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GS- I

NOVEMBER 2020



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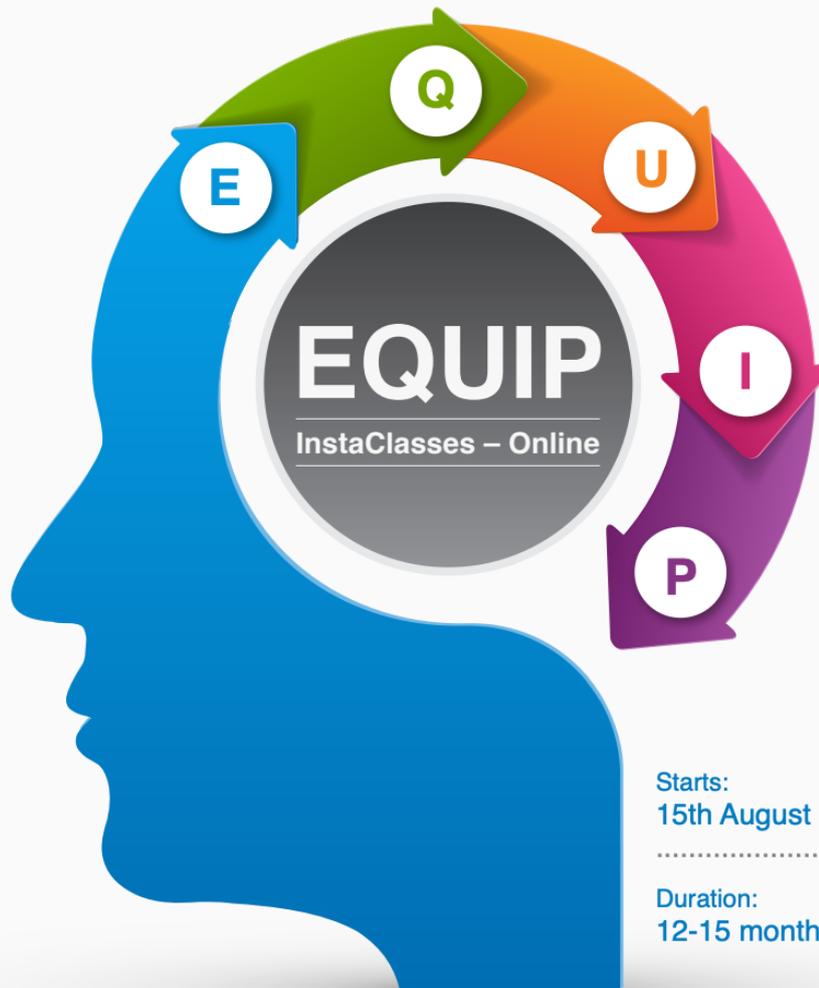
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Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Present a sketch of major Sufi orders in India. What was their goal? Explain. (250 words)

Reference: Medieval Indian History NCERT by R S Sharma

Why the question:

The question is based on the theme of major Sufi orders that prevailed in India and their goals.

Key Demand of the question:

Account in detail for major Sufi orders in India and present their goals.

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:

Start by explaining what you understand by Sufi orders. Sufism has a history in India evolving for over 1,000 years.

Body:

There are three Sufi orders:

Silsilahs – The Sufis Formed Many orders – *silsilahs*. By the thirteenth century, there were 12 *silsilahs*.

Khanqas – The Sufi saints live in *khanqas*. Devotees of religions came to these *khanqas* to seek the blessings of Saints.

Sama – Music and dances session, called *Sama*.

Provide first for their early history. The core concept of Sufi Movement is *Darikh-i-Duniya / Wahad-ul-wahjud*, meaning “Universal Brotherhood”. It outwardly rejected the religion and emphasized love and devotion to God and compassion towards all fellow human beings.

Explain how they tried to transform Islam and promote secular fabric of India.

Discuss their key goals.

Conclusion:

Conclude with their importance.

Introduction:

Sufis were a group of religious-minded people who turned to asceticism and mysticism in protest against the growing materialism of the Caliphate as a religious and political institution. Sufism entered India in the 12th century with Muslim invaders and became popular in the 13th century. The socio-religious movement saw many mystic Sufis, who were unorthodox Muslim saints. These Sufis had a deep study of vedantic philosophy and had come in contact with great sages and seers of India. Sufism emphasizes upon leading a simple life. Sufi saints preached in Arabic, Persian and Urdu etc. The Sufis were divided into 12 orders each under a mystic Sufi saint like Khwaja Moinuddin Chisthi, Fariuddin Ganj-i-Shakar, Nizam-ud-din Auliya etc.

Body:

Major Sufi orders in India

In India the four major silsilas to take root were **Suhrawardiyya, Chishtiyya, Qadiriyya and Naqshabandiyya**. From these major orders many suborders such as **Shattariyya and the Kubrawiyya** branched out.

1. **Chisthi Silsilah:**



1. This was the silsila which, with its spirit of equality and brotherhood, won the hearts of the people of the subcontinent.
2. The doors of the Chishtiyya khanqahs were open to all at all times.
3. This silsila was instrumental in spreading Islam in central and southern Indian with its ocean like generosity, mildness of the evening sun and earth-like modesty.
4. Sufism became a mass movement under the influence of Chishti saints who settled in the Indus region: Sind, Punjab and Multan.
5. The disdain of the Chishti saints for the rulers was obvious from their refusal to accept any land or money from them.
6. The early Chishti saints considered anything accepted from the rulers as unlawful.
7. From the 'low caste' Hindus to the mighty Mogul kings, all bowed in reverence at the feet of the great Chishti saints.
8. In the Indian subcontinent Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti was instrumental in laying the foundations of Sufism especially the Chishtiyya silsila. He was born in Sistan (a province bordering Iran and Afghanistan) and in his early years was inspired by Abu Najib Surhawardi.
9. Muinuddin who was also known as Khwaja Garib Nawaaz (benefactor of the poor), reached Delhi in 1193 but later shifted to Ajmer when it was conquered by the Delhi Sultanate.
10. Among the most important disciples of Muinuddin was Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki who carried out the Chishtiyya work in Delhi.
11. His successor was Shaykh Fariduddin or Baba Farid, the legendary sufi poet of Punjab, whose disciple was another great saint – Nizamuddin Auliya, whose disciple was the legendary poet and musician Amir Khosrau.
12. Other prominent Chishti saints and poets were Shaykh Hamiduddin Nagori who was based in Nagaur (Rajasthan) and was known for his vegetarianism and frugal life style; Hasan Sijzi Dihlawi; Bu Ali Qalandar Panipati; Hazrat Nasiruddin Roshan Chiragh-i Dehli; Muhammad Bandanawaz Gisudara who spread the Chishtiyya silsila in southern India with the patronage of Bahmani Sultans of Deccan.
13. He was the first Indian Sufi to write in Dakhani (the southern branch of Urdu); Shaykh Salim Chishti and Warith Shah.

2. **Suharwardi Silsilah:**

0. The sufis of this order were known for their close ties with the rulers and played a key role in making war and peace.
1. They acted as political emissaries and ambassadors and held important posts as advisers in the royal court and excepted jagirs and gifts as royal patronage.
2. The early Suhrawardiyya saints believed that it was their duty to guide the rulers. It was from this silsila that Muinuddin Chishti drew his first inspiration.
3. However, the Chishtiyya silsila stood in stark contrast to the Surhawaddiyyas in their contempt for rulers and governments.
4. This silsila was founded in north west Iran by Abdul Qahir Abu Najib as-Suhrawardi.



5. In the Indian subcontinent, this silsila was introduced by Bahauddin Zakariya Multani who was a contemporary of Baba Farid.
6. The two Sufis not only lived miles apart from each other but were also miles apart in their attitude towards material wealth and rulers.
7. Bahauddin was a prosperous landlord whereas Baba Farid was a fakir in the true sense of the word.
8. Some of the eminent Suhrawardi saints were Sayyid Jalaluddin Surkhpush (the red dressed one) who was a disciple of Zakariya.
9. Fakhruddin Iraqi, was a well-known Persian poet and a disciple of Bahauddin Zakariya. Iraqi's tender and intoxicating love songs continue to be sung at his master's tomb in Multan.
10. Uch became a centre of Suhrawarddiyya silsila under the tireless efforts of Jalaluddin Makhdum-i Jahaniyan, (the one whom all the people of the world serve).
11. Jalaluddin Tabrizi, a disciple of Abu Hafs Umar Suhrawardi, played a key role in spreading the Suhraawardi message in Bengal.

3. Qadri Silsilah:

0. This order was established in India by Niyammad-ulla-Qadiri and was introduced in India over Babur period.
1. A great follower of Qadri Order was Dara Shiko, who was the eldest son of the Mughal emperor Shah jahan.
2. During Aurangazeb's reign, the Qadri order lost its patronage.
3. The most popular Qadri saints in India are Bulle Shah and Sultan Bahu in the north, and Hazrat Shahul Hameed Qadir Wali of Nagore in the south. Several karaamaat (miracles) are attributed to the founder as well as the early saints of this silsila.
4. This silsila was established by Abdul Qadir Jilani from Baghdad. He is known as the master of the Jinn.
5. His influence extended from Turkey, to Baghdad and across West Africa to the Indian subcontinent.
6. There are Sindhi songs describing his glory and ancient trees named after him. It is believed that one of his descendents – Muhammad Ghaus established this order in the Indian subcontinent. He along with the first missionaries of this silsila settled in Uch, north east of Multan (Punjab-Pakistan) in the late fifteenth century.
7. From here this silsila spread to the rest of the Indian subcontinent, and even as far as Indonesia and Malaysia.
8. Eminent Sufis of this silsila were Mian Mir whose ancestors came from Siwistan in Sindh, his sister Bibi Jamal, Mir's disciple Molla Shah Badakshi, who was a scholar and writer of Sufi literature.



9. Molla Shah initiated the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh and his elder sister Jahanara into this silsila.

4. **Naqshabhandi Silsilah:**

0. They brought their caravans to the sanctuary through the hidden path.
1. The Naqshabandi's believed that their spiritual journey began where other's ended.
2. The centre of their beliefs was the silent dhikr and breath control.
3. They also emphasised saubat – the intimate conversation between the master and the disciple.
4. This spiritual bonding gave rise to various 'paranormal phenomenon' such as telepathy and faith healing.
5. They believed in spiritual education and the purification of the heart. It was a sober and rather orthodox silsila which disapproved music and sama.
6. This silsila gained influence over the business class and royalty of Central Asia and as a result grew highly politicized.
7. The Naqshabandi silsila was founded in India by Khwaja Baqi billah(d.1785). His disciple Ahmad Faruqi Sirhindi played an important role in Indian political and religious life. In India, most prominent Naqshabandi saints, such as Khwaja Mir Dard, Shah Waliullah, who was also initiated into the Qadiriyya silsila, and Mazhar Janjanan, were based in Delhi and besides politics made major contribution to Sufi poetry and theology in Urdu.

Goals of Sufis:

1. Sufism does not believe in caste system.
2. They broke all societal rules and stereotypes, and lived their lives as they pleased.
3. They awakened a new sense of confidence and attempted to redefine social and religious values. Saints like Kabir and Nanak stressed upon the reordering of society along egalitarian lines. Their call to social equality attracted many a downtrodden.
4. The efforts of Sufi saints helped to lessen religious fanaticism in India.
5. Their stress on social welfare led to the establishment of works of charitable naturee. opening of orphanages and women service centres.
6. A notable contribution of the Sufis was their service to the poorer and downtrodden sections of society. Nizamuddin Auliya was famous for distributing gifts amongst the needy irrespective of religion or caste.
7. The efforts of Sufi saints helped to promote equality and lessen the evils of casteism. They also tried to infuse a spirit of piety and morality.
8. Sufism also inculcated a spirit of tolerance among its followers.



9. At a time when struggle for political power was the prevailing madness, the Sufi saints reminded men of their moral obligations. To a world torn by strife and conflict they tried to bring peace and harmony.

10. Other ideas emphasised by Sufism are meditation, good actions, repentance for sins, performance of prayers and pilgrimages, fasting, charity and suppression of passions by ascetic practices.

Conclusion:

The liberal ideas and unorthodox principles of Sufism had a profound influence on Indian society. The liberal principles of Sufi sects restrained orthodox Muslims in their attitude and encouraged many Muslim rulers to pursue tolerant attitude to their non-Muslim subjects. Most Sufi saints preached their teachings in the language of common man that contributed greatly to the evolution of various Indian languages like Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Kashmiri and Hindi. The impact of Sufi Movement was deeply felt on some renowned poets of the period, like Amir Khusrau and Malik Muhammad Jayasi who composed poems in Persian and Hindi in praise of Sufi principles.

What are Indian Miniatures? Discuss the evolution of the tradition of Indian Miniature Paintings. (250 words)

Reference: artsandculture.google.com

Why the question:

The article brings to us the importance of Indian miniature art forms and their evolution.

Key Demand of the question:

One is expected to analyse the evolution of the tradition of Indian Miniature Paintings.

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:

Start by explaining what Indian miniatures are. Brief upon genres of Indian Painting.

Body:

Miniatures are the small sized, handmade, very colourful paintings and main feature of these Miniature paintings include complex and gentle brush work which provides them unique identity. In the eastern and western India miniature Paintings developed in the 9th to the 11th century as a reaction to large scale wall painting. The colours used in Miniature were handmade from vegetables, minerals, stones, indigo etc.

Then discuss briefly the different schools of miniature paintings in India.

Trace the evolution of the Indian paintings.

Conclusion:

Conclude with their importance.

Introduction:

Miniatures are small sized, handmade, colourful paintings. Main features were complex and gentle brush work. The eastern and western India miniature Paintings developed in the 9th to 11th century as a reaction to large scale wall painting. The colours used were handmade from vegetables, minerals, and stones, indigo.

Body:

1. Miniature Schools in India:



1. **Pala School of Painting**

2. During 9th to 12th century Palas of Bengal and Bihar developed earliest example of miniature painting. Paintings with no name are the features of this school of painting.

1. **Apabhramsa School**

1. Developed during 11th to 15th Lack of Natural scenes, bulging eyes, angular faces and decorated margins are the features.

1. **Gujarat School**

1. Ideas were from the Biography of Mahavira known as

1. **Deccan School**

1. Bijapur was main centre, rose under Ibrahim Adil Shah, contemporary to the Mughal Style, continued to grow independently.

1. **Miniature Paintings during Mughal Era**

1. Mughal school of painting emerged from Persian miniature influenced by Hindu, Buddhist and Jains and is considered the landmark in the history of painting in India, originated during reign of Akbar.

2. Adoring the ruler and displaying his life rather than portraying the God was prominent. This style was secular marked by naturalism based upon close observation of nature and delicate drawing.

3. **Akbar**

1. Established Karkhanas and Tasveer Khanas.

2. Use of calligraphy and 3 D figures.

3. The illustrated manuscript of Tuti-nama was earliest example.

4. **Jahangir**

0. Mughal Painting reached its pinnacle. The theme – naturalism and portrait paintings, flowers, trees, birds, animals etc., with decorated margins. Eg: Jahangir-Nama.

5. **Shah Jahan**

0. Gained technical perfection but became static, less lively with European influence.

1. Used gold and silver, and encouraged use of pencil. Eg – Shah Jaha Nama;

1. **Rajput School of Painting**

1. Every Rajput School that emerged in 16th and 17th century had illustrations based on themes of Ramayana and Mahabharata, natural landscape, with Mughal influence. The use of natural colours were prominent.

2. **Marwar**

1. Primitive and vigorous folk style and a series of Ragamala considered earliest example.



3. **Bundi**
 0. Started as early as in 1625 AD. Bhairavi Ragini considered one of the earliest example.
4. **Mewar**
 0. Tamasha Paintings and Chawand Ragamala of 1605 is major examples.
5. **Malwa**
 0. Was greatly influenced by the Chaura-Panchasika style.
6. **Kishangarh**
 0. Radha and Krishna was central theme of this style. Kishangarh is known for its Bani Thani Paintings.
1. **Pahari School of Painting**
 1. Developed in Sub-Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and J&K in 17th to 19th centuries under the patronage of Mughals, were Pahari Paintings.
 2. **Basholi & Kangra Schools:**
 1. Splendid Devi series, magnificent depiction of Rasamanjari text, are prominent examples.
 1. **Miniature Paintings in South India**
 1. **Tanjore Painting**
 1. During 18th and 19th centuries – techniques of shading, bold drawing, and use of bright colours thrived at Tanjore. Created on glass and board.
 2. **Mysore Painting**
 0. Patronised by the rulers of Mysore and continued in the British India, depicted Hindu Gods and Goddesses. Eg:
 1. Use of gesso paste prepared by mixing Zinc Oxide and Arabic Gum.

Conclusion:

The tradition of painting in India spans the period of thousands of years. The exquisite mural of Ajanta and Ellora, Buddhist manuscripts, Mughal and Kangra schools of miniature paintings stands testimony to this fact. Indian miniature paintings are highly influenced with religion, philosophy and faith

Discuss in what ways Sanskrit Literature has imparted diversity and richness to Indian Literature. (250 words)

Reference: Art and culture by Nitin Singhania

Why the question:

Explain in what ways Sanskrit Literature has imparted diversity and richness to Indian Literature.

Key Demand of the question:

Discuss in detail in what ways Sanskrit Literature has imparted diversity and richness to Indian Literature.

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:

Start by briefly talking about the evolution of Sanskrit literature in the country.

Body:

Sanskrit literature refers to texts composed in Sanskrit language since the 2nd-millennium BCE. Many of the prominent texts are associated with Indian religions, i.e., Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, and were composed in ancient India.

One has to explain in detail in what ways the literature has imparted diversity and richness to Indian Literature.

Conclusion:

Conclude by highlighting its importance.

Introduction:

Sanskrit is an ancient and classical language of India in which ever first book of the world Rigveda was compiled. The Vedas are dated by different scholars from 6500 B.C. to 1500 B.C. Sanskrit language must have evolved to its expressive capability prior to that. It is presumed that the language used in Vedas was prevalent in the form of different dialects. It was to some extent different from the present Sanskrit. It is termed as Vedic Sanskrit.

Sanskrit literature is as vast as the human life. Sanskrit literature refers to texts composed in Sanskrit language since the 2nd-millennium BCE. Many of the prominent texts are associated with Indian religions, i.e., Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, and were composed in ancient India. Development of Sanskrit grammar began with Panini in 400 B.C. with his book Asthadyayi being the oldest book in Sanskrit grammar.

Body:

Development of Vedic period:

1. Four Vedas – Rig, Yajur, Sāma and Atharva, each with a main Samhita and a number of circum-vedic genres, including Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Grhyasutras and Shrautasutras which guided society polity and economy of those times, were written in Sanskrit.
2. The Upanishads form a part of the Vedas, and are strongly philosophical in content. The older Upanishads belong to the Vedic period, post-Vedic was written in Sanskrit.

Development of epic traditions:

Composition and redaction of the two great epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana that inspired individuals on ethical uprightness and questioned moral turpitude.

Drama and poetries:

1. It was the Gupta period when the use of Sanskrit in Drama and poetries can be traced. This is totally a period of creation of pure literature depicting Hindu aesthetic of blissful idealism in art. Which is evident in the works as Mahakavyas (epics) and Khandakavyas (semi-epics). In the field of Sanskrit literature, this period is known as the period of unique creation.
2. One of the earliest known Sanskrit plays is the Mricchakatika, thought to have been composed by Shudraka in the second century B.C.E... The Natya Shastra (ca. second century C.E.,



literally “Scripture of Dance,” though it sometimes translated as “Science of Theatre”) is a foundational work in Sanskrit literature on the subject of stagecraft.

3. The only surviving ancient Sanskrit drama theatre is Koodiyattam, which has been in Kerala by the Chakyar community that promote traditional theatre and depict classical Indian stories.

Development of tantras:

1. “Tantra” is a general term for a scientific, magical or mystical treatise. Works on Hindu astrology (Parashara) and both Hindu and Buddhist mystical texts concern themselves with five subjects; the creation, the destruction of the world.

1. For Eg: The Panchatantra is a collection of fables estimated to have reached its fixed form around 200 B.C.E.

Development of classical poetry:

1. Striking characteristic of Sanskrit literary tradition is the use of word games, such as stanzas that read the same backwards and forwards, words that can be split in different ways to produce different meanings, and sophisticated metaphors, to display the poet’s technical prowess. This style is referred to as *kavya*. A classic example is the poet Bharavi and his magnum opus, the *Kiratarjuniya* (sixth-seventh century).

2. greatest works of poetry in this period are the six Mahakavyas, or “great composition”:

1. Kumarasambhavam by Kalidasa
2. Raghuvamsham by Kalidasa
3. Shishupala Vadha by Sri Maagha
4. Naishadiya Charitam by Sri Harsha

Some would include the Bhattikavya as a seventh Mahakavya.

1. Other major literary works from this period are *Kadambari* by Bana Bhatta—the most illustrious prose writer of the (sixth-seventh centuries), the *Kama Sutra* by Vatsyayana, and the *shatakas* of Bhartṛhari.

Development of puranas:

1. corpus of the Hindu Puranas likewise falls into the classical period of Sanskrit literature,
2. Led to emergence of Vaishnava and Shaiva denominations of classical Hinduism.

Development of Buddhist literature:

1. The book *Mahavastu* of the Hinayana school is a treasure of stories.
2. *Lalitavistara*, the most sacred Mahayana text and
3. Ashvagosa wrote *Buddhacharita*, which elucidates the biography of Buddha. He also composed several poetic works and *Saundarananda* is one of the best examples of his poems.



4. Udanavarga: It is a compilation which contains utterances of Buddha and his disciples. It is written in Sanskrit, Abhidharmamoksha: It is written by Vasubandhu and is a widely respected text. It is written in Sanskrit. It contains discussion on Abhidharma.

Development of political literature:

1. Political books like books on laws were written and compiled, which are called the Dharamsutras.
2. Most famous texts about statecraft from the Mauryan period is Kautilya's Arthashastra. It concentrates on the economic and social conditions of the Mauryan Empire.

Development of science:

1. Some of the scientific texts written in this period are:
 1. Charak -Charak Samhita (Book on Medicine)
 2. Sushruta Sushruta Samhita (Book on surgery)
 3. Aryabhatta – Aryabhatiya(Book on astronomy and mathematics)
 4. Lagdhacharya Book on astrology
 5. Pingala Book on Mathematics
 6. Bhaskara Siddhanta Shiromani

1. Two of the most notable Sanskrit works from medieval Kashmir are Kalhan's Rajatarangani which gives a detailed account of the kings of Kashmir and Somadeva's Kathasaritsagar which is a poetic work, depicting regional distinctiveness and cultural uniqueness.

Conclusion:

All the Modern Indian Languages, like, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Oriya, Bengali, Sindhi, Maithili, Kashmiri, Assamese, Konkani, Rajasthani, Manipuri, Punjabi etc., have been enriched with the words of Sanskrit. Sanskrit has influenced other languages also which have not originated from it, like Urdu and the Dravidian languages like Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

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

Underline the chief characteristics of Mansabdari system, Discuss the way it organized the Mughal administration. (250 words)

Reference: class XI NCERT, Medieval Indian history by R S Sharma

Why the question:

The question is based on the Mansabdari system and its utility in the Mughal administration. s

Key Demand of the question:

One must bring out the chief characteristics of Mansabdari system and explain in what way it organized the Mughal administration.

Directive:

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start by explaining what Mansabdari system is.

**Body:**

Mansabdari System had the following characteristics:

Akbar introduced the Mansabdari system in his administration

Under this system, every officer was assigned a rank (Mansab)

Lowest rank was 10 and the highest was 5000 for the nobles.

Princes of royal blood received even higher ranks.

The ranks were divided into two – Zat and Sawar.

Zat means personal and it fixed the personal status of a person.

Sawar rank indicated the number of cavalymen of a person who was required to maintain.

Every sawar had to maintain at least two horses.

All appointments, promotions and dismissals were directly made by the emperor.

Explain the basic features of the Mughal administration and focus on the utility of Mansabdari system to it.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance.

Introduction:

The **Mansabdar** was a military unit within the administrative system of the Mughal Empire introduced by Akbar. The word *mansab* is of Arabic origin meaning rank or position. The system determined the rank and status of a government official and military generals. Those mansabdars whose rank was one thousand or below were called Amir.

Body:**The mansab of a Mughal noble denoted the following:**

1. Salary of the officer
2. Status of the officer
3. Number of soldiers, horses and elephants etc., maintained by an officer.

Every mansabdar had to maintain as many soldiers as were indicated by his rank of 'Zat' while the rank of 'sawar' indicated the number of horsemen among them. Irvin expressed the view that Zat indicated the actual number of cavalry under a mansabdar besides other soldiers while sawar was an additional honour.

During the reign of Akbar, the mansabdars were asked to keep as many horsemen as were indicated by numbers of their ranks of sawar. But, the practice was not being maintained by other Mughal emperors.

Main Characteristics of the Mansabdari System:

1. The king himself appointed the Mansabdars. He could enhance the Mansab, lower down it or remove it.
2. A Mansabdar could be asked to perform any civil or military service.
3. There were many categories of the Mansabdars. Based on the rank salary was given. Only the princes of the royal family and most important Rajput rulers were given a Mansab of 10,000.
4. A Mansabdar was paid his salary in cash.
5. Sometimes Jagir was given to Mansabdars to realise revenue and salary.



6. Mansabdari system was not hereditary.
7. Mansabdar had to maintain out of his salary a stipulated quota of horses, elephants, camels and mules and carts.
8. The horses were classified into six categories and the elephants into five.
9. For every ten cavalry men, the Mansabdar had to maintain twenty horses for horses had to be provided rest while on march and replacements were necessarily in times of war.
10. A record of the description ('huliy') of each horseman under a Mansabdar and of branding ('dag') horses to prevent corruption was kept.

Changes introduced by Jahangir and Shah Jahan:

1. Difference in the highest Mansab
2. Reduction in the number of soldiers
3. Difference in the categories of Mansabdars
4. Relaxation in control

Merits of the Mansabdari System:

1. Removal of the chief defects of the Jagirdari system
2. Increased military efficiency
3. Extra revenue to the state
4. Merit as the basis of selection

Demerits of the Mansabdari System

1. The mansabdars got their salaries from the emperor and paid themselves the salaries to their troops. This made the troops more loyal to the mansabdars than to the king.
2. The system proved very expensive.
3. Dishonest mansabdars and officials used to ally together during inspection, borrowed horses from one another and showed their full quota.
4. Caste system prevailed in the mansabdari system.
5. Since the property of a mansabdar was confiscated after his death, he used to spend it lavishly during his life time.

Conclusion:

The Mughal rulers maintained a large and efficient army till the reign of Aurangzeb. This was necessary to do so for they conquered several parts of the country and were accordingly required to maintain law and order and check revolts and Mansabdari system was the most efficient system.



The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.

Discuss the contributions of Indian social reformer and freedom activist Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay. (250 words)

Reference: [The Hindu](#)

Why the question:

The article presents some insights into the contributions of Indian social reformer and freedom activist Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay.

Key Demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the contributions of Indian social reformer and freedom activist Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay.

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:

Start by talking about who Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was.

Body:

A freedom fighter, actor, social activist, art enthusiast, politician and free-thinking feminist all rolled into one, Kamaladevi's contributions to India are staggeringly diverse. Her ideas, from feminism and egalitarian politics to her abiding confidence in Indian handicrafts, continue to remain relevant even today.

List down her contributions and explain their significance.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance.

Introduction:

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was an Indian social reformer and freedom fighter. She was most remembered for her contribution to the Indian independence movement for being the driving force behind the renaissance of Indian handicrafts, hand looms, and theatre in independent India; and for upliftment of the socio-economic standard of Indian women by pioneering the co-operation.

Body:

Contributions during Freedom Struggle

1. In early 1920s, when she was in London with her Husband, she came to know about the Non-cooperation Movement and returned back to join the Seva Dal.
2. In Seva Dal, she was in charge of the women's wing and recruited, trained and organized the Sevikas.
3. In 1926, she met Margaret E. Cousins, the founder of All India Women's Conference (AIWC) and with her inspiration; she contested elections for Madras Provincial Legislative Assembly, thus becoming the first woman to contest election for a legislative seat, although she lost this election.
4. In 1926, she represented the Indian women delegation to the Women International Conference at Berlin and hoisted the nag there. As a result, she was awarded rigorous imprisonment for 9 months.



5. In 1927, she led the All India Women's Conference, which was earlier founded by Margaret E. Cousins, and her efforts made it a national organization of repute.
6. During the Salt Satyagraha, she was member of seven-member lead team created by Mahatma Gandhi to prepare salt at the Bombay beachfront.
7. She and Avantikabai Gokhale were only two women members of this team. She not only prepared salt but also went to High Court nearby and offered the judge to buy this "freedom salt".
8. While trying to enter into the Bombay Stock Exchange to sell the "Freedom Salt", she was arrested and spent a year in prison.
9. Thus, she was the first woman to be arrested in freedom struggle. In 1936, she became president of Congress Socialist Party

Role in Independent India

1. International Relations:

1. It was her abiding interest in creating solidarity among the colonized people which makes her an especially inspirational figure.
2. She continued not only to represent India as an emissary but also offered a prescient articulation of the idea of the Global South.
3. Chattopadhyay's writings on Asia, Africa and the Global South in the 1940s point to different facets of her interest in the people of Asia and Africa and their histories. 'The Struggle of Viet Nam against French Imperialism' shows her grasp over the history of colonialism in Vietnam.
4. Chattopadhyay is clear in its critique of the failure of the Left in France to ally itself with Vietnamese nationalists agitating for independence.
5. She was equally unsparing towards the Japanese. 'The Awakening of Asia' warns against Japan's attempts to position itself as the vanguard of pan-Asianism.

2. Social work:

0. Immediately after India's partition and freedom, she actively took part in rehabilitation of the displaced.
1. She established Indian Cooperative Union to help with the rehabilitation.
2. Due to her efforts, a cooperative housing unit was established near Faridabad rehabilitating over 50,000 refugees from North-West Frontier.

3. Crafts and Arts:

0. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay has long been recognised in India as the person chiefly responsible, after Independence, for the revival of the country's variegated crafts traditions and for drawing critical attention to 'tribal art'.
1. She is generally viewed as an authority on Indian handicrafts, but Chattopadhyay played no less a role in nurturing craftspersons and shaping the cultural institutions that in independent India would be charged with promoting dance, drama, theatre crafts, music, puppetry, pottery and textiles.



2. She stressed the significant role which handicrafts and cooperative grassroots movements play in the social and economic upliftment of the Indian people.
3. In 1950s, her focus turned to Indian handicrafts, arts, handlooms and traditional artisans especially the women artisans.
4. She established a series of “crafts museums” to preserve and protect India’s arts and crafts; and also instituted the National Awards for Master Craftsmen; Central Cottage Industries Emporia throughout India.
5. For drama, she started Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography (NIKC), Bangalore in 1960s.
6. She was also instrumental in setting up All India Handicrafts Board and worked as its first chairperson.
7. Kamaladevi made it fashionable to wear hand-woven sarees and adorn homes with handicrafts.
8. She also set up Bhartiya Natya Sangh in 1954 and worked as second chairperson of National School of Drama.

Conclusion:

A freedom fighter, actor, social activist, art enthusiast, politician and feminist rolled into one, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay’s left a massive mark in Indian culture and yet her contributions are little remembered and is virtually unknown outside India. She was most remembered for her contribution to the Indian independence movement for being the driving force behind the renaissance of Indian handicrafts, hand looms, and theater in independent India; and for upliftment of the socio-economic standard of Indian women by pioneering the co-operation.

In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? Elucidate. (250 words)

Reference: Previous year UPSC papers, Modern Indian history by Bipin Chandra

Why the question:

The question is from GS paper I and is based on the incident of naval mutiny in the modern Indian history.

Key Demand of the question:

Explain in what ways the naval mutiny proved to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India.

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:

The Royal Indian Naval Ratings or Naval mutiny was a revolt of Indian Naval servicemen against British higher officials. The earliest revolt was against racial discrimination by British officials but soon it turned into a rebellion and spread across India.

Body:

The answer body must capture the reasons that led to the revolt.

Then move on to discuss the role of naval mutiny in ending British colonial aspirations.



Present the timeline of the entire mutiny, its impact and effect. The RIN Mutiny began in Bombay, and spread throughout British India, covering 78 ships, 20 shore establishments and 20,000 sailors. The mutiny also found widespread support among the people who were already discontent with the British establishment.

Conclusion:

Thus, naval mutiny in sense was an indication of what is going to follow in the future if independence was not obtained. The loss of British power after World War II further eroded their belief of retaining one of the prized possessions of the crown: India.

Introduction:

Seventy-four years ago on February 18, 1946, some 1,100 Indian sailors or “ratings” of the HMIS Talwar and the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Signal School in Bombay declared a hunger strike, triggered by the conditions and treatment of Indians in the Navy. Royal Indian Navy (RIN) revolt started as a strike by ratings in one of the battleships at Bombay in February, 1946. It was a protest against conditions of service, discrimination, etc. The revolt spread and found support throughout India.

Body:**Demands of the ratings:**

While the immediate trigger was the demand for better food and working conditions, the agitation soon turned into a wider demand for independence from British rule. The protesting sailors demanded:

1. Release of all political prisoners including those from Indian National Army (INA).
2. Action against the commander for ill-treatment and using insulting language,
3. Revision of pay and allowances to put RIN employees on a par with their counterparts in the Royal Navy,
4. Demobilisation of RIN personnel with provisions for peacetime employment,
5. Release of Indian forces stationed in Indonesia, and better treatment of subordinates by their officers

Upsurge of nationalism

1. The RIN strike came at a time when the Indian nationalist sentiment had reached fever pitch across the country.
2. This chain of events led to the “mounting fever of excitement affecting the whole political climate”.
3. Soon, ordinary people joined the ratings, and life came to a virtual standstill in both Bombay and Calcutta. There were meetings, processions, strikes, and hartals.
4. In Bombay, labourers participated in a general strike called by the Communist Party of India and the Bombay Students’ Union. In many cities across India, students boycotted classes in solidarity.
5. The response of the state was brutal. It is estimated that over 220 people died in police firing, while roughly 1,000 were injured.

Significance of the events



1. The RIN revolt remains a legend today. It was an event that strengthened further the determination among all sections of the Indian people to see the end of British rule.
2. Deep solidarity and amity among religious groups was in evidence, which appeared to run counter to the rapidly spreading atmosphere of communal hatred and animosity.
3. However, communal unity was more in the nature of organisational unity than a unity among the two major communities.
4. Within months, India was to be devoured by a terrible communal conflagration.

Final nail in the coffin

1. This revolt was different from the other revolts in the sense that, after 1857 it was the first time that the British realized that the Royal Indian forces were no more obedient to the British commands and were in concurrence with the overall defiant nationalist sentiments prevailing in the entire country.
2. Mutinies are usually confined to a particular station, establishment or ship. However, this was the first instance when the entire service joined the revolt.
3. Most striking feature was that it was directed against the British government and not against superior officers – not a single officer, British or Indian, was harmed.
4. Fearless action by the masses was an expression of militancy in the popular mind. Revolt in the armed forces had a great liberating effect on the minds of people.
5. It displayed that the armed forces no longer obeyed the British authority rather it was the nationalist leaders who held sway over them. The RIN revolt was seen as an event marking the end of British rule.

Conclusion:

The leaders realized that any mass uprising would inevitably carry the risk of not being amenable to centralized direction and control. Besides, now that independence and power were in sight, they were eager not to encourage indiscipline in the armed forces. It was immediately after this revolt that PM Atlee dispatched the Cabinet Mission to India, so it is also inferred that the mutiny hastened the process of transfer of power to India. It is also important to mention that the revolt came to an end after the nationalist leaders, Sardar Patel and Mohammad Ali Jinnah on receiving a request to intervene by the British, issued a statement calling upon the mutineers to surrender.

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

“The American revolution was essentially an economic revolt against American capitalism and British Mercantilism”. Critically examine. (250 words)

Reference: World History by Norman Lowe

Why the question:

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

Key Demand of the question:



The answer must discuss in what way the American Revolution was essentially an economic revolt against American capitalism and British Mercantilism.

Directive:

Critically 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. 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:

Briefly discuss the backdrop in which American Revolution took place. Present a timeline in the history.

Body:

Explain that the economic policy of England in its colonies in America was the primary cause of resentment among the American settlers. Mercantilism was the prevailing policy in Europe at that time and the American Revolution can be said to be an economic revolt against this mercantilism. Discuss the policy of mercantilism. Explain how as a policy it believes that the volume of global trade is static and one country’s gain in trade is another country’s loss; wealth of a nation depends on possession of gold and silver; exports are preferred to imports and a colonial possession should provide wealth to the home country.

List the causes of resentment in detail.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of such a revolution in the world history.

Introduction:

The American Revolution stands as one of the significant landmarks in the history of the modern world as it served as laboratories for new political ideas and institutions. The main significance of this revolution lies in the fact that it was the world’s first anti-colonial struggle which set the pattern for the future liberation of the states of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

British Mercantilism was based on the notion that trade conducted by its colonies should be solely with Britain. This theory was based on the idea that the colonies only exist for the benefit of the mother country and hence they were a source of raw materials and destination for finished products produced by the mother country.

Body:

The economic policy of England in its colonies in America was the **primary cause of resentment among the American settlers**. Mercantilism was the prevailing policy in Europe at that time and the American Revolution can be said to be an economic revolt against this mercantilism. To achieve this end, British Parliament imposed numerous restrictions on the colonist in America. They were not allowed to produce finished textiles, manufacture iron products etc. This strategy eliminated all competition in America and made the colonists dependent on Britain for their needs.

Some of the mercantilist policies of England that the American settlers resented were:

1. America was not allowed to develop an independent economy of its own.
2. Some of the important industries like iron and steel were not allowed to be developed in these colonies.
3. The colonies could import most of their products only from Britain. Besides, their imports were heavily taxed.



4. The ships used in their trade has to be only of Britain.
5. The tobacco and cotton produced in these colonies could be exported only to Britain.
6. The colonies had no representation in the British parliament. Hence they were often subjected with undemocratic and unjustified taxes, the proceeds of which were used in the betterment of the mainland Britain.
7. The westward expansion of the colonies was checked as several British aristocrats had bought land and they did not want to forego the rent earned from these lands.
8. The settlers were prevented from moving West as the English aristocrats wanted to keep the farmers as renters.
9. England also imposed heavy taxation to fund its continuous wars.
10. The Grenville measures, named after the British Prime Minister who came to office in 1763 consisted of various policies to pay off the national debt, Grenville introduced a spate of legislation for the American colonies. The Proclamation of 1763, the Revenue or Sugar Act of 1764, the Currency Act of 1764, the Mutiny Act of 1765, and the Billeting Act of 1765 are few acts introduced to tax American people.
11. The most momentous of the revenue measures however, was the Stamp Act which was passed by the Parliament in March 1765. It provided that revenue stamps to be affixed to all newspapers, licences, leases or other legal documents. The colonists reacted sharply to this Act; trade with mother country fell in the summer of 1765.

Conclusion:

All this caused resentment among the American settlers. They wanted to develop an independent economy of their own. Many leaders of the American freedom movement were businessmen themselves. It is no surprise then that 'No Taxation Without Representation' became one of the main slogans of the American Independence Movement.





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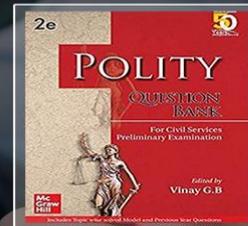
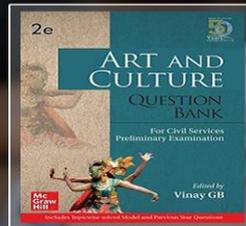
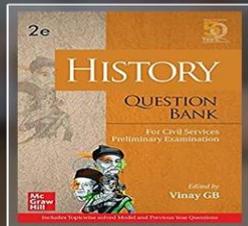
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Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Examine how Demographic Dividend is affected by the lack of investment in the human capital. (250 words)

Reference: [researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net)

Why the question:

Question is based on the theme of demographic dividend.

Key Demand of the question:

Discuss in detail in what way demographic dividend is affected by the lack of investment in the human capital.

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:

Define first what demographic dividend is.

Body:

Explain the importance of DD; a demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from improved reproductive health, a rapid decline in fertility, and the subsequent shift in population age structure. With fewer births each year, a country’s working-age population grows larger relative to the young dependent population.

Discuss the correlation of it with lack of investment in the human capital.

Give examples and present your opinion.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of demographic dividend to the economy and society in general.

Introduction:

Demographic dividend, as defined by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** means, “the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population’s age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older).” India has one of the youngest populations in an aging world. By **2020**, the **median age** in India will be just **28 years**. Demographics can change the pace and pattern of economic growth.

Body:

Relationship between the demographic dividend and the human capital quality:

1. Although the accumulation of physical capital is quite important in the process of economic growth of a country but with the passage of time, it is being increasingly realised that the growth of tangible capital stock depends extensively on the human capital formation.
2. In the absence of adequate investment in human capital, utilisation of physical capital will be at low pace, leading to retardation of development.
3. One of the important factors responsible for the rapid growth of the economy is increasing allocation on education resulting significant improvement in the level of human capital formation.
4. Human capital lack critical skills which are very much needed for the industrial sector and again have a surplus labour force. Thus human capital formation should solve these problems by creating necessary skills and also by providing gainful employment.



5. As the poor health and undernourishment adversely affect the quality of manpower, it is important to improve the quality of manpower to positively contribute to economic growth target.

6. Organisations across the world have recognized the importance of skilled manpower and the value it can provide despite being a little costlier. Skilled human capital provides high value for money and initiate a ripple effect in the growth of a country's economy.

Way Forward:

1. To be able to harness the potential of this large working population, which is growing by leaps and bounds, new job generation is a must. The nation needs to create jobs to absorb the addition of young people into the workforce.

2. **Improved infrastructure, skill development, access to easy finance, reducing barriers to entrepreneurship and forums for mentorship of emerging entrepreneurs** in partnership with corporates are some of measures.

3. India has to **invest more in human capital formation at all levels**, from primary education to higher education, cutting-edge research and development as well as on **vocational training to increase the skill sets of its growing working-age population**.

4. The current situation calls for more and better schools, especially in rural areas. It also calls for better transportation links between rural areas and regional urban hubs.

5. **Equally important focus on elderly people** to make use of their wisdom and experience.

6. Increasing the number of formal jobs in **labour intensive, export-oriented sectors such as textiles, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery** These sectors also have a higher share of the female workforce.

7. The flagship schemes such as **Skill India, Make in India, and Digital India** have to be implemented to **achieve convergence between skill training and employment generation**.

8. Increased use of technology in all sectors.

9. The government must also ensure better quality of jobs with a focus on matching skill-sets and job opportunities.

10. There is a need to look into these qualitative issues of job satisfaction, job profile and skill matching, and the creation of opportunities for entrepreneurship in order to be able to harness the vast potential of human resources.

Conclusion:

A **multi-pronged approach** is imperative to reap the **demographic dividend**. Universal education, value-added skills accretion and massive growth in employment in the formal sectors should be the key focus areas. There is also a need to engage with the youth and create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship. The demographic dividend offers them a unique opportunity to boost living standards, but they must act now to manage their older populations in the near future by implementing policies that ensure a safe and efficient harnessing of the Demographic Dividend.

Social control and socialization are two faces of same coin. Do you agree? Critically analyse. (250 words)

Reference: sociologyguide.com

**Why the question:**

The question is based on the concept of social control and socialization.

Key Demand of the question:

One has to elaborate in what way Social control and socialization are two faces of same coin.

Directive:

Critically 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:**

Start by defining what social control and socialization are.

Body:

Social control and socialization are closely related to each other. Social control is a part of socialization. During the process of socialization the process of social control also is in operation.

Through socialization social control becomes effective. In order to maintain the social order there are definite procedures in society. These customs and procedures become a part of man’s life and man gets adjusted to the society.

As a matter of fact, societies depend heavily upon effective socialization to internalize social norms and values as the individual’s guides and motives to action. Through socialization societies aim to control the behavior of its members subconsciously.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a fair and balanced opinion on the fact in the question.

Introduction:

Social control has been defined by **Maclver** as the way in which entire social order coheres and maintains itself –how it operates itself as a whole as a changing equilibrium. **Socialization** is the process of internalizing the norms and ideologies of society. Socialization encompasses both learning and teaching and is thus “the means by which social and cultural continuity are attained”.

Socialization essentially represents the whole process of learning throughout the life course and is a central influence on the behaviour, beliefs, and actions of adults as well as of children.

Body:**Social control and socialization are closely related to each other.**

Social control is a part of socialization. During the process of socialization, the process of social control also is in operation. Through socialization social control becomes effective. In order to maintain the social order there are definite procedures in society. These customs and procedures become a part of person’s life and man gets adjusted to the society. Societies depend heavily upon effective socialization to internalize social norms and values as the individual’s guides and motives to action. Through socialization societies aim to control the behaviour of its members subconsciously. The various agencies of socialization like family, state, school, club etc. are also the agencies of social control.

Socialization through social control may lead to desirable outcomes. Individual views are influenced by the society’s consensus and usually tend toward what that society finds acceptable or “normal”.

Social solidarity that is achieved through exercising social control and effective socialisation is essential for the existence of society. No two persons is alike in their nature, ideas, attitudes and interests. Every individual is a separate personality. There are cultural differences among the



individuals. As a matter of fact, society is a heterogeneous organization. If every individual is allowed unrestricted freedom to act and behave, it may create social disorder. For an orderly social life social control is necessary. The aims of social control are to bring out conformity, solidarity and continuity of a particular group or society.

The aims of social control are to bring out conformity, solidarity and continuity of a particular group or society.

Various linkages of Socialization with Social Control:

1. Without social control socialization becomes destructive.
2. For Eg: Charles Sobraj case – without social control, his socialization factors caused anti-social behaviours which led to murders of multiple people.
3. The primary reason for rising rapes and domestic violence is the effect of socialisation without social control.
4. Without effective channelling of socialization skills, social control shall lead to isolation of individuals.
5. For Eg: Recent cases of Social isolation during covid times are result of effective social control devoid of socialization.
6. Without social control effective enculturation of different practices through socialisation will not be possible.
7. The rich population diversity of India wouldn't have been possible without effective social control.
8. If social control is removed and every individual is left to behave freely so-city would be reduced to a state of lawlessness – Cases of Social and Political Anarchy.
9. Law is the most important formal means of social control and channels for socialization.
10. In modern society relationships are of secondary nature. Security of life and property as well as the systematic ordering of relationships make formalization of rules necessary.
11. Law pre-scribes uniform norms and penalties throughout a social system. What were in mores and customs earlier has now been formalized into a body of law.
12. Law prohibits certain actions for example anti-touch ability act prohibits untouchability in any form and a person practising untouchability is liable to punishment. Prohibition act forbids drinking at public places. Law exercises a powerful influence upon the behaviour of people in modern societies.
13. Education is a process of socialization through effective development of social control. It prepares the child for social living. It reforms the attitudes wrongly formed by the children.
14. It teaches him value of discipline, social cooperation, tolerance and sacrifice. It instils in him the qualities of honesty, air play and a sense of right and wrong.

Conclusion:

Socialisation through social control is motivated by self-interest, regulative upon habits and desires for harmonious customary developments. Finally, Creation of **Social Capital** for collective



development of all can only be possible through effective channelization of **social energy** for development of Social Control and socialisation to develop collective good for all.

Analyse the rise of social media as a consequence of lacunae in the traditional Indian society. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why the question:

The article brings to us detailed analysis of the rise of social media and its impact on our society.

Key Demand of the question:

Analyse the rise of social media as a consequence of lacunae in the traditional Indian society.

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:

Start by talking about social media, how it has grown fast into our society impacting millions of lives.

Body:

Discuss the lacunae present in our society that have contributed to the rise of social media; effect of globalisation, differential impact on women, generational gap that is ever widening etc.

Explain then how should be social media ideally used?

Suggest what needs to be done to overcome these challenges and make social media more advantageous.

Conclusion:

Conclude with solutions to address the issues posed by it.

Introduction:

Social media are computer mediated technologies that facilitate the creation and sharing of information and ideas via virtual communities and networks. Some of the most popular social media websites are Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and LinkedIn.

In the recent years, social media has played a pivotal role in knitting the fabric of the Indian society. It has changed the Indian society from a naive society to a mature one. Social media platforms provided Indians with a platform to raise their voice against injustice and inequality.

Body:

Lacunae in the Indian Society

1. Globalisation has led to the rush of ideas across the world meant that we are no longer connected only to our physical tribes.
2. This has also meant that we do not feel connected to our families and communities in the way that the previous generations were.
3. The disconnect is far more distinct in women than in men because men are more inclined to follow the traditional line of thought;
4. Independent women who have a voice and demand to be heard, who refuse to bow down to the old world order and refuse to fit in with cultural norms of what a woman "ought" to be like.
5. People need to be understood. Their worldview is so different from ours that we have spent much of our lives in isolation; an emotional isolation. The traditional communities fall short in understanding.



6. The isolation of the modern world has not been brought on by technology alone, but by the new ideas and by the distance between the ideas of the present generation and the previous one.
7. To Individuals who didn't conform to normative ideas of social acceptance, traditional communities did not provide much support or emotional nourishment.
8. There is no replacement for the feeling of being heard and understood that one gets in the presence of people who can empathise, and offer advice that enables you to live a life that you want.

How should be social media ideally used?

1. **Used as a substitute:** Social media becomes a hindrance and an isolator only when you begin to use it as a replacement for real-life family and friends, ignoring their physical presence when you are glued to your device even in the presence of people around you.
2. Social media is not a substitute for physical networks.
3. **Seeking Genuine and Meaningful engagements:** Instead of constantly being in battle mode over politics or religion or the newest debate, we need to attempt to genuinely connect with people at a personal level, at the level of ideas and emotions and empathy.
4. **A Supplementary aid:** There are various support groups popping up on social media now, for this purpose. To help people find their tribes, who would understand them and help them overcome the unending loneliness that is the curse of people whose ideas are vastly different from the physical communities they are a part of.

Way forward

1. In a world that is increasingly becoming a mix of cultures, a mix of identities and a mix of selfhoods, we need a mix of multiple tribes to get through life.
2. The notion of tribes and communities needs to evolve as well.
3. Social media awareness is needed which may enable citizens to be in a position to understand and distinguish between the rights and wrongs of social media

Conclusion

Field of social media is the crossroads between technology, profit, freedom, politics, identity, power and insecurity that any effort to regulate social media will have to traverse. Social media is virtual world which is reflection of physical world; there is need of more concrete efforts to bring social media in concurrence with the physical world.

What is "Love Jihad"? critically analyse the issues associated with the law against love jihad. (250 words)

Reference: [The Print](#)

Why the question:

The article explains how the UP governments' anti-'love jihad' ordinance can deprive women of their agency.

Key Demand of the question:

One has to explain what "Love Jihad" is and critically analyse the issues associated with the law against love jihad.

Directive:



Critically 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:

Start by defining the context of the question, narrate the background briefly.

Body:

Start by discussing what is the whole controversy about. What is the uproar about and proposal by the government of UP and why it is facing criticism.

The proposal is a vicious mix of patriarchy and communalism. The idea was propounded by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister. It legitimizes a term that constitutes an obvious insult against inter-faith marriages and relationships in which one of the parties is a Muslim man. The reason for bringing in such a law is that the Hindu women are under the threat from Muslim youth seeking to win over girls for religious conversion in the name of marriage.

Explain what are the flaws in the concept? – There is no legal sanction to political terms such as ‘love jihad’. There can be no legislation based on an extra-legal concept. In any case, legislative intervention in marriages involving consenting adults will be clearly unconstitutional.

Discuss the court rulings in this direction.

Conclusion:

Conclude with fair and balanced opinion.

Introduction:

Uttar Pradesh have proposed to enact a law to curb ‘love jihad’ through ordinance ‘unlawful religious conversion’. Over the centuries, casteism and religionism has prevailed in India. Despite several laws, the social stigma for interfaith marriages still exists in the Indian Society. However, contemplating laws over interfaith marriage directly violates several rights of people such as right to freedom, personal liberty and right to life.

Body:

1. **What is the proposal?**
2. This proposal is a vicious mix of patriarchy and communalism.
3. It legitimizes a term that constitutes an obvious insult against inter-faith marriages and relationships in which one of the parties is a Muslim man.
4. The reason for bringing in such a law is that the Hindu women are under the threat from Muslim youth seeking to win over girls for religious conversion in the name of marriage.
5. **‘Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Bill 2020’:**
6. The upcoming law, called ‘Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Bill 2020’, is worded to claim that it criminalizes only forced religious conversions, however, it has the effect of allowing the State to enter the private decisions of inter-faith couples of how they want to get married.
7. The UP law can have the effect of discouraging with punitive action the marriage between two consenting adults of different faiths, especially because the terms it uses are vague.
8. Any such law cannot hold ground because it is contrary to the basic values of the Constitution on multiple counts.

9. **Flaws in the concept:**



10. There is no legal sanction to political terms such as 'love jihad'.
11. There can be no legislation based on an extra-legal concept.
12. In any case, legislative intervention in marriages involving consenting adults will be clearly unconstitutional.
13. **Issues with Interfaith Marriages:**
14. Interfaith marriages are believed to be a forced conversion of one of the spouses (mostly women).
15. As per the Muslim Personal law, in order to get married to a non-Muslim, conversion of religion is the only way.
16. Hindu religion allows only monogamy and those who want to marry second time take another course.
17. There is no provision regarding caste determination of children born out of such marriages.
18. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is not compatible with backwardness of the society.
19. There is debate over the validity of Article 226 in context of annulling the interfaith marriage by high court.
20. **Court's Judgement:**
21. The Allahabad High Court's judgment glared upon religious conversion solely for the purpose of marriage.
22. It declined to intervene on a writ petition seeking police protection for a couple, noting that the bride had converted from Islam to Hinduism solely for the purpose of marriage.
23. It had found such an expedient conversion unacceptable, citing a similar 2014 verdict.
24. The 2014 verdict questioned the bonafides of conversions without change of heart or any conviction in the tenets of the new religion.
25. Judgement is useful as a principle that inter-faith couples retain their religious beliefs separately and opt for marriage under the Special Marriage Act.
26. SC noted that Marriage is an extremely personal affair. The right to marry a person of one's choice or to choose one's partner is an aspect of constitutional liberty as well as privacy.
27. In 2018, the Supreme Court reiterated this position of law in the Hadiya case, where it rejected the allegation that Hadiya had been forcefully converted to another religion for the purpose of marriage.
28. The Supreme Court has struck down laws restricting individual freedoms on the ground that such a law is "manifestly not only overboard and vague but also has a chilling effect on an individual's freedom of choice".
29. **Way Forward**
30. In order to avoid inclusion of any further laws, there should be acceptance of the special marriage act, 1954 at the mental and social level.



31. The rights should not be exploited; conversion of religion for marriage only is not at all wise.

Conclusion:

BR Ambedkar: “social endosmosis”, which implied that India’s diverse social groups are so mixed that it isn’t easy to separate one from the other. Social endosmosis can occur only when we generate the social emotions of love and fraternity that transcend caste, religion, gender, sexuality, class, and language boundaries.

If a couple wants to get married irrespective of their faith, it is the duty of the State to enable and facilitate them to exercise their freedom, and not restrict it. Instead of bringing an anti- ‘love jihad’ law, the State must relax the vague procedure under the Special Marriage Act to facilitate and promote interfaith marriages.

Role of women and women’s organization; population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues,

How does the population distribution of India relate to the broad physical divisions of the country ? Analyse. (250 words)

Reference: www.nios.ac.in

Why the question:

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

Key Demand of the question:

Student must aim to bring out the correlation of population distribution of India with that of the physical divisions of the country.

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:

Start with some key facts related to population trends in the country.

Body:

For such questions it is very important for one to cover the spatial aspects through the map of India. Start by explaining the population parameters across the country with respective influences of the physiography of that region.

Correlated the two factors say, discuss the distribution of population in dry land regions of the country, coastal regions, plateau regions, plains etc.

Give suitable examples, if need be make use of population theories to justify such correlation.

Conclusion:

However, one can conclude that the population growth has now moved beyond the factors of physiography and with the coming of technology and other infrastructural facilities population no more is just the function of physiography.

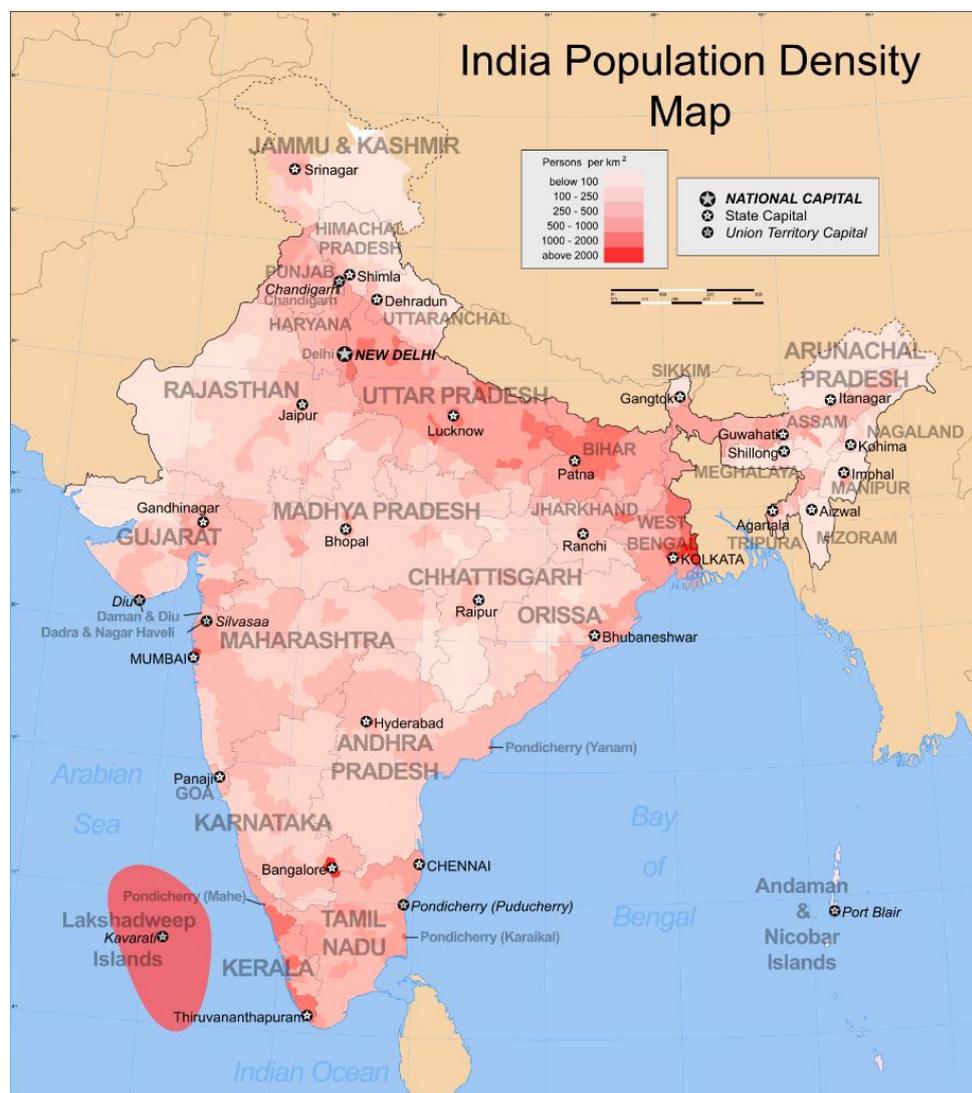
Introduction:

India is the second largest populous country in the world, next only to China. On a geographical area of 2.45 per cent of the world total, the country accounts for a little less than 17 per cent of its population. India’s population stood at 1028.61 million according to the final figures of 2001 census. With a density of 324 persons per square km as compared to the world average of only 47 persons, India indeed is one of the most thickly populated countries of the world.

Body:



India is a vast country with a great amount of diversity from one region to another in terms of its geography, historical experience and the resultant social, cultural and economic attributes. This diversity is also manifested in the patterns of population distribution in the country. **One of the unique features of India's population relates to its uneven distribution over space.**



Population distribution vis-à-vis the broad physical divisions of India:

1. While the fertile alluvial plains in the north rank among one of the most thickly populated tracts of the world, the arid region of the Thar desert in the north-western part of the country appears as almost uninhabited.
2. This unevenness in population distribution is best revealed in the fact that more than 57 per cent of India's population is concentrated in a quarter of its geographical area.
3. Likewise, more than four-tenths of the country accounts for only a little over 15 per cent of its population.
4. Of the 593 districts in the country at the time of 2001 census, the hundred most densely populated ones accommodated nearly 27 per cent of the population on an area that is only 7 per cent of the country's total.



5. The average density of these districts works out to be as high as 1,238 persons per square km.
6. On the other extreme, the hundred least densely populated districts, covering nearly a quarter of the total geographic area, account for only 5 per cent of the country's population.
7. Since nearly 60% of India's population still resides in the rural areas overwhelmingly dependent upon agricultural sector, the pattern of population distribution in the country largely corresponds to the factors governing agricultural practices.
8. The availability of agricultural land, depth and quality of soils, and availability of water resources, coupled with favourable climatic conditions, surface configuration, possibility of easy transportation etc. have determined the patterns of population distribution in the country.
9. The single largest concentration of population occurs in the plains of the north, particularly in the Ganga plain. On a geographic area of nearly 12 per cent of the country, the plain accounts for more than one-third of the population.
10. Other pockets of heavy concentration of population, though less extensive than the Ganga plain, can be seen in the southern parts of the Indian peninsula along the coastal plains of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
11. By contrast, the whole of the upland plateaus, the Thar desert and the mountainous and hilly regions of the north and northeast contain very sparse population.
12. The upland plateaus are characterized by rugged topography and poor soils. In addition, unfavourable climatic conditions and shortage of water for any large-scale agricultural activities have resulted in overall sparse population in the region.
13. Likewise, the mountainous character and difficult terrain, coupled with lack of connectivity and paucity of agricultural lands in the Himalayas and in the northeast, have led to sparse population.
14. In the arid and semi-arid regions of the northwest population is highly clustered around water points.
15. In the northeast, the Assam valley stands conspicuous with denser concentration of population as compared to the neighbouring hilly region.
16. These patterns of population distribution have evolved over a long time as a response to a host of physical and cultural factors.

Conclusion:

The development of industrialization and urbanization, emergence of urban centres as foci of administrative and commercial activities, development of road and rail networks and expansion of irrigation facilities during the more recent times have led to significant amount of redistribution of population in the country. Nevertheless, the broad patterns of population distribution as outlined above have remained more or less unchanged over time.

Is regional inequality in India actually a problem of economic geography? Discuss (250 words)

Reference: [Live Mint](#)

Why the question:



The article captures in detail how Economic geography is central to India's regional inequality distresses. It emphasizes the need for issue to be looked through the prism of economic geography—density, distance, division by the policy makers.

Key Demand of the question:

Question seeks to examine the interlinkages between economic geography and the regional inequalities and disparities.

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:

Start with brief introduction of the prevalent inequalities and disparities in the country.

Body:

Discuss the following dimensions in detail:

What is regional inequality?

What is regional disparity in India?

The causes of regional disparities in India? What are the major causes of inequality in India?

Take cues from the article and explain how the World Bank repeatedly identified the key dimensions of economic development—density, distance and division to deal with inequalities that are regional in nature.

Provide for a comparison of regional inequalities – say north and south and then justify how economic geography aspects in the policy making can help resolve the issue.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of the economic geography in policy making.

Introduction:

Regional imbalance is the disparity in the economic and social development of geographic regions. It is reflected by the indicators like per capita income, the proportion of population living below the poverty line, the percentage of urban population, and percentage of population engaged in agriculture vis-à-vis engaged in industries, infrastructural development of different states.

Body:

Linkages of Regional Disparity with Economic Geography

Geographical Factors

1. The difficult terrain of flood prone areas, hilly terrain, rivers and dense forests leads to increase in the cost of governance, and makes mobilization of resources challenging.
2. Himalayan states like Himachal Pradesh, Northern Kashmir, Uttarakhand, remained backward due to its inaccessibility and other inherent difficulties. Even North Eastern States, connected by narrow Siliguri Corridor.

Location Oriented Advantages

1. Like availability of irrigation, raw materials, market, port facilities etc. some regions get special favour in respect of site selections of various developmental projects
2. E.g. oil refineries are mostly located in close to coasts – Bombay High, Vishakapatnam refinery etc.

New Investment advantages:



1. New investment in the private sector generally concentrate in regions having basic infrastructural facilities.
2. Term-lending institutions and commercial banks tend to concentrate investments in the relatively more developed States.

Restricted Success of Green Revolution

1. Benefits of green revolution were restricted to Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh as this belt had advantage of irrigation facilities with adequate policy support from State Governments, which other areas lacked and couldn't reap benefits of Green Revolution.

Issues of Planning Mechanism

1. Lack of fulfilment of Local needs; one size fits all approach, poor implementation of plans etc. reduced capacity of Planning Commission to ensure balanced development.

Intra-Regional Disparity

1. Demand for creation of separate states in the wake of popular agitation was based on **perceived neglect of certain backward regions** of bigger states such as creation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh
2. **State specific reasons exist for backwardness** of regions within states E.g. Backwardness of Vidarbha and Marathwada in Maharashtra and Northern Karnataka is due to scarcity of water.
3. Backwardness of certain regions in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa is due to the **distinct style of living** of the inhabitants who are mostly **tribals and the neglect of such regions** by the ruling elite.

OTHER FACTORS:

1. **Extremist violence, law and order problem** etc. have been obstructing the flow of investments into backward regions.

Government Interventions to Reduce Regional Disparities

Higher resource transfers from the Centre to the Backward States via;

1. NITI Aayog's planning and collaboration with states
2. **Finance Commission**: Centre -State transfers and creation of **Special Category status**.
3. The large weight given to **"Income Distance"** by 14th Finance commission is an important step in reducing per-capita income distance between states.

Development Programmes

1. Programmes of agriculture, community development programme etc. aimed at providing basic facilities and services to people in all the regions.

Provision of Facilities in Areas which Lag Behind Industrially

1. **River valley projects and multi-purpose projects**; E.g. Ken-Betwa inter river link project for Bundelkhand region etc.

Programmes for the Expansion of Village and Small Industries



1. Industrial estates have been set up in all States, and are increasingly located in smaller towns and rural areas.

Diffusion of industrial activity and infrastructure

1. The claims of relatively backward areas have been kept in view for equitable development in location of public sector projects.
2. For North east region- East West Corridor project, Bhupen Hazarika Bridge,
3. Subsidies, exemptions and tax breaks given to industries for investing in backward regions. For instance, North East Special Infrastructure development.

Schemes for Development of Backward Areas

1. The **Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF)** implemented in 272 identified backward districts in all States of the country to redress regional imbalances in development; Development Grant and Capacity Building.
2. **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** for the welfare of tribals and others affected by mining.

Competitive Federalism

1. States compete with each other to attract funds and investment, which facilitates efficiency in administration and enhances developmental activities.

Way Forward

1. **Location specific targeted action** would be required in less prosperous regions to ensure that a minimum acceptable level of prosperity.
2. Need to invigorate civil society in these areas as it is now well accepted in developmental studies that the region with higher social capital tends to develop more rapidly and sustainably.
3. NITI Aayog's Three Year Action Agenda underlines the specific action for North Himalayan states, North-Eastern states, Coastal regions and Islands and Desert & Drought prone areas this action plan should be diligently implemented.

Critically examine the issues directed towards sustainable urbanization. Discuss various government schemes to address the challenges arising in the way of urbanization. (250 words)

Reference: [smartnet.niua.org](https://www.smartnet.niua.org)

Why the question:

The question is about issues related to sustainable urbanisation.

Key Demand of the question:

Explain the various government schemes to address the challenges arising in the way of urbanization. Discuss the issues directed towards sustainable urbanisation.

Directive:

Critically 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. 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:**

Define what sustainable urbanisation is. Explain that the world has urbanized rapidly in recent years, offering countries opportunities to improve the lives of people and enhance economic development in towns and cities.

Body:

In the answer body explain what are problems associated with urban sustainability?

Explain how does urbanization affect the sustainability?

Discuss – The problems associated with urbanization are: High population density, inadequate infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, flooding, pollution, slum creation, crime, congestion and poverty. This problem of high population density is caused due to the heavy rate of migration from rural areas.

Elaborate upon the various government schemes to address the challenges arising in the way of urbanization.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

Currently, India's nearly 30% population lives in urban areas and it is expected to rise upto 50% by 2050. Being a developing country with a huge population pressure India is facing many challenges due to rural to urban migration. To contain these challenges and to make a proper trajectory towards new India, Sustainable urban planning is an important aspect.

Body:**Significance of sustainable urbanization:**

1. **Safe drinking water:** According to a report by NITI Aayog, 21 cities will run out of groundwater by 2020. To avoid further worsening of such crisis we need careful urban planning.
2. **Affordable housing:** One of the largest government programmes is to provide affordable housing to citizens. Sustainable urban planning will help to manage land resources in equitable way.
3. **Urban sewage and solid waste management:** In India less than quarter of the waste generated gets proper treatment. For rapidly growing urban agglomerations we need planning to manage this rising challenge.
4. **Transportation and communication:** Sustainable urban planning will provide efficient and eco-friendly public transport facilities to overpopulated urban cities of India.
5. Sustainable urban planning will also help in equitable **resources distribution and affordable service delivery.**
6. It will also help in creating **sustainable environment and disaster management.**

In absence of sustainable urban planning India is facing manifold challenges:

1. **Rise in Slums:** Few of the Asia's largest slums are in Delhi and Mumbai where unplanned urbanisation led to polluted water, health issues and rising rate of crimes.
2. **Urban flooding:** Floods in Mumbai and Chennai are examples of urban flooding. These are results of unsustainable urbanisation.
3. **Rising number of accidents:** Fires in buildings and deaths in various urban accidents are daily routine in Indian cities.



4. **Degrading environment:** According to WHO report, out of 20 most polluted cities, 14 are in India.

Challenges in sustainable urbanization:

1. Economic Sustainability

1.

○

1. Lack of Investments

2. Poor technology

1. Ecological Sustainability

1.

○

1. Dependence on fossil fuels and coal energy

2. Poor Waste management process and technologies

3. Vehicular pollution and Climate Change

1. Social Sustainability

1.

○

1. Building society based on constitutional principles

2. Increasing Population and Proliferation of Slums

3. Lack of public awareness

4. Weak gender perspective in development

Government efforts towards sustainable urbanization:

1. **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** as a step towards harnessing the agglomeration economies of the urban centres and making cities engines of growth.

2. It envisages convergence across various initiatives such as Amrut, Smart Cities, Hriday (National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat.

3. **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** for affordable housing with credit linked subsidy.

4. **Smart cities Mission-** It is an urban development programme launched by the government of India with the mission to develop 100 cities across the country and making them citizen friendly and sustainable.

Way forward:



1. India needs to work on achieving the goals set by United Nations under SDG-11 to be achieved by 2030.
2. Need for Comprehensive National urban plan for effective and timely implementation of policies and schemes
3. Ensure access for all through adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums, transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport.
4. Give special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women and children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
5. Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.
6. Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.
7. Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
8. Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Conclusion:

The announcement of a new urbanisation policy that seeks to rebuild Indian cities around clusters of human capital, instead of considering them simply as an agglomeration of land use, is a welcome transformation. We need to empower our cities, with a focus on land policy reforms, granting urban local bodies the autonomy to raise funds and enforce local land usage norms.

What is Germany's new boardroom quota for women? Can it be viewed as the next step in narrowing the gap of sexual inequality in the country? Explain. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why the question:

Germany's coalition government has agreed to a mandatory quota for women on the boards of listed companies in what's being hailed as a landmark moment for Europe's biggest economy.

Key Demand of the question:

Discuss the significance of Germany's new boardroom quota for women and explain in what way it can be viewed as the next step in narrowing the gap of sexual inequality in the country.

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:

Brief about the recent move made by the government of Germany. Germany is planning to impose a mandatory quota for the number of women working in senior management positions in the country's listed firms.

Body:

First explain the plan mooted by the government of Germany.



Since 2015, Germany, which is Europe's biggest economy, has had a voluntary quota of 30 per cent for women on supervisory boards.

Present statistics across the world and also have a Indian dimension and discuss the need to adopt such a move in our country too.

Discuss how this helps improve the proportion of senior executive positions held by women.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of such a move.

Introduction:

Germany is planning to impose a mandatory quota for women in senior management position to curb sexual inequality in the country's listed firms. This historic move can be a next step in narrowing the gap of gender inequality in the country.

Body:

Provisions of the Boardroom Quota:

1. If there are more than three persons in the executive board of listed company, one must be a woman.
2. Company with federal government has stake will have 30% quota for women in supervisory boards.

Need for Quota:

1. 115 of country's major publicly company do not have a single woman in their board.
2. Germany's Europe's biggest economy had voluntary quota for 33% women in advisory boards but it did little to improve proportion of women in senior management position.
3. Only 12.8% of women in management board of German companies listed Dax Index.
4. Since law came in 2015, proportion of women rose to 32% from 25% in supervisory boards but there are only 7.7% women in management board in 2017 financial year.

Boardroom Quota as a next Step:

1. Affirmative action – Breaking away from gender glass ceiling and gender ghettoization of labour.
2. Gender sensitisation in actions of Board – Spill over effect in other dimensions. Women seen in decision making roles inspires more men and women to break away from social constraints.
3. Social equity and social justice – Human rights upholding women as equal in opportunities as well as social hierarchy.
4. Mixed Team: This will provide mixed team of men and women and it will enhance the chance of new and innovative ideas.
5. Equal chance: This will provide female an equal chance to represent them at highest position.
6. Progress of society: Equality leads to progress of society as well as nation. It will help in increasing Country's GDP.



7. Sustainable modern society: Equality of opportunity leads to sustainability as well as peaceful society.
8. Greater representation of women could bring in heterogeneity in values, beliefs, and attitudes, which would broaden the range of perspectives in the decision making process (OECD, 2012) and stimulate critical thinking and creativity.
9. With the rise of women in the labor force, increasing their representation in senior positions would mitigate gender differences between managers and subordinates, which could enhance workers' productivity.
10. The impact of gender diversity in the boardroom on firm performance is inconclusive. Influential work by McKinsey (2007) and Catalyst (2007) documented a strong positive association between the representation of women on the boards of Fortune 500 companies and corporate performance. Other studies have also linked more women in senior management and in the board room to better financial outcomes and governance of listed firms.
11. Geographic mobility is possible when women enter into the board which destroys social patriarchy.
12. The protection for sexual harassment can be taken.
13. Women can put forward paternity leave for men so children will get all round care. This breaks the social norms.

Indian Context:

1. Under Section 149(1) of the companies Act, 2013 a company has to include at least one women director which is a listed company with a paid up capital of 100 crores and turnover of 300crores.
2. Narrowing the economic gender gap (According to Global Gender Index,2019 India is only country where Economic gap is wider than Political gap.)
3. While Home Care is highly unaccounted contribution of women to GDP, a formal recruitment is recorded. According to UNDP, India could boost its GDP by 47% if it leverages on women labour potential.
4. According to World's Economic Forum report "Global Gender Gap' India is at 14th rank among 153 countries.
5. Reservation in Panchayati Raj institution has shown leadership roles being taken by Women.
6. India ranks 23 out of 56 countries with 8.5% of women occupying senior roles, which is significantly lower than global average of 20.6%.
7. India also has the lowest ranks in the "Asia Pacific " with regard to female Chief executive officer (CEO) representation and female chief financial officer (CFO) representation.
8. India has third lowest global representation for women in senior management with only 2% as CEO.

Conclusion:



Countries like Norway, France, Sweden and Italy have the largest representation of women in senior roles as a result of quotas and formal targets set by governing authorities. Now Germany is also in its way to do it. India can take this as an opportunity to increase the women representation in the country. This historic step will also help in achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

India must realise, A Bird cannot fly with unequal wings and a nation cannot stride without involving both genders.

“To make cities women-friendly, urban planners must focus on two core issues — greater safety from violence and adequate childcare support.” comment. (250 words)

Reference: [Hindustan Times](#)

Why the question:

The article analyses redesigning urban spaces for women in the country and their importance.

Key Demand of the question:

Explain in detail the need to make cities women-friendly and that urban planning has key role in achieving it.

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:

Start with statistics and data that show – Urban planning in India does not factor in gender perspectives. The 2019 Safe City Index, prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit, ranks Mumbai and Delhi as one of the worst cities where women’s safety is concerned.

Body:

Explain that Cities need to be redesigned to address the concerns of women; so that women can work, look after their families easily, and without having to expend more energy, time and money than men do.

Discuss what needs to be done? – To make cities women-friendly, urban planners must focus on two core issues —greater safety from violence and adequate childcare support. Much of the current discourse focuses on improving street lighting and providing safe toilets. These are important but even more critical to making public spaces safer is mixed land-use planning. The segregation of commercial and residential areas automatically increases the commute from work to home and creates entry barriers to mobility for women. Mixed land-use, by encouraging office space and commercial areas in residential localities, makes for regular use of streets, better lighting and encourages women to use public spaces.

Give examples/case studies to justify your answer.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

The 2019 Safe City Index, prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit, ranks Mumbai and Delhi as one of the worst cities where women’s safety is concerned. The Index ranked cities on indicators of personal security, digital security and infrastructure security, among other things.

Body:

Urban planning in India does not factor in gender perspectives. Cities need to be redesigned to address the concerns of women.



1. **Six issue areas: New World Bank Handbook is a 'how-to' on gender-inclusive urban planning and design**

1. Access – using services and spaces in the public realm, free from constraints and barriers
2. Mobility – moving around the city safely, easily, and affordably
3. Safety and freedom from violence – being free from real and perceived danger in public and private spheres
4. Health and hygiene – leading an active lifestyle that is free from health risks in the built environment
5. Climate resilience – being able to prepare for, respond to, and cope with the immediate and long-term effects of disaster
6. Security of tenure – accessing and owning land and housing to live, work, and build wealth and agency

2. **Cities women-friendly: Greater safety from violence:**

0. Much of the current discourse focusses on improving street lighting and providing safe toilets.
 1. Need of mixed land-use planning. The segregation of commercial and residential areas automatically increases the commute from work to home and creates entry barriers to mobility for women.
 2. Mixed land-use, by encouraging office space and commercial areas in residential localities, makes for regular use of streets, better lighting and encourages women to use public spaces.
1. Ex: Planned city of Chandigarh, one of the safest for women in India. This city factored in local markets, commercial offices, schools, public parks, post offices, police posts and medical clinics into the design of each small locality or sector.
2. Shaded footpaths were created for walking such that it was possible to cover the city on foot and remain in the shade.
3. And, yet, extensive mixed-use was simply not replicated in other Indian cities. Chandigarh remained an isolated example.
 3. A 2019 Ola Mobility Institute study, which surveyed men and women in 11 cities in India, said that while 80% respondents lived within a 15-minute walking distance of a bus stop, only 47% either walked or cycled to the bus stop.
 4. The others used shared transport, two-wheelers and cars.
 5. Shared transport has been found to be generally unsafe.
 6. But in the absence of dedicated footpaths or cycle tracks, women commuters have little option.
 7. In reimagining urban spaces, we must not focus on somewhat vacuous efforts such as creating special transport services for women.



8. It would, instead, be far more beneficial to sensitise men to be more civil.
9. The 2015-16 National Family Health Survey indicated that 58% husbands disapproved of wife-beating.
10. In a UN Women-sponsored household survey on sexual violence in public spaces in Delhi in 2012, 94% men said that people should intervene if they see sexual harassment in public spaces.
11. This needs to be built upon and civility inculcated.
12. **Cities women-friendly: adequate childcare support:**
 0. The other priority must be reliable childcare facilities, which are necessary if we expect women to enter the job market, sustain jobs and also pursue leisure activities.
13. Ensuring that enough creches are available throughout the city is important to set women free and support them in discharging their parental duties.
14. For construction sites, mobile creches could be the answer.
15. Recent research by economist Ashwini Deshpande shows that in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, those with children below five years suffered the most in the job market.
16. In April 2019, the average employment of women in this category was 7.8%. This dropped sharply to 2.9% in April 2020.
17. In August 2020, it recovered slightly to 3.5%. What is noteworthy is that it was the most highly-educated women who suffered the maximum job losses.
18. For those with qualifications higher than post-graduate and children below five years of age, the average employment shrank drastically in April 2020, as per the report.
19. With work-from-home becoming the norm, it is the aspirational group of women who lost out the most.
20. An institutional support structure that can take care of this responsibility would improve female participation in the labour force.
21. **Way forward:**
22. It is entirely possible to address such gaps through pilot projects in smaller townships.
23. If well executed, such projects will draw the population away from the mega-cities.
24. The safety of women is a major concern in any household location decision. Undertaking such projects does not require much by way of capital.
25. Various projects for upgrading city infrastructure are already in execution throughout India.
26. Those can easily be tweaked to incorporate gender perspectives.



27. To make cities women-empowering, we need more imagination and will.

Conclusion:

Finally, there needs to be a real change in the mindsets of those who are at the helm of decision making on matters of policy and design. Currently, these are still men, and this means we are going to get a built environment designed by men, for men. Only when more women sit at the table, the perspective, the needs and the talents of women can start showing up in the built environment. Otherwise, we will continue to live in environments that are dangerous and inaccessible for half of our population.

Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

What is a 'city system'? Explain how and why reforming municipal bodies is crucial to reforming city systems. (250 words)

Reference: dea.gov.in

Why the question:

The question is based on the theme of City-system and the reforms in municipal bodies crucial for effective and efficient functioning of city systems.

Key Demand of the question:

Explain the concept of city-system and explain how and why reforming municipal bodies is crucial to reforming city systems.

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:

Define what city-systems are.

Body:

A city system; is a group of cities, which, in their evolution, have become interdependent because of the many relationship networks that they have and that interconnect them to a greater extent than other cities located in the environment.

Explain the importance of urban governance in the country.

Discuss the urban issues, reforms and way forward in India with suitable examples.

Explain that India has to improve its urban areas to achieve objectives of economic development.

However, urban governance and management of the services is far from satisfactory. In this context, the Government has launched a reform-linked urban investment program, JNNURM and others.

Discuss how and why reforming municipal bodies is crucial to reforming city systems.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

City systems are the base or structure on which the quality of life of its residents depends. They include quality of laws, policies, institutions, and institutional processes that underpin urban governance.

Body:

Need for reforming municipal bodies for reforming city systems:

- **Governance issues:** India's metropolitan cities have weak capacities in finance and staffing.



- **Ex:** Bengaluru's average percentage of own revenue to total expenditure is 47.9%, Chennai 30.5%, Mumbai 36.1% and Kolkata at 48.4%.
- **Limited powers of mayors:** No big metropolitan cities with 10 million-plus population has a directly-elected Mayor. **Mayors do not have full decision-making authority over critical functions of planning,** housing, water, environment, fire and emergency services in most cases.
 - **Ex:** Metropolitan cities like Tokyo and Sydney are steered by a directly-elected leader.
- **Lack of transparency, accountability and citizen participation:** No metropolitan has functional ward committees and area sabhas.
- **Powerless city councils and severe fragmentation of governance:** Multiple civic bodies with frequent change of toothless mayors, commissioners. Local government has the **least amount of capability, quality of delivery and poor processes that are being followed.** Most of the laws and policies that they are following are archaic.
- **Total absence of systematic citizen participation and transparency:** Only two cities have ward committees. **An absence of citizen participation is worsened by poor transparency in finance and operations.**
- Metropolitan regions are being **created by default and not by design.**
- Current urban centres are established without paying attention to the need to create a **unified market, especially the labour market, which would forge strong economic linkages between the core city and the periphery.**
- **There are 53 urban agglomerations in India** with a population of one million and above, but these agglomerations spread across various states. **With different rules and regulations regarding land, transport across the states, this severely affects infrastructure development.**
- **In India the urban planning and spatial planning (integrated land use and transport) are not integrated,** this leads to the significant deterioration in the quality of public services and ease of living.
- **There is a range of institutions such as municipalities,** and other parastatals such as state water and sewerage Boards, **due to these overlapping functional jurisdictions, they find little coordination amongst them.**
- **It is reflected on "Smart City" front,** where over 90 'Smart Cities' have identified 2,864 projects, but only 148 projects are completed and over 70% of the projects still remain at various stages of preparation.

Steps taken by the government:

- **National urban policy framework 2018** seeks to rebuild Indian cities around clusters of human capital, instead of considering them simply as an agglomeration of land use. It also focuses on land policy reforms, granting urban local bodies the freedom to raise financing and enforce local land usage norms



- **Performance linked grants:** The 14th Finance Commission stipulated a detailed procedure for the disbursement of the Performance Grant to ULBs based on various reforms in areas like accounting, auditing, reporting, etc.
- **Municipal Bonds:** NITI Aayog in its three-year Action Agenda document talks of utilizing Municipal Bond market. This would ensure low cost of borrowing which is required for municipality projects which typically have low viability, long gestation period and low to moderate cost recovery
- **Directly elected Mayor:** A private member's bill was introduced in the parliament to make provisions for direct election and empowerment of the office of mayor in country.
- **Smart Cities Mission (SCM):** To Provide smart solutions to improve city infrastructure and services. It focuses on Mobility and Energy efficiency, Electricity, Information and Communication Technology, Water Supply etc
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):** During 2015-17, various basic reforms were undertaken under this scheme resulting in:
 - **Improved collection of user charges:** 104 cities in 14 states collected more than 90% of user charges.
 - **Establishment of municipal cadres in 21 states.**
 - **Improved service delivery:** 256 cities started offering online citizen services.
 - **Others:** 21 states established state finance commissions and 363 cities have completed credit rating.

Way forward

- **Cities and their Foundation:** There is a need to focus on building stronger foundations – not just focus on outcomes but also policies. **There is an urgent need of giving the highest importance to 'urban designing' and not just planning.** Cities need to be seen as a unit of empowerment at the systems level.
- **Cities and Reforms:** Reforms in the big cities have been painfully slow also due to political instability. Smaller cities under AMRUT are witnessing better transparency, accountability and participation. **Finances need to not just be generated but also be managed and accounted for.**
- **City people and City government:** Government needs to meaningfully engage with the citizens. **They need to update the citizens and push the envelope on the issue of discussions being done at the systemic level.**
- **City and local body of governance:** There is a need to strengthen local body's capability and capacity to deliver. A discussion on autonomy and devolution of power is long pending. **Mayors need to be empowered with decision, and be trusted for the same.**
- **Absence of participatory citizen platforms:** Citizens need to be involved and sensitized. **More awareness programs in public places, schools and colleges need to be conducted.**

Conclusion

Urban local government institutions are constituted for the maintenance and planned development of urban areas. The objective is to ensure that suitable levels of infrastructure and services are



available to the citizens. In many parts of India, the quality of life in urban areas is miserable and the citizens lead a difficult life. To overcome this problem, a series of reforms need to be initiated for reforming municipal bodies to strengthen the city systems.

Effects of globalization on Indian society

Examine whether globalization is a beneficial force or it erodes communities and widens the gap between the elites and the rest of the world. (250 words)

Reference: www.weforum.org

Why the question:

The question is based on the theme of globalisation and its effects.

Key Demand of the question:

One must examine whether globalization is a beneficial force or it erodes communities and widens the gap between the elites and the rest of the world.

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:

Start by defining what globalisation is.

Body:

In the answer body present the coming of globalisation, its impact; how it led to unparalleled growth at the same time led to increased inequality.

Discuss their effect on developing countries. As we enter the fourth wave of globalization, driven by the digital revolution, there is renewed debate over whether it is a beneficial force: powering economic growth, and allowing the spread of ideas to improve people’s lives; or whether it erodes communities, and widens the gap between the elites and the rest of the world.

Present both pros and cons. Suggest what needs to be done.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a fair and balanced opinion.

Introduction:

Globalization is an open liberal market where international markets enter due to liberalised rules and regulations. Globalization refers to integration of nation’s economy with the world economy and free flow of capital, knowledge, humans, industries etc. The modern globalization originated with end of cold War and disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991. The driving factors are democracy and capitalism—Washington consensus or neo liberalism.

Body:

After the economic reforms of 1991 globalization came as a revolutionary force along with liberalization and privatisation and changed the soul of Indian economy as a whole.

Globalization as a beneficial force:

- Transfer of Technology in developing countries like India, African countries etc.
- Helps in lifting of economy through worldwide interaction (entire world becomes global village) e.g.: South East.
- Increase competitiveness among business players.



- Strive for better quality of product in less Price and quantity or availability is more.
- Less developed region can attract investment due to inherent cost developing.
- Develop or developing States see surge in forex reserve which helps them with their budget.
- Cultural and social awareness: By reducing cross-border distances, globalisation has increased cross-cultural understanding and sharing.
 - A neutral globalized society boosts up the rate at which people are exposed to the culture, attitudes and values of people in other countries.
- Helps to decrease poverty.
- Globalization results in increased trade and standard of living. It heightens competition within the domestic product, capital, and labour markets.
- Vehicles of Social justice: ex. Providing employment.
- Globalization represents free trade which promotes global economic growth, creates jobs, makes companies more competitive, and lowers prices for consumers.
- Higher disposable income.

Impact of Globalization:

- Crime is increased due to large number of population is highly influenced by western culture and lifestyle.
- Influence of drugs, drug menace.
- It has brought us away from humanity and bring towards money making cycle.
- Misuse of technology.
- **Increasing inequality:**
 - The UN Development Program reports that the richest 20% of the world's population consume 86% of the world's resources while the rest 80% consume just 14 percent.
- **Malpractices of MNC's:**
 - Multinational corporations (MNCs) are accused of social injustice, unfair working conditions (including slave labour wages, living and working conditions), as well as lack of concern for the environment, mismanagement of natural resources, and ecological damage.
 - Many think there is a threat of corporations ruling the world because they are gaining power, due to globalization, loss of local industries.
 - Multinational corporations, which are increasingly influencing political decisions.
- **Fail to Contribute Towards Desired Gains:**



- The argument that globalization has helped people in developing most of the countries out of poverty is somehow controversial. Because the opinions differ as to the quantity and the quality of the jobs being offered by globalization.
- **Contribute towards Cultural Homogeneity:**
 - Globalisation promotes people's tastes to converge which may lead to more cultural homogeneity.
 - Due to this, there is a danger of losing precious cultural practices and languages.
 - Also, there are threats of cultural invasion of one country over another.
- **Shrinking Agriculture Sector:** Agriculture now contributes only about 15% to GDP. Greater integration of global commodities markets leads to constant fluctuation in prices.
- **Increasing Health-Care costs:** Greater interconnections of the world has also led to the increasing susceptibility to diseases. Whether it is the bird-flu virus or Ebola, the diseases have taken a global turn, spreading far and wide. This results in greater investment in healthcare system to fight such diseases.
- **Child Labour:** Despite prohibition of child labor by the Indian constitution, over 60 to a 115 million children in India work. While most rural child workers are agricultural laborers, urban children work in manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs. Globalization most directly exploits an estimated 300,000 Indian children who work in India's hand-knotted carpet industry, which exports over \$300 million worth of goods a year.
- **Socio cultural impact:**
 - **Access to education:** explosion of information on the web that has helped in greater awareness among people. The advent of private education, coaching classes and paid study material has created a gap between the haves and have-nots.
 - **Growth of cities:** It has been estimated that by 2050 more than 50% of India's population will live in cities. The boom of services sector and city centric job creation has led to increasing rural to urban migration.
 - **Indian cuisine:** is one of the most popular cuisines across the globe. Historically, Indian spices and herbs were one of the most sought after trade commodities. Pizzas, burgers, Chinese foods and other Western foods have become quite popular.
 - **Clothing:** Traditional Indian clothes for women are the saris, suits, etc. And for men, traditional clothes are the dhoti, kurta. Hindu married women also adorned the red bindi and sindhur, but now, it is no more a compulsion. Rather, Indo-western clothing, the fusion of Western and Sub continental fashion is in trend. Wearing jeans, t-shirts, miniskirts have become common among Indian girls.
 - **Indian Performing Arts:** The music of India includes multiples varieties of religious, folk, popular, pop, and classical music.
 - **The Indian Classical music** has gained worldwide recognition but recently, western music is too becoming very popular in our country. Fusing Indian music along with western music is encouraged among musicians. More Indian dance shows are held globally. The number of foreigners who are eager to learn Bharatanatyam is rising.



Western dance forms such as Jazz, Hip hop, Salsa, Ballet have become common among Indian youngsters.

- **Nuclear Families:** The increasing migration coupled with financial independence has led to the breaking of joint families into nuclear ones. The western influence of individualism has led to an aspirational generation of youth. Concepts of national identity, family, job and tradition are changing rapidly and significantly.
 - **Old Age Vulnerability:** The rise of nuclear families has reduced the social security that the joint family provided. This has led to greater economic, health and emotional vulnerability of old age individuals.
 - **Pervasive Media:** There is greater access to news, music, movies, videos from around the world. Foreign media houses have increased their presence in India. India is part of the global launch of Hollywood movies which is very well received here. It has a psychological, social and cultural influence on our society.
 - **McDonaldization:** McDonaldization is a reconceptualization of rationalization, or moving from traditional to rational modes of thought, and scientific management.
 - **Walmartization:** It can be seen with the rise of big businesses which have nearly killed the small traditional businesses in our society.
- **Psychological Impact on Indian Society**
- **Development of Bicultural Identity:** A good example of bicultural identity is among the educated youth in India who despite being integrated into the global fast paced technological world, may continue to have deep rooted traditional Indian values with respect to their personal lives and choices such as preference for an arranged marriage, caring for parents in their old age.
 - **Growth of Self-Selected Culture:** means people choose to form groups with like-minded persons who wish to have an identity that is untainted by the global culture and its values.
 - **Emerging Adulthood:** The timing of transitions to adult roles such as work, marriage and parenthood are occurring at later stages in most parts of the world as the need for preparing for jobs in an economy that is highly technological and information based is slowly extending from the late teens to the mid-twenties.
 - **Consumerism:** Consumerism has permeated and changed the fabric of contemporary Indian society.

Decline of globalization:

- **Suppression of liberal democracy:** The malaise of slow economic growth, wealth inequality and rising unemployment provided a perfect breeding ground for political leaders to appeal for nationalism as the solution to political and economic ills.
- **Perils of neo-liberal doctrine:** While the free-market ideology has been fighting a battle of credibility since it took the maximum blame for the 2008 crisis, free trade policies have now been severely impacted due to Covid-19.

Conclusion:



Globalisation is an age old phenomenon which has been taking place for centuries now. We can experience it so profoundly these days because of its increased pace. The penetration of technology and new economic structures are leading to an increased interaction between people. As with other things there have been both positive and negative impacts.

Given its enormous potential for economic gains, it would be a waste to categorically repudiate the phenomena of Globalisation. Instead, there is a need for better understanding of Globalization's effects and the interplay of its economics with other issue areas.

Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Communal attacks, the cancer of communalism affect the body of the Indian Nation.

Comment. (250 words)

Reference [Times of India](#)

Why the question:

The question is premised on the effect of communalism and ill impact on the country.

Key Demand of the question:

Discuss and present in what way communal attacks and communalistic ideas affect the nation.

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:

Start with the definition of communalism.

Body:

Start by discussing the cause and consequences of communalism in India.

List down the reasons contributing to Communalism. Give examples from past to present.

Explain with examples the impact of communalism on Indian society.

Suggest efforts of the government in this direction to control and curtail the impact of communalism.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what needs to be done; role of government, citizens and other stakeholders.

Introduction:

Communalism is characterised by a strong allegiance to one's own ethnic group rather than to society as a whole. the basis of allegiance may be varied such as language, ethnicity, region, religion etc. In India, communalism as a social phenomenon is characterized by the religion of two communities, often leading to acrimony, tension and even rioting between them. Communalism essentially leads to violence as it is based on mutual religious hatred.

The riots in north east Delhi in February this year was the "worst communal riots since partition" in the national capital and that it was a "gaping wound" in the conscience of a nation aspiring to be a "major global player" observed Delhi high court recently.

Body:

Ramification of Communalism:

1. **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.



2. **Affects the Social fabric:** It causes hatred among different religious sections in the society and disrupts the peaceful social fabric of our society.
3. **Ghettoization and refugee problem** are other dimensions of communalism induced violence, whether its inter country or intra country.
4. **Communal Violence:** 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. **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.
8. **Economic fallout:** Economic growth can take place only in environment of peace and tranquillity, communalism creates an atmosphere of intolerance and violence which would impede the flow of goods and capital.
9. The flow of labour from productive activities is diverted to unproductive activities; there is massive destruction of public properties to spread the ideology.
10. The investment attitude towards the country from foreign investor would be cautiousness; they tend to avoid the countries with highly communal country, for not take the risk of end up losing their investment.
11. **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.
12. **Terrorism and Secessionism:** As seen during the Khalistan movement in Punjab.

Steps to check the growth of Communalism:

1. **Economic:**

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



2. **Social:**
 0. The religious leaders and preachers should promote rational and practical things through religion promoting peace and security.
 1. Children in schools must be taught through textbooks and pamphlets to maintain brotherhood and respect for all religions
 2. Creating awareness in the society about the ill effects of communism through mass media
3. **Political:**
 0. Political communism should be avoided recent Supreme court's directives
 1. Identification and mapping of riot prone areas. For Example, Delhi police used drones to monitor to maintain vigil during communal festivals
 2. **Media, movies and other cultural platforms** can be influential in promoting peace and harmony.
 3. **Social Media** should be monitored for **violent and repulsive content** and taken off immediately.
4. **Recommendations of Committee on National Integration**
 0. Joint celebration of community festivals
 1. Observing restraint by Hindus while taking processions before the mosques
 2. Formation of peace and brotherhood communities at local level to prevent anti-social elements from engaging in communal riots
 3. 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.

Explain how and why manual scavenging continues to be embedded in the caste system? Discuss the efforts of the government to overcome the ills of manual scavenging in the country. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why the question:

The article explains the new measures by the Centre to end manual scavenging by august 2021.

Key Demand of the question:

Explain how and why manual scavenging continues to be embedded in the caste system, also throw light on the efforts of the government to overcome the ills of manual scavenging in the country.

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:

Present few facts about manual scavenging in the country and its association with caste system.

Body:

Manual scavenging is the practice of removing human excrement from toilets, septic tanks or sewers by hand.

Explain why it is more of a social evil in our country. Discuss the efforts of the government to curb such a system and highlight the lacunae in the measures taken by the government.

Take cues from the article list down measures taken so far by the government and reasons for their partial success.

Suggest solutions to address them.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

Manual scavenging refers to the unsafe and manual removal of raw (fresh and untreated) human excreta from buckets or other containers that are used as toilets or from the pits of simple pit latrines. Despite a 2013 law prohibiting employment of manual scavengers, a government survey recently has identified 54,130 people engaged in this job as of July 2019.

In India, the inhumane task of manual scavenging is exclusively carried out by the Dalit community of specific sub-castes and is an archetype of the oppressive legacy of the hierarchical Hindu varna system.

Body:

Scenario in India:

1. The SECC-2011 counted over 1.82 lakh families that had at least one member employed in manual scavenging. Rights groups Safai Karamchari Andolan pegs the number of manual scavengers across India at over 7 lakh.
2. Between 2016 and 2018, up to 123 manual scavengers have died on the job, data from the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).
3. Since January 2019, more than 25 sewer workers have died of asphyxiation across the country, including in densely populated cities.
4. More than 375 workers died while cleaning septic and sewer tanks between 2015 and 2019, according to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's data

Government interventions

1. **The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993** and employment of manual scavengers was declared unlawful.
2. **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis** was constituted under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, to monitor and recommend specific programs.
3. **National action plan for the total eradication of manual scavenging by 2007.**
4. **Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers** initiated to provide training, loans, and subsidies for alternate occupations in 2007.
5. **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation, Act, 2013.**



6. In 2014, the Supreme Court ruled in **Safai Karamchari Andolan v. Union of India** that “entering sewer lines without safety gears should be made a crime even in emergency situations,” and ordered for compensation in cases of death of the worker.
7. The Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (**NBA**) was replaced by **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA)** in 2014.
8. Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment announced the **Draft National Action Plan Framework ‘to eliminate inhuman practices** by 15th August 2022’ and counted sewage cleaning as one such practice.

Issues in implementation

1. **Prohibition and Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** – fails to explain **what qualifies as “appropriate safety gear”**.
 1. It **does not mention health as a component of rehabilitation** and provides a meagre amount of money to the worker in the name of assistance for alternative occupations, which **most manual scavengers remain unaware** of.
 2. Nothing in the act mentions **provisions related to the death of manual scavengers**.
 2. **Municipalities choose the compensation route** as they mostly outsource the unsanitary sanitation work.
 3. Toilets that were built under SBM are dependent on water and a lot of parts of India are **not connected by the sewage system. Also, Septic tanks have engineering defects** which means that after a point, a machine cannot clean it.
 4. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has remained elusive of the health problems of manual scavengers even though the National Health Policy (2017) calls for action on social determinants of health.

Reasons for the Prevalence of Manual Scavenging in India

1. **Delayed Implementation** – Manual scavenging was banned 25 years ago but it continues to find practitioners.
2. **Insanitary Latrines** – According to Safai Karmachari Andolan, the occupation persists mainly because of the continued **presence of insanitary latrines**. There are about 2.6 million insanitary latrines (dry toilets) that require cleaning by hand.
3. **Caste-based notions of stigma** and deployment of Dalit workers in these occupations in modern contexts reinforces manual scavenging in India.
4. The policymakers’ have a **fragmented and a target driven approach** (counting numbers of toilets, length of sewerage, etc.,) to sanitation.
5. **Privatization of waste management and acute contractualisation** of sanitation work has made fixing legal responsibility and identification of the guilty much more difficult.
6. **Gender-based occupation** – Manual scavenging is not only a caste-based but also a gender-based occupation with 90 percent of them being women. Households with dry latrines prefer women to clean the excreta instead of men as they are located inside the house.
7. **Inadequate Funding**



Way-Forward

1. **Adopting technology to end manual scavenging** – It is not going to be possible to eliminate manual scavenging unless we create the right technologies.
1. **Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board** is using 70 **mini jetting machines** that can access narrow lanes and smaller colonies to clear the choked sewer pipes.
2. In **Thiruvananthapuram**, a group of engineers has designed a spider-shaped robot that cleans manholes and sewers with precision.
2. **Proper awareness and sensitization of the authorities:** It is essential that the authorities are sensitized to recognize the intensity of the issue and see the system as dehumanizing and unconstitutional.
3. **Sensitising Women** through a nationwide march to make them aware of their right to live with dignity and assure them of 'sustainable freedom', by providing an alternative livelihood option.
4. That the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** and the **Supreme Court's judgment of 2014** should be duly implemented and applied in all cases of sewer/septic tank deaths.
5. Target driven approach to measure the success of the sanitation policy
6. The underlying caste-based attitude to sanitation work and workers should be identified and strong action taken against it.

Conclusion:

To eradicate the profession of manual scavenging, it is important to provide these people with **alternate professions**. The government could start by giving specific training for vocations like plumbing, gardening etc to those involved in manual scavenging.

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

Discuss the pros and cons of Daylight savings time. (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Why the question:

The article brings to us the positive and negative implications of the concept of daylight savings times.

Key Demand of the question:

One must elaborate about the pros and cons of DST.

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:

Define what DST is.

Body:



DST is the practice of resetting clocks ahead by an hour in spring, and behind by an hour in autumn (or fall). It is in use during the period from spring to autumn (or fall), when Europe and the United States get an extra hour of daylight in the evening.

Discuss briefly the origin of the concept and its inception.

Suggest the positives such as; Saves energy, Longer Daylight Hours Promote Safety. Longer daylight hours make driving safer, lowers accident rates

Negatives range – It can also cause sleep loss, health problems, workplace accidents, reduced productivity, and problems for farmers.

Briefly discuss what is the change with respect to Indian time?

Conclusion:

Conclude with a fair and balanced opinion as to whether DST is good or bad and holds utility in present modern days.

Introduction:

Daylight savings time (DST) is the practice of resetting clocks ahead by an hour in spring, and behind by an hour in autumn (or fall). During these months, countries that follow this system get an extra hour of daylight in the evening. Because the spring to fall cycle is opposite in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, DST lasts from March to October/November in Europe and the US, and from September/October to April in New Zealand and Australia. DST has been used for more than 100 years. The key argument is that DST is meant to save energy.

Body:

Pros of DST:

1. **Longer Evenings:**

1. Setting the clocks forward one hour in spring does not create more daylight, but it does change the time (on the clock) the Sun rises and sets. So, when we spring forward an hour in spring, we add one hour of natural daylight to our afternoon schedule.
2. Proponents of DST argue that longer evenings motivate people to get out of the house. The extra hour of daylight can be used for outdoor recreation like golf, soccer, baseball, running, etc. That way, DST may counteract the sedentary lifestyle of modern living.
3. The tourism industry profits from brighter evenings. Longer evenings give people more time to go shopping, to restaurants, or to other events, boosting the local economy.

2. **Less Artificial Light:**

0. One of the aims of DST is to make sure that people's active hours coincide with daylight hours so that less artificial light is needed.
 1. This makes less sense close to the equator where the amount of daylight does not vary much in a year, or near the poles where the difference between winter and summer daylight hours is very large.
 2. However, at latitudes between these extremes, adjusting daily routines to the shifting day length during summer may indeed help to save energy.
 3. A German analysis of 44 studies on energy use and DST found a positive relationship between latitude and energy savings.

3. **Lighter = Safer:**



0. Safety is one of the more solid arguments for keeping the lighter evenings of DST.
1. Studies have found that DST contributes to improved road safety by reducing pedestrian fatalities by 13% during dawn and dusk hours.
2. Another study found an 7% decrease in robberies following the spring shift to DST.

Cons of DST:

1. Doesn't Save Energy:

1. A century ago, when DST was introduced, more daylight was a good thing because it meant less use of artificial light and more energy savings.
2. Modern society, with its computers, TV-screens, and air conditioning units, uses more energy, no matter if the Sun is up or not.
3. Today, the amount of energy saved from DST is negligible.

2. Can Make People Sick:

0. Changing the time, even if it is only by one hour, disrupts our body clocks or circadian rhythm. For most people, the resulting tiredness is simply an inconvenience.
1. For some, however, the time change can have more serious consequences to their health.
2. Studies link the lack of sleep at the start of DST to car accidents, workplace injuries, suicide, and miscarriages.
3. The early evening darkness after the end of the DST period is linked to depression.

3. Costs Money:

0. It is hard to determine the economic cost of the collective tiredness caused by DST, but studies have found that there is a decrease in productivity after the spring transition.
1. The City of New York invested 1.5 million US dollars in a dusk and darkness safety campaign for the DST change for the fall of 2016.
2. There is an extra cost in building DST support into computer systems and keeping them maintained, as well as manually changing clocks.

Conclusion:

DST is in practice in some 70 countries, including those in the European Union. India does not follow daylight saving time; countries near the Equator do not experience high variations in daytime hours between seasons.

What are glacial outbursts? Discuss the concerns caused by such phenomena with suitable examples. (250 words)

Reference: [The Hindu](#)

Why the question:

The article talks about the Study of the Gya glacial lake outburst.



Key Demand of the question:

The question is based on the concept of glacial outburst and the concerns posed by them.

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:

Start by explaining what glacial outbursts are.

Body:

A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) is a type of outburst flood that occurs when the dam containing a glacial lake fails. The dam can consist of glacier ice or a terminal moraine.

Failure can happen due to erosion, a buildup of water pressure, an avalanche of rock or heavy snow, an earthquake or massive displacement of water in a glacial lake when a large portion of an adjacent glacier collapses into it.

Discuss the concerns and threats posed by such a glacial outburst, present the case of Gya lake outburst.

Conclusion:

Conclude with solutions to address the problem such as early warning system, better land planning etc.

Introduction:

A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) is a release of meltwater from a moraine- or ice-dam glacial lake due to dam failure. GLOFs often result in catastrophic flooding downstream, with major geomorphic and socioeconomic impacts.

Glacial lakes form when a glacier retreats, leaving the debris mass at the end of the glacier – the end moraine – exposed. The moraine wall can act as a natural dam, trapping the meltwater from the glacier and leading to the formation of a lake. The moraine dams are composed of unconsolidated boulders, gravel, sand, and silt. As with landslide dams, they can eventually break catastrophically, leading to a glacial lake outburst flood or GLOF.

Body:

In August 2014, a glacial lake outburst flood hit the village of Gya in Ladakh, destroying houses, fields and bridges.

GLOFs have three main features:

1. They involve sudden (and sometimes cyclic) releases of water.
2. They tend to be rapid events, lasting hours to days.
3. They result in large downstream river discharges (which often increase by an order of magnitude).

The following **direct causes of glacial lake outburst floods** were documented:

1. Rapid slope movement into the lake
2. Heavy rainfall/snowmelt
3. Cascading processes (flood from a lake situated upstream)
4. Earthquake



5. Melting of ice incorporated in dam/forming the dam (including volcanic activity-triggered jökulhlaups)
6. Blocking of subsurface outflow tunnels (applies only to lakes without surface outflow or lakes with a combination of surface and subsurface outflow)
7. Long-term dam degradation

Concerns caused by such phenomena:

1. **Global warming:** Given that the thawing of ice cores is expected to accelerate in the future due to global climate change, it is almost certain that other glacial lake outburst floods will happen all over the Indian Himalaya.
2. **Unsustainable development process:** It is important to note that not all glacial lake outbursts have catastrophic outcomes. It largely depends on urban planning, the size of the lake, the distance between the lake and affected villages, the valley section etc. The unsustainable development process in these areas will only increase the hazard potential of glacial lake outbursts.

Way forward:

1. **Early warning system:** There is an urgent need to use multiple methods for better risk assessment and early warning. It is important to regularly monitor lake development and dynamics. This approach could help limit the damages caused by the glacial lake outburst events.
2. **Better land planning:** Further development processes in these ecologically fragile areas should be guided by better land-use planning.

Conclusion:

Equally, glacial lakes are an important potential natural resource for water supply, which has yet to be effectively investigated. Glacial lakes may offer considerable benefits to local community. They can provide a natural storage facility for water as water supplies becoming increasingly scarce, they are a focus for tourist activities, and they often have a high cultural significance. Thus they need to be looked after and managed in a controlled way that reduces any threat while helping the potential benefits to be realised.

Discuss the cause of origin of north-eastern monsoons and their impact on Indian economy in case of excess and deficit north-eastern monsoons. Why is it subdued this year? (250 words)

Reference: [Indian Express](#)

Introduction:

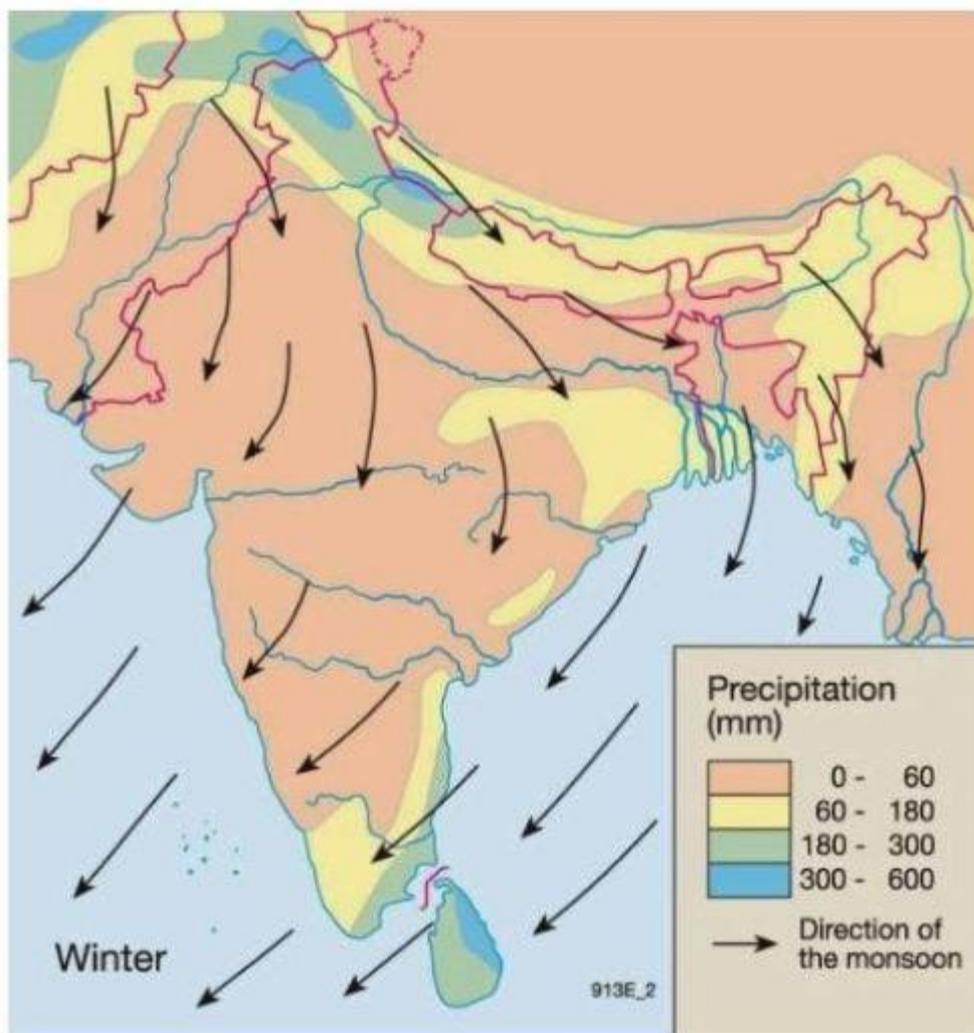
Retreating monsoon season commences with the beginning of the withdrawal of the south-west monsoon [mid-September – November] and lasts till early January. It is a 3-month long process where it starts from the peninsula in October and from the extreme south-eastern tip by December. The south-west monsoons withdraw from the Coromandel coast in mid-December. In Punjab, the south-west monsoons withdraw from there in the second week of September. Unlike the sudden burst of the advancing monsoons, the withdrawal is rather gradual and takes about three months.

Body:

Phenomenon:



1. The retreat takes place due to the weakening of the low-pressure area over the north-western parts of India (and thus a gradual transition of ITCZ towards the south).
2. This is due to the apparent shift of sun towards the equator and Reduction in temperature due to widespread rains.
3. With retreat of the monsoons, the clouds disappear and the sky becomes clear. The day temperature starts falling steeply.
4. Monsoon rains weakens all over India except few south eastern states.
5. Monsoon trough weakens and gradually shifts south wards
6. Most severe and devastating tropical cyclones originate in the Indian seas especially in the Bay of Bengal due to retreating monsoons.
7. Direction of winds is from North west to south east and Winds blow from surface to sea there by carrying no moisture.



Importance of retreating monsoon:



1. The northeast monsoon season brings rainfall to just five of the 36 meteorological divisions in the country — Tamil Nadu (which includes Puducherry), Kerala, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and South Interior Karnataka.
2. The northeast monsoon is particularly important for Tamil Nadu, which receives almost half its annual rainfall (438 mm of the annual 914.4 mm) during this season. The southwest monsoon contributes just 35 per cent to Tamil Nadu's annual rainfall.
3. Unlike the rest of the country, which receives rain in the southwest monsoon season between June and September, the northeast monsoon is crucial for farming and water security in the south.
4. It is important for the Rabi crops in the south-eastern region of India.
5. The retreating southwest monsoon season is marked by clear skies and rise in temperature.
6. The land is still moist. Owing to the conditions of high temperature and humidity, the weather becomes rather oppressive. This is commonly known as the 'October heat'. The delay in retreating monsoon could further aggravate the heat.
7. Low pressure trough shifts to Bay of Bengal. They give rise to cyclonic depressions which cause havoc on the eastern coasts-especially the coasts of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with very strong storms and rains. The delay could lead to increased incidences of cyclones and depressions.

Reasons for subdued North Eastern monsoon:

1. Prevalent La Niña condition, along with a low pressure belt that is currently lying to the north of its normal position.
2. The current position of the Inter Tropical Convective Zone (ITCZ).
3. While La Niña conditions enhance the rainfall associated with the Southwest monsoon, it has a negative impact on rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon.
4. During La Niña years, the synoptic systems — low pressure or cyclones — formed in the Bay of Bengal remain significantly to the north of their normal position.
5. Besides, instead of moving westwards, these systems recurve. As they lie to the north of their normal position, not much rainfall occurs over southern regions like Tamil Nadu.

Conclusion:

Monsoon is the **lifeline of Indian economy** as 2/3rd of it depends on farm income and rain is the only source of irrigation for over 40% of the country's cropped area. A good monsoon increases crop productivity, raises farm income and drives the economy while, a weak monsoon inflates food prices and harms the economy. Thus, the retreating monsoon plays a vital role in the water security of the south-eastern region of India

What do you understand by 'recurving of cyclones'? Discuss with recent examples and also focus the factors supporting such events. (250 words)

Reference: [The Hindu](#)

Why the question:



Recently Scientists have revealed that re-curving cyclones play an important role in sensing the movement of cyclones, thus the question.

Key Demand of the question:

Explain what you understand by ‘recurving of cyclones’ and discuss with recent examples and also focus the factors supporting such events.

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:

One can start with the definition of ‘recurving of cyclones’.

Body:

Explain in detail the key features of it; on its way to diminish if cyclone gets a sort of second wind by deflected right or eastwards is known as re-curving cyclones. This is due to air currents in the local atmosphere that push cold air from the poles towards the equator and interfere with cyclone formation.

In the southern hemisphere, the cyclones spin clockwise and therefore also re-curve in the opposite direction. During the monsoon months, cyclones in the Western Pacific move westwards towards India and aid the associated rain-bearing systems over the country. However, in the years of a re-curve, they do not give as much of a push to the rain as they do in the good monsoon years.

One can present the example of cyclone Ockhi; present details and explain the effects of recurving.

Conclusion:

Conclude by discussing its implications and suggest solutions to address the same.

Introduction:

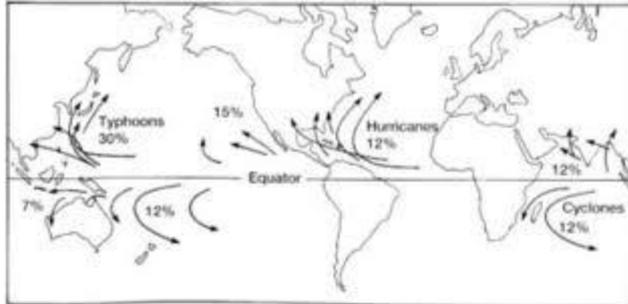
In Northern Hemisphere, recurvature of a tropical cyclone is defined as the situation when a tropical cyclone transits from a mainly westward track to a northward and sometimes even an eastward track.

Body:

1. **Recurving of cyclones:**
2. On its way to diminish if cyclone gets a sort of second wind by deflected right or eastwards is known as re-curving cyclones.
3. This is due to air currents in the local atmosphere that push cold air from the poles towards the equator and interfere with cyclone formation.
4. In the southern hemisphere, the cyclones spin clockwise and therefore also re-curve in the opposite direction.



5. During the monsoon months, cyclones in the Western Pacific move westwards towards India and aid the associated rain-bearing systems over the country.
6. However, in the years of a re-curve, they do not give as much of a push to the rain as they do in the good monsoon years.



1. **Recurving of cyclones: relevance with Ockhi cyclone and Mora cyclone**
2. A challenge with re-curving cyclones is that it is hard for weather models to pick them early on as was the case with Ockhi.
3. August rains in India was dampened, which was 13% short of Cyclone Ockhi.
4. The whirlwind that arose in the Bay of Bengal and revved up over Sri Lanka was expected to pass over Lakshadweep and then ease into the Arabian Sea, far away from India's west coast.
5. However, the cyclone ended up sharply swerving into parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
6. It did not blow in very strongly because there it had not gained as much moisture from the Arabian Sea like it had over the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean boundary.
7. And though it wreaked havoc in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and destroyed several beaches in Goa when it curved back to the land.
8. cyclone Mora formed over the Bay of Bengal in May 2017.
9. It rapidly strengthened with the India Meteorological Department classifying it as a "depression" and eventually as a cyclonic storm.
10. It kept north, almost parallel to the Myanmar coast and then made landfall in Bangladesh and blew over Nagaland.
11. In a re-curving cyclone, the cyclone gets a sort of second wind when it is on the wane.

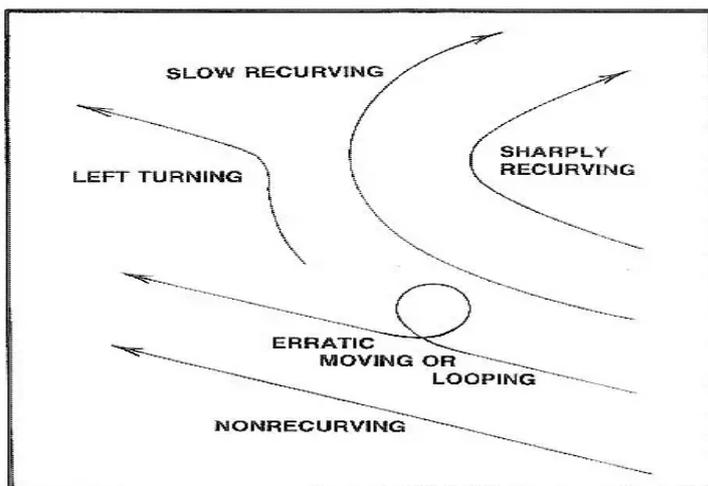


Figure 4.5. Five types of tropical cyclone tracks.

1. Impact of Re-curving cyclones on monsoon

2. During the monsoon months, cyclones in the Western Pacific move westwards towards India and aid the associated rain-bearing systems over the country.

3. However, in the years of a re-curve, they do not give as much of a push to the rain as they do in the good monsoon years.

4. Long-term data suggest that while there has been an increase in the number of tropical cyclones in India's neighborhood there is no clear trend in re-curving ones.

5. In general, cyclone activity in India peaks around November, by which time, the summer monsoon has already passed.

6. Rarely do re-curving cyclones pose a mortal threat to Indian coasts and Cyclone Ockhi raised hackles because it had already left a certain amount of damage and threatened Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Conclusion:

As climate change is projected to increase the frequency of extreme events, scientists have warned that tropical cyclones are likely to get more intense, and this could mean more scrutiny of re-curving ones. A challenge with re-curving cyclones is that it is hard for weather models to pick them early on and so they pose unique challenges in terms of hazard preparedness and disaster management.



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