

1. The economic life in 18th century India had imprints of the contemporary political scenario of the country. Examine.

Note: Many students failed to understand the theme of the question. Those who understood focused more on economic aspects rather than political events. Here the flow of Ideas should be from Political events to economic impact.

Key Political events of eighteenth century India:

- Decline of Mughal Empire, war of succession, rise of nobility.
- Formation of Independent states, eg. Hyderabad.
- Attack of Ahmad Nadir Shah in 1739.
- Establishment of firm roots of European powers.
- Rise and Fall of Marathas.
- Battle of Plassey, Battle of Buxar, British control over Bengal.
- Diwani rights to British over Bengal, Assam and Orissa.
- Policy of Dual government by Lord Clive.
- The answer should be focused around these events and consequent economic impact in different regions and on eighteenth century India as a whole,
- Increase of International trade and subsequent decline and one sided trade.
- Ruin of agriculture, change in cultivation pattern, shift towards cash crops .
- Destruction of traditional business centers and de industrialization.
- Rising taxation demands .
- Impact on farmers and artisans etc.
- As the question is about examining it is also required to see some positive economic developments as well,
- Agricultural prosperity in independent princely states.
- Rise of port led trade.
- Increase in international trade and more reach of Indian products in Global markets.
- Rising income and increased trade in stable princely states, eg. Awadh.
- Establishment of new centers of trade, big markets and cities, eg Surat.

Conclusion:

Write about the interwoven relationship of politics and economy, few hints about the consequent economic ruin under full British control in later centuries and conclude accordingly.

Best Answer: Bhawana

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2. Wellesley is known for his expansionist policies in India. Discuss the instruments employed by him to achieve this end.

Introduction:

The large-scale expansion of British rule in India occurred during the Governor-Generalship of Lord Wellesley who came to India in 1798 at a time when the British were locked in a life-and-death struggle with France all over the world. Till then, the British had followed the policy of consolidating their gains and resources in India and making territorial gains only when this could be done safely without antagonising the major Indian powers. Lord Wellesley decided that the time was ripe for bringing as many Indian states as possible under British control. By 1797 the two strongest Indian powers, Mysore and the Marathas, had declined in power. Political conditions in India were propitious for a policy of expansion: aggression was easy as well as profitable.

Main body:

To achieve his political aims Wellesley relied on following methods:

- 1) The system of Subsidiary Alliances- Those native princes or rulers who would enter into Subsidiary Alliance would not be free to declare war against any other power, nor enter into negotiations with, any power, native or otherwise without the consent of the English. Under his Subsidiary Alliance system, the ruler of the allying Indian state was compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force within his territory and to pay a subsidy for its maintenance. All this was done allegedly for his protection but was, in fact, a form through which the Indian ruler paid tribute to the Company. Sometimes the ruler ceded part of his territory instead of paying annual subsidy. The treaty was signed with the Nizam of Hyderabad in 1798 and 1800. The Nawab of Awadh was forced to sign a Subsidiary Treaty in 1801.
- 2) Outright war- Lord Wellesley defeated Tipu Sultan in 4th Mysore War and the Marathas in Anglo Maratha war and concluded alliance with them. With these wars the influence of French in India was permanently damaged
- 3) The assumption of the territories of previously subordinated rulers.
- 4) Wellesley not only occupied territories but also planned to consolidate them. He therefore established a college at Fort William for training up the newly appointed officers of the Company who came from England without any experience or knowledge of the Indian affairs.

Conclusion:

Victories in Wars, control in Internal /External Affairs, Diplomacy etc helped EIC to have a good hold over Indian territory and thus EIC became paramount power in India and Wellesley became one of the greatest Empire Builders that England had ever produced.

Best answer: yatdal

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Best answer: immortal

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3. The relation between the East India Company and the British Parliament was never a smooth one. Do you agree. Examine the evolution of this relationship and also discuss the factors that brought about significant changes in that relationship.

- **Evolution of the relationship:**

1. In 1773 when company approached the government for loan, Parliament used this opportunity to get control over company by passing Regulating Act of 1773.
2. Pitts India Act in 1784 was passed separating management of company's administrative and commercial activities.
3. 1813 Charter Act asserted 'undoubted sovereignty' of the crown over the Indian territories.
4. 1833 Charter Act ended company's monopoly over trade with India. Only trade in tea and trade with China was retained as company monopoly.
5. After 1857 rebellion, under the Government of India Act 1858, the British crown took over the company possessions and company was abolished.

- **Factors that were responsible for changes in relationship:**

1. East India company is a trading company, which took a charter to trade exclusively with India in 1600 from the British. The British government was losing lot of gold and silver due to the trade with India. This had put the government at crossroads with EIC.

2. The Britishers also complained of excessive imports from India, especially that of cotton, as it was affecting their livelihood. Import tariffs were also thus placed with sores the relations.
3. Trade with India could only be carried out with East India Company, this caused lot of resentment among Mercantile Class in London
4. The activities of company official who gained wealth in India and used it for luxurious lives in London attracted resentment and jealousy. Some even used this wealth to gain political influence by buying their way into Parliament.

Best Answer: Red fang.

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4. Why the nationalist movement during 1885 to 1905 is branded as the moderate phase? Discuss. Did the moderate phase achieve any success? Critically examine.

Why 1885-1905 is termed as Moderate Phase?

The period between foundation of Congress (1885) and partition of Bengal (1905) is known as moderate period of Indian national movement because of the approach adopted by the leaders of Congress was fairly moderate in nature and objective.

- 1.They neither desired complete independence nor adopted any aggressive attitude.
- 2.They relied on petition, prayer, and moderate criticism of government policies as their methods.
- 3.They believed that just by drawing attention of the government towards a particular problem e.g. lack of Indian representation in executive council and civil services, less budgetary provision for social goods, the government would address their problem.
- 4.They would not oppose the government through violent confrontation instead believed in working side-by-side and within the government.

Success of Moderates

Their efforts succeed in following ways:

- 1) They worked intensively to expose the true nature of British rule. Work on Economic drain by Dadabhai Naoroji etc. created a big impact in understanding the British rule.
- 2) They used press to generate positive opinions.
- 3) They succeeded in gaining sympathy for Indian cause in Britain. Naoroji even became Member of British Parliament.
- 4) As a result British allowed various concessions and reforms such as allowing more representation of Indians in law making bodies, discussion of some part of Budgets etc. There were possible by Indian Council Act passed 1892 by the British Parliament.
- 5) Their Demand for Indianisation of administration led to constitution of Aitchison Commission.
- 6) They pressured government to lessen land revenue demands and were instrumental in famine code declaration.
- 7) They helped to arouse nationalist feeling and to bring political consciousness throughout country by organizing INC sessions in different regions and cities.

However it failed to,

1. Arouse nationalism and unity at grass roots, masses were not aligned to this phase.
2. Identify the true nature of colonial rule initially.
3. Accommodate social reforms as part of struggle and gave importance to political reforms
4. Congress Party was a forum for elites like lawyers and journalists.
5. The British were successful in containing them by allowing minimal reforms without bringing any strong changes.

Conclusion

It is the work of the moderates that created a strong base for later national leaders like Lal-Bal-Pal, Mahatma Gandhi etc. to build a national movement. Their work on Drain of Wealth etc., expansion of press and creating public opinion had significant impact in due course of National Movement.

Best answer: Bhawana

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5. Getting rid of the ills of caste system, improving the status of women and drive towards modern education were the central pillars of 19th century reforms. Discuss.

Introduction:

The inflow of western ideologies of liberty, equality and fraternity led to the phase of Renaissance of the Indian society. 19th century reform movement was directed against ill, socially conservative and orthodox religious practices of the society. Social reformers and political leaders worked together to remove these social ills – as it not only reformed society but brought sense of commonness and thereby nationalism.

Getting rid of the ills of the caste system:

- Caste was seen as a divisive force which had no moral basis. Progressive liberals like Raja Ram Roy, Justice Ranade, and even conservatives like Dayanand Saraswati set up institutions like Brahmo Samaj, Prarthna Samaj and Arya Samaj where caste disabilities were opposed and inter caste marriage was supported.
- The Arya Samaj rejected the hereditary caste system. They called for “Back to Vedas” to bring back the golden age of Varnashram where Varnas were based on occupations, not birth.
- Jyoti ba phule was an important reformer who fought against the caste discriminations. He founded Satya Shodak Samaj for organising the struggle.
- Caste Disabilities Act 1850 was passed by Lord Dalhousie.
- It must be highlighted that these reforms were result of progressive thinking of few individuals and a big section of conservatives were yet to lend their support.
- Reason for reform was either rooted in Human development (like Raja Ram Roy) or to protect Hinduism from outside influence (for conservatives).

The inclusion of members from all castes and religions by INC was the resultant of these reform movements. These efforts were fruitful in enlightening the people and their demands for better treatment leading to inclusion of Schedules 5 and 6 for tribal and lower castes and Article 17 for abolishing untouchability.

Improving the status of women:

- Consistent efforts by Ram Mohan Roy led to the ‘Abolition of sati’.
- Of Vidya Sagar led to invalidating of female infanticide in 1856.

- Widow remarriages were encouraged by Dayanand Saraswati, Veerese lingam Panthulu etc to improve the status of widowed woman.
- Widow remarriage Act, 1856 by Dalhousie, Female Infanticide Act passed by Lord Mayo – shows that British too took efforts.
- Woman education was promoted by establishing schools and colleges. Vidyasagar established schools for girls education.
- Social illiberal practices such as illiteracy of girl, injunctions on widows were targeted by Rammohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Kesub Chandra Sen etc.
- Women organisations also sprung up – Mahila Samaj by P. Ramabai and Sharda Sadan – to rehabilitate widows. This shows some women started taking up their concerns on their own which was earlier initiated by progressive male reformers.

Driving towards modern education:

- Reformists like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshab Sen, Jyothiba Phule etc. drew positive influences from modern English education and were instrumental in educating the Indians and at the same time pleading government for legislative reforms to empower the vulnerable.
- The modern education was seen as prime force in bringing about this social change. Few reformers themselves were western educated and believed that only education would rescue India from its social evils.
- Schools and colleges were set up on modern lines to imbibe rationalism in people. Reformers even used journals and newspapers to educate masses.
- Education in 19th century had no scientific basis and was based age old religious scriptures. Company needed english learned men to work under Britishers. Macaulay minute was the first step to introduce education on rational and scientific lines. Later on woods dispatch argued for focus on primary education, setting up colleges like Calcutta college. It also asked for providing women education. University of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were founded in 1857.
- Nationalists like those from Arya samaj set up DAV and Gurukul, then Vivekananda set up Ramkrishna Mission, and Sir Syed Ali set up Aligarh University. Their focus was to build character and infuse nationalistic feelings.

Conclusion:

Thus women emancipation, getting rid of caste discriminations and encouraging modern education were the central pillars of 19th century reforms that laid a good foundation for unification of the country for the purpose of later independence struggle.

Best answer: Abhijit(ABG)

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6. The Champaran Satyagraha catapulted Mahatma Gandhi as the true leader of the Indian national movement. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Gandhiji returned to India in 1915, he was already made famous by the Indian press which had spread his stories about the successful idea of Satyagraha in South Africa. On His return, he established an ashram near Ahmedabad.

- **Champaran Satyagraha: The Event:**
- Gandhi heard about an obnoxious system of agricultural labour prevailing in Bihar. In the Champaran district of Bihar, the cultivators were forced by Europeans to grow indigo, a blue dye, and this imposed on them untold sufferings. They could not grow the food they needed, nor did they receive adequate payment for the indigo.
- Gandhi was unaware of this until an agriculturist from Bihar, Rajkumar Shukla, met him and told him of the woes of the people of Champaran. He requested Gandhi to go to the place and see for himself the state of affairs there.
- Gandhi went to Champaran with Rajkumar early in 1917. On his arrival the District Magistrate served him with a notice saying that he was not to remain in the district of Champaran, Gandhi refused to leave Champaran and was arrested.
- Later, The Government withdrew the case against Gandhi and allowed him to remain in the district. Gandhi stayed there to study the grievances of the peasants.
- He visited many villages. He cross-examined about 8,000 cultivators and recorded their statements. In this way he arrived at an exact understanding of their grievance and the causes underlying them.

- He set up voluntary organizations to improve the economic and educational conditions of the people. They opened schools and also taught the people how to improve sanitation.
- The government realized Gandhi's strength and his devotion to causes. They themselves then set upon a committee to enquire into the grievances of the cultivators. They invited Gandhi to serve on that committee, and he agreed. The result was that within a few months the Champaran Agrarian Bill was passed. It gave great relief to the cultivators and land tenants.
- **Analysis: Why it propelled Gandhi as a Leader.**
 1. Justice: Gandhiji Initiated the Satyagraha, to get Justice for the farmers, who were on account of their ignorance, being exploited by the english plantation owners.
 2. Selflessness: Gandhiji was ready to go to prison and face a trail before the magistrate for the people he had never met before. This created lot of public support in his favor.
 3. Non-Violence: Gandhi refused to leave Champaran and even protected the policemen from the angry villagers, and requested them to desist violence. This created awe even within the policemen
 4. Leadership: Gandhi himself took up the responsibility of training the satyagrahis. He trained and disciplined them for the struggle.
 5. Leading by example: Gandhi always sled by examples, he believed that when the laws are unjust, one must break the law, refusing to obey the magistrate, for what he believed was a just cause, set the precedent for the future struggles.

Best Answer: Kartik

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7. The Government of India Act, 1935 is the watershed of India's constitutional history. Critically examine.

Introduction

Government of India act, 1935 is argued as a watershed in Indian constitution as it introduced various vital provisions. The argument stands more valid when viewed retrospectively because of significant features adopted from this act by constituent assembly. Many of the features of the Indian constitution are if not directly borrowed but are based on the Act of 1935.

Main Body

The major features which formed the part of the Indian constitution were:

1. It provided for an all India federation with the inclusion of princely states in the federation. Though it did not succeed, yet it formed the basis of the federal structure of the present constitution.
2. It was the first act with a definite preamble. The idea of preamble that is the soul of the constitution was inspired from it.
3. The division of subjects into Federal, Provincial and Concurrent list can be attributed to GOI Act 1935 which provided the division of power.
4. Post of Governor, the setup of Public Service Commission, Reserve bank of India, emergency provisions , setting up of Federal Court were taken from this act.
5. This act extended the limited franchise based on certain criteria laying foundation for adult franchise after independence.
6. This act from the bedrock of the administrative details which are mentioned in our present constitution. These details helped the fathers of the constitution make a smooth transition from the colonial system to the Indian system without any major difficulty

This act also had certain limitations and drawbacks,

1. The residuary power vested with the governor general.
2. The diarchy was introduced at the centre.
3. The system of communal representation still continued which furthered the agenda of divide and rule of British.
4. Governor General could issue ordinances thus bypassing the legislature.
5. Important subjects concerning defence and communication was exclusive to governor general.
6. The act failed to provide Fundamental rights and protection of civil liberties to Indians.

7. The federation envisioned by this act never came into existence due to difference among princes with British.
8. The right to vote was limited to nearly 10% of population only.

Indian constitution has changed and evolved with time. There have been other significant acts and events which too played a major part such as:

1. The Nehru Report of 1929 was like a mini constitution which provided a lot of essential features like fundamental rights, structure of legislature, nature of government whose experiences later helped in the constitution formation.
2. The various Regulating Acts, Government of India Acts paved way for political enlightenment of the Indians.
3. the 42 and 44th constitutional amendment acts are another important period in the constitutional history of India as they altered and restored respectively the spine of the constitution.

Conclusion

Hence it can be safely said that the GOI Act 1935 provided the foundation and the experience to the Indians to develop a beautiful constitution that could cater and respond to the needs and requirement of the diverse nature of the country like India. It was indeed a watershed moment in Indian constitutional history.

Best answer: NKY

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8. Who were 'swarajists'? What did they want to achieve? Did they succeed?

Who were the swarajists?

The withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922 led to demoralisation in the nationalist ranks. Serious differences arose among the leaders who had to decide how to prevent the movement from lapsing into passivity.

One school of thought headed by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru advocated a new line of political activity under the changed conditions. They said that nationalists should end the boycott of the Legislative Councils.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr Ansari, Babu Rajendra Prasad and others, known as 'no-changers', opposed Council entry. They warned that legislative politics would lead to neglect of work among the masses, weaken nationalist fervour and create rivalries among the leaders. They, therefore, continued to emphasise the constructive programme of spinning, temperance, Hindu-Muslim unity, removal of untouchability and grassroots work in the villages and among the poor.

Thus, the Congress was divided internally into Swarajists and No-changers. The Swarajists formed a new party called the Swaraj Party in 1923 under the leadership of Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das. The Swarajists opposed the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement and the boycott of the legislative Assembly by the Congress Party.

Objectives of Swarajists:

- It decided to take part in elections and ending boycott of legislative assemblies.
- Obstruct the working of legislature according to official plans. expose their weaknesses, transform them into arenas of political struggle and thus use them to arouse public enthusiasm.
- The Swaraj Party declared that the national demand for self-government would be presented in councils. In case of the rejection of the demand of its elected members, their policy would be to uniformly and consistently obstruct within the councils.

Evaluating their success:

Even though the Swarajists had little time for preparations, they did very well in the election of November 1923. They won 42 seats out of the 101 elected seats in the Central Legislative Assembly.

They succeeded in following areas:

- The Swaraj Party kept the light of nationalism burning even after the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Having entered into the legislature the Swaraj Party created eagerness for parliamentary democracy among the people.
- They made diarchy unworkable in the provinces. It was due to their obstructionist policies that the government in the councils was forced to appoint the Simon Commission.

- With coalition partners, they outvoted the Government several times, even on matters relating to budgetary grants, and passed adjournment motions.. They agitated through powerful speeches on questions of self-government, civil liberties and industrial development.
- In March 1925, they succeeded in electing Vithalbai Patel as the president (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly.
- They filled the political void at a time when the national movement was recouping its strength. They also exposed the hollowness of the Reform Act of 1919.
- They could establish Hindu-Muslim unity during the period.
- A noteworthy achievement was the defeat of the Public Safety Bill in 1928 which was aimed at empowering the Government to deport undesirable and subversive foreigners

Limited success:

The Swarajists failed to change the policies of the authoritarian Government of India and found it necessary to walk out of the Central Assembly first in March 1926 and then in January 1930.

By 1924, the Swarajist position had weakened because of widespread communal riots, split among Swarajists themselves on communal and Responsivist, Non-responsivist lines; the death of C.R. Das in 1925 weakened it further.

Conclusion:

The Swarajists can thus be said to have achieved limited success. However, their role cannot be belittled in Indian national movement.

Best answer: Tshrt

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Best answer: Palash Luthra

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9. That the English left the country not because of the mighty resistance that they were facing in India but due to their diminished status post WWII is often put forward as an argument. How far do you agree with it? Comment.

- **British Left because of the resistance they faced in India:**

1. The general mood during the Quit India movement and the strong resistance against the British indicated that Indians would not wait anymore for freedom. The movement was leaderless and the entire movement was carried out by people.
2. Success in the various movements in the decades before the World War 2 had already dented the supremacy of the British. They had realized that mere force was no longer the weapon to suppress the Indians
3. The deployment of various missions like Cripps, Cabinet Mission indicated that the British wanted a peaceful transition of power and future good relations with the Indians.
4. When the Indian Prisoners of War started fighting on behalf of Azad Hind Fauj, it had seriously damaged the morale of other Indian soldiers and the government could not take loyalty for granted.
5. The various non-cooperation movements, RIN mutiny, communal riots, famines and the failure of British to suppress them showed that administration was no longer under the control of the British.

- **British left India due to diminished status post WW-II:**

1. British had lost the status of world superpower and the new power centres, USA and USSR were in favor of De-colonization, Hence, they supported India's claim for independence.
2. Due to the exhaustion of its military and economic resources and the huge damage done to its trade and commerce, British could control the economy of India anymore
3. The Indians who participated in the war with the British and against the British through the INA and Japanese forces, exposed the racial and selfish nature of the British. This dented the theory that British were benevolent to India and were needed to keep it safe
4. independence movements in other colonies had made it difficult to co-ordinate troops, as simultaneous uprisings meant loss of face of the British authorities internationally.

Best Answer: RSP

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10. Discuss the locational factors of various service sector industries. Take at least examples each from North America, Europe and Asia.

Introduction

The tertiary sector or service sector is the third of the three [economic sectors](#) of the [three-sector theory](#). The others are the [secondary sector](#) (approximately the same as [manufacturing](#)), and the [primary sector](#) ([raw materials](#)).

The tertiary sector of industry involves the provision of services to other businesses as well as final consumers. Services may involve the [transport, distribution](#) and sale of goods from producer to a consumer, as may happen in [wholesaling](#) and [retailing](#), or may involve the provision of a service, such as in [pest control](#) or [entertainment](#). The goods may be transformed in the process of providing the service, as happens in the [restaurant](#) industry. However, the focus is on people interacting with people and serving the customer rather than transforming physical goods.

Main Body

Factors Influencing Location of Service sector

Several factors that influence location of service sector are,

1. Availability of Skilled Manpower.
2. Infrastructure development like Internet facilities, Roads, Transport etc
3. Availability of capital for employment and office set up.
4. Government friendly policies to encourage the service sector.
5. Presence of large land area for the development of SEZ and IT parks.
6. Level of economic development, It has been seen that countries normally transform structurally from primary to secondary to tertiary economy.
7. Presence of Market.
8. Historical reasons.

9. Suitable weather and overall climate

Hence a culmination of these factors have played a crucial role in setting up of service sector industries in different parts of the world get regional variances exist for example,

– In the US, software Industries exists in the West coast near California. This is due to large scale skilled labour in the region with many universities along with venture and angel capitalist ready to fund the industry.

– In Europe, London has emerged as the financial capital. Availability of large scale credit due to big banks along with huge market of the European Union and present very near to the GMT line which enables round the clock service availability has been major factors.

– In Asia, Indian cities like Bengaluru and NCR region has emerged as IT and BPO hub due to cheap labour availability and presence of large space for establishing office and government friendly policies like Start up India. Tourism in Middle East countries is on the rise due to governmental promotions and large scale investment.

Hence the interplay of various factors have resulted in highly specialized development of cluster of service sector industry in different parts of the world

Best Answer: Pranoti

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11. Examine the global significance of petroleum resources of the Middle East.

Introduction:

The Middle East region comprising of the Arab states, Iran, Iraq have a significant proportion of the global petroleum resources. The Persian Gulf region is one of the richest region in terms of petroleum reserves and it is this advantage that has given the power and prestige to the Gulf nations.

Global significance:

1) Economic Significance:

- Oil being a major driver of growth for a country, many countries of the world are directly dependent on middle east countries for their energy resources. The prices of petroleum products have a direct impact on the current account deficit of the nation.
- OPEC has significant control in the movement of oil prices. Fluctuations in oil prices greatly affect national economies of both major oil importing and exporting countries. Eg: Recent slump in oil prices has boosted Current Account Deficit of India(importer) whereas it has resulted in severe contraction in economies of Venezuela and Russia(exporters).
- Global Remittances: Due to high economic development by selling of oil, the Middle east region has emerged as one of the largest employers in the world and plays crucial role in global remittance market.
- The booming oil economy has resulted in large investment in tourism in these countries.
- The discovery of oil in the region coincided with the initial days of automobile industry. Availability of oil resources helped the industry to boom within no time.

2) Energy security:

- It caters to nearly 80-90% of the global oil and energy demands. Oil from this region is transported to majority of the nations of the world for meeting their oil related demands. This region thus forms the source of energy security of the world.

3) Geopolitical significance:

- Due to heavy economic dependence, the middle east nations play an important role in world geo-polity. All major countries of the world including U.S.A wants to have cordial relationship with middle east countries.
- Oil boom has made the Middle East strategically important. As a result, the major powers want to either be on friendly terms with these countries or have de facto control over their oil resources. It has even resulted in some wars like Kuwait War, Iran- Iraq War. The ongoing conflict in Syria shows how the region sometimes becomes battleground for proxy wars between powerful countries.
- The money earned and the power and prestige established from petroleum resources have made the Arab nations a significant world power. They control the global oil prices and are thus able to manipulate economic, political and diplomatic relations worldwide.

Negative repercussions:

- **Terrorism Support-** The presence of oil has resulted in large scale capital availability to many of the terrorist organizations like ISIS. The region is a hotspot for radicalization and extremism. The growth of terrorist groups in the region is a threat to the world. Hence the money cooperation and power of the Arab nations is needed to counter the threat of terrorism
- **Large scale human rights violations-** Due to huge support from many countries which are dependent on the middle east nation on their energy needs, human rights violations towards women and minority are often overlooked.
- **Environment-** The heavy depletion of petroleum reserves results in large scale burning and increase in global warming of the world.

Conclusion:

It is the need of the hour to preserve the safety and peace in the region to maintain global energy and human safety. Any instability in the region creates rise in oil prices which adversely affects economies of nations. Hence energy security should be complemented by territorial and political stability. The thriving Islamic fundamentalism poses security threats. Even though oil plays major role in shaping the social and political relations yet recently due to large scale importance being given to renewables and new resources like shale gas, the importance of oil from middle east is on the decline.

Best answer: uma sarma

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12. What are rare earth metals? What are their applications? Also discuss their distributional patterns and associated global politics.

- **What are rare earth metals:**

Rare earth elements or rare earth metals are a group of seventeen elements in the Periodic Table including Scandium, Yttrium and 15 Lanthanoids with Z ranging continuously from 57 to 71.

Rare earth elements are not as “rare” as their name implies. These metals are very difficult to mine because it is unusual to find them in concentrations high enough for economical extraction.

Because of their unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties, these elements help make many technologies perform with reduced weight, reduced emissions, and energy consumption; or give them greater efficiency, performance, miniaturization, speed, durability, and thermal stability.

- **Applications:**

1. Electronics: Television screens, computers, cell phones, silicon chips, monitor displays, long-life rechargeable batteries, camera lenses, light emitting diodes (LEDs), compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), baggage scanners, marine propulsion systems.
2. Manufacturing: High strength magnets, metal alloys, stress gauges, ceramic pigments, colorants in glassware, chemical oxidizing agent, polishing powders, plastics creation, as additives for strengthening other metals, automotive catalytic converters
3. Medical Science: Portable x-ray machines, x-ray tubes, magnetic resonance imagery (MRI) contrast agents, nuclear medicine imaging, cancer treatment applications, and for genetic screening tests, medical and dental lasers.
4. Technology: Lasers, optical glass, fiber optics, masers, radar detection devices, nuclear fuel rods, mercury-vapor lamps, highly reflective glass, computer memory, nuclear batteries, high temperature superconductors.
5. Renewable Energy: Solar panels, Hybrid automobiles, wind turbines, next generation rechargeable batteries, biofuel catalysts.
6. In Defence: Rare earth elements play an essential role in our national defense. The military uses night-vision goggles, precision-guided weapons, communications equipment, GPS equipment, batteries and other defense electronics. These give the United States military an enormous advantage. Rare earth metals are key ingredients for making the very hard alloys used in armored vehicles and projectiles that shatter upon impact.

- **Distribution:**

Rare earth minerals occur in the form of bastnaesite, monazite and xenotime and some other minerals. As shown in the U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, February 2014, REE reserves worldwide total 140 million tonnes. They are distributed mainly in China (55 million tonnes), the United States (13 million tonnes), India (3.1 million tonnes), Australia (2.1

million tonnes), Brazil (2.2 million tonnes), Malaysia (30,000 tonnes), Russia, Egypt, Canada, South Africa and other countries.

- **Geo-politics:**

1. China which produces over 97% of the world's rare earth metals enjoys monopoly and is actively exploiting this to maintain its lead position.
2. In 2012, China restricted the export of rare earth metals to Japan in response to the islands dispute. Japan which is one of the largest users of rare earth metals had to look for other suppliers at significantly higher prices.
3. Excessive supply by China had led to closing of rare earth mines in USA, which were also facing environmental restrictions, less environment laws and supply of labour propelled China to leadership position.
4. India has been importing rare earth metals from China, but it is also looking for other suppliers to ensure supply if China imposes any trade restrictions. In this regard it has signed a supply agreement with Mongolia.
5. USA is planning to re-open its mines, for reasons of national security, as some of these minerals are used in nuclear and space applications.
6. Australia and Canada are also working on opening local mines to extract these minerals.
7. Many countries have complained to the WTO against China for following unfair trade practices which are detrimental to mining and trade of other countries.

Best Answer: Dhruv.

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