from within India's past.

Body

Causes of Renaissance:

- **Social Conditions**

- The most distressing was the position of women. The birth of a girl was unwelcome, her marriage a burden and her widowhood inauspicious.



- Another debilitating factor was **Caste**. It sought to maintain a system of segregation, hierarchically ordained on the basis of ritual status, hampering social mobility and fostered social divisions.
- There were innumerable other practices marked by constraint, status, authority, bigotry and blind fatalism.
- Rejecting them as features of a decadent society, the reform movements sought to create a social climate for modernization.
- **Western Education**
 - The introduction of western education and ideas had the far reaching impact on the Indian Society. Through the glasses of utility, reason, justice, and progress, a select group of individuals began to explore the nature of their own society.
 - There was a gradual emergence of public opinion. The debates between the Orientalists, scholars of Eastern societies like India on one side, and the Utilitarians, Liberals and Missionaries on the other also enabled the penetration of ideas, at least amongst the upper section of society.
 - The exposure to post-Enlightenment rationalism that came to signify modernity brought a change in the outlook of a select group of Indians.
- **Social and ideological base**
 - It was a time of emerging middle class and western-educated intellectuals.
 - Ideologies of Rationalism, religious universalism, humanism and secularism were on the rise.

Features of Indian Renaissance

The central figure of this cultural awakening was Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Known as the “father of the Indian Renaissance”, Rammohan Roy was a great patriot, scholar and humanist. He was moved by deep love for the country and worked throughout his life for the social, religious, intellectual and political regeneration of the Indians.

Re-imagination of Indian Past: A new way of studying Indian past was brought in. For instance Raja Ram Mohan Roy translated into Bengali the Vedas and the five Upanishads to prove his conviction that ancient Hindu texts support monotheism.

Reinterpretation of religious text and rituals: The long-term agenda of the Brahmo Samaj—to purify Hinduism and to preach monotheism—was based on the twin pillars of reason and the Vedas and Upanishads. The Samaj also tried to incorporate teachings of other religions and kept its emphasis on human dignity, opposition to idolatry and criticism of social evils such as sati.

Socio-Religious Reforms:

Position of Women

- **Abolition of Sati** Influenced by the frontal attack launched by the enlightened Indian reformers led by Raja Rammohan Roy, the government declared the practice of sati illegal and punishable by criminal courts as culpable homicide in 1829.



- The Bengal regulations of 1795 and 1804 declared **infanticide** illegal and equivalent to murder. An Act passed in 1870 made it compulsory for parents to register the birth of all babies
- **Widow Remarriage:** The Brahmo Samaj had the issue of widow remarriage high on its agenda and did much to popularise it. But it was mainly due to the efforts of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820-91), that the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856, was passed.
- **Women's Education:** The Bethune School, founded by J.E.D. Bethune, president of the Council of Education in Calcutta in 1849 was the first fruit of the powerful movement for women's education that arose in the 1840s and 1850s. Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was associated with no less than 35 girls' schools in Bengal and is considered one of the pioneers of women's education.

Caste Reforms

- The social reformers attacked the rigid hereditary basis of caste distinctions and the law of karma which formed the basis of the religio-philosophic defence of the undemocratic authoritarian caste institution.
- In Maharashtra, Jyotiba Phule, born in a low caste Mali family, led a movement against the brahminical domination of Hindu society.
- Indian Renaissance gave rise to study of English literature thoughts, philosophies and books of history. The liberal and radical thought of European writers like Milton, Shelley, John Stuart Mill, Rousseau, Paine, Spencer and Voltaire helped many Indians imbibe modern rational, secular, democratic and nationalist ideas.

Conclusion

These movements took into their ambit the entire cultural existence, the way of life. The evolution of an alternative cultural-ideological system and the regeneration of traditional institutions were two concerns of these movements. These concerns were manifest in the attempts to reconstruct traditional knowledge, the use and development of vernacular languages, creation of an alternative system of education, defence of religion, efforts to regenerate Indian art and literature, the emphasis on Indian dress and food, attempts to revitalize the Indian systems of medicine and to research the pre-colonial technology for its potential. It proved to be a harbinger of modernism in India.

Who was Rani Gaidinliu? Present a brief account of Zeliangrong movement.(250 words)

Reference: Modern Indian history by Spectrum publications

Why this question:

The question aims to ascertain the contributions of Rani Gaidinliu and account on the Zeliangrong movement.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the significance of the contributions of Rani Gaidinliu and account for the Zeliangrong movement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly present facts about Rani Gaidinliu.

Body:

Gaidinliu (26 January 1915 – 17 February 1993) was a Naga spiritual and political leader who led a revolt against British rule in India. At the age of 13, she joined the Heraka religious movement of her cousin Haipou Jadonang.



Rani Gaidinliu identified her people's struggle with the wider Indian freedom struggle. For her, the Naga people's journey to freedom was part of India's wider movement for freedom. She also spread the message of Gandhi ji in Manipur region.

Discuss Zeliangrong movement and its features.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of such leaders in the history of Indian freedom struggle.

Introduction

Rani Gaidinliu was a Naga spiritual leader. Gaidinliu belonged to the **Rongmei clan of the Zeliangrong tribe** in the Tamenglong district of western Manipur. Born on January 26, 1915, she was fifth among eight children. Her native village was Nungkao, which is present-day Tamenglong district.

At the age of 10, Gaidinliu came under the influence of her cousin, Haipou Jadonang, who was then leading a socio-political movement called Heraka (meaning 'pure' is one of the religion followed by Zeliangrong people), seeking to drive out the British from the region.

Body

Zeliangrong Movement

The Zeliangrong people are one of the major indigenous communities living in the tri-junction of the present states of **Assam, Manipur and Nagaland** in North East India. The Zeliangrongs are the descendants of the same ancestor who founded the great Makuilongdi village, the 'cradle of Zeliangrong culture'. They have a long history and inherited a rich cultural heritage.

Background of the movement

- The British colonial power also started penetrating into the Zeliangrong inhabited areas by the first half of the 19th century.
- By this time the hordes of Kuki migrants had also started coming into southern Zeliangrong areas which caused lots of conflicts and bloodshed.
- The presence of outsiders disrupted the peaceful existence of the indigenous settlers and prompted social tension between different communities.
- In the second half of the 19th century, the British colonial power divided the Zeliangrong people and their land and placed them under Assam and Manipur for their administrative conveniences without the consent of Zeliangrong people.

Course of the movement

Haipou Jadonang was the pioneering figure behind the Zeliangrong movement, which was later taken forward by **Rani Gaidinliu**.

- In a span of six years, Jadonang was able to gather strong support from various tribes and emerged as a strong voice of opposition against the foreign rule.
- The revolutionary movement of the western hills of Manipur was popularly known by historians as Naga Raj movement and it received a huge momentum when 100 guns were brought from Cachar in Assam and propagation was made to boycott British taxation and forced labor.
- In February 1931, Jadonang was arrested, and in a mock trial by the British Indian authorities, was found guilty. He was hanged on August 29, 1931 at Imphal jail.



- In the meantime, Gaidinliu became a strong force in the Heraka movement, leading guerrilla attacks on the British authority.
- When the British rule tried to suppress her movement, she went underground along with her followers. Thereafter a fierce gun battle took place in Hangrum village in the North Cachar hills with the British army and the big village was set ablaze by the colonial rulers.
- After much pursuit, Rani Gaidinliu was captured on 17th October, 1932 in Poliwa Village and sentenced her to life imprisonment for waging war against the British crown. During that time, she was only 16 years old.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru met her in Shillong Jail in the year 1937 and described her as the 'daughter of the hills' and subsequently gave her the title of 'Rani Gaidinliu' or the 'Queen of her people'. After India's independence in 1947, Rani Gaidinliu was released from Tura Jail on the orders of then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Post-Independence

In 1966, she organized a resistance movement against the Naga National Council (NNC), which led insurgents in north-east. However, today many Nagas choose not to acknowledge her. Despite this, she was recognized as a freedom fighter and was awarded the Tamrapatra in 1972 and was felicitated with the Padma Bhushan in 1982. She had aspired for a 'Zeliangrong Administrative Unit' under the Union of India.

Conclusion

Rani Gaidinliu raised a banner of revolt against the British at a tender age of 13. It was the time of civil disobedience movement in India against the colonial power. Her slogan "**We are free people — the white man should not rule over us**", captured the imagination of millions and mobilized them against the British. She remains a significant figure in the history of freedom struggle who braved against the imperialists.

Who were Marakkars? Discuss their role in the fight against Portuguese. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why this question:

Recently, a petition was filed in the Kerala High Court against the film- *Marakkar: The Lion of the Arabian Sea*, alleging 'distortion of history' and demanding a stay on the release. It is said to be the most expensive Malayalam film ever made.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss who were Marakkars and their role in fight against Portuguese.

Directive:

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:

Briefly state who Marakkars were.

Body:

By some accounts, they were of Arab origin and had migrated from Tunisia to Panthalayani near Koyilandy in present-day Kozhikode.

They later moved to the region around present-day Kottakkal and Thikkodi near Payyoli.

By other accounts, the Marakkars were descendants of affluent businessman from the Cochin kingdom who migrated later to Calicut.

Comment upon their war against the Portuguese.

**Conclusion:**

Conclude by reasserting the significant contributions made by them.

Introduction

The Marakkars, (etymology – boatmen), were the naval chieftains and traditional sea admirals at the height of the reign of Samuthiris (Zamorin) and had full control of the Malabar seas and trade at Kodungaloor Port- the largest port in Malabar from 11th to 16th Century. Their lineage and descendancy is unclear. By some accounts, they were of Arab origin and had migrated from Tunisia to Panthalayani near Koyilandy in present-day Kozhikode, and later moved to the region around present-day Kottakkal and Thikkodi near Payyoli. By other accounts, the Marakkars were descendants of affluent businessman from the Cochin kingdom who migrated later to Calicut.

Body

The coming of Portuguese to control the spice trade with the vengeance to destroy the Kunjali Marakkar family led to a 100-year war between the people of Malabar led by the Marakkar family with support of the Kings of Gujarat, Egypt.

The term 'Kunjali' was an honorific title conferred on the admiral of his fleet by the Zamorin along with the special right to wear a silk turban. It was assumed by four successive persons who held this post

The fight against the Portuguese

- After Portuguese sailor Vasco Da Gama set foot in Kappad in present-day Kozhikode district, the king of Portugal sent a series of fleets not only to trade, but to control and subjugate.
- The Portuguese managed to capture Cochin, but Calicut, led by the king Zamorin, stood in their way.
- His navy was led by the Kunjali Marakkars. The portuguese battles four generations of Kunjali Marakkars.
- Related by bloodline, they were Kuttyali Marakkar (Kunjali Marakkar I, appointed in 1507), Kutty Pokker (Kunjali Marakkar II), Pathu Marakkar (Kunjali Marakkar III) and Muhammad Ali Marakkar (Kunjali Marakkar IV, appointed in 1595).
- **Guerilla Warfare**
 - The Kunjalis used small boats known as *pattemaris*, which had around 40 rowers. In shallow waters, they would creep up to huge Portuguese ships and attack using slingshots, javelins, and bows and arrows.
 - It proved efficient and Portuguese losses were heavy. The Portuguese called Marakkar's army Malabar pirates or corsairs.
- **The Conspiracy:** Owing to the Portuguese conspiracy against the Kunjali IV, the Zamorins attacked Kunjali fort with the support of the Portuguese and handed over the Kunjali Marakkar to the latter in 1599. This was a dark episode in the history of Kerala which not only exhausted the political strength of the Zamorins, but also disturbed the long drawn out communal harmony between the Hindus and Muslims in the years to come.



Conclusion

The saga of Kunjali Marakkar teaches one vital lesson of history and that is the freedom of the sea which finally maintains the freedom of the land also. Therefore, this 413th year of martyrdom of Kunjali Marakkar IV has a meaningful message to this nation. “The freedom of sea is the absolute freedom of a nation”.

Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

Land reforms remain an unfinished agenda even after 70 years of independence.

Critically comment. (250 words)

Key demand of the question:

The question first expects us to explain why land reforms are criticized so many years post its initiation as being incomplete. Discuss the reasons why the task of land reforms is still incomplete. Discuss the steps being taken to complete it.

Directive:

Critically comment – When asked to comment, 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 ‘comment’ is prefixed, we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief highlight about the land reforms that have taken place in India post-independence.

Body:

Discuss how land reforms were carried out post-independence and their results.

Discuss the fact that only some state implemented it properly while the other sought to preserve the status quo.

Discuss why land reform is an unfinished agenda – non modernization of land records, increasing fragmentation of land holdings etc.

Discuss the steps being taken still to complete the task of land reforms.

Conclusion:

discuss the importance of completion of land reforms and highlight way forward.

Introduction

The Indian Government was committed to land reforms and to ensure distributive justice as was promised during the freedom struggle. Consequently, laws were passed by all the State Governments during the Fifties with the avowed aim of abolishing landlordism, distributing land through imposition of ceilings, protection of tenants and consolidation of land- holdings.

Body

Post-Independence: Institutional reforms

There were three major steps taken to ensure distributive justice in India:-

- Abolition of intermediaries like zamindars, jagirdars etc.
- Tenancy Reforms i.e. regulation of the rent, security of tenure for tenants and conferment of ownership on them.
- Ceilings on the size of landholdings.



Impact of these Reforms

- The first phase also called the phase of institutional reforms continued till the early 1960s.
- The most successful of all reforms were the abolition of intermediaries like zamindars.
- **Tenancy reforms** were most successful in Kerala and West Bengal.
 - In the late 1960s a massive program of conferment of titles to lands, to hutment dwellers and tenants were highly beneficial.
 - **Operation Barga:** In West Bengal Operation Barga was launched in 1978 with the objective of achieving the registration of sharecroppers and provide them permanent occupancy and heritable rights and a crop division of 1:3 between landowner and sharecropper.
- Cooperatives and community development programs were started.
- **Weakness of Phase-1 reforms**
 - The absence of adequate land records made implementation of these acts difficult.
 - Zamindars resorted to large-scale eviction of tenants, mainly the less secure small tenants.
 - Even after the laws were enacted the landlords used the judicial system to defer the implementation of the laws.
 - Zamindars refused to hand over the land records in their possession, forcing the government to go through the lengthy procedure of reconstructing the records.
 - **Bureaucratic Apathy:** Implementation of the law was made difficult with the collusion between the landlords and lower-level revenue Officials.
 - **Tenancy Reforms:** Even today 5% farmers hold 32% of land holdings.
 - The right of resumption and the loose definition of 'personal cultivation' was used for eviction of tenants on a massive scale.
 - Voluntary surrenders by tenants also took place as they were 'persuaded' under threat to give up their tenancy rights 'voluntarily'.
 - In West Bengal sharecroppers, known as **Bargadars** received no protection till as late as July 1970, when the West Bengal Land Reforms Act was amended to accord limited protection to them.
 - Most tenancies were oral and informal and were not recorded.
 - Providing security of tenure to all tenants, met with only limited success. There were still large numbers who remained unprotected. So reducing rents to a 'fair' level was almost impossible to achieve.
 - **Ceiling reforms**
 - Exemption to land held by cooperatives was open to great misuse with landlords transferring their lands to spurious cooperatives.



- In most states the ceilings were imposed on individual and not family holdings, enabling landowners to divide up their holdings in the names of relatives or make benami transfers merely to avoid the ceiling.
- Further, in many states the ceiling could be raised if the size of the family of the landholder exceeded five.
- A large number of exemptions to the ceiling limits were permitted by most states following the Second Plan recommendations that certain categories of land could be exempted from ceilings.
- **Consolidation of holdings:** The programme failed to achieve its desired objective because the farmers are reluctant to exchange their lands for the new one. The arguments given by the farmers is that there existing land is much more fertile and productive than the new land provided under land consolidation.
- **Phase-II Reforms:** It was during the mid 1960s Green Revolution was ushered in.
 - **Land Record Digitization :** To address the property fraud, the **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) was** launched by the government of India in August 2008.
 - The main aim of the program, was to computerize all land records, including mutations, improve transparency in the land record maintenance system, digitize maps and surveys, update all settlement records and minimize the scope of land disputes.
- **Failure of Phase-II reforms**
 - **Although the government wants complete digitisation of land records, due to the lack of clear and sufficient** data and mismanagement between the various agencies handling land records, the data registered at various government levels is not identical.
 - Statistics from the DILRMP show that in most states, the digital land record database has not been synced with the digitised land registration database.

Current status

- Niti Aayog came up with the **Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016**. To review the existing agricultural tenancy laws of various states, the NITI Aayog had set up an **Expert Committee on Land Leasing** headed by **T Haque**.
 - The model Act seeks to permit and facilitate leasing of agricultural land to improve access to land by the landless and marginal farmers.
 - It also provides for recognition of farmers cultivating on leased land to enable them to access loans through institutional credit.
 - The Prime Minister's Office has set up a Group of Ministers (GoM) to resolve differences over the proposed Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016.
- The National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) was launched by the Government of India in August 2008, aimed to modernize management of land records, minimize scope of land/property disputes, enhance transparency in the land records



maintenance system, and facilitate moving eventually towards guaranteed conclusive titles to immovable properties in the country.

- Currently land acquisition is governed by the **Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013** which came into force on January 1, 2014.
 - Prior to this, the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 governed land acquisition.
- Some of the most interesting work of sorting out the land titling mess has been done by state governments, as has been the case with labour law reforms as well.
- **Digitization**: First, the **Bhoomi Project in Karnataka** led the way even before the Union government got into the act. The state government began to digitize land records at the turn of the century.
 - Second, the **Rajasthan** legislature passed the Rajasthan Urban Land (Certification of Titles) Act in April 2016.
 - Third, Andhra Pradesh has taken a leap into the future. Its state government has tied up with a Swedish firm to use new blockchain technology to prevent property fraud.
- Tamil Nadu became the first state to pass Contract Farming Act, as per the central guidelines.

Conclusion

India's economy has already crossed \$2.9 trillion and is the 5th largest economy in the world. But these figures cannot hide the fact that 69% of the population is rural, and 70% of this, or nearly half of all Indians, still depend on land and land-based activities for their livelihoods, as per the **India Rural Development Report 2012-2013**. Hence, the government must commit to rural development by addressing landlessness with the same vigor that it has shown towards urban development. Land rights therefore help rural families achieve independence and break out of the cycle of poverty. They also eventually enhance agricultural production.

History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization.

The Second World War gave a great incentive to the nationalist movements in colonies. Analyse. (250 words)

Reference: *Mastering Modern World History – Norman Lowe.*

Why this question:

The question aims to discuss the effect of second world war on the nationalist movements of the colonies.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the stimulus that the 2nd world war gave to the nationalist movements of the colonies.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

**Introduction:**

Briefly explain the link between rise of nationalism and second world war.

Body:

Second World War had a major impact on the process of 'decolonization'. This gave rise to several nationalist movements.

Explain how Decolonization was the withdrawal of colonial powers from colonies and the acquisition of political or economic independence by such colonies.

Detail on the factors behind the nationalistic movement rise following WWII.

Present the cases of nationalist movements of specific colonies – India, Africa, South East Asia etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude that Post-WWII, almost everywhere, colonial exploitation was challenged by powerful nationalist movements. Hence, the war gave a great stimulus to nationalist movements in colonies.

Introduction:

The Second World War (1939-45) on one hand weakened the might of the colonial powers like Britain, France, Spain etc and on the other hand this gave an immense boost the nationalistic freedom struggles in colonies across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Body:

The reasons for rise of nationalist movements and the subsequent decolonization are as following:

- **U.S Pressure on the Allies to Decolonise:** One of the provisions of Atlantic Charter was the autonomy of Imperial colonies after World War II. The US and the colonies put pressure on Britain to abide by the terms of the Atlantic Charter After the war. The right of self-determination of the peoples was decided in the UN Charter of 1945 and within only two decades the whole system of colonialism collapsed.
- **U.S.S.R Support to National Movements:** The Soviet Union supported the principle of nationalistic self-determination. Moreover, many colonies witnessed the growth of communism such as India, Vietnam and Malaysia etc. These were anti-colonial movements which received direct and indirect support from the Soviet Union.
- **Weakness in the colonial powers:** The colonial powers Britain, France etc had faced huge losses of men and material during the war. The victory came at a great cost and this lead to developments of cracks in their colonial possessions across the world.
- **Awakening in the Colonies:** Even before the world war, some of the colonies like India, Indonesia had demanded self-determination. As the World War broke out this gave further impetus to the national movements in the colonies.

Nationalistic Movements in Asia:

- **India:** The Indian Independence movement reached its climax stage with the launch of Quit India Movement 1942 which was followed by RIN mutiny. The nationalistic fervor reached new heights with the calls for "Do or Die". India achieved freedom from the British rule in 1947.
- **Indonesia:** The Dutch colonisers had curbed the growth of nationalism by arresting leaders and other stringent measures but the world war changed it when East Indies was occupied by Japan. A certain amount of political freedom and military training was given to the Indonesians by the Japanese. On the eve of the Japanese surrender, the Indonesian nationalists, encouraged by the Japanese, proclaimed the independence and established Indonesian Republic on August 17, 1945.



- **Malaya:** In the Second World War, the Japanese army invaded and occupied Malaya. Fall of Singapore and Japanese advances in Malay Peninsula during the World War II forced the British to consider reassessment of its non-interventionist policies in favour of ethnic cooperation and multiracial government in this region. But with the presence of diverse interest of different groups reaching to a consensus was a tough task. Popular support for independence increased after Malaya was reconquered by Allied Forces.
- **Vietnam:** During the war, the whole area was occupied by the Japanese, and resistance was organized by the communist **Ho Chi Minh** and the League for Vietnamese Independence (Vietminh). When the Japanese withdrew in 1945, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam independent. This was unacceptable to the French, and an eight-year armed struggle began which culminated in the French defeat in May 1954.
- **Burma:** At the outbreak of the Second World War, **Aung San** seized the opportunity to bring about Burmese independence. In 1941, they fought alongside the Japanese who invaded Burma. The Japanese promised Aung San that if the British were defeated, they would grant Burma her freedom. When it became clear that the Japanese would not follow through with their promise, Aung San quickly negotiated an agreement with the British to help them defeat the Japanese. He was able to negotiate an agreement in January 1947 with the British, under which Burma would be granted total independence from Britain.

Nationalistic Movements in Africa:

- The decolonization of Africa followed World War II as colonized peoples agitated for independence and colonial powers withdrew their administrators from Africa.
- World War II saw the British African colonies support the Allies but no mention of independence for African nations.
- Imperial Japan's conquests in the Far East caused a shortage of "raw materials such as rubber and various minerals. Africa benefitted from this change.
- Another key problem was the U-boats patrolling the Antarctic Ocean reduced the amount of raw materials' being transported to Europe and prompted the creation of local industries in Africa. Local industries in turn caused creation of new towns, and existing towns doubled in size. As urban community and industry grew increased literacy, which allowed for pro-independence newspapers and rising nationalism in Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana and other African States.
- The rise nationalism kick started the process of decolonization in Africa from the 1950's.

Conclusion:

Hence, the World War-II served as a sort of death warrant for the colonial empires as after it, decolonization process started across the world.

Discuss the factors that led to French Revolution. Examine its impact on French society in particular and on the world in general. (250 words)

Reference: Mastering Modern World History – Norman Lowe.

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions and aims to ascertain the factors responsible for French revolution and its impact.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the reasons for French revolution, its impact on the world and French society.

Directive:



Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly state what the Revolution was with dates in the introduction.

Body:

List down the main causes responsible for French revolution.

French Revolution (1789-1799) was a period of social and political upheaval in France resulting in the overthrow of Monarchy and establishing of Republic.

Discuss the multidimensional factors responsible for the revolution.

Then move on to explain the impact on the French society and the world in general.

Napoleon carried ideals of the Revolution to the rest of Europe: Liberty, Modern Laws, Democratic Rights, protection of private property. This, in turn, gave rise to Modern Nationalism paving way creation of the sovereign nation-state.

Liberalism as government form got crystallised in North and South America.

It inspired other revolutions: Haitian Revolution, Independence Movements in Spanish and Portuguese colonies in South America. Raja Rammohan Roy and Tipu Sultan in particular and Indian Nationalist Freedom Struggle incorporated ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Conclusion:

Conclude that the importance of the French Revolution laid in laying the foundation of Modern States based on Liberal Democratic ideals. Also, indirectly it laid the groundwork for the growth of Socialism and Communism by providing an intellectual and social environment in which these ideologies could flourish.

Introduction:

The outbreak French revolution of 1789 was due to the political incompetency of King Louis XVI, disorganized administrative step, sharp inequalities in the society and impending financial crisis.

Body:

Political Causes:

- **Degeneration of the Absolute Monarchy:** Absolute monarchy reached its peak under Louis XIV, and began to degenerate during his lifetime. Refusal of Louis XV to remedy the abuses of the old order, inefficiency of Louis XVI, all added to the initiation of the process of revolution. His wife, Marie Antoinette, squandered money on festivities and interfered in state appointments.
- **Administrative Ruins:** The administrative system of the country was hopelessly unsatisfactory. Various units of the administration possessed ill-defined and overlapping jurisdictions. At different times, France had been divided into districts under bailiffs and seneschals whose offices were purely ornamental. It had also been divided into provinces under governors. It had been divided into intendancies (under intendants), judicial districts, educational districts and ecclesiastical districts. The conflict of jurisdictions added to the difficulties and troubles of the people.
- **Judicial Malfeasance:** The legal system of the country was full of confusion. There was no uniform law for the whole of the country. Different laws were in force in different parts of the country. While at one place German law prevailed, at another place the Roman law was in force. It is estimated that there were about 400 different systems of law in the country. The laws were written in Latin and consequently were not within the comprehension of the people.



Social Causes:

- **Inequalities:** There was too much of inequality in French society on the eve of the French Revolution. French society was divided into two parts the privileged and the unprivileged. It is estimated that the clergy and nobility owned about one-fifth each of property in France. Thus about one per cent of people owned about 40 per cent of property in the country. While they enjoyed privileges, they were exempted from taxes.

Economic Causes:

- The series of wars France took part in Austrian War of succession, Seven Years war and American war of Independence which was great drain on the resources of the country.

Role of French Philosophers:

- Another cause of the French Revolution was the effect of the preachings of the French philosophers. Montesquieu, Voltaire and Rousseau were the three intellectual giants of the age.

Immediate Cause:

- The impending bankruptcy and the acute shortage of food in France started the revolution in France.

Impact on French society and the World:

- Changed the social structure beginning with end of the feudal system and monarchy
- Bourgeois emerged as dominant classes.
- End of privilege based system.
- Changed the control of the church and separation of Education from Church.
- Enlightenment introduced ideas of individuality
- Change in the roles of women as they were active participants in the revolution.
- The ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity became popular.
- It inspired further revolutions: European Revolutions of 1830 and 1848, Rise of Nationalism in Italy and Germany etc.

Conclusion:

French Revolution was a total revolution having manifestations in almost all spheres from ending Royal Absolutism, Feudalism and inspiring many other revolutions which marked the beginning of the end of the ancient regime on which modern politics took shape.

“The Franco-German war made Germany mistress of Europe and Bismarck master of Germany”, Elucidate.(250 words)

Reference: [jstor.org](https://www.jstor.org)

Why this question:

The question is in the context of unification of Germany.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the significance of Franco-German war, the role played by Bismarck in the unification of Germany.

Directive:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.



Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly provide for the timeline of the beginning of the unification process of Germany and the conditions that necessitated it.

Body:

For centuries, Germany had been little more than a geographical expression divided into numerous principalities, dominated by the spirit of provincialism and under the control of many petty princes despite the various efforts by the Holy Roman Emperors to create a central authority.

Discuss in what way focal point of the history of nineteenth-century Germany was the struggle for unification.

Explain the factors obstructive to unification, factors conducive to unification.

Then explain the role of Bismarck in Unification process.

Conclusion:

Conclude that the Franco-German War made Germany mistress of Europe and Bismarck master of Germany. The political unification under Prussian leadership for which Bismarck had waged three wars and for which revolutionaries of 1848, thinkers, poets, philosophers and historians had all in their different ways, prayed or worked for was at last completed.

Introduction

After Napoleonic wars, Europe saw waves of pro-democracy revolutions but Monarchies were opposed to the democratic ideas of French revolution and they used nationalism as a shield to defend and even extend their empires. Bismarck thus consolidated his hold on Germany through Franco-Prussian war of 1870.

Franco-German War, also called Franco-Prussian War, (July 19, 1870–May 10, 1871), war in which a coalition of German states led by Prussia defeated France. The war marked the end of French hegemony in continental Europe and resulted in the creation of a unified Germany.

Body

Background

Prussia's victory over Austria in the Seven Weeks' War in 1866 had confirmed Prussian leadership of the German states and threatened France's position as the dominant power in Europe.

- The immediate cause of the Franco-German War, however, was the candidacy of Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (who was related to the Prussian royal house) for the Spanish throne, which had been left vacant when Queen Isabella II had been deposed in 1868. The
- **Prussian chancellor, Otto von Bismarck**, and Spain's de facto leader, Juan Prim, persuaded the reluctant Leopold to accept the Spanish throne in June 1870.
- This move greatly alarmed France, who felt threatened by a possible combination of Prussia and Spain directed against it.

The Franco-Prussia War: Timeline

Bismarck's Prussia first fought a war in 1864 in alliance with Austria against Denmark to annex most of the territory of German Confederation.

Bismarck knew Austria was a major obstacle to unification. To succeed in his aims, Bismarck declared war against Austria in 1866. This War led to the defeat of the neighbouring States of Austria like Bavaria, Saxon etc. and then Austria. To isolate Austria, Bismarck built up alliances with other major powers- Russia, France and Italy.



The Treaty of Prague and formation of Germany: After the Austro-Prussian War, the 'Treaty of Prague' was concluded between Austria and Prussia in 1866. According to this treaty Austria was expelled from Germany. After the treaty of Prague the formation of Germany was started.

In 1867, Bismarck formed the North German Confederation. It united 22 German states but excluded the Southern German states like Bavaria, which remained independent. The constitution of this Confederation made the Prussian King the hereditary head of the state.

Unification: Bismarck's Role

- With Austria weakened, Bismarck now turned his attention to the other great stumbling block to unification- France. France had watched Prussia's growing power with alarm. France was heavily defeated in the Franco-Prussian War. The circumstances leading to the war caused the southern German states to support Prussia. This alliance led to the unification of Germany.
- **Annexation:** The states of Schleswig, Holstein, Hanover, Nassaa and Frankfurt were annexed to Prussia. The States north to May River were annexed to Prussia and the North German Confederation was formed.
- **Unification:** In the build up to war, the southern confederate German states voluntarily joined the Prussian-controlled Northern German Confederation. Germany was now unified.
- The Southern states followed a pro-Austria policy but were forced to unite after the German victory in Franco-Prussian war of 1870.

Conclusion

Unification of Germany was not one single event but a process which occurred in phases. Bismarck had played a major role in unification and nation building of Germany through his policies, military reforms, speeches and isolation strategies.

Discuss the causes of Russian revolution in comparison with French revolution.(250 words)

Reference: world history by Norman Lowe

Why this question:

The question aims to discuss the causes of Russian Revolution in comparison with French Revolution.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the factors responsible for Russian revolution and compare with those that led to French revolution.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction: highlight that in Central Europe the Great War had secured the triumph of the principles of nationality and democracy. But in Russia it led to an upheaval which was as characteristically social and economic as it was national and political.

Body:

Discuss the causes in detail while drawing parallels with the factors that led to French revolution.

As in France the government of Russia was autocratic without being efficient.

As in France the social order in Russia was marked by a wide cleavage between the upper and lower classes.

As in France, the material revolution in Russia was preceded by a revolution in the realm of ideas.

Explain more such factors.

**Conclusion:**

Conclude by reasserting the significance of the revolution in the history of Russia.

Introduction

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was one of the most explosive political events of the twentieth century. The violent revolution marked the end of the Romanov dynasty and centuries of Russian Imperial rule. During the Russian Revolution, the Bolsheviks, led by leftist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin, seized power and destroyed the tradition of czarist rule. The Bolsheviks would later become the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Body**Background**

The French and Russian revolutions had some very similar characteristics that created drastic unrest from the people. The two countries both faced an extremely harsh economy that was leaving citizens impoverished. It is notable to point out that before the 1917 revolution in Russia, there was a prior attempt in 1905 after “Bloody Sunday” incident wherein a peaceful march was fired upon.

They adapted an assembly which was called the “State Duma of the Russian Empire” which limited the power of Czar Nicholas II but he still retained his hierarchy. The Russian people were still unhappy after meagre reforms of 1905 and it only lasted until 1917 when the second Russian Revolution took place.

Causes of Russian Revolution

- **Economic Situation:** During the First World War, when the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers in World War I; it blocked off key trade routes to the Russians. They could no longer deliver key supplies and their economy suffered in the process.
 - This led to an inflation of money and the peasants grew angrier because of the high prices of items such as food and also the increase in food shortages.
 - Very similar to Russia, one of the causes of the **French Revolution** was that the economy was struggling dramatically especially with produce. Feeding the people became an issue, due to an unfortunate string of terrible harvests, which in turn forced food to take a steep rise up in price.
- **Financial Crisis:** Involvement in World War One or what is now called as The Great War had left Russia destitute, impoverished, and riddled with corruption.
 - The lack in of capital, as well as the rise of Great Britain was another economic cause of the French revolution. The French were facing a financial crisis with billions in debt to pay.
- **Social crisis :** The social causes of the Russian Revolution mainly came from centuries of oppression towards the lower classes by the Tsarist regime and Nicholas’s failures in World War I. While rural agrarian peasants had been emancipated from serfdom in 1861, they still resented paying redemption payments to the state, and demanded communal tender of the land they worked.



- The French had a designated a three level class system in which the clergy members were on top of the hierarchy (First Estate), the nobility or bourgeoisie were set in middle (Second Estate), and the rest of France completed the bottom level (Third Estate). The burden was always on the Third Estate who eventually revolted against the upper class.
- **Political dissatisfaction:** Politically, most areas of Russian society had reason to be dissatisfied with the existing autocratic system. They had no representation in government, and the Tsar remained out of touch with the people's problems.
 - In France, all the public offices and posts were held by the nobility and the second estate. However, the third estate did not have representation, while they had to bear the burden of taxes.

Differences in the aftermath of Russian and French Revolution

- The French decided towards a democracy while the Russian government became communist . Both the French and Russian revolutions had similar causes but ended up with different results. The Russians had Lenin as their authoritarian leader and the French had the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.
- The French wanted to abolish their previous totalitarian regime so that they would all have the opportunity to live and get rich in a capitalist democratic 'free' state, while the Russians wanted to abolish their previous totalitarian regime so that they would all have the necessities of life and live equally without the need to acquire material wealth as happiness.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Russian Revolution and the French Revolution were similar in numerous ways. The Russian Revolution had elements of difficulty from a political, social, and economic stand point making it especially similar to French Revolution. This has created key points in European history making these two Revolutions especially unforgettable.





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2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
 Nitish K AIR 8, CSE 2014	 Neha Kumari AIR 26, CSE 2014	 Arbka Shukla AIR 4, CSE 2015	 Kirti Chekuri AIR 14, CSE 2015	 Nandini K R AIR 1, CSE 2016
 Dhyanachandra H M AIR 47, CSE 2016	 Anudeep AIR 1, CSE 2017	 Anu Kumari AIR 2, CSE 2017	 Shrushti Deshmukh AIR 5, CSE 2018	 Rahul Sharanappa Sankanur AIR 17, CSE 2018
 Balaji D K AIR 36, CSE 2014	 Satish Reddy Pingile AIR 97, CSE 2014	 Chandra Mohan Gang AIR 25, CSE 2015	 Kumar Ashirvad AIR 35, CSE 2015	 Shivam Pratap Singh AIR 52, CSE 2016
 Santosh B M AIR 307, CSE 2016	 Sachin Gupta AIR 3, CSE 2017	 Saumya Sharma AIR 9, CSE 2017	 Sreelakshmi R AIR 29, CSE 2018	 Lakshmi N AIR 45, CSE 2018

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Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

What are the reasons for persistence of patriarchy in our society? What is the difference between public and private patriarchy? Explain. (250 words)

Reference: [Shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in](https://www.shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of the GS paper I and is based on the theme of salient feature of Indian society.

Key demand of the question:

One has to discuss the causative factors of the existence of the patriarchy in our society and throw light upon the difference between public and private patriarchy.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly define what Patriarchy is.

Body:

Patriarchy literally means “rule of the father”, today it is a term that refers to social systems where power is concentrated in the hands of adult men.

Explain why it is a phenomenon that is consistently witnessed in the Indian society historically.

Discuss the reasons in detail – historical milieu, power and cultural perception, e ideology of motherhood which restricts women’s mobility and burdens them with the responsibilities to nurture and rear children etc.

Also point out to debates of various sociologists to substantiate your points.

Differentiate and compare public and private patriarchy. (define, key features, relevance etc.)

Conclusion:

Conclude that over time mindsets are undergoing change and it’s time to change the approach of the society and enter a new era of equity and equitability in terms of gender and their roles.

Introduction:

Patriarchy refers to the dominance in society by male counterparts, intruding considerably in the autonomy of females. It is essentially a system of male domination in diverse aspects of life such as moral authority, social privilege, decision making, control of property, political leadership et al. It has hampered the position of the middle class working women in India in contemporary times owing to prolonged practices of the past and submissiveness of the females.

Body:

Reasons for persistence of patriarchy in our society:

- The first lessons of patriarchy are learnt in the family where the head of the family is a man/ father. Man is considered the head of the family and controls women’s sexuality, labour or production, reproduction and mobility.
- In a patriarchal family the birth of male child is preferred to that of a female.
- Patriarchal societies propagate the ideology of motherhood which restricts women’s mobility and burdens them with the responsibilities to nurture and rear children.
- Family is therefore important for socializing the next generation in patriarchal values. The boys learn to be dominating and aggressive and girls learn to be caring, loving and submissive. These



stereotypes of masculinity and femininity are not only social constructs but also have been internalized by both men and

- While the pressure to earn and look after the family is more on the man, the women are supposed to do the menial jobs and take care of their children and even other members of the family. It is because of these gender stereotypes that women are at a disadvantage and are vulnerable to violence and other kinds of discriminations and injustices.
- Systemic deprivation and violence against women: rape, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, female feticide, infanticide, sati, dowry deaths, wife-beating, high level of female illiteracy, malnutrition, undernourishment and continued sense of insecurity keeps women bound to home, economically exploited, socially suppressed and politically passive
- Patriarchal constructions of knowledge perpetuate patriarchal ideology and this is reflected in educational institutions, knowledge system and media which reinforce male dominance.
- Patriarchal constructions of social practices are legitimized by religion and religious institutions as most religious practices regard male authority as superior and the laws and norms regarding family, marriage, divorce and inheritance are linked to patriarchal control over property biased against women
- Male dominated institutions like church and state also lay down rules regarding women's reproductive capacity

Difference between public and private patriarchy:

Private Patriarchy: This form of patriarchy can be found in the household. It sees one individual patriarch (the dominant male) dominate and oppress the subjugated female. This acts as an exclusionary tactic as women are prevented from taking part in public discourse.

Public Patriarchy: As inferred from its name, this patriarchy operates in the public world. Most often associated with the working world, public patriarchy is the existence of oppressive factors that still function. In public life, women are more collectively separated from power, wealth, and influence than men are

In the west, there has been a shift in patriarchies. It is believed that where private patriarchy was once far more common than its public counterpart, domination of women through a male-orientated world is now more prevalent in the public realm.

Conclusion:

Gender equality, which has already been realized as quintessential for inclusive development, is also one of the 17 SDGs. The goals notwithstanding, it is our ethical responsibility to provide equal opportunity to the neglected half of the world's population, and for this, patriarchy must make way for more equitable social systems.

Are families a Universal social institution in India? Analyse.(250 words)

Reference: <http://ir.lib.seu.ac.lk/bitstream/handle/123456789/184/KALAM%201-26.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Why this question:

The question aims to analyse the family as a social institution in India.

Key demand of the question:

Provide for a detailed analysis of how and why families function as social institutions in India.

Directive:

Analyze – When asked to analyse, 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, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgment.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Generally the family is recognized as an element of a broader kinship network that links ancestors and descendants of a person.

Body:

Explain that it is the most permanent and most persistent of all social institutions which exerts constant influence in life of the members from the moment of birth to the moment of death.

Then briefly explain the main characteristics and functions of family.

Discuss why Indian families are more of a Universal social institution; provide for comparison with other countries.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of family system in the Indian context.

Introduction:

Family is the basic unit of society. Family is a bio-social group which is characterized by common residence, economic co-operation and reproduction. The meaning of the family and its boundaries are differed widely from one society to another. Family is not an association only it is an institutional complex or system of institutions which bears primary importance in the socialization of the young. Thus, it consists of a man and a woman, permanently united, with one or more children.

Body:

Family – a Universal social institution in India:

- The family, in Indian society, is an institution by itself and a typical symbol of the collectivist culture of India right from the ancient times.
- The joint family system or an extended family has been an important feature of Indian culture, till a blend of urbanization and western influence, began to affect in home and hearth.
- This is especially true of urban areas, where nuclear families have become the order of the day.
- There is no denying the fact that socio-economic factors have played their role in the joint family system getting diluted.
- Families play an important role in preserving and promoting the cultural and social values in a society.
- Children who grow up in an extended family not only imbibe qualities of tolerance, patience, democratic attitude of accepting others' viewpoints, but also develop sportsman's spirit while playing with siblings and cousins.
- Various age-old traditions, customs and ways of living are all products of family system. In fact, the family system lays the seeds for social cohesion and democratic thinking.
- Family system creates a strong bond of unity at an early age, paves the way for social cohesion and in a broader sense promotes national unity.
- The qualities of sharing and caring by senior family members automatically lead them to think of a secure future for their children by making savings. This in turn helps in strengthening national economy.
- Living with close family members rather than spending time in a crèche or play school will immensely contribute towards making the childhood memorable and happier, a crucial factor to the overall personality development of an individual.



- Family can shape the world view, foster and reinforce the value system of the individuals and therefore, consequently, be the warp and weft of a sustainable, peaceful, inclusive, prosperous world.

Changes in universal quality of family system 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.
- **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.**



- 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.
- **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.**

Conclusion:

Man's life from the cradle to the grave is spent in the family in general. The ascetics are the exception to this norm. It gives a sense of continuity to life. Though patterns of family life differ widely, all families have aims and functions. All meet the basic needs of children and adults. Moreover, all have certain common goals such as looking after the helpless child to grow and mature, socializing the child to suit the group life, providing them with the cultural frame work of obligations and relationship.

Role of women and women's organization

"Female literacy has a direct positive multiplier effect in tackling the problem of malnutrition in the country". Comment. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why this question:

Ashok Gulati writes that India is on track to achieving top two Sustainable Development Goals: Elimination of poverty and hunger and to ensure good health and well-being by 2030, focus should be on agriculture and female literacy.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the significant impact that female literacy carries with it to contribute to resolve the issue of malnutrition in the country.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly explain the current scenario of malnutrition in the country.

Body:

Quote some relevant data in the beginning such as – The World Bank's estimates of extreme poverty — measured as .9/per capita/per day at purchasing power parity of 2011 — show a secular decline in India from 45.9 per cent to 13.4 per cent between 1993 and 2015. Discuss the aspects of challenge for India; to achieve the third goal of SDG – good health and well-being by 2030, and then discuss how female literacy can be a game changer to achieve this goal. Explain that 'Female literacy' – is one of the most important factors that has a positive multiplier effect on child care and access to healthcare facilities. It increases awareness about nutrient-rich diet, personal hygiene; etc. This can also help contain the family size in poor, malnourished families. Discuss the efforts of the government in this direction, highlight some key policies and programmes.

Conclusion:

Conclude that thus, a high priority to female literacy, in a mission mode through liberal scholarships for the girl child, would go a long way towards tackling this problem.

Introduction:

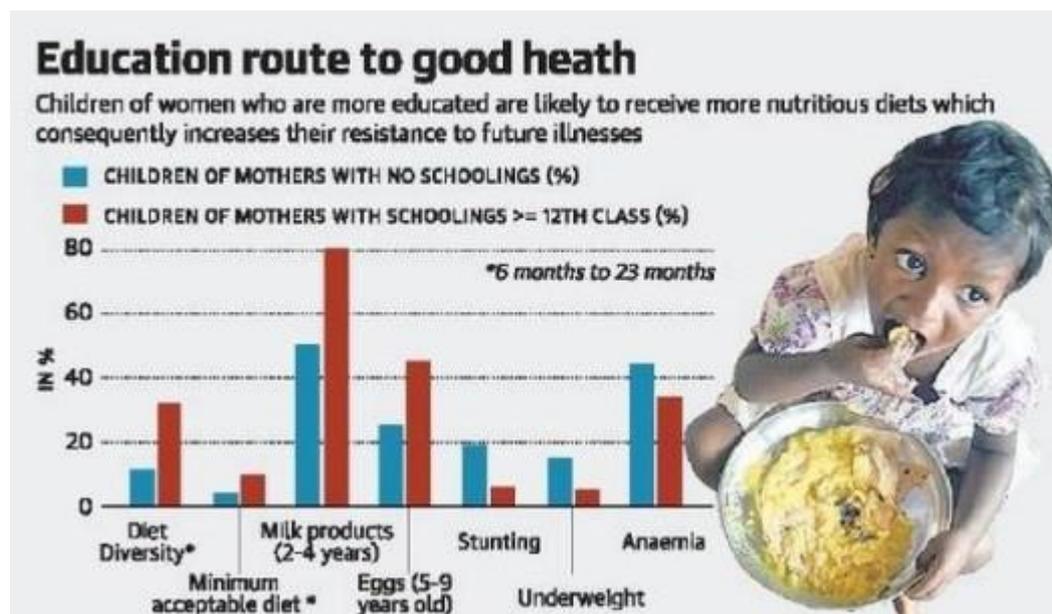


Malnutrition in India also persists because of the age-old patterns of social and economic exclusion. According to UNICEF, 38% of children younger than five years of age in India are stunted, a manifestation of chronic undernutrition. Stunting and other forms of under-nutrition are thought to be responsible for nearly half of all child deaths globally. Pan-India study of 1.2 lakh children by Health and Family Welfare Ministry shows **children received better diets with higher levels of schooling among mothers. Maternal education accounted for about 12% of the gender related factors attributing to malnutrition.**

Body:

Correlation between mothers' education and the nutrition levels of children:

- The data recorded show 31% of mothers of children aged up to four years, 42% of women having children aged five to nine and 53% of mothers of adolescents aged 10-19 never attended school.
- Only 20% of mothers of pre-schoolers, 12% of those of schoolchildren, and 7% of those of adolescents had completed 12 or more years of schooling.
- Data from the CNNS study show that with higher levels of schooling in a mother, children received better diets.
- Only 11.4% of children of mothers with no schooling received adequately diverse meals, while 31.8% whose mothers finished Class XII received diverse meals.
- The study found 3.9% of children whose mothers had zero schooling got minimum acceptable diets, whereas this was at 9.6% for children whose mothers finished schooling.
- Moreover, 7.2% of children in the former category consumed iron rich food, whereas this was at 10.3% for children in the latter category.
- The proportion of children aged two to four consuming dairy products, eggs and other fruits and vegetables the previous day increased with the mothers' education level and household wealth status.
- For example, only 49.8% of children in that age group whose mothers did not go to school consumed dairy products, while 80.5% of children of mothers who completed their schooling did so.
- These trends also show among older children and adolescents — only 25.4% of children in the 5-9 age group with uneducated mothers received eggs, but 45.3% of children whose mothers studied till Class XII had eggs.
- Stunting among children aged up to four was nearly three times for the former category (19.3% versus 5.9%), and the number of underweight children was nearly double among them (14.8% versus 5.1%) as compared to the latter category.
- Also, 5.7% of the children were wasted in the former category, while this was at 4.3% in the latter category.
- Anaemia saw a much higher prevalence of 44.1% among children up to four years old with mothers who never went to school, versus 34.6% among those who completed their schooling.
- The HUNGaMA (Hunger and Malnutrition) Survey across 112 rural districts in 2011 by non-profit Naandi Foundation shows the impact of the world's oldest anti-malnutrition programme. Eighty per cent of the mothers have not heard the word malnutrition in their local language.



However, the study also found that higher level of education among mothers also had its adverse impacts on education:

- On the flip side, a higher level of education among mothers meant that their children received meals less frequently, perhaps because their chances of being employed and travelling long distances to work went up.
- About 50.4% of children in the age group of 6-23 months born to illiterate mothers versus 36.2% among those who had finished schooling.
- Such children were also at higher risk of diabetes and high cholesterol as relative prosperity could lead to higher consumption of sugary drinks and foods high in cholesterol.
- Children in the age group of 10-19 showed a higher prevalence of pre-diabetes if their mother had finished schooling (15.1% versus 9.6%).
- The prevalence of high cholesterol levels was at 6.2% in these children as opposed to 4.8% among those whose mothers never attended school.

Measures needed:

- A decentralized approach should be promoted with greater flexibility and decision making at the state, district and local levels.
- The ownership of Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies is to be strengthened over nutrition initiatives.
- Mothers should be made aware of the right nutrition their child will need to stay strong and healthy.
- Anganwadi workers, ANMs and ASHAs should be educated and help educate the mothers about motherhood, sexual practices, hygiene and sanitation in the rural areas.
- Providing sexual health education to the adolescent females and mothers to be.

Conclusion:

Thus, maternal education has definite and significant effect on nutritional status of children. This is the key factor to be addressed for prevention or improvement of childhood malnutrition. For this it is imperative to launch sustainable programs at national and regional level to uplift women educational status to combat this ever increasing burden of malnutrition.



What do you understand by 'Period Poverty'? Discuss the status of it in India. To what extent does our society promise 'period dignity'? Explain. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why this question:

The Scottish Parliament passed the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill. Thus the question analyses the aspects of period poverty applied to the context of Indian society.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the concept of 'Period Poverty' and 'Period dignity' applied to the Indian context.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly explain what 'Period Poverty' is.

Body:

Define period poverty – Some circumstances make menstruation a "difficult experience" for women. These include homelessness, coercive, controlling and violent relationships and health conditions such as endometriosis. Some trans people may also experience difficulties in accessing sanitary products. Discuss the context within the Indian setup. Explain how often it is a taboo in our country leading to extreme incidences of period poverty, Comment on the lack of period dignity. Discuss the case of Scotland bill. Suggest what needs to be done in India to improvise the conditions.

Conclusion:

Conclude with policy measures already in this direction while suggesting stronger ways forward.

Introduction:

Period poverty is the lack of access to sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education, toilets, hand washing facilities, and, or, waste management. Period poverty affects women and girls all over the world. Access to sanitary products, safe, hygienic spaces in which to use them, and the right to manage menstruation without shame or stigma, is essential for anyone who menstruates. A new report published by **UNICEF and WaterAid** found that more than a third of girls in South Asia miss school during their periods, mainly due to lack of access to toilets and pads in schools and no proper education about menstruation.

Body:

Status of period poverty in India:

- 63 million adolescent girls in India, do not have access to a toilet in their homes. Without a clean and private space to change menstrual products, girls are less likely to properly manage their own hygiene.
- According to UN data on Menstrual hygiene management (MHM), 66% of girls in India are unaware of menstruation before their first period and, for 23-28% of girls in rural India, periods, together with, lack of private spaces and facilities, remains a major reason for being out of school.
- In India, on an average, girls miss six days of class each month due to shame surrounding their periods or a lack of sanitary products.



- And only 12% schools have soap available to wash hands. These factors affect the personal development and growth of girls.
- For low-income families, the price of different sanitary pads makes them inaccessible frequently, because of the towering cost of sanitation facilities.
- In India, 70 percent of all reproductive diseases are caused by different kinds of pitiable menstrual hygiene situations. Researchers estimate that 71 percent of girls in India have no awareness about menstrual well-being until after their first period.
- Surprisingly, in 2017, the Indian government labelled menstrual products as luxury goods but in July of 2018, the Indian government removed the tax, to make the sanitary products more accessible to everyone.
- With taboos and superstitions in different countries, even an open discussion in schools is impossible and about 71% of girls in India are unaware about menstruation before their first period.
- Women are often described as “dirty” while menstruating and are commonly separated in the home when dining, praying or participating in other activities.

Implications of period poverty on women:

- Poor menstrual hygiene can cause physical health risks and has been linked to reproductive and urinary tract infections, according to UNICEF.
- It also stops women from reaching their full potential when they miss out on opportunities crucial to their growth.
- Young girls who do not receive an education are more likely to enter child marriages and experience an early pregnancy, malnourishment, domestic violence, and pregnancy complications as a result.
- Period shame has negative mental effects as well. It disempowers women, causing them to feel embarrassed about a normal biological process.
- Menstrual inequality is often caused by shame around the conversation as well as the high cost of feminine products. This creates challenges in education and an increased risk of disease.

Measures needed for ‘Period dignity’:

- The first step is to normalize menstruation and destroy taboos around the natural process. Then policy must be enforced to make menstrual products, sanitation and hygiene easily accessible.
- There is a need to break the menstruation stigma and change national policy through education and behavior change with initiatives like hosting menstrual waste workshops and promoting toilet designs that can handle menstrual material waste in India.
- Girls and women should also be educated about premenstrual syndrome (PMS).
- Sanitation and hygiene needs of women, coupled with a need for privacy, safety and dignity is also seeing special emphasis in the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- NGO’s and CSO’s can train women and girls to make safe, reusable sanitary pads so they always have access to clean and affordable sanitary products.
- There is a need to work with local communities to end the practice of discrimination and period-shaming tradition for good.
- The World Bank and WASH partnered together to create Menstrual Hygiene Day to spread awareness about the importance of sanitary products for women and girls around the world.
- Legislations like that in Scotland which aims to develop a universal system in Scotland, which will provide free sanitary products for “anyone who needs them” needs to be promoted in India.



- In January 2017, a member of parliament from Arunachal Pradesh tabled a private members' bill – The Menstruation Benefit Bill in the Lok Sabha, and proposed paid leave for all working women in India every month.
- From 2014 onwards, the government is funding states under the **National Health Mission for decentralised procurement of sanitary napkins** to provide rural girls at a cost of Rs 6 for a pack of six napkins. The programme aims at increasing awareness on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls, increase access to good quality sanitary napkins and their safe disposal.

Conclusion:

A multi-sectoral response involving water, sanitation, urban planning, education, health, and the social sector can ensure that evidence-based, and cost-effective policies are developed for the benefit of all.

“Having more professional women in office is a matter of both representation and capability”, examine the need for more working women in politics in such a context. (250 words)

Reference: undp.org

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I and aims to deliberate on the theme of Women participation in politics.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the need for Women in politics and highlight the significance of having them participate and contribute to both representation and capability.

Directive:

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly set the context of the question.

Body:

First explain that from suffragettes to modern day feminists, women and men have fought long and hard for women's right to vote and hold office.

As of today women in every country in the world have the right to vote; But progress is slow and uneven. Women are still underrepresented in politics, parliaments and public life.

Discuss the reasons that have led to low participation.

Explain why is this still an issue in 2020?

Then discuss what difference women can make? – Women in office motivate other women, design laws that encourage better education for girls, secure financial independence and formal employment for women, push up our abysmal female labour force participation rates. Discuss the efforts of the government in this direction.

Conclusion:

Conclude that over the past few decades, women have made their mark as effective managers, bankers, professors, corporate leaders, lawyers, doctors and civil servants. These are women who know how to solve problems, get things done and manage multiple responsibilities. Electing able women professionals will help us simultaneously achieve better representation and expertise.

Introduction:



Women's representation in political decision-making continues to rise slowly, with slight improvements since 2017, according to the data presented in the 2019 edition of the biennial IPU-UN Women map of Women in Politics. The map was launched at a press conference during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63) at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Body:

Key Highlights of the report:

- The map, which presents global rankings for women in the executive and parliamentary government branches as of 1 January 2019, shows the proportion of women ministers is at an all-time high at 20.7 per cent, 2.4 percentage points higher compared to 2017. It also shows that the types of portfolios women ministers hold are diversifying.
- The global share of women Members of Parliament (MPs)—24.3 per cent—has increased by nearly one point compared with 2017. The share of women parliamentary speakers also increased by 0.6 percentage points to 19.7 per cent, and the share of women deputy speakers increased by 1.6 percentage points to 28.2 per cent.
- However, women's representation in top-level leadership has decreased from 7.2 per cent of elected Heads of State to 6.6 per cent (10 out of 153), and from 5.7 per cent of Heads of Government to 5.2 per cent (10 out of 193).
- Among countries in Asia, Pakistan progressed from having no women ministers since 2012 to reaching its highest-ever share of women ministers at 12 per cent.
- In Europe, Slovenia dropped the most percentage points since 2017 from 50 per cent to 25 per cent women ministers. Lithuania no longer has women in ministerial positions, compared to 2017 when there were three out of 14, or 21.4 per cent.
- The number of countries with no women ministers decreased from 13 in 2017 to 11: Azerbaijan, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Iraq, Kiribati, Lithuania, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Vanuatu.
- The types of portfolios held by women ministers are shifting.
- Strikingly, more women are in charge of portfolios traditionally occupied by men compared to 2017: 30 per cent more women ministers cover Defence, 52.9 per cent more women cover Finance, and 13.6 per cent more women cover Foreign Affairs.

Present situation of women's political representation in India:

- India ranks **153 out of 190 nations** in the percentage of women in the lower house of world parliaments.
- The Economic Survey 2018 said there are **developing countries like Rwanda** which has more than 60 per cent women representatives in Parliament in 2017.
- In India, between 2010 and 2017 **women's share rose 1 percentage point** in its **Lower House** (Lok Sabha).
- As on October 2016, out of the **total 4,118 MLAs** across the country, **only 9 per cent** were women.
- The highest percentage of women legislators come from Bihar, Haryana and Rajasthan (14%), followed by Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (13%) and Punjab (12%).
- The factors such as **domestic responsibilities, prevailing cultural attitudes regarding roles of women in society and lack of support from family** were among main reasons that prevented them from entering politics.



- **Lack of confidence and finance** were the other major deterring factors that prevented women from entering politics.
- Ahead of any election campaign in the country, **sexist and derogatory remarks** start doing the rounds against women contestants, in some cases forcing them to withdraw their nomination.
- The introduction of **the Women's Reservation Bill in 1996** that would reserve 33 percent of seats in Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies for women on a rotational basis, lapsed in 2014 with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.
- The constitution allocates total seats to states by population, the resultant women's representation at 12% is far below the actual population of women. So, on grounds of fairness, this is an anomaly.

Enhancing women participation in parliament would ensure the upliftment of status of women :

- In 1994, India ratified the 73rd and the 74th amendments to the Indian Constitution, granting women 1/3 reservation in rural and urban democratic bodies.
- There are 13.72 lakh elected women representatives (EWRs) in PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions) which constitute 44.2 per cent of total elected representatives (ERs) as on December, 2017.
- Women sarpanchs accounted for 43 per cent of total gram panchayats (GPs) across the country, exhibiting active leadership of women in local government.
- There is documented evidence both at the **international level and at the gram panchayat (village)** level to suggest that a greater representation of women in elected office balances the process and prioritizations that elected bodies focus on.
- In terms of **policy styles**, for instance, the inclusion of women adds behind the scenes discussion rather than direct confrontation on the floor of the House.
- In terms of **agenda** (as measured in Rwanda), a wider range of family issues get tackled.
- Esther Duflo and Raghavendra Chattopadhyay (**NBER Working Paper 8615**) showed that in a randomised trial in West Bengal, **women pradhans** (heads of village panchayats) focus on infrastructure that is **relevant to the needs of rural women**, suggesting that at least at the local level **outcomes** can be different.
- The role model effect also erases the gender disparity in educational attainment of young girls.
- A study by IndiaSpend reported **women panchayat leaders** in Tamil Nadu **invested 48 percent more** money than their male counterparts in building roads and improving access.
- Another study by **the United Nations** found that **women-led panchayats delivered 62 percent higher drinking water projects** than those led by men.

Way forward:

- India should have an **Election Commission-led effort** to push for reservation for women in political parties.
- **Reservation for women in political parties**— a more viable option.
- Quotas for women in Parliament as envisaged in the **Women's Reservation Bill**.
- **Awareness, education and role modelling** that encourage women towards politics and wipe out **Gender stereotypes** which perceive women as weak representatives.
- Inclusive economic institutions and growth—both necessary for and dependent on social empowerment—require inclusive political institutions.
- **Women's leadership and communication skills** need to be enhanced by increasing female literacy especially in rural areas. They should be empowered in order to break socio-cultural barriers and improve their status in the society.



Conclusion:

B.R. Ambedkar once said that “**political power is the key to all social progress**”. Ensuring proportional representation to women in parliament is seen by policy makers as a **panacea to the issues surrounding women empowerment**. Recognising the significance of roles of women in decision making process in the society is **critical to strengthen women’s agencies for building a progressive society with equality of opportunities among all citizens**. Male politicians must take a lead role in challenging traditions which foster inequality and also unequivocally condemn the misogynistic language that their counterparts use when it comes to women.

Comment upon the need for closing the gender gap in science in the country. (250 words)

Reference: [The Hindu](#)

Why this question:

The author discusses how with fewer women in the field, the quality of science and advancement of society are both affected and highlights the need for closing the gender gap in field of science.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should bring out the essence of closing gender gap in science and its impact on overall development.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly point out the facts suggesting gender gap in the field of science in the country.

Body:

The answer body should cover the following dimensions –

First, explain why there was and is a continued sense of gender discrimination in science; list down the factors (Historical, societal etc.)

Discuss how social and organizational conditions regulate women’s participation in science education and research.

Take cues from the article and present the case of India in detail.

Suggest solutions to address the problem.

Point out to policies and programmes in this direction and what more needs to be done.

Conclusion:

Conclude with the point – it is imperative that we understand and remove the sexism and institutional obstacles that prevent more women from entering the scientific field.

Introduction:

Science, technology, engineering, and medicine – together known as ‘STEM’ fields – suffer from lack of women, especially in India. In school exam results, we hear of how girls have outshone boys, but when it comes to those who take up research in later life, the number of women is minuscule. This means that many of our best brains that showed the maximum potential do not pick research as a career.

February 11 was the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, established by the United Nations to promote equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. While some of the greatest scientists and mathematicians have been women, they remain under-represented in



comparison to their male counterparts in higher studies involving science, as well as among the top scientific achievers.

Body:

Status of gender gap in the field of Science, technology, engineering and mathematics:

- According to the 2018 UNESCO Institute for Statistics' report on women in science, 44% of bachelor students and 41% of doctoral students in India are female.
- Women face "double burden syndrome" – a culture where both men and women feel the family and household duties are primarily the woman's responsibility.
- According to a recent survey on Women in STEM, 81 per cent women in India perceive gender bias in performance evaluations.
- While more women are enrolling in university, relatively few pursue careers in research.
- The ideal fraction of 50% of female students has not been achieved.
- There is a drastic drop in the percentage of women from the doctoral level to the scientist/faculty position.
- There is a "major paucity" of women at the senior-most administrative and policy making positions in scientific institutions.
- Women showed a preference for arts; however, female enrolment in science streams rose from 2010-11 to 2015-16.
- The report found that in over 620 institutes and universities, including IITs, NITs, ISRO, and DRDO, the presence of women was 20.0% among Scientific and Administrative Staff, 28.7% among Post-Doctoral Fellows, and 33.5% among PhD scholars.
- In India, a 2016-17 NITI Aayog report compared female enrolment in various disciplines over five years, until 2015-16.
- UNESCO data from 2014-16 show that only around 30% of female students select STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)-related fields in higher education.
- Female enrolment is particularly low in information technology (3%), natural science, mathematics and statistics (5%) and engineering and allied streams (8%).

Reasons for this gender gap:

- When highly qualified women drop out of the workforce, it results in considerable depletion of national resources in science and technology.
- Stereotypes encountered by girls to the family-caring responsibilities.
- Patriarchal society.
- Women face bias when choosing a career.
- Women continue to face the same kind of discrimination at work as they face in society.
- According to a recent Accenture research report, the gender pay gap in India is as high as 67 percent.
- Various studies have found that girls excel at mathematics and science-oriented subjects in school, but boys often believe they can do better, which shapes their choices in higher studies.
- In 2015, an analysis of PISA scores by OECD found that the difference in math scores between high-achieving boys and girls was the equivalent of about half a year at school.
- But when comparing boys and girls who reported similar levels of self-confidence and anxiety about mathematics, the gender gap in performance disappeared — when girls were more anxious, they tended to perform poorly.

Government Initiatives so far to bridge the gender gap in STEM:

Telegram: <https://t.me/insightsIAStips>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpoccbCX9GEIwaile4HLjwA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/insightsonindia>



- **Vigyan Jyoti scheme:**
 - Announced in the 2017 budget for the Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - The scheme aims to arrange for girl students of classes 9, 10 and 11 meet women scientists, with the IITs and the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research.
 - It is intended to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in their higher education
 - It also offers exposure for girl students from the rural background to help to plan their journey from school to a job of their choice in the field of science.
- **GATI Scheme:**
 - The Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) will develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM.
- **Inspire-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge)**
 - Attract talented young boys and girls to study science and pursue research as a career.
- **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme**
 - Launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2014.
 - Connect India's elite institutes with local communities and address their developmental challenges with appropriate technological interventions.
- Indo-US fellowship for women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine to participate in international collaborative research in premier institutions in America
- Women-centric programmes under the **Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN)** initiative
- **Bio-technology Career Advancement and Reorientation (Bio-Care)**

Way Forward:

- India will have the world's youngest population by 2022 and the women of the country will play a definitive role in devising the country's future.
- It takes a multi-pronged approach to create meaningful, lasting changes in the retention of women in STEM fields.
- Women's participation in STEM should be encouraged from primary school level rather only in higher studies.
- Awareness about gender inequality and its outcome has to be increased.
- The community should be supportive and understanding of career prospects for women.
- Changing mindsets and overcoming biases.
- Companies can provide more internship opportunities for women and give STEM scholarships to meritorious yet economically backward girls.
- Initiating a well-planned role model programme with successful women scientists.
- Special fellowships for girl students securing top positions in university exams.
- Reintegrate women who have taken mid-career breaks.



- Closing the pay gap.
- Government agencies, universities, and society must work together to ensure that women achieve their full potential.

Conclusion:

“The problem of entry of women in science is not uniform across disciplines. Interventions geared to popularizing subjects such as Engineering or the Physical sciences or Chemistry among female students at the school level in both urban and rural areas might be helpful in changing mind-set.”

Discuss the institutional barriers that hinder the growth on women in Police services of the country, also suggest measures to overcome. (250 words)

Reference: [The Hindu](#)

Why this question:

The article brings out the case of Women and their participation in the police services of the country.

Key demand of the question:

Discuss the institutional barriers that hinder the growth on women in Police services of the country while suggesting solutions to address these problems.

Directive:

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:

Briefly discuss few facts suggesting the context of the question.

Body:

In 2009, the Home Ministry set 33% as the target for women’s representation in the police. Since then, the central and state governments have focused on increasing women’s recruitment in the police force. Reservation has been the primary tool to increase women’s representation in the police force.

Then discuss what the concerns are – lack of intent, selective implementation, Lack of representation at higher levels, gender based crimes etc.

Discuss the major institutional barriers – Frequent inter-district transfers

Disallowing postings in home districts for specified periods of time

Poor childcare support systems

Lack of adequate facilities and infrastructure for women.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

The India Justice Report 2019 compiled by a group of sectoral experts, ranging from human rights groups to legal policy groups, show that women account for seven per cent of India’s 2.4 million police personnel. This number is expected to rise, with many States and Union Territories providing for 30% (and more) reservation for women in the police in specific ranks. Current data reveal that most women in the police are concentrated in the lower ranks. It continues to be known as the police force. And being a force, it places a premium on exaggerated masculinity and valor more than on service.

Body:

**The institutional barriers that hinder the growth of women in Police services are:**

- **Gender Apathy:**
 - The police department suffers from gender apathy as evident through the absence of separate toilets, changing rooms for women, and separate accommodation for women, and other facilities and child-care support, in addition to persistent and widespread gender bias.
- **Gender stereotyping:**
 - Decisions on deployment of women are not free of gender stereotyping restricting women from leading operational positions. This biasness is not limited only from male colleague sometimes female superiors too consider them weak, less willing to work and less tough.
- **Lower priority tasks allotted:**
 - There appears to be a tendency to sideline women, or give them policing tasks that are physically less demanding, or relegate them to desk duty, or make them work on crimes against women alone.
- **Allocated only Women related cases:**
 - Women police persons are relegated to dealing with crimes against women and accompanying women prisoners the concept works against the interests of women as it segregates them.
- **Women recruited at lower levels:**
 - Current data reveal that most women in the police are concentrated in the lower ranks reflecting the dearth of females at key operational positions.

Measures needed to overcome:

- **Increased Recruitment:**
 - There is a need to have more women in the field in executive postings – from constables to inspectors and higher ranks.
 - Departments should undertake special recruitment drives in every district to ensure geographical diversity.
- **Better Training:**
 - Women in the constabulary must get the training, support and confidence needed to put them on a par in every sense with their male counterparts.
 - Resource centres for mentoring, creating awareness about opportunities and prospects, and helping with career planning and training and coping with workplace challenges are essential.
- **Safe workspace:**



- Police departments must also ensure safe working spaces for women and adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination and harassment, in order to make policing a viable career option for women.
- Departments must operationalise the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013.
- **Gender sensitivity:**
 - A common gender-neutral cadre needs to be created for all ranks so that promotional opportunities are evenly available.
 - Women do have some special needs, like during and post pregnancies, which need to be catered to. They shouldn't be shunted to non-executive postings. The force needs to encourage more women to be in the field.
- **Higher funding:**
 - Most State police departments have received funds under the Modernisation of State Police Forces Scheme for providing separate toilets and changing rooms for women, and for constructing separate accommodation for women with attached toilets in all police stations and units. Police departments must ensure the best use of this fund.
- **Spreading awareness and sensitization:**
 - The police should reach out to the media and educational institutions to spread awareness about opportunities for women in the police.
 - While women have a role in making up for the lack of training and sensitisation of the force in general in dealing with crimes against women they should not be ghettoised into dealing only with such crimes.

Conclusion:

The discourse on mainstreaming women in the police by making policing inclusive, non-discriminatory and efficient in India is missing in policy circles. Leading to the vicious cycle of non-reporting and non-action, perpetuating the culture of silence. Desk work too must be allocated evenly among men and women. For women in police to perform to their full potential, it would take sustained increase in their strength, meaningful networking within themselves and an institutionalized support system in the current social realities. Then, they will be the women that they are, the police officers that they are. It will allow them to be their authentic selves, agents of change. To achieve. To lead. To serve the people.

Population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues.

Explain the issues surrounding the policies and programmes adopted by the Indian Government to tackle poverty. (250 words)

Reference: [Geography and You](#)

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and aims to analyse the issues surrounding the policies and programmes adopted by the Indian Government to tackle poverty

Key demand of the question:



Discuss the issues surrounding the policies and programmes adopted by the Indian Government to tackle poverty.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly define the poverty conditions in the country, explain why the issues still persist despite consistent efforts of the governments in the past.

Body:

Discuss first the concerns involved in addressing poverty through policies and programmes.

Explain then the various types of efforts made by the govt. to address poverty – growth oriented approach, income based approach, developmental strategies etc.

Suggest what should be done, quote examples of the ongoing policies, explain how they are different from their previous versions etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude on a positive note that the government is changing its approach to tackle poverty based on the response of it to previous programmes.

Introduction:

Poverty is one of the evils that impedes development of the country. Recognising this, India had pursued various poverty alleviation programmes to pull people out of the vicious cycle of poverty. India used multi-pronged approach in dealing with this. Efforts at poverty alleviation have borne fruit in that for the first time since independence, the percentage of absolute poor in some states is now well below the national average. Despite various strategies to alleviate poverty, hunger, malnourishment, illiteracy and lack of basic amenities continue to be a common feature in many parts of India.

Body:

Various poverty alleviation programs in India since Independence:

- **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):** It was introduced in 1978-79 and universalized from 2nd October, 1980, aimed at providing assistance to the rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successive plan periods.
- **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Jawahar Gram Samridhhi Yojana:** The JRY was meant to generate meaningful employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas through the creation of economic infrastructure and community and social assets.
- **Rural Housing – Indira Awaas Yojana:** The Indira Awaas Yojana (LAY) programme aims at providing free housing to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in rural areas and main targets would be the households of SC/STs.
- **National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS):** This pension is given by the central government. The job of implementation of this scheme in states and union territories is given to panchayats and municipalities. The state's contribution may vary depending on the state. The amount of old age pension is ₹200 per month for applicants aged 60–79. For applicants aged above 80 years,



the amount has been revised to ₹500 a month according to the 2011–2012 Budget. It is a successful venture.

- **Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY):** The main objective of the scheme continues to be the generation of wage employment, creation of durable economic infrastructure in rural areas and provision of food and nutrition security for the poor.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005:** The Act provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household. One-third of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women. The central government will also establish National Employment Guarantee Funds. Similarly, state governments will establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for implementation of the scheme. Under the programme, if an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days s/he will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.
- **The Public Distribution System (PDS)** is another programme that helps in improving the quality of life of impoverished populations in India.
- **The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** ties up with the PDS for distribution of food in India for providing subsidized food grains. About 50 per cent of the urban population and about 75 per cent of the rural population is covered by the purview of the Act and beneficiaries are entitled to receive 5 kg of food grains in a month per person at subsidized rates of Rs 3/2/1 per kg of rice, wheat or coarse grains respectively.
- **National Rural Livelihood Mission: Ajeevika (2011):** It evolves out the need to diversify the needs of the rural poor and provide them jobs with regular income on monthly basis. Self Help groups are formed at the village level to help the needy.
- **National Urban Livelihood Mission:** The NULM focuses on organizing urban poor in Self Help Groups, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment ventures by ensuring easy access to credit.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:** It will focus on fresh entrant to the labour market, especially labour market and class X and XII dropouts.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** It aimed at direct benefit transfer of subsidy, pension, insurance etc. and attained the target of opening 1.5 crore bank accounts. The scheme particularly targets the unbanked poor.

Issues surrounding poverty alleviation policies and programmes:

- However, none resulted in any radical change in the ownership of assets, process of production and improvement of basic amenities to the needy.
- Scholars, while assessing these programmes, state three major areas of concern which prevent their successful implementation. Due to unequal distribution of land and other assets, the benefits from direct poverty alleviation programmes have been appropriated by the non-poor.
- Compared to the magnitude of poverty, the amount of resources allocated for these programmes is not sufficient. Moreover, these programmes depend mainly on government and bank officials for their implementation.
- Since such officials are ill motivated, inadequately trained, corruption prone and vulnerable to pressure from a variety of local elites, the resources are inefficiently used and wasted. There is also non-participation of local level institutions in programme implementation.



- Government policies have also failed to address the vast majority of vulnerable people who are living on or just above the poverty line. It also reveals that high growth alone is not sufficient to reduce poverty.
- Without the active participation of the poor, successful implementation of any programme is not possible

Conclusion:

Rural poverty alleviation programmes in India look to improve access to employment, food, finances and other such basic needs for people in rural India, many of whom can sometimes live in remote areas outside the purview of large-scale development. A basic needs approach is all the more necessary in addition to fixing a poverty line in rural areas given that access to developmental processes and facilities might be more limited in far-flung rural areas. Moreover, it is necessary to identify poverty stricken areas and provide infrastructure such as schools, roads, power, telecom, IT services, training institutions etc.

“Disruption in economic activities in urban areas and a national lockdown make the rural India a potential hotspot for the further spread of the outbreak”. Examine. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why this question:

The article talks about the possible Pandora of events that would get initiated due to the disruption in economic activities in urban areas and a national lockdown in the rural regions of the country.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the impact that the current disruption may have on the rural India and highlight urgency with which the policy makers need to recognise these factors and take necessary steps in dealing with the upcoming situation not short of a disaster.

Directive:

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly explain the current scenario.

Body:

To start with, explain the significance of protecting rural India as two thirds of lives live in here.

Briefly explain the current situation in the economic activities of the urban areas of the country.

Discuss the impact of the lockdown.

Explain what the challenges specific to rural India are.

Suggest steps/measures to handle the situation.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what should be the way forward, take hints from the article.

Introduction:

In just a few weeks, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) went from being an unknown entity to the largest problem we’ve faced in India in recent history. But the real worry is when the virus enters the community transmission stage in rural areas. Because the coronavirus arrived in India with international travellers, most cases so far have been in cities. The dramatic contraction of economic activity in cities has pushed migrant labourers back in droves to their villages in rural Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and other states, potentially carrying the virus back home.

**Body:****Challenges in rural India:**

- First, two-thirds of India lives in rural areas.
- Second, the quality of healthcare available to them is staggeringly poor.
- Third, the most common symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever and shortness of breath.
- We need to plan ahead to mitigate a potential epidemic in these areas because it is merely a matter of time before this becomes our biggest collective challenge.
- Family members, extended contacts, and household workers have been infected.
- The return of the migrant employees into rural India poses a major threat to the rural inhabitants of India.
- Over 70 per cent of primary care visits in India happen in the private sector.
- Furthermore, in rural areas in states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, unqualified healthcare providers — what we call “informal sector providers” — provide care for over 75 per cent of primary care visits.
- The quality of care available to people in rural parts of India is staggeringly poor.
- Providers in these areas have very low levels of knowledge and they often do even less than they know — what we refer to as “know-do” gaps.
- As a result, we find providers frequently under-prescribing the right treatment and over-prescribing harmful ones even when they know better.
- If suspected positive patients from rural areas try to travel to urban centres to get tested, this can undermine efforts to limit transmission.

Measures needed:

- **Prepare healthcare providers for what is coming:**
 - Informal sector providers are untrained, and hence will need clinical guidelines that are in local language, and more accessible ones than are currently available from the Ministry of Health and the WHO.
 - We could leverage the presence of a vast network of medical representatives of the pharmaceutical industry to reach informal providers.
 - It is possible to develop videos in local languages to inform providers about safety and prevention.
- **Educate patients about what coronavirus is and how to deal with it:**
 - Educating patients about the illness to avoid panicking and overwhelming the health system with every fever or flu will be critical.
 - In the absence of clear information aimed at ordinary citizens from reliable sources, social media is currently rife with fake remedies and misinformation.
 - The collaborative effort between the health ministry and WhatsApp is an excellent step in this direction, and needs to be publicized widely.
- **Make strategic investments in creative surveillance systems that can help get ahead of the epidemic:**



- We need to put in place a system of surveillance to help policymakers learn where the epidemic could be peaking in the next week.
- Creative solutions such as digital surveillance systems based on self-reporting of symptoms using the wide cell phone coverage in India have the potential to be a second-best solution that can be mobilized immediately.
- Learning about a significant uptick in symptoms can help policymakers identify potential hotspots of transmission in order to plan and coordinate delivery of more testing kits and drugs for palliative treatment.

Conclusion:

Rural India is still the backbone of Indian in terms of economy. It is imperative to safeguard the rural citizens from community transmission of COVID-19 and its dangerous impacts.

Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

What do you understand by “Urban commons”? Examine their importance in ensuring ‘Just and liveable cities’ to all in the urban areas. (250 words)

Reference: [Down to earth](#)

Why this question:

Urban commons represent those rare spaces in increasingly segregated cities where the rich and the poor can still meet, children of all classes play together and collaborations for conservation can occur. Yet, across cities the commons seem to be the most dispensable of spaces. Forests like Mumbai’s Aarey are threatened for infrastructure projects, wetlands in Thiruvananthapuram acquired for technoparks and trees in South Delhi felled to build apartments.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss the importance of urban commons and how they act as a nutritional buffer and safety net for migrants who flock to cities from distressed parts of the country as well as for other classes in the urban areas.

Directive:

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we have to look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Give a definition of Urban commons with examples.

Body:

Discuss the importance of urban commons in urban areas

They act as a nutritional buffer and safety net for migrants who flock to cities from distressed parts of the country by providing them with wild plants, greens and brushwood, places to bathe, defecate, wash clothes and protection from winter nights.

The middle-class and wealthy residents of the city are no less dependent on the commons, though they may not recognise the extent of it.

Lakes, parks, wetlands, rivers and even roadside trees play a role in cleaning the air, raising groundwater levels and maintaining people’s physical and mental well-being.

Discuss about the various challenges faced by the urban commons and how we have failed in India to conserve the same

Forests like Mumbai’s Aarey are threatened for infrastructure projects, wetlands in

Thiruvananthapuram acquired for technoparks and trees in South Delhi felled to build apartments..



smart city plans and restoration projects take an approach that de-commons the commons by evicting people who depend on them most.

Beach sides, river fronts, lakes and parks become gated spaces, accessible only to those who can pay, and available only for recreational use, often coupled with “entertainment” in the form of flashing lights, loud music and food courts that evict wildlife.

What measures are needed to tackle it?

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward about how Our cities can hold out any promise of a better future only if the commons play a central role in urban planning.

Introduction

The world is on a headlong rush towards urbanization, with more than 75% of its people expected to live in the cities by 2050. Urban commons represent those rare spaces in increasingly segregated cities where the rich and the poor can still meet, children of all classes play together and collaborations for conservation can occur.

Body

Two types of urban commons are worth foregrounding in this regard:

- **Urban ecological commons** (such as air, water bodies, wetlands, landfills, and so on).
- **Urban civic commons** (such as streets and sidewalks, public spaces, public schools, public transit, etc).

Each of these is rapidly diminishing due to erasure, enclosure, disrepair, rezoning, and court proscriptions, replaced in many instances by new – privatized, monitored – public spaces, such as malls, plazas, and gated venues. The ongoing diminution of urban commons is cause for concern because they are critical to economic production in cities, to cultural vibrancy and democracy, to regenerating the sense of place that forms communities and, ultimately, to the reproduction of urban populations and ecosystems.

Challenges and threat to urban commons

- Urban common property regimes are facing increasing threat due to state and private capture in cities across the world.
- Forests like Mumbai’s Aarey are threatened for infrastructure projects, wetlands in Thiruvananthapuram acquired for technoparks and trees in South Delhi felled to build apartments.
- Smart city plans and restoration projects take an approach that de-commons the commons by evicting people who depend on them most.
- Beach sides, river fronts, lakes and parks become gated spaces, accessible only to those who can pay, and available only for recreational use, often coupled with “entertainment” in the form of flashing lights, loud music and food courts that evict wildlife.

Importance of urban commons in urban areas

- Urban parks and gardens play a critical role in cooling cities, and also provide safe routes for walking and cycling for transport purposes as well as sites for physical activity, social interaction and for recreation.
 - As per WHO estimates, physical inactivity linked to poor walkability and lack of access to recreational areas, accounts for 3.3% of global deaths.



- **Mental well-being:** Green spaces also are important to mental health. Having access to green spaces can reduce health inequalities, improve well-being, and aid in treatment of mental illness.
- **Pollution Reduction:** Through improved air and water quality, buffering of noise pollution and mitigation of impacts from extreme events, urban green spaces can reduce environmental health risks associated with pollution from urban sprawl.
- **Wetlands** act as filters and also help in preventing urban floods.
- Green spaces can reduce the ambient temperature of cities by 1°C, thus reducing the **urban heat island** and harmful city smog. In this sense, 1°C cooler urban environments prevent the harmful ozone layer that is triggered during intense heat episodes from forming.
- According to recent studies, cities with more Urban commons, especially parks and public spaces boost social cohesion and relations, since they are meeting points to share and create links between city inhabitants.

Way Forward

- **Integrated Planning:** Urban Commons such as parks, sidewalks, public transit and landfills must be part of area planning.
- **Community Engagement: It is based on the concept of participatory democracy.** These include projects such as decentralized use of regenerative energy sources, social housing, digital democracy, urban gardening, open spaces for culture and art, among others.
- Government must create **spatial GIS maps** where common areas and their boundaries are clearly marked. This will solve the problem of information asymmetry today and communities will be empowered to fight for their common spaces.
- **Ward committees** must be empowered to manage urban commons and protect them from encroachment and construction activities.

Conclusion

The ongoing diminution of urban commons is cause for concern because they are critical to economic production in cities, to cultural vibrancy and the cement of community, to “learning” how to do democracy through practices of creating, governing and defending collective resources, to regenerating the sense of place that forms communities and, ultimately, to the reproduction of urban populations and ecosystems. Hence it is important to realize that commons are not commodities and must be protected.

“Although urbanization is deliberated to be a facilitator for economic growth, India has not been able to tap its full potential yet” Analyse. (250 words)

Reference: [Majid Hussain population and settlement geography](#)

Why this question:

The question seeks to examine the progress made by our country on the front of urbanization and to what extent has it achieved to be a facilitator of economic growth.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should discuss the efforts of India in harnessing the economic growth through progress on the front of urbanization.

Directive:

Analyze – When asked to analyse, 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:**

Define first what urbanization is.

Body:

The question is straightforward and there isn't much to deliberate.

One must first discuss the positives that the process of urbanization brings to a country.

Narrate upon the progress made by India on this front.

Quote examples to justify and explain why we haven't yet tapped full potential of it.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

Since historic times cities are engines of economic growth and innovation. It is said that, cities, not nation-states, are the main players in macroeconomics. According to The Economic Survey, from 1991 to 2011, the percentage of India's population that lives in cities and towns has increased from a quarter to a third and this segment produces more than three-fifths of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). India will be the third-largest economy by 2025 (HSBC 2018). Powering that growth is the country's urbanisation, which is accelerating rapidly in absolute numbers, although not as fast if considering decadal growth rates. Urbanization acts as a two-edged sword, as it brings prosperity but also new challenges along with it.

Body:**Urbanization and Socio-Economic Growth:**

- Over the last two decades, cities have emerged as the world's economic platforms for production, innovation and trade.
- The rapid economic growth usually associated with urbanisation can be partially attributed to **structural transformation**, as labour moves from the agricultural sector to industry and services.
- Urban areas offer significant opportunities for both formal and informal employment, generating a sizeable share of new private sector jobs.
- Urbanization has helped millions escape poverty through increased productivity, employment opportunities, improved quality of life and large-scale investment in infrastructure and services.
- The transformative power of urbanization has in part, been facilitated by the rapid deployment of Information and Communications Technology.
- It can also be attributed to agglomeration and scale economies, as proximity and density reduce the per capita costs of providing infrastructure and service.
- Urbanization helps in creating knowledge spill-overs and specialisation that hugely enhance the productivity of urban residents.

The challenges in urban development are:

- **Planning:** The new challenge today is management of rural urban fringe as the expansion of urban fringes is taking place at rapid pace. There is need of immediate long term planning for sustainable development of areas in fringes.
- **Transport and communication:** The future challenge will be linked with the urban transport facilities. Roads are congested; rail and metro network is inadequate resulting into movement within the city being slow and tiring.



- **Housing:** It has been already observed now the cost of living is too high in metropolitan areas. Crumbling infrastructure in public services has to be managed on far footings.
- **Migration:** Migration will continue as urban areas act as a center of economic growth. Problem of slums is about to increase and thus leading to health challenges for public health system.
- **Solid waste management:** In case of waste management issue, nuclear, cyber and plastic waste will create a big challenge for clean and pollution free urban environment.
- **Poverty:** Urban poverty has a very peculiar charact Street vendors and people in other informal sector, women, children and old age population will suffer most from the deteriorating urban ecology.
- **Environmental challenges:** growth in man-made and natural disasters is another challenge because of unplanned cities. Urban island effects have already been observed in urban setup. Ex: Chennai flood in 2015
- **Service delivery:** Urban local government will have to do a gigantic task of timely service delivery as there is paradigm shift in public administration towards new public management.

Measures needed:

- The first and foremost importance has to be given to the providing human face to urban development. Playgrounds, green belts, open spaces, footpaths, public gardens have to be deliberately created in order to create an environment of sustainability.
- Digital India program and Information technology solutions must be made available at affordable cost to all segments of society. Bridging the existing digital divide is priority for true democratic setup of urban areas. Harnessing the power of ICT, NeGP, NOFN etc.
- The recent policy proposal by government to focus on fringe areas is a welcoming step.
- Waste management has to be addressed at point of generation only. The case of Pune can provide some guideline in this case as it has a unique model of contractual system for efficient and segregation of urban waste.
- Infrastructure has to follow the green norms. Revival of tradition water structure can provide best solutions for water need of urban areas.
- The flagship schemes like the Smart Cities, AMRUT, Housing for All, HRIDAY and Swachh Bharat are aimed at not only addressing various deficits to provide better urban governance, but also seek to make Indian cities and towns hubs of growth and sustainable development.
- A series of reforms through incentives and disincentives have been put in place to achieve these goals. Incentives for universal housing, giving infrastructure status to affordable housing, allowing FDI and providing income tax exemption are among the important measures taken.
- Also, the government is promoting innovative measures like waste-to-energy, waste-to-compost and the reuse of construction and demolition waste as part of sustainable urbanisation.

Way forward:

- 'Housing for All' policy should be pursued with a vigorous annual review that ranks States on the basis of performance. The Centre should also take its own National Urban Transport Policy on developing cities around mobility networks seriously.
- Urban governance policies, although mainly in the domain of the States, must be aligned with national commitments on reduction of carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement, and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11.
- There is a need for a plan of action to achieve sustainable human settlements. It should ensure adequate shelter, water, energy, sanitation and solid waste management, along with other elements.



- There is a need for proper planning and various deficits relating to infrastructure, housing, slum upgradation, reduce pollution, employment, education and health in urban areas need to be through public and private participation.

Conclusion:

Cities are living ecosystems. They need to be managed accordingly. Rather than going by populist measures or sticking to the original master plans, local solutions to local problems, innovative, in situ and tailor made solutions should be evolved, adapted and adhered to. Authorities need to be willing to learn, evolve and discard if necessary.

“Urbanization spurs a unique set of issues to both humans and animals.” Elucidate. (250 words)

Reference: Human geography by Majid Hussain

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper 1 and aims to argue for the unique issues that the urbanization poses to humans and animals.

Key demand of the question:

Discuss the problems and challenges posed by the developments on the urbanization front on the life of humans and animals.

Directive:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Define first what you understand by urbanization.

Body:

*Explain that Half of the global population already lives in cities, and by 2050 two-thirds of the world's people are expected to live in **urban** areas. But in cities two of the most pressing problems facing the world today also come together: poverty and environmental degradation.*

*Poor air and water quality, insufficient water availability, waste-disposal problems, and high energy consumption are exacerbated by the increasing population density and demands of **urban** environments.*

Discuss specific threats it poses; Intensive urban growth can lead to greater poverty, with local governments unable to provide services for all people, Animal populations are inhibited by toxic substances, vehicles, and the loss of habitat and food sources etc.

Suggest solutions to address these problems such as – promoting economic development and job creation, Involve local community in local government, Create private-public partnerships to provide services such as waste disposal and housing etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way ahead.

Introduction:

Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural areas to urban areas, the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas, and the ways in which each society adapts to this change.

Urbanization is a universal process implying economic development and social change. Urbanization also means, “a breakdown of traditional social institutions and values”. However, in India, one



cannot say that urbanization has resulted in the caste system being transformed into the class system, the joint-family transforming into the nuclear family, and religion becoming secularized.

Body:

Impact of Urbanization on humans:

- **Urban poverty:**

- With increasing urban population, the urban poverty has also become widespread.
- As the India Urban Poverty Report, 2009 suggests, there is “urbanization of poverty” with the ratio of urban poverty in some of the larger states being higher than that of rural poverty

- **High urban unemployment**

- **Growth of slums:**

- According to 2001 Census, the total slum population is 42.6 million representing 15% of the total urban population in the country and 23.1% of the population of cities and towns reporting slums.
- 38% of the total slum population reside in the million plus cities.
- The main reasons for slum proliferation is uncontrolled, unplanned and non-inclusive pattern of urbanization

- Inappropriate planning has led to high costs of housing and office space

- **Critical infrastructure shortages and major service deficiencies:** erratic power and water supply, poor solid waste management system, poor sewerage system

- **Inadequate transport systems:** Poor investment in transport sector has led to unsustainable levels of private vehicle use

- **Deteriorating environment:** Example: According to the recently released data by World Health Organization, 14 Indian states are among Top 20 worldwide with worst air quality profiles

Impact of Urbanization on animals:

- Urbanisation leads to habitat fragmentation, where larger continuous habitats are divided into smaller unconnected patches.
- It also causes habitat loss, through an increase in roads and buildings that are not producing any biomass. This exposes wildlife to new man-made stress.
- Physiological and ecological constraints affect organisms directly, but also change host-parasite and predator-prey interactions.
- During the process of urbanisation some animal species will disappear from the newly urbanised habitat.
- For example, birds that feed on specific natural food sources will fly to other areas to search for food.
- Species that cannot move as fast as urbanisation is expanding will disappear.
- Prolonged chronic physiological stress caused by air, noise and light pollution, or low food quality could affect susceptibility to parasites and disease.



- Animals' body condition and immune function can be altered as a result.
- Urban stressors like air pollution, can have unexpected effects on free living animals.

Case study: Take the pollution transmitted by industrial areas of Johannesburg, South Africa. It elevates sulfonate concentrations in fog. This affects the ability of the feathers of the **endangered Blue Swallow, *Hirundo atrocaerulea*** to repel water. But the water-repellent plumage is crucial for the species, because Blue Swallows preferably hunt in fog. If the feathers are wet, they can't fly very well. So, air pollution could actually decrease their capacity to forage.

A study on **Blue Tits, *Cyanistes caeruleus***, in Algeria looked into lead contamination in urban environments and how environmental pollutants might affect breeding performance. They found higher lead concentrations in urban birds, but no direct effect of elevated lead levels and nestling conditions. But vandalism was responsible for a low breeding success, which shows the direct effect of human disturbance on urban birds.

Way forward:

- Create employment in rural areas: Diversification of rural agrarian economy to reduce distressed migration. In this case, the MGNREGA has played a vital role in reducing rural-urban migration
- **Development of infrastructural facilities in rural areas:** Focus on PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Area), Shyama Prasad Mookherji RURBAN Mission
- Modern framework for spatial planning of cities and standardized designs for public utilities
- **Inclusive urbanization:** There should be focus on the needs of the urban poor and other vulnerable groups for housing, education, health care, decent work and a safe environment.
- **Environmentally Sustainable urbanization:** Successful management of urban growth, integration of green spaces, wetlands, proper waste management
- Proper transport planning; Investment in public transport sector
- Ensuring better infrastructural facilities- water, sewage, power
- Proper implementation of major urban government policies like AMRUT, JNNURM, Housing for All by 2022, Smarts City Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission
- Ensuring Good Urban Governance by:
 - Fiscal decentralization and flow of adequate funds; proper regulation of municipal bonds
 - Empowerment of municipal corporations and municipal councils
 - transparency and accountability
 - Citizen participation

Conclusion:

Cities are living ecosystems. They need to be managed accordingly. Rather than going by populist measures or sticking to the original master plans, local solutions to local problems, innovative, in situ and tailor made solutions should be evolved, adapted and adhered to. Authorities need to be willing to learn, evolve and discard if necessary.

Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Language is not only a manifestation of the diversity of the country but also the carrier of the caste system, cultural tyrannies and societal inequalities. Remark. (250 words)

Reference: IGNOU Material – Sociology.

Social Problems In India – Ram Ahuja.

Why this question:

Telegram: <https://t.me/insightsIAStips>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpoccbCX9GEIwaile4HLjwA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/insightsonindia>



The question is assertive and highlights in what way language in India not only signifies diversity but also the caste, culture and social inequalities.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must reflect upon the factors that language brings out and how it is carrier of caste system, cultural oppression and societal inequities.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly discuss about the linguistic diversity of the country.

Body:

First account for linguistic diversity of the country.

Explain how it is carrier of caste system, cultural oppression and societal inequities.

Usage or prominence of a particular language often reflects the dominance of one community in the Indian society. For example, sanskrit, most of the times has been associated with the dominance of brahmanism in society. The idea of 'purer' forms of language and its distinction from 'dialects' propagates the influence of a particular caste or community which marginalises all the other 'impure' forms.

Bring out the cultural tyranny factor – There is a north-south divide mainly due to attempts of imposition of Hindi as the link-language of India. This has roots in anti-Brahmanism Dravidian movements in South India, which opposed caste based society and Hindi was also seen as a language that perpetuates a 'backward' culture of caste and gender oppression.

Hint towards the social inequalities.

Suggest way forward.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of language and solutions to the unwanted problems posed by it.

Introduction:

India is one of unique countries in the world that has the legacy of diversity of languages. The Constitution of India has recognized 22 official languages. Multilingualism is the way of life in India as people in different parts of the country speak more than one language from their birth and learns additional languages during their life time. Though officially there are 122 languages, Peoples Linguistic Survey of India has identified 780 languages, of which 50 are extinct in past five decades.

Body:

Language is a manifestation of diversity of the country:

- It is the most prominent feature of India's diversity and in past has been a major source of unrest.
- Multilingualism is the way of life in India as people in different parts of the country speak more than one language from their birth and learn additional languages during their lifetime.
- Among these three languages, Sanskrit, Tamil and Kannada have been recognised as classical language with special status and recognition by Government of India.
- The classical languages have written and oral history of more than 1000 years. In comparison to these, English is very young as it has a history of only 300 years.
- The language policy of India provides guarantee to protect the linguistic minorities. Under the Constitution provision is made for appointment of Special Officer for linguistic minority with the sole responsibilities of safeguarding the interest of language spoken by the minority groups.



- **States on Linguistic basis:**
 - The Division of states linguistic basis removed the major discord and disharmony among people. For ex. separation of Andhra from Madras addressed the agitation and protest by Telugu people.
 - Creation of state which are **homogeneous in nature** improved the functioning of the state and govt. has been able to better connect with the masses in the language in which they understand. For ex. creation of Gujarat from Bombay resulted into betterment of people. This brought satisfaction and further caused the Indian Unity.
 - It did not affect the federal structure of the India as afraid. Rather it led to **creation of state regional parties** which can raise their voice in the Parliament. Hence, a more cooperative federalism and participative democracy thrived epitomizing unity in diversity.
- **Articles 30 and 347** of Indian Constitution provide constitutional protection to linguistic minorities and hence any fear of minority suppression alleviated upto a large extent.
- It provided opportunity to the states to **protect and promote their regional language** which brought satisfied cultural aspiration of masses. For ex. recent adoption of Odia language as official language by Odisha.

Language – the carrier of the caste system, cultural tyrannies and societal inequalities:

- Usage or prominence of a particular language often reflects the dominance of one community in the Indian society. For example, sanskrit, most of the times has been associated with the dominance of brahmanism in society.
- The idea of 'purer' forms of language and its distinction from 'dialects' propagates the influence of a particular caste or community which marginalises all the other 'impure' forms.
- There is a north-south divide mainly due to attempts of imposition of Hindi as the link-language of India. This has roots in anti-Brahmanism Dravidian movements in South India, which opposed caste based society and Hindi was also seen as a language that perpetuates a 'backward' culture of caste and gender oppression.
- Masses speaking regional languages often face discrimination in terms of sharing of political power, employment, economic status, etc.
- People migrating from undeveloped regions to cities face discrimination because of unfamiliar language and customs.
- Ethnic clashes and violence emerge out of complexities of linguistic and ethnic politics, thereby promoting regionalism. For eg: riots in Assam in the early 1980s, Anti-Hindi riots in southern India by ethnic Dravidians in 1965, etc.
- Linguistic diversity along with regional developmental deficit creates social inequalities which tend to produce social conflicts among different caste groups. For example, demands of reservation by Jaats, Maratha, Patels.
- While English is considered a language which is devoid of caste conscious vocabulary, it is also known as the language of educated elites and has created a new class divide. Majority of the jobs being created in India, particularly in the service sector are dominated by English language speakers.

Conclusion:

Linguistic diversity has been a critical aspect of the multiculturalism that has been the defining characteristic of India through the ages. Diversity is undoubtedly strength of our democracy. The cultural bonds need to be strengthened through enhanced and continuous mutual interaction



between people of varied regions. This encourages reciprocity and secures an enriched value system of unity amongst people of different States.

What do you understand by communalism? Deliberate upon the causes and impact of communalism on Indian society. (250 words)

Reference: IGNOU Material – Sociology.

Social Problems In India – Ram Ahuja.

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and is based on the theme of communalism in India.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss and deliberate upon the causes of communalism and its impact in the Indian society.

Directive:

Deliberate – Weigh up to what extent something is true. Persuade the reader of your argument by citing relevant research but also remember to point out any flaws and counter-arguments as well. Conclude by stating clearly how far you agree with the original proposition.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly discuss what you understand by Communalism.

Body:

Have the following aspects discussed in detail in the answer body –

Discuss the reasons contributing to Communalism; Vested political interests, Rise of communal organisations, Politicization of local problems, Religious fundamentalism etc.

Discuss the impact of communalism on Indian society; impact on social fabric, economy, polity etc. Suggest way forward for eradicating communalism.

Conclusion:

Conclude that Public awareness needs to be raised about the harmful impact of communalism. Our constitution, which labels India as a secular nation makes provisions to protect the interests of all religions and goes beyond the code of any religion. Hence one must learn to put national interests above one's religious views.

Introduction:

Communalism is basically an ideology which consists of three elements:

- A belief that people who follow the same religion have common secular interests i.e. they have same political, economic and social interests. So, here socio-political communalities arise.
- A notion that, in a multi-religious society like India, these common secular interests of one religion is dissimilar and divergent from the interests of the follower of another religion.
- The interests of the follower of the different religion or of different 'communities' are seen to be completely incompatible, antagonist and hostile.

Body:

Causes of Communalism in India:

▪ A Legacy of Past:

- On the basis of the "Two Nation" theory of Jinnah, India was partitioned. Communal politics had played its nasty game during the immediate past of independent India. The "Divide and Rule" policy of the British Government served their colonial interest. The partition of India was the ultimate outcome of their politics.



- **Presence of Communal Parties:**
 - Religion in India has become an important agency of political socialization and it is also reflected in the ideology of a number of political parties. A number of communal and sectarian political parties and organisations are present in India. Muslim League, Jamaat—Islami, Hindu Mahasabha, Akali Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad are directly or indirectly responsible for the emergence of communalism.
- **Isolation of Muslims:**
 - Indian Muslims have developed a tendency of isolationism even long after the creation of Pakistan. They remain aloof from the mainstream of national politics. Most of them are not interested to take part in the secular-nationalistic politics of the country. They insist on to be treated as a separate entity.
- **Poverty:**
 - Mass poverty and unemployment create a sense of frustration among the people. It generates backwardness, illiteracy, ignorance, etc. The unemployed youth of both the communities can be easily trapped by religious fundamentalists and fanatics. They are used by them to cause communal riots. The weak economic status often breeds communalism.
- **Hindu Chauvinism:**
 - The growths of Hindu chauvinistic attitudes have further strengthened the communal tensions in India. The Hindu religious groups like Shiv Sena, Hindu Mahasabha, Viswa Hindu Parishad often pressurize the government to take steps suitable to the interest of Hindus. They consider each Muslim as pro-Pakistani and anti-national. To face the possible challenge of other communal forces, they encourage the growth of Hindu communalism.
- **Social Cause:**
 - The two major communities of India have been suspicious towards each other. The Muslims complain of the threat of Hindu cultural invasion upon their lives and have become more assertive of their rights. Either due to ignorance or insecurity, they do not fully accept the need of family planning and help in increasing population.
- **Communalization of Politics:**
 - Electoral politics in India has become more expensive and competitive. Different political parties are not hesitating to use any means, fair or foul, for electoral victory. They even create communal tensions and try to take political advantage out of it. Concessions are granted to various minority groups for appeasing them.
- **Cross-Border factors:**
 - Communal tensions in India sometimes are highly intensified due to the rule of two neighbouring theocratic countries. These countries try to create communal problems in the border states. The communal problems of Punjab and Jammu Kashmir are caused due to provocation of Pakistan. So long as this cross-border factor is not removed, communal problems are likely to stay in India.

**Failure of Government:**

- Both the Union and the State Governments often fail to prevent communalism in the country. Due to lack of prior information, they fail to take any preventive measures. So the communal violence can easily take innocent lives and destroys property. The post-Godhra riot in Gujarat shows the inefficiency of the government to control the communal riot. Failure of immediate and effective steps has been a cause of the continuance of communalism.

Ramification of Communalism:

- **Genocides:** With mass killings, the real sufferers are the poor, who lose their house, their near and dear ones, their lives, their livelihood, etc. It violates the human rights from all direction. Sometimes children lose their parents and will become orphan for a lifetime.
- **Ghettoization and refugee problem** are other dimensions of communalism induced violence, whether its inter country or intra country.
- Sudden increase in violence against any particular community causes **mass exodus and stampede** which in turn kills many number of people. For example, this was seen in the case of Bangalore in 2012, with respect to people from North eastern states, which was stimulated by a rumour.
- Apart from having effect on the society, it is also a **threat to Indian constitutional values**, which promotes secularism and religious tolerance. In that case, citizens don't fulfil their fundamental duties towards the nation.
- It becomes a threat for the **unity and integrity of the nation** as a whole. It promotes only the feeling of hatred in all directions, dividing the society on communal lines.
- **Minorities are viewed with suspicion** by all, including state authorities like police, para-military forces, army, intelligence agencies, etc. There have been many instances when people from such community have been harassed and detained and finally have been released by court orders guilt free. For this, there is no provision for compensation of such victims, about their livelihood incomes forgone, against social stigmas and emotional trauma of the families.
- **Barrier for development:** Communal activities occurring frequently do harm the human resource and economy of the country. And then again it takes years for the people and the affected regions to come out the traumas of such violence, having deep impact on minds of those who have faced it. They feel emotionally broken and insecure.
- **Terrorism and Secessionism:** As seen during the Khalistan movement in Punjab.

Steps to check the growth of Communalism:

- **Economic:**
 - Poverty is one of the major factors for communal violence. Poverty alleviation measures are thus important for promoting communal harmony.
 - **Eradicating the problem of unemployment** among the youths, illiteracy and poverty and that too with honesty and without any discrimination.
 - Reducing educational and economic backwardness of minorities like Muslims.
 - This can uplift their socio economic status and reduce their deprivation compared to Hindus
- **Social:**



- The religious leaders and preachers should promote rational and practical things through religion promoting peace and security.
- Children in schools must be taught through textbooks and pamphlets to maintain brotherhood and respect for all religions
- Creating awareness in the society about the ill effects of communism through mass media
- **Political:**
 - Political communism should be avoided recent Supreme court's directives
 - Identification and mapping of riot prone areas. For Example, Delhi police used drones to monitor to maintain vigil during communal festivals
 - **Media, movies and other cultural platforms** can be influential in promoting peace and harmony.
 - **Social Media** should be monitored for **violent and repulsive content** and taken off immediately.
- **Recommendations of Committee on National Integration**
 - Joint celebration of community festivals
 - Observing restraint by Hindus while taking processions before the mosques
 - Formation of peace and brotherhood communities at local level to prevent anti-social elements from engaging in communal riots
 - Respect for religious customs, rituals and practices

Conclusion:

Communalism cannot be accepted as the necessary evil in the society. It is detrimental to the development, social change, democracy and the federal feature of the State. Jawaharlal Nehru had pointed out the issue and termed it as the greatest danger. And so he said that anyone who loves India would hate communalism and anyone who hates India would love communalism.

Rising crime against women in political and personal sphere is a major cause of concern in contemporary Indian society. Discuss and enumerate steps taken by government to address them. (250 words)

Reference: NCERT – Indian society class XI

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must provide specific government steps to curb violence against Women at work and at home while bringing out the factors responsible for rising crime against them in both political and personal sphere.

Directive:

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:**

Briefly provide evidence to given statement. Quote data from National Crime Records Bureau or recent incidents that support the context of the question.

Body:

Firstly bring out the grievances of women in contemporary Indian society.

Discuss and list down the factors responsible – social, cultural, economic etc.

Then move onto highlight the policies and programmes in place to protect women and the measures in this direction.

Conclusion:

Conclude by Suggesting reformative measures to prevent crime against women and need for a multi-pronged approach at all the levels of societal strata to overcome the challenge.

Introduction:

Crimes against women have been in focus, with several heinous ones being reported across the country. National Crime Record Bureau report shows stark increase in violence against women in India in the forms of dowry deaths, acts of sexual harassment, torture, rapes and domestic violence. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

Body:**Violence against women:**

- 1 in 3 women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, most frequently by an intimate partner.
- Only 52% of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.
- Worldwide, almost 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday; while 200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM).
- 1 in 2 women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family in 2012; while only 1 out of 20 men were killed under similar circumstances.
- 71% of all human trafficking victims worldwide are women and girls, and 3 out of 4 of these women and girls are sexually exploited.
- Violence against women is as serious a cause of death and incapacity among women of reproductive age as cancer, and a greater cause of ill health than traffic accidents and malaria combined.

Reasons for increasing violence against women:

- Gender Disparity: is one of the deep rooted cause of violence against women that put women at risk of several forms of violence.
- Discriminatory gender norms and gender stereotypes results into structural inequality.
- Psychiatric Morbidity: Generally, refers to the incidence of both physical and psychological deterioration as a result of a mental or psychological condition, generally caused due to the consumption of alcohol.



- Regular consumption of alcohol by the husband has been strongly associated with poor mental health of women.
- Alcohol operates as a situational factor, increasing the likelihood of violence by reducing inhibitions, clouding judgment and impairing an individual's ability to interpret cues.
- Sociodemographic factors: Patriarchy has been cited as the main cause of violence against women. Where women have a higher economic status than their husbands and are seen as having sufficient power to change traditional gender roles, risk for violence is high.
- Family factors: Exposure to harsh physical discipline during childhood and witnessing the father beating the mother during childhood is a predictor of victimization and perpetration of violence against wife in adulthood.
- **Traditional and cultural practices:**
 - Female genital mutilation: Can lead to death, infertility, and long-term psychological trauma combined with increased physical suffering.
 - Acid attacks: Acid attacks have emerged as a cheap and readily accessible weapon to disfigure and sometimes kill women and girls for reasons as varied as family feuds, inability to meet dowry demands, and rejection of marriage proposals.
 - Killing in the name of family honor: In several countries of the world including Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Turkey, and India, women are killed to uphold the honor of the family due to varied reasons such as-alleged adultery, premarital relationship (with or without sexual relations), rape, falling in love with a person the family disapproves, which justify a male member of the family to kill the woman concerned.
 - Early marriages: Early marriage with or without the consent of the girl, constitutes a form of violence as it undermines the health and autonomy of millions of girls.
- Judiciary and law enforcement machinery: An insensitive, inefficient, corrupt and unaccountable judicial system and law enforcement machinery fails to deter against various forms of crimes.
- Sociocultural factors disfavoring women: Stereotypes of gender roles have continued over the ages.
 - The primary roles for women have been marriage and motherhood.
 - Women must marry because an unmarried, separated or divorced status is a stigma.
 - The custom of dowry is still prevalent in Indian marriages.

Steps taken by government to address them:

- **Constitutional Safeguards:**
 - Fundamental Rights: It guarantees all Indian women equality (Article 14), no discrimination by the State on the basis of gender (Article 15(1)) and special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women (Article 15(3)).
 - Directive Principles of State Policies (DPSP): It ensures equal pay for equal work (Article 39 (d)).



- Fundamental Duties: It ensures that practices derogatory to the dignity of women are prohibited under Article 51 (A).
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961:** It prohibits the request, payment or acceptance of a dowry.
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) act** was enacted to protect the minors. This is one of the first laws which is gender neutral.
- **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act** was enacted in 2013 as a comprehensive legislation to provide a safe, secure and enabling environment, free from sexual harassment, to every woman.
- The Indian Penal Code has many stringent provisions in itself. After the Nirbhaya case, amendments were made in the code in 2013 on the recommendations of Justice Verma committee. The amendments have made the code further stringent.

Way forward:

- We need to provide children with greater parental guidance.
- In families, there should also be a relationship of authority and respect between parents and their children.
- Women should be respected at home. When women are respected at home, then children also learn about the importance of respecting women. Parents cannot treat their sons and daughters differently.
- People should be made aware about Zero FIR.
- The state has to work towards making people aware of laws like POCSO Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act etc. The state should also make the penalties of not abiding by these laws clear to the public.
- Gender-sensitization programmes should also be started for males of family, police personnel, medical fraternity etc. Police apathy, especially when a woman approaches the police should be worked upon.
- Encourage and adopt family focused practices that promote equal access for both girls and boys to high quality education, and ensure opportunities to successfully complete schooling, and to making educational choices
- Students should be taught to engage in community activities so that they understand realities and also understand how to cope up with realities. Community get-togethers should also be encouraged so that people get to know each other. Neighbours should also get to know their neighbours. Community activities should be encouraged.

Bring out the impact of Regionalism on Indian polity. (250 words)

Reference: NCERT – Indian society class XI

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must straightforwardly discuss the impact of regionalism on Indian polity system.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly explain what you understand by regionalism.

Body:

Regionalism is an ideology and political movement that seeks to advance the causes of regions. As a process it plays a role within the nation as well as outside the nation i.e. at international level. Both



types of regionalism have different meaning and have positive as well as negative impact on society, polity, diplomacy, economy, security, culture, development, negotiations, etc.

Explain regionalism within India discuss origin, its evolution and current state.

Discuss the causes that often lead to regionalism.

Highlight its impact on the Indian polity.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what should be the way forward.

Introduction:

Regionalism is a feeling or an ideology among a section of people residing in a particular geographical space characterized by unique language, culture etc., that they are the sons of the soil and every opportunity in their land must be given to them first but not to the outsiders. It is a sort of Parochialism. In most of the cases it is raised for expedient political gains but not necessarily.

Body:

Regionalism in India:

- Roots of regionalism is in India's manifold diversity of languages, cultures, ethnic groups, communities, religions and so on, and encouraged by the regional concentration of those identity markers, and fueled by a sense of regional deprivation.
- For many centuries, India remained the land of many lands, regions, cultures and traditions.
- For instance, southern India (the home of Dravidian cultures), which is itself a region of many regions, is evidently different from the north, the west, the central and the north-east.
- Even the east of India is different from the North-East of India comprising today seven constituent units of Indian federation with the largest concentration of tribal people.

Factors responsible for Regionalism: A host of factors ranging from Geographical, Historical, Linguistic, Religious, political, Economic and Ethnic factors influence the Regionalism in India.

Impact of Regionalism on Indian polity:

The politics of regionalism in India has both positive and negative aspects.

Positives:

- it implies an intense desire for concretizing an identity based on such interest as ethnic, language, religion, etc.
- For example, the erstwhile Jharkhand movement which covered wide regions of Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, had come together as a unified group to protect and promote their socio-economic and political interests.
- This process involves reaffirming their identity as tribal groups.
- The movement finally succeeded in forcing the government in reorganizing the states and the formation of Jharkhand State came about on 15th November 2000 as the 28th State of the Indian Union.
- It has been carved out of the State of Bihar and it largely comprises forest tracks of Chhotanagpur plateau and Santhal Paragana

Negatives:

- **The feeling of regionalism:**



- the feeling of regionalism has produced the feeling of separatism among the people living in different parts of India.
- **Violent movement:**
 - Regionalism has given birth to violent movements.
- **Demand of states for more autonomy:**
 - Although several factors are responsible for the demand of more autonomy for the states, but one of the reasons is that with the granting of more autonomy to the states they will be able to develop their regions.
- **Demand for separate states:**
 - The People living in the backward regions of India are demanding separate states.
- **Tension between centre and states:**
 - The people living in different states allege that centre is not taking any special interest in the development of their state, and thus the discrimination is being made with them.
- **Formation of regional parties:**
 - Due to high feeling of regionalism, several regional political parties have come into existence and they give priority to regional interests over the national interests.
- **Politics of movements:**
 - The impact of politics of movements is increasing in India day by day. People living in different parts of India launch movements from time to time to attract the attention of the central government.
 - For example: theory of the sons of the soil: For example: Maharashtra for Marathis, Bengal for Bengalis etc.

Measures needed:

- Proper organization of Regional Parties
- Efforts for the balance progress of different states
- Activities of the separatists should be dealt with strongly
- Establishment of Autonomous Commissions to settle Inter-State Disputes
- Balanced Division of Powers between Centre and the States
- Development of Secular Politics
- Redress of the grievance of the Minorities
- Need to review the Federal Structure
- More administrative and Financial Autonomy to States

Conclusion:

The need of the hour is to develop each region of India, through devolution of power to local governments and empowering people for their participation in decision-making. The governments at State level need to find out the alternative resources of energy, source of employment for local people, use of technology in governance, planning and for agriculture development.



Salient features of world’s physical geography.

Explain how local winds are different from planetary winds. Giving examples, highlight the role of local winds in influencing climate, agriculture and livelihood in various regions.(250 words)

Reference: physical geography by Savindra Singh

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I , theme physical geography of the world.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must explain the difference between the planetary and the local winds and their role in influencing the climate, agriculture and livelihood in different regions.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly discuss these two types of winds by highlighting the characteristic difference between them.

Body:

Define the two types of the winds first.

Explain the difference between the two.

One must bring out the role of local winds in the climate, agriculture and livelihood in different regions through examples.

Name the local winds, their effects using suitable examples.

Conclusion:

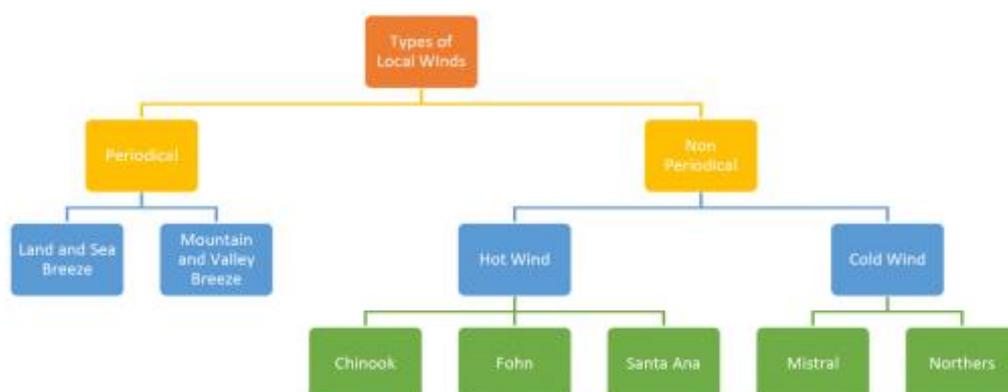
Conclude by reasserting the significance of such winds.

Introduction:

Local winds occur on a small spatial scale, their horizontal dimensions typically several tens to a few hundreds of kilometres. They also tend to be short-lived lasting typically several hours to a day. There are many such winds around the world, some of them cold, some warm, some wet, some dry. There are many hazards associated with the winds.

Planetary winds or Primary Winds are those which blow extensively over continents and oceans. The winds that blow constantly throughout the year and blow constantly in a particular direction. There are types of permanent winds namely Trade winds, Easterlies and Westerlies.

Body:





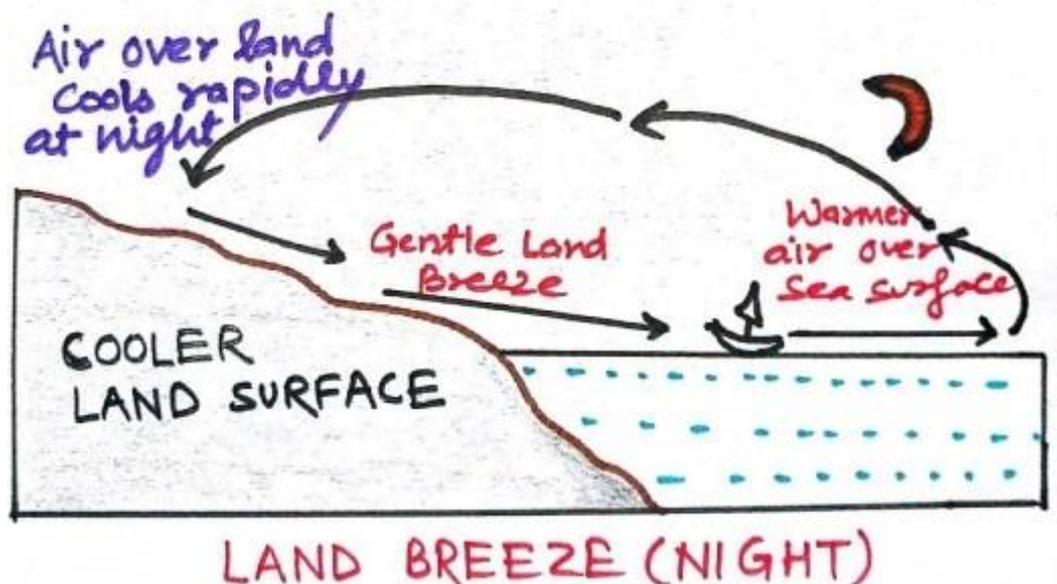
Types and Impact of local winds on the weather:

Periodical winds: The winds originating from diurnal temperature and pressure variation are known as Periodical and they generally complete their cycle in a day/ 24 hour like Land & Sea Breeze and Mountain & Valley Breeze.

Land and Sea Breeze: Land and Sea Breeze is generated by the diurnal variation of pressure. Due to this reason, the Land and Sea Breeze are sometimes known as diurnal Monsoon.

Land Breeze:

- At night reversal of sea breeze may occur but with somewhat weaker characteristics as the temperature and pressure gradient are less steeper during the night.
- During night land breeze is established since land cools to a temperature lower than the adjacent water setting up a pressure gradient from land to sea
- The horizontal and vertical extent of the Land Breeze helps in moderation of temperature of a coastal area during night time as it maintains regular circulation
- Land Breeze usually attains its maximum intensity in the early morning hours and dies out soon after sunup.

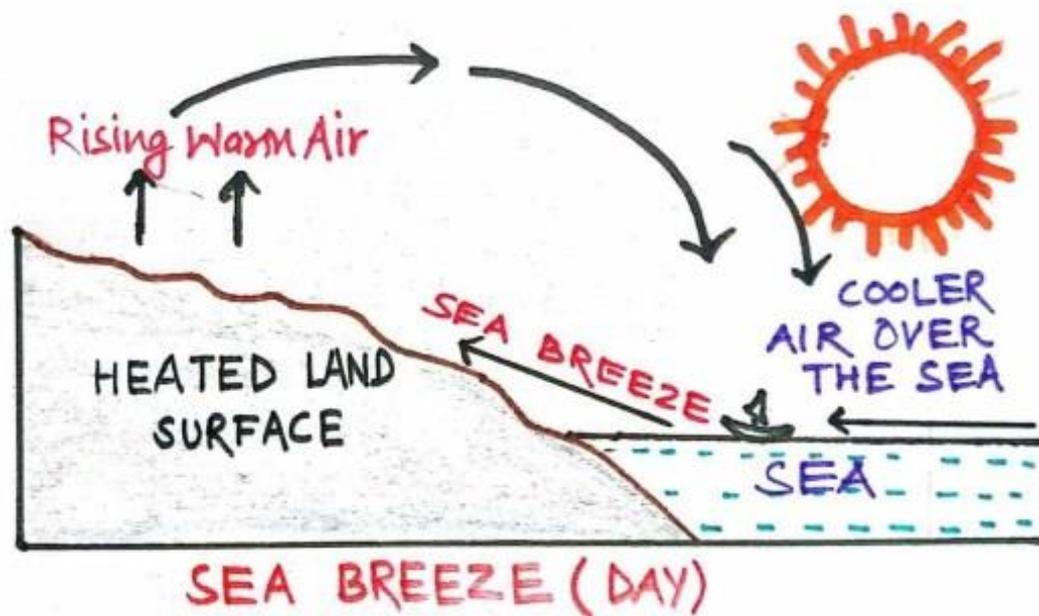


Sea Breeze:

- The sea breeze develops along seacoasts or large inland water bodies when the land heats much faster than the water on a clear day and a pressure gradient is directed high over the water to low over the land.
- Impact of Sea breeze rapidly declines landward and impact is limited to 50km.
- Land- Sea Breeze system is very shallow as the average depth of the land and sea breeze, varies from 1000-2000M in tropical regions and over the lakes, the depth is even lesser.
- Sea Breeze brings cool marine air and thus help in moderation of coastal temperature and due to the sea breeze, coastal regions record a drop of 5-10 °C in their temperature
- It also frequently causes late afternoon rainfall in these coastal areas, particularly during summer.



- Due to the location nearer to the lakes, places experience the Lake Effect like Chicago, due to its location near a lake presents a typical example of lake effect- where lakeside areas are cooler than the much warmer outlying areas in the summer.



Mountain and Valley Breeze: These winds develop over areas with large differences in relief and majorly caused by the temperature gradient that exists between Mountain Slopes and valleys.

Valley Breeze:

- Due to the intense insolation during the daytime, the slopes of the mountain heat up rapidly but the free atmosphere above the lowlands is not heated to some extent.
- As the valleys receive comparatively lesser insolation so relatively high pressure sets up in the valleys while along the mountain slopes due to more heating the warm air is uplifted, and low pressure sets up.
- Thus, the air moves from the Valleys towards the slopes (High pressure to the low pressure) and this upslope movement of air is known as valley breeze.
- Valley breezes are also known as Anabatic Wind.
- Weather associated with the Valley Breeze
- This type of upslope winds in the Mountainous region may cause occasional and afternoon thundershowers on warm and humid days.
- Sometimes, the valley breezes are also accompanied by the formation of cumulus cloud near mountain peaks or over slopes and escarpments.

Mountain Breeze:

- On mountain-sides under the clear night sky, the higher land (upslope land) radiates heat and is cooled and in turn cools the air in contact with it. The cool denser air flows down the mountain slope due to the pressure difference since the valley is warmer and at relatively lower pressure.
- This flow of the air is termed as Mountain Breeze and they are also known as Katabatic wind.
- Weather associated with the Mountain Breeze
- By the morning the mountain breeze produces temperature inversions and valley bottom becomes colder than the Mountain Slopes.



- Thus, the valley floors are characterised by frost during the night while upper part/ hill-side are free from frost in cold areas.

Non-Periodical winds: Only present during a season and are classified as Hot and Cold Winds.

Hot Local Winds: Hot Local winds are produced generally by the mechanism of downslope compressional heating also known as adiabatic heating. The examples of the Hot Local Winds include Chinook, Harmattan, Foehn, Sirocco, Norwester, Brickfielder, Khamsin, Santa Ana, Loo etc.

- **Chinook:**

- Chinook is the name of hot and dry local wind, which moves down the eastern slopes of the Rockies in U.S.A. and Canada.
- The literal meaning of chinook is snow eater as they help in melting the snow earlier.
- During winter Great Plain of North America are very cold and frozen, Chinook with its arrival increase the temperature and bring relief to the people and at the same time, the rise in temperature due to Chinook also helps in early sowing of spring wheat in the USA.
- They keep the grasslands clear of snow. Hence they are very helpful to ranchers.

- **Foehn:**

- Foehn is strong, dusty, dry and warm local wind, which develops on the leeward side of the Alps mountain ranges.
- Regional pressure gradient forces the air to ascend and cross the barrier.
- Ascending air sometimes causes precipitation on the windward side of the mountains.
- After crossing the mountain crest, the Foehn winds start descending on the leeward side or northern slopes of the mountain as warm and dry wind.
- The temperature of the winds varies from 15°C to 20°C, which help in melting snow.
- Thus making pasture land ready for animal grazing and help the grapes to ripe early.

- **Harmattan:**

- Harmattan, hot, dry wind that blows from the northeast or east in the western Sahara.
- It usually carries large amounts of dust, which it transports hundreds of kilometres out over the Atlantic Ocean.
- The dust often interferes with aircraft operations and settles on the decks of ships.
- The interaction of the Harmattan with monsoon winds can cause tornadoes.
- Humidity drops to as low as 15 per cent, which can result in spontaneous nosebleeds for some people.
- The wind can also increase fire risk and cause severe crop damage

- **Loo:**

- Loo is hot and dry winds, which blow very strongly over the northern plains of India and Pakistan in the months of May and June.



- Their direction is from west to east and they are usually experienced in the afternoons.
- Their temperature varies between 45°C to 50°C.
- They have desiccating effects and are considered as environmental hazards.
- It causes heat waves and can cause heat stroke.

Cold Local Winds: Cold local winds are dust-laden winds and as they have a temperature below freezing point, they create Cold Wave condition. The examples of Cold Local winds include-Mistral, Bora, Northers, Blizzard, Purga, Laventer, Pampero, Bise etc.

- **Mistral:**

- Mistrals are most common local cold winds.
- They originate on the Alps and move over France towards the Mediterranean Sea through the Rhone valley.
- They are very cold, dry and high-velocity winds.
- They bring down temperature below freezing point in areas of their influence.
- People in these areas protect their orchards and gardens by growing thick hedges and build their houses facing the Mediterranean sea.

- **Bora:**

- These are cold and dry north-easterly winds which blow from the mountains towards the eastern shore of Adriatic Sea.
- Bora is more effective in North Italy since here it descends the southern slopes of the Alps, although due to descend it gets adiabatically heated still its temperature is very low in comparison to the coastal area and these are the typical example of fall winds.
- Bora has often associated with the passage of a temperate Cyclone and at times the Bora winds themselves attain the hurricane force at the foot of the mountain and may cause disastrous impacts on properties.

- **Blizzard:**

- Blizzard is cold, violent, powdery polar winds (pick dry snow from the ground)
- They are prevalent in the north and south polar regions, Canada, USA, Siberia etc. Due to the absence of any east-west Mountain barrier, these winds reach to the southern states of USA.

Conclusion:

Local differences of temperature and pressure produce local winds. Such winds are local in extent and are confined to the lowest levels of the troposphere.

What aspects are responsible for the origin and modification of ocean currents? Explain with examples how they affect the climate of surrounding regions.(250 words)

Reference: physical geography by Savindra Singh

Why this question:



The question is from the static portions of GS paper I, theme physical geography of the world.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss factors that are responsible for the origin and modification of ocean currents and their effect on the climate of the surrounding regions.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly define what ocean currents are.

Body:

First of all, bring out factors which are responsible for the origin and modification of the ocean currents and elaborate them briefly; origin, Other factors – Accumulation of water on east coasts leads to gravity induced movements down the slope. Expansion due to heat – Even though water is considered practically incompressible, minor expansion due to excess solar heat in equatorial regions causes a slight gradient and water tends to flow down the slope. Modification – Wind, Coast line and inundation, large river discharge, presence of partially enclosed seas. Periodic reversals due to heating and accumulation can also cause modification such as in case of ElNino current caused by a stronger counter equatorial current. Coriolis force etc.

Then, with examples, elaborate how ocean currents determine the climate of surrounding regions.

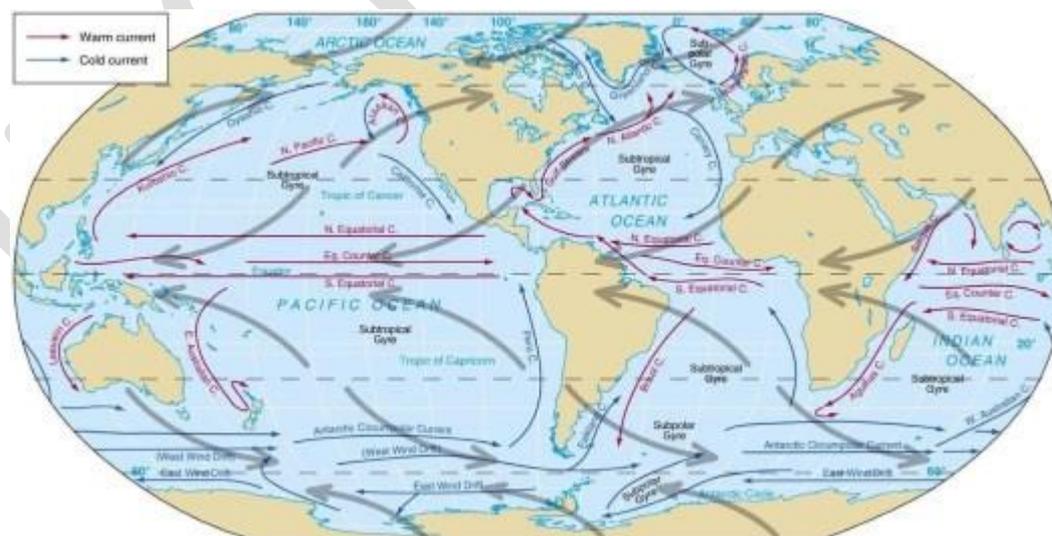
Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

Introduction:

An ocean current is a continuous, directed movement of sea water generated by a number of forces acting upon the water, including wind, the Coriolis effect, breaking waves, cabbeling, and temperature and salinity differences. Depth contours, shoreline configurations, and interactions with other currents influence a current’s direction and strength. Ocean currents are primarily horizontal water movements.

Body:



Factors leading to origin and modification of ocean currents:



- There are a variety of factors that affect how ocean currents (water in motion) are created, including a combination of two or more factors.
- The different types of currents (referred to as surface or thermohaline, depending on their depth) are created by, among other things, wind, water density, the topography of the ocean floor and the coriolis effect.

Primary Forces Responsible for Ocean Currents:

- **Insolation**
 - Heating by solar energy causes the water to expand. That is why, near the equator the ocean water is about 8 cm higher in level than in the middle latitudes.
 - This causes a very slight gradient and water tends to flow down the slope. The flow is normally from east to west.
- **Wind (atmospheric circulation)**
 - Wind blowing on the surface of the ocean pushes the water to move. Friction between the wind and the water surface affects the movement of the water body in its course.
 - Winds are responsible for both magnitude and direction [Coriolis force also affects direction] of the ocean currents. Example: Monsoon winds are responsible for the seasonal reversal of ocean currents in the Indian ocean.
 - The oceanic circulation pattern roughly corresponds to the earth's atmospheric circulation pattern.
 - The air circulation over the oceans in the middle latitudes is mainly anticyclonic [Sub-tropical High Pressure Belt] (more pronounced in the southern hemisphere than in the northern hemisphere due to differences in the extent of landmass). The oceanic circulation pattern also corresponds with the same.
 - At higher latitudes, where the wind flow is mostly cyclonic [Sub-polar Low Pressure Belt], the oceanic circulation follows this pattern.
 - In regions of pronounced monsoonal flow [Northern Indian Ocean], the monsoon winds influence the current movements which change directions according to seasons.
- **Gravity:**
 - Gravity tends to pull the water down to pile and create gradient variation.
- **Coriolis force:**
 - The Coriolis force intervenes and causes the water to move to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere.
 - These large accumulations of water and the flow around them are called Gyres. These produce large circular currents in all the ocean basins. One such circular current is the Sargasso Sea.

Secondary Forces Responsible for Ocean Currents:

- **Temperature difference and salinity difference** are the secondary forces.



- Differences in water density affect vertical mobility of ocean currents (vertical currents).
- Water with high salinity is denser than water with low salinity and in the same way cold water is denser than warm water.
- Denser water tends to sink, while relatively lighter water tends to rise.
- Cold-water ocean currents occur when the cold water at the poles sinks and slowly moves towards the equator.
- Warm-water currents travel out from the equator along the surface, flowing towards the poles to replace the sinking cold water.

Impact on climate of surrounding regions:

- **Desert formation**
 - Cold ocean currents have a direct effect on **desert formation** in west coast regions of the **tropical and subtropical continents**.
 - There is **fog** and most of the areas are **arid due to desiccating effect (loss of moisture)**.
- **Rains**
 - Warm ocean currents bring rain to coastal areas and even interiors. Example: Summer Rainfall in **British Type climate**.
 - Warm currents flow parallel to the east coasts of the continents in tropical and subtropical latitudes. This results in warm and rainy climates. These areas lie in the western margins of the subtropical anti-cyclones.
- **Moderating effect**
 - They are responsible for moderate temperatures at coasts. [North Atlantic Drift brings warmth to England. Canary cold current brings cooling effect to Spain, Portugal etc.]
- **Drizzle**
 - Mixing of cold and warm ocean currents create foggy weather where precipitation occurs in the form of drizzle [Newfoundland].
- **Climate**
 - Warm and rainy climates in tropical and subtropical latitudes [Florida, Natal etc.],
 - Cold and dry climates on the western margins in the sub-tropics due to desiccating effect,
 - Foggy weather and drizzle in the mixing zones,
 - Moderate climate along the western coasts in the sub-tropics.
- **Tropical cyclones**
 - They pile up warm waters in tropics and this warm water is the major force behind tropical cyclones.

Conclusion:

An ocean current flows for great distances and together they create the global conveyor belt, which plays a dominant role in determining the climate of many of Earth's regions. More specifically, ocean



currents influence the temperature of the regions through which they travel. Knowledge of surface ocean currents is essential in reducing costs of shipping, since traveling with them reduces fuel costs. Ocean currents can also be used for marine power generation, with areas off of Japan, Florida and Hawaii being considered for test projects.

What do you understand by seasonal shifting of pressure belts? What impact does it have on the formation of various climatic regions across the globe? Discuss its socio-economic significance. (250 words)

Reference: Physical Geography by Savindra Singh

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I, based on the theme of seasonal shifting of pressure belts.

Key demand of the question:

Explain what seasonal shifting of pressure belts is and its impact across the globe.

Directive:

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:

Briefly define what constitute pressure belts.

Body:

To start with, directly explain shifting of pressure belts and its cause.

Link various climatic phenomena with associated regions which are influenced by shift of the belts.

Discuss socio-economic significance through their impact on livelihood.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

Introduction:

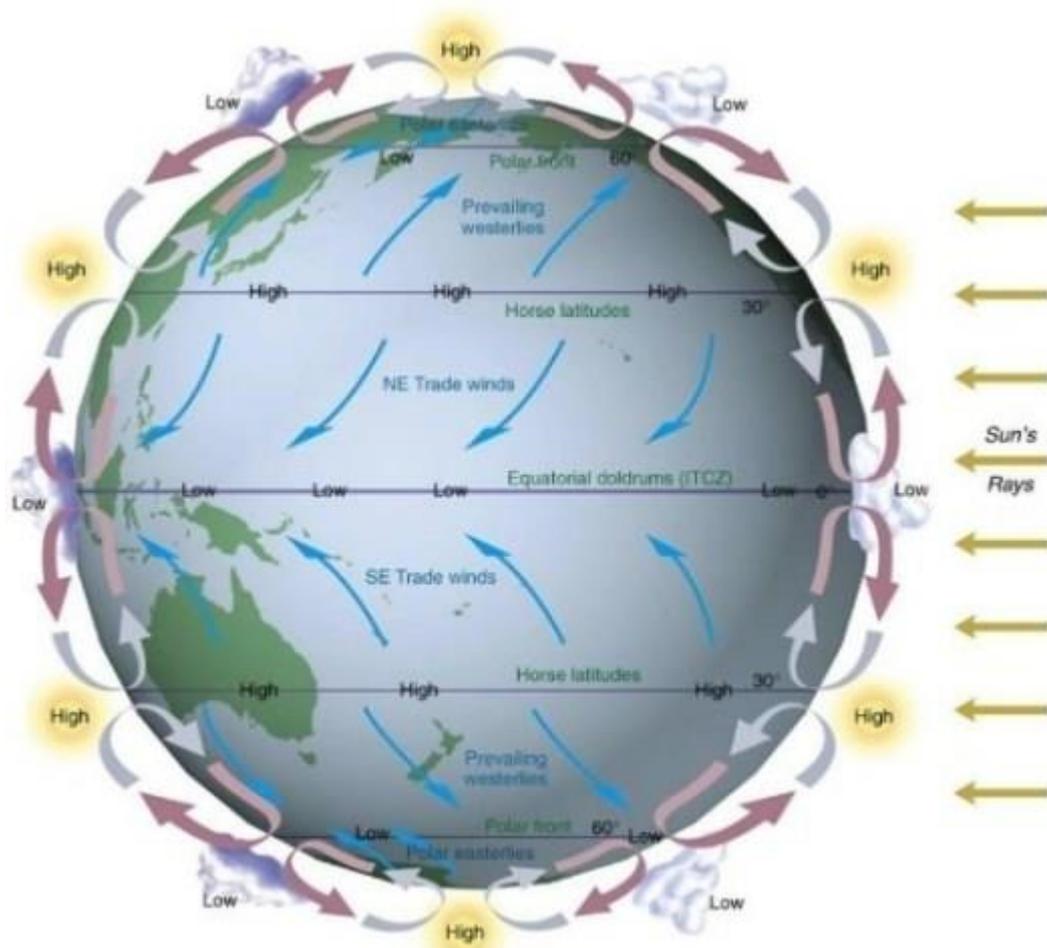
The distribution of atmospheric pressure across the latitudes is termed global horizontal distribution of pressure. Its main feature is its zonal character known as pressure belts.

All air movements have their roots in pressure differentials in the atmosphere, called pressure gradients. Systematic differences in the Earth's land temperature affect air pressure, and significant patterns of pressure that persist over time are called pressure belts, or wind belts. Wind belts depend on temperature, so temperature changes can move the belts and also change wind patterns.

Body:

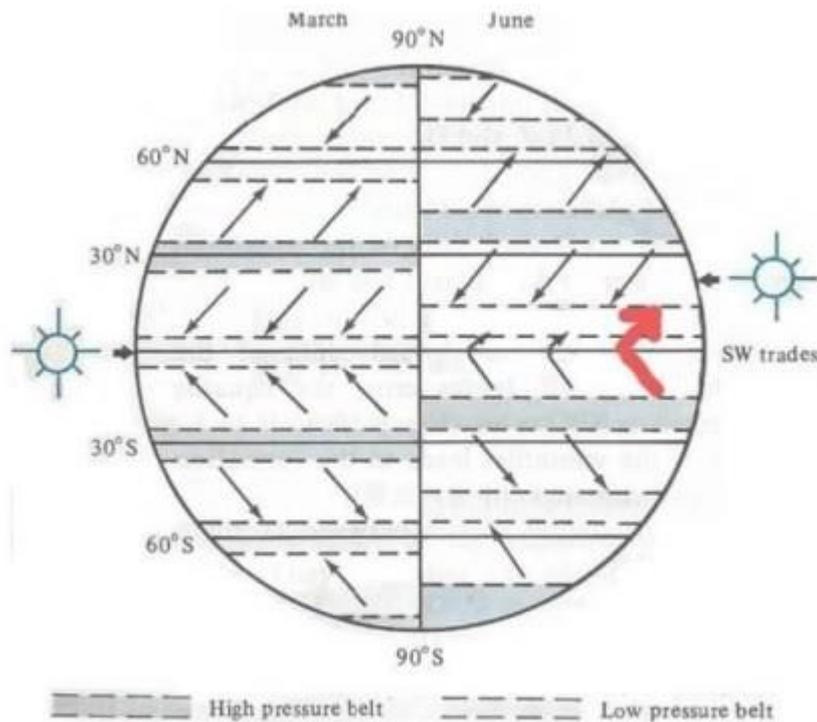
The horizontal distribution of air pressure across the latitudes is characterized by high or low-pressure belts. These pressure belts are:

- The Equatorial Low-Pressure Belt
- The Sub-Tropic High-Pressure Belts
- The Sub-Polar Low-Pressure Belts
- The Polar High-Pressure Belts



Reasons for season shifting of pressure belts:

- In the absence of the revolution of the earth around the sun in about 365 days the global pressure belts would have been permanent and stationary at their places.
- However, the relative position of the earth with the sun changes within a year due to earth's revolution and thus the position of all the pressure belts except the polar high pressure belts changes with the northward and southward migration of the sun.
- Due to the inclination of the Earth on its axis, there are differences in the heating of the continents, oceans and as a result, the pressure conditions in January and July vary greatly.
- On 21 June, where the sun is overhead on the tropic of Cancer then the pressure belt shifts 5° northwards and on 22 December when it shines overhead on the Tropic of Capricorn, they shift 5° southwards.
- The pressure belts remain balanced in both the hemispheres when the sun shines vertically over the equator on 21st March and 23rd September.



Impact on formation of various climatic regions across the globe:

- The shifting of the pressure belts causes **seasonal changes in the climate, especially between latitudes 30° and 40° in both hemispheres.**
 - In this region the Mediterranean type of climate is experienced because of shifting of permanent belts southwards and northwards with the overhead position of the sun.
 - During winters Westerlies prevail and cause rain.
 - During summers dry Trade Winds blow offshore and are unable to give rainfall in these regions. **These seasonal changes in the relative positions of the pressure and wind belts introduce the following typical climatic conditions:**
 - This belt extends upto 40° latitudes in the northern hemisphere at the time of summer solstice and in the southern hemisphere at the time of winter solstice. Thus, the western parts of the continents within the zone of 30°-40° latitudes do not receive rainfall during summer season.
 - Mediterranean regions are characterized by dry summers and wet winters and a typical Mediterranean type of climate is produced due to shifting in pressure belts.
- **The regions lying between 60°-70° latitudes are characterized by two types of winds in a year because of shifting of pressure and wind belts.**
 - With the northward migration of the sun at the time of summer solstice the polar easterlies are weakened during northern summer because the westerlies extend over these areas due to northward (poleward) shifting of sub-polar low pressure belt



- While the situation is quite opposite in the southern hemisphere because the polar easterlies extend over much of the areas of the westerlies due to equator-ward shifting of sub-polar low pressure belt.
- The situation is reversed at the time of winter solstice when there is southward migration of the sun.
- **Consequently, a typical climate characterized by wet summers through westerlies and associated cyclones and dry winters due to polar easterlies is produced.**
- **Monsoon climate:**
 - Monsoon climate is the result of the shifting of pressure and wind belts. Due to northward migration of the sun in the northern hemisphere at the time of summer solstice the north intertropical convergence (NITC) is extended upto 30°N latitude over Indian subcontinent, south-east Asia and parts of Africa. Thus, the equatorial westerlies are also extended over the aforesaid regions.
 - These equatorial westerlies, in fact, become the south-west or summer monsoons. These south-west monsoon winds bring much rains because they come from over the ocean and are associated with tropical atmospheric storms (cyclones). The NITC is withdrawn from over the Indian subcontinent and south-east Asia because of southward shifting of pressure and wind belts due to southward migration of the sun at the time of winter solstice.
 - Thus, north-east trades are re-established over the aforesaid areas. These north-east trades, in fact, **are north-east or winter monsoons. Since they come from over the lands, and hence they are dry.**

Explain the reasons for the formation of Sargasso Sea. Also, examine the factors for it being a region with one of the highest ocean salinity. (250 words)

Reference: Physical Geography by Savindra Singh

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I, based on the theme of formation of Sargasso Sea.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must explain the factors responsible for the formation of Sargasso Sea and as well discuss the reasons for high ocean salinity.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Mention the location and features of Sargasso Sea in brief.

Body:

The Sargasso Sea is a vast patch of sea in the North Atlantic Ocean located between latitudes 20N and 35 N and longitudes 30W and 70W, named for a genus of free-floating seaweed called Sargassum. It is the only sea in the world without a land boundary.

Explain the reasons behind formation of Sargasso Sea.



Write about the Salinity of Sargasso Sea and the various factors responsible for its high salinity; Sargasso Sea is characterized by a high salt content of 36 ‰ which is a distinct feature of the sea. It can be attributed to the following factors – Prevention of mixing of fresh water from surrounding oceans and poles due to virtual boundary created by the ocean currents, Low wind conditions also prevent intermixing with fresh water, High temperature in the region owing to its subtropical location and very less cloud cover. This causes high evaporation, Gulf Stream brings in high salinity water to the sea etc.

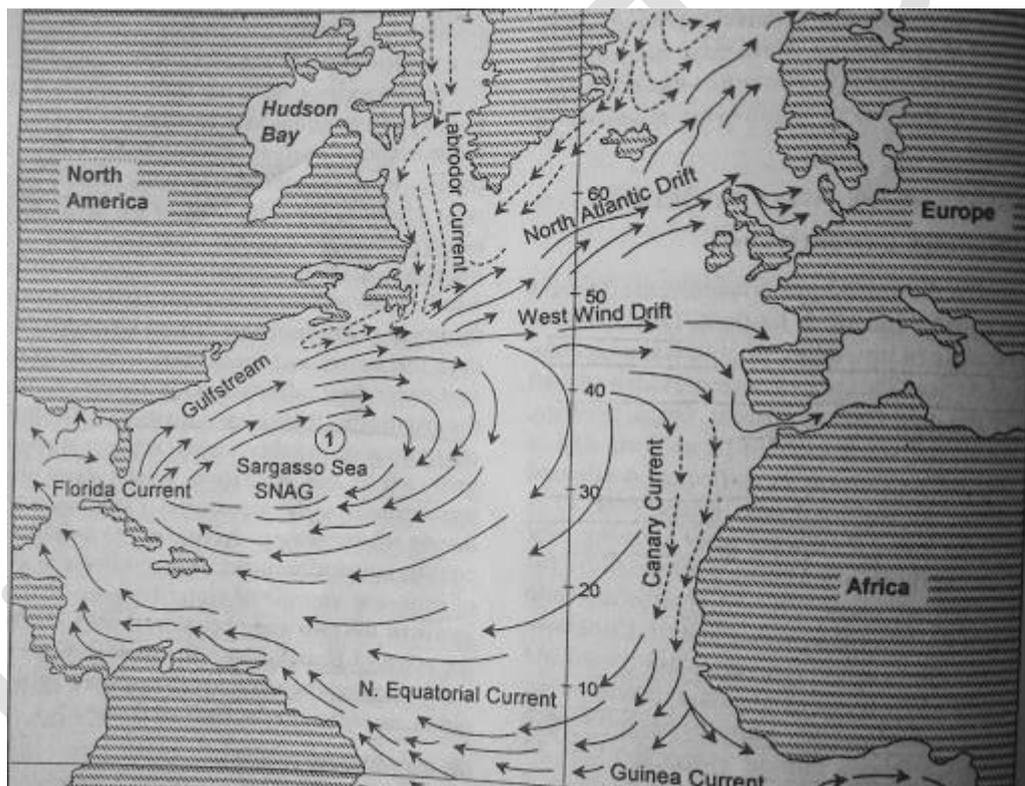
Conclusion:

Conclude with importance.

Introduction:

The Sargasso Sea is a motionless sea confined to the sub-tropical north Atlantic gyre. The area of the sea is found between 20 degrees N and 35 degrees N latitude and 30 degrees W and 75 degrees W longitude—the hump extending northward of BERMUDA. The sea area which is some 700 miles wide, 2000 miles long and located in the North Atlantic, has no shores. It is bounded by ocean currents on all sides. It is located entirely within the Atlantic Ocean, is the only sea without a land boundary.

Body:



Features:

- To its west is the Gulf Stream Current, on its east is the Canary Current, northern side is bounded by North Atlantic Current, and the south by North Atlantic Equatorial Current.
- The island of Bermuda is located on its western fringes.
- With such ocean currents on all sides, this sea area unlike the harsh cold North Atlantic, is strangely warm with stable weather conditions and with calm and weak winds.



- Another strange phenomenon which is nowhere seen in the world is, this vast water area is covered with some dense seaweed which forms a thick mat on the surface.
- This free floating golden-brown seaweed is known as Sargassum and therefore such name of the sea.

Reasons for its formation:

- The gyral system formed by the anti-cyclonic circulation of the North Equatorial current, the Gulf Stream and the Canary current confining the water from the rest of the ocean.
- Atmospheric stability due to it being located in the transition zone of the trade winds and the westerlies which is characterized by anti-cyclonic conditions. Hence there are feeble winds which allow little intermixing with waters outside the gyre.
- The less extensive nature of the North Atlantic Ocean between 20°N-40°N than other oceans in the same latitudes.
- The higher velocity of the North Equatorial Current and the Gulf Stream create calm waters in the confined region.

The factors for it being a region with one of the highest ocean salinity:

- The atmospheric temperature in this part of the Atlantic is higher—about 78 degrees F (26 degrees C), which helps in the process of evaporation.
- The higher salinity of Sargasso Sea is attributed to high temperature and greater evaporation and lack of mixture of fresh water by rivers or ice water.

Conclusion:

Sargassum provides a home to an amazing variety of marine species. Turtles use sargassum mats as nurseries where hatchlings have food and shelter. Sargassum also provides essential habitat for shrimp, crab, fish, and other marine species that have adapted specifically to this floating algae. The Sargasso Sea is a spawning site for threatened and endangered eels, as well as white marlin, porbeagle shark, and dolphinfish. Humpback whales annually migrate through the Sargasso Sea. Commercial fish, such as tuna, and birds also migrate through the Sargasso Sea and depend on it for food.

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

What are the factors that determine the location of Silk industries in India? Briefly explain the changes in the location of these industries from 19th century till the present times. (250 words)

Reference: *Physical Geography by Savindra Singh*

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:



Explain the factors that determine the location of Silk industries in India and as well trace the change in these locations from 19th century till the present times.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly first bring out the current locations of silk industries in the country.

Body:

Explain the factors that determine the location of silk industry.

Comment on the key factors – labor, raw material and market.

Use the map of India to highlight the factors and respective locations – Karnataka, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir etc.

Then move onto trace the changes in the location; discuss the factors such as technology, advancement in science etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of the industry in the country.

Introduction:

India's Silk Industry is world's second largest after China. The total production of silk in India stood at around 23,000 tonnes in the year 2011-12. India produces four varieties of silk produced, viz. Mulberry, Eri, Tasar and Muga. About 80% of silk produced in country is of mulberry silk, majority of which is produced in the three southern States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Sericulture Provides gainful occupation to around 63 Lakh persons in rural and semi-urban areas in India. About 97% of raw silk in India is produced in five Indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.

Body:

Factors that determine the location of Silk industries in India:

- **Raw Material:** Mulberry plants can be grown in any type of soil even in forest fringes, hill slopes. They can withstand draught and grows well in non-green revolution, non-irrigated areas of East and NE India.
- **Labour:** Sericulture does not involve hard labor. Silkworms can be reared by women and old people. In Eastern States, Farmers earlier used to grow Jute but Jute demand declined so they shifted to Sericulture.
- **Capital:** works on simple technology, no sophisticated equipment needed and can be done by small and marginal farmers, tribals.
- **Market:** There is still good demand for Silk Saris in India.



Changes in the location of these industries from 19th century till the present times:

- **Technology:** Central Silk board located in Bangalore. Further, technical knowledge sharing by Japan Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- **Machinery / devices:** Machinery / devices used for drying, cooking, reeling and re-reeling processes
- Move from handlooms to machine looms has helped in mass production of silk sarees.
- **Government Policy:** Sericulture done via cooperatives, SHGs which are more efficient and standard production compared to individual farmer.
- Government provides extension service, training to farmers which act as secondary source of income.
- Export policies which has helped the spread of market to countries across world.
- **Market:** The sale of silk sarees through e-Commerce websites.

Conclusion:

High Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) with potential to generate huge employment involving women, augmenting income of farmers, eco-friendly options which help in preserving the biodiversity makes Sericulture a viable option in India.



Despite being mineral-rich, the Eastern states of India have failed to register expected growth and social indices. Examine the causes for this failure and suggest remedial measures. (250 words)

Reference: Physical Geography by Savindra Singh

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the factors that have been responsible to failure of Eastern states in terms of growth and development despite being mineral rich.

Directive:

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Introduce by mentioning about the mineral wealth of Eastern India.

Body:

Mention the reasons for poor socio-economic growth of the region; lacunae and neglect in policy making, difficulty owing to terrain and physiography in the region, historical milieu, lack of support from local people, negative impact of mining etc.

Suggest measures to improve the condition. Indicate towards policies which are already in place, suggest improvements if any that can be made.

Conclusion:

Conclude that Inclusive and sustainable growth is the way forward and the policies should focus on it.

Introduction:

As per the ministry of Mines data, the eastern states of India – Jharkhand (7.72%), Chhattisgarh (6.65%) and Odisha (10.62%) account for more than 24.9% of the value of mineral production in the country. Despite being mineral rich region, it remains to be one of the most underdeveloped regions of the country. They continue to fare badly in indicators like health, education, employment and social inclusion.

Body:

Reasons for poor growth and social indices:

- **State failure:** In India, governance in the mining sector has been poor for a very long time. When government agencies come into play at all, they typically support the mining companies instead of the people affected. Indeed, the government agencies hardly have the manpower or other resources to check violations or investigate them after they have been committed.
- **Neglect in policy making:** The region has a history of exploitation of its mineral wealth without giving due regard to harmful impacts on the environment and local people.
- **Low decentralization:** The locals being poor and vulnerable have no say in high level decision making. Even Gram Sabhas do not work as per their mandate.
- **Environmental concerns:** Another area of concern is how serious India is about protecting its environment. The multi-city dialogue examined the nature and the intent of the laws on environmental preservation, biodiversity and the manner in which such regulations are circumvented and flouted.



- **Resistance:** Rapid growth and industrialization is resisted by local people due to mistrust on governance policies which resulted into growth of Naxalism.
- **Difficult terrain and low outreach:** A number of villages are remotely located which creates hindrances in implementation of government programmes like immunization, literacy promotion, etc.
- **Negative impacts of mining:** Mining has direct impacts on health and well-being of locals. Cancer cases in the nearby villages of Jaduguda mines of Jharkhand due to radioactive waste generated from uranium mining are widely documented.

Measures needed to improve the situation:

- Utilizing District Mineral Foundation funds: **MMDRA Act 2015** mandates that 60% of the DMF funds must be utilized for high priority areas such as drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people and environment conservation.
- There is need to expedite work of **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** to ensure sustainable livelihood for the affected people.
- Institutional approaches: **National Mineral Policy 2019** suggests establishing an inter-ministerial body to create a mechanism for ensuring sustainable mining with adequate concerns for the environment and socio-economic issues in the mining areas, and to advise the Government on rates of royalty, dead rent etc.
- Investing in infrastructure: Improving connectivity, increasing irrigated area which is currently only 16.6% in Chhattisgarh and 7% in Jharkhand is the need of the hour.
- Promoting local specialization and resources: Providing GI tags to local producers which help in export earning, promotion of tourism, cultural heritage and regional identity, simultaneously preserving traditional skills. For ex: Odisha's Kotpad Handloom fabric, Bastar Iron Craft of Chhattisgarh, etc.
- Similarly, with India going plastic free, utilizing the minor forest produce like Tendu leaves, jute and handloom products has immense potential to boost the local economy.
- Boosting tourism potential: The Tribal Circuit of **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** aims to develop and promote tribal rituals, festivals, customs and culture. This is also necessary to promote national integration by developing a sense of respect for the tribal way of life.

Conclusion:

Development of the Eastern States is critical for achieving Sustainable Development Goals of No poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well Being, Quality education and Reduced Inequalities. All developmental policies for the socio-economic growth of the region should adhere to the motto of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas'. Inclusive and sustainable growth is the way forward.

Discuss the non-geographical factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world.(250 words)

Reference: Physical Geography by Savindra Singh

Why this question:

The question is straightforward from the static portions of GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the non- geographical factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world in detail with suitable examples.

Directive:



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:

Explain that Industrial locations are complex in nature. These are influenced by the availability of many factors. Some of them are: raw material, land, water, labor, capital, power, transport, and market. However there are many non-geographical factors too.

Body:

Discuss the non-geographical factors in detail – Capital investment, Availability of loans, Investment climate, Government policies/regulations, Influence of pressure groups etc.

One should quote relevant examples from India and across the world to justify the answer.

Conclusion:

Conclude that It is rarely possible to find all these factors available at one place.

Consequently, manufacturing activity tends to locate at the most appropriate place where all the factors of industrial location are either available or can be arranged at lower cost. In general, it should also be noted that both lower production cost and lower distribution cost are the two major factors while considering the location of an industry. Sometimes, the government provides incentives like subsidized power, lower transport cost, and other infrastructure so that industries may be located in backward areas.

Introduction:

Industry refers to an economic activity that is concerned with production of goods, extraction of minerals or the provision of services.

Body:

Many important geographical factors involved in the location of individual industries are of relative significance. But besides such purely geographical factors influencing industrial location, there are factors of historical, human, political and economic nature which are now tending to surpass the force of geographical advantages. Consequently, the factors influencing the location of industry can be divided into two broad categories – **Geographical and Non- Geographical factors.**

Non- Geographical factors:

- **Capital:** Modern industries are capital-intensive and require huge investments. Capitalists are available in urban centers. Big cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, and Chennai are big industrial centers, because the big capitalists live in these cities.
- **Government Policies:** Government activity in planning the future distribution of industries, for reducing regional disparities, elimination of pollution of air and water and for avoiding their heavy clustering in big cities, has become no less an important locational factor.
- **Industrial Inertia:** Industries tend to develop at the place of their original establishment, though the original cause may have disappeared. This phenomenon is referred to as inertia, sometimes as geographical inertia and sometimes industrial inertia. The lock industry at Aligarh is such an example.
- **Efficient Organization:** Efficient and enterprising organization and management is essential for running modern industry successfully. Bad management sometimes squanders away the capital and puts the industry in financial trouble leading to industrial ruin.



- **Banking Facilities:** Establishment of industries involves daily exchange of crores of rupees which is possible through banking facilities only. So the areas with better banking facilities are better suited to the establishment of industries.
- **Insurance:** There is a constant fear of damage to machine and man in industries for which insurance facilities are badly needed.
- **Political and economic situation:** Political harmony and peace in a particular region encourage the establishment of industrial units. On the other hand, disturbed political and economic set up discourages the growth of industries in the region. On account of Naxalites movement in West Bengal, Industries started moving out of West Bengal. Similarly, is the case in certain other states where, on account of political disturbances, manufacturers have started thinking to settle elsewhere and further industrial expansion has been greatly affected.
- **Availability of research facilities:** The main aim of any industrial undertaking is to have maximum production with minimum cost. Constant research and experimentation is undertaken to develop products and improved methods of production.
- **Possibilities of future expansion:** The area for location should be such as to provide all possible opportunities for future development and expansion of the industrial unit without involving extra cost. Every industrial undertaking is established with the aim to expand in future.

Conclusion:

Thus, the location of industries is dependent on a combination of geographical and non-geographical factors.

Fishing industry more developed in Northern Hemisphere than in Southern Hemisphere, why? Explain.(250 words)

Reference: Physical Geography by Savindra Singh

Why this question:

The question is about Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world.

Key demand of the question:

Explain why Fishing industry more developed in Northern Hemisphere than in Southern Hemisphere.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly talk about fishing industry in general.

Body:

Explain the following possible factors:

Cool waters favor the reproduction of phytoplankton.

Presence of more plankton that are food for fish avail large numbers of fish.

In the northern hemisphere, there are extensive continental shelves which favor fishing grounds.

The rugged and hilly terrain make agriculture difficult, many people opt for fishing as the main economic activity hence its development.

The cool temperate climate favors large scale commercial fishing, preservation and storage of fish.

Long and cool winters do not favor agricultural activities hence the development of fish.

Presence of sophisticated technology that is highly employed in the handling of fish.

High income in the northern hemisphere countries is used to develop the fishing industry.

Conclusion:



Conclude with significance.

Introduction:

The fishing industry includes any industry or activity concerned with taking, culturing, processing, preserving, storing, transporting, marketing or selling fish or fish products. It is defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization as including recreational, subsistence and commercial fishing, and the harvesting, processing, and marketing sectors. The commercial activity is aimed at the delivery of fish and other seafood products for human consumption or as input factors in other industrial processes. Directly or indirectly, the livelihood of over 500 million people in developing countries depends on fisheries and aquaculture.

Body:

Regions of fishing industry:

- **The North-West Pacific:** Vast stretches of Eurasian region, comprising countries like Korea, Japan, C.I.S., are traditionally major fish producing region over last 50 years.
- **The North-West Atlantic:** This fishing region extends from Newfoundland in north to New England state of U.S.A. in the South. This region secures fourth position among fishing regions with 9% of the global catch. Different famous banks, namely Grand bank, Seble bank, Georges banks in this region are famous for fish concentration.
- **The North-East Atlantic:** At present, this region secures top position in the total catch of fish. It roughly accounts for 21% of the total global catch. This region covers an area that extends from Iceland to Mediterranean coast through C.I.S., Denmark, Norway, Spain, Iceland. U.K. etc. This region is also known as North-West European Zone.
- **The North-East Pacific:** This region is situated exclusively in North American continent, stretches from Alaska to California in U.S.A. This is the fourth largest fish-producing area on earth, accounting for 7% of the world's catch. The major areas of fishing include San Francisco, Los Angeles, Vancouver etc. The major fish varieties are salmon, tuna, halibut and herring.
- **Southern Hemisphere:** Temperate fishing grounds of Southern hemisphere attained such a massive growth in recent years that it has been able to surpass the traditional producing regions of Northern hemisphere. Among the top five fish-producing countries, two — Peru (second) and Chile (fourth) — are from Southern hemisphere.

Reasons for development of fishing industry in the Northern hemisphere over southern hemisphere:

- Wide expanse of continental shelf. E.g.: N.W. Pacific which is below 200 metres of depth
- Presence of shallow water.
- Confluence of warm and cold current and subsequent growth of abundant plankton. E.g.: warm Kuroshio current with cold Oyashio current; warm Gulf Stream with cold Labrador Current
- The traditional skill in fishing.
- Large population of the country and absence of protein food.
- Absence of alternative occupation.
- Numerous ports in this region facilitate export-import facilities.
- Broken coast line provides excellent facilities of port and fishing harbour building.
- Deposition of abundant product by inland rivers. E.g.: Hoang Ho, Kitakami that is consumed by fish.
- Cold climate facilitates preservation facilities.
- Nearby forest provides wood for ship building.



Conclusion:

India's long coastline has the potential of becoming the strength of the economy particularly through the exploitation of the Blue Revolution. India can grow to the extent of 10 trillion-dollar economy as against 2.7 trillion dollars today with the help of the Blue Economy. India needs to develop more scientifically its fishing system and other related aspects such as freezing, packaging, etc

What are the factors affecting the Localisation of the textile industries in the country, provide for a spatial analysis.(250 words)

Reference: Indian Geography by Majid Hussain

Why this question:

The question is straightforward from the static portions of the GS paper I.

Key demand of the question:

One must bring out the factors affecting the Localisation of the textile industries in the country, provide for a spatial analysis.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly discuss first the factors that contribute to localisation of an industry.

Body:

First chalk out the spread and expanse of textile industries in the country.

Then discuss the variants of textiles available – cotton, silk, jute etc.

Use a map of India to show and depict the spread spatially.

Analyse the factors responsible in detail.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of the Industry and its contribution to the Indian economy.

Introduction:

Cotton plays an important role in the Indian economy as the country's textile industry is predominantly cotton based. India is one of the largest producers as well as exporters of cotton yarn. The textile industry is also expected to reach US\$ 223 billion by the year 2021.

The states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Punjab are the major cotton producers in India. There has been a phenomenal growth of this industry during the last four decades. About 16 per cent of the industrial capital and over 20 per cent of the industrial labour of the country is engaged in this industry.

Body:

India has a glorious tradition of producing excellent quality cotton textiles. Before the British rule, Indian hand spun and hand woven cloth already had a wide market. The **Muslins of Dhaka, Chintzes of Masulipatnam, Calicos of Calicut and Gold-wrought cotton of Burhanpur, Surat and Vadodara** were known worldwide for their quality and design. But the production of hand woven cotton textile was expensive and time consuming. Hence, traditional cotton textile industry could not face the competition from the new textile mills of the West, which produced cheap and good quality fabrics through mechanized industrial units.

A host of factors such as low labour costs, government subsidies, irrigation, proximity to ports led to the spread of cotton textile industry.

Pre-1920's:



- Traditionally, cotton industry in India was largely concentrated in cotton growing areas of peninsula, Like Gujarat (Surat), Maharashtra (Mumbai).
- These areas had advantages of **proximity of market, capital facility, cheap labour, proximity to port facility and favourable humid climate.**
- But cotton is **lightweight, non-perishable material**, humidity can be created artificially and there is **hardly any weightloss** during production.
- As a result, **proximity to raw material becomes non-critical factor** in location.
- Production can be carried out anywhere with **cheap labour, energy and water supply is available for dyeing.**

Post-1920's:

- Dispersal of industry from the old nuclei started after 1921 with railway lines penetrating into the peninsular region.
- Gradually industry shifted towards small towns and cities. Example: centres like Coimbatore, Madurai, Bangalore, Nagpur, Indore, Solapur, Vadodara, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Indore, Amritsar.
- These were favourably located in respect to raw material, market and labour than places of original locations.
- This industry also reached some places with some additional advantages, such as nearness to coal (Nagpur), financial facilities (Kanpur) and wide market with port facilities (Kolkata).
- Dispersal of cotton textile industry was further boosted with the development of hydroelectricity. The growth of this industry in Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli is largely due to the availability of hydroelectricity from Pykara dam.

Post-Independence:

- The industry also tended to shift from areas of high labour cost to those with **low labour cost**. The labour cost factor played a crucial role in establishing this industry at Madurai, Tirunelveli, and Coimbatore.
- Government Incentives: Handloom industry considered **highly labour-intensive, beneficial to village economy and women empowerment**. Therefore, government aids them with measures such as Integrated Village Handloom Development scheme and National Silk Yarn Scheme.
- Handloom sector employs **more than 65 lakh people** and contributes to **15 % of total textile productions**. They are widely distributed throughout the country, states of Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Manipur account for nearly 50 per cent of the production capacity.

**Directive:**

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we must look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

Briefly set the context of the question with some key facts of production of wheat and corn.

Body:

To start with, explain first the factors contributing to large production – geographical factors, industrial setup, availability of technology etc.

Then move onto discuss the wheat production in the Northern America. State the facts related to wheat production in the Indian states such as those of Punjab UP and others.

Draw a detailed comparison.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of production of corn and wheat in general.

Introduction:

North America benefits greatly from its fertile soils, plentiful freshwater, oil and mineral deposits, and forests. With a strong domestic and export economy focused on this abundant array of natural resources, North America has become one of the most developed regions in the world. From the freezing Arctic to the tropical jungles of Central America, North America enjoys more climate variation than any other continent. These differences contribute to North America's variety of agricultural industries, which are often divided by climate zone: tropical zone, subtropical zone, cool temperate zone, and dry zone.

Body:**The factors responsible for large production of corn and Wheat in the North America:**

- The **Dairy Belt, Corn Belt, and Wheat Belt** are three agricultural areas in the continent's cool temperate zones.
- The **Corn Belt**, located between the Ohio River and the lower Missouri River, receives **ample water and strong summer sun**, ideal for corn and soybeans.
- West of the Corn Belt, the **Wheat Belt** stretches from the U.S. state of Kansas through the Canadian Prairie Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. This vast area of the **Great Plains allows wheat to be cultivated in both winter and spring**.
- **Soil:**
 - The prairies i.e. the temperate grasslands have had centuries of grass rotting.
 - This has in turn produced fertile soil with high phosphorus content which is good for wheat
 - The topography is suitable for wheat cultivation because wheat cannot tolerate stagnant water
 - Further, the flat terrain makes it easier for machines to be employed at every production stage.



- Mechanization is imperative because population is scarce and it is hard to find laborers and expensive to hire, unlike Asia.
- For corn, chernozem soil is found which is great enabler.
- **Land-holdings:**
 - in the early days of colonization, land was abundant in the North American prairies
 - European settlers seized opportunity, bought large farm holdings at throwaway prices. Consequently, farms have area of several thousand acres.
 - Since farm is large, mechanization is possible. This inturn reduces the number of farm-workers needed.
- **Transportation & Marketing:**
 - Railroad connectivity via American Railway and Shipping industries.
 - Many branch lines are constructed to connect even the remotest farm regions with the mainline. This makes it easy to transport the produce to market.
 - most of the wheat moves by rail through Rocky Mountains to Vancouver /Prince Rupert for export.
 - Most of the corn produced is used for fattening animals. Further, these animals sent to slaughterhouses in Chicago and Omaha.
- **Storage facilities:**
 - Grain elevator storage facilities along the railway lines: here wheat is cleaned, graded, processed and stored.
 - storage complexes and milling operation at many of the bulk location, where Railways intersect major waterways.
- **Governmental policies:**
 - The Wheat board coordinates movement of wheat to major terminals.
 - Farmers are given schedules to send their wheat to nearby railway station.
 - This system minimizes price fluctuations/distribution inefficiencies and provides quality control for exported wheat.
- **Labor factor in Corn belt:**
 - only small labour force needed because planting and harvesting is highly mechanised
 - once seeds are planted, no labour needs arise other than spraying pesticides for weed control and fertilization but that too is done with help of aero planes because farm holdings are so large.
 - for harvesting, outside contractors with crew and machines are hired.
 - This has led to new type of farmers known as suitcase farmers: they live more than 30 miles away from their farm, in large urban cities.

**India:**

- Next to rice, wheat is the most important food-grain of India and is the staple food of millions of Indians, particularly in the northern and north-western parts of the country.
- Mostly grown in regions of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.
- Presence of Well-drained fertile loamy and clayey loamy soil type. There is also immense water resources provided by the Indus and its tributaries.
- There are two types of wells, namely dug wells and tube wells. This kind of irrigation is widely practiced in plain regions of India. Overexploitation of wells is well observed in Punjab-Haryana region. Canal irrigation is well suited for regions with clayey soil as clayey soil prevents water percolation. Mostly practiced in south India and Ganga-Yamuna region.
- The temperature required for wheat during growing season (RABI) is around 15.5°C. The weather should be warm and moist during the early stage of growth and sunny and dry in the later stages.
- Presence of large farm holdings has helped in use of machinery.
- Further the green revolution started in the north-western regions helped in boost of wheat cultivation.
- Rapid growth in food grain production from using seeds of high yielding variety is termed as Green Revolution.
- The high yielding varieties (HYVs) of wheat and use of chemical fertilizers also helped in higher wheat production.

Conclusion:

In India, agriculture provides the livelihood to farmers, therefore, farmers first look for the economic viability of a crop within their socio-physical and political environment. Crops contribute to the overall growth of the country's economy but the numbers are not very high. To lift it up, the country needs to take innovative initiatives and to upgrade its plans and policies. Also, the latest agriculture technologies and equipment should be adopted for better output and more educated and right talent should enter to the farming sector.

Geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and icecaps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Discuss the various geomorphological effects caused by an earth quake. (250 words)

Reference: *Physical Geography by Savindra Singh*

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of GS paper I, theme geography.

Key demand of the question:

One has to explain the various geomorphological effects caused by an earth quake in detail.

Directive:

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:**

Briefly define what Earthquakes are.

**Body:**

The question is pretty much straightforward and there isn't much to deliberate.

Start with geomorphological effects that an Earthquake possibly causes.

An earthquake can trigger many sudden changes in the environment which can be classified as primary (e.g. subsidence, surface faulting) and secondary effects (displaced rocks, tsunami, ground cracks, liquefactions, landslides) etc.

Discuss the impact of it. Use diagrams wherever possible to add value to your answer.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

Introduction:

Earthquake is one of the most devastating natural calamities which causes sudden shaking of the earth surface. It not only causes damage to buildings and other structures but also affects the surrounding environment and our lifestyle significantly. An earthquake can trigger many sudden changes in the environment which can be classified as **primary (e.g. subsidence, surface faulting) and secondary effects (displaced rocks, tsunami, ground cracks, liquefactions, landslides)**. These effects are known as **earthquake environmental effects (EEE)**.

Body:**The various geomorphological effects caused by an earth quake:**

Primary effects: Primary effects take place as a direct consequence of the earthquake. The happening of the primary effects also depends on the size of the earthquake and the stress environment.

- **Subsidence:**
 - The movement of the earth surface from a higher to a lower position with respect to a particular datum such as the mean sea level is known as subsidence of earth's
- **Surface Faulting:**
 - Surface faulting or surface rupture is a displacement which reaches the earth surface due to the motion of a fault inside the earth, during an earthquake. This phenomenon commonly occurs in shallow earthquakes.
- **Secondary Effects:** The effects which occur in the natural environment as a result of the primary effects are known as Secondary Effects.
- **Liquefaction:**
 - Liquefaction of soil is process in which saturated, partially saturated and cohesion-less soils loses strength and stiffness in response to ground shaking due to earthquake or other quick loading, resulting in a fluid like behaviour of the soil.
- **Seismic Conditions:**
 - The distance of a particular area from the epicenter of the earthquake effects the intensity of ground motions and also the cyclic loading transferred to the soil. The risk of liquefaction was found to increase with the increase of cyclic loading.
- **Pressure on Soil:**



- Soils having high overlying earth pressure such as areas with buildings, roads or any other loading were found to be less prone to liquefaction than open areas such as crop fields or beaches with shallow alluvial deposits.
- **Arrangement and Density of Soil Particles:**
 - A loose or porous layer has lesser liquefaction resistance than closely packed soil. Liquefaction resisting strength is more for denser soils.
- **Ground Water Level:**
 - Supply of ground water is a necessary factor for increasing pore pressure of soil, which in turn causes liquefaction.
- **Tsunami:**
 - A Tsunami is a series of huge waves surged from an ocean or any other water body which forces its way into the land causing widespread havoc and destruction. The height of the waves may reach over 30 m.
 - The tsunami waves are different from ordinary tidal waves, tidal waves are caused by gravitational force of the sun, moon or other planets or due to wind but Tsunamis are caused due to a large instantaneous displacement of the sea level caused due to primary effects of an earthquake like subsidence or uplift or subsidence of the sea bed.
- **Landslides:**
 - A landslide or landslip is a mass movement of rocks, debris or top layer of soil down a slope which is aided by the action of gravity. Landslides can be triggered by an earthquake or other causes like volcanic eruption, changes in ground water table disturbance caused by human activities

Conclusion:

Earthquakes though a natural phenomenon have a huge impact on man and material as urbanization and globalization increases. The effects have impacts on flora, fauna and the global warming which can accelerate the climate change.

What are the environmental issues in Antarctica? Discuss and present the global importance of it.(250 words)

Reference: *Physical Geography by Savindra Singh*

Why this question:

The question is about the global importance that Antarctica holds for us and the environmental issues concerning it.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the global importance that Antarctica holds for us and the environmental issues concerning it.

Directive:

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:



Briefly state key facts of Antarctica show the location using a diagram.

Body:

To start with, first quote the environmental concerns in detail –

Antarctica and its surrounding waters are under pressure from a variety of forces that are already transforming the area, scientists warn. The most immediate threats are regional warming, ocean acidification and loss of sea ice, all linked to global levels of carbon dioxide. Although isolated from other continents, Antarctica is connected to the rest of the world through oceanic and atmospheric circulations. Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean are key drivers of Earth's oceanic and atmospheric systems. The formation and circulation of Southern Ocean water masses provide a key link in the global 'conveyor belt' of ocean currents that controls climate by transporting heat and other properties.

For our entire planet, atmospheric pressure, humidity, air temperatures and wind patterns are interconnected and greatly influenced by processes in the Southern Ocean.

Explain the human impact too.

Discuss the importance of it in detail.

Conclusion:

Conclude with the need to save Antarctica with sense of urgency.

Introduction:

Antarctica and its surrounding waters are under pressure from a variety of forces that are already transforming the area, scientists warn. A recent finding in research base in the Antarctic region has registered its highest-ever temperature on record, as the temperature soared over 20 degrees Celsius (°C), amid concerns over global warming that has caused an increase in the melting of ice sheets along the South Pole.

Body:

Environmental threats posed in Antarctica:

- **Climate change and Global warming:**
 - The most immediate threats are regional warming, ocean acidification and loss of sea ice, all linked to global levels of carbon dioxide.
 - Human activity is at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures even higher in the poles.
 - Burning of fossil fuels has resulted in the build-up of greenhouse gases influencing the warming trend because they trap heat in the atmosphere.
 - Sea ice cover, crucial to the survival of virtually every animal that lives on and near the continent, already has been reduced by warming, according to a new study published in the July 2019 issue of the journal Science.
 - Deforestation, on the rise, across the globe, has a lot of negative effects like a rise in sea levels.
- **Fishing, both legal and illegal:**
 - The world's oceans are over-fished, the chances are that if investments into the kinds of boats and fishing gear needed for Antarctica are made, then it too will suffer this same fate.



- Fishing for krill could be particularly significant as these are at the bottom of many Antarctic food chains. There are already illegal fishing boats that ignore current regulations.
- **Pollution:**
 - CFC's and other ozone depletors are responsible for the ozone hole that has appeared over Antarctica for over 30 years, chemicals produced thousands of miles away are found in Antarctic ice and in the bodies of wildlife.
 - Discarded equipment, chemicals and oil can degrade the landscape.
 - Fishing nets, plastic, lines, hooks etc. carried by the sea can result in great suffering or loss of life by birds, fish and marine mammals
- **Exploration and exploitation of mineral reserves, oil and gas:**
 - Oil and gas drilling that emits methane which is the main constituent of natural gas is another contributor.
 - Not currently economically viable, but as the need becomes greater and as technology advances, this will become an increasing threat. The Antarctic Treaty bans all mining and mineral exploitation indefinitely, though this comes up for review in 2048
- **Shipping:**
 - In summer, Ice breaking ships that head to the north in the Arctic Ocean leave trails of open waters, leaving the oceans with lesser ability to reflect back sun rays.
 - An increase in boats means a greater chance of an oil spill in an area that would be very difficult to clean up.
 - More than a dozen "vessel emergencies" have been reported in the Southern Ocean in the past six years, according to a study cited in the new paper. That includes a Chilean vessel that went down in 2007 carrying 50,000 gallons (190,000 liters) of diesel.
- **Tourism:**
 - Visits by tourists, researchers and other people also threaten to change Antarctica, as does the harvesting of animals like krill that are key to the Antarctic food chain.
 - Last year nearly 20,000 tourists visited the Antarctic Peninsula, according to the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.
 - There are also more researchers, and there is more exploration for minerals and other resources.
- **Invasive species:**
 - Organisms that are not native to Antarctica are being taken there on ships, attached as seeds to boots and clothing. Some of these are now able to survive there as a consequence of global warming. Rats in particular are a potential threat to Antarctica's ground nesting birds on sub-Antarctic islands which are particularly vulnerable as there are no native ground based predators for them to be experienced in defending themselves against.



- **Direct impacts associated with the development of infrastructure for scientific bases and programmes:**
 - The construction of buildings and related facilities such as roads, fuel storage, runways etc. and the associated disposal of waste on an ongoing basis.

Global importance of Antarctica:

- Antarctica encompasses land, island and oceans south of 60° latitude.
- This region stores about 70% of the world's fresh water in the form of snow and ice.
- The average annual temperature ranges from about -10°C on the Antarctic coast to -60°C at the highest points of the interior.
- Its immense ice sheet is upto 4.8 km thick and contains 90% of the world's fresh water; enough to raise the sea levels by around 60 meters, if it were to melt completely.

Way forward:

- Delaying action any further will need nations to remove CO₂ at an unmanageable magnitude that current technology and resources cannot achieve.
- Establishing vehicle emission standards and investing in public transportation that runs on electricity.
- Pricing carbon, i.e, making major polluters pay for their emissions. This provides an incentive for major emitters to reduce their output.
- Phasing out coal power plants.
- With renewable energy technology becoming increasingly affordable, Solar power and Wind turbines are needed to phase out coal plants. However, it is important to note that these changes on a global scale will not be cheap.

Conclusion:

It may be important to revisit the commitments of global climate change before it is too late, as the changes that have already set in due to climate change might continue to cause damage for a several decades, even if solid measures are taken to contain the changes. Incremental changes no longer enough to stall devastating effects of climate change. The need of the hour is rapid and transformational changes.





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