

1. Assess the potential of rural tourism in India. What measures and precautions should be taken to promote rural tourism? Discuss.

Introduction:

Rural Tourism is any form of tourism that showcases the rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations, thereby benefiting the local community economically and socially as well as enabling interaction between the tourists and the locals for a more enriching tourism experience.

Body

The development of a strong platform around the concept of Rural Tourism is definitely useful for a country like India, where almost 74% of the population resides in its 7 million villages.

Potential in India:

- Cultural wealth- Numerous local traditions like plays, art forms, dances etc. enhance the cultural wealth of rural areas, making these attractive for the tourists.
- Natural wealth- Lush green forests in south Indian villages, sacred groves etc. make them an ideal site to promote tourism.
- Peace and serenity in the countryside can offer a relaxing experience.
- The stresses of Urban lifestyles have led to a “counter-urbanization” syndrome, which has led to growing interest in the rural areas.
- Improved infrastructure and connectivity of rural India can improve tourist footfall.
- Growing trend of short-break holidays, rural areas being near to cities can easily provide for great tourism destinations.

Measures to promote tourism:

- Identification of strength's of villages in different states and introduction of customised trips like Cultural and Heritage walk in Rajasthan, Tribal tours in North-East India.
- Promoting Farm and home stays to provide local and humane touch to tourists.
- Development of infrastructure and convergence among various government initiatives.
- Train villagers to address foreign tourists.
- Exposing tourists to basic works in village like milking cows, making pottery and handicrafts etc.
- Adoption each potential site by a Member of Parliament.
- Involvement of NGOs for promotion of culture.
- Marketing of clusters of villages.
- FDI or Private investment to introduces latest technology
- Government initiatives to support the young entrepreneurs by providing loans.

Precautions:

- Safety of tourists, especially females should be ensured.
- Adequate finances must be devolved to the Gramsabha for maintenance of basic infrastructure.
- Training of villagers to avoid any kind of hostility towards tourists.
- Adequate healthcare facilities must be provided.
- Environment impact of increased number of tourists must be assessed.

Conclusion

Rural Tourism models of States like Kerala (Back water Spots), Karnataka (Forest Tourism spots), Tamil Nadu (Temple Tourism of villages) etc. must be replicated in other areas. Government initiatives of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD will help develop tourist circuits on principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

Best answer: Akanksha srivastav

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2. What are world heritage sites? How do they get selected? Can you name at least 5 such sites from India? Also discuss their cultural significance.

Introduction:

World Heritage Sites are sites that are listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that are of special, cultural or physical significance and heritage. These sites around the world are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity and belonging to the international community.

Background

The World Heritage Sites are identified, protected and preserved according to the international treaty called The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972. These sites are considered under a list maintained by the International World Heritage Programme administered by UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Body

Selection criteria for the sites:

To be selected, the sites nominated by each country should be of outstanding value and meet at least one of the ten criteria.

- To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization this is living or which has disappeared;
- To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape this illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

(Note: Need not remember all the points verbatim, but can write the points in a simple manner.)

There are 37 UNESCO WHS in India, including 29 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed heritage.

- Taj Mahal, Agra: located on the right bank of the Yamuna River in a vast Mughal garden, It was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. The Taj Mahal is considered to be the greatest architectural achievement in the whole range of Indo-Islamic architecture.
- Ellora Caves, Maharashtra: These 34 monasteries and temples in Maharashtra dating from A.D. 600 to 1000, brings the civilization of ancient India to life. Not only is the Ellora complex a unique artistic creation and a technological exploit but, with its sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, it illustrates the spirit of tolerance that was characteristic of ancient India.

- Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai: Having become a global trading centre, the city of Mumbai implemented an ambitious urban planning project in the second half of the 19th century, creating a unique style that has been described as Indo-Deco. These two ensembles bear testimony to the unique blend between the European and Indian values over time.
- Western Ghats: An exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism is found here. It also includes some of the best representatives of tropical evergreen forests.
- Khangchendzonga National Park: Located at the heart of the Himalayan range in northern India (State of Sikkim), the Khangchendzonga National Park includes a unique diversity of plains, valleys, lakes, glaciers and spectacular, snow-capped mountains covered with ancient forests, including the world's third highest peak, Mount Khangchendzonga.

Conclusion

Our cultural and natural heritages are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration, and must be preserved and protected as a legacy for future generations to come

Best answer: Shamim zaved

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3. The Vesara architecture epitomises the confluence of Nagara and Dravidian schools. Illustrate.

Introduction:

The architectural principles of temples in India are described in Shilpa Shastra. Shilpa Shastra mentions three main type of temple architecture – Nagara or the Northern style, the Dravida or the Southern style and the Vesara or Mixed style.

Body:

Nagara style

The style of temple architecture that became popular in northern India is known as Nagara. Nagara style was developed regionally each region manifesting its own particular qualities.

Dravida Style

Dravida style of temple architecture became popular in South India. Dravida style of temples was developed dynastically, however the major features of these temples remained common across the dynasties.

Vesara Style

In the mid-seventh century, a distinct style of temple architecture grew in Karnataka region under the patronage of Chalukya rulers. The temples in this region follow a hybridised style which combines the features of both Nagara and Dravida styles.

Similarities and differences of three styles:

Nagara	Dravida	Vesara
Northern region	Southern region	Deccan region (Between the Vindhyas and Krishna river)
Developed regionally each region manifesting its own particular qualities	Developed dynastically	Mixture of two styles Hybrid style. It was developed both regionally and dynastically.
Ground Plan: Mostly Square shaped	Ground Plan: Mostly Square shaped	Ground Plan: increasingly complex, including star like plan
Curvilinear tower (Shikhara built over garbhagriha) gradually curving inward	Pyramidal Tower (Vimana) with several stories in receding dimension	The shape of tower was Pyramidal but height was reduced (Miniature Vimanas)
Multiple Shikharas	Subsidiary shrines are either incorporated within the main temple tower, or located as distinct, separate small shrines beside the main temple.	Multiple shrines are present side by side
Squared hall	Squared hall	Squared hall
Sanctum Garbhagriha	Sanctum Garbhagriha	Sanctum Garbhagriha
Gopurams are absent	Gopurams are present	Gopurams may or may not be present
A water tank may or may not be present	A water tank is present at the front of temple from where water is drawn for sacred purposes	A water tank may or may not be present
Compound walls are absent	enclosed within a compound wall	Compound walls may or may not be present
Examples – Dashavatara temple (Deogarh), Vishwanatha temple (Khajuraho), Lakshman Temple (Khajuraho), Jagannath temple (Puri)	Examples – Shore temple (Mahabalipuram), Brihadiswara temple (Thanjavur), Meenakshi Temple (Madurai)	Examples – Badami temple, Durga Temple (Aihole), Virupaksh Temple (Pattadakal), Keshava Temple (Somnathpur)

Conclusion

From above tabular observations it can be seen that, Vesara temple architecture, besides its own features, is mixture of Dravidian and Nagara temple architectures

Best answer: Lucky Verma

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4. What are some of the most recurring themes of Indian music (both Hindustani and Carnatic schools)? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

Carnatic music is a system of music associated with the southern part of Indian sub-continent. Hindustani music is associated with North India and is deeply influenced by Persian and Islamic music system.

Body:

The most recurring themes of Indian music (both Hindustani and Carnatic Schools) are:

- **Basic elements:** swara, raga and tala as foundation of both Carnatic and Hindustani are same.
- **Association with religion:** Hindustani music originated in the Vedic period, while Carnatic music originated during the Bhakti movement.
- **Association with Vedic traditions:** Both the music evolved with Sanskrit language scripts in itself.
- **Association with melody:** The central notions in both these system is that of a melodic mode or raga, sung to a rhythmic cycle or tala.
- **Praising of god:** All the music compositions were in deep reverence to god almighty. For example, the songs on lord Krishna and radha, Goddess durga, etc.
- **Praising of king in royal courts:** All the music compositions were made to express the bravery of king's .For example in Akbar court, poets praised him by singing songs.
- **Association with dance:** Every music show was accompanied by dance performance. For example, kathak (Hindustani music) or Bharatanatyam (Carnatic music).
- **Guru – Sishya relationship:** This is the bedrock principle of Indian music fraternity. It is evident from chain of music schools or gharana in north and south India.
- **Source of entertainment:** Every music functions organized were great source for relaxing and get together.
- **To express Emotions and feelings:** Both forms of music was accompanied by rich emotions like fear, comedy, horror, sorrow and others.

Conclusion

Both Carnatic and Hindustani school of music represent the rich heritage of Indian music which must be preserved and transmitted for future generations. Both forms of music rejuvenated the people in all possible ways to carry out their daily routines in an efficient manner

Best answer: Asha Ki Kiran

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5. Nataraj, the dancing form of Lord Shiva, is a symbolic synthesis of the most important aspects of Hinduism, and the summary of the central tenets of this Vedic religion. Comment.

Introduction:

The term 'Nataraja' means 'King of Dancers'. It is a depiction of the Hindu god Shiva as the cosmic ecstatic dancer.

The pose and artwork is described in many Hindu texts such as the Anshumadbhed agama and Uttarakamika agama.

Body:**Nataraja as synthesis of important aspects and summary of central tenets of Hinduism.**

- Nataraja is shown with four hands representing the four cardinal directions (North, South, East, West). These cardinal directions are central to Hindu astrology (Vaastu Shastra).
- This cosmic dance of Shiva is called 'Ananda tandava,' meaning the Dance of Bliss which symbolizes the cosmic cycles of creation and destruction as well as the daily rhythm of birth and death.
- The dance is a pictorial allegory of the five principle manifestations of eternal energy—creation, destruction, preservation, salvation, and illusion.
- He dances within a circular or cyclically closed arch of flames (prabha mandala), which symbolically represent the cosmic fire that in Hindu cosmology creates everything and consumes everything, in cyclic existence or cycle of life.
- The fire also represents the evils, dangers, heat, warmth, light and joys of daily life. The arch of fire emerges from two makara on each end, which are water creatures and part of Hindu mythologies.

- The upper left-hand holds a flame, the lower left-hand points down to the dwarf, who is shown holding a cobra. The upper right-hand holds an hourglass drum or 'dumroo' that stands for the male-female vital principle, the lower shows the gesture of assertion: "Be without fear."
- His palm shows the Abhaya mudra (meaning fearlessness in Sanskrit), suggesting the devotee who is righteous and follows dharma need not fear the nearby evil.
- The face shows two eyes plus a slightly open third on the forehead, which symbolize the trinity in Shaivism. The eyes represent the sun, the moon and the third has been interpreted as the inner eye, or symbol of knowledge (jnana), urging the viewer to seek the inner wisdom, self-realization.
- The three eyes alternatively symbolize an equilibrium of the three Gunas: Sattva, Rajas and Tamas and is symbolic of his omniscience, insight, and enlightenment
- The dwarf on which Nataraja dances is the demon Apasmara purusha, the personification of illusion and ignorance over whom Shiva triumphs.
- On his head is a skull, which symbolizes his conquest over death.
- On his right side, meshed in with one of the flying strands of his hair near his forehead, is typically the river Ganges personified as a goddess, from the Hindu mythology where the danger of a mighty river is creatively tied to a calm river for the regeneration of life.
- The whole idol rests on a lotus pedestal, the symbol of the creative forces of the universe.

Conclusion:

Thus in Hindu mythology, it is a continual dance of creation and destruction involving the whole cosmos, the basis of all existence and of all natural phenomena unifying ancient mythology, religious art, and modern physics.

Best answer: SS

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6. What role did Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, a key figure of the Bengal Renaissance, play for the emancipation of women? Discuss.

Introduction:

Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was a 19th century intellectual. He was a Sanskrit scholar, writer, academic educator, translator, humanist pundit, publisher, printer, entrepreneur, philanthropist and social reformer. He was a British Indian Bengali polymath and the main pillar of Bengali renaissance. He was perhaps the first Indian reformer to put forward the issues of women.

Body

- **Education:** He realized that the society could not develop if women denied the values of education. He personally met the parents of girls and requesting them to send their daughter to school for education. He donated his large portion of salary to educational reforms.
- **Schools:** In 1855 he was made special inspector of schools, he opened a number of new schools, including girls' schools, in the districts under his charge. He started the first school for girl's education in Calcutta in 1849.
- **Widow Remarriage:** He played a great role in the passing of the law which made the marriage of widows legal, The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856. He argued, on the basis of scriptures and old commentaries, in favour of the remarriage of widows in the same way as Roy did for the abolition of Sati. He showed that there was no prohibition on widows remarrying in the entire body of 'Smriti' literature (the Sutras and the Shastras).
- **Child marriage:** He launched a powerful attack on the practice of marrying off girls aged 10 or even younger, pointing to social, ethical, and hygiene issues, and rejecting the validity of the Dharma Shastras that advocated it.
- **Awareness:** He wrote many articles for newspapers and associated with journalistic publications like Tattwabodhini Patrika, samprakash, sarbashubhankarr Patrika and Hindu patriot to bring social and educational reforms with regards to the women.
- **Vocational education:** He lobbied hard for opening of school for girls and even outlined suitable curriculum that not only did educate them, but also enabled them to be self-reliant through vocations like needlework.
- **Social status:** He campaigned against polygamy.
- **Tribal women:** Vidyasagar spent the last 18 years of his life living among Santhal tribals in present day Jharkhand, where he started what is possibly India's first school for Santhal girls.

Conclusion:

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was a true reformer who contributed his whole life for the betterment of the society, especially women.

Best answer: Sarkari babu

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7. The British rule in India witnessed several peasant movements. Why did peasants rebel against the British? What were the most common underlying factors? How did peasants mobilize against the rule? Discuss.

Introduction:

Agriculture being a very important source of revenue during the British Raj, peasants were the most exploited class in the Indian economy as a direct result of the transformation of the agrarian structure. The peasant movements proved to be a very important phase of Indian struggle against the oppressive British rule.

Body:

Indian peasantry was impoverished as a result of:

- Regressive taxation policies: Permanent settlement, Ryotwari systems etc.
- Ruin of traditional handicrafts leading to overcrowding of land
- Dominating interference in the forest acts, forest rights and traditional social fabric
- Distorted measures of land revenue collections etc.

Common underlying factors to the peasant movements include:

- Unreasonably high rents and protection to the landlords and moneylenders.
- Arbitrary evictions and unpaid labour.
- Exploitation of the already overburdened farmers by the Zamindars and moneylenders.
- Harsh systems of the British. E.g: Forced cultivations of Indigo crop, Sunset clause, seizure of cattle and crops due to non-payment of loans etc.,
- Transferability of land which deprived the traditional occupancy rights.
- Lack of awareness of clauses leading to sudden loss of land and work, leading to collective uprisings.

Mobilization of the peasants can be explained in 4 phases:

Peasant movements before 1857:

- The peasants during this phase organized themselves and elected their own leader.
- They collectively raised a huge army equipping themselves with primitive weapons.
- Peasants attacked courts and looted stores.
- Prominent places became the centres of mobilization.
- Examples of this phase are: The Rangpur Rebellion (1783)

Peasant movements after 1857:

- Mobilization of peasants in protests continued in some earlier forms but acquired new features in this phase.
- Greater awareness of colonial policies, laws and institutions helped the peasants protest in a prepared manner to some extent.
- There was growing involvement of educated middle class intelligentsia such as Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, RC Dutt etc., as spokespersons for the movements.

- The Deccan riots of 1875 were characterized with burning of deeds, bonds and looting the zamindar offices.

Movements in the 1920s:

- This phase saw the development of class consciousness, influenced by the Gandhian movement, Russian Movements etc.,
- Local issues integrated with the national cause of Swaraj
- Creation of Sabhas, Conferences and Co-operative movements to ensure fair systems of land revenue and tenancy.
- Example: creation of UP/Awadh Kisan Sabha (1918)

Peasant Movements after the WW2:

- Earlier movements were mostly non-violent with small fractions of violent surges, but this phase had increasingly violent uprisings.
- Examples: Telangana Movement (1946-51), Tebhaga Movement where the peasants revolted using mass struggle with the support of Bengal Province Kisan Sabha.

Conclusion:

The Peasant movements created an atmosphere and led to many immediate and post-independence agrarian reforms. Though in diverse areas, the revolts indulged on the broad ideology of nationalism.

Best answer: Perpendicular

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8. The freedom fighters were infatuated by the ideals of socialism. How did it reflect upon the freedom struggle? Comment.

Introduction:

1917 onward, The Great October Socialist Revolution of Russia has infatuated freedom fighters of India during freedom struggle. Right from political parties to masses, from

revolutionaries to trade unions were affected in one way or the other and all were striving for class less society.

Body:

- The leaders of the Indian national movement, inspired by Russian revolution and ethos of socialism radicalised the movement and moved towards the mass mobilization tactics of the Indian people's struggle.
- **Lala Lajpat Rai**, presiding over the first session of the All India Trade Union Congress in 1920, advocated for organized labour as the antidote of capitalism and imperialism.
- **Mahatma Gandhi**, a firm believer of non-violence, while writing in his journal Young India on Bolshevism, also advocated for the sacrifices of many for the just and equal society.
- **Bhagat Singh** and his fellow revolutionaries were deeply influenced by the October Revolution when they gradually learnt about it.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** was fascinated by his visit to Russia in the late 1920s , was convinced that the only key to the solution of the world's problems and of India's problems lies in socialism.
- On the lines of Socialism, was formed **Communist party of India** in 1925, which played crucial role in the freedom struggle with its peasant and workers movements. Prominent leaders like **Maulana Hasrat Mohani** and **M. N. Roy** were associated with it. So profound was the impact of the formation of the Communist Party under the direct inspiration of the October Revolution that the British Crown panicked at the possibility of a Bolshevik revolt in India!
- Furthermore, leaders like **Acharya Narendra Deva** and **J P Narayan** and many others, who were inspired by Marxism-Leninism, formed **Congress Socialist party** in 1934.
- **C.S Bose** was also a strong believer of socialism. His forward bloc and INA give new directions to the freedom struggle.
- Such changes in political leaders and freedom fighters has Energized social movements and freedom struggles. Many working class struggles broke out in India in 1919 and onwards
- Thousands of workers went on strikes in various working class centers such as Calcutta, Bombay and Ahmadabad.

- The **All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)** was, thus, established in March 1920 giving shape to organized working class trade union movement in India.
- Armed Telangana peasant struggle in the late 1940s brought on to the agenda of the Indian freedom movement the question of abolishing landlordism in independent India.
- The Socialist wave motivated various **revolutionary groups** operating both within India and from abroad owing to British persecution to come together and strive for the freedom struggle. These Indian revolutionaries were operating from various locations in Canada, the U.S., Afghanistan, Germany, Singapore and some other places.

Conclusion:

Socialism, therefore, must be seen as an event that profoundly changed the character of the Indian people's struggle for freedom and transformed the struggle of the political independence of the country.

Best answer: Aspirant

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9. How did Gandhi's arrival change the discourse of the nationalist movement? Did it make the movement more inclusive and representative? Critically comment.

Introduction:

Gandhiji's Role in the National Movement or Methods adopted by Mahatma Gandhi to make the Indian National Movement a mass movement. Gandhiji's role in the National Movement of India was undoubtedly the most remarkable.

Body:

Change in discourse of national movement:

- Gandhi rejected violent nationalism.
- Gandhi used terms like swaraj, swadeshi, and Indian civilization instead of nation.

- Gandhi's nationalism was based on satya, ahimsa, karmayoga, ramarajya, tapasya, and moksha etc.
- Class movements to mass movements: Champaran satyagraha (1917), Kheda movement (1918), Khilafat movement (1919), non-cooperation movement (1920), civil-disobedience movement (1930), Quit India movement (1942) – these all were mass movements.
- Gandhiji boycotted foreign goods.
- Passive resistance and non-violence became motto.
- Love the enemies and voluntary surrendering to authorities became norm.

National movement was inclusive and representative:

- Women participation: thousands of women came out of their homes and participated in salt satyagraha.
- Working class and professionals participated: lawyers, teachers, professors also joined the national movement.
- Students also boycotted class and participated in the movement in large scale.
- All religion participated: irrespective of religion and caste all people took part in mass movement.
- Business class participated: gave financial assistance and rejected imported goods.

Some of the flaws in Gandhi's ideology:

- Alliance with Muslim league on religious grounds during non-cooperation movement strengthened the Muslim league as an independent entity, though it brought leaders together but failed to bring Hindus and Muslims together.
- Support of Gandhiji to WW-I – British government didn't do anything substantial instead brought Black Act. Failure to commute death sentence of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru to life imprisonment. Though cause of opposition to communal award was good but system of joint electorate didn't let true representatives of depressed classes to lead.

Conclusion:

Gandhi's arrival was watershed in the national movement; it changed the discourse in significant way. It can be holistically said national movement was inclusive and representative as it covered whole India and its people

Best answer: Darshith Jain

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10. The ideological moorings of the freedom movement derived its intellectual fodder from Bengal. Elucidate.

Introduction:

An Ideology specifically means a system of ideas or ideals on which one bases his or her political or economic policy.

Moorings generally mean any belief or familiar ways of thinking which provides a kind of psychological stability.

Body:

The Indian national movement brought people from all classes and ideologies into one frame of political action.

- Bengal rose into national consciousness on the back of Swadeshi movement and also further became the hub of leftist, socialist elements predominantly the Bengal Intelligentsia (The Bhadrak).
- The freedom struggle was also a movement of economic liberation which had its roots in the Bengal Swadeshi movement which followed the Partition of Bengal.
- The social and religious reform movements of the 19th century also contributed to the feeling of Nationalism. Swami Vivekananda, Annie Besant, Henry Derozio and many others. They revived the glory of ancient India, created faith among the people in their religion and culture and thus gave the message of love for their motherland.
- The intellectual and spiritual side of Nationalism was voiced by persons like Bankim Chandra Chatterji, Swami Dayanand Saraswati and Aurobindo Ghosh. Bankim Chandra's hymn to the Motherland, 'Vande Matram' became the rallying cry of patriotic nationalists. It inspired generations to supreme self-sacrifice.
- The role of Institutional struggle also had its roots in the Bengal Movement with the formation of many associations like the Anushilan Samiti, Bengal British India society, Indian Association etc.
- The leftists under MN Roy also influenced the development of Democratic, civic libertarian polity with socialist policy that the Indian state finally developed itself into.
- Farmers also became the key stake holders in the freedom struggle as the National Movement took upon itself the ideology of Radical Agrarian Reform as one of its core principles which was also influenced by the Communist struggles in Bengal.

Conclusion:

Thus the Indian freedom movement was one of the best examples of creation of Pan Nation movement where in diverse political and ideological currents co-existed and worked simultaneously towards ending colonial rule

Best answer: Ranjana

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11. In what ways did the Shah Bano case change the politics in India? Analyse.

Introduction:

The Mohd. Ahmad Khan vs. Shah Bano Begum & Ors. or the Shah Bano maintenance case is seen as one of the legal milestones in battle for protection of rights of Muslim women. The petitioner asked for maintenance from her husband after he pronounced irrevocable talaq and became unaccountable for providing maintenance as per Islamic law.

Body

The Supreme Court upheld the right to alimony in the case, however, subsequent dilution of it by the then government, through passage of Muslim Women (Protection on Rights of Divorce) Act set off a political battle which is continuing to this day.

The Act allowed maintenance to a divorced woman only during the period of iddat, or till 90 days after the divorce. This was seen as discriminatory as it denied divorced Muslim women the right to basic maintenance which women of other faiths had recourse to under secular law.

Impact on Indian politics:

- The Act was seen as 'appeasement' of the minority community and discriminatory to non-Muslim men by the Hindu communalists.
- It set off a chain of events that continued up to the opening of the Ram mandir, to satisfy the hindu communalists, and eventually the demolition of Babri Masjid.
- Minority community was seen as a good vote bank by keeping them away from social reforms that could have disturbed the conservative elements. The impact can be seen even today, in dismal social indicators in Muslim community.
- Freedom of Religion (Article 25) was given priority over Right to Equality (Article 14,15) and Right to Life (Article 21).
- Uniform Civil code (Article 44), which was incorporated under Directive Principles of State Policy aiming for a secular society, is now seen as a threat to minority personal laws.
- Whereas Women of other religion are being given more rights and protection against discrimination and violence, Muslim women still suffer from practices like triple talaq, nikah halala, polygamy etc. with no law to protect them.

Conclusion

The case laid the ground for Muslim women's fight for equal rights in matters of marriage and divorce in regular courts, the most recent example being the Shayara Bano case in which the Supreme Court invalidated the practice of instant triple talaq.

However, unlike the previous case, this time the individual rights were given priority over the religious rights through **Introduction**: of Triple talaq bill, settling the political debate that started through the Shah Bano case.

Best answer: Aspirant

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12. How did Indian leaders cope with the global pressures mounted at the time of Cold War? Was it effective? Critically analyse.**Introduction:**

Cold war was the open yet restricted rivalry that developed after the WW2 between the US and Soviet Union and their respective allies. It was waged on political, economical and propaganda fronts and had only limited resource to weapons.

Body**Approach of the Indian leaders:**

- The onset of the peak of the Cold war and India's independence almost coincided. The leaders did not want to compromise on sovereignty or any freedom due to involvement with either side.
- The basic aims, principles and parameters of Indian stand towards the global division of powers at the time of Cold war was outlined by the 1st Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. It was one of balancing the competing interests of both sides.
- They were based on promotion of international peace and security, friendly relations with other countries, respect for international law and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Measures taken:

- Panchsheel: Signed in 1954, the Panchsheel agreement laid down 5 basic principles emphasizing on durable world peace and friendly relations among countries. It included mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression against each other, Non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co- existence.
- Non-alignment: India's determination to preserve its hard earned independence without joining either of the 2 blocs, its opposition to imperialism and colonialism, gave birth to Non-alignment. Indian leaders of the time lead by Nehru postulated on taking an independent stand on international issues based on merits of the case but at the same time not committing to come under influence of any bloc.
- India played a significant role in multilateral institutions and particularly in UN peacekeeping operations. They ensured deep respect for international law and sovereign equality of nations.

Effectiveness of the measures taken:**Pros:**

- It made India a leader of NAM with many nations pledging support under the same principles of non-alignment.
- It helped India play a major role in the efforts towards decolonization of many countries thereafter.
- It provided for a forum for 3rd world countries to engage the developed countries in a productive dialogue over divergent views.
- India received aid from both the power blocs and neither of them considered India as a threat.
- India could thus successfully utilize the best of both powers for its interests diplomatically.

Cons:

- The NAM broadly worked on the lines of ideology than the actual active implementation of developmental efforts.
- At the beginning, the group mainly consisted of nations lacking in economic and social spheres, including India and thus had reduced impact on the whole.
- It ceased to have any future goals as the Cold war declined.

Conclusion:

- The core principle of non-alignment still drives our foreign policy even today, though with changes in interpretation of functional and strategic interests. E.g.: Diplomacy with US and Iran, Russia and US etc.,
- As there is no bipolar world as earlier, the non-alignment does not have practical relevance as an idea, but is still relevant to question the morality of international decisions and more on the lines of issue based alignment on merits, rather than just the ideology.

Best answer: Grace

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13. The nuclear tests conducted at Pokhran in 1998 helped to get the global high table to make space for India. Do you agree? Critically comment.

Introduction:

Nuclear test conducted in 1998 is one of the great mile stone in the India's scientific timeline and with this India showcased its nuclear power and modified its terms with other states accordingly. This test is a turning point in India's engagement with the world which was long overdue.

Body:

India had three main objectives behind the testing of 1998:

- First was to validate new designs to ensure the credibility of the nuclear deterrent as the data set from the 1974 test was limited.
- Second was to declare that India was now a nuclear weapon state and modify the terms of our engagement with other states accordingly.
- Third was to generate an acceptance of India as a responsible state with an impeccable non- proliferation record.

Given its adverse security environment in the early 1990s, India's pursuit of nuclear weapons as a deterrent against Chinese and Pakistani adventurism would have appeared not only wise but necessary.

Pakistan, initially accused India for arms race in sub-continent, also immediately conducted the nuclear test. India, unlike Pakistan, separated its civil and military programs and put a nuclear doctrine in place.

The Pokhran test brought immediate international condemnation from a world that has officially scorned nuclear testing since 1996 by endorsing Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits all nuclear tests.

The immediate global reaction started with the US and it imposed few sanctioned on India but with diplomatic conversation between two countries provided the basis for reconciliation with the global nuclear order, and redefined our relationship with the US.

The 1998 nuclear tests began the process for the world to acknowledge India as a responsible nuclear power. India had remained true to the highest NPT standards despite being an NPT outlier. While harmonising itself with the global nuclear order, the tests and their aftermath ironically destroyed the prevalent 'nuclear superstructure'.

Apart from these the major achievements which India made on global level are as follows:

- India-US civil nuclear deal i.e. 123 Agreement, which assured full civil nuclear cooperation of US with India.
- Waivers from the NSG.
- Membership of three of four global non-proliferation regimes i.e. Australia Group (AG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)
- Nuclear deals with Japan
- Multi countries on board to favour India's entry into NSG, except China.

Conclusion:

Tests created one of the pre-requisites for India's aspiration to become a leading power. Tests were needed to end India's international isolation. The actions we took 20 years ago ensured our national security. Our responsible record and subsequent engagements ensured global understanding of our policies. That is also shown by our nuclear collaborations around the world. The world had got used to a certain kind of India. That was challenged, successfully

Best answer: Bella Cullen

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14. The creation of Bangladesh in 1971 changed India's geopolitics forever. Elucidate.

Introduction:

The Instrument of surrender signed on 16th December 1971 in Dhaka, by the Pakistan General of Army, marked the formation of East Pakistan as the new nation of Bangladesh. With the birth of Bangladesh, Pakistan also lost half its territory.

Background:

In 1971, when Bangladesh (then E.Pakistan) was fighting to seek freedom from W.Pakistan, the Pakistan army began to commit barbaric genocide on innocent Bengali population of E.Pakistan.

Intervention by India:

- As Pakistan's atrocities increased, then PM Indira Gandhi decided to take action and ordered the Indian Army to launch an offensive against Pakistan followed by a full scale war against its neighbor.
- Indian Army captured around 15000 km of Pak territory with the war lasting around 13 days and ending with the fall of Dhaka and the public surrender of Pak military.

Change in India's geopolitics after:

- Turning a foe into a friendly neighbor: Due to the outbreak of the war, roughly 9M refugees fled to India and were given shelter in Indian states like Tripura etc.
- As India ran the risk of fighting the US and Arabs, then allies of Pakistan, it rendered the victory highly difficult. Through diplomatic relations built with the Soviets by the PM, a fully fledged military support was promised in case of both US and Chinese Intervention. The victory however was formulated as a highly risky but successful victory of India in the international eyes.
- The strong alliance with USSR proved extremely useful in the UN, when USSR vetoed the resolution to ceasefire and withdrawal of troops. It also prevented any combat roles by the US fleet in the Bay of Bengal by dispatch of their own fleet.
- The liberation increased the influence of India as a power over the NE South Asian region and gave way to the rise of India as a nation with a strong defense at a time when only superpowers intervened in armed conflicts of countries.
- The personal diplomacy campaign of PM Indira Gandhi at the time, with European Capitals and Moscow hold relevance even now and stood the test of time.
- Considered the largest military surrender after WW2, this liberation was put India at the International context as a rising might and a developing nation in the South Asian region and a success of strategic diplomacy.

Conclusion:

The US who had opposed the intervention accorded recognition to Bangladesh as an independent state as early as March 1972. The UN did not condemn India and rationality of India's actions was vindicated by the relatively quick and widespread recognition of Bangladesh. The intervention was seen as a positive humanitarian outcome that brought a political solution to the crisis in the end. India's diplomacy and regional influence as capable and dependable leader was also exhibited as a result of the creation of Bangladesh

Best answer: Raghunandan

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15. India has witnessed several terrorist attacks in the past. In what ways was the 26/11 terror attack on Mumbai different? Examine.

Introduction:

Terrorism in India, according to the Home Ministry, poses a significant threat to the people of India. Terrorism found in India includes ethno-nationalist terrorism, religious terrorism, left wing terrorism and narco terrorism.

Body:

Some of the major terror attacks that have occurred in India are

- Punjab killings of 1991
- Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi – 1991
- Parliament attacks – 2001
- Mumbai attacks 2008
- Pulwama attack 2019

India experienced a terrorist attack on its financial and entertainment capital Mumbai on 26 November 2008. It was different in a way that

- Firstly the location the of the attack was Mumbai- which is one of the most densely populated cities in India, the financial capital of India, land to UNESCO Heritage sites and a major tourist attraction.
- The sheer scale and audacity of the attacks clearly set them apart from earlier terrorist attacks in India. There were 12 coordinated shooting and bombing attacks which lasted four days, killing 164 and injuring several hundreds.
- There were bombings in multiple locations instead of single location like, Chatrapathi shivaji terminus Leopold cafe

The Taj mahal hotel The Oberio trident

The Nariman House (Jewish Community Centre)

- Apart from targeting the civilians the attack was largely targeted towards international tourists visiting Mumbai which had a great impact affecting the tourism industry. Post 26/11 there has been a significant decline in the number of foreign tourists arriving in India.

- The attack on Mumbai sea port which disrupted the trade of our country. It affected inwards and outwards of International cargoes. Imports and Exports had to be rerouted till the operations were complete.
- Places like the Chatrapathi Shivaji terminus (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Taj mahal hotel (near gateway of India) were attacked which damaged the tangible cultural heritage of India.
- Another notable impact was on the airline industry, since of the three routes of arrival, air is the most preferred route with over 92 per cent of foreign tourists choosing this route. Also the airspace closure affected several domestic and international flights.
- There was a huge psychological impact which shook not only the entire nation but also the entire international community.

Following the 26/11 attack, a number of structural reforms were ambitiously proposed for the security set up.

Notably, the creation of regional hubs for National Security Guard deployment in various states, the establishment of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the setting up of a National Intelligence Grid (NatGrid), and the plan for a National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), along with several other initiatives, to enable a qualitative improvement in our counter-terror infrastructure and strategy.

Conclusion:

The draft bill as recommended by the Law Commission of India which is a comprehensive and effective legal framework to deal with all aspects of terrorism needs to be enacted. A multipronged approach encompassing legal and administrative measures combined with good governance, inclusive development, a vigilant media and an alert citizenry can defeat terrorism in any form.

Best answer: Jean Grey

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16. The Industrial Revolution caused many politico-economic principles to evolve in the due course of time. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction:

The desire to produce more goods at low cost to make higher profits led to the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution began in England in about 1750. It was then that

machines began to take over some of the work of men and animals in the production of goods and commodities.

Body:

New Economic principles:

- **The factory system**– It replaced the cottage industry which was more autonomous with individual workers using hand tools. It developed as a result of innovations like steam engine and power looms.
- **Capitalism**– Private Ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit as well as the concentration of economic power in a few hands was the result of industrial revolution.
- **New economic structure**– The economy underwent a structural change from being agriculture based to manufacturing based.
- **Urbanization**– Most of the industries were setup in urban centres with all basic amenities. This resulted in large-scale urban migration and urban expansion, which continues to this day.
- **Banking and finance**– Industrialized economy led to expansion of banking facilities to finance new projects by using the money multiplier effect.
- **Globalisation**– Increased production corresponded to increasing access to new markets via growth of trade worldwide.
- **Materialism and consumerism**– As production kept on increasing over decades and centuries, it required a proportional increase in demand. Feeding on the basic human desire to have more, a cycle of more consumption and more production was fired up which led to rise of materialism and consumerism.
- **Technological advancement**– Industrial Revolution itself was primarily driven by the rise in technology which forever changed the face of the world leading us into the modern era. Today it has its influence in every sector from travel, transport, agriculture to the food we consume.
- **Environmental neglect**– The revolution was based on increased exploitation of resources, which had a tremendous impact on environment and ecology.

New Political principles:

- **Pro worker movements**– Rise of reformers and social reform movements such as utilitarianism, utopianism, socialism and Marxism as an alternative to capitalism and to provide better living standards to the workers.
- **Inequality**– Concentration of wealth and power in few hands led to unequal political divisions where few took the decisions for all without being responsible to them.
- **Dominance of west**– The revolution began in Europe and helped the western economies gain prominence through policies like imperialism, mercantilism and cultural subjugation, all of which were indirectly connected with the industrial revolution.
- **International consciousness**– The Industrial Revolution created an international consciousness among peoples because the developments in one place began to influence the developments in other places.

- **Changed demographics**– The society was divided into have and have nots. In order to increase their income, the have nots increase their population. Improved medical facilities helped prolong the life. All this resulted in population explosion, forcing Europeans to settle in other nations changing the demographic profiles.

Conclusion:

The above changes show how IR led to complete transformation across the world. Every part of the world underwent IR sooner or later. But the ones to get into the race sooner became developed nations and nations like India and African countries that underwent IR later remained developing and under developed

Best answer: Peaceful Warrior

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17. What do you understand by 'totalitarianism'? How did it shape the fate of the world in the first half of the 20th century? Analyse.

Introduction:

Totalitarianism is a concept of regimes (political systems) where government controls all public behaviour and as much of private behaviour as it can. The idea as a construct was used mainly in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

Body:

Major totalitarian governments in the first half of 20th century:

Soon after WW1, when the world plunged into chaos, the leaders of many countries like Mussolini in Italy, Hitler in Germany, Stalin in Russia, etc. came forward to bring normalcy under the mask of revolution but began a rule of totalitarianism.

- **Nazi Germany:** soon after WW1 and Treaty of Versailles, high rates of joblessness and period of uncontrolled inflation led to Germans becoming susceptible to appeals of political extremes of Adolf Hitler. He began a process of persecution and German domination over almost all of continental Europe and much of Eurasia. After defeat at the hands of US, German land was rebuilt as a democratic state with a strong commitment to civil liberties, freedom and rule of law.

- Soviet Communism: Communist states of Russia, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, maintained strong opposition to free market economics and development. His forced industrialization led to the worst man made famine.

Effect of Totalitarianism:

- The ideals of liberal democracy and individual freedom faced their greatest challenge in the 20th century with the emergence of several totalitarian political movements. These systems of government were characterized by nearly limitless state control.
- Three basic characteristics- ruled by a single ruler or party with unrestricted power, violence and intimidation as main tools and no political freedom.
- It demanded total unrestricted, unconditional and unalterable loyalty of individuals fueled by fear of existence. They killed millions, exploited and banished people by brutal over throw and abolishing every other political party.
- The government penetrated the entire country through regional, provincial, local and primary organizations. They had control over television, radio, press, education and communication of all forms were censored and subject to their approval.
- Resulted in loss of human diversity, relationships, nature, harmony and compassion. Any form of freedom and rights had no place in their reign and the people were built and operated on fear and suppression.
- As the leaders felt invincible, they took nationalism to extreme levels leading to acts of aggression and invasion for acquiring more power.
- Ultimately this aggression of the totalitarian regimes led to the start of the WW2.

Conclusion:

Governments globally were encouraged towards democratic and more peaceful systems of governing people ensuring civil liberties, and social and political freedoms. To avoid wars, conflicts and despotic expansions on these lines the United Nations Organization was formed as an international forum to facilitate cooperation amongst countries immediately after the end of WW2 to preserve world peace.

Best answer: Bodhisattva

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18. What transpired in the Congress of Vienna? Was it a success? Critically examine.

Introduction:

The Congress of Vienna was held from September of 1814 to June of 1815. After the downfall of Napoleon Bonaparte, this international conference was called to create a balance among the European powers in such a way so as to prevent future wars and maintain peace and stability on the European continent and to reorganize the Europe.

Body:

Congress was held between Royal leaders of Europe from **Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia**. The objective of the Congress was to provide a long-term peace plan for Europe by settling critical issues. The goal was not simply to restore old boundaries but to resize the main powers so they could balance each other and remain at peace.

The major outcomes of Vienna congress are as follows:

- **Restoration of Legitimacy:** This is the concept that the royal leaders before Napoleon are true and legitimate leaders.
- **Balance of power:** Which advocated for power distribution among royal leaders of Europe to maintain peace and stability
- Pledge to stop any revolution in future: conservative leaders were anti revolution especially any revolution for democracy.
- **Encircled France** to make buffer around it with strong countries and to keep France contained.
- **Holy Alliance**– for the protection against democratic alliance.
- Restoration of Louis the XVIII to **French throne**
- **German Confederation** Formation with 34 German states

Positive impact it had on European history:

- The congress was the first occasion in history where, on a continental scale, national representatives came together to formulate treaties
- The arrangements made by the Four Great Powers sought to ensure future disputes would be settled in a manner that would avoid the terrible wars of the previous 20 years.
- Prevented another widespread European war for nearly 100 years (1815–1914) and created relatively long-term stability and peaceful conditions in most of Europe

Limitations / negative aspects of the congress:

- Mainly, the four major powers of Europe (Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Great Britain) were left to make most of the big decisions.
- The leaders were conservatives with little use for republicanism or revolution, both of which threatened to upset the status quo in Europe
- No proper procedure followed.
- Ignored national and liberal impulses, causing the subsequent suppression of the emerging national and liberal movements

- Imposed a stifling reaction on the Continent
- It has been seen as a reactionary movement for the benefit of traditional monarchs.
- Although the Congress of Vienna preserved the balance of power in Europe, it could not check the spread of revolutionary movements across the continent some 30 years later.

Conclusion:

The Congress System was deliberate conflict management, and was the first genuine attempt to create an international order based upon consensus rather than conflict. The goal of the congress was to re-establish a balance of power among the countries of Europe and have peace between the nations. The Congress proved to be highly successful in achieving its goal, for the peace in Europe was left almost undisturbed for the decades to come

Best answer: Aspirant

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19. Do you think any of the warring sides could have taken the high moral ground after what happened during the World Wars? Give your opinion.

Introduction:

The Great War was never considered the “war to end all wars” by the states and armed forces in conflict. The war’s legacies were processed in a wide variety of ways depending on forms of government, geostrategic situations, moral/material capacities, and public will. Their common denominator was recognition that successful future war-making depended on a synergy between an effective government and a strong citizenry.

Body:

The term world war is typically applied to the two conflicts that happened during the 20th century:

1. World War I, or First World War (1914-1918): World War I was fought between the Allied Powers and the Central Powers. The main members of the Allied Powers were France, Russia, and Britain. The United States also fought on the side of the Allies after 1917. The main members of the Central Powers were Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria.

2. World War II, or Second World War (1939-1945): The principal belligerents were the Axis powers—Germany, Italy, and Japan—and the Allies—France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China. The war was in many respects a continuation, after an uneasy 20-year hiatus, of the disputes left unsettled by World War I.

Jus post bellum (Latin for “Justice after war”) is a concept that deals with the morality of the termination phase of war. The idea has some historical pedigree as a concept in just war theory. In modern times, it has been developed by a number of just war theorists and international lawyers.

Yes, warring sides should have taken high moral ground after world wars because of following reasons:

- A bad peace is not only a definite recipe for misery, but far more often than not is merely a prelude to further violent conflict
- As war is also choice, peace is also a vital thing.
- To ensure human rights and peaceful society.
- For social, political, economical, legal, and cultural progress of the society.

No, warring sides shouldn't take high moral ground after world wars because of following reasons:

- Consequences should be faced, as war was with mutual consent.
- It gives little room for revolution, learning and changes on either side.
- Morality after the war does not solve the purpose of the war. It may be perceived as a pacifying act.
- Rational self-interest and welfare of their own people plays a huge role.
- Economic issues after the war is the very big concern.

Conclusion:

To honour unknown sacrifices, we must heed past lessons so that such needless sacrifice is not forced upon many millions in the future. In many ways, this one-hundred-year-old conflict is shaping our world today more than any of the wars that have been fought since

Best answer: Raghunandan

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20. The first half of the 20th century witnessed two bloody global wars. This period also stood witness to a wide array of inventions in the fields of aviation, weapons and nuclear technologies. Can you discuss at least 5 such inventions and their impacts on the world?

Introduction:

The period between 1900-1950 was one of the most horrific and murderous in the history of mankind as it has witnessed two global wars which engulfed the entire world. The devastation caused to men and material was unimaginable which was accelerated by the technical inventions during that period.

Body:

Some of the significant inventions are as follows:

- **Aviations:**

1. **Aircrafts:** First practical aircraft was invented by Wright brothers in 1903. During World War 1 aeroplanes came into military use. Ex: Zepellin by Germany. The period between World War 1 and World War 2 saw the development of jet fighters. World War 2 developed efficacy in strategic bombing. Ex: V2, Azon, Fritz x, etc.,

- **Weapons:**

1. **Machine guns:** Invented in 1912. First used in WW1 (Battle of Somme)
2. **Tanks:** Invented during the summer of 1918. Extensively used during WW2.

Ex: USSR's T-26, 40, 60 and UK's Mark-1

3. **Submarines:** First used in 1940, led to the advent of underwater battle.

Ex: Japan's KAITEN and UK's HMS Venturer.

- **Nuclear technology:**

1. **Atomic bombs:** 1930- 40s witnessed large scale developments in nuclear technology. Project Manhattan by USA led to atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Impact of these inventions:

- **Geo-political:** The arms race divided the world into two major blocs, one led by USA and other USSR. The third world countries were rallied around these super powers. Ex: NATO of US, Warsaw pact of the soviet union during cold war. This factionalism is to be seen even today in Syria war, Korean peninsula crisis, Middle east crisis, etc.

- **Economic:** Many developed countries realised the need of having a strong military and hence relied on either imports or joint development of armaments. Most of the major economies are also military super powers. The defence budget of most of the nations is more than the expenditure on welfare activities.
- **Social:** Although the deterrence created by strong military has saved many lives across the world but the constant war mongering has also led to deep social cleavages. Ex: War led poverty and communal violence across many nations.
- **Institutional:** After effect of world war and subsequent arms race and nuclear proliferation led to creation of institutions and pacts like UN, NPT, MTCR, Wassenaar agreement, etc.

Conclusion:

But, this period can also be considered as a blessing in disguise as the inventions were used for devastation as well as betterment of mankind. Aviation today has reduced the travelling time to a great extent and increased interconnectivity among people across the globe, nuclear energy if harnessed properly is seen as an alternative source of energy and inventions in medical field has saved numerous lives.

Best answer: Grace

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21. What are the most striking features of fascist ideology? Why did fascism spread in Europe in the first half of the 20th century? Examine.

Introduction:

Fascism is a political ideology that developed after World War I in Italy and Germany. It is characterized by strong nationalism, an extreme level of authoritarianism, corporatism, militarization and hostility towards both liberalism and Marxism.

Body

Features of fascist ideology:

- **Nationalism**— A strong feeling of patriotism to your state and its people. In fact, the nationalism of fascism is so strong that it often involves feelings of national and racial superiority over others. The darkest example of this is the Jewish Holocaust brought about by Nazi fascism during World War II.

- **Authoritarianism**– power concentrated in one small group of people or even one person. Citizens often are not permitted to form opposition parties, and free elections are often not held. Authoritarian leaders usually are not subject to the rule of law – the laws don't apply to them.
- **Militarism**– It involves the participation of military officers in the civilian government, foreign policy based on projection of power, military values and norms are persuasive within the society's culture and there is focus on war preparation in cultural, political and economic institutions.
- **Corporatism**– Government brings certain privileged business, labour and social groups into government to directly participate in policy formulation.
- **One party system**– There is a single party to decide the political, economic and social policies for a nation. Democracy has no role to play.
- **Autarchy**– Having economic independence as a national policy to eliminate unemployment and make country economically self-sufficient.
- **Anti-communist, anti- capitalist**– By its basic tenets, it strongly opposed communism and even capitalism.

The rise of fascism in Europe began during World War I in Italy, when Benito Mussolini and other radicals formed a political group (called a *fasci*) supporting the war against Germany and Austria-Hungary. Adolf Hitler in Germany, Benito Mussolini in Italy, Francisco Franco in Spain and Juan Perón in Argentina were well-known fascist leaders of the 20th century.

Rise and spread:

- **Discontentment with the peace treaties:** Italy joined the Allies in the First World War to gain territories of Turkey and Germany. But she received nothing from the Paris peace treaties. Germany suffered due to Treaty of Versailles.
- **Economic Crisis:** Italy suffered heavy losses in terms of life and property in the First World War. After the War, many soldiers became unemployed. Trade and commerce were ruined leading to large – scale unemployment. There was a shortage of food grains.
- **Political Instability:** Italy was governed by a series of coalition governments and there was no continuity in their policies. Governments were unable to deal with problems of unemployment, strikes and riots.
- **Class Conflicts:** The common man had been promised, during the war, that he would be rewarded greater attention to his economic needs, these promises were ignored and the common man was embittered. Thus, people wanted the control of the government to be in the hands of the common man.
- **Rise of middle class**– Rise of salaried middle class as the largest segment of the population, who felt unrepresented by traditional liberal parties and longed for a new way between organized big business and organized labour. Economic insecurity and cultural uneasiness with the feeling of decadence.
- **Threat of Socialism or Communism:** Inspired by Communism, the peasants took away the land from the landlords and workmen organized strikes and took hold of factories. The industrialists were worried about the strength of the labour unions and wanted a

powerful government who could establish peace they therefore provided financial support for fascism.

- **Failure of the League of Nations:** The League of Nations proved to be weak and failed to check the rise of dictatorship.
- **Leadership:** Mussolini and Hitler had a charismatic personality. Their speeches praised the past glories of their respective nations and won the faith of their countrymen.

Conclusion

Several factors together worked towards the rise and spread of Fascism in Europe, which ultimately resulted in laying the foundation for World War II

Best answer: Hela

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22. What is 'fabian socialism'? What are its characteristics? Discuss.

Introduction:

Fabian socialism, founded in 1884, is a form of socialism that advances the principles of democratic framework to achieve gradual conversion to socialism rather than by revolutionary overthrow. This originated from the movement for the Utopian socialism.

Body:

The characteristics of Fabian socialism are:

- Fabian socialism is gradual in nature, a slow and steady process. There is no place for abruptness. The socialism proceeds step by step with people participation and extension of democratic rights.
- It feels the necessity of 'State' as an ultimate arbiter of all disputes. Though power shall be rested in the hands of the state, there shall be no opportunity to exercise it arbitrarily.
- It advocates nationalization of key industries in the economic structure of the society, but did not support management of entire economy by state.

- State has to improve the conditions and make way for socialism without curbing freedom.
- Control of state or parliament over the economy to stop development of aberration.
- It includes parliamentary processes like Universal Adult Franchise, periodic elections; enact laws by representatives etc. for the functioning of society.
- It is against complete revolution or armed struggle as it believes that it can ensure only temporary relief but in the long run may cause disastrous results.
- Permeation or privileged membership: This form of socialism was also exclusively membered by intellectuals or the higher class. They were believed to directly influence or actively ensure the spread of Fabians.
- Emphasis on the possibility of reasonable reconstruction of government and society on what they perceived as a scientific basis.

Famous Fabian socialists:

- George Bernard Shaw, Beatrice Webb, Sidney Webb, Annie Besant etc. The Britain Labor Party was believed to be completely Fabian in ideology.
- India: PM Jawaharlal Nehru was inspired by Fabian views and socialism. The Mahalanobis model, rationing and control of public choices were his ways of implementing Fabian thought.

Conclusion:

Working of the history of world economics and a look at the challenges for the future, the socialistic economics with Fabianism and a mix of capitalism seem to give an ideal economic fabric as a way ahead.

Best answer: Cracker

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23. Compare and contrast the history of socialism in Sweden with that of Venezuela.

Introduction:

Socialism is a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole. It could have different effects on a different political and economic system based on its implementation

Body:

Both Sweden and Venezuela have Democratic socialism with major differences in their social, economic and political systems.

Aspect of Socialism	Sweden	Venezuela
Orientation	Democratic Socialism: This means that the production sector remained predominantly (90%) private but the government through regulation, taxes, price controls, and social programs determines what is produced and whom it goes to.	Marxist socialism: Advocates for more nationalization of resources and industries.
Historical Influence	More influence of the USA which is evident from a more privatized economy. Marshall plan and sponsorship of USA to Sweden after World War-II is also the reason for the same.	More influence of Russia and Cuba, which focuses more on nationalization of industries.
Free Market	Sweden is a comprehensive welfare state and collective bargaining at the national level with a high percentage of the workforce unionized while being based on the economic foundations of free market capitalism	Venezuela when in dictatorship had a free market but curbed the free market once it became democratic.
Source of Funding for Social Welfare	The weakness of Sweden's Social Welfare State is that a large share of people's income must be taken in taxes to pay for the social services the state provides.	Social services in Venezuela are funded by the revenue generated from the Petroleum industry and natural resources.
Area Of Expenditure	Expenditures of Sweden are more on capital investments, i.e. On infrastructures like schools and roads.	Whereas Venezuela's expenditure is mostly for direct welfare. Ex. PDS system is very strong in Venezuela which gives freebies to the masses.
Tax Rate	Tax rates in Sweden were high earlier but later in the 1990s reduced and the country experienced high economic growth.	Contrarily was with Venezuela where the Tax rate was low during the 1920s but then increased gradually.

The Same socialism which proved to be a tool of tremendous and remarkable growth in Sweden has failed miserably in Venezuela.

The success of Socialism in Sweden Caused:

- High rank on the Inequality-adjusted HDI
- High rank on Global Peace Index
- And placed Sweden in the top 10 on the World Happiness Report.
- Swedish industry has successfully competed despite the rise in wage rates, the shorter workday and increasing vacation time mandated for Swedish labour.
- The unemployment rate has been kept low.

Failure of Socialism in Venezuela:

There was a time when this country was quite prosperous and wealthy, and for a time Venezuela was even referred to as an “economic miracle”. But the present is very different and socialism failed miserably here.

There are three main policies implemented since 1999 that produced the current crisis:

- Widespread nationalization of private industry,
- currency and price controls, and
- The fiscally irresponsible expansion of welfare programs.

Nationalization destroyed production in affected industries because no government has the capacity to run thousands of businesses or the profit motive to run them efficiently. Instead, government officials face incentives to please voters by selling products at low prices and hiring more employees than necessary, even when that’s the wrong industry decision.

In 2003, the country implemented a foreign currency control scheme where the government set an overvalued exchange rate between the Venezuelan currency and the U.S. dollar.

The socialist regime also implemented price ceilings on hundreds of basic products such as beef, milk and toilet paper. Instead of benefiting the poor, price ceilings predictably resulted in shortages.

Welfare programs that were supposed to help the poor actually increased the cost of living. A foreign currency control that aimed to reduce inflation only caused hyperinflation increased and allowed for massive corruption. And nationalizations that should have given “power” to workers only left them unemployed and hungry.

Moreover, Bad and Haphazard implementation of the ideal of socialism and mismanagement are the cause of the resulting crises.

Conclusion:

- The Swedish system might be a suitable model for industrialized countries it is probably not affordable as a system for developing countries.

- Socialism is the cause of the Venezuelan misery and is not the route to paradise for countries like Venezuela.
- There is a lot to learn for India from the success of Sweden and the failure of Venezuela to strengthen its ethos of socialism

Best answer: DSP

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24. What led to the large scale decolonisation post World War II? Analyse.

Introduction:

Decolonization is the action or process of a state withdrawing from a former colony, leaving it independent. After 1945 many states in Europe and Asia were decolonized. Mainly decolonization started in Asia, Africa and Middle East.

Body:

Factors led to decolonization post world war II:

- Lack of resources: After World War II many nations had financial crunch, ran out of financial resources, and bad administration which no longer could help them maintain colonies.
- Freedom movements: Many independence movements started in colonial states. Many countries took the advantage of that.
- Education and literature: Education and western literatures gave room for rational thinking and independence thoughts.
- Third world: Many exploited and ignored states came together to oppose Imperialism.
- Non-aligned movement: Nehru from India, Tito the communist leader from Yugoslavia, Nasser from Egypt successfully opposed French and British imperial powers.
- Establishment of United Nations: United nations put pressure on imperial countries like UK, France to provide independence to colonies. Nation-state has been accepted as ideal form of political organization.
- New international economic order: In 1961, non-aligned movement was followed by formation of United Nations conference on trade and development (UNCTD) which tried to promote new international economic order. It emphasized the importance of under developed countries.
- Cold war: United States and USSR pressurized European allies to give independence and free them.

- Atlantic charter (1941): it stated that people should have the right to choose their own government.
- Influence from newly decolonized countries: Many states were influenced from the neighbouring countries for decolonization and they had mutual support.
- Social causes: various films, books, museum displayed the impact of colonization which rose national feeling and patriotism among colonies.
- Neo-colonialism started: practice of using capitalism and globalization by their power and administration.

Conclusion:

It can be inferred that post World War II, European nation were unable to have control on their colonies due to strong and persistent opposition by the colonies along with pressure from new super powers i.e. USA and USSR. However, decolonization prolonged for decades in Asia and Africa and many were freed after huge struggle.

Best answer: SRK

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25. What do you understand by 'neo-colonialism'? How is it affecting the world today? Examine?

Introduction:

Neo-colonialism is the term used to define the economic sabotage of underdeveloped countries propagated by developed countries and large multinational corporations. It was first observed by Kwame Nkrumah the former president of Ghana in the 1960s at the time when African countries were getting out of colonization.

Body:

Effects of neo colonialism in the world today:

- **Economic exploitation:** It has economically exploited the underdeveloped/developing nations. Although the factories and other establishments are setup in the developing countries, the profits and other benefits are appropriated by the developed countries. Foreign capital is used for the exploitation rather than for the development of the less developed parts of the world. Ex: Minerals and other raw materials are sourced from Africa but profits are accrued by the west.
- **Dependency:** It has made the developing nations dependent on foreign aid by the developed nations. According to Dependency Theory, the developed nations are at the center and the developing nations at the periphery. Those in the periphery are

dependent on the centre for their existence. Ex: Some African and Asian countries are dependent on the aid from west.

- **Growing inequality:** Investment under neo-colonialism increases the gap between the rich and the poor countries of the world rather than decreases it.
- **Environmental effect:** Due to unsustainable business practices, the ecological and environmental resources are being exploited leading to global climate change. Also these colonies have become dumping grounds for industrial and nuclear wastes.
- **Humanitarian crisis:** Often the most vulnerable sections of the society like children and women are employed under unsafe conditions in many colonies. Ex: Sierra Leone.
- **Military bases:** Often the developed nations have their military bases in small nations as a portrayal of their military might, which is against the ideology of freedom and sovereignty. Ex: UK base in Diego Garcia, French military base in Djibouti.

The forty-six-year-old U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, the concerted move of the U.S. to destabilize Venezuela, Syria and Iran and violence against the success of democracy in Palestine and Latin America as a whole, are by and large parts of further neo-colonial offensives against the Third World countries.

However there is a counter view that the investments made by the developed nations has led to economic growth and prosperity of many developing nations.

Conclusion:

The only possible solution to counter neo colonialism is a humane and fair globalization, a globalization which is beneficial for the marginalized and the poor people of the world too.

For, as Fidel Castro observes, "Globalization is an irreversible process, and what we have to decide to choose is the kind of globalization which will be instrumental for the overall welfare of humanity as such and not the welfare of a few at the expense of the majority of people of the world."

Best answer: Abhishek Gaikwad

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26. What is 'sanskritisation'? Explain. What are its effects on the society?

Introduction:

Sanskritization is a process by which scheduled castes, tribes and other low Hindu castes change their way of life, customs and rituals in the direction of upper castes. It is followed by a claim to a higher position in the caste hierarchy than traditionally concealed to the claimant caste by the local community. Such claims are made over a period of time, sometimes a generation or two before they are conceded.

Body:

Effects of Sanskritization on society: Sanskritization has an influential effect on society in many ways.

- **More Equality and Liberty:** Some scheduled castes adopted upper-caste names, discovered myths about their origin and changed their traditional occupations. Now they sit along with the higher caste on the cots without any fear or hesitation.
- **Behavioural change:** Lower caste adopted other castes living patterns which gave them the liberty to sit and stand before other castes. For example, lower caste people were not keen to keep a clean atmosphere but due to Sanskritization, they started maintaining hygiene. They have left prohibited food. They also keep their houses clean and put on dresses like higher castes.
- **Value Transmission:** It helped in socio-economic and cultural value transmission in several groups of society.
- **Exposure to New ideas:** Sanskritisation is not just the adoption of new customs and habits, but also includes exposure to new ideas and values appearing in Sanskrit literature. Some of the most common Sanskritic theological ideas like Karma, dharma, Paap, Maya, Samsara and Moksha, which become common in the talk of people who are Sanskritised.
- **Redefined Caste System:** Sanskritisation challenged the then prevalent idea that caste was a rigid and unchanging institution. The concept of Sanskritisation addressed the actual complexity and fluidity of caste relations. It brought into academic focus the dynamics of the renegotiation of status by various castes and communities in India.
- **Societal Up-gradation of lower caste:** The low caste individuals are inclined towards Sanskritization because in that way they can elevate their social status and get higher status in the caste hierarchy.
- **Reduced Untouchability:** Now the situation is that the untouchable practice is almost abolished from society.
- **Professional Changes:** The lower caste people have given up un-cleaned occupation to raise their economic status because clean trades are a symbol of social light.

Many scheduled castes and tribes changed their dressing style and eating habits in a similar way of upper castes. But they had to face a lot of violence by upper castes for following their way of life. Though the process is followed by many, only those that are politically or economically powerful succeeded in the process.

Conclusion:

After the independence of the country, the issue of social mobility became more complex and cases of Sanskritization, de-Sanskritization as well as re-Sanskritization were observed. Due to the policy of positive discrimination adopted by the Indian government now an increasing number of groups laid claim to backward status rather than high status. Some of them claim a backward status in state matters and a forward status in society.

Best answer: Amaira

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27. India's tribal diversity is a capital. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction:

Home to the largest tribal population in the world, India has the privilege of hosting a variety of truly colourful, indigenous, equally vibrant and culturally rich tribal people whose lifestyles, culture, religious beliefs, traditions, rituals, dressing, food, language are so diverse that they represent an anthropological wealth of heritage.

Body:

India's tribal diversity is definitely a capital. Fighting the lack of accessibility and neglect, various tribal hamlets in India have turned problems into opportunities:

Art and Culture:

- **Centuries-old music and dance:** Dance and music are a way of expression, and for India's tribal communities, it has become an aspect which defines their culture. Tribal India has also stepped out of its indigenous tradition to make waves in other folk forms as well, as in the case of **Padma-winner Teejan Bai**. A member of the Pardhi tribe, in Chhattisgarh, Teejan is a world-renowned Pandavani exponent. This art form involves singing, playing various traditional instruments, and enacting scenes from the Mahabharata, and Teejan has been invited to other countries to perform, which has put her tribe on the global map! Whether it is to express joy, entertain, or celebrate, the hundreds of folk dances that India's tribes have given to the country have definitely added to India's cultural repertoire.
- **The coveted handicrafts:** Tribal handicrafts are coveted around the world, for the precision, and effort with which each piece is created. Their age-old traditions have cultivated a generation of artisans who have honed their craft to contribute not only to

the domestic market but India's exports as well. The tribes of the Kalahandi district in Orissa craft good quality products out of wood, which have been exported to other countries, while the Dhokra Damar tribes of West Bengal and Odisha are the creators of Dhokra technique, which has been used to create metal artefacts. Each year, handicrafts are exported to at least 100 countries around the world.

Economy and Entrepreneurships:

- Their knowledge of ancient herbs, plants and other natural products is tantamount to that of an expert. These skills that were once a part of their tradition have now become a means for not only their livelihood but an active contribution to furthering India's economic growth. Members of Kattunayakan, an ancient tribe in Kerala, have been collecting and selling wild honey for years. According to a report by Agriculture Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) 38, 177.08 metric tonnes of honey, worth 705.87 crores was exported in 2015-2016.
- Mendha Lekha, a tribal village situated in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra, has a successful bamboo economy. The entire village, comprising 450 people belonging mainly to the Gond tribe, works together in cultivating bamboo as raw material for the paper industry. The villagers make profits in crores, and are using the money for several development and social welfare activities in the area.
- A group of over 3,500 women from 127 tribal hamlets in Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Angul and Deogarh entered into a formal agreement with Leaf Democracy, a German company, to supply one lakh siali leaf plates every month. The plates, commonly known as pattals, are in high demand in European countries, and act as a biodegradable alternate to plastic and Styrofoam. These women, who earlier sold minor forest products such as siali leaves, Sal seed, mohua flowers and tamarind locally, are today working as a women's self-help group and inspiring many other women to follow suit.

Sports in Domestic and International levels:

- The tribes of India are known for their natural stamina and strength, which is a product of their lifestyle. As a result, many prominent sports figures hail from tribes across India. Mary Kom, a five-time world amateur boxing champion, and Olympic Medal winner hails from the Kom tribe in Manipur, and Baichung Bhutia, the first Indian to play professional football in England, comes from a tribe from Tinkitam in Sikkim.

Knowledge of medicinal plants:

- Many of us living in the modern world have begun to admire traditional remedies, and it is a known fact that tribal people have been practising these remedies since the time of their ancestors.
- Tender bamboo shoots have been known to cure muscle pain. A plant known as "narinaranga" is used by the Kurichiar in a paste made to provide relief for sprains; and for the Sugali tribe of Andhra Pradesh, the garlic bulb is a remedy for fever. There are thousands of such natural remedies within.

Conclusion:

The diverse tribal strength of India has lived off the land, and has given back just as much as they have taken. Whether it is their ability to innovate, adapt, and create, they continue to use their skills to thrive in an ever-evolving world, staying true to themselves, while also reaching new heights in novel fields

Best answer: Aspirant123

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28. Who are called the 'millennials'? What are the typical attributes of their lifestyle?**Introduction:**

Millennials, also known as Generation Y (or Gen Y), are the demographic cohort (group of subjects who share a defining characteristic) following Generation X and preceding Generation Z. Researchers and popular media typically use the early 1980s as starting birth years and the mid-1990s to early 2000s as ending birth years.

Body

Attributes of their lifestyle are as following:

- **Tech savvy:** Armed with smart phones, laptops, and other gadgets, this generation is plugged in 24/7. They like to communicate through social media.
- **Achievement-Oriented:** Nurtured and pampered by parents who didn't want to make the mistakes of the previous generation, millennials are confident, ambitious, and achievement-oriented. They also have high expectations of their employers, tend to seek new challenges at work, and aren't afraid to question authority.
- **Team oriented:** They value teamwork and seek the input and affirmation of others. Millennials are the true no-person-left-behind generation, loyal and committed. They want to be included and involved.
- **Prone to Job-Hopping:** A potential downside of Generation Y workers is that they're always looking for something new and better.
- **Multitaskers:** Millennials are multitasking pros and can juggle many responsibilities at once. This also means that we are easily distracted and find social media and texting hard to resist.
- **More curious:** Millennials are proven to be the most curious generation in the workforce today. And since research shows this soft skill plays a vital role in a

company's success — leading to fewer bad decisions, more innovation, and stronger team performance — it's worth paying attention to during the hiring process.

- **Instant Gratification & Recognition:** Millennials need to feel like what they are doing is important and that they are on the right track.
- **Work-Life Balance & Flexibility:** Millennials aren't as willing as former generations to sacrifice their personal life in order to advance their careers. They like to "work hard, play hard" and want to be at a company that appreciates this desire for balance
- **Family centric:** Millennials usually prioritize family over work, and even those who aren't married with children feel the need to be a part of a family and spend time with nieces, nephews, and siblings
- **Idealistic:** No matter what state the world is in, they strive to help make the world a better place.
- **Passionate:** Pursuing hobbies that they care about is an important part of their personal growth and development.

Conclusion:

The millennial generation is probably one of the most misunderstood generations usually labelled as lazy, self-indulgent, self-obsessed, and dependent, among other unflattering descriptions .But the Millennial generation makes up the fastest growing segment of the workforce. As companies compete for available talent, employers simply cannot ignore the needs, desires, and attitudes of this vast generation.

Best answer: Jean Grey

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29. How is social media influencing societal discourse in India? Examine.

Introduction:

Social media platforms are transforming public discourse in ways we do not understand. Billions of people around the world and 460 million in India use Social media to get their news, debate policy, join political movements and connect with friends and family. The platform has become the substrate of our social interactions, how human relationships are formed and maintained.

Body:

Social media influencing societal discourse:

On communication:

- It has created a Sense of Urgency and a Need to Share any Information. For example – Making of Social media stars like Priya Warrier overnight or Spread of fake news.
- It has made the language lazy and thus resulting in people uninterested in meeting others in person, which eliminates any chance of deep and meaningful conversation. People have started losing their ability to communicate efficiently, which is a testament, to what kind of total control social media has over their lives.

On Politics

- Facebook's algorithms have deepened political divisions and facilitated the spread of misinformation and propaganda. Facebook's algorithms show Different ads to people and there is a chance of a conspiracy theory about a political candidate.
- Social media isn't just used for entertainment. Both mainstream politicians and extremist groups use Facebook and Twitter to spread information.

On debate:

- Social media gives the right to free speech. But, recently there is reduced scope of constructive criticism and free expression because of never-ending online trolls and hate speeches.

On Privacy:

- The traditional social norm of Privacy is completely changed, people aren't worrying to post confidential Information because of the LIKE-Hunger or Peer pressure or both.

Instant communication:

- There's a new change in communication patterns like Preference of texting over face to face communication among the youth.

Conclusion:

Social media is influencing Public discourse like never before, It is an enabler to share information but should be used with caution. It is time that the pitfalls of social media and ways to protect oneself are taught in schools.

Best answer: A101

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30. Differentiate between the terms 'modernisation' and 'westernisation' with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

Modernization involves changes not only at the institutional level but also a fundamental change at the personal level whereas westernization is a process of imitation of western countries by non-western countries.

Body

Modernization:

- **Basis**– It is related to forfeiting dogma and adopting practices that are consistent with conventional wisdom. For example, abolishment of untouchability, empowering women.
- **Cause**– Educational reform is often a prerequisite for modernization. For example, Sati system which was widely prevalent till 18th century, got abolished only due to efforts of educated Indians.
- **Impact**– It involves a change in modes of thinking, beliefs, opinions, attitudes, actions and also a change in the social structure from a closed conservative society to a classless, casteless society. For example, the way position of women is changing in society, from just remaining inside house to visiting even space.
- **International examples**– Modernisation process involves the application of the new knowledge to the ways of living. Japan and China have been modernized in terms of industrialization, social relations but still have their culture intact.

Westernization:

- **Basis**– Westernization involves the behavioural aspects like eating, drinking, dressing, dancing, etc.
- **Causes**– Colonialism, mature and powerful market forces of the west that present western culture as the epitome of a good lifestyle. For example, Suit as formal dressing, Pizza, burger as fast food, etc.
- **Impact**– Subjugation of the local culture, loss of world diversity, conflict between core and peripheral values etc. For example, harassment against women is blamed on westernization, diseases due to adoption of lifestyles or eating habits that are not supported by the local climatic conditions.
- **International examples**– Contemporary Indian society where westernization is on rise due to factors like globalization, impact of colonialism etc.

Conclusion:

Westernization and modernization though have fundamental differences, but are still associated as in modern times, rationalism and scientific education, that fuel modernization, have their origin in western societies and westernization is often perceived as a sub-process of modernization

Best answer: Suraj Sharma

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31. Is 'feminism' a wrongly perceived and widely misunderstood concept today? Critically comment. What in your opinion is the true meaning of feminism? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of the equality of the sexes. It means that there should be equality of the sexes economically, socially, politically and personally.

Body:

Misunderstood Concept of feminism:

Misunderstanding this concept had evidently caused many people—both men and women—to hate it and stir away from it. The concept of feminism is misunderstood today in the following ways:

- "Feminism" is considered synonymous to male-hating, men-bashing, and female-superiority.
- It does support the notion about how all men are the same or that they are all sexist.
- One cannot be feminist if they love marriage institution and prefer having kids and being housewives.
- Men cannot be feminist. Many may view feminism merely as a "woman's issue" and therefore something men are excluded from.
- Many men believe it is not "manly" to be a feminist.
- Worst of all, some men think giving women equal rights means having to give up their own rights.
- Many women believe that given them special privileges is against feminism. For example, they don't prefer sitting on seats reserved for women in bus or metro train.

This false definition is widely accepted and is easily the reason the word feminism has acquired such a negative connotation. The subjective definition of the word feminism has been a topic of debate for years, perhaps centuries, and with various arguments over what the word means, the true meaning of the term for gender equality is lost.

Truth and reality about feminism: In Reality, feminism is very different from the misunderstood concept. In true sense, it will have the following component.

- It advocates for both men and women receive equal opportunities in all spheres of life.
- Women should get a fair share of the rights they deserve and gain economic independence along with social and political equality.
- Women should enjoy their discretions and should have decision making power for their own lives. For example, decisions of career and profession to choosing dress and life partner, she should be given discretion.
- In no way does it mean to strip men of their rights and considered women superior to men.
- One need not be a woman to support feminism– you can be male, female, or any gender to advocate for women’s rights.
- Cultural and religious constraints should no longer hold women who are strong, intelligent and have a sense in achieving what they believe in.
- Feminism is only trying to level the playing field, not give women extra privileges.
- Being a feminist does not mean you have to leave your husband or son(s) behind and become a solitary figure. It does not mean you are against the institution of marriage or that you don’t value giving birth. Feminism is not against women who want to become mothers; it is against society’s idea where women are regarded as nothing more than childbearing machines.

Conclusion:

The word “feminism” has been dragged through the mud and has been misunderstood by so many people the world over, but if we are to see greater strides in equality for all, it is necessary to address major misconceptions and include men, women, and all genders in our quest to attain true equality.

Best answer: Redeemer

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32. The 21st century woman is subjected to unrealistic beauty standards and face multitude of body image issues. Comment. What according to you, are the primary factors responsible for such obsession?

Introduction:

Our life revolves around ideologies. Ideologies have shaped our society so much so that even if women have gained rights in the legal, reproductive and socio-political ambit, are no longer restricted to the domestic space, and have over turned stereotypical beliefs about their roles in the socio-cultural space – ideologies of unrealistic beauty parameters continue to be a norm in most occasions.

Body:**Primary factors responsible for such obsessions are:**

- **Size and shape:** Intolerance of body diversity has a lot to do with prejudice of size and shape in our culture. Being lean toned and muscular has become associated with the hard-working, successful, popular, beautiful, strong, and the disciplined. Being fat is associated with the lazy, ugly, weak, and lacking in will-power. It's an indication of moral character and we are conditioned to think that fat is bad.
- **Social Media, Movies etc.:** In this modern age of social media and weekly movies, one is constantly being bombarded with photo shopped images of perfect bodies which create a myth of an ideal beauty in the mind of people which in turn leads to body image issues. This perception is based on both self-observation and the reaction of others. Negative body image can be caused by a feeling of inadequacy towards one's own body caused by the creation of an ideal body image that is unrealistic and unattainable.
- **Advertising by Beauty products:** Products promising fairer skin and that claim to help in losing weight, also contribute to the creation of a myth that beauty lies in having fair skin and a slim body. Advertisements of such beauty products are made in such a way that they promise happier lives on achieving fairer skin and slender bodies, thereby creating set ideals of beauty. When people cannot adhere to this standard of beauty they tend to suffer from low confidence and depression.
- **Narrow/Skewed societal view:** Often we are told or advised to be a certain way, have a certain colour etc. to be accepted well among our own society. This narrow minded perception often results in many women having a low self-esteem about their natural selves and wanting to become 'better' in society's eyes.
- **Endorsement by Celebrities:** Though celebrities endorse products that are for the welfare of their audience too, there are many that are a part of products that encourage women to be unrealistically perfect, rendering many women to fall prey to those products in awe of being able to reach the said standards.

Steps to prevent such obsessions:

- **De-emphasise numbers:** Kilograms on a scale don't tell us anything meaningful about the body as a whole or our health. Eating habits and activity patterns are much more important. We need to appreciate the uniqueness of what we have – and work with it.
- **Focus on fitness and health** which is more imperative, rather than purely on looks and unrealistic patterns.

- Celebrities must be careful with their endorsements, as they impact a very large section of young people. They must break stereotypes and be inclusive of all body types so that these unrealistic beauty standards can be shattered and every body type be encouraged.
- Evaluate social media content and prioritize constructive self-development.

Conclusion:

These unrealistic beauty standards and its pressure leads to unhealthy behaviours in women and a preoccupation with appearance in every person, and it compromises the ability of women to be effective in and accepted by society. Ideologies are important for any society to grow, but only to the point where it does not harm or impact you and your surroundings negatively.

Best answer: arv

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33. What is 'hashtag activism'? Has it been successful in bringing about positive transformation? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Hashtag activism is the act of fighting for or supporting a cause that people are advocating through social media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other networking websites. This is the kind of activism that does not require any action from the person other than sharing or "liking" a post or "retweeting" tweets on Twitter.

Body:

Impact of hashtag activism:

- **Powerful tool:** Hashtag activism can be a powerful way to control a narrative regarding a common cause that has either been neglected or misrepresented by corporate media.
- **Unify people across globe:** It offers the opportunity for communal participation across the globe. For instance, in the case of #BlackLivesMatter, this hashtag has become a unifying theme of multiples stories around racial injustice.
- **Larger goal is emphasized:** Social media has become just another tool with this larger goal for activists.

- **Multiplier effect:** There are roughly 2 billion people on Facebook and users spend an average of an hour a day on the site. Huge impact on society across globe.
- **Monetary benefits:** Can raise huge money and help the cause. Example ice bucket challenge.
- **More reach to common people:** Those who were more naïve about the social injustices happening were able to witness what was happening and join the conversation by simply using the hashtag.

Criticism of hashtag activism:

- **More efforts to make it famous:** Digital activists have to work twice as hard to ensure their movement or cause in people's minds when it's no longer a trending topic on Twitter.
- **Big number to get attention:** It is different from real live activism which is normally dependent on numbers.
- **Tool for harassment:** They can create a negative impact on someone's image or organisation, which might also demolish the purpose of which they are formed. Example me too movement
- **Deviate from the cause:** Most of them fail because they are controversial and have a goal to destabilise societies, rather than building them before you form a hashtag, arranging it, knowing who it is for, and the purpose you are forming it.
- **Purpose is not solved:** Just because a hashtag is trending doesn't mean the issue is being dealt with. For issues such as world hunger, using #hunger isn't going to solve anything other than raise awareness.
- **Distort our realities:** Filter bubbles are described as algorithms that dictate what users encounter online. Many sites offer users the opportunity to control what information others see about them and also what the users want to see themselves.

Conclusion

Hashtag activism is a great way to get involved in social justice issues, but it should not be seen as the endpoint to social activism. Ideally, for those of us seeking to change our culture for the better, this will become a first step in introducing potential activists to like-minded peers, connect and organize events, learn more about issues, and begin the often long and arduous process of social activism.

Best answer: Aspirant123

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34. Identify the key priority areas that need policy impetus to reap India's demographic dividend.

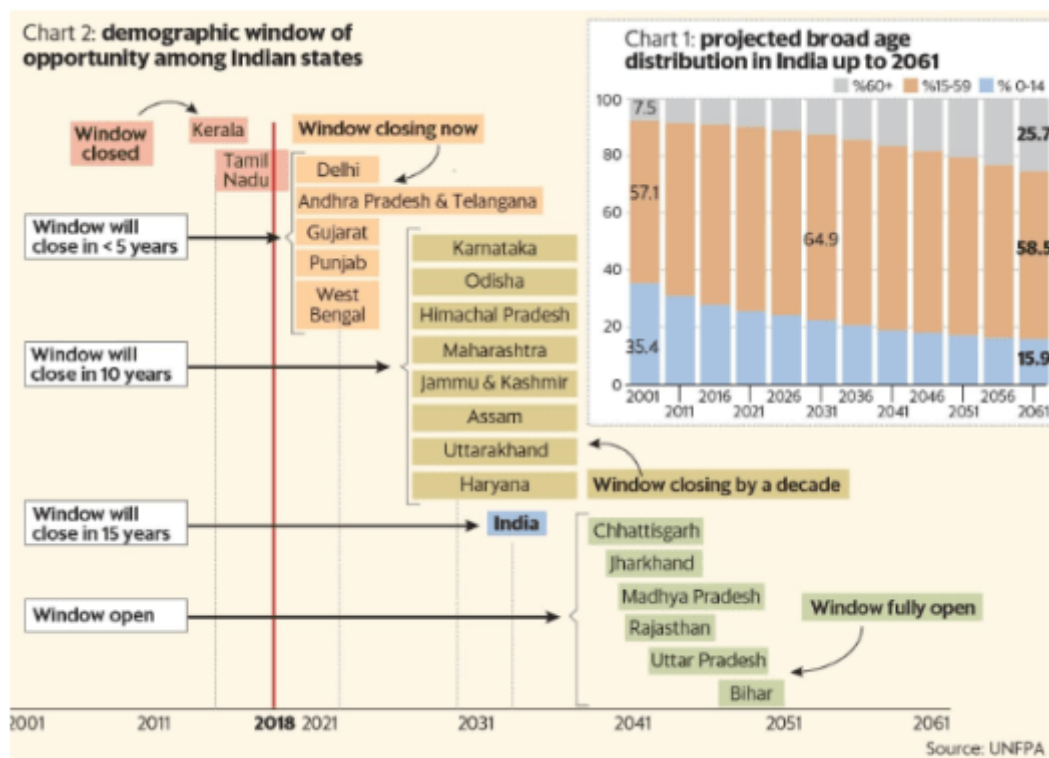
Introduction:

Demographic dividend refers to the growth in an economy that is the result of a change in the age structure of a country's population. The change in age structure is typically brought on by a decline in fertility and mortality rates.

Body

India has one of the youngest populations in an ageing world. By 2020, the median age in India will be just 28. Demographics can change the pace and pattern of economic growth. While China's spectacular growth has already benefited from a demographic dividend, India is yet to do so.

Accordingly, UNFPA advocates a **differential approach** in forward-looking policymaking and programme planning to harness the demographic dividend opportunity.



- The focus in the states where the window is closing soon (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Delhi, Gujarat etc.,) will have to be on ageing and migrant-friendly policies and programmes
- The focus in the states where the window is open and will close in the next 10-15 years (Karnataka, Odisha, Haryana, Assam etc.,) will have to be on empowering girls and

women, provisioning of health, education and skill development for young people, and employment generation.

- The focus in the states where the window is yet to open (Chhattisgarh, UP, Bihar etc.,) will have to be threefold—addressing harmful practices such as child marriage, access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and family planning services to all, and provisioning of health, education, life and vocational skills to all the young people.

On the whole, **the key priority areas to reap India's demographic dividend are:**

Nutrition mission:

- Around two-thirds of the working population in India are earning 13% less than other normal working people because of stunting in childhood— being excessively short for their age—one of the world's highest such reductions in per capita income.
- Key nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions such as exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and micronutrient supplementation are the need of the hour.

Education:

- India is home to the world's largest concentration of illiterate people in the world. It has made gains in human development, but challenges remain, including big barriers to secondary schooling, low-quality public services, and gender discrimination.
- The **draft National Education Policy 2019** provides for reforms at all levels of education from school to higher education. It seeks to increase the focus on early childhood care, reform the current exam system, strengthen teacher training, and restructure the education regulatory framework.

Employment:

- Lack of jobs combined with a demographic dividend will increase the share of the population that is dependent on the working population. This will increase the economic insecurity of the elderly, as there will be fewer people generating wealth.
- Removing structural bottlenecks to the manufacturing sector is key to promoting job creation in more productive and better-paid activities

Providing Skills:

- According to the National Sample Survey, out of the 470 million people of working age in India, only 10% receive any kind of training or access to skilled employment opportunities.
- Though recent initiatives such as "**Skill India Mission**" aim to train and create an employable skilled talent pool of 500 million people by 2020, there still is a long way to go.

Human capital:

- Investing in people through healthcare, quality education, jobs and skills helps build human capital, which is key to supporting economic growth, ending extreme poverty, and creating more inclusive societies.
- There is a need to invest in research and analysis which will help build relevant training modules and syllabi as per the changing industry requirements.

Conclusion:

Fine-tuning the planning and implementation of schemes and programmes by factoring in population dynamics is likely to yield greater socio-economic impact and reaping the demographic dividend.

Best answer: Aspirant

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35. What is 'social capital'? Discuss the significance of population as social capital.**Introduction:**

The term social capital was popularized by Robert Putnam and can be defined as networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups (as per OECD).

Body**Types of social capital:**

- **Bonds**– Links to people based on a sense of common identity (“people like us”) – such as family, close friends and people who share our culture or ethnicity (homogenous groups).
- **Bridges**: Links that stretch beyond a shared sense of identity, for example to distant friends, colleagues and associates (heterogeneous groups).
- **Linkages**: Links to people or groups further up or lower down the social ladder.

Significance of population as social capital:

- **Civil society**– A proactive civil society can take up the cause of common people and work towards their welfare, for example HelpAge India NGO working for disadvantaged elderly of India.

- **Women's organisations**– Organisations like Bhartiya Grameen Mahila Sangh, Nirbhaya centres etc, are helping in socio-economic empowerment of women.
- **Self-help groups**– Plays an important role in mobilizing the distressed rural populace through entrepreneurship development, promotion of thrift savings etc.
- **Education**– Quality of education can be improved by active work of population as social capital, eg. Social audit of schools.
- **Health**– A good social capital leads to reduced isolation due to urban lifestyle, improved health service delivery among people and helps improve the average mortality rates.
- **Crime prevention**– Social capital can act as a security system. It is evident in traditional societies where gram sabha would serve as the judicial authority to take concrete actions like social boycott against criminals or evildoers.
- **Environment**– Community based organization preserve the environment and sustain resources. Sacred groves are an excellent example of role of social capital in preservation of environment.
- **Water use and sanitation**– The success of Swachh Bharat abhiyan is attributed to a large extent to Swachhagrahis and active participation of gram sabha.
- **Economic development**– A good social capital will enhance trade relations among people and nations, thus helping in mutual economic development, for example India's trade with Bangladesh is better as compared to Pakistan due to better social capital in former case.

Limitations of social capital

- **Decay**– Social capital does not stay same and needs constant efforts to be maintained or else it decays over time.
- **Lack of equity**– Not everyone has equal access to the social capital, rich or politically powerful have more influence compared to others.
- **Lack of individuality**– Often group and social norms limit the individual growth and personal creativity is stifled by traditions.
- **Separatism**– When bonding social capital is dominant as compared to bridging, the groups develop a notion where it perceives societal and its own interests as exclusive of each other, for example current situation in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Personal political gains**– If the political institution and democracy in a specific country is not strong enough and it can be overpowered by the social capital groups, for example Jat and Maratha agitation and subsequent reservation.

Conclusion:

Social capital is essential for proper functioning of society, however care must be taken about the capital being present equally in terms of bonding and bridging capital for a harmonious and prosperous society.

Best answer: Aspirant

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36. Examine the concept of poverty as a consequence of social exclusion.

Introduction:

Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional process. It involves the lack of denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. It affects both the quality of life of individuals and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole.



Body:

Social exclusion denies people the same rights and opportunities as afforded to others in their society, and that it causes poverty of particular people leading to higher rates of poverty among affected groups such as Dalits, minorities, tribes, transgender etc. Social Exclusion leads to Poverty in the following ways:

- **Denial of or absence of resources, opportunities, or rights:** which affects participation in society on equal terms with others, with at times, affected persons being in a situation where even basic needs for survival are denied or cannot be accessed.

- **Political exclusion:** leads to the low representation of a section of society in government offices and this leads to fewer policies in favour of that particular section which can benefit them in a better standard of living.
- **Low Quality of life:** Living in slum areas with low hygiene leads to poor health, and exclusion from access to better health services leads to the burden on pockets of poor, which ultimately end up pushing poor into more poverty.
- **Exclusion from or denial of access to opportunities:** This provides fewer employment opportunities which don't let the poor come out of poverty.
- **Deprived of Human rights:** Exclusion imposes constraints under which human rights cannot be enjoyed in the same manner as by others in society. For example, basic rights like education and justice are denied, which further leads to poverty.
- **Social inferiority:** A feeling which is characterized by a sense of social inferiority in the community or a loss of social status.

The relationship between poverty and social exclusion is a reciprocal one. The process is cyclical with poverty being a cause of exclusion from participation which in turn leads to further poverty.

Conclusion:

Despite India's record of rapid economic growth and poverty reduction over recent decades, rising inequality in the country has been a subject of concern among policymakers, academics, and activists alike. These inequalities are more structural and have kept entire groups trapped, unable to take advantage of opportunities that economic growth offers.

For India to become a \$5 Trillion economy and to achieve most of SDG by 2030, we need to be more inclusive of all sections of society

Best answer: Mugiwara

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37. Can a universal basic income scheme address the problem of poverty? Critically examine.

Introduction:

Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a periodic, unconditional cash transfer to every citizen in the country. Here, social or economic positions of the individual are not taken into

consideration. The idea of UBI is not new but in the past few years, it has resurfaced globally in a very big way as a means of redistributing income.

Body:

UBI addresses the problem of poverty through the following:

- **Efficiency:** Despite making remarkable progress in poverty reduction, nearly 22 percent of the population lives below poverty line (Tendulkar committee report, 2011-12). One of the major criticisms of poverty alleviation programmes is significant leakages. UBI is seen as a more efficient alternative.
- **Social Security:** As a form of social security UBI will help in reducing inequality and eliminating poverty. Thus it ensures security and dignity for all individuals.
- **Purchasing power:** As human labour is being substituted by technology, there will be reduced wage income and reduced purchasing power. UBI will compensate for reduced purchasing power.
- **Economic choice:** UBI strengthens economic liberty at an individual level. This would help them to choose the kind of work they want to do, rather than forcing them to do unproductive work to meet their daily requirements.
- **Productivity:** UBI could promote greater productivity. For example, agriculture labourers who own small patch of land and earlier used to work in others' farm for low wages, can now undertake farming on their own land. In long term, this will reduce the percentage of unused land and helps in increasing agriculture productivity.
- **Empowerment:** If promoted through gradualism – like starting with women, elderly, widows, disabled etc.

Advantages to the Government:

- **Reduces wastage and errors:** As every individual receive basic income, it promotes efficiency by reducing wastages in government transfers. Thus it excludes errors in identifying the intended beneficiaries – which is a common problem in targeted welfare schemes.
- **Reduces bureaucratic burden:** Considerable gains could be achieved in terms of bureaucratic costs and time by replacing many of the social sector schemes with UBI.
- **Financial Inclusion:** As Economic Survey (2016-2017) points out, transferring basic income directly into bank accounts will increase the demand for financial services. This would help banks to invest in the expansion of their service network, which is very important for financial inclusion.

Arguments against UBI:

- A guaranteed minimum income might make people lazy and it breeds dependency. They may opt out of labour market and can refuse to work (as it had been observed in case of MGNREGA).

- Given the large population size, the fiscal burden on government would be high. Also, as Economic Survey 2016-17 noted, once implemented, it may become difficult for the government to wind up a UBI in the case of failure.
- If the UBI is funded by higher taxes, especially by the indirect taxes, it may result in inflation. This, in turn, will reduce the purchasing power of the people and lowers the value of the amount transferred.
- There is no guarantee that the additional income will be spent on education, health etc. there are chances that the money will be spent on 'temptation goods' such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs etc.
- It will also face the problem of 'exclusion error' in the identification of beneficiaries. Efficiency will be reduced. Corruption will creep in. More importantly, UBI will not remain 'universal'.

Way forward:

- India stood at 130 out of 189 countries in the UNDP's 2018 HDI ranking. Movement in the HDI are driven by changes in health, education and income. The schemes for these are meant for long-term improvement in human development, rural infrastructure, employment etc. and can't be substituted by cash transfer. Thus a complementary and aiding income can be a balanced solution.
- A transparent and safe financial architecture that is accessible to all is important for the success of the UBI. In other words, the success of UBI depends on the success of efficient mode of delivery like JAM Trinity.
- Study the efficiency of similar schemes in other countries (Finland, Kenya, and Spain etc.) and work out the best implementation suitable for India.

Conclusion:

Though UBI has many advantages, there are many practical challenges too. As Economic Survey states, UBI is a powerful idea whose time even if not ripe for implementation is ripe for serious discussion.

Best answer: CSE

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38. The right to the city is far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city. Comment.

Introduction:

Right to the city is often seen as a social utopia and collective claim inspiring ideas and suggestions for social movements and a better world. It is a slogan for movements worldwide which fight against the manifestations of many modern cities in which public processes and utilities have been privatized and where development is driven primarily if not solely by corporations and markets.

Body**Advantages of urban life:**

- **Easy access to goods and services:** Better access to public health and general health care, supermarkets, education, technology etc.
- **More labour productivity:** Contributes to an increase in labour productivity, allows solving many social problems of society.
- **Better possibilities to boost the economy:** being closer to businesses and industries, people who come from the countryside can explore more possibilities to increase their current income.
- **Better sanitary services:** potable water, sanitation, transport of waste, recycling of garbage, etc.
- **Revenue generation:** The whole society benefits from internal improvements, either through a richer tax base or through competition between private organizations.

Issues with urbanization:

- Indecisiveness on the matters related to urbanisation.
- Inadequate relevance given to urbanisation for achieving our socio-economic goals and development.
- A weak policy approach towards urbanisation has also led to faulty implementation and ignorance.
- Centralised approach in policies and initiatives related to urbanisation did not give states or cities much autonomy and choice.
- Delayed approval of projects caused implementation delays.

Way forward:

- **Individual responsibility:** it is responsibility of each and every person to play role in changing the surrounding.
- **Rational planning:** cities suffer from a huge deficit in urban infrastructure and very poor delivery of basic services including drinking water, waste water treatment, solid waste management and public transport. It is right to change ourselves by changing the city.
- **Co-operation from society:** It requires close cooperation among different government departments and to make use of carefully designed systems of taxes and cross subsidies to encourage the right kind of transport development.

- **Strategic leadership:** planning and better management of urbanization, financing and governance, the agenda needs to be carefully designed with strategic leadership.
- **Focussing on welfare of all:** These days people are self-centric, this attitude should be changed and start focussing on welfare of the community as a whole.
- **Environmental concerns:** urban environment is to meet the rising expectations of an expanding urban population and provide an urban environment consistent with rapid, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Conclusion:

Cities will play a very important role as engines of growth as India attempts to achieve faster growth, which will inevitably imply a structural transformation and a rising share of industry and services sectors. Planning for urbanization and better management of cities is therefore not only important for the quality of life for those living in our cities and towns, but also because it contributes to a better investment climate.

Best answer: Strider

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39. Urbanization is the inevitable outcome of the processes of growth and the processes of modernization. Elucidate.**Introduction:**

Urbanization is when people move from rural farmland to cities and towns. Urban areas are more densely packed and offer greater opportunities to the residents in the form of higher-paying jobs and a larger variety of job opportunities.

Body:

Urbanization is inevitable as a country's production moves away from agriculture and towards industry. Industrialization has historically led to urbanization by creating economic growth and job opportunities that draw people to cities.

Urbanisation and Economic Growth:

- There are strong correlations between urbanisation and economic growth. Urbanisation could generate millions of jobs for the growing youth population.

- Productivity increases when rural farmers become urban factory workers, as has happened most spectacularly in China.
- Between 1978 and 2018, China's urbanisation rate jumped up from 18% to 58%. In the process, over 500 million people were lifted out of poverty and the country attained middle-income status. India's present level of urbanisation (34%) is far lower than China (58%) or even Indonesia (55%). Naturally, there is a huge scope for growth.
- A high degree of urban concentration is more important in the early stages of development. Because cities offer a range of 'agglomeration benefits' and this allows the economy to save on economic infrastructure and managerial resources, which may be in short supply

An Increase in Employment Possibilities:

- In developing countries, employment opportunities often open rapidly through the process of industrialization. Every developing country goes through a period of industrialization, where jobs move from agriculture to production. People begin to move to cities and towns more frequently, adding to the urbanization of that country.

Access

- In urban areas, people have access to better schools, healthcare facilities, better living standards, and increased trade opportunities.

Modernization

- Cities are more modern than rural environments, and people are attracted to fashion, food, and ideas flowing in the city.

Conclusion:

Urbanization is a consequence of development and also the driving force for accelerating this development. Therefore, we need to start planning for the future. Building sustainable cities and finding ways to create more jobs is the best way ahead.

Best answer: Amaira

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40. Health is the core of human development. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction:

Human development is defined as the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. It includes income growth, health, education, physical environment and freedom.

Body:

Health however is at the core of human development:

- **Economic progress**– Healthy people live more, are more productive and save more, resulting in increased investments and thus economic progress.
- **Education**– Healthy population can be more learned and also look for higher educational opportunities.
- **Economic freedom**– Due to savings on health expenditure, healthy population has more disposable income, giving them better choices economically.
- **Nutrition**– A healthy person can absorb nutrition better, which in turn increases his/her productivity in other spheres of life.
- **Fertility**– Healthier populations tend to achieve optimum fertility rates due to lesser child mortality ratio and higher economic development, for example Scandinavian countries.
- **Productivity**– A healthy individual can produce better outcomes and is less likely to be absent from work.
- **Social benefits**– A healthy person can have better access to social services as well as help improving the social capital of a nation.
- **Learning and innovation**– A healthy body includes a healthy mind and with a sound mental health free from depression, anxiety, stress etc. can the learning outcomes be improved along with excelling in innovation.

Note: You can provide some examples or state some reports to substantiate these above facts in exam.

Conclusion:

Due to health being at the core of human development, it is included as a key indicator in calculation of Human Development Index and is placed as Goal 3 in the sustainable development goals.

Best answer: Shashi shekhar

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41. What are the effects of globalisation on the rural population of India? Illustrate.**Introduction:**

Since 1991, when the new industrial policy of India came into force, globalization started taking momentum in India. Globalization means an uninterrupted flow of trade, capital and technology across the national borders by considering the whole world as a big market. Globalization has converted the whole world into a single society.

Body:

Globalization is a double-edged sword. It is a powerful vehicle that raises economic growth, spreads new technology and increases living standards in rich and poor countries alike but also an immensely controversial process that assaults national sovereignty, erodes local culture and tradition, and threatens economic and social stability.

Two-Third of Indian population lives in rural areas and almost half of the total population is dependent on agricultural activities. The impact of globalization on Indian rural life has a tremendous influence which is both positive as well as negative.

Positive effects of globalization that relate to rural life or its development includes:

- Commercialization of agriculture and expansion of agro-industries.
- Liberalization of international trade and marketing for food and other agricultural products.
- Intensification and internal labour migration. Labour migration to cities from rural areas in search of employment is a common phenomenon.
- Standards of living have increased.
- Increasing privatization of resources such as coal mines led to more employment opportunities.
- The wider use of ICT led to better service delivery like Common Service Centre (CSC) and better health services using e-Health.
- Technical education is provided to most of the students from rural areas to secure employment.
- The farmers in the Indian village now have access to the advanced equipment and seeds for agriculture, which leads them to better yields and higher earnings.
- Globalization also provides better exposure to the agricultural produces and ensures the farmers that they get the correct value for the produces due to globalization.
- Impact of globalization, mass media and education directly or indirectly encourage the current generation to abandon traditional social conservative norms and taboos.

Negative effects:

- Rural population is still suffering from unemployment as rural labour is mostly uneducated and unskilled. Machines and latest technologies have reduced the number of manpower a lot.
- Globalization has caused intermingling of cultures. Though it has curtailed narrow mindedness of humans, it has caused cultural degradation also.
- As most of the villages don't have adequate electricity and modern means of communication, so the benefits of globalization didn't reach the hinterlands.
- Imports make the farmers' position worse as they are not able to compete with imported goods in terms of price and quality.
- The position of artisans is also bad in villages. They are also not able to compete with machine-made goods.
- As the competition has become global, so it has become quite difficult for small, cottage, handicraft & medium industries to maintain the pace.
- Western perceptions are not aligned with local perspectives, they encouraged consumerism amid extreme poverty in India.

Way Forward:

There are some measures which may be fruitful in the neutralization of the evil effect of globalization-

- Latest information and technology facilities should be provided and developed in rural areas in an intense manner. 'BharatNet' and 'Saubhagya' are good steps in this direction.
- Govt. officials and NGOs, both private sector and public sector, should encourage rural mass to use the latest ICT facilities in developing their entrepreneurial activities.
- Positive aspects of globalization should be imitated like green consumerism, eco-friendly techniques of production etc.
- The high degree of globalization should not affect the small cottage industries and handicraft industries prevailing in rural India.
- MNCs should be allowed to enter the Indian market only after studying their effect on environmental degradation, small-cottage industries, Indian buying habits and on Indian social values.
- Globalization should be a two-way process and not a one-way flow. 'Make in India' and 'Export Promotion' to be implemented in its full potential.
- For globalization and transformations in rural areas governments have to provide proper rural-urban road links through PM- Gram Sadak Yojna.

Best answer: Sunil Anand

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42. How is globalisation affecting the work culture in Indian corporate? Examine.**Introduction:**

Globalization is described by theorists as the process through which societies and economies are integrated through cross border flows of ideas, communication, technology, capital, people, finance, goods, services and information. Globalization has a huge impact on cultural, social, monetary, political, and communal life of countries.

Body:

In India, MNCs are playing a major role in the globalisation process affecting the corporate work culture in many ways.

Competition: Globalization increases competitiveness at company level and national level, which leads company management and governments to embrace strategies designed to increase labour effectiveness with reference to productivity, quality and innovation.

Diversity in work space: People from all over the country from diverse social backgrounds work together in the corporate industry. This amalgamation provides a wonderful cauldron from where new ideas and systems will originate.

Gender equality: Though female workforce is comparatively less compared to western countries, globalisation has brought about a change in the corporate culture of India, providing and hiring more female workforce, and measuring the capability than judging by gender.

Recreational spaces: Corporate work spaces nowadays also accommodate gyms, recreational rooms, gaming areas etc. to encourage employees to engage in personal and interactive developing activities.

Formal hierarchy: Globalisation has brought with it a formal work culture. Respecting employees' privacy, segregation among team members and upper-level employees, strict work timings and weekend offs are some corporate styles of working.

Work from home and flexible shifts: Due to increase in dependency on technology and use of Internet, cloud facilities, 'Work-from-home' culture have been on the rise. Day and night shifts have been introduced to co-ordinate and accommodate western timelines. For ex- UK and US shifts are associated with work timings in the night.

Informal wear: Most corporate companies now do not stress on a strict adherence to formal attire. Informal but decent wear is also being encouraged to increase comfort of employees in the work environment.

However, there are certain undesirable implications as a result of globalisation:

Fast food culture: Work culture also is influenced by the fast food consumption as a spill over effect from globalisation. Corporate employees often tend to have food on their tables or in a short break, sometimes carrying out work simultaneously. This has been shown to increase health problems, stress and many chronic issues.

Night shifts: Though considered as a measure to increase productivity and suitability, the night shifts have been known to disrupt normal body behaviours and contribute to numerous health problems in the long run. Safety also becomes an issue at times, when commute is for longer distances.

Less social and cultural interactions: It has been said that 'IT culture' has resulted in a decrease of interactions with family and close ones due to either work pressure tiring them out, or carrying over the deadlines to personal spaces, thus impacting the personal relationships in a harmful manner.

Conclusion:

Though globalisation as a positive phenomenon with professionalism might give further a strong motivation to the Indian economy, but apprehensions regarding its penetration into work culture of Indians should be addressed adequately to avoid collateral damage on India's positive ethos.

Best answer: CRB

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43. What are 'problems without passport'? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

Passport is an official document issued by a government, certifying the holder's identity and citizenship and entitling them to travel under its protection to and from foreign countries.

Body:

Problems without passport:

- **Health epidemics:** The current displacement of a record 60 million people world-wide by war and conflict, natural disasters and economic crises like the Global Financial Crisis.

Example: Smallpox, which killed hundreds of millions of people in the 20th century.

- **Fire weather and extreme sea-level events:** In Australia, the \$5 billion Great Barrier Reef tourism industry has already felt the impacts of coral bleaching and increased frequency and severity of storms and cyclones.
- **Mass movements of people:** In the Pacific, all of the land area of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, and 97 percent of the land area of Kiribati, is less than five metres above sea level.
- **Extreme weather conditions:** In the broader Asian region, countries are experiencing declining food security, water shortages, increased prevalence and geographical reach of disease and more extreme weather events including floods and cyclones.
- **Environmental threats:** From pollution of our air to overfishing in the seas.

Example: Disputed land of South China Sea.

- **Organized crime:** Pollution, organized crime, and the proliferation of deadly weapons likewise show little regard for the niceties of borders; they are problems without passports and, as such, our common enemy.

Example: organized crime in Central America and the Caribbean

- **Hate crime and racism:** Incident/crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's religion or perceived religion.

Example: Jews prosecution.

- **In the name of religion:** Prosecution in the name of religion and seeking asylum.

Example: Hajongs and Chakmas in Bangladesh

- **Mass scale destruction:** large-scale weaponry of other technologies, such as chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear warfare.

Example: Syria-Palestine issue.

Conclusion:

No nation is immune; no nation can address such issues on its own; and no nation is exempt from risks without the benefits of international cooperation. The strong involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparation of the Convention is a must to solve the problems.

Best answer: Suraj Sharma

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44. Has globalisation led to enhanced secularisation in India? Critically comment.

Introduction:

Globalisation is the ongoing process that is linking people, neighbourhoods, cities, regions and countries much more closely together than they have ever been before. Secularization refers to the historical process in which religion loses social and cultural significance.

Body:

Globalisation led to enhanced secularisation in India in following ways:

Access to education:

- Globalisation has aided in the explosion of information on the web that has helped in greater awareness among people about various religions, customs, practices and the concept of secularism itself. It also had led to questioning the age-old exploitative traditions like Devadasi and Triple-talaq.

Employment:

- There is an increase in the number of multinational companies operating in India. MNC's recruit based on talent, not based on affiliation to religion or caste.
- The Teamwork concept in such companies promotes brotherhood between persons of different religions and enhances secularisation.

Urbanization:

- 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. It is observed that Urban areas are more secular than in rural areas. People eat together, increased instances of inter-faith marriages are seen in urban areas.

Increased exposure to Different cultures:

- Globalisation has increased the exposure of a variety of cultures and religions in the form of movies, festivals, cuisine. These all are increasing understanding of other religion from their lens.

Globalisation hasn't led to enhanced secularisation in India:

Communal Politics:

- As long as Political parties rely on Vote bank politics, instances of communal flareups continue to rise. The Gujarat riots of 2002, Muzzafarnagar riots of 2013 show that Globalisation has no or very little impact on the secularisation of India.

Spread of Communal violence:

- Globalisation made communal hatred and violence borderless. Even peaceful countries such as New Zealand (Christ church attack), European countries like France, Britain etc., are victims of communal violence.

Spread of Intolerance:

- An increase in stereotyping of a particular religion has crept all over the world. Eg. Islam religion as perpetrator of terrorism.
- These stereotypes increase the amount of intolerance in society and hinder the process of secularisation of a nation.

Technology:

- Availability of technology is an outcome of Globalisation, sometimes they act negatively as a means to spread religious fundamentalism. Eg.- Radicalisation of youth by ISIS, Spread of fake news and resultant mob lynchings.

These processes hinder secularisation of India as a whole.

Conclusion:

India is a land of pluralism. The highly diverse nature of our culture is the uniting strength of India. Globalization to an extent acted as a unifying force but monitored access would help India enhance secularisation and preserve its multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-caste society.

Best answer: CSE

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45. Has globalisation been good for the agrarian economy? Critically examine.

Introduction:

With the advent of WTO and increasing emphasis on market based economy as well as free trade, agriculture sector has also been impacted by the wave of Globalization.

Body

Benefits for agrarian economy:

- **Agro-technologies**– Availability of hybrid seeds, pesticides, technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation, genetically modified crops etc. that has improved the productivity and efficiency of farming.
- **Increased production**– HYV seeds, pesticides and herbicides through green revolution has increased agriculture production tremendously across the globe.
- **Higher earnings**– Export oriented farming results in better price realization for the farmers.
- **New employment avenues**– Food processing and other agro allied industries have generated employment and reduced pressure on land in developing countries.
- **Feminization of agriculture**– Due to male moving out because of increased urban employment through globalization, agriculture is being dominated by females.
- **Social impact**– Food security, water management through dry and precision farming etc. have social benefits for farmers.

Drawbacks:

- **Unstable prices**– Lower prices in one part of the world adversely impact the local food prices in an open economy.
- **Debt trap**– Commercial agriculture requires increased inputs which further increase the debt burden on farmers.
- **Migration of labour**– With increased urban migration, there is lack of labour for agriculture.
- **Income suppression**– Trade agreements forbid most subsidies excepted for agricultural goods. This depresses incomes of those farmers in the developing countries who do not get subsidies.
- **Unsustainable practices**– Shift from traditional cropping to market oriented farming that is unsustainable, like growing rice in dry areas of Punjab or Sugarcane in dry regions of Marathwada, has caused havoc to the agrarian sustainability of these regions.

Conclusion:

Globalisation thus has mixed impact on agrarian economy. The impacts can however be more positive with a focused approach like Special Safeguard Mechanism in WTO and use of tools like glocalisation where regional considerations are given due importance while adopting global practices.

Best answer: Raghunandan

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46. Does economic empowerment through poverty alleviation schemes and various other financial supports lead to social empowerment? Critically examine.

Introduction:

India, being a welfare state, has many poverty eradication and poverty minimization programs, and provides subsidies and pension schemes to poor people below the poverty line for their socio-economic empowerment.

Body:

Some of the poverty elevation programs and schemes for Socio-Economic empowerment are:

- **National Rural Livelihood Mission-** employment to the rural poor.
- Food Security Bill- one of the largest food security schemes across the world.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna- provides skill training to youth.
 - - **Farm Loan Waiver**
 - **10% Quota to Economically Weaker Sections**
- **National Social Assistance Program-** pension for elderly people and destitute women.
- MGNREGA– for livelihood security of the rural poor by generating wage employment.
- Ayushman Bharat Mission– to provide health security to poor people.
- Educational Scholarships to SC, ST, Minorities.

- Subsidies in LPG and electricity connection.

Economic Empowerment through Poverty Alleviation Schemes Leads to Social Empowerment:

- With these schemes and supports, India halved its poverty rate in the last 10 years. In absolute terms, the number of poor fell from 630 million to 360 million during this period. So it is evident that these schemes are reducing poverty.
- Through public expenditure on social consumption needs — provision of PDS for food grains, education, health and water supply—people's living standard improves.
- Programmes supplement the consumption of the poor, create employment opportunities and bring about improvements in health and education.
- Better availability of material goods such as cooking fuel, sanitation facilities, and household assets leads to a decrease in poverty headcount.

Counter Arguments: Despite poverty minimization programs by various government schemes, the situation is worrisome as more than 22 per cent of the population still live in poverty. Reasons for the continuation of poverty in India can be attributed to:

- Weak implementation and corruption of schemes. Ex. fudging of MGNREGA payroll registers, Leakages in PDS system.
- Limited government resources when compared to the population.
- Neglecting areas for development leading to insurgency and Naxalism. This further perpetuates poverty as insurgents block government efforts to address poverty in the area.
- High illiteracy leads to lack of awareness regarding their Rights as beneficiaries in the schemes, leading to denying of rights as well as providing avenues for corruption.
- Lack of accountability and low scope for social audit of the schemes.
- Weak healthcare infrastructure leads to out of pocket expenditure pushes people back into the poverty who are at the boundary of the poverty line.
- Farm loan being criticized as it was a temporary relief from the debts; it is not a long term solution to the main problem of poor farmers.

Way forward:

After so many years after independence, the continuation of poverty is a poor indicator of the performance of government and needs redressal. Steps must be taken to improve the situation such as:

- Fulfilling basic necessities of people such as food, education and health. Government efforts such as NFSM, Ayushman Bharat etc should be implemented in letter and spirit.
- PDS should be made robust and leak proof.
- Use of ICT and JAM trinity for better delivery and transparency.

- Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) so that people use the cash to buy goods of their choice from open markets.
- Universal Basic Income (UBI) to be provided to the poor female household.

Best answer: Ritik

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47. Communal intolerance is the enemy of progress and growth. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction:

Religious violence, communal polarisation and intolerance have increased in contemporary world and it is a continuous obstacle in the progress and growth of a country, as observed many times even in India, which is reputed for its diverse ethnicity, community, religion, language and culture, which few nations can boast of.

Body:

Communal intolerance hampers the growth and progress in the following ways:

- **Destruction of Social harmony:** Due to the communal intimidation and hatred being spread, the very fabric of a society is being diminished in the larger sense, rendering a weak and divided social strength. **For ex–** Assimilation with accommodation, stable patterns of pluralism, inequality and integration etc. constitute the basic fabric of Indian society, which when tainted with communal intolerance get divided and internally threatened.
- **Economy:** Disturbances caused due to communal intolerance largely impact the local economy due to the disruptive activities like strikes, riots, destruction of public property etc against each other, and also disturb the macro-economic outlook of countries on the global sphere as a result of the apprehensions of investors or economic giants of a good work environment. **For ex–** Many global indices consider all round social parameters and societal tolerance to rank countries which in turn are considered for economic reports, positive indicators etc.
- **Political instability:** At times massive communal clashes result in political blame game, interference and unnecessary measures, projecting an unstable political atmosphere. Welfare of the nation is mainly side-lined and the representatives are caught in inconsequential issues. **For ex–** as seen in Sri Lanka, communal clashes and violence often divide the nation and the common masses bringing in a total instability.

- **Deprivation of amenities:** Victims of intolerance are found to be deprived of facilities and opportunities, thus excluding them from contributing to the overall development of the society and subsequently lose out on self-development too. **For ex–** Minorities of a certain place not being allowed to work, settle down, and reside in places where they are a minority or not accepted well.
- **Curbing of individual freedom:** Any form of illogical intolerance often leads to taking away of individual freedom and rights. Constructive criticism and debates over various aspects are absent and dominance of one ideology takes over. Any society plagued by this halts the overall growth and progress of the collective.

Conclusion:

Secularism with tolerance acts as a special and critical pillar in our democracy, which has been loudly supported by people like Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda and even preamble of our constitution. People of this great nation should be reminded of the value and guiding principles in life that have nurtured compassion, forbearance and tolerant accommodativeness in the people of the subcontinent from time immemorial.

Best answer: Jean Grey

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48. Comment upon the evolving trends of regionalism in India and the government's response to it.

Introduction:

Regionalism is defined as a political ideology that favours a specific region over a greater area. It usually results due to political separations, religious geography, cultural boundaries, linguistic regions, and managerial divisions.

Body

Evolving trends in regionalism

- Separation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh in 2014 which recently happened.
- Demand for creation of new states from Darjeeling region of west Bengal, Vidarbha region from Maharashtra, splitting up of Uttar Pradesh into four, Union territory status for Kodagu region etc.

- Pathalgadi movement: Started in parts of Eastern India, the movement is based on self-assertion and governance based on customary laws and rejection of Central government laws.
- Regional politics: Regionals parties like BSP, TMC, YSRCP, JDS, JDU have cropped up from national parties and demanding more rights for states in form of transferring items from Union and Concurrent list to State lists, residuary powers to states among others.
- Dravidian state: There has been demand for separate Dravidian land consisting of 4 southern states from certain fringe/regional political parties. Ex: United states of South India.
- Demand for reservation in Jobs: Certain groups in states like Karnataka, Maharashtra have started demanding for reservation in jobs for local people. Ex: Slogans like Mumbai for Mumbaikars etc.
- Maharashtra's Shiv Sena, Punjab's khalistan movement, ULFA in Assam for securing their boundaries, Telangana movement are some of the movements related to regionalism.

After independence Indian government adapted various strategies to overcome the issue of regionalism.

- Provision of autonomy within 5th Schedule and 6th Schedule.
- The States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) was a body constituted by the Central Government of India in 1953 to recommend the reorganisation of state boundaries
- Linguistic reorganization of states with passage of States Reorganization Act of 1956.
- North eastern reorganization act, 1971
- Three language formula, special grants to backward states.
- Federal institutions like Inter-State Council, NITI Aayog, GST Council.
- Creation of new states like Telangana and Uttarakhand.
- Initiatives like 'Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat' to promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian States and Union Territories through a year-long planned engagement between States.
- Incentives for Promoting Investment in Backward Regions like Income Tax Concession and tax Holiday in order to give stimulus to new industries in backward regions.

Conclusion:

Regionalism in India is the Expression of the neglected socio-political elements which not succeed to find expression in the mainstream polity and culture. These feelings of frustration and annoyance resulting from exclusion and neglect find demonstration in regionalism

Best answer: Ayush Dubey

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2019/07/day-25-q-3-comment-upon-the-evolving-trends-of-regionalism-in-india-and-the-governments-response-to-it/>

49. Do you find any contradictions in the prevalent notion, understanding and practice of secularism in India? Critically comment.

Introduction:

Secularism means separation of religion from political, economic, social and cultural aspects of life, religion is treated as a purely personal matter. It stands for equal opportunities for followers of all religions, and no discrimination and partiality on grounds of religion.

Body:

Understanding the concept of secularism:

- **Separation of state and religion**- Religious groups don't interfere in affairs of state, and the state doesn't interfere in religious affairs.
- **Religious freedom**– Defend the absolute freedom of religious and other belief. It protects the rights of both believers and non-believers.
- **Equal access to public services**– No discrimination is allowed to access public services on the basis of religion. State-funded schools are non-religious in character.
- **Protection of free speech and expression**– Religious people have the right to express their beliefs publicly but so do those who oppose or question those beliefs.
- **Promote the idea of democracy**– All citizens are considered equal irrespective of their religious affiliation and universal human rights precede religious demands.

Prevalent notion and Practice of secularism in India:

- Secularism in India does not mean that the state cannot intervene in religion and its affairs, but that any intervention should be within the limitations prescribed by the Constitution.
- According to the concept of principled distance, a secular state may keep a principled distance from religion to promote peace between communities and it may also intervene to protect the rights of specific communities.
- Indian philosophy of secularism is related to “**Sarva Dharma Sambhava**” which means equal respect to all religions rather than western philosophy of ‘Dharma nirapekshata’ i.e. the indifference of state to religion.
- **No clear distinction between state and religion**– State interferes in religious issues when they involve human rights, for example banning untouchability and passage of triple talaq bill.
- **Constitutional provisions**– India has provided religious safeguards under constitution through
- Freedom of Religion as guaranteed under article 25, 26, 27 and 28, supporting the idea of practicing any religious practice as long as it does not harm the social and moral order of society.

- Article 29 and 30 provides special protection to religious minorities and their educational institutions.
- Article 44 in DPSP makes a constitutional obligation on State to bring uniform civil code.
- Article 51A call upon the citizens to upholds principles of fraternity and brotherhood, and to endure religious diversities
- **Freedom for individual and community-** Religious minorities have the right to practice and propagate their religion.

There are few contradictions too:

- **Problem of Uniform Civil Code:** Till now no progress has been made in the evolution of a uniform Civil Code and today its adoption appears to be more problematic than it was at the time when the Constitution was framed.
- **Rise of communalism–** Riots, Mandir-Masjid issues keep cropping up every now and then.
- **Politics and Religion:** The Supreme Court had observed in the Bommai case that if religion is not separated from politics, the religion of the ruling party tends to become the state religion.
- **Uneven development among different religious groups–** Political mileage has prevented necessary interventions in some communities resulting in their backwardness.

Conclusion:

Indian secularism is sometimes criticized for being interventionist, but it is this intervention that has helped maintain a balance in society. Political masters need to look beyond vote bank and step forward to undertake some long due religious reforms

Best answer: CSE

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50. What are the predominant modern age factors of social exclusion? Explain.

Introduction:

Social exclusion is a form of discrimination that occurs when people are wholly or partially excluded from participating in the economic, social and political life of their community, based on their belonging to a certain social class, category or group.

Body:**Symptoms of exclusion****Predominant modern age factors of social exclusion:**

- **Poverty**– Lack of material resources like income, land, employment etc, prevents people from participation in social or cultural life, for example, poverty results in denial of health, education, insurance etc.
- **Caste**– In India, caste is a major factor for social exclusion, where still lower castes are excluded from things considered as the exclusive domain of upper castes, like priesthood.
- **Gender**– Women are excluded from religious practices like temple entry on certain days, from economic participation due to preference given to household work and from political sphere as well.
- **Religion**– Religion often shapes the access to resources and community participation, for example certain religious groups are ultra-rich whereas others are considered poor. Also, community participation differs for different religions.
- **Ethnicity**– There exists a north-south, east-west divide as well as discrimination against tribal that limits the social participation of these groups across country. For example, racial attacks on people from North-East.
- **Disability**– Lack of disabled friendly infrastructure, social discrimination, does not help in assimilating the disabled community with the mainstream society.
- **Sexual orientation**– LGBT communities face discrimination and exclusion because of their sexual orientations and gender identities.
- **Status**– In modern age, people tend to communicate and make social circle with people of similar economic status, thus making status a major factor of social exclusion.

- **Education**– In India, quality education and English language skills are considered synonymous and hence social as well as economic exclusion is seen in case of lack of language skills or less than optimal education.
- **Geographical location**– With increasing regionalization, people identify more with their own regions than the whole nation, leading to exclusion based on location, for example migrants are excluded from government jobs in many states.

Conclusion:

Social exclusion is a structural phenomenon and requires solutions that incorporate all stakeholders panning across various sectors as well a focused approach to reduce the gap between socially excluded groups and the rest of the population.

Best answer: Jean Grey

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51. How do India's annual precipitation patterns and associated variations bring in conditions of floods and droughts? Analyse.

Introduction:

Weather conditions in India are greatly influenced by the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) that causes widespread floods and droughts almost at intervals. The frequency, intensity, and impacts of such extreme events vary dramatically with geographical location over the Indian subcontinent. Thus, addressing the inter-annual variability in precipitation patterns becomes an important concern over India.

Body:

South west summer monsoon, spreading from June to September is a grand period of rainfall in India as monsoonal torrents supply about 80% of India's annual rainfall. The distribution of rainfall varies temporally as per an annual cycle of seasons. The meteorologists recognise four seasons:

Cold Weather Season:

- Little rainfall in some parts of India.
- Some weak temperate cyclones from the Mediterranean Sea cause rainfall in north-western India, which are called Western Disturbances.

Hot weather season

- A sudden contact between dry and moist air masses gives rise to local storms which are associated with torrential rains.

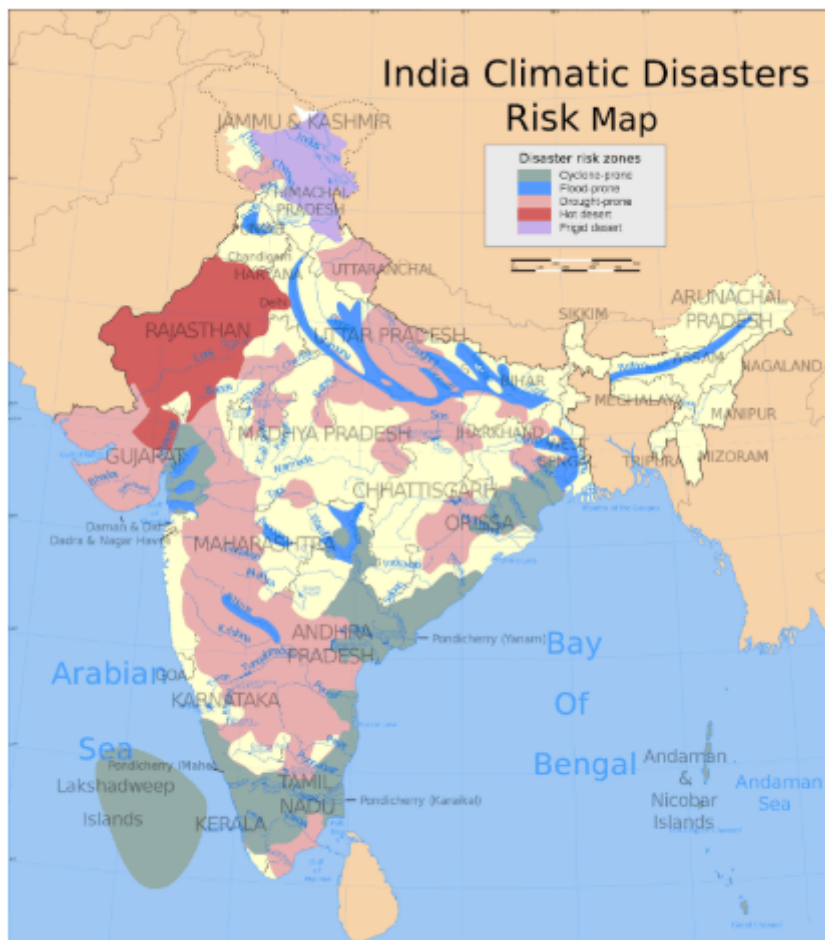
Southwest Monsoon season

- Over 80% of the annual rainfall is received in the four rainy months of June to September.
- The monsoon may burst in the first week of June in the coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra while in the interior parts of the country; it may be delayed to the first week of July.
- Monsoonal rainfall is largely governed by relief or topography and rainfall has a declining trend with increasing distance from the sea.

Retreating Monsoon

- By the end of September, the monsoon becomes weak in response to the southward march of the sun.
- The weather is dry in north India but is associated with rain in the eastern part of the Peninsula.

Floods in India:



Nearly 40 million hectares of India's land is prone to floods. Usually during La-Nina years, occurrence of floods is as follows:

- **Through heavy precipitation:** Heavy rainfall over natural bank of rivers, of about 15 cm or more in a single day exceeds the carrying capacity of rivers causes a flood in that region. Such effect can be seen in the West Coast region of the Western Ghats, Assam and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Indo-Gangetic plains.
- **Floods through cyclonic rainfall:** Flood after cyclone is a very common phenomenon in the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.
- **Cloudbursts:** Quite regular in the Himalayan region during monsoons as well.
- **Strong NE monsoons:** In November and December 2015, the annual North-East monsoon generated heavy rainfall in south India causing floods along the Coromandel Coast in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry. Chennai and surrounding area were hardly hit by these floods.
- **Western disturbance in winter:** Showers the Gangetic plain and causes heavy snowfall in Himalayas. Excessive precipitation due to this disturbance can cause crop damage, landslides, floods and avalanches.

Droughts in India:

More than 44 per cent of India's areas were under various degrees of drought conditions (abnormally dry to exceptionally dry) as of June 10, 2019 Drought Early Warning System (DEWS).

- **Deficit in SW-monsoon rains:** Felt to a large extent especially in areas that have large rain variability-leeward side of Western Ghats (Marathwada and Vidarbha) and North-west extremities of the country.
- **Untimely delay in monsoons:** The sluggish pace of the south west monsoon has compounded the severe dry spell. Most of these are in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and the north eastern states. Only four sub-divisions in Karnataka, Gujarat, and Lakshadweep have witnessed 'normal' rainfall.

Way Forward:

Dealing with floods and droughts in India, is a complex situation, given the numerous unpredictable factors associated with it.

Flood mitigation strategies:

- Planting of the tree and mangrove belts along river banks and coastlines.
- Planned settlement growth.
- Shared flood warning mechanisms.
- Recharge and rejuvenation of wetlands.
- Identification and assessment of flood-prone areas.

Drought mitigation:

- Adoption of micro-irrigation techniques
- Stringent application of water harvesting measures not only at the individual level but at community and village level too.
- Seewal model can be implemented especially in acute water deficit areas. This model is currently being extended along the banks of the Ganga
- Wastewater recycling facilities in urban and industrial centres to allow for non-drinking uses.
- Agricultural practices should focus on more crop, per drop.
- Agro-climatic basis for crop selection.

Conclusion:

As India is poised to turn into a major power in the world, vagaries of the rainfall patterns is one of the most important challenge we have to face. Effective and committed solutions, policies and implementation by all stakeholders are the only way to strengthen our ability to deal with it.

Best answer: Nemo

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52. Water, wind and ice create wonderful physiographic landforms that have become major tourist attractions. Can you mention some of these landforms with suitable examples?

Introduction:

Geomorphology is the study of landforms, their processes, form and sediments at the surface of the Earth. Study includes looking at landscapes to work out how the earth surface processes, such as air, water and ice, can mould the landscape.

Body:

Landforms created by water:

- **Cliff:** An erosional landform, produced by wave action, which is either at the seaward edge of the coast or at the landward side of a wave-cut platform and which denotes the inner limit of the beach erosion.

Example: White cliffs of Dover, England and Torres Del Paine, Chile.

- **Sea caves:** The primary process involved is erosion. Sea caves are found throughout the world, actively forming along present coastlines and as relict sea caves on former coastlines.

Example: Fingal's Cave, Staffa, Scotland and apostle island caves, Wisconsin, USA

- **Sea arches:** A sea arch is a natural opening eroded out of a cliff face by marine processes

Example: Azure window, Malta and Cathedral Cove in New Zealand.

- **Blowhole:** When sea caves grow towards the land and upwards creating a vertical shaft that exposed on the surface, it results in a blowhole.

Example: Nakelele Point in Hawaii and Hummanaya Blowhole in Sri Lanka.

- **Peneplain:** It is a low-relief plain formed by protracted erosion.

Example: Sub-Cambrian peneplain in southern Sweden and drowned peneplain at Belcher Islands, Hudson Bay, Canada.

- **Barrier islands:** A barrier island is a sandbar that has grown to become an island. It is long and generally straight and narrow and parallel to the mainland shore.

Example: The Mississippi-Alabama barrier islands and Hatteras Island, North Carolina.

- **Beach cusp:** It is a formation of sand, gravel or other beach material in the form of an arc. The cusp is the point of the arc on each side, directed toward the ocean.

Example: Islands of Thailand

- **Fjord:** A long, narrow inlet with steep sides or cliffs, created by glacial activity

Example: Geirangerfjord is located in south western Norway and Faroe Island in Scotland.

Landforms created by wind:

- **Barchan:** Dunes form where there isn't very much sand and the wind blows in one direction. These dunes are also called crescent dunes.

Example: Inland desert regions such as Turkistan

- **Inselberg:** It is an isolated rock hill, knob, ridge, or small mountain that rises abruptly from a gently sloping or virtually level surrounding plain.

Example: Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire, United States.

- **Yardangs:** It is formed in environments where water is scarce and the prevailing winds are strong, uni-directional, and carry an abrasive sediment load.

Example: Xiniang Yardang, China

Landforms created by Ice:

- **Cirque:** It is an amphitheatre-like valley formed by glacial erosion.

Example: Circo de Gredos in Spain and Cirque de Garvanie in France.

- **Horn:** A horn results when glaciers erode three or more arêtes, usually forming a sharp-edged peak.

Example: Flinsch Peak in Glacier National Park, Montana

- **Drumlin:** Drumlins and drumlin clusters are glacial landforms composed primarily of glacial till.

Example: Drowned drumlin in Clew Bay, Ireland

- **Hanging valley:** A hanging valley is elevated above another valley, with one end open to the valley below. There may be a cliff or steep formation where they meet.

Example: Hanging Valleys of Yosemite National Park, California, USA and Birdman Woman Falls, Glacier National Park, Montana, USA

Conclusion

A tourist landscape can be described as constructed through a large number of symbolic and material transformations of an original physical and/or socioeconomic landscape in order to serve the interests of tourists and the tourist industry

Best answer: Reema

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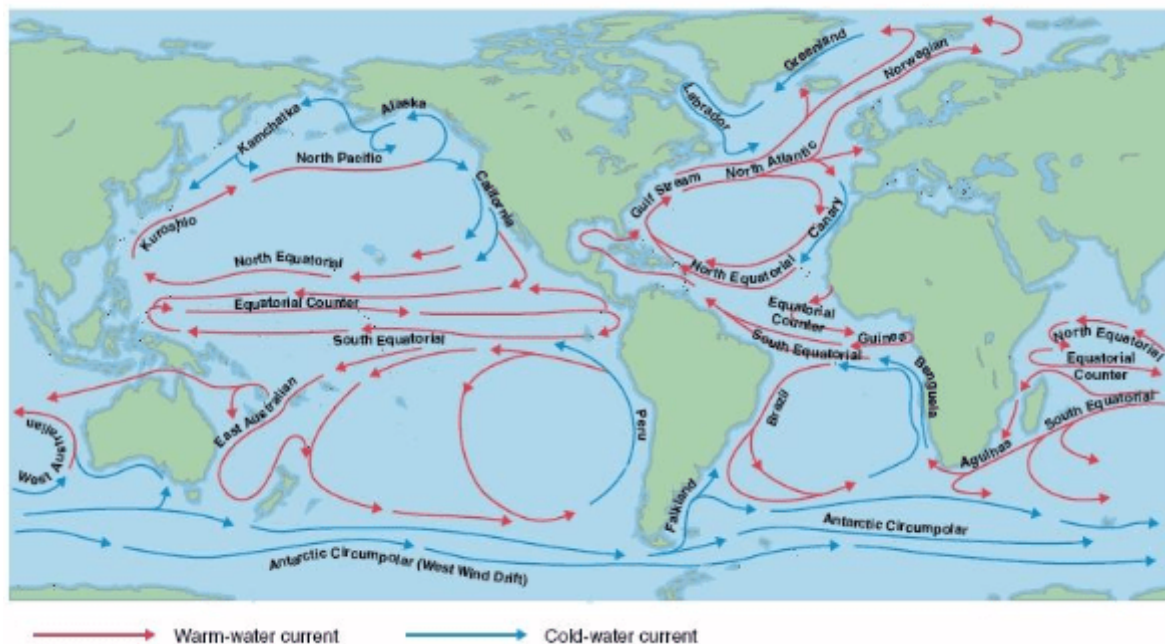
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53. Ocean currents have far reaching impacts on the coastal economy. Do you agree? With the help of suitable examples, examine the ways in which ocean currents affects coastal economy.

Introduction:

Ocean currents are body of water mass with a slightly different thermophysical characteristic viz temperature, density and salinity from the surrounding water body. They move in a well-defined path like a river in the ocean and is influenced by the direction of wind and the coastal features.

Body:



Ocean currents have far reaching impacts on the coastal economy. Ocean currents affects coastal economy in many ways such as

Agriculture

- Ocean currents influence the climate of the coastal regions and, in many cases, well beyond the coast. Such influence, characterized mostly by temperature, precipitation and cloud cover, and consequently the length of the growing season, determines the type of agriculture and hence many other economic activities of the region.

Fishing industry

- The most effective, reliable, and productive areas for industrial fishing are located where the cold ocean currents (carrying oxygen) meet warm ocean currents rich in nutrients.
- In East Asia meeting of the warm Kuroshio and the cold Oyashio current provides ideal conditions for rich fishing grounds in Japan. However, navigation becomes difficult due to thick fog.

Energy from Ocean Currents

- The massive oceanic surface currents are untapped reservoirs of renewable energy, probably the largest on the planet. Even if only a small portion of ocean currents energy can be harnessed, the potential of “hydro” energy that is embedded in ocean currents is remarkable.
- A key concern is how the turbines could affect local marine ecosystems. The turbines would be located at depths of about 100 meters, in areas of fast-moving water. In many

zones, the main animals to worry about would be large marine mammals, like whales and dolphins

El Niño and La Niña

- The terms of El Niño and La Niña are frequently used when the weather patterns of the Pacific Ocean are discussed. Both of these contrasting patterns appear irregularly every few years, but they bring the likely weather patterns of sometimes extreme rains or the absence of rains, respectively.
- The consequences of El Niño may be substantial on weather of all countries with Eastern Pacific seashores, and consequently on the economy (fishing and agriculture) and health (epidemic diseases).

Ports

- The warm current is also responsible natural maintenance of ports .
Eg – warm gulf current play an effective role in melting the ice in north European nation ports during winter.

Climate

- Ocean currents act as global conveyor belts which transfer heat from one part of the earth to another. They regulate the coastal climate thereby indirectly regulating the vegetation, fauna and the lifestyles of the people.

Others

- Ocean currents affect the shipping industry, commercial and recreational fishing, and recreational navigation for boats.
- They play a role in the distribution of pollution, such as oil spills. Oil and fuel tends to remain on the surface of the ocean, so knowing the current helps determine where such pollution might travel.

Conclusion:

Ocean currents do indeed play a significant role ushering in the necessary weather changes, which at the same time, dictate the ways in which physiographic, livelihoods and coastal economy of the world are impacted.

Best answer: Ravi Kishore

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54. What are different types of deserts? How do deserts get formed? Examine the factors associated with desert formation.

Introduction:

Desert is a type of biome characterised by extreme temperatures and extremely low amount of precipitation (25 cm or less in a year). It is a major type of ecosystem that supports a community of distinctive plants and animals. Around 30 percent of total landmass on earth constitutes of desert.

Body:

Different Types of Desert:

General Desert Classification:

- Hot and Dry Deserts- Mostly located near Tropic of Cancer or Tropic of Capricorn, the extreme temperatures reach around 100 degree Fahrenheit or above. They get plenty of rainfall only for short duration of time. The soil is coarse-textured, shallow, rocky and gravely with no subsurface water. Examples- Sahara Desert, Thar Desert etc
- Cold Deserts- Generally found in temperate regions at higher altitude. They have hot summer and extremely chilled winter (temperature may reach up to -40C). Precipitation occurs in the form of snow, the humidity remains low throughout the year. Examples- Atacama Desert(Peru), Gobi Desert etc.
- Semiarid Deserts- Summers are generally long and dry, winters normally bring little rainfall. Normally the temperatures do not cross 45-50 degree Celsius. Examples- Nearctic realm (North America, Newfoundland, Greenland, Russia, Europe and northern Asia).
- Coastal Deserts- They have cool winters and moderately long and warm summers. The average summer temperatures are in the range 10-25 degree Celsius, winter temperatures are around 5 degree or below Celsius. Average rainfall of around 10-15 cm. Example- Namib Desert, Atacama Desert(Chile) etc

Formation of Deserts:

Desert is formed by weathering processes as large variations in temperature between day and night put strains on the rocks which consequently break in pieces. Although rain seldom occurs in deserts, there are occasional downpours that can result in flash floods. Rain falling

on hot rocks can cause them to shatter and the resulting fragments and rubble strewn over the desert floor are further eroded by the wind. This picks up particles of sand and dust and wafts them aloft in sand or dust storms. Wind-blown sand grains striking any solid object in their path can abrade the surface. Rocks are smoothed down, and the wind sorts sand into uniform deposits. The grains end up as level sheets of sand or are piled high in billowing sand dunes.

Factors associated with desert formation:

- Wind Pattern- Offshore trade winds carry least moisture, thereby minimising the precipitation. This is mostly seen in tropical regions with latitudes ranging from 15 to 30 degree.
- Presence of cold current- Will enhance the high pressure along the western coast of continents thereby pushing the region into extreme state of dryness. Example- Namib due to benguela current.
- Rain shadow effect- presence of mountain can cause least precipitation on leeward side. Example- Thar desert due to Aravalli ranges.
- Sand property- Sand cannot retain high temperature, therefore cannot maintain low pressure and they exhibit permanent high pressure character. This minimizes the rainfall in the region.
- Vegetation- Poor vegetation would aid the weathering process and erosion, this then accelerates formation of deserts.
- Anthropogenic factors- deforestation, excessive use of fertilizers, climate change due to human actions (burning fossil fuels, pollution etc) have resulted in changing precipitation pattern.

Conclusion:

Natural causes for desert formation have been from times immemorial, it is the anthropogenic causes which are cause of concern. The plan of action to combat desertification needs to be in line with the UN convention to combat desertification (UNCCD).

Best answer: Jean Grey

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55. How do local winds affect the socio-economic conditions of a region? Illustrate with the help of examples.

Introduction:

There are several winds which develop in response of the local terrain. They are generated through temporary creation of regions with relative high and low pressure. They are known as the local winds. They have a significant impact in the socio-economic conditions of a place and psychology of the society. Broadly they can be categorised on the basis of periodicity. There can be periodic winds and non-periodic winds.

Body:**Some of the local winds across the world and how they affect socio-economic conditions of region:**

- **Blizzard:** It is intensely cold fast blowing wind accompanied by snow, blows in north America.
- **Buran:** it blows in central Asia and Siberia. It is a strong cold north easterly wind which reduces the temperature up to -30o
- **Chili:** it is a hot dry wind which blows from the Sahara Desert towards the Mediterranean Sea through Tunisia.
- **Gibli:** it blows from the Sahara Desert towards Mediterranean Sea through Libya. It is an extremely hot local wind. It blows during the summer season. It may last for 3-5 days. This wind has extreme effects. Due to heat the government declares the holiday. Because of this the shade temperature reaches up to 60o sometimes the tyres of the car melt and stick to the road. Even the dry grass catches fire. People shelter themselves in the basements.
- **Haboob:** it is an intense dust storm blowing across the world. It brings huge dust storms in the area they pass by, Eye and respiratory system protection is advisable for anyone who must be outside during a haboob.
- **Karaburn:** it blows from March to May and leads to hazy weather. It is also responsible for deposition of loess in Huwang Ho valley.
- **Khamsin:** hot wind blows in Egypt for about 50 days. On its forward side, the centre brings warm, dry air northward out of the desert, carrying large amounts of dust and sand; on its rear side, it brings cool air southward from the Mediterranean.
- **Loo:** it blows in summer season in India in northern plains. It is a hot dry wind and raises the temperature. Loo follows a three-day cycle. It starts blowing at 9am in the morning till 5 in evening. On its third day, it is accompanied by a storm in the evening called Aandhi and causes little shower taking the temperature down.
- **Mistra:** it blows in Rhone valley of France. It is a cold wind blowing during winters. It has adverse effects on orchards.
- **Berg:** It blows in South Africa. It blows mainly in winter due to anticyclone effects in the interiors, causing uncomfortable weather for people and damage to crops
- **Chinook (snow or ice eater):** it blows in USA and Canada between December and March. It descends on the leeward side of the mountain. It is warm and dry and causes the snow to melt which provides water for agriculture. It has a soothing effect on weather and society.

Conclusion:

Local winds have both positive and negative effects on the socio-economic conditions of the region. With help of technology available, we can reduce the negative part by taking up preventive and mitigate measures

Best answer: Jean Grey

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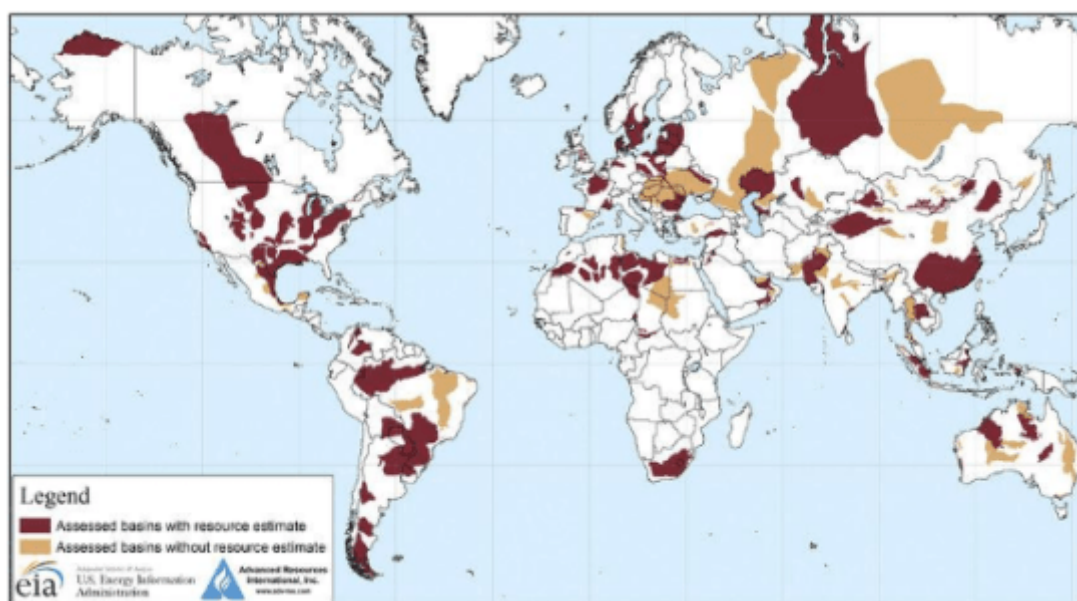
56. Discuss the distribution of major natural gas basins in the world. Also, examine the potential of natural gas as a remedy of world's energy security woes.

Introduction:

Natural gas is a mixture of gases which are rich in hydrocarbons. All these gases (methane, nitrogen, carbon dioxide etc) are naturally found in atmosphere. Natural gas reserves are deep inside the earth near other solid & liquid hydrocarbons beds like coal and crude oil.

Body:

Nearly 80% of the world's total proven natural gas reserves are located in ten countries. According to the ranking of OPEC, 10 major natural gas basins distributed around the world are:



- **Russia:** Holds the largest amount of natural gas reserves in the world, accounting for about one fourth of the world's total proven gas reserves. Majorly located in Siberia, namely Yamburg, Urengoy and Medvezh'ye.
- **Iran:** World's second biggest natural gas reserves. More than 60% of Iran's natural gas reserves are located offshore. South Pars is the largest gas field. North Pars, Kish and Kangan are the other major natural gas fields in Iran.
- **Qatar:** Holds the third largest natural gas reserves in the world, accounts for around 13% of the world's reserves. Qatar is also the single largest LNG supplier in the world. A vast majority of the country's natural gas reserves are located in the giant offshore North Field.
- **Turkmenistan:** Most of Turkmenistan's proven gas reserves are located in the Amu Darya basin in the south-east and in the Murgab South Caspian basins in the western part of the country. The South Yolotan area in the eastern region of Turkmenistan also contains significant gas reserves.
- **USA:** The Barnett play located in Texas and Montana, Haynesville play in the Texas-Louisiana Salt Basin, Marcellus Shale play in the Appalachian Basin, Fayetteville play, Woodford play in Oklahoma and Texas and the Eagle Ford play, in the Western Gulf Basin of South Texas, are the major shale plays contributing to the country's natural gas expansions.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Associated gas at the giant oil fields, such as the Ghawar onshore field and the offshore fields Safaniya and Zuluf, account for about 57% of the country's proven gas reserves. Karan gas field and the Arabiyah and Hasbah gas fields are other major non-associated gas fields.
- **UAE:** About 94% of the country's proven natural gas reserves are located in Abu Dhabi. Sharjah and Dubai account for four percent and 1.5% of UAE's total gas reserves respectively.
- **Venezuela:** World's biggest oil reserves holding country, possesses the eighth largest gas reserve. Onshore fields such as Anaco, Barrancas and Yucal Place and Plataforma Deltona, Marsical Sucre and Blanquilla-Tortuga areas off the north-east coast of Venezuela, and the gas blocks in the Gulf of Venezuela in the north-western part of the country.
- **Nigeria:** Most of natural gas reserves of the country are located in the Niger Delta.
- **Algeria:** More than half of Algeria's proven natural gas reserves are contained in the country's largest gas field, Hassi R'Mel. Associated and non-associated fields in the south and south-east regions of the country comprise the remaining gas reserves of the country.
- **India:** Ranks 23rd in the proven natural gas reserves. KG basins, Assam, Gulf of Khambhat, Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu, Barmer in Rajasthan etc are major regions.

Potential of natural gas:

- **Economy:** Natural gas is cheaper compared to other fossil fuels and cheaper than electricity when used for supplying home appliances. Natural gas appliances are also cheaper compared to electrical ones.
- **Environment:** It does not pollute the ground or the underground water because its by-products are in gaseous form. Another important fact is that natural gas burns without

releasing any soot or sulphur dioxide. It also emits 45% less carbon dioxide than coal and 30% less than oil.

- **Transportation:** Transportation is made via sea (tankers) and land (pipelines and small tanks). This fact allows natural gas to be easily transferred from power plants to residential areas.
- **Multi-uses:** Natural gas is a multi-use fuel. It is used inside the house for cooking, heating, drying, etc. It can be used for generating electric power, powering vehicles (by substituting for diesel and gasoline), producing plastics, paints, fertilizers, and many more uses.
- **Availability:** It is abundant and almost worldwide available.
- **Conversion to Hydrogen Fuel:** It is currently the cheapest fossil fuel source for producing hydrogen.

Challenges associated:

- **Flammable and Toxic:** Natural gas leaks can be proven to be extremely dangerous. The main risk comes from the fact that it is naturally odourless and cannot be detected by smell, unless an odorant has been added to the gas mixture.
- **Environmental Impact:** Although, it is cleaner than other fossil fuels (oil, coal, etc.) as far as by-products are concerned, natural gas leaks can become more hazardous due to production of greenhouse gases.
- **Processing:** In order to use it as a fuel, the processing results in several by-products: hydrocarbons (ethane, propane, etc.), sulphur, water vapour, carbon dioxide, and even helium and nitrogen.
- **Non-Renewable:** It is a finite source of energy and cannot be considered a long-term solution to our energy supply problem.
- **Installation:** The whole pipe installation may be very expensive to construct since long pipes, specialized tanks, and separate plumbing systems need to be used. Pipe leakage may also be very expensive to detect and fix.
- **Efficiency in Transportation:** When natural gas is used as a fuel in cars, the mileage is lower than gasoline.
- **Conversion to Hydrogen Fuel:** A drawback in producing hydrogen from natural gas is that efficiency drops to almost 50% compared to the original chemical energy.

Conclusion:

Despite the disadvantages, it is remarkable that the entire cycle of producing, processing, transporting and using natural gas provides us with a total energy efficiency of almost 90%. With new drilling techniques and effective mitigation norms we can have inexpensive energy and a cleaner environment, however, over-exploitation of any resource is bound to have its own repercussions.

Best answer: Jean Grey

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57. Examine the potential of oceans as world's next resource frontier. In this light, explain the concept of blue economy.

Introduction:

Blue economy is a term in economics relating to the exploitation and preservation of the marine environment. Its scope of interpretation varies among organizations.

Facts:

- The oceans cover 71 percent of the Earth's surface and contain 97 percent of the Earth's water. Less than 1 percent of the Earth's water is fresh water, and 2-3 percent is contained in glaciers and ice caps. The oceans contain 99 percent of the living space on the planet.
- The worldwide ocean economy is valued at around US\$1.5 trillion per year.
- Eighty per-cent of global trade by volume is carried by sea.
- 350 million jobs world-wide are linked to fisheries.
- By 2025 it is estimated that 34% of crude oil production will come from offshore fields.

Body

Potential of oceans:

- **Fishing:** Fisheries of today provide about 16% of the total world's protein with higher percentages occurring in developing nations. The Viking trade of cod and then continuing with fisheries like those found in Europe, Italy, Portugal, Spain and India.
- **Shipping:** It is safe and profitable for economies around the world.
- **Maritime transport:** Maritime transport can be realized over any distance by boat, ship, sailboat or barge, over oceans and lakes, through canals or along rivers. Shipping may be for commerce, recreation, or for military purposes.
- **Tourism:** Tourism is in the top five economic contributors to 83% of all countries and the most important economy for 38% of countries.
- **Entertainment and leisure:** Sea angling from boats, sea angling from the shore, sailing at sea, boating at sea, water skiing, jet skiing, surfing, sail boarding, sea kayaking, scuba diving, swimming in the sea, bird watching in coastal areas, whale/dolphin watching, visiting coastal natural reserves, trips to the beach, seaside and islands.
- **Mining:** Metal compounds, gravels, manganese nodules, sands and gas hydrates are mined in the ocean. Example: South China Sea. Example: English channel, Suez canal
- **Renewable energy:** Offshore wind power or offshore wind energy is the use of wind farms constructed in bodies of water, usually in the ocean on the continental shelf, to

harvest wind energy to generate electricity. Example: Tamilnadu coastline, Hywind in Scotland.

- **Petroleum and natural gas:** Underwater petroleum and natural gas deposits were created millions of years ago when tiny sea plants and animals died and were turned into hydrocarbons. Example: Gulf of Cambay, Gujarat
- **Oxygen production:** Phytoplankton accounts for possibly 90% of the world's oxygen production because water covers about 70% of the Earth and phytoplankton are abundant in the photic zone of the surface layers.
- **Bio prospecting:** It is the process of discovery and commercialization of new products based on biological resources. These resources or compounds can be important for and useful in many fields, including pharmaceuticals, agriculture, bioremediation, and nanotechnology, among others.
- **Submarine communications cable:** It is a cable laid on the sea bed between land-based stations to carry telecommunication signals across stretches of ocean and sea.
- **Natural shield:** oceans provide protection and development of more intangible 'blue' resources such as traditional ways of life, carbon sequestration, and coastal resilience to help vulnerable states mitigate the often devastating effects of climate change.

Challenges:

- Current economic trends that have been rapidly degrading ocean resources.
- The lack of investment in human capital for employment and development in innovative blue economy sectors.
- Inadequate care for marine resources and ecosystem services of the oceans.
- Ships release air pollutants in the form of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide.

Conclusion:

According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the “sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem”. The cooperation towards conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources are outlined in the goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14- “life below water”)

Best answer: Madhu

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58. Explain the concept of biodiversity as a scarce resource. What are the ongoing and potential impacts of biodiversity loss on the resource front? Examine.

Introduction:

Biodiversity can be defined as ‘the variety of life forms, the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form’

Body:**Biodiversity as a scarce resource:**

- Biodiversity underpins the health of the planet and has a direct impact on all our lives. It provides Ecosystem services. That could be water, soil formation and protection, pollution breakdown and absorption, climate stability and recovery from natural disasters.
- According to IUCN, the World Conservation Union, the monetary value of goods and services provided by ecosystems is estimated to amount to some US\$33 trillion per year.
- Biodiversity changes affect ecosystem functioning and significant disruptions of ecosystems can result in life sustaining ecosystem goods and services.

Impacts of biodiversity loss on the resource front:**Food security:**

- Put simply, reduced biodiversity means millions of people face a future where food supplies are more vulnerable to pests and disease, and where fresh water is in irregular or short supply.
- About 100 million metric tonnes of aquatic life, including fish, molluscs and crustaceans are taken from the wild every year.
- Meat from wild animals forms a critical contribution to food sources and livelihoods in many countries, especially those with high levels of poverty and food insecurity.

Biodiversity loss also means that we are losing, before discovery, many of nature’s chemicals and genes, of the kind that have already provided humankind with enormous **health benefits**.

Nutritional impact of biodiversity

- Nutritional composition between foods and among varieties/cultivars/breeds of the same food can differ dramatically, affecting micronutrient availability in the diet.
- Healthy local diets, with adequate average levels of nutrients intake, necessitates maintenance of high biodiversity levels.

Importance of biodiversity for health research and traditional medicine:

- Traditional medicines are estimated to be used by 60% of the world's population and in some countries are extensively incorporated into the public health system.
- Medicinal plant use is the most common medication tool in traditional medicine and complementary medicine worldwide. Medicinal plants are supplied through collection from wild populations and cultivation.

Loss of Livelihood

- Many communities rely on natural products collected from ecosystems for economic, cultural and medicinal purposes, in addition to food.

Others

Biodiversity also provides

- Raw materials Eg. Clothing,
- Cultural identity of tribes,
- Opportunities for recreation, tourism,
- Scientific research and education etc.,

Conclusion:

It is the poor, particularly those in developing and emerging economies, who stand to suffer the most from the loss of ecosystem services. Preserving biodiversity is thus necessary if we are to fight global poverty and attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

Best answer: Ayush Dubey

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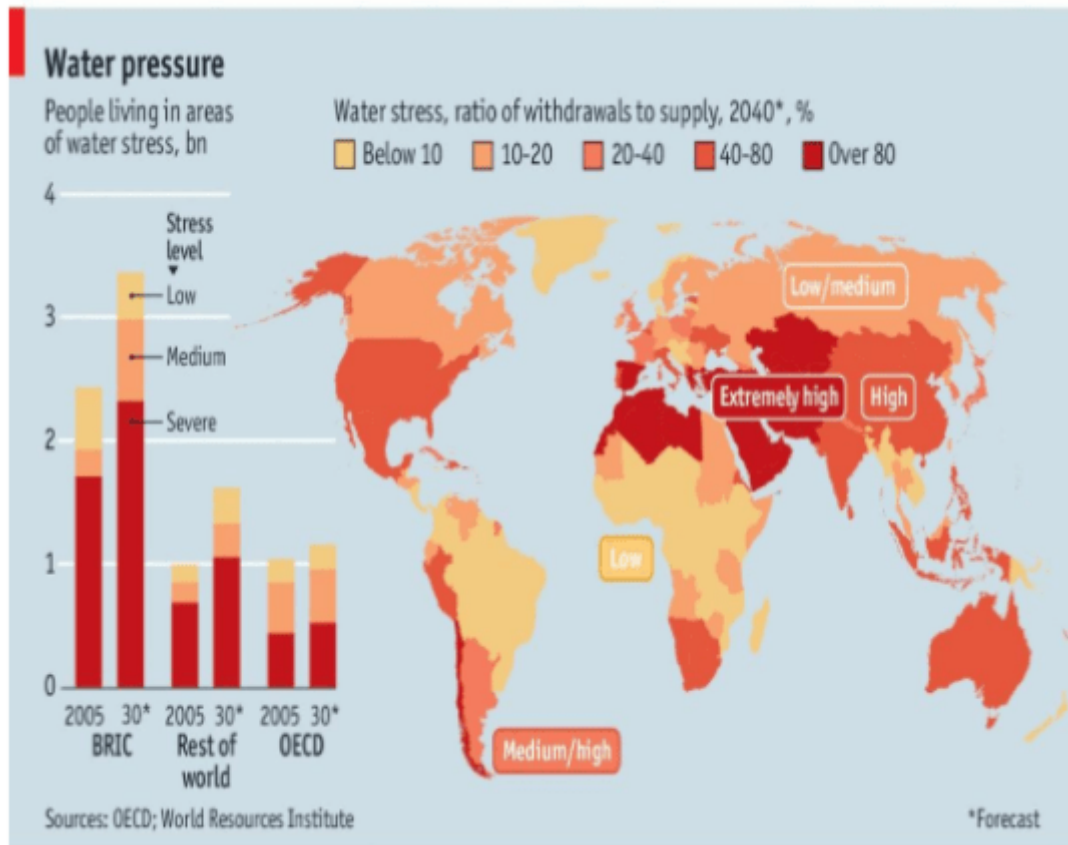
59. Which parts of the world are suffering from acute water scarcity? It is being feared that the situation will worsen even further? Why? Analyse.

Introduction:

Water touches every aspect of development and it links with nearly every Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It drives economic growth, supports healthy ecosystems, and is essential and fundamental for life itself. Niti Aayog in its Composite Water Management Index Report highlights the fact that about 600 million Indians are about to face water scarce condition by 2030.

Body

Water scarcity conditions can be observed in the picture given below:



Cape Town, Karachi water crisis has adversely affected the locals, and caught global attention. Even India is not immune from this, recent Chennai water crisis is one such example.

Worsening future:

- Increasing Demand- Population growth, Industrialization, Urbanization etc would add on to the present crisis.
- Overexploitation of groundwater- Almost 50% of world population depends upon groundwater for its drinking needs. In India, almost 85% of underground water is used for agriculture and with the provisions such as free electricity, the depletion is taking place rapidly.
- Changing rainfall pattern- this can be seen by the delays in monsoon, reduced pre-monsoon rains and prevalent drought conditions.
- Water Pollution- this has been leading to eutrophication of surface water and contamination of groundwater.
- Poor water harvesting practices- water management has been really poor, poor implementation of water harvesting provisions in building codes.

Way Forward–

- Water harvesting practices- Encouraging the water harvesting movement, mandatory provisions for water conservation in building codes.
- River water Interlinking- this can reduce the disparity among regions and minimize the effects of drought and floods.
- Discouraging wasteful activities- can learn from “Day Zero” by Cape Town, where water taps in city are turned off and people had to use communal water taps to conserve water. Recently, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has come up with guidelines for Water Conservation Fee (WCF), which has the potential to reduce wasteful use of water.

Conclusion:

Recently government has constituted Jal Shakti Ministry and started #JalShaktiAbhiyan mass movement to encourage water conservation and sustainability. Even the recent letter written by Prime Minister to all sarpanchs, to undertake water conservation at village level is believed to bring behavioural change at local level.

Additional Information

- Water stressed condition- when annual per capita water availability is less than 1700 cubic metres.
- Water scarcity condition- when annual per capita water availability is less than 1000 cubic metres.
- Annual per capita water availability in India- 1545 cubic metres (2011), 1300 cubic metres (2030- Estimated by Niti Aayog).
- 21 Indian cities including Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai will run out of groundwater by 2020 (Niti Aayog CWMI Report).
- Water is a state subject.
- India is home to 16 percent of world population but has only 4% of planets fresh water.
- IPCC Report 2014 warned that around 80% of world population suffers a severe threat to its water security.

Best answer: Aysush Dubey

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60. Can outer space be considered a resource? How? What measures must be taken to ensure that the space doesn't meet the fate of forests and oceans?

Introduction:

Space, also known as outer space, is the near-vacuum between celestial bodies. It is where everything (all of the planets, stars, galaxies and other objects) is found. On Earth, space begins at the Karman line (100 km above sea level). This is where Earth's atmosphere is said to stop and outer space begins.

Body:**Outer Space as Resource:**

Space exploration and development have been stimulated by a complex mixture of motivations, including scientific inquiry, intense competition between national governments and ideologies, and commercial profit. Underlying them has been a vision of the outward movement of humans from Earth, ultimately leading to permanent settlements in space or on other celestial bodies. There are multiple applications of space technologies in various sectors. It will cover agriculture, education, weather forecasting, rural health, telecommunications, and urban development, and sanitation, resource mapping navigation, remote sensing and any other areas.

Issues Related to Outer space:

- **Space debris:** A satellite that is destroyed by a missile disintegrates into small pieces, and adds to the space debris. The free-floating space debris is a potential hazard for operational satellites and colliding with them can leave the satellites dysfunctional.
- **Weaponisation of outer space:** Weaponization of outer space emerges as the battleground, sometimes referred to as the "fourth frontier of war". This includes placing weapons in outer space or on heavenly bodies as well as creating weapons that will transit outer space or simply travel from Earth to attack or destroy targets in space. Examples include the placing of orbital or suborbital satellites to attack enemy satellites.
- **Space traffic:** With countries launching more and more satellites, this may lead to traffic in satellite orbits and may lead to collisions in future.

Global Rules related to Space:

International treaties are governing the use of space that mandate that outer space and celestial bodies like the Moon, must only be exploited for peaceful purposes. Some relevant international treaties that address aspects of the outer space issue are

- **Outer Space Treaty, 1967:** The Outer Space Treaty prohibits only weapons of mass destruction in outer space, not ordinary weapons.

- **Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963:** It prohibits nuclear tests and any other nuclear explosions in the atmosphere or outer space
- **Astronauts Rescue Agreement of 1968:** It requires the safe return of astronauts and objects launched into space to their country of origin;
- **Liability Convention of 1972:** It establishes procedures for determining the liability of a state that damages or destroys space objects of another state;
- **Registration Convention of 1976:** It requires the registration of objects launched into space
- **Moon Agreement of 1984:** It took the first steps to establish a regime for exploiting the natural resources of space.

Way Forward:

- The Outer Space Treaty should ban all military activities within space or the weaponization of space.
- Space, however, must be used only for peaceful purposes and any weaponisation of Outer Space should not be tolerated in the larger interest of people.
- The safety and security of space-based assets should be ensured through international cooperation.
- Need for formulating a comprehensive treaty for preventing outer space from becoming a domain for testing destructive devices. This will include the formation of a global regulatory regime to address the growing militarization in space.
- Bring transparency and build confidence among nations.
- Mitigating problems such as space debris by using technologies like Harpoon and Net capture.
- Innovation and R&D for clearing space debris. Launch of more missions like Remove Debris.

Best answer: End Game

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61. Discuss the locational factors of fertiliser industry. Why are fertiliser plants mostly located near natural gas sources? Explain.

Introduction:

Industries have affinity towards particular locations. Of course, availability of raw material is one of the major reasons, but that is not the sole determinant. Apart from common factors of all industries like power, transportation, labour availability, etc, there are few locational factors that help setting up of fertiliser industries.

Body:



Locational factors of fertiliser industry:

- **Presence of oil refinery:** About 70% of the plants producing nitrogenous fertilizers use naphtha as the basic raw material. Example: Gujarat-Maharashtra region fertilizer plants at Hazira, Mumbai, Trombay, Vadodara etc.
- **Proximity to natural gas source:** For the production of Urea and nitrogen based fertilizers, natural gas is a necessity.
- **Presence of Iron and steel industry in the vicinity:** Some fertilizer plants draw their feed stock from steel slug as well as coke and lignite.
- **Pipeline infrastructure:** During the recent years transportation of Naphtha or Gas through rail or pipelines has facilitated the widespread distribution of fertilizer plants

with priority to seaboard location. Example: Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) pipeline and subsequent fertilizer industry in Bijapur, Sawai Madhopur, Shahjahanpur etc.

- **Port facilities:** Some fertilizer plants import phosphate, potash etc. Many fertilizer plants export their produce to other countries via sea ports and pipelines.
- **Raw materials:** Availability of mineral phosphate, raw potash material etc. Example: Florida, North Carolina, Utah and Idaho; India: UP, MP, Rajasthan.

Reasons for locating fertiliser plants near natural gas sources:

- **Essential feedstock:** Fertiliser plants use major part of gas as feedstock, unlike power plants which burn it as fuel. When gas is burned as fuel, all carbon in natural gas is converted to carbon dioxide and emitted into the atmosphere. But in case of fertiliser, carbon dioxide is converted into urea and not emitted to the atmosphere.
- **Efficient fuel:** Natural Gas offers various benefits like higher thermal efficiency, minimal gestation period, and higher plant load factor, lower capital costs and has the least emission for local and global environment. It is lighter than air, therefore is a safe fuel to use.
- **Clean mechanism:** Methane is 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. Thus, there is elimination of methane production. Additionally, producing biogas through anaerobic digestion reduces odours and produces nutrient-rich liquid fertilizer.

Challenges:

- Need for a stable and all inclusive policy formulation.
- Giving a boost to domestic production based on reasonable gas costs, by removing all regulatory hurdles and ensuring sufficient gas requirements.
- Encouraging bio-fertilizers and organic fertilisers.

Conclusion:

Fertilizer industry is not only a significant market in terms of size, but also an essential industry serving global food production. With a stable and streamline policy for Fertilizers, Joint ventures with countries well-endowed with resources for fertilizer production, India can have a robust fertiliser industry and meet its agricultural and food security needs.

Best answer: SRK

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62. Examine the factors responsible for development of plantations in Asia and America.**Introduction:**

Plantation agriculture is confined within tropical areas, i.e., both sides of the equator. Plantations exist on every continent possessing a tropical climate. The plantation system however is considerably older in tropical America than in Asia and Africa. The tropical areas of Latin America, Asia and Africa are the areas where plantation agriculture has been developed.

Crops:

- **Tree crops:** rubber, coconut, areca nut, oil palm, teak, avocado.
- **Perennial shrubs:** coffee, tea, bananas, sugar cane, cocoa, cashew nut, almond, pistachio, macadamia.
- **Perennial wines:** grapes, vanilla, black pepper, betel vine.
- **Spices:** cardamom, pepper, and other spices
- **Annual crops:** sugar beets, cassava, sweet potato, pine apple potato, pepper, and tobacco

Body:**Countries and plantation farming:**

- **Coffee plantation** in Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia, Tanzania, Kenya.
- **Sugarcane plantation** in Cuba, Brazil, Peru, Puerto Rico and Philippines.
- **Tea plantation** in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia.
- **Cocoa farming** in West Indies, Ecuador, Brazil, Nigeria, Ghana.
- **Rubber plantation** in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Myanmar, India.
- **Banana plantation** in Mexico, Jamaica, Columbia, Brazil, Panama and Costa Rico.

Factors responsible for development of plantations in Asia and America:

- **Cheap labour:** Colonies utilizing cheap and plentiful local labour. After independence most of the plantations were distributed among the local farmers.
- **Capital:** Finances were made by European powers during colonization time.
- **Large labour:** Due to the large size of a plantation, a lot of labour is needed to tend to the crops and work in the nearby processing factories. Most of them are permanent labourers housed near the plantations and taken care of by the plantation owner. For example in Malaysia's large rubber plantations, many workers are hired to tap latex from rubber trees, and in India for plucking tea leaves in tea plantations or coffee berries in coffee plantations

- **Climate:** Most of the plantation crop requires less temperature and rainfall of 150-250mm. And also characterizing high, constant temperatures with small daily variations, ample rainfall, well-distributed throughout the year well-drained late rite soils.
- **Topography:** Water Stagnation is very harmful for Plantation Crops. Hilly and terrace type of areas are much suited as seen in Asia and America.
- **Foreign estate farming:** The farming is owned by the foreign state and the labour employed for the farming is local. For example Cocoa and coffee farms in Cameroon and Ivory Coast of Africa are owned by the French states.
- **Transport:** The produce may be processed on the farm itself or in nearby factories. The development of a transport network is thus essential for such farming.
- **Single crop culture:** Export-oriented specialised farming method where emphasis is given to raise a single crop – specially meant for export to the overseas countries
- **Others:** Protectionist policies and natural comparative advantage (consume less and give more) have sometimes contributed to determining where plantations were located.

Conclusion:

All forms of agriculture are controlled largely by temperature. Areas deficient in heat are deficient in agriculture. For that is one element of climate that man has not been able to create at economic costs on a large scale. Temperature determines the growth of vegetation through determining the length of the vegetative period

Best answer: Neha Singh

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63. Milk and dairy industries are highly developed in the USA, Europe and New Zealand? Why? Also, explain their distribution in these locations.

Introduction:

India is the largest producer of milk followed by United States of America and China. Operation Flood, known as the 'billion liter idea,' as conceived by Dr Verghese Kurien made the dairy farming India's largest self-sustaining industry and the largest rural employment provider.

Body:

Distribution and Factors Influencing Dairy Industry:

Only a few geographical areas have concentration of scientific dairy industry. It is more visible within temperate region. Though, recently, some tropical countries like India are also coming up at a tremendous speed.

Factors for the Growth of Dairy Industry:

Several favourable factors in unison played positive role in the overall development, of dairy industry in the **U.S.A.:**

- Vast expanse of grazing land.
- Advancement of mixed farming that minimizes risk in dairy.
- Export facilities through ports.
- Speedy transportation of the perishable milk items.
- Huge capital, government assistance, and internal demand of the milk products.
- Location: At least 30 states produce dairy products. Among these, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Mexico are forerunners in milk production.

Europe:

- Traditional expertise of dairy and livestock ranching.
- Availability of grassland and less competition from agriculture.
- Ample scope of special breeding and research activities.
- Huge internal demand and export facilities.
- Denmark, Holland, France, Switzerland and U.K.(Lancashire, Yorkshire and Scottish lowland areas) are famous for dairy industry.

New Zealand:

New Zealand produces a substantial amount of milk and milk products. Productivity of the cows are also very high i.e. over 5,000kg/cow/year—about 14 litres/cow/day.

- New Zealand has cold and humid climate, low undulating plains which provides luxuriant, perennial growth of nutritious grass.
- It makes grazing possible throughout the year which makes fodder costs cheaper.
- Geographically, New Zealand is located far away from the market of milk products. So, Liquid milk is converted into such as butter, cheese and powdered milk/ It has benefits such as
- Longer shelf life, can products withstand long sea journey.
- Higher value per unit product (compared to liquid milk)
- Co-operative farming : Fonterra, a co-operative is responsible for 30% of the world's dairy exports. For a nation of just under 4.5 million, New Zealand's dairy exports performance is startling. It is the world's largest exporter of butter and second only to the EU in cheese exports.

In New Zealand, dairy industry is more developed within Taranaki Plain, Auckland region and Canterbury region.

Conclusion:

Though India is the highest producer of milk in the world, It lags behind in productivity levels. Milk and Dairy sector has a crucial role to play in achieving Government's goal of Doubling Farmers income by 2022.

Best answer: Bella Cullen

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64. What are those factors that make China the top silk producer in the world? Discuss.

Introduction:

China is the world's largest silk producer. The vast majority of Chinese silk originates from mulberry silkworms. According to International Sericulture Commission, China accounts for 75 percent of global raw silk production and 90 percent of the world export market.

Body:

Factors that make China the leading producer include:

- **Climate Conditions and Industrial location:** Temperate and Tropical climate conditions along with heavy rainfall are suitable for growth of univoltine, bivoltine and polyvoltine silk varieties. (Tropicalisation and popularisation of bivoltine sericulture has been a challenge for India). Lower Yangtze valley is one of the finest regions for white mulberry silk. Its proximity to Shanghai textile industries has been an advantage.
- **Technology:** The Chinese scientists have developed hybrid varieties using European and Japanese silkworms, which makes it possible to rear silkworms' up to seven times a year.
- **Labour:** Chinese were the first country to start sericulture and they have abundant skilled personals.

- **Innovative Practices:** They have started integrating sericulture with fish rearing (Silkworm and their waste is fed to fishes). This adds to the income growth and attracts more number of people into this business. Regions such as Pearl River valley.
- **Government Support:** Sericulture has been done through cooperatives (Silk Communes) this ensures efficient and standard production as compared to individual farmers. Government here also provides incentives such as training, project prioritization, land policy exemptions, energy discount, and tax breaks etc.
- **Better export promotion policies** have ensured better return on investments and better quality protection has ensured trust on Chinese silk.

Conclusion:

India stands at second position in terms of silk production. India's silk demand is greater than its production; there exists huge scope for improvement in productivity. With potential to generate huge employment especially for women, improving income of farmers and in preserving the biodiversity makes sericulture one good viable option in India.

Best answer: Ravi Kishore

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65. What are the major hotspots of automobile industry in the world? How is the distribution of these centres changing? Analyse.

Introduction:

The Automotive Industry is an important segment of the global economy, and its performance often tracks that of the broader business cycle. According to international estimates, the average annual turnover of the world automobile industry is more than \$3 trillion, which corresponds to 3.65% of world GDP

Body:

The major hotspots of the automobile industry in the world:

- **US** – General Motors, Ford
- **Germany**- Mercedes, Audi, BMW, Porsche, Opel, Volkswagen
- **Italy**- Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari

- Great Britain –Aston Martin, Bentley, Jaguar
- Japan- Toyota, Honda, Suzuki
- South Korea- Hyundai, Kia Motors, Renault.
- **Canada-** Bombardier, Intermeccanica.

Currently, the industry is booming, involving an increasing number of countries in the production of cars. Now the development of the country's economy is difficult to imagine without the development of the automobile industry.

Factors affecting the changing pattern of Automobiles Hotspots:

- **Raw material:** Availability and the prices of key raw materials, such as steel iron, aluminium, plastic and computer chips decide the location of Industry. Now China, India and Japan are the largest sources of steel worldwide.
- **Workforce:** The cost of labour has a big impact on competitiveness and profitability. North American and European manufacturers are heavily unionized and this affects the industry's health. Asian countries in general and India and China, in particular, are providing skilled labour force at cheaper rates.
 - **Oil price:** The price of gasoline (and diesel fuel) is an important factor influencing the demand. Now the emergence of Electric and hybrid vehicles are shifting the production and usage pattern.
 - **Environmental norms:** Greening is getting more expensive as Carbon dioxide regulation is likely to continue to tighten, and developed countries like Germany, France, China, the US, and Japan have a higher burden of reducing industrial emissions, so they are shifting the production units to developing countries.
 - **Advance technology:** Conventional production of Petrol-fueled car becoming a thing of the past. The industry is moving towards cars that will soon be interconnected, electronically controlled and fueled by a range of energy sources. This is leading to the rise of new players such as China and South Korea, as they have an advantage in the electronics sector.
- **Globalization effects:** Availability of workforce and raw material across the boundaries at no or low tariff rates has also shifted the manufacturing hotspots.
 - **Demand:** Production centres are being established in developing countries due to increased purchasing power and higher demand for cars. Earlier consumption was only in developed countries.
- **Relaxed Import-export norms:** Due to relaxed import-export norms, Assembly units are established in countries after importing parts from OEM countries.

Indian automotive industry:

- Indian automotive industry is the fifth-largest in the world and expected to become the fourth largest automobile producer in the world by 2020.
- Biggest two-wheeler market across the globe.
- By 2026, India expected to be the third-largest automotive market by volume.
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed under the automatic route in the auto sector, subject to all the applicable regulations and laws.
- Geographically, India is close to the major automotive markets of Europe, ASEAN, Japan and Korea.
- The cost competitiveness of steel is the main incentive to foreign investors. India is the fourth-largest producer of steel in the world.
- Presence of four large auto manufacturing hubs across the country: Delhi-Gurgaon-Faridabad in the north, Mumbai-Pune-Nashik-Aurangabad in the west, Chennai-Bengaluru-Hosur in the south and Jamshedpur-Kolkata in the east

Conclusion:

Initiatives like Make in India, Skill India, and Invest India are the steps in the right direction to distinguish India as a top player in global manufacturing, especially the automotive industry. This labour-intensive industry will provide more employment opportunities and could play an important role in the country's socio-economic development, ultimately turning India into a \$5 Trillion Economy by 2022.

Best answer: SRK

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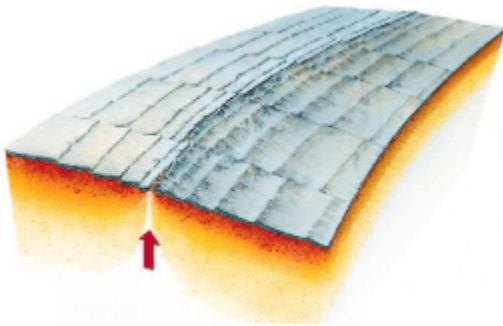
66. Explain the correlation between plate tectonics and earthquakes with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction:

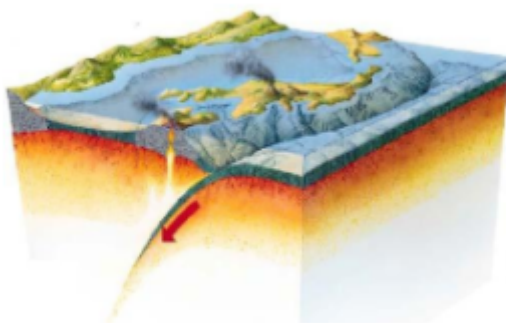
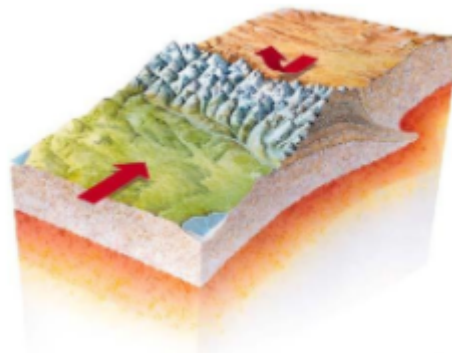
According to the theory of plate tectonics, the earth's lithosphere is broken into distinct plates which are floating on a ductile layer called asthenosphere (upper mantle). The tectonic plates vary from minor plates to major plates, continental plates (Arabian plate) to oceanic plates (Pacific plate), sometime a combination of both continental and oceanic plates (Indo-Australian plate).

Body:

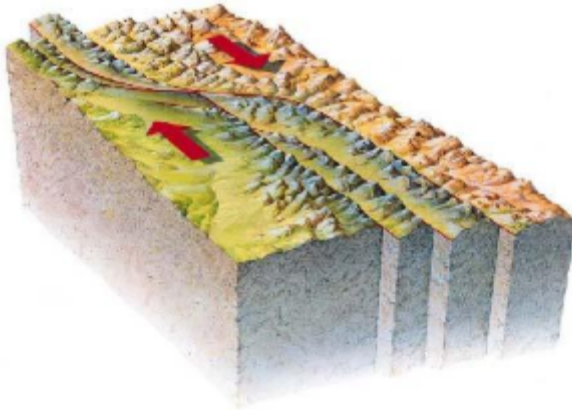
The movement of these crustal plates causes the formation of various landforms and is the principal cause of all earth movements. Earthquakes are a direct consequence of interaction between various lithospheric plates.

**Divergence forming divergent edge or the constructive edge:**

- The plates diverge or move away from each other. Here, the basaltic magma erupts and moves apart giving rise to sea floor spreading.
- Earthquakes (shallow focus) are common along divergent edges.
- Example: East African Rift Valley, Mid-Atlantic Ridge, minor earthquakes near Azores and Iceland etc.

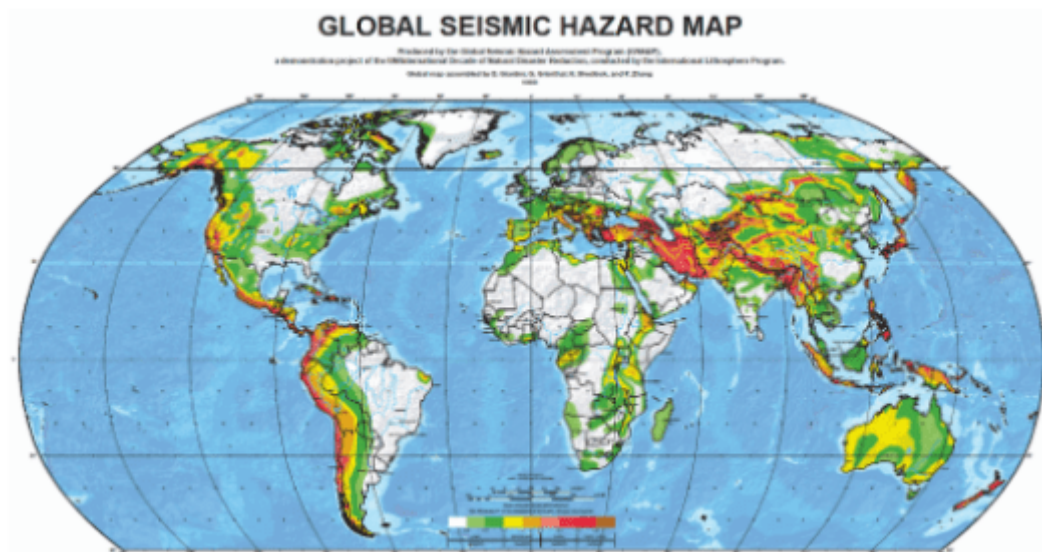
**Convergence forming convergent edge or destructive edge:**

- Plates move towards each other at a boundary. This type of is called a convergent boundary.
- There are mainly three ways in which convergence can occur: between an oceanic and continental plate; between two oceanic plates; and between two continental plates.
- These boundaries tend to produce most of the earthquakes that have magnitudes greater than 6.0, and subduction zones produce the deepest earthquakes.
- Examples include deep ocean trenches like the Peru–Chile trench, Himalayan Boundary Fault, Andes etc.



Conservative edge or transform fault:

- In this kind of interaction, two plates grind against each other and there is no creation or destruction of landform but only deformation of the existing landform. [Crust is neither produced nor destroyed as the plates slide horizontally past each other].
- Transform boundaries typically produce large, shallow-focus earthquakes. Although earthquakes do occur in the central regions of plates, these regions do not usually have large earthquakes.
- Examples include the San Andreas Fault and the Anatolian fault, earthquakes close to and in California.



Conclusion:

Seismologists associate different kinds of seismic activity with what is happening at different types of plate boundaries. The theory of plate tectonics can be used to provide a simplified explanation of the global distribution of earthquakes, their evolution and provide a background research for sustaining loss and resistive measures.

Best answer: Redeemer

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67. What are blizzards? How do they get originated? How are they different from avalanches? Discuss.

Introduction:

A blizzard is a severe snowstorm with strong and powerful winds in excess of 35 mph for more than 3 hours and visibility of less than a 1/4 mile. During a blizzard, the temperature is often below 0 degrees, because of this frostbite and hypothermia are common.

Body:

Origination of blizzards:

- **Cold air (below freezing):** In order for there to be snowfall, the air temperature both up in the clouds and down at ground level must be cold. If the air temperature is warm near the ground, the snow will melt before it reaches the ground causing rain instead.
- **Moisture:** This is known as water vapour. An excellent source of water vapour is when the air must blow across a large body of water, such as the ocean. As the air blows over the water, some water is evaporated into the air. This is water vapour.
- **Warm, rising air:** Warm air must rise over cold air in order for a blizzard to form. This can happen in two ways. The wind can pull warm air from the equator towards the poles, and cold air from the poles towards the equator. When warm and cold air meet, a front is formed which results in precipitation. If warm air rises up a mountaintop it can cool as it rises, forming clouds and blizzard snows.

Effects of Blizzards

- A blizzard has the ability to put a city into standby, sometimes even for days. It can make driving conditions impossible and results in kids not being able to get to school as well as adults not being able to get to work. This in turn means school and businesses close and people are housebound.
- Low air pressure during a blizzard can make breathing difficult for some people.
- Electrical wires can be damaged resulting in a loss of electricity to homes. People are left without the use of computers, TV's, appliances, and lights.
- Blizzards are life threatening and people have lost their lives because of them.
- 8. Blizzards hurt the economy as businesses lose money when people can't get to work.
- 9. When transport routes and shops close during a blizzard there is a chance of food and water scarcity if the blizzard lasts for an extended period of time.

Blizzard

- It is a severe snowstorm, especially with strong winds and greatly reduced visibility.
- Rarely occurs.
- Blizzard is a very strong, bitterly cold wind accompanied by masses of powdery snow or ice crystals often with poor visibility.
- Blizzards are at higher altitude.
- Occur only in winter.
- Causes: (1) cold air (2) moisture (3) warm air.
- Main types: mountain blizzard, ground blizzard and large scale frontal blizzard

Avalanche

- It is an event that occurs when a cohesive slab of snow lying upon a weaker layer of snow fractures and slides down a steep slope.
- Frequently occurs.
- Avalanche is a swift movement of snow, ice, mud, or rock or a mixture of them down a mountainside or slope.
- Avalanches can be seen at lower altitude too.
- Can occur in spring, autumn and winter.
- Causes: (1) a pre-existing weak layer, and (2) a trigger.
- Main types: loose-snow (or sluff) avalanches and slab avalanches

Conclusion:

Under the effects of climate change, mountainous regions across globe are undergoing fast and well-perceptible evolutions, which are attracting the growing attention of people, scientists and managers. To cope better with the hazards and vulnerabilities specific targets and long term plans are must.

Best answer: Bella Cullen

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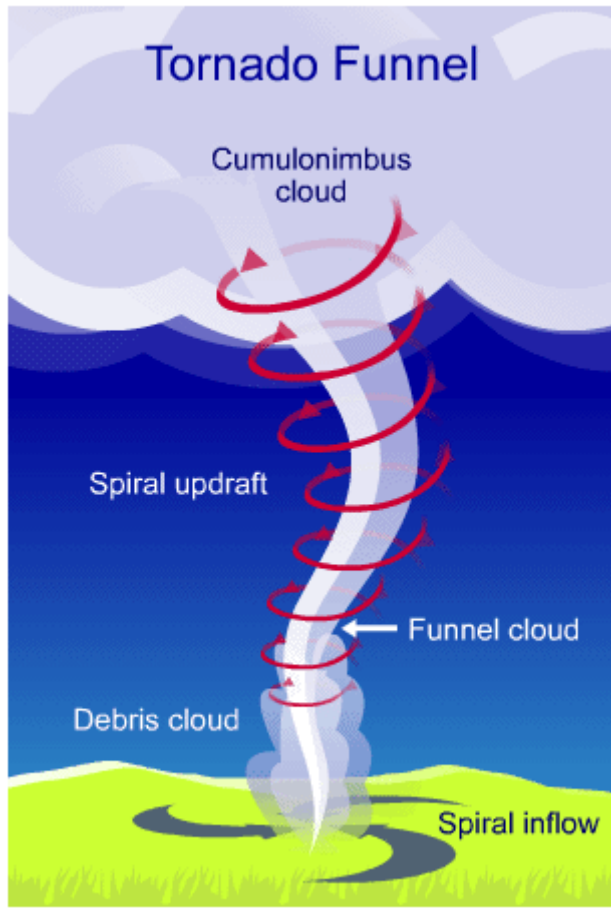
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68. What are tornadoes? How do they originate? Aren't they similar to cyclones? Examine.

Introduction:

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. It is a vortex of rapidly moving air. A tornado forms when changes in wind speed and direction create a horizontal spinning effect within a storm cell. This effect is then tipped vertical by rising air moving up through the thunderclouds.

Body



Winds within the tornado funnel may exceed 500kmph. High velocity winds cause most of the damage associated with these weather events. Tornadoes also cause damage through air pressure reductions. The air pressure at the tornado centre is approximately 800 millibars (average sea-level pressure is 1013 millibars) and many human made structures collapse outward when subject to pressure drops of this magnitude.

Distribution of Tornadoes in the world:



Origin:

- Tornado formation typically needs the four ingredients: shear, lift, instability, and moisture.
- Wind shear is the most important factor that plays into the creation of tornadoes. When there is wind shear, sometimes these winds begin to roll into a horizontal column of air.
- Once you get a strong updraft of air being transported from the ground to the atmosphere, that column of air becomes vertical. That is when a storm usually develops in this scenario.
- As the storm develops, it turns into a supercell thunderstorm much of the time. These supercell thunderstorms are separate, discrete cells that are not part of a line of storms. Also, supercells are storms that rotate and spin. With both the vertical, rotating column of air and the supercell thunderstorm together, that may bring down a tornado from the storm cloud
- Tornadoes are most common in spring and least common in winter. Spring and fall experience peaks of activity as those are the seasons when stronger winds, wind shear, and atmospheric instability are present. Tornado occurrence is highly dependent on the time of day, because of solar heating.
- United States has the most violent tornadoes. At any moment there are approximately 1,800 thunderstorms in progress throughout the world.

Differences between Tornado and cyclone

	Tornado	cyclone
Definition	A tornado is a rotating column of air	A cyclone is an atmospheric system

	ranging in width from a few yards to of rapidly circulating air massed more than a mile and whirling at about a low-pressure centre, destructively high speeds, usually accompanied by stormy weather. Storms downward extension of a cumulonimbus that begin in the Southern Pacific cloud. Winds 40-300+ mph. are called cyclones
Rotation	Clockwise in the southern hemisphere and counter clockwise in the northern hemisphere and counter clockwise in the northern hemisphere.
Forms of precipitation	Rain, sleet, and hail
Frequency	The United States records about 1200 tornadoes per year, whereas the Netherlands records the highest number of tornadoes per area compared to other 10-14 per year countries. Tornadoes occur commonly in spring and the fall season and are less common in winters
Location	Tornadoes have been spotted in all Southern Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean. Cyclones in the northwest Pacific that reach (exceed) 74 mph are "typhoons".
Occurrence	Places where cold and warm fronts converge. Can be just almost anywhere. warm areas

Conclusion

Tornadoes as well as cyclones both occur in India. However, unlike cyclones the frequency of tornado outbreak is very low. Cyclones originate in the Bay of Bengal region as well as in the Arabian Sea region where as Tornadoes of weak strength occur in north-western and north-eastern region of the country causing significant damage to man and material.

Best answer: Ravi Kishore

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69. Which parts of the globe are more susceptible to damage by cyclones and why? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

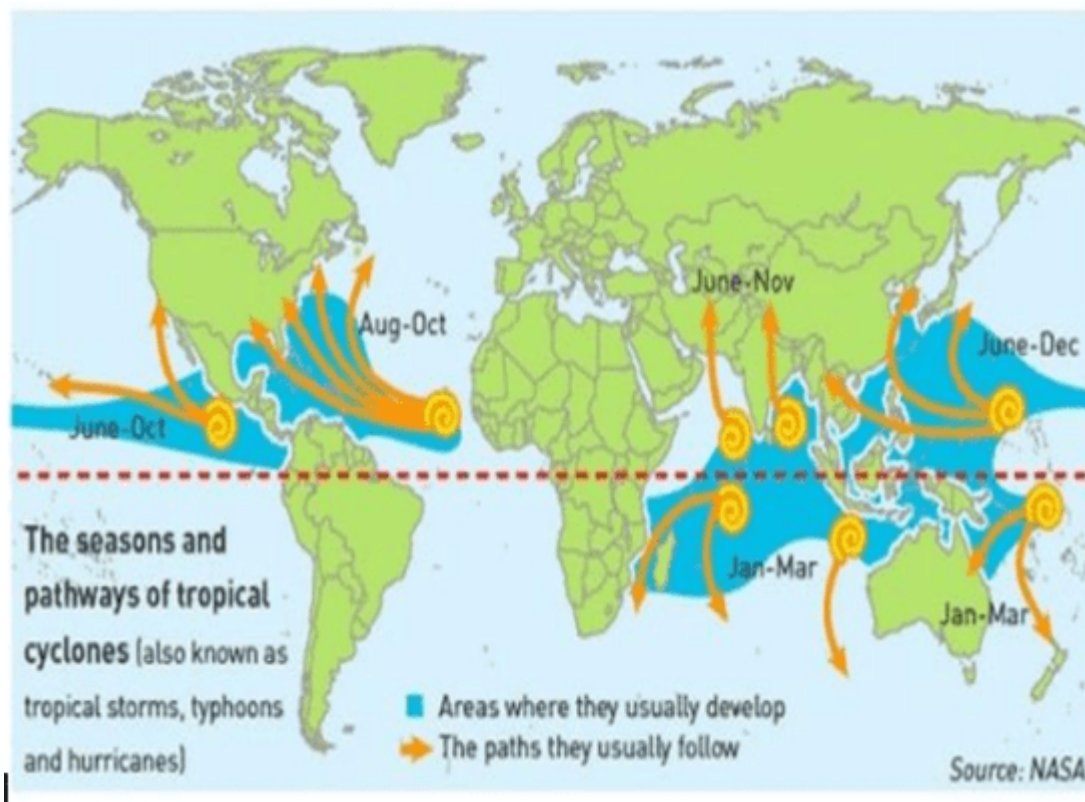
Introduction:

Cyclones are low pressure centres, surrounded by closed isobars, which involve a closed circulation about the low pressure centre. The air moves anticlockwise in northern hemisphere and clockwise in southern hemisphere.

They can be classified either on the basis of their geographical location (tropical/ temperate cyclones) or on the basis of their nature (cold /warm core cyclone). They play a vital role in exchange of heat between different latitude zones and also transfer humidity from one part of the earth to another.

Body

Regional distribution of tropical cyclones:



There are six regions that are more vulnerable to tropical cyclones:

- **Tropical North Atlantic (Gulf of Mexico, West Indies and Caribbean Sea):** Cyclones in this region is known as Hurricane, occur mainly during August-October. Main reasons being increased sea surface temperature, convective instability, low wind shear and other thermodynamic activities. Examples-Hurricane Katrina, Florence etc.
- **Eastern part of the tropical north pacific (Western coast of Mexico and Central America):** also known as Hurricane, usually observed during June-July. The shifting of

Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) northwards and low pressure formed, aided by northwest movement of wind (due to Coriolis force) favours the formation of Tropical Cyclone in this region.

- **Western part of tropical north pacific (The Philippines, the China Sea and areas around Japan):** The cyclones in this region are called as Typhoon, occurs during months of June-December. The presence of low vertical wind shear of less than 10 metres/second, monsoon trough and atmospheric instability favours development of tropical Typhoons.
- **Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea:** They are more frequent during June-September, high sea temperature along with the low pressure regions, sometimes the typhoons originating in western pacific too help in cyclone formation. Ex-Fani, Ockhi etc
- **Western South Pacific Ocean (regions of Samoa, Fiji Island and the east and north coast of Australia):** Occur during January-March season. They too are result of high surface temperature and low vertical wind shear that result in atmospheric instability and heavy cloudiness.
- **The south coast of Indian Ocean (coastal regions of Madagascar):** Occurs during January-March and the westward movement of tropical depression intensified by low vertical wind shear favours cyclone formation. One dangerous recent event is the Idai Cyclone (March 2019) that resulted in more than 1300 deaths and several missing cases.

Temperate cyclones are majorly dynamic in origin (Movement of air masses and coriolis force- Frontogenesis), they occur during winter seasons and are away from equator region. They are largely non-destructive due to slow moving winds, but there might be damage due to flooding. They can occur both on land and water. They occur scattered but irregular intervals throughout the zone of westerlies. They impact mainly in Northern hemisphere (due to less land availability in Southern Hemisphere).

They impact Indian climate in the form of Western disturbances. Though, they are beneficial, as they aid in wheat, saffron cultivation, sometimes they have negative implications too. Excessive rainfall causes landslides, floods, avalanches etc., and occasionally brings cold wave and dense fog like condition that damages the crop in Indo-Gangetic plains.

Conclusion:

Around 8 percent of total land area in India is prone to cyclones. The cyclonic storms are associated with heavy rains, thunderstorms, high tides and intense winds that cause heavy destruction in coastal areas. Proper implementation of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project(NCRMP) that include improved early warning dissemination system, capacity building of local communities to respond, and strengthening the rehabilitation mechanism would minimize the damage.

Best answer: Jean Grey

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70. What is volcanism? What are the factors that lead to volcanism? What role do volcanoes play in the climate?

Introduction:

Volcanism is the phenomenon of eruption of molten rock (magma) onto the surface of the Earth or a solid-surface planet or moon, where lava, pyroclastics and volcanic gases erupt through a break in the surface called a vent.

Body:

Movement of molten rock in the mantle, caused by thermal convection currents, coupled with gravitational effects of changes on the earth's surface (erosion, deposition, even asteroid impact and patterns of post-glacial rebound) drive plate tectonic motion and ultimately volcanism.

Factors that lead to volcanism:

- **Plate Tectonics:** The majority of volcanoes occur where two lithospheric plates converge and one overrides the other, forcing it down into the mantle to be reabsorbed.
- **Ocean floor spreading:** A major site of active volcanism is along the axis of the oceanic ridge system, where the plates move apart on both sides of the ridge and magma wells up from the mantle.
- **Weak Earth Surface:** Because of high pressure in the earth's interior, the magma and gases escape with great velocity as the pressure is released through eruptions where opportunity is provided by weak zones along the earth's surface.
- **Faults:** Whenever extreme pressure builds in the mantle, along fault lines an eruption is likely to happen next. The earthquakes, for instance, may expose fault zones through which magma may escape.
- **Magma crystallization:** Decreasing temperatures can cause old magma to crystallize and sink to the bottom of the chamber and this movement can force fresh liquid magma up and out – similar to dropping a brick in a bucket of water.
- **A decrease in external pressure:** A decrease in external pressure can trigger an eruption as it may minimize the volcano's ability to hold back by increasing the pressures inside the magma chamber
- **Plate movement:** Volcanism may occur because of plate movement over a "hot spot" from which magmas can penetrate to the surface. Ex. Islands of Hawaii

The gases and dust particles thrown into the atmosphere during volcanic eruptions have effects on climate.

Negative effects: Volcanic eruptions produce hazardous effects for the environment and climate,

- Ashes can stay in the stratosphere for about two to five years, and within this period, there are chemical reactions that destroy the stratospheric ozone molecules.
- Volcanoes contribute about 18%-20% of Chlorine entering the atmosphere, this also destroys ozone.
- Volcanoes also cause global warming by releasing greenhouse gases such as water vapour and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- Lava can kill plants and animals. This also contributes to global warming by reducing carbon sink.

Positive effects: Unlike other natural disasters such as floods, wildfires and earthquakes, volcanoes can have some positive effects.

- Most of the particles spewed from volcanoes cool the planet by shading incoming solar radiation. The cooling effect can last for months to years causing cooling over large areas of the Earth.
- Some ash and lava breakdown become soils that are rich in nutrients and become good areas for crop planting activities and growth of the forest.

Conclusion:

Volcanism helps in the formation of various landforms on the earth's surface and bears both positive and negative effects on the climate, environment and human life. With scientific studies, one can predict the volcanic eruption to much extent. Preparedness for this natural disaster can protect human life and environment to a larger extent.

Best answer: SRK

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71. Discuss the distribution of major mangrove concentrations in the world. What roles do mangroves play in maintaining the ecological balance? What are the threats to mangroves? Discuss.

Introduction:

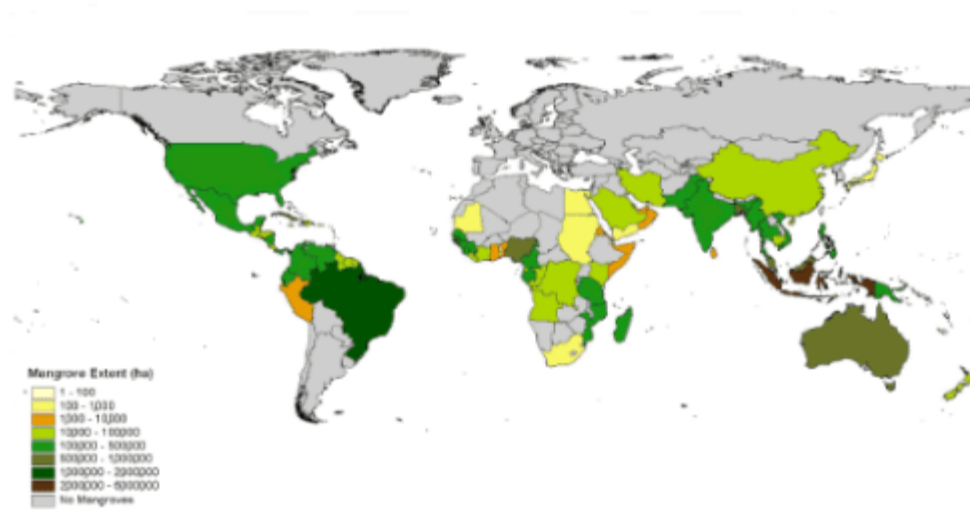
Mangroves are salt-tolerant vegetation that grows in intertidal regions of rivers and estuaries. They are trees and shrub species that grow at the interface between land and sea in tropical and subtropical regions of the world, where the plants exist in conditions of salinity, tidal water flow and muddy soil.

Body:

As of 2012, mangroves are found in 105 nations globally. Although distributed across 105 nations, the top 10 mangrove holding nations contain approximately 52% of the global mangrove stock with Indonesia alone containing between 26% and 29% of the entire global mangrove stock.

Distribution of major mangrove concentrations:

Distribution of major mangrove concentrations:



- Mangroves of the World have been divided into two groups: Eastern group i.e. East Africa, India, Southeast Asia, Australia and the Western Pacific and Western group comprises of West Africa, South and North America and the Caribbean Countries.
- The most extensive area of mangroves is found in Asia, followed by Africa and South America.
- Four countries (Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria and Australia) account for about 41 percent of all mangroves.

- The Sundarbans region is the world's largest area of mangrove forest, spanning approximately one million hectares (2.47 million acres) in India and Bangladesh.

Role of mangroves in maintaining the ecological balance:

- Basis of a complex marine food chain.
- Help in water quality improvements.
- Mangroves serve as breeding, feeding and nursery grounds for most of the commercial fishes and crustaceans on which thousands of people depend for their livelihood
- They are a natural coastal defence. The sturdy root systems of mangrove trees help form a natural barrier against violent storm surges and floods.
- River and land sediment is trapped by the roots, which protects coastline areas and slows erosion. This filtering process also prevents harmful sediment reaching coral reefs and sea grass meadows
- They are carbon sinks. Coastal forests help the fight against global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, most of which is stored within the plant. When mangrove tree roots, branches and leaves die they are usually covered by soil, which is then submerged under tidal water, slowing the breakdown of materials and boosting carbon storage.
- They are rich in biodiversity and harbour a number of faunal and floral species, both aquatic and terrestrial. Mangroves are regarded as the most productive ecosystems on account of the large amounts of organic and inorganic nutrients that are released by them.

Threats to mangroves ecosystem:

Climate change may reduce global mangrove area by 10-15%, but it is a long term, less significance threat to the current 1-2% annual loss from human activities.

Natural threats:

- Cyclones, typhoons and strong wave actions.
- Trampling and over grazing by wildlife and livestock close to mangrove regions.
- Damage by crabs, oysters and pests to the young seedlings of mangroves.

Anthropological threats:

- Agriculture: Many thousands of acres of mangrove forest have been destroyed to make way for rice paddies, rubber trees, palm oil plantations, and other forms of agriculture.
- Coastal Development: Coastal development takes many forms but as streams and wetlands are filled by roads and concrete, they can no longer process natural chemicals. Worse still, pollutants that accompany development can damage individual trees or whole tracts of mangroves.
- Shrimp Farming: By far the greatest threat to the world's mangrove forests is the rapidly expanding shrimp aquaculture industry. Hundreds of thousands of acres of lush

wetlands have been cleared to make room for artificial ponds that are densely stocked with shrimp.

- Charcoal and Lumber Industries: Chopping down mangroves for charcoal and timber is an important cottage industry for many coastal communities. Mangrove wood is used for building material, fencing, and fuel. It also yields valuable, high-quality charcoal. In places where fishing has declined below subsistence levels, many people have turned to charcoal production for their livelihood, which furthers the cycle of habitat loss and fishery decline.

Way forward:

- Stronger Legal and regulatory approaches for protection must be enforced. Example: Maharashtra Govt ensured 'Reserved Forests' status to mangroves.
- Global initiatives like Mangroves for the Future (MFF) by IUCN, global assessment of mangrove status by Mangrove Atlas etc must be encouraged and participative.
- Heightened awareness by people all over the world and preservation methods and knowledge must be imparted effectively.

Conclusion:

As countries race to protect their forests, they must also protect the vital mangrove ecosystems along their coastlines. With continued data analysis, conservation, management and restoration, we can halt the loss of the world's remaining mangrove forests and begin to reverse it.

Best answer: Indian

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72. What will happen if one day all the ice caps melt away? Analyse. What are the most potent threats to ice caps? Discuss.

Introduction:

The cryosphere is the part of the Earth system comprised of frozen water: ice sheets and glaciers, snow, permafrost and sea ice. As the climate warms, the inevitable response of the cryosphere is enhanced melting.

Body:

Effects of melting of ice caps:

- **Loss of ice means more heat is absorbed:** Albedo is a measure of how well a surface reflects sunlight. Snow-covered sea ice has a high albedo and reflects 85% of sunlight. But the open water revealed as ice melts is darker and absorbs more – reflecting just 7%. The less sunlight the Earth's surface reflects the more heat the planet absorbs.
- **Thawing permafrost amplifies warming:** Rising Arctic temperatures are thawing once-frozen ground in the Arctic – known as “permafrost”. Scientists are concerned that CO₂ and methane released from the carbon-rich permafrost could cause additional warming by adding to greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.
- **Melting Greenland ice sheet raises sea levels:** As land ice melts, it adds freshwater to the oceans causing sea levels to rise, and surface melt from Greenland is increasing, as the image below shows. Satellite data suggest over the last 20 years, the Greenland ice sheet has lost 140bn tonnes of ice per year.
- **Decreases the salinity:** Polar ice caps are made of fresh water, so adding more fresh water without adding more salt makes the ocean water less saline. This can cause problems for organisms that are well adapted to the very salty ocean waters.
- **Melting sea ice can influence winter weather:** As temperatures rise faster in the Arctic than at lower latitudes, this changes large-scale temperature and pressure gradients – which may have consequences for extreme weather in the northern hemisphere.
- **Ocean circulations could change:** Impact of Arctic and Greenland ice melt could be that the freshwater runoff into the ocean disrupts part of a major circulation system known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). The AMOC carries warm surface water northward from the tropics, giving Western Europe its mild climate.
- **Changes to Wildlife:** In the Arctic, as sea ice melts, wildlife like walrus are losing their home and polar bears are spending more time on land, causing higher rates of conflict between people and bears.
- **Indigenous Peoples:** Tribals in the Northern Hemisphere are experiencing reduced hunting seasons because of increased early spring ice melts. Because they mostly live in the coastal regions near the arctic, they depend on sea ice as a means for transportation and hunting. As the ice melts, their means to support themselves decrease.
- **Transportation decreases:** Declining coverage of sea ice and snow, which will affect marine and ground transportation across the Arctic.

Threats to ice caps:

- **Anthropogenic causes:** The industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting, calving off into the sea and retreating on land.
- **Fishing:** Fishing for krill could be particularly significant as these are at the bottom of many Antarctic food chains.
- **Tourism:** With the accompanying pollutants that accompany ships and aircraft, the possibility of oil spills and the effects of lots of people and infrastructure on wildlife and the wider environment.

- **Pollution:** CFC's and other ozone depletion materials are responsible for the ozone hole that has appeared over Antarctica for over 30 years, chemicals produced thousands of miles away are found in Antarctic ice and in the bodies of wildlife.
- **Methane:** Melting permafrost releases methane: a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide in terms of warming potential.
- **Oil spills and gas extraction:** An extractive oil and gas industry poses new danger to already vulnerable animal populations.

Conclusion:

Melting sea ice is also likely to have global consequences by unlocking new shipping routes and exposing more fossil fuel reserves. But it is clear that although Arctic and Antarctic sea ice only covers a small fraction of the Earth's surface, there may well be serious climate-related impacts

Best answer: Saichaitanya Jadhav

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73. How is urbanisation affecting the water bodies in the cities? What are its implications? Examine.

Introduction:

The CAG report had referred to the 2015 Chennai floods as a man-made disaster. On a contradicting note, the same city of Chennai is now in the midst of water scarcity crisis.

Body

Urbanisation is taking place at a faster rate in India. Population residing in urban areas in India crossed 30% as per 2011 census, standing at **31.16%**.

According to the **Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)** report released by the NITI Aayog in 2018, 21 major cities (Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and others) are racing to reach zero groundwater levels by 2020, affecting access for 100 million people.

Urbanisation affecting Waterbodies:

Exploitation of Ground water:

- We need to also realise that with the country's rapid urbanisation, demand cannot be met by groundwater reserves alone.
- For instance, according to the Delhi Jal Board estimates, groundwater meets just 10% of Delhi's drinking water needs. The rest is met by surface water sources, most of it transported from outside Delhi.

Encroachment

- In Bengaluru, 15 lakes have lost their ecological character in less than five years according to a High Court notice to the city's administrative body responsible for civic amenities and some infrastructural assets.

Pollution

- There is an increasing level of urban population which however is not having enough civic facilities such as adequate infrastructure for the disposal of waste. Therefore, lakes become the dumping grounds for disposing untreated local sewage and solid waste.

Eutrophication:

- Lakes are closed water bodies. Therefore, a large part of the substances that enter in the lakes become a permanent part of it. There is a rapid change in the in the lakes which leads to growth of unwanted weeds destroying ecology of the lakes.

Unplanned Tourism Activities

- There is unplanned tourism activities as there is no systematic planning and regulation. There is no adequate facility to dump garbage which leads to lakes becoming dumping grounds. Therefore, adequate arrangements for sustainable tourism must be made in cities like Udaipur which is filled with lakes, Dal Lake in Srinagar, etc.

Implications:

Water Quality

- Research within India revealed the scale of urbanisation impacts in Hyderabad, where the number of waterbodies has fallen dramatically. Lakes in Hyderabad were also found to have **fluoride concentrations** exceeding maximum permissible limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards and World Health Organization.
- Fresh Water Watch measurements identified key links between the nutrient concentration and inputs of raw sewage, domestic waste and industrial effluents.

Urban floods:

- Improper and Inefficient Urbanisation is the primary cause for the floods in urban areas, especially in metros. For instance, failure of the drainage system is believed to be one of the primary causes behind the Chennai floods in December 2015 that led to the death of more than 400 people.

Water Crisis

- Cooum, Buckingham canal and Adayar are the three rivers that runs through the chennai city, all are dried up and dead due to industrial wastes and lack of civic measures.
- These coupled with Over exploitation of ground waters are turning cities into Dry and Dead cities in near future.

Solution – Mitigation & Rehabilitation

- Cities need to stop the destruction of local water bodies and local tree cover, treat its sewage properly, harvest rainwater, and stop straightening and concretizing the rivers and encroaching on their floodplain.
- **Mission Kakatiya Model:** Mission Kakatiya of Telangana involves the restoration of irrigation tanks and lakes/minor irrigation sources built by the Kakatiya dynasty.
- Reclaiming of Kundalahalli Lake: Kundalahalli lake in Bengaluru which had made way for a landfill has been reclaimed through corporate social responsibility funds in a Public-Private Partnership model.
- Mapping of the flood prone areas is a primary step involved in reducing the risk of the region. Historical records give the indication of the flood inundation areas and the period of occurrence and the extent of the coverage.
- Enacting the Flood Plain Zoning Bill in states
- The number of casualties is related to the population in the area at risk. Hence, in areas where people already have built their settlements, measures should be taken to relocate to better sites so as to reduce vulnerability.
- No major development should be permitted in the areas which are subjected to high flooding. Important facilities like hospitals, schools should be built in safe areas. In urban areas, water holding areas can be created like ponds, lakes or low-lying areas.
- Better coordination among the government agencies which undertake lake and wetlands restoration and protection programmes
- With the help of reforestation, protection of vegetation, clearing of debris from streams and other water holding areas, conservation of ponds and lakes etc. the amount of runoff can be decreased.

Conclusion:

It is estimated that in just 30 years from now, by 2050, half of India will be living in cities. The Chennai crisis is not an alarm, but it is an explosion signalling to wake up or else humanity would be facing the consequences of nature wreaking great havoc on humanity.

Best answer: Ravi Kishore

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74. Examine the factors behind the uniqueness of flora and fauna in Australia.

Introduction:

Australia is a land like no other, with about one million different native species. More than 80 per cent of the country's flowering plants, mammals, reptiles and frogs are unique to Australia, along with most of its freshwater fish and almost half of its birds.

Body:

The distribution of both flora and fauna within a geographic range will depend on a number of related factors, including microclimate, predation pressure, competition, habitat structure and the distribution of resources including food, water and mates etc.

Evolutionary isolation and other geographical factors are responsible for unique flora and fauna of Australia.

Evolutionary isolation

- Australia has a unique flora and fauna because it was isolated from the rest of the world for very long periods.
- The Australian continent was surrounded by ocean for many millions of years, and so the plants and animals on that very large life-raft were able to evolve in distinctive ways.

Geographical factors

- Isolated Location: Tropic of Capricorn divides Australia into two almost equal parts. It has effects of tropical, subtropical as well as temperate climatic effects. It is surrounded by Ocean from all the sides.
- Tectonic stability: This has ensured any large scale destruction of flora and fauna.
- Unique Topography: Australia is divided into three major physical parts viz Eastern highlands, central low lands and western plateau.

- Diverse climatic features: Mostly desert or semi-arid in west and central parts of the country, south-east and south-west corners are temperate, whereas northern parts have tropical climate, varied between tropical rainforests, grasslands, part desert.
- Varying Rainfall: Due to unique topography and location, rainfall distribution varies throughout the Australian land. Eastern, north eastern and south western parts of the country comes in the way of rain bearing winds, thus receive heavy rainfall. Eastern high lands acts as a barrier to these winds, thus very large parts of western and central Australia have scanty or no rainfall at all.

Conclusion:

- Due to such geographic uniqueness and evolutionary isolation, Australia became home to very unique flora and fauna, which includes largest number of marsupials and venomous snakes.

When animals and plants evolve in isolation they can become more vulnerable to novel predators or pathogens, this is one of the reasons Australia is so vigilant about quarantines and making sure they keep certain pathogens and invasive species out of the country.

Cane toads and rabbits are an example of invasive species gone amuck in Australia.

Aboriginals of Australia also played an important role in preservation and conservation of country's unique flora and fauna.

Best answer: Suraj Sharma

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75. Discuss the process of formation of coral reefs. What role does the Great Barrier Reef of Australia play in maintaining the coastal ecology? Explain.

Introduction:

A coral reef is an underwater ecosystem characterized by reef-building corals. Reefs are formed of colonies of coral polyps held together by calcium carbonate. Most coral reefs are built from stony corals, whose polyps cluster in groups. Often called "rainforests of the sea", shallow coral reefs form some of Earth's most diverse ecosystems.

Body:

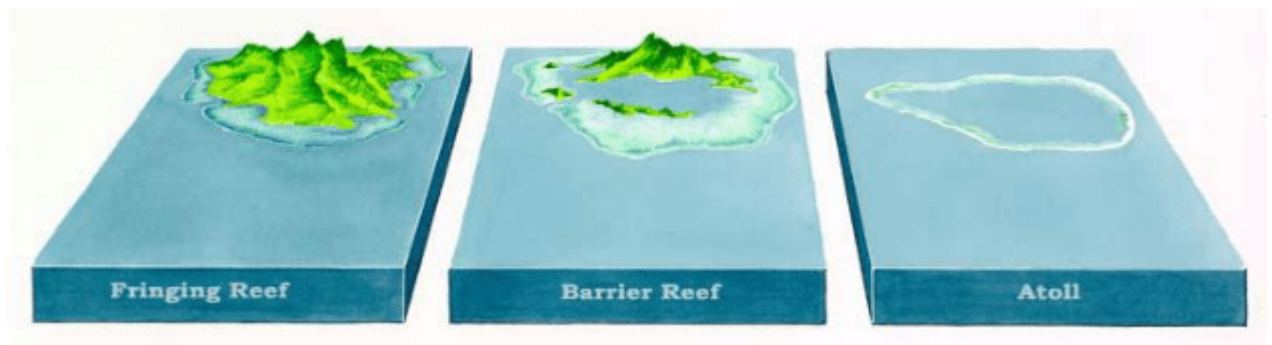
The corals have a symbiotic, or mutually beneficial, relationship with the zooxanthellae. These algae live inside the coral polyp's body where they photosynthesize to produce

energy for themselves and the polyps. The polyps, in turn, provide a home and carbon dioxide for the algae. Additionally, the zooxanthellae provide the coral with their lively colours.

The process of formation of coral reefs:

Coral reefs are large underwater structures composed of the skeletons of colonial marine invertebrates called coral. Each individual coral is referred to as a polyp. Coral polyps live on the calcium carbonate exoskeletons of their ancestors, adding their own exoskeleton to the existing coral structure.

Reefs form when corals grow in shallow water close to the shore of continents or smaller islands. As the corals grow and expand, reefs take on one of three major characteristic structures —fringing, barrier or atoll.



- Fringing reefs are the most commonly seen reef and grow near coastlines.
- Barrier reefs differ from fringing reefs in that they are separated from the coastlines by deeper, wider lagoons.
- The rings of coral that makeup atolls create protected lagoons in the middle of the oceans, typically around islands that have sunk back down into the ocean.



The largest of these coral reef systems is the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. It plays an important role in maintaining the coastal ecology of the world in the following manner.

- It provides food, shelter and breeding area to at least 400 individual species of coral.
- It is the primary habitat for more than thousands of different species of fish, mollusks, sea snakes, sea turtles, whales, dolphins, birds and more. Their destruction can lead to the extinction of thousands of species of marine life.
- They reduce the damage in case of storms, hurricanes and tsunamis by absorbing wave energy and contribute to environmental protection through the reduction of coastal erosion.
- They protect ecosystems located between the reefs and coasts, such as seagrass and lagoon for example, and human settlements located by the sea.
- Reefs also protect the highly productive wetlands along the coast.

Threat to Coral reefs: Coral reefs are fragile because they are sensitive to water conditions. They are under threat from excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), rising temperatures, oceanic acidification, overfishing, sunscreen use, and harmful land-use practices, including runoff and seeps. Many of these threats can stress corals, leading to coral bleaching and possible death of these delicate ecosystems.

Conclusion:

Coral reefs deliver ecosystem services for tourism, fisheries and shoreline protection. They are also a source of food and new medicines. The need of the hour is to protect coral reefs by reducing and eventually eliminating dumping materials and chemicals, reduce fishing and monitor the water quality of run-off directed toward the reef. Healthy reefs lead to healthy oceans, and healthy oceans are vital to all life on Earth.

Best answer: Silver lining

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