

1. What was the philosophical basis of setting up the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose? Discuss. How did it differ from the prevailing political sentiments within the Congress? Discuss.

Approach

The candidate needs to address the question in two parts where first part should discuss about the philosophical basis of setting up the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the second part should discuss its difference from the prevailing political sentiments within the Congress.

Introduction

The Indian National Army was a military organisation conceptualised, organised and equipped by the Japanese with the advent of the fall of Malaya and Singapore in 1942. The first INA was formed by Captain Mohan Singh in collaboration with Major Iwaichi Fujiwara of the Imperial Japanese Army. It was an organisation with several aims.

Body

As a result of the disagreements between the INA and the Imperial Japanese Army, Subhas Chandra Bose assumed leadership of the INA. His tenure marked a sea change in the INA as an organisation. The philosophical basis of INA can be understood from the following points:

- The INA was established to encourage the growth of armed Indian nationalism and was conceived to undermine the British Indian Army that was the cornerstone of British Imperial control in the Far East.
- The official purpose of the INA was to aid the Indians in liberating India from the British. Indian troops led by Indian officers were tasked with preparing for the eventual invasion of India via Burma.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was a far-sighted, realistic type of leader. He knew that India could not be liberated unless a military campaign was launched from outside India.
- He knew that facilities for such an effort could be obtained only from Britain's enemies and not from Britain's allies during the course of World War II.
- The failure of earlier Ghadar revolutionaries during World War 1 to overthrow imperial government through violent means must also have led him to focus on efforts from outside India.
- Netaji believed in the inner strength of India as the real strength of the movement in East Asia. He knew that the propaganda value of the military campaign conducted in East Asia would be immense in our motherland.
- Netaji also convinced people of the imperative necessity for utilising the golden opportunity that presented itself at the moment of World War 2 to Indians in East Asia in the fight for their motherland.

- Subhash Chandra Bose focussed on the entirety of government of free India. He formed the Provisional Government of Azad Hind with a Cabinet of Ministers and Advisers. On October 24, 1943, as Head of the State of the Provisional Government, he declared war on Britain for the liberation of forty crores of Indians.
- INA followed an inclusive outlook in all its efforts which is evident from the Tri-colour Flag of the Congress being adopted by the Provisional Government. A new National Anthem was adopted, so as to be acceptable to Muslim brethren's. "Chalo Delhi" was the war cry and "Jai Hind" was the acknowledged greeting among Indians. Women participation and empowerment was focussed through various efforts like Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

Indian National Army differed from the prevailing political sentiments within the Congress in the following manner:

- Mahatma Gandhi was wary of Subhash Chandra Bose due to the latter's willingness to adopting militant strategies as part of the freedom struggle.
- The world then was polarised between the Allied and the Axis powers. The only help that was possible then was to come from the Axis powers. Netaji was clear about one thing: 'enemy's enemy is my friend'. He understood realpolitik better than anyone else in congress.
- The Rani of Jhansi Regiment served not only to generate excitement and interest in the INA but also assisted in mobilising support from a previously quiescent section of the Indian population- women. Orthodox perceptions of gender were shattered by the formation of a women's regiment.
- The rightists in the Congress such as Sardar Patel, G D Birla, G B Pant and Rajendra Prasad who began displaying fierce opposition to Subhash Chandra Bose because he had emerged as a strong leftist pillar in the Congress and whose charisma and dynamic leadership was attracting enormous followers.
- Subhash Chandra Bose's commitment to secular values is clear from the fact that while building INA and recruiting cadres from Indian soldiers, he consciously selected members, leaders and symbols that reflected plurality.
- Multiple sections had ossified due to prolonged struggle of independence. Here, INA created many novel institutions such as the Azad Hind Dal, Rani of Jhansi Regiment, Indian Independence Leagues, Balak Sena, etc.

Conclusion

In spite of his principle of violence Subhash Chandra Bose's grand scheme of India's liberation and the high idealism through INA movement inspired the people of India in an unprecedented manner. I.N.A. was created with a view to be a living example to future free India which inspired freedom fighters till the end.

2. Examine the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in making the struggle for independence a mass movement.

Approach

You have to Examine/ go deeper into details of the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in making the struggle for independence a mass movement.

Introduction

Gandhi arrived in India on 9 January, 1915. Initially, he spent a year visiting various places in India to have an understanding of the situation. Like other great men in history, Gandhi took his time to grow and develop his techniques to ensure that his actions made an impact.

The contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in making the struggle for independence a mass movement

- Gandhiji made social reform a part of the programme of the nationalist movement. His greatest achievement in the field of social reform was the campaign against inhuman institution of untouchability which had degraded millions of Indians.
- His other achievement was in the field of cottage industries. He saw in the charkha, the spinning wheel, the salvation of the village people and its promotion became part of the congress programme.
- In addition to infusing people with the spirit of nationalism it provided employment to millions and created a large group of people who were ready to throw themselves into the struggle and court imprisonment.
- The charkha became so important that it eventually became a part of the flag of the Indian National Congress. Gandhiji devoted himself to the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity.
- He regarded communalism as anti-national and inhuman. Under his leadership the unity of the nationalist movement was secured and the people worked hard for independence.
- One of his major achievements in 1918 were the Champaran and Kheda agitations – a movement against British landlords. Gandhiji got much public support and finally in May 1918, Government gave the provisions related to tax payment.
- Non-cooperation movement started by Mahatma Gandhi. This movement officially started the Gandhian era in India. In this freedom struggle, the non-cooperation movement was basically aimed at making the Indians aware of the fact that the British government can be opposed and if done actively, it will keep a check on them. Though the movement failed, Indians awakened to the concept of going against the British.
- Through his leadership in the Civil Disobedience Movement, Gandhi played a crucial role in the unification of the country, awakening of the masses, and bringing politics within reach of the common man.
- In August 1942, Gandhiji launched the Quit India Movement (“Bharat Chhodo Andolan”) declaring its demand for an immediate end of British rule. The

people, however, were unstoppable. There were hartals and demonstrations all over the country.

- After the Quit India Movement, the freedom struggle got even more intense and passionate. Entire India was united together in the movement for freedom. Everyone contributed what they could in the freedom struggle.

Conclusion:

Gandhiji devoted himself to the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity. He regarded communalism as anti-national and inhuman. Under his leadership the unity of the nationalist movement was secured and the people worked hard for independence. The cry of Poorna Swaraj or complete independence was raised. After much sacrifices and efforts, India gained its independence on the 15th August, 1947.

**3. Discuss the contribution of prominent tribal leaders in the freedom struggle.**

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about how tribal leaders played important role during freedom struggle and give examples of some prominent leaders who were leading movements during freedom struggle.

Introduction

Tribal movements under British rule were the most frequent, militant and violent of all movements. They launched movements against the British authority in their respective regions. In this historic struggle, the heroic role played by many distinguished tribal leaders like Birsa Munda, Rani Gaidinliu, Laxman Naik, Veer Surendra Sai and many others.

Body

- The tribes of India since time immemorial have been engaged in protecting their land and culture from the outsiders including powerful rulers like the British. Their potential, strength and energy for holding their fort till the last person is still alive.

Some prominent leader and there contribution in the freedom struggle:

Birsa Munda:

- Birsa Munda was a tribal hero from the tribal belt of Chotanagpur. He is still remembered as a freedom fighter, religious leader and folk hero. He believed in the importance of cultural roots and influenced people to understand the importance of land and the rights that they possess with the land.
- He soon realized the intention of the British was to loot their lands and push the people into the deep pit of poverty and bonded labour. He fought against the forceful seizure of land and raised a rebellion against the British and the middlemen. Under his leadership, many protests took place making his vision into a revolution.

Sidhu and Kanhu:

- The Santhals under Sido and Kanhu rose up against their oppressors, declared the end of the Company's rule and asserted themselves independent in 1854. It was only in 1856 after extensive military operations that the situation was brought under control. Sido died in 1855, while Kanhu was arrested in 1866.

Rani Gaidinliu:

- Rani Gaidhinliu was a Naga leader from Manipur known for her armed resistance against the British. Gaidinliu joined the Heraka movement in 1927, with an aim to end the British rule and establish the self-rule of Nagas. By the time she was 16, she became a leader of guerrilla forces fighting against the British rulers.
- In a surprise attack, she along with her followers were arrested by the English troops and was then taken to Imphal where she was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Due to her excellent efforts in the freedom struggle, she was given the title of "Rani" by Jawaharlal Nehru .

Laxman nayak:

- Laxman Nayak or Laxman Naik was a tribal civil rights activist of South Odisha in eastern India. He belonged to Bhumia tribe of Odisha. Nayak, an Odia folk-hero of Koraput of southernmost part of Odisha and a cult-figure among its tribals, was born in Tentuliguma village of the Koraput district and his father Padlam Nayak was a tribal chief and 'Mustadaar' under 'Jeypore Samasthanam' in the then Madras Presidency.
- The local administration worked as a subsidiary of the British Government. The tribals under their administration were treated badly by revenue officials, forest guides and police constables, and were subjected to torture. Nayak organised the rebels successfully against exploitation by the officials of Jeypore Samasthanam. This brought him recognition as a potential tribal leader.

Surendra sai:

- Surendra Sai was an Indian freedom fighter who sacrificed his life fighting against the British East India Company. Surendra Sai and his associates resisted the British and successfully protected most parts of Western Odisha region for some time from the British rule. Most of them died unnoticed fighting for freedom from the British. Many of them were hanged by the British; Hatte Singh died in the Vapor Island in the Andamans.

Shaheed veer narayan singh:

- Pride of Sonakhan, Chattisgarh Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh looted trader's grain stock and distributed them amongst poor after the 1856 famine.
- He was then arrested by the British, but managed to escape the prison with the help of other prisoners and reached Sonakhan. As it was with people across the country, the people of Sonakhan had joined the revolt of 1857 against the British. Veer Narayan Singh formed an army of just 500 men and rose up against the British army, which was led by Deputy Commissioner Smith. After hours of fighting, Veer Narayan Singh was again arrested and was sentenced to death on charges of sedition.
- The sacrifice of Veer Narayan Singh made him a tribal leader and he became the first martyr from Chhattisgarh in the independence struggle of 1857.

Shri Alluri Seetha Ram Raju:

- A brave son of Andhra Pradesh, Alluri Seetha Ram Raju sacrificed his life in the freedom struggle against the British. He is known as "Manyam Veerudu" ("Hero of the Jungle") by the local people. He was a revolutionary at heart from a very young age. He inspired tribals to stand united as one against the British. He taught them guerrilla warfare—so that they can not only safeguard themselves, but also fight against the English army. He led the Rampa Rebellion of 1922 in the Godavari districts, which are a part of today's Andhra Pradesh.

Conclusion

For independence, each and every region was fighting for their cause. Many of the protests against the British were led by tribal heroes. Their fight was for their land and most importantly, their people. India has witnessed their struggle turning into a revolution without the use of equipment like bombs and tanks.



4. How did the participation of women strengthen the national movement? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

A straightforward question where in the candidate needs to elaborate upon how the participation of women strengthened the national movement with the help of proper examples.

Introduction

The social reform movements of the 19th century laid the ground for active participation of women in public life, which became a boon for the nationalist movement due to inclusion of a vast section of population in the struggle for independence and also ultimately, led to the process of empowerment of Indian women.

Body

- Indian women's association with the freedom struggle took a new dimension with the growth of popular politics of the Gandhian congress mass movements.
- The women's participation before Gandhiji was in a limited manner for example in Swadeshi Movement in Bengal (1905-11) and Home Rule Movement. They also attended sessions of Indian National Congress.
- The participation of women in public domain started during Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM) in 1920, when Gandhiji mobilized large number of women.
- Another important development was that women went to jail for the first time in the Non-Cooperation Movement. Thus women keeping their traditional role became the base of the freedom movement.
- At the 1918 special Congress session in Mumbai, Sarojini Naidu, underlined the growth of education, civic consciousness amongst women, their greater engagement with political processes, serving on municipal councils, other local bodies, therefore deserved voting rights. Sarla Devi Chaudurani citing similar arguments also passed a resolution demanding adult suffrage.
- Women's public activities were more pronounced during Civil Disobedience Movement. They started getting impatient and demanded more active role. Gandhi appreciated the impatience as healthy sign but refused to increase their greater role.
- He believed that women can play higher role in picketing of liquor and foreign cloth shops. He believed in inherent capacity of women for non-violence.
- Kasturba Gandhi initiated women's participation in the Salt Satyagraha by leading 37 women volunteers from Sabarmati ashram. Sarojini Naidu and Manilal Gandhi led the raid on Dharsana Salt Works. KamlaDevi led procession of 15,000 to raid the Wadala Salt works.
- Women thus participated actively in processions, picketing of foreign shops and liquor shops. Women were organized in Bombay, most militant in Bengal and were limited in Madras.
- The female activism in Quit India Movement was visible most significantly. The important leaders of congress being behind bars, made it contingent for the

women leaders to take upon themselves the responsibility of directing and taking forward the national movement.

- Sucheta Kriplani coordinated the non-violent Satyagraha while women also participated in underground revolutionary activities. Aruna Asaf Ali provided leadership for these activities.
- The Tebhaga Movement 1946, saw the formation of women and Brigade as Nari Bahinis to fight against colonial policies. Subash Chandra Bose also added a women's regiment to his INA (1943) called the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.
- Rani Gaidenliu of Nagaland also actively participated in the Quit India movement, which brought in tribal women of northeast India into the mainstream national movement. Further, Kanakalata Barauh also became a symbol of resistance against British in Assam. This raised anti-colonial sentiments in common public to greater heights.

Gendered activism was strong where there were pre-existing women's institutions, societies, organisational structures. Women's participation was often in defiance of patriarchy, but also often facilitated by men admiring of feminine dynamic, potential, patriotism.

Conclusion

The political significance of the women's question vis-à-vis the nation-building project needs a far more complex understanding where even though women shouldered critical responsibilities in India's struggle for freedom but even in present times, their empowerment is an issue of national importance, which showcases the need to address issues related to women.

5. Discuss the legacy of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in India's freedom struggle. Why was he called the Frontier Gandhi?

Approach

You have to discuss or debate by putting reasons and covering widely about the legacy of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in India's freedom struggle. Also explain why he was called the Frontier Gandhi.

Introduction

Abdul Ghaffar Khan was an Indian freedom fighter, social reformer and the founder of the Khudai Khidmatgar (Red Shirts, or Servants of God) movement.

Legacy of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in India's freedom struggle

- Strongly inspired by Gandhi's strategy of nonviolence, Ghaffar Khan, or Badshah Khan as he was popularly known, amassed the world's first major nonviolent army in his region. He persuaded 100,000 of his countrymen to lay down guns and vow to fight non-violently against the British regime.
- He termed this army the Khudai Khidmatgar, the servants of Allah. It was no mean achievement, considering the bloody and barbaric history of the Pashtun community- a history that was full of invasions, massacres, conquests and occupations.
- The Khudai Khidmatgar movement espoused nonviolent, nationalist agitation in support of Indian independence and sought to awaken the Pashtuns' political consensus
- A devout Muslim and committed ally of Gandhi, Ghaffar Khan worked in close collaboration with his inspirer for independence. For almost 80 long years, the Pashtun leader struggled incessantly for the rights of his people without ever raising arms.
- Like Gandhi, Ghaffar Khan honestly believed that the upliftment of his people was essential preparation for independence. Khan opened schools in the province, brought women into the mainstream of society, and encouraged his nonviolent soldiers to vow to do at least two hours of social work a day.

Why was he called the Frontier Gandhi?

- While Mahatma Gandhi was fighting against the British regime in mainland India, the northwest fringes of the country, then known as the North-West Frontier Province and now part of Afghanistan, were witnessing the rise of yet another Mahatma- Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan.
- There is no parallel in world history to the miracle achieved by him in converting the dreaded gun-toting Pashtoons into firm believers in the twin principles of non-violence and satyagraha.
- Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, leader of the Pukhtuns, was given the sobriquet of "Frontier Gandhi" by his followers in reference to his commitment to the freedom struggle and non-violence.
- Ghaffar Khan was a great admirer of Mahatma Gandhi. He had built a close and spiritual friendship with Gandhi, the pioneer of the non-violent mass movement of civil disobedience. The two had a deep admiration for each other

and worked together closely until 1947. In India he is still revered as "Frontier Gandhi."

Conclusion

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan nicknamed Badshah Khan or Bacha Khan (1890-1988) was a unique leader of the Indian freedom movement. The Frontier Gandhi will be ever remembered as the true inheritor of the Gandhi legacy.

1. How did the arrival of the British impact the traditional rural economy in India? Analyse.

Approach

A straightforward question where in the candidate needs to analyse the impact of arrival of British on the traditional rural economy in India through various policies of the British colonialists and exploitation of India's rural hinterland.

Introduction

The British conquest of India is considered different from all previous foreign conquests as the economic policies followed by the British led to the rapid transformation of India's economy into a colonial economy whose nature and structure were determined by the needs of the British economy.

Body

The European and the British traders initially came to India for trading purposes. The nature of interaction evolved over a period of time where impact of British arrival on traditional rural economy in India can be understood from the following points:

- India's economy under the British colonial rule remained fundamentally agrarian — about 85 per cent of the country's population lived mostly in villages and derived livelihood directly or indirectly from agriculture
- However, despite being the occupation of such a large population, the agricultural sector continued to experience stagnation and, not infrequently, unusual deterioration.
- This stagnation in the agricultural sector was caused mainly because of the various systems of land settlement that were introduced by the colonial government. These land settlements were geared towards the needs of the British Empire.
- The Industrial Revolution in Britain led to the increase in demand for raw materials for the factories there. Consequently, India under British rule saw growth of commercial plantations needed in Britain.

- The British imposed a policy of one-way free trade on India after 1813 and the invasion of British manufactures, in particular cotton textiles, immediately followed. Indian goods made with primitive techniques could not compete with these goods.
- The ruin of Indian industries, particularly rural artisan industries, proceeded even more rapidly once the railways were built. The railways enabled British manufactures to reach and uproot the traditional industries in the remotest villages of the country.
- The oppression practiced by the East India Company on the craftsmen of Bengal during the second half of the 18th century, compelled a large number of them to abandon their ancestral professions.
- The Indian states were completely dependent on the British in the production of military weapons where the British purchased all their military and other government stores in Britain. This led to the ruin of rural metal artisans and related industry which affected a large chunk of population in rural areas.
- The ruined handicraftsmen and artisans failed to find alternative employment. The only choice open to them was to crowd into agriculture. Moreover, the British rule also upset the balance of economic life in the villages.
- The gradual destruction of rural crafts broke up the union between agriculture and domestic industry in the countryside and thus contributed to the destruction of the self-sufficient rural economy.
- The moneylender was greatly helped by the new legal system and the new revenue policy. By the end of the nineteenth century, the moneylender had become a major curse of the countryside and an important cause of the growing poverty of the rural people.
- The poverty of the people found its culmination in a series of famines which ravaged all parts of India in the second half of the nineteenth century. Apart from the major famines like ones in 1876-78 and 1896-97, many other local famines and scarcities occurred, which were documented by British officials.

Conclusion

All the developed countries of today developed almost entirely over the period during which India was ruled by Britain, most of them doing so after 1850 but British subordination of the Indian economy to its own economy led to the determination of the basic social trends in India according to her own needs which resulted in stagnation of India's agriculture and industries and the spread of poverty, disease and semi-starvation across the country.

2. The 18th and 19th-century socio-religious movements constitute a vital strand of modern Indian history as they provided the foundation over which nationalism could be built and nurtured. Elucidate.

Approach

You have to elucidate or explain so as to make it clear how the 18th and 19th-century socio-religious movements acted as a vital strand of modern Indian history that provided the foundation over which nationalism could be built and nurtured

Introduction.

Introduction

In the history of pre-independent India, the period between the 18th and 19th century was a period of transition and contestation in the socio-religious sphere as three streams: of reform, revival and rejection of ancient cultural values were woven around the socio-religious movement or social reform movement initiated by eminent intelligentsia of vision and foresight. This movement acted as a catalyst for the emergence of nationalism which ultimately drove away the British from India and made India an independent republic.

How the 18th and 19th-century socio-religious movements provided the foundation over which nationalism could be built and nurtured

- From 1880 two important tendencies which had been stirring in the previous decades occupied the Indian scene: nationalism and political action.
- From now on individuals and groups openly identified themselves with an Indian nation, a new concept in Indian history. This predominance of nationalism and politics now began to exert influence on the ideas of religious and social reform which had previously prevailed.
- Nationalism itself developed two patterns, a religious one and a secular one, and each school assigned a different place to social reform. Two early outstanding examples of the new religious nationalism are Bankim and Tilak.
- It is very striking how the religious nationalism of both in fact had deep provincial roots, and may be seen as Bengali and Maharashtrian nationalism respectively.

- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838-94) found Bengal divided between the traditionalist orthodox and the progressive reformers. His religion combines the humanism of Positivism with the activist interpretation of the Krishna myth and of the Bengali cult of the Mother Goddess. His novels in particular awoke in the Bengalis, first the middle class, and later the masses, a self-confidence and pride in their language and their religion.
- This movement began in Bengal and spread to the other parts of India. It was a movement aimed at regenerating the sluggish spirit of India which was in a dazed condition due to the impact of the British rule.
- The pioneer of this movement of regeneration of India was Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1774-1833), the father of modern India who is acclaimed as the link between the fading past and dawning future, between the deep-rooted conservatism and radical reform, and between superstitious isolationism and progressive synthesis, in short, between reaction and progress.
- Ram Mohan Roy is also described as the arch which spanned the gulf between ancient caste and modern humanity, between superstition and science, between immovable custom and conservative progress, between a bewildering polytheism and a pure but vague theism.
- The movement which started as a minor stream in the first decade of the 19th century evolved into major water flow, engulfing the entire territorial borders of India.

Conclusion

The intellectuals of the 18th and 19th century had a vision of the future India and in the words of M.G. Ranade the vision that inspired them was, **"a change from constraint to freedom, from credulity to faith, from status to contract, from authority to reason, from unorganized to organized life, from bigotry to toleration, from blind fanaticism to a source of human dignity"**. In order to achieve this vision, all the intellectuals believed the spread of education, both western and Indian vernacular, to be the panacea for social transformation and national regeneration. It was not just a socio-religious movement but also a movement against economic exploitation and social discrimination of backward communities and women's emancipation from bondage and slavery.

3. Critically evaluate the contribution of the moderates towards the development of a unified Indian nationalist position against British rule.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write the definition of moderates and their characteristics, then simply highlight contributions of the moderates for unifying Indian national movement position, as question demands critical evaluation candidates also need to highlight limitations of the moderates.

Introduction

The Moderates were the one who dominated the affairs of the Indian National Congress from 1885-1905. They were Indians but in reality British in taste, intellect, opinions and morality. They believed in patience, steadiness and conciliation. The leader of the first phase of the National Movement were A.O. Hume, W.C. Banerjee, Dadabhai Naoroji etc. They were called moderates because they appeal through petitions, speeches and articles loudly professing loyalty to the British Raj.

Body

Contribution of moderates towards the development of unified Indian national position against British rule:

- Indian Councils Act of 1892 was the first achievement of the Moderates. This Act increased the size of the legislative councils and also increased the proportion of non-officials in them. In 1892, Indian Councils Act was passed to fulfill the demands of the moderate phase leaders. However, the moderates harshly criticized these reforms as they were not satisfied with it.
- The moderates were able to use these councils to put forward the grievances of public and to expose and criticize the policies and actions of government regarding economic and political issues.
- The moderates were able to build a national movement which eroded the authority of the British government and generated anti-colonial feelings among the people. However, they could not transform the national movement into a mass movement.
- The demand for the self-government similar to the colonies of Australia, Japan was put forward by leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale. They raised the slogan no taxation without representation.

- They demanded for the separation of Executive and Judiciary to avoid the arbitrary actions of police and the bureaucracy. Further, they criticized the bureaucracy for being tyrannical and oppressive and the Judiciary for being costly and time consuming.
- They demanded for the reform of municipal and local bodies giving them more powers and funds. This was to improve the general welfare and administrative efficiency of administration. This brought nationalist upsurge and patriotism at local level.
- The moderates demanded protection of rights like right to free speech and liberty, right to association, freedom for free press etc. They demanded for the removal of Preventive Detention Acts, which was arbitrarily used by the British. Leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and several journalists were arrested on sedition charges for making provocative statements. This led to increase in the protests due to increased awareness among the masses.
- They were able to sow the seeds of nationalism in the people. They popularised ideals like democracy, liberty and equality which helped to unify the position.
- The moderate nationalism promoted the national consciousness and national identity. They laid the foundation for the growth of feeling of India as a nation.
- They were able to create anti-colonial ideology and political awakening and consciousness among the public.
- They were able to expose the myth of benevolent despotism of British rule in India. Through their economic critique and criticism of British policies etc, they uncovered the exploitative nature of British rule in India.
- They were able to build a feeling of unity among the people of diverse religion, caste, creed and language etc.

Criticism of moderates for there methodology and approach:

- The moderate phase leaders were criticized for the methods they used i.e. 3 P's -prayers, petitions and protests. These methods were criticized as being inadequate for challenging the British might in India.
- Further the lack of participation of masses in the movement has been criticized as the major drawback as the leaders were mainly educated middle class professionals like lawyers, teachers, journalist and civil servants etc. The masses mainly played a passive role during the moderate phase of national movement.
- They did not demand complete independence from foreign rule.
- They did not understand the power of a mass movement of people, unlike Gandhi who used this power.
- Drew most of their ideas from western political thinking which further alienated them from the people.

Conclusion

Moderates chose the peaceful path for attainment of freedom. They used constitutional methods, used petitions, meetings, resolutions, pamphlets, memoranda and delegations to voice their demands. They were not demanding

complete freedom, rather aimed to achieve political rights and self-government under British dominion. Hence, we can say Moderates were acting like Safety-Valve between the masses and Britishers's. But over the time their Indian blood rejuvenated and their leadership urges then to overthrow British by an Institutional method.

4. Independence would have been a distant reality without developing the self-esteem of the Indian populace. Do you agree? Critically comment.

Approach

The candidate needs to give his/her views with regards to the need to develop self-esteem of Indian populace before even thinking about Independence during the colonial period and also give views contrary to one's arguments to fulfil the demand of the question.

Introduction

The process of gaining independence and the eventual attainment of Indian independence in 1947 was a long drawn out phenomenon where multitude of factors were involved along with contributions of many personalities which shaped the general populace view and support of Independence movement.

Body

Indian Independence would have been a distant reality without developing the self-esteem of the Indian populace as –

- British colonialism had adversely impacted the political, social and economic structures of India which completely demoralised vast sections of Indian populations, especially the sections which traditionally wielded power and had the influence to change the society.
- British education system had made Indians completely against their own culture and civilization where British were shown as liberators (White Man's Burden Theory) and thus justifying the colonial rule. Many Indians in the 19th century believed in this civilizing mission of Britishers and supported the colonial regime.
- Racist theories of the 19th century had completely destroyed the Indians understanding of their military capabilities, which consequently affected the fighting spirit of Indians.
- Colonial interpretation of Indian history made Indians believe that India was dominated by the outside powers for most part of its history and thus colonial rule was justified.
- Further, economic exploitation by the British led to large scale impoverishment and poverty, which handicapped any revolt or fight against the colonial power.
- Revival movements of the 19th century made Indians realise their glorious past and instilled a sense of belonging and nationhood in Indians.

- Freedom movement led by Tilak and Gandhi would have been a distant dream if social awakening of the 19th century hadn't been successful. This social awakening was led by various people from across the country like Swami Vivekananda, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, and others.
- They provided a base for larger public movement for independence while also fighting against social evils and fighting for reforms. This simultaneous process of reforms and awakening influenced large sections of population towards fighting for self-rule (Swaraj) and eventually independence.

At the same time, it is important to note that developing self-esteem alone was not enough for independence with many other factors influencing the freedom movement like –

- Growth of political consciousness due to modern western education, whose products were people like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Economic growth, especially in cities like Calcutta and Bombay, which gave rise to a middle class with means and wherewithal to support a freedom movement.
- The 1857's War of independence also played a crucial role in maintaining the spirit of resistance against colonial rule in Indians.
- Influence of external factors like World wars and defeat of Europeans by other Asian powers like Japan.
- Support of Indians based outside India like the Ghadar Party in North America and India House in United Kingdom.
- World wars played a crucial role in defeat of colonialism across the world and same can be said in context of India where post-world war 2, British hold over the subcontinent became tenacious.

Conclusion

Thus, it can be seen that growth of self-esteem played a vital role in India's struggle for independence along with various other factors which eventually led to a modern independent India based on the concepts of individual self-respect and national sovereignty.

5. Critically evaluate the philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore over subjects like nationalism and patriotism.

Approach

You have to critically evaluate (form the idea or assess both the positive and negative aspects of the philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore over subjects like nationalism and patriotism.

Introduction

Rabindranath Tagore was a versatile genius, a true nationalist and above all an indisputable humanist who has been inspiring generations of intellectual and empathetic minds irrespective of their religion, race, language and also the barriers such as state and nation. He was far away from what we popularly call patriotism or nationalism.

The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore Over Patriotism

- Rabindranath Tagore was far away from what we popularly call patriotism.
- Rabindranath was never a blind patriot. Rather we can say he was a worshipper of truth and justice.
- Unlike our present-day clay-footed intellectuals he was always outspoken to uphold the sanctity of truth and justice. He fought against odds and championed the cause of humanity in his life-long struggle.
- He criticized the blind form of patriotism which is now enjoying a heyday across our country. 'Tagore's criticism of patriotism is a persistent theme in his writings.
- As he quoted: "Patriotism cannot be our final spiritual shelter; my refuge is humanity. I will not buy glass for the price of diamonds, and I will never allow patriotism to triumph over humanity as long as I live."

The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore Over Nationalism

- Tagore's perception of nationalism has mainly relied on ancient Indian philosophy, where the world was accepted as a single nest.
- In this way, Tagore was striving to dissociate himself from the general belief of nationalism and trying to associate it with ideas such as peace, harmony and welfare.
- To him, it would only bring harvests of wealth by the means of greed, selfishness, power and prosperity. The process would sacrifice the moral, the complete man making room for the political and commercial man, the man of limited purpose.

- Tagore was not antithetical to the idea of nation and nationalism from the beginning. In fact, Tagore had been a passionate supporter of nationalism during the first decade of the twentieth century and many people derived inspiration from him in this regard.
- But he was so intensely disturbed by swadeshi movement turning into a terrorist movement that he rejected even Gandhi 's freedom movement in later years. He did not involve himself in a nationalist movement again as he started to believe that fundamental nationalism, like religious orthodoxy, results into divisiveness and blind fanaticism.
- Referring to the aggressive tilt that nationalism had taken in most parts of the world including India in early twentieth century, Tagore argued that very soon it would destroy the civilisation.

Critical evaluation:

- According to Tagore, the very idea of nationalism has now been stripped of its human element and it would ultimately precipitate a new form of bondage in the name of its pursuit of freedom and right to self- determination. However, this does not mean that Tagore had abandoned his anti-imperialist strand.
- In fact, Tagore although rejected the idea of nationalism but professed anti-imperialist politics throughout his life.
- Tagore could perhaps be criticised of impracticality. Yet the ongoing violence in the subcontinent justifies his position that joining the bandwagon of nationalism would be fatal for India.
- This sudden withdrawal on the part of Tagore was seen by many nationalists as an act of betrayal. But nothing could deter Tagore from doing so.

Conclusion

To Tagore a nation is not merely a piece of land. He sees it with the eyes of the universe. He wants to see his land fulfilled in all aspects. That is why he builds Shantineketan and Sriniketan for multiple developmental activities—modern agriculture, cattle rearing, fishery, handicrafts, development of Gram Panchayet, economic development of his subjects, removal of the curse of untouchability, health care facilities for the poor villagers, child and women education, vocational education, alleviation of poverty, maintenance of environment, greenery and ecosystem, sculpture and architecture.

1. Examine the contribution of Bhakti movement and Sufism towards the musical tradition of India.**Approach**

A straightforward question where in the candidate needs to comprehensively examine the contributions of Bhakti movement as well as Sufism towards the musical traditions of India.

Introduction

India's musical tradition has a long history where music has remained at the centre of religious traditions in India since ancient times. It is therefore not surprising that the Bhakti movement and Sufism were popularised in India with the help of these musical traditions.

Body

The Bhakti movement was a glorious religious movement in the history of India. It was purely based on devotion to God. Devotion means Bhakti through which one can realize God. The contribution of Bhakti movement towards the musical traditions of India can be understood from the following points:

1. The Bhakti movement originated in the early medieval period, which was characterized by devotional poetry woven around the themes of love, devotion and surrender to Hindu deities.
2. Mystics from different regions of India expressed their devotion through hymns and poems in vernacular form. For example, Shaivite and vaishnavite saints wrote Tevarams and Divya Prabhandas in Tamil region.
3. The simple songs praised God in different names such as Ram, Krishna, Shiva, Devi and thus it became easy for people to sing along, leading it to be a popular form of devotional worship.
4. Terms such as Kirtan and Bhajan emerged as part of the Bhakti music tradition. Over time these musical forms have evolved in their role and influence in Indian devotional worship.
5. Devotional singers like Purandara Dasa, Bhadrachala Ramadasa, Annamacharya, Mira Bai, Surdas, Kabir Das, Tulasidas, Gurunanak and other saint singers composed thousands of simple devotional songs.
6. Regional languages were extensively used for these songs, in order to reach the masses. In south, these songs had the features of the ancient prabandhas in a simple format of Pallavi, Anupallavi / Charana, that became the nucleus for the future bejewelled kriti.
7. The Bhakti philosophy of intense devotion, coupled with the defiant streak that ran through it, has not died out. It continues in modified forms like in traditions of Carnatic music as well as various gharanas of Hindustani music.

The Sufi movement was a socio-religious movement of fourteenth to sixteenth century. The Sufi movement was the result of the Hindu influence on Islam. Contribution of Sufism towards India's musical tradition can be seen from the following points:

1. Tabla and Sitar two of the important instruments used in Indian classical music are mainly because of Sufi music. Sitar is believed to be invented by Sufi poet Amir Khusro.
2. Qawwali and Kafi are the evergreen examples of genres given by Sufi music to Indian musical tradition. Qawwali is one of the better known sub-genres of Sufi music. It has its roots in Indian subcontinent, made famous by Aamir Khusro.
3. Kafi style is considered classical, and is generally culled from the poetic verses of well-known writers. Though kafi is similar to Qawwali in the fervor of its delivery, the two forms differ in execution.
4. Similarly "Sama" a kind of Sufi ritual, performed with music and dance, satisfies the souls of many Indians. "Mehfil" and "khal" are some other contributions of Sufism to Indian music.
5. Other than genres, various aspects of the hindustani music and ragas evolved with the influence of sufism. Gharana, Riyaz, jugalbandi, Ustaad and many such other words and concepts are gifted by Sufism to Indian Music.
6. In contemporary times, Qawwalis by Sabri Brothers, Sufi songs by A.R Rehaman and Ghazals by Jagjeet Singh are few examples to show how Sufi music became irrefutable part of Indian musical tradition.

Conclusion

Total surrender to God; break from rigid rituals, use of simple language to connect with supreme power, equal role for women and shudras, love as medium of devotion remain common features of Sufi and Bhakti musical heritage. They also influenced each other over period of Indian cultural history.

2. Through the ages India has shown a remarkable capacity for assimilation of ideas, a fact that reflects vividly in Indian art forms. Elucidate.

Approach

A straightforward question where in the candidate needs to elucidate or explain in such a way so as to bring clarity regarding the topic.

Introduction:

Influences on Indian art took place since time immemorial and at various levels like religious, social and cultural. India being a country which has witnessed an assimilation of different races, religions, culture and languages at various points of times, thus a diverse nature of art forms, paintings, architecture, and folk traditions are noticeably evident. India through the ages has shown a remarkable capacity for assimilation of ideas.

Indian art form assimilation of ideas:

- Influence of different religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity is profoundly evident in Indian art. Buddhism is one of the ancient religions to bestow its influence on Indian art as seen in the stupas and chaityas.
- The temple architecture of the Chola and Chera dynasty and the Rajasthani School of Painting of the Rajput period reflect the influence of Hinduism.
- India has always been the abode of multiple religions and cultures and thus it has as well experienced the impact of Islam during the Mughals. Christianity also has a significant role in the moulding of Indian art.
- The first invaders were the Aryans in northern India after they demolished the Indus valley civilisation. They imposed their social and philosophical ideas on India and the art forms of India became a mixture of Aryan and Dravidian cultures.
- The Mughal influence was another significant milestone in the evolution of Indian art forms. They were an imperial power and induced considerable indo-Islamic-Persian influence on the various styles of Indian art. The Taj Mahal and the city of Fatehpur Sikri are the magnificent examples of the Mughal architecture.
- Finally, it is the British invasion that affected Indian art form. It was marked by construction of colossal stone and wooden structures in the 17th century.
- Society too had contributed in shaping art in India. However, social influence is comparatively a recent phenomenon. Primarily the influence on Indian art has been religious. It depended on the various kingdoms that came into being at different times.
- The rulers of the empires that dominated India moulded the art forms according to their taste and preference. But later during the independence struggle, there was a social upheaval and it was then that the various art forms depicted the society in real sense of terms in order to infuse the spirit of patriotism among the citizens.

Conclusion:

Besides the above-mentioned factors, Indian tribal art plays a significant role in influencing modern art. The tradition of painting in the cave shelters or against mottled rocks with black or earth colours have revived in the 20th century due to western influence as wall paintings with pastel colours. Thus, it is to be noted that religion, foreign invasions, change in society and folk traditions have influenced Indian art at various point of time and altogether contributed in the evolution of Indian art.



**3. Indian architecture is a blend of symbolism and reality, spirituality and sensuality.
Comment.**

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidate need to write about Indian architecture and how it is blend of symbolism and reality, and spirituality and sensuality.

Introduction –

India has the oldest continuous civilization with a diverse culture of several religions and historical antecedents. Paintings and carvings in ancient Indian temples challenge Western ideas of the relationship between spirituality and sexuality Indian art is a blend of symbolism and reality, spirituality and sensuality.

Body-

- Indian architecture is a wholesome, youthful and delicate art, a blend of symbolism and reality, spirituality and sensuality. Indian architecture may well be said to bear in itself the greatest lesson an exemplary continuity from pre-historic times to the present age, together with an exceptional coherence.
- When the shapes and patterns used to create architecture, starts to acquire meaning contextually, it transcends into 'symbolism'. Therefore art contributes in the overall understanding of the structure and ambience.
- Symbolism was largely a reaction against naturalism and realism, anti-idealistic styles which were attempts to represent reality in its gritty particularity, and to elevate the humble and the ordinary over the ideal. Symbolism was a reaction in favour of spirituality, the imagination, and dreams.
- Artistic endeavour inspired by divine subject matter seeks to demonstrate the nature of God and his creations. Indian architecture is deeply rooted in religion and it conduces to fulfilling the ultimate aim of life, moksha or release from the cycle of birth and death.
- Spiritual architecture refers to any building system that facilitates this awareness. It is, an act of highlighting or bringing forth the self, not by rejecting matter but by manifesting it in matter, at various levels and in multiple forms. Spiritual spaces can be found in nature or they can be a constructed space in any architecture.
- The outstanding quality of the architecture of India is its spiritual content. It is evident that the fundamental purpose of the building art was to represent in concrete form the prevailing religious consciousness of the people. Indian architecture is the mind materialized in terms of rock, brick or stone.
- The Indian artists visualized the qualities of various gods and goddesses as mentioned in their scriptures and infused these qualities into their images whose proportions they based on the idealised figures of man and woman.
- The Indian artist was a man of this universe, he lived here, looked around himself, saw the joys and sorrows of the life and reproduced them in whatever medium he happened to be working in at a given time; clay, wood, paper, metal or stone this represents realism in the Indian architecture. For example depiction of wars and battles in sculpturing of Indian temple.

- Harappans demonstrated advanced architecture with dockyards, granaries, warehouses, brick platforms, and protective walls. These massive walls likely protected the Harappans from floods and may have deterred military conflicts. This shows Harappa architecture outlook towards social reality and contemporary issues.
- While most temple architecture in India are considered to be sacred sites for pilgrimage and worship there is also prominence for the thousands of erotic carvings that saturate its exterior walls for example Khajuraho. Khajuraho thrives on the dichotomy of being damned as pornography and the transgression of Indian culture. It is epitome of Indian liberalness as the quintessential Kamasutra Temple.
- Also Indus civilization architecture focusing on the anthropomorphic terracotta figurines from Harappa and using more flexible notions of sex, gender, and sexuality to explore Indus conceptions of sexual difference as it relates to other aspects of social difference and identity.
- The outer walls of the Virupaksha temple depict some beautiful sensuous artwork, wherein the most famous scene has a nude woman being looked at and admired by the people around her.
- Ranakpur Jain temple is one fine example that not only Hindus but Jains too led to some of the religious sites that are more famous for their erotic art. Here, you can see experimental love-making scenes and other sexual practices on the panels of temple walls.

Conclusion-

The story of Indian art and architecture is a story of evolution. From the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation to the British rule, the buildings and sculptures have a narrative of their own showing hybridisation and blend of different characteristics such as symbolism, reality, sensuality with spirituality and mythology as main anchor. Undoubtedly, they are dynamic expressions of a creative set of architects. Whatever one's explanation is, these buildings remain of great art-historical interest.

4. India's slowing economic growth engine can find renewed momentum through major infrastructure upgrades. Do you agree? What recent measures have been taken by the Government in this direction?

Approach

The candidate needs to address the question in two parts with the first part giving his/her views on major infrastructure upgrades being essential for finding renewed

momentum in reviving India's slowing economic growth engine while the second part should detail upon the recent measures taken by the government in this direction.

Introduction

Infrastructure spending is expected to have a multiplier effect on overall economic growth, primarily based on the Keynesian theory that aggregate demand can be reactivated by increasing public expenditure. Improved infrastructure will enhance the overall productive capacity of the economy and its global competitiveness.

Body

Infrastructure development is critical for improving India's manufacturing competitiveness and achieving higher growth. This is evident from the following points –

“The link between infrastructure and economic development is not a once and for all affair. It is a continuous process; and progress in development has to be preceded, accompanied, and followed by progress in infrastructure, if we are to fulfil our declared objectives of generating a self-accelerating process of economic development.”

- Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao

- Typically, infrastructure projects are characterised by high capital intensity and long gestation periods, often leading to a funding gap. Public investment is key to filling this gap.
- Closing the infrastructure funding gap calls for developing financing solutions and placing more emphasis on collaboration and shared responsibilities across public, private and non-governmental organisations.
- It is seen that investments in infrastructure equal to 1% of GDP will result in GDP growth of at least 2% as a “multiplier effect” on economic growth across sectors.
- Infrastructure Vision 2025's strategic goals are aligned with those of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to improve the living standards of people.
- In India, key urban centres and manufacturing hubs often struggle with capacity constraints, which directly affects competitiveness. By comparison, in China, eastern and coastal manufacturing hubs with an export focus benefit from strong infrastructure.
- Logistic costs in India (about 15% of GDP) is well above the average for developed economies. This reflects inadequate transportation infrastructure and a multitude of taxes across states, which results in costly and inefficient movement of goods.

Thus, it is evident that major infrastructure upgrades are an important component in reviving a slowing economy. In this context, the government has announced many measures to overcome infrastructure constraints, some of which include –

1. India plans to spend US\$ 1.4 trillion on infrastructure during 2019-23 to have a sustainable development of the country. The Government has suggested investment of Rs. 5,00,000 crore for railways infrastructure from 2018-30.
2. Gati Shakti National Master Plan is a techno centric administrative initiative that promises silo-breaking integration of 16 Ministries including railways, roads and ports through information technology, satellite mapping and data tools.
3. The programme seeks to appeal to the national imagination as an umbrella integrator of ₹111-lakh crore worth of projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) for 2020-25.
4. In Union Budget 2021, the government has given a massive push to the infrastructure sector by allocating Rs. 233,083 crore to enhance the transport infrastructure.
5. The government expanded the 'National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)' to 7,400 projects. Through the NIP, the government invested US\$ 1.4 trillion in infrastructure development as of July 2021.
6. In July 2021, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways allocated Rs. 165 crore under Economic Importance and Inter State Connectivity Scheme (EIC&ISC) for FY22.
7. The Ministry of Commerce's Logistics Division presented its plans for 'Freight Smart Cities' in July 2021, with goal of improving the efficiency of urban freight and lowering logistics expenses.
8. In March 2021, the Parliament passed a bill to set up the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) to fund infrastructure projects in India.
9. The government announced Rs. 305,984 crore over the next five years for a revamped, reforms-based and result-linked new power distribution sector scheme.

Conclusion

Infrastructure is a key driver of the overall development of Indian economy. An efficient infrastructure is the biggest enabler for growth. India's growth story should no longer be impeded by a lack of infrastructure, and the fruits of this growth should reach everyone in the remotest part of the country.

5. Is there a need to regulate the e-commerce sector? What are the key provisions of the new e-commerce rules? Discuss.

Approach

The candidate needs to give his views on the need for regulation of the e-commerce sector. Also, one need to discuss the need and the key provisions of the new e-commerce rules.

Introduction

India's roaring digital economy, with half a billion users and growing, is witnessing pitched battles in everything from online retail and content streaming to messaging and digital payments. Global corporations lead in each of these segments, while local start-ups have sought help from a sympathetic government that recently banned dozens of apps backed by Chinese technology giants. Hence there is a need to regulate the e-commerce sector.

Need To Regulate the E-Commerce Sector

- The government need to make rules to help local start-ups and that can impose government oversight on how companies handle data.
- There is a need to reduce the dominance of global tech giants and need to protect the interest of domestic players, who have to face tough competition from e-retailers having deep pockets from foreign investors.
- There is a need of regulation to ensure the industry is competitive with broad access to information resources.
- The e-commerce platforms are both players and regulators, as they provide the marketplace and also compete directly with other sellers using it. This creates a conflict of interest hence the need for regulation.

The Key Provisions of The New E-Commerce Rules:

- All e-commerce entities must provide information within 72 hours on any request made by an authorised government agency, probing any breach of the law including cybersecurity issues.
 - Introduced the concept of "fall-back liability": The rules made the e-commerce firms liable in case a seller on their platform fails to deliver goods or services due to negligent conduct, which causes loss to the customer.
 - E-tailers should not allow 'misleading' ads potentially on pricing, quality, guarantee.
 - E-tailers have to ensure product listings have the details of country of origin
- No e-commerce entity shall indulge in mis-selling of goods or services
Appointing a chief compliance officer and a nodal contact person for 24×7 coordination with law enforcement agencies,
- E-tailers shouldn't mislead users by manipulating search results
 - E-tailers shouldn't permit usage of their name for brands—if such practices amount to unfair trade practice and impinges on the interests of consumers.
 - E-tailers typically highlight certain products as non-returnable at pre-purchase stage and generally offer free exchange or refunds to consumers.

Explicitly asking consumer consent can only strengthen the online shopping experience for consumers.

- Mandatory registration for e-commerce entities: Any online retailer will first have to register itself with the Department of Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Conclusion:

Marketplaces are meant for genuine, independent sellers, many of whom are Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. These changes will enable a level playing field for all sellers, helping them leverage the reach of e-commerce. Also, the Government should form a regulatory authority to check the flouting of e-commerce rules. The government should also come with an e-commerce policy soon so that small vendors get enough chances to participate in the online business.

1. If the Greeks excelled in the portrayal of the physical charm of the human body, the Indians were unsurpassed in transmitting the spiritual contents into their art. Elucidate.

Approach

The candidate needs to showcase the characteristics of Greek art as well as Indian art with emphasis on sculptural portrayals by the Greek art and spiritual symbolism of Indian art. Focus should be on Indian part with brief details of Greek part.

Introduction

India occupies an exalted position in the realm of art of the ancient world. If the Greeks excelled in the portrayal of the physical charm of the human body, the Egyptians in the grandeur of their pyramids and the Chinese in the beauty of their landscapes, the Indians were unsurpassed in transmitting the spirituality into forms embodying the high ideals and the common beliefs of the people.

Body

- Ancient Greek art stands out among that of other ancient cultures for its development of naturalistic but idealized depictions of the human body.
- Greeks felt that the human form was the most important subject for artistic endeavour. There was little distinction between the sacred and the secular in art—the human body was both secular and sacred and thus its focus in art.
- On the other hand, India has been the birth place of three major religions of the world and these have inspired most of her art.

- The character of Indian art is best described as plastic, organic and sculptural. This is well symbolized by the nature of Indian architecture, which is primarily a sculptural mass rather than a space enclosure.
- The Indian artists visualized the qualities of various gods and goddesses as mentioned in their scriptures and infused these qualities into their images whose proportions they based on the idealised figures of man and woman.
- For example, the Sculptured Panels of Female figures and mythical Animals at Adhinatha Temple, Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- Indian art is deeply rooted in religion and it conduces to fulfilling the ultimate aim of life, moksha or release from the cycle of birth and death.
- For example, the forms of Hindu gods and goddesses and their incarnations like Hiranyakasyapa, Varaha, and river Ganga etc. have been depicted in human or semi human forms.
- Indian artists cared more about two qualities, namely, a feeling for volume and vivid representation, even at the risk of sacrificing, at times, anatomical truth. This is evident from the differences in Gandhara and Mathura school of sculptures.
- Indian art is a wholesome, youthful and delicate art, a blend of symbolism and reality, spirituality and sensuality.
- Not all Indian art is religious. The Indian artist was a man of this universe, he lived here, looked around himself, saw the joys and sorrows of the life, etc.
- For example, many paintings in Ajanta caves and sculptures of the early period confirm that earlier Indians wore clothes which were unstitched.
- The creation of art by the Indian artists are not "realistic" representations in the sense we understand the term on Greek or Roman Art (but they are imagined and are idealised).
- None had actually seen the major gods like Rama, Krishna, Vishnu and Shiva, etc., but according to their description in the scriptures the Indian artists visualised them as shown generally standing erect, signifying mental, physical and spiritual equilibrium.
- In form, the males are virile beings broad shouldered, deep chested and narrow hipped. The females are precisely contrary to the males. The females according to the Indian artists represent Matri or the mother. All these represented natural spiritualism.

Conclusion

Indian art is a treasure house of ancient contemporary life, its faiths and beliefs, customs and manners. It is considered by some to be the function or purpose of art of any age to mirror contemporary society, its customs, manners, habits, modes of dress and ornamentation etc., which Indian art beautifully exemplifies.

Q2. Whereas Carnatic Music gave scientific basis to classical music, Hindustani music gave prominence to aesthetic aspects. Comment.

Approach

Candidate needs to give his explanation on how Carnatic Music has given scientific basis to classical music and how Hindustani music give prominence to aesthetic aspects.

INTRODUCTION:

During the medieval period, Indian classical music was generally based on two traditions, the Carnatic music prevalent in South India and the Hindustani classical music in North India. Hindustani and Carnatic music systems developed from a common ancestor. Carnatic Music originated in the Bhakti movement, while Hindustani music originated during the Vedic period. Therefore, both have a great link with religion. Both the music developed with Sanskrit language scripts in itself and through Vedic traditions.

CARNATIC MUSIC GAVE SCIENTIFIC BASIS TO CLASSICAL MUSIC

- Classical music, Carnatic in particular, is tagged as fine arts and considered part of humanities subject, but it has a scientific perspective too.
- Some sounds are produced from the tongue, some from the throat and some come from deep within.
- Strengthening the vocal chord is a skill, which we have been imparting to aspiring vocalists.

- There is immense science behind Carnatic music. While music has a primary role to evoke emotional human responses, mainly the self-evaluative cognitions and attitudes such as self-esteem, self-confidence and self-efficacy, it also has the power to ensure intricate balance between consciousness in the mind and the organ system of human body, the paper concluded.
- A paper titled 'Carnatic music Ragas and their role in music therapy', wherein the researchers dwelt on 'Raga Chikitsa', explaining how raga Ananda Bhairavi is used for post operation pain therapy, functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) is influenced by raga Neelambari and Sankarabharanam and the impact of Hindolam and Todi on normalising blood pressure was presented.
- Carnatic music owes its name to the Sanskrit term Karnāṭaka Sangītam which denotes "traditional" or "codified" music. The corresponding Tamil concept is known as Tamil Isai. These terms are used by scholars upholding the "classical" credentials and establish the "scientific" moorings of traditional music.

HINDUSTANI MUSIC GAVE PROMINENCE TO AESTHETIC ASPECTS

- The classical character of Hindustani music is exemplified through the medium of Raga in that it adheres to strict rules, which are not seen in other streams of music.
- Rasa experience through Hindustani Raga-Sangita, as is the case for other genres, styles, and forms of music in the world, builds on and arises from the chemistry of the different bhava-s, or emotions and moods, both permanent and transitory, as projected by an able performer from his or her inner core with a blend of his or her musical knowledge, skills, understanding, and judgment.
- When the connoisseur listens to such a soul-lifting Hindustani music, through complete absorption in the art-form and the automatic process of universalization), aesthetic relish takes place, the beautiful is evoked, and delight is experienced.
- Such an experience has been compared with the bliss of self-realization, which is transcendental and supra-mundane in nature. It can be experienced or relished by someone who is sensitive to beauty, thus simply not given to everyone.
- In fact, aesthetic experience is the enjoyment of "one's (own) being, as an intrinsic, indivisible aspect of one's (higher) self".

CONCLUSION:

The two forms differ in the feel of the presentation as beautifully put by Vidushi Aruna Sairamji, "One major difference what we call is the sthayibhav, that is the basic emotion and the core aspect of Carnatic music indifference to the Hindustani music. The Carnatic spirit of presentation is more of an extroverted nature and a celebrative expression, as compared to Hindustani music which is more of an introverted, inward journey which goes deep inside emotion."

3. Folk dances and plays in India retain significance in rural areas as the expression of the daily work and rituals of village communities. Illustrate.

Approach

Make a general introduction defining what is folk dance and plays. Then simply write how folk dance and plays are connected to daily life then highlight its significance in rural India as expression of daily rituals and work.

Introduction

India is a land of varied cultures and traditions. Diversities in all spheres make the Indian culture quite unique. Indian folkdances and plays are product of different socio-economic set up and traditions evolved over ages. In India, we have festivals and celebrations virtually every day, and dances are performed to express joy and festivity.

Body

Folk dance and plays:

- A fusion of music, dance, drama, stylized speech, and spectacle, folk dance and plays is a composite art form with deep roots in local identity and native culture. An important indigenous tool of interpersonal communication, this form of theatre reflects the social-political realities of its village community.

Indian Folk Dance and plays have grown over the centuries and are a part of the life and culture of the rural people:

- The rural front in India, more likely to be a wonderland which arises brainstorming towards a lot of mysteries.

- Almost every Indian state has its share of folk plays and dances, each distinctly different from the other. Changing lifestyles and social rituals are woven into the lyrics and style.
- Patronization from local zamindars and rajus, Folk art has added to the richness of Indian culture. Since every folk dance and plays is accompanied by daily life routine, folk dances and play have become an integral part of our social milieu.

Significance of Folk dance and plays in rural India:

- Village Yatras/Jatras no longer confine themselves to mythological or historical plays. There is infusion of local issues and social reality. Popular local dance and social themes found place in the plays.
- Local slangs and local language in folk plays in the play adhere to dance-music or song-music which is cast in the form of dialogues. The band of chorus singers with orchestral music repeats the refrains.
- Indian folk plays and dances are simple, and they are performed to get pleasure from them. Dancing is a part of daily life and religious rituals. Indian folk dances and plays have eternal forms and rhythm.
- It is organised on every time, i.e. the births of children, festivals, marriage opportunities and the arrival of seasons. In rural India it is with minimal steps or movements. These folk dance and plays of India are full of vibrancy, enthusiasm and energy.
- Most of these folk dances and plays are performed with a set dress code. These dresses are very colourful and traditional ornaments that matched with them are worn.
- Dance has traditionally been an important part of religion and culture in India. According to Indian legend, the gods invented dance. Dancing is one of the most revered Hindu arts because it incorporates melody, drama, form and line. Gestures, body positions and head movements are emphasized in Indian dance.
- Traditional dancing is organised on every time, i.e. the births of children, festivals, marriage opportunities and the arrival of seasons. Indian folk and tribal dances are dance with minimal steps or movements. These folk dance of India are full of vibrancy, enthusiasm and energy
- India is a rich country of cultural and folk art. There are all kinds of dance forms from Kathak to Behu. All traditional dance has long been a sacred expression of faith.
- India is a land of diverse cultures and traditions. Each region of the country has a unique culture, which is also prominently visible in its various art forms. Almost all the regions of the country have their specific folk music and dance, which proves to be a wonderful way of expression of their community and its traditions. Though these folk dances are not as complex as the classical dance forms, they are very beautiful, because of the essence of rawness in them

Conclusion

Folk dances are numerous in number and style and vary according to the local tradition of the respective state, ethnic or geographic regions. Primarily, it keeps a culture of people alive, by sharing and teaching younger generations the dances. Dance keeps the history of people alive as well. Dances are ways a community celebrates a special event or important date in time.

4. Transitioning from coal to alternative sources such as natural gas for power production is an economic imperative in India. Critically comment.

Approach

Candidate needs to bring out the importance of natural gas for power production in India and critically comment upon the economic imperative of transitioning from coal to alternative sources of fuel for power production.

Introduction

As the world economy emerges from the COVID-19 crisis, the consumption of coal is expected to recover from its sharp decline during the pandemic. Yet many countries, including India, seeking a more sustainable future, have been taking steps to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, especially coal and are shifting towards alternatives like natural gas.

Body

India is the world's third largest economy with a rapidly expanding population. Here, transitioning from coal to alternative sources for power production becomes an economic imperative in India due to the following factors –

1. Natural gas contributes to about a quarter of global energy consumption. In India, however, it constitutes only 6% of the energy consumed, while crude oil and coal dominate. The Indian government has promised to raise the share of natural gas to 15% by 2030.

2. The clearest case for switching from coal to gas comes when there is the possibility to use existing infrastructure to provide the same energy services but with lower emissions.
3. By the year 2022–23, India is set to begin importing natural gas through pipelines laid across the country's borders. Since LNG, which requires more processing than pipeline gas, is expensive, natural gas will be available to urban consumers at a cheaper cost.
4. According to International Energy Agency, since 2010, coal-to-gas switching has saved around 500 million tonnes of CO₂ - an effect equivalent to putting an extra 200 million EVs running on zero-carbon electricity on the road over the same period.
5. Natural gas as a fuel will have a positive social impact as well. The increased use of natural gas will also create new employment opportunities in the form of LNG terminals, city gas projects and petrochemical plants.
6. Renewable energy has grown at an astonishing pace in recent years thanks to its plummeting cost. India has more than doubled its stock of wind and solar power in the last five years.
7. India also imports huge amounts of coal, despite having large coal reserves. The post pandemic world's supply variations have led to changes in coal prices thus affecting India's fiscal position.

At the same time, it is important to remember that phase-outs from coal often take decades. It took the United Kingdom 46 years to reduce coal consumption by 90 percent from its peak in the 1970s. Several factors make it difficult to steer away from coal, some of which include –

1. Currently, about 70% of India's energy demand is met by two fossil fuels – coal (44%) and oil (25%), as per the 2020 statistics from IEA. About 78%, of India's electricity generation comes from thermal power, most of which is coal-based. These are huge numbers to overcome in a short period of time.
2. Fossil fuels like coal produce a stable and predictable stream of on-demand power. By contrast, power generation from wind and solar energy is more variable and unpredictable.
3. This affects grid operators, forcing them to turn back to fossil fuel generation. This challenge increases emissions and costs in the short term and slows the buildout of renewable energy in the long term.
4. Moreover, there is also the issue of subsidies. The fertiliser sector produces urea from natural gas. However, the government subsidizes this cost by almost 70%. As the price of natural gas increases, the expenses from these subsidies will overburden the government.
5. Coal power plants are long-lived assets with a minimum design lifespan of 30 to 40 years. Once built, coal plants are here to stay unless there are dramatic changes in the costs of renewables or policy makers intervene.
6. Further, according to a recent report, as India makes a shift to renewable energy sources, at least 2.15 crore people currently employed – formally and otherwise – in its fossil fuel and allied sectors will need to be provided decent employment to prevent social and economic distress,

Way Forward:

- Realising the Opportunity: At present, when the prices are low for importing natural gas, India should take the advantage and enter into contracts with the countries rich in natural gas resources.
- Carbon capture and storage technology may be a viable solution to ease the transition away from coal.
- Putting the producers and buyers in charge: Government should allow the producers and buyers more control of the price. ONGC shall undergo reforms in terms of its marketing and pricing freedom, E-bidding etc.
- Government as a facilitator: The government should act as a facilitator and improve quality and quantity of the resources available.

Conclusion

Though natural gas is a cleaner fuel but it cannot be called a green fuel, that's why more inclination should be there towards renewable energy and fuels derived from these to help India truly achieve its targets and also ensure a sustainable future.

5. What are your views on the recent Government's order to expand the BSF's jurisdiction in border states from 15 km to 50 km inside Indian territory? Discuss.**Approach**

Candidate needs to discuss or cover comprehensively all dimensions on the recent Government's order to expand the BSF's jurisdiction in border states from 15 km to 50 km inside Indian territory.

INTRODUCTION:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) up to 50 km inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam. The BSF's powers — which include arrest, search and seizure — were limited to up to 15 km in these states. At the same time, the Ministry has reduced BSF's area of operation in Gujarat from 80 km from the border, to 50 km.

OBJECTIVE:

The Centre's decision to expand the operational jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) from 15 km to 50 km in Assam, Punjab and West Bengal, and reduce it from 80 km to 50 km in Gujarat is aimed at standardising the Central paramilitary's role in the States with International Borders (IB) as also to break the nexus of the local police with the smuggling syndicates patronised by the local politicians.

WHAT KIND OF POWERS CAN THE BSF EXERCISE IN THIS JURISDICTION?

- Its jurisdiction has been extended only in respect of the powers it enjoys under Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967.
- BSF currently has powers to arrest and search under these laws. It also has powers to arrest, search and seize under the NDPS Act, Arms Act, Customs Act and certain other laws.
- Its jurisdiction under these laws has not been changed, meaning its powers under these will continue to be only up to 15 km inside the border in Punjab, Assam and West Bengal, and will remain as far as 80 km in Gujarat.

WHY HAS THE GOVERNMENT EXTENDED THE JURISDICTION?

- The objective is to bring in uniformity and also to increase operational efficiency. Earlier we had different jurisdictions in different states. This has been done to bring uniformity to jurisdiction.
- BSF often gets information relating to crime scenes that may be out of their jurisdiction.
- The move is also necessitated due to increasing instances of drones dropping weapons and drugs in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. However, the kind of drones spotted so far do not have a range beyond 20 km.

IMPACT OF THE EXTENDED JURISDICTION:

- Until now, state police and border forces have been working in tandem with minor, occasional differences. Now, with the issue taking political colour, implementation could be tricky if there are difficulties in coordination in future.
- This is not an attack on the federal structure. Rather this is going to complement the efforts of the local police. It is an enabling provision.
- It's not that the local police can't act within the jurisdiction of the BSF. It's just that sometimes we don't have enough time and so BSF has been empowered to act till a greater distance and in turn strengthen the hands of the state police.

CONCLUSION:

At a basic level, the states can argue that law and order is a state subject and enhancing BSF's jurisdiction infringes upon powers of the state government.

The move is also expected to lead to fair investigation in smuggling cases, including through drones which have been reported to be dropping arms and narcotics 30-35 km inside the areas from the international boundary. In addition to these, illegal immigration from the bordering countries and their nexus with the terror groups is also a major concern for the Centre.

1. What are karst landforms? Explain the process that create karst landforms. Discuss their distribution.

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidate need to write about what is karst landforms, the process that create karst landforms and discuss their distribution .

Introduction -

The term karst describes a distinctive topography that indicates dissolution (also called chemical solution) of underlying soluble rocks by surface water or groundwater. Karst, terrain usually characterized by barren, rocky ground, caves, sinkholes, underground rivers, and the absence of surface streams and lakes. This topography is commonly associated with carbonate rocks (limestone and dolomite).

Body –

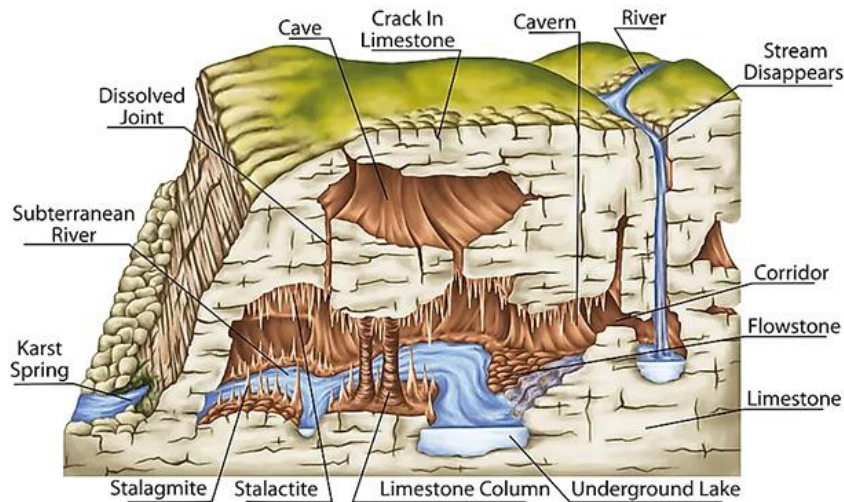
Formation of Karst Topography or its Cycle of Erosion-

- Conditions that promote karst development are well-jointed, dense limestone near the surface; moderate to heavy rainfall; and good groundwater circulation.
- Limestone (calcium carbonate) dissolves relatively easily in slightly acidic water, which occurs widely in nature.
- Rainwater percolates along both horizontal and vertical cracks, dissolving the limestone and carrying it away in solution.
- Limestone pavements are produced by the removal of surface material, and the vertical fissures along joints are gradually widened and deepened, producing a grooved and jagged terrain.
- As it flows along cracks underground, the water continues to widen and deepen the cracks until they become cave systems or underground stream channels into which narrow vertical shafts may open.

Karst Landforms

- Sink Hole: If a cave becomes large enough and the top extends close enough to the surface, the top collapses. This produces depressions called sinkholes, which are among the most characteristic features of karst topography.
- Karst Window: When a number of adjoining sinkholes collapse, they form an open, broad area called a karst window.
- Stalactite: A portion of the roof hangs on the roof and on evaporation of water, a small deposit of limestone is left behind contributing to the formation of a stalactite, growing downwards from the roof.
- Stalagmite: The remaining portion of the drop falls to the floor. This also evaporates, leaving behind a small deposit of limestone aiding the formation of a stalagmite, thicker and flatter, rising upwards from the floor.

- Column: Sometimes, stalactite and stalagmite join together to form a complete pillar known as the column.



Distribution of Karst Topography:

- Karst topography generally develops in those areas where thick beds of massive limestones lie just below the layer of surficial materials. Besides, karst topography also develops on dolomite, dolomitic limestones and chalks.
- Besides typical karst region of erstwhile Yugoslavia, karst topography has well developed in Causes Region of southern France; Spanish Andalusia; northern Puerto Rico; western Cuba; Jamaica; southern Indiana, west-central Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee and central Florida of the USA.
- Most of limestones of Vindhyan formations are buried under thick covers of sandstones and shales. For example, Rohtas stage limestones having famous Guptadham cave in Rohtas plateau (south-western Bihar) are buried under 90-m thick cover of massive sandstones.
- A few areas of limestone topography have been identified in the Himalayas (mainly Jammu and Kashmir; Sahasradhara, Robert Cave and Tapkeshwar temple near Dehra Dun in Uttaranchal; Eastern Himalayas; Pachmarhi (Madhya Pradesh), Bastar district (Chhattisgarh); coastal area near Visakhapatnam etc.

Conclusion-

Karst is ideal for storing water as an aquifer and provides vast amounts of clean drinking water to people, plants, and animals. Because of the porous (Swiss cheese-like) nature of karst, water flows quickly through it and receives little filtration. It is important for the climate because of their carbon dioxide binding capacity.

2. Examine the geographical factors that explain the presence of the Sahara desert in Africa.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about Sahara desert and examine the geographical factors that will explain the presence of Sahara desert.

Introduction

The world's largest hot desert, the Sahara, is a subtropical desert in northern Africa. The Sahara Desert is almost the size of the entire continental United States. The Sahara is one of the harshest environments on Earth, covering nearly a third of the African continent.

Body

Geographical factors:

- Climatic shift: Sahara Desert has undergone various climatic shifts for the last few hundred thousand years. For example, during the last glaciation, it was bigger than it is today because precipitation in the area was low.
- 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.
- Different geographic zones: The center of the desert is considered hyper-arid and has little to no vegetation, while the northern and southern portions have sparse grasslands, desert shrub and sometimes trees in areas with more moisture.
- ITCZ: In addition, the presence of the Intertropical Convergence Zone, ITCZ, in the southern Sahara Desert prevents moisture from reaching the area, while storms north of the desert stop before reaching it as well. As a result, the annual rainfall in the Sahara is below 2.5 cm (25 mm) per year.
- Latitude: The Sahara is the world's largest low-latitude hot desert. It is located in the horse latitudes under the subtropical ridge, a significant belt of semi-permanent subtropical warm-core high pressure where the air from the upper troposphere usually descends, warming and drying the lower troposphere and preventing cloud formation.
- Harsh conditions for diversity: Due to the high temperatures and arid conditions of the Sahara Desert, the plant life in the Sahara Desert is sparse and includes only around 500 species. These consist mainly of drought and heat resistant varieties and those adapted to salty conditions (halophytes) where there is sufficient moisture.

- 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.

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).



3. What is Deccan trap? How did it form? What are its key features? Discuss.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to explain Deccan trap and its formation. Candidate also has to discuss the key features of deccan trap.

Introduction

The term "trap" has been used in geology since 1785–1795 for such rock formations. The Deccan Traps of India create a huge igneous province, which is located on the Deccan Plateau of west-central part of the country. This province has the distinction of being one of the largest volcanic provinces in the world. The term traps have been derived from a Scandinavian word 'trappa' meaning stairs. Traps relates to step-like hills present in west-central India.

How did it form?

- Deccan Traps of India are known to be formed 60 to 68 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous period. Various studies depict various reasons for the origin of Deccan Traps.
- It was assumed that the Deccan Traps eruption was associated with a deep mantle plume, but the mantle plume model has been questioned.
- Towards the end of the Mesozoic period, after the formation of the Bagh and lameta beds, the Indian peninsula was affected by intensive volcanic activity, due to which stupendous masses of lava and pyroclastic materials were ejected out, which covered a larger part of the peninsula in its southern, western and central parts and is of maximum extension next to the Archaeans.
- The lava flows occur in general in the form of beds, obliterating the previous topography and converting the countries into plateaus. Because of their tendency to form flat-topped plateau-like features and their basaltic composition, they are termed as plateau basalts. Their step-like or terraced appearance is suggestive of the name Deccan Traps to these volcanic formations.
- It is important to note that erosion and continental drift resulted in the region of the Deccan Traps to be reduced to its current size.

What are its key features?

- Deccan Traps of India are solidified flood basalts.
- The Deccan Traps are one of the largest volcanic provinces in the world. It consists of a composite thickness of more than 6,500 feet (>2,000 m) of flat-lying basalt lava flows and covers an area of nearly 200,000 square miles (500,000 square km) (roughly the size of the states of Washington and Oregon combined) in west-central India.

- The Deccan Traps become thinner close to the edge of the trap province. About 95 percent of the lavas within the Deccan Traps are tholeiitic basalts.
- The other rock types are alkali basalts, nephelinites, lamprophyre and carbonatites.
- The layers of lava in the Deccan Traps contain beds of fossils.
- They have made Deccan Traps popular. Mantle xenoliths have also been recorded in a few places of the Deccan Traps.

Conclusion

Volcanic eruption occurred in the Western Ghats some 66 million years ago. The resultant origin of the Deccan Traps triggered the release of volcanic gases like sulphur dioxide. These volcanic gases are considered to be the cause behind contemporary climate change and global warming. It was estimated that during the time of the formation of the Deccan Traps, there was an average drop in temperature of about 2 degrees Celsius.



4. Where is the Great Barrier Reef located? Why is it so important? Discuss.**Approach**

The candidate needs to simply explain the location of the Great Barrier Reef. The candidate also has to discuss its importance.

Introduction

It is the world's largest coral reef ecosystem and a critical global resource, as was recognized when it was added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Heritage list as a natural site on 30 October 1981. Other natural features include: mangrove estuaries; sandy and coral cays; continental islands; sea grass beds; algal and sponge gardens; sandy and muddy bottom communities; continental slopes and deep ocean troughs.

Where is the Great Barrier Reef located?

The Great Barrier Reef is in the Coral Sea, on Australia's north-eastern coast. It stretches more than 2,300km along the state of Queensland's coastline, beginning at the tip of Cape York Peninsula in the north and extending down to Bundaberg in the south.

Why is it so important?

- Visible from outer space, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living organism and is a place of remarkable natural beauty and biodiversity.
- The Great Barrier Reef provides a habitat for rare and threatened species of plants and animals and for in situ conservation of biodiversity.
- The Great Barrier Reef has outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
- The Great Barrier Reef has outstanding examples representing major stages of the earth's history including: the record of life; significant geomorphic and physiographic features; ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms.
- The Great Barrier Reef contains superlative natural phenomena and areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.
- This richness and uniqueness make the reef crucial for tourism and the Australian economy—it attracts at least 1.6 million visitors every year.
- Yet the reef's true value, its biodiversity, extends far beyond dollars and cents.
- Great Barrier Reef is an astounding natural ecosystem with all of this marine life and the coral reef itself. In fact, the reef is made up of tiny organisms known as coral polyps.

- These billions of coral polyps bound together have constructed this intricate coral reef system. It stretches an impressive 2,300km along the eastern coast with a little over 3,000 coral reef systems.

Conclusion:

The Great Barrier Reef, which extends for over 2,300 kilometres (1429 miles) along the north-eastern coast of Australia, is home to over 9,000 known species. Occupying such a large tract of space, it is little wonder that the Great Barrier Reef contains more than just coral reefs.



5. What makes the Tibetan plateau a unique landform? How does it shape the Climate in the Indian subcontinent? Explain.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about Tibetan plateau and its unique land form .Also explain how does it shape the climate in the Indian subcontinent .

Introduction-

The Tibetan Plateau, also known as the Himalayan Plateau in India is a vast elevated plateau in Central Asia and East Asia mostly covers parts of the India, Bhutan and China. The Tibet Plateau constitutes the largest and highest continental plateau on the Earth with an average elevation of 5 km. The current size, shape and height of the plateau are mainly the result of the continent–continent collision between India and Asia.

Body-

Physiographic features of the Tibetan plateau:

- Physiography of an area is the outcome of structure, process and the stage of development.
- The Tibetan Plateau is usually considered the largest and highest area ever to exist in the history of Earth. The plateau covers an area about half the size of the contiguous United States and averages more than 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) above sea level.
- The Tibetan Plateau is extremely important to the world's water cycle because of its tremendous number of glaciers. These glaciers contain the largest volume of ice outside the poles.
- The Tibetan Plateau is surrounded by the massive mountain ranges of High-mountain Asia. The plateau is bordered to the south by the inner Himalayan range, to the north by the Kunlun Mountains, which separate it from the Tarim Basin, and to the northeast by the Qilian Mountains, which separate the plateau from the Hexi Corridor and Gobi Desert.
- The northern section of the plateau, called Qiangtang, is dotted with many brackish lakes; its southern section contains the headwaters of the upper Indus and Brahmaputra rivers.
- To the east and southeast the plateau gives way to the forested gorge and ridge geography of the mountainous headwaters of the Salween, Mekong, and Yangtze rivers in northwest Yunnan and western Sichuan (the Hengduan Mountains).
- In the west the curve of the rugged Karakoram range of northern Kashmir embraces the plateau. The Indus River originates in the western Tibetan Plateau in the vicinity of Lake Manasarovar.

- Other rivers that have their headwaters in the highlands are the Yangtze River (Chang Jiang), the Huang He (Yellow River), the Mekong, the Salween, and the Tarim.
- Grasslands are used for pasturage, and barley is grown on the plateau; forests grow on the slopes of valleys, particularly in the south.
- The most extensive farming in Tibet takes place on the fertile plains of the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries.
- Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, is the plateau's major centre of population, economic activity, culture, and air and land transportation.

Tibetan plateaus effect on weather pattern in India Subcontinent-

- Monsoons are caused by the different amplitudes of surface temperature seasonal cycles between land and oceans. This differential warming occurs because heating rates differ between land and water.
- Tibetan plateau is an important heating surface of the atmosphere. Approximately 2,400,000 square kilometres (930,000 sq mi) ice sheet covered the plateau.
- Onset of the summer monsoon in the beginning of June is promoted by the hydrodynamic effect the Himalayas and not by the thermally induced low-pressure centre over northwest India.
- With much lower latitude, the ice in Tibet reflects at least four times more radiation energy per unit area into space than ice at higher latitudes. Solar heating in late spring heats the Indian subcontinent, making it warmer than the Indian Ocean. It also warms the Tibetan plateau that acts as an elevated heat source. This drives southwest monsoon winds towards the Indian landmass.
- The snow-monsoon tele-connection works by altering this temperature gradient. There is dominant effect of the Himalaya and Tibetan plateau snow on monsoon is because of albedo, the reflectivity of snow.
- Increased snow cover over the Himalaya and Tibetan plateau reflects more solar radiation, resulting in less than normal warming of the land surface there. Consequently, the temperature gradient decreases and monsoon winds weaken. This means they bring less moisture to India and don't penetrate as far north.
- The Tibetan plateau is the high level source of heat during summer time. During southwest monsoon, a thermal anticyclone appears over Tibet, which the resultant formation of dynamic anti-cyclogenesis. On the south side of the anticyclone, the tropical jet stream is from.
- As a result, there is a sensible heat transfer from the elevated surfaces of the Himalayas and Tibet to the atmosphere. Besides this, large amounts of latent heat released by monsoon rains over India are also added to the upper troposphere anticyclone.
- Thus the presence of Tibet Highland is very important, as it helps for the onset of monsoon and helps to protect India from the northern cold winds.

Conclusion-

The Tibetan plateau due to its distinct and unique physiographic features plays a vital role on the weather of Indian subcontinent and also has a geopolitical strategic significance as it is known as the “Rooftop of the World;” Hence, more study of this plateau can also help to tackle the emerging challenge of the global warming induced climate change.

1. Why are semiconductor industries concentrated in the Silicon Valley in the US? Explain.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidate need to write about semiconductor industries and why they are located in silicon valley in united states .

Introduction

The semiconductor industry is the aggregate of companies engaged in the design and fabrication of semiconductors and semiconductor devices, such as transistors and integrated circuits. The semiconductor industry is the driving force behind the wider electronics industry. The global semiconductor industry is dominated by companies from the United States, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Netherlands.

Body

Silicon Valley is the nick name for northern California area in US. It derives its name from large number of software and hardware companies based there primarily working on silicon chips.

Closer relationship between academia, the private sector, and government

- These 3 powerful sectors converge together to create an environment that's unlike any other in the world.
- With Stanford University and Berkeley at the epicentre of the valley, there's a permanent flow of new entrepreneurs and talented tech specialists being minted each year.
- When one takes into account all of these factors – and then integrate them with the fact that launching a business is fairly easy under California law, including the fact that non-compete agreements are void in the state – one can see why businesses get started and thrive in Silicon Valley.

Great number of wealthy investors and funding institutions

- The amount of both personal and institutional wealth in the valley makes it the best location for business growth.

- There are thousands of reach investors in the area who organize as angel investors and venture capitalists, looking to invest their money to work instead of paying hefty taxes on earnings to the U.S. government annually.
- As a result, they want to pour funds into a variety of different businesses, with the hope that a handful will return high dividends in the following years. Availability of amenities
- The amazing access to attractive business amenities in the area is also worth mentioning. The valley itself and nearby San Francisco (where many young techies make their homes) have tons of amenities that make the Bay Area an attractive destination for investors, conventions, and more.
- These amenities include world-class hotels at surprisingly fair prices, large conference centres, some of the world's most highly-rated restaurants, famous sports teams and lots of entertainment options. Encouragement from past success stories
- Much of Silicon Valley's present success is rooted in the incredible past success stories. As both an entrepreneur or investor, there's something about being surrounded by success stories that contribute to imagining future victories for beginners.
- It's as if the accomplishments of past entrepreneurs makes the thought of obtaining great results further down the road, that much more palpable.
- Joint industry strength presence of various types of industries in close proximity give a combined support.
- Climate – climate is very pleasant which always attract the capital and work force. For Eg – it is never sub-zero like New York, Chicago, same thing with the Bangalore.
- Silicon Valley is the computer and microelectronics capital of America. To analysts from different academic disciplines and ideological persuasions, the economy of Silicon Valley has many faces.
- In the most romantic characterization, the Valley's astonishing success as home base for a myriad of companies that design, produce, and export computers, workstations, microchips, disk drives, and software is mainly a story about supremely—even belligerently—independent entrepreneurs.
- The Valley is a full-fledged 'industrial district' on the north central Italian model, made up of a dense thicket of mostly small and medium-sized 'flexible specialists' that alternately cooperate and compete with one another, that are embedded in a local political economy with a shared culture and norms, and that may be well connected to the rest of the world but whose interfirm production relationships are thought to be highly localized.
- In 2021, semiconductors helped steady a world wobbled by COVID-19, and the industry's future has never been brighter. As semiconductor innovation and global chip demand continue their inextricable rise, government and industry is working to maintain America's leadership in this foundational, indispensable technology.

Conclusion

Semiconductors are a marvel of modern technology and the foundation of modern life. Semiconductors enable everything from cars to coffee makers, not to mention new, potentially game-changing applications such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced wireless networks, and more. In present era, though innovation is no longer geographically centred, start-ups are still concentrated in limited pockets. A free and slightly supporting environment created semiconductor industry concentrated in Silicon Valley .

2. What do you understand by export oriented industries? What are the current policies in place to promote such industries in the country? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the export oriented industries and then simply discuss the policies to promote such industries.

Introduction

The economic ramifications of COVID-19 have a significant bearing on reshaping the world economic order as countries weigh their external linkages and recalibrate development strategies. For India to claim its rightful position in the new world order, it is imperative that the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' is globally integrated to harness the opportunities created by the emerging shifts with export oriented industries as driving force.

Body

Export oriented industries:

- Export-oriented industries are units undertaking to export their entire production of goods. It can engage in manufacturing, services, development of software, repair, remaking, reconditioning, re-engineering including making of gold/silver/platinum jewellery and articles.
- The Export Oriented industries with support of export oriented units schemes was introduced to boost exports, increase foreign earnings and created employment in India.

Policies to boost export oriented industries:

- The EOU scheme is complementary to the scheme for Free Trade Zone, Export Processing Zone. Units that are undertaking to export their entire production of goods are allowed to set up as an EOU.
- NiryatBandhu Scheme by DGFT for mentoring budding exporters on the intricacies of foreign trade through counseling, training, and outreach programs.
- Duty-Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) under which duty-free import of inputs, fuel, oil, energy sources, a catalyst which is required for the production of export goods is allowed.
- Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) to facilitate the import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's competitiveness.
- Electronic Bank Certificate (e-BRC) initiative of e-BRC enables DGFT to capture essential details of the realization of export proceeds directly from the banks via secured electronic mode.
- Time Release Studythe tool helps in identifying bottlenecks in the international supply chain or constraints affecting Customs release. Indian Customs will now implement it at major Customs locations on a six-month basis.
- Exporter Importer ProfileExporter importer profile is created to upload various documents, and to reduce the cost of transaction and time.
- Towns of Export Excellence (TEE)Selected towns producing goods of Rs. 750 crores or more are notified as TEE on potential for growth in exports and provide financial assistance under MAI Scheme to recognized Associations.
- Status Holder SchemeUpon achieving prescribed export performance, status recognition as one star Export House, two Star Export House, three star export house, four star export house and five star export house is accorded to the eligible applicants as per their export performance.
- PLI schemeaims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units. The scheme invites foreign companies to set up units in India, however, it also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.
- The government will identify potential products and services in each district, identify agricultural and toy clusters, map GI products, set up district export promotion panels and district export action plans as part of this initiative targeted at small businesses and farmers.

Way forward:

- Focus on Knowledge Power: For this, India needs to invest in its education, research & innovation capabilities and turn into a Knowledge superpower.
- Addressing Structural Issues: Invest in its labour force and provide them with regular, affordable food supply and housing. Build a well- functioning infrastructure and take various trade facilitation measures like easier customs clearances, less paperwork.
- Promoting Ease of doing Business: Export success will also require genuine easing of costs of trading and doing business in India.

- Becoming Part of GVCs: India should be striving to embed itself in global value chains. If India wants to become a major exporter, it should specialize more in the areas of its comparative advantage and achieve significant quantity expansion.

Conclusion

The idea of the export-led economy has been very successful for many East-Asian countries (also called East-Asian Miracle). In the 1960s and 70s, these countries transformed their economies rapidly from developing countries to become middle-income countries through high export. However, the viability of a new export-based economy, that India aspires to be, depends on policy restructuring, reaping demographic dividend and leveraging its domestic market.

3. Examine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the location of service sector industries.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to examine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the location of service sector industries.

Introduction

The COVID-19 epidemic has hit the world economy very hard, leaving no industry unaffected. The pandemic has driven the world toward adapting to the current circumstances regardless of the business, sector, or industry. The service industry across India saw the steepest decline in growth rate compared to previous years due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Trade, hotels, transport, storage, and communication took the brunt of the impact during lockdown months. Towards the beginning of 2021, the decline slowed down and slowly turned into growth again. During the second quarter of 2021, this segment recorded a strong increase by nearly 40 percent in comparison to the same quarter in 2020.

The effects of the covid-19 pandemic on the location of service sector industries

- One of the most observable changes which occurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the shift of many employees to work from home arrangements across occupations.
- Individuals from some occupational groups that had very little experience with working from home were shifted to such arrangements (e.g., teachers in primary education) while individuals across occupation who preferred not to work from home, were now forced into such working arrangements. At the

same time, some individuals in certain occupations experienced a less forceful change.

- Social distancing and security become more critical than immediacy and good organization. Relocation and shut down of businesses and supply chains are experienced in almost every sector, and even governments have put the economies aside and are hoarding basic necessities.
- The spread of COVID-19 was witnessed throughout the world in April. In March 2020, the WHO had already declared it a global emergency. In April 2020, most countries shut down their schools, colleges, and universities, keeping public safety in mind.
- The purpose of the closure of educational institutes was to slow down the spread of covid-19 by keeping people in their houses and away from gatherings.
- This encouraged distance and online learning using technology, as 91.4% of the students, around 63 million teachers, and other education-related staff were severely impacted.
- The people's movement is changing with the help of technology and innovation. However, the coronavirus pandemic is likely to put moving wheels to a grinding halt. Technology and innovation can accelerate transport instead of impeding it, especially in terms of digitizing transport in urban areas.
- Digitalization and technology are becoming a vital part of the health sector. Technological advancements like online doctor consultations, telemedicine, and other pharmaceutical and treatment-related applications play an important role in providing the best health services.
- The decline of the restaurants and food industry during this pandemic also prompt the stakeholders to adopt the technology and digitization to respond more effectively.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 epidemic has hit the world economy very hard, leaving no industry unaffected. In such a devastating situation, technology is the only hope to keep the economy on track. Technological instruments are vital resources for the efficient monitoring and control of disease outbreaks since people cannot operate and balance the magnitude and speed of AI devices. Thus, where every country is in the race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, each country is looking at its technical experts to come forth and play their part in keeping the economy on track.

4. What are the key locational factors for commercial fishing? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

The candidate needs to simply explain with the help of suitable examples the key locational factors for commercial fishing.

Introduction

Commercial fishing is done for profit, converting marine life into human food, fish meal for aquaculture, and other products. Commercial fishing is distinct from subsistence fishing, which is small-scale fishing done by a person in order to directly feed themselves, their family, and their community. It provides a large quantity of food to many countries around the earth, but those who practice it as an industry must often pursue fish far into the ocean under adverse conditions.

The Key Locational Factors for Commercial Fishing

- In tropical location, climate fish perishes soon. For example, Cooler climate in North Europe and North America helps in longer storage and transportation.
- Indented coastline is another key locational factor. Many fish inhabit the seas along its highly irregular and indented coastline. This is the reason why Asia has fewer natural harbours than North Europe and North America as it has relatively smooth coast line putting Asia in natural disadvantage for fish catch.
- Wider Continental shelves is another key locational factor for commercial fishing. Fishes eat plankton and Phytoplankton require sunlight, therefore fishes can develop well in continental shelves and shallow seas because of Sunlight penetration and minerals from coastal water.
- Commercial fishing requires large ships as multiple varieties of fishes caught are separated and processed for packing on the ship itself. High end technologies like GPS, underwater camera etc are needed for high fish catch. Hence locational key factor is area with massive capital investment.
- Another key locational factor is place where fish is important source of protein. Example the mountainous regions of Asia and Europe where agricultural production is quite low and fish is an important source of protein.
- Before electricity/petroleum, whale oil was the chief source of fuel and lubricant.
- They are more in number where cold currents and warm currents meet. Ex: Gulf stream and Labrador in North western Atlantic coast, Kurushio and Oyashio in Japan.
- The tropical fishes are of multiple varieties but in small groups so commercial exploitation easier. The oil content of tropical fishes is higher so less desirable for eating.

Conclusion:

Commercial fishing represents an environmental threat to many species of fish throughout the world's oceans, particularly with increasingly efficient technology including factory ships and nets that can extend for miles. Given the importance of the oceans in regulating much of the world's food supply to the weather itself, hopefully, commercial fleets can improve their sustainable practices and respect the oceans and life therein.



5. Can India become a key player in the manufacturing of electric automobiles? Why or why not? Do a critical analysis.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write upon India's capability in electric automobile manufacturing and can India become key player in manufacturing electric automobile, examine critically.

Introduction

The Electric Vehicle Industry in India is a growing industry. The central and state governments have launched schemes and incentives to promote electric mobility in the country and some regulations and standards are also in place. While the country stands to benefit in a large way by switching its transport from IC engines to electric motor-powered, there are challenges like lack of charging infrastructure, high initial cost and lack of electricity produced from renewable energy.

Body

- Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari stated today that, he believes; "India will be a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles within the next five years, adding that several countries do not want to deal with China after the COVID-19 crisis, which can be an opportunity for India."
- The minister asked Indian automotive companies to boost their electric vehicle technology and also to focus on finding alternatives to lithium-ion battery tech to help make India the next global manufacturing hub for electric vehicles.
- He stated that in five years, India will become the number one hub for manufacturing electric buses, cars and two-wheelers.
- There is also a blessing in disguise that a majority of countries are not interested in dealing with China anymore. So, now there is a huge potential for India.
- The Government released a two-pronged strategy aimed at both buyers and manufacturers, in which it offers \$1.4 billion in subsidies to buyers, while imposing a hike on import tariffs to increase manufacturing of these vehicles by domestic companies.
- The Government is mainly focusing to electrify public transportation as the subsidies, mainly available for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and buses.
- National Electric Mobility Mission Plan, 2020 The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan, 2020 was launched by the Government of India in year 2012 with the aim of improving the national fuel security through the promotion of hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Auto industry contributes 22% to the manufacturing GDP. From the help of new Manufacturing Policy, contribution of manufacturing in overall economy

will increase to 25% by year 2022. The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan targets 30% of EV penetration in India by 2030.

- **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME)** The Government started Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME) scheme which provides incentives for purchasing electric vehicles.
- Phase I of the scheme lasted from 2015 to 2019, while Phase II began in 2019 and is planned to be completed in 2022. Government is releasing tenders to increase charging infrastructure in the country.
- Go Electric is a future for India that will promote low-cost, environmentally friendly and indigenous electrical products.

Challenges –

- **Lack of charging infrastructure** - Cumulative electric vehicles per million people
The charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in India has not been fully developed yet.
- **Issue of Slow Charging:** It takes up to 12 hours for a full charge of a vehicle at the owner's home using a private light-duty slow charger. To compound this technological problem of slow charging at home, there are a few charging stations around the country.
- This is woefully inadequate in a country as large and densely populated as ours.
- **Lack of a Stable Policy For EV Production:** EV production is a capital intensive sector requiring long term planning to break even and profit realization, uncertainty in government policies related to EV production discourages investment in the industry.
- **Technological Challenges:** India is technologically deficient in the production of electronics that form the backbone of the EV industry, such as batteries, semiconductors, controllers, etc.
- **Lack of Associated Infrastructural Support:** The lack of clarity over AC versus DC charging stations, grid stability and range anxiety (fear that batteries will soon run out of power) are other factors that hinder the growth of the EV industry.
- **Lack of Availability of Materials For Domestic Production:** Battery is single most important component of EVs. India does not have any known reserves of lithium and cobalt which are required for battery production. India is dependent on countries like Japan and China for the import of lithium-ion batteries.
- **Lack of skilled workers:** EVs have higher servicing costs and higher levels of skills is needed for servicing. India lacks dedicated training courses for such skill development.

Conclusion-

The electric vehicle industry in India is picking pace with 100% FDI possible, new manufacturing hubs, and increased push to improving charging infrastructure. Federal subsidies and policy favouring deeper discounts for Indian-made electric two-wheelers as well as a boost for localized ACC battery storage production are other growth drivers for the Indian EV industry. Moreover, a production-linked incentive

scheme for the automotive sector will boost the manufacturing of electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

1. How does plate tectonics explain the occurrence of earthquakes? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about definition of earthquake and how does plate tectonics explain the occurrence of earthquakes. Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

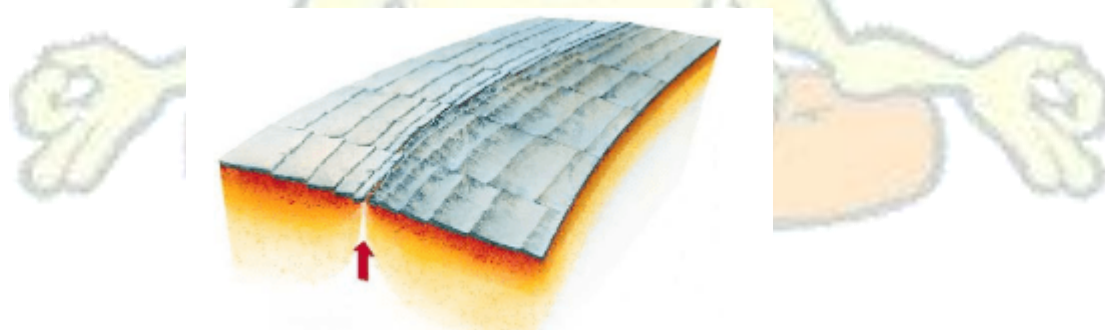
Introduction

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

An earthquake is the shaking of the surface of the Earth resulting from a sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves.

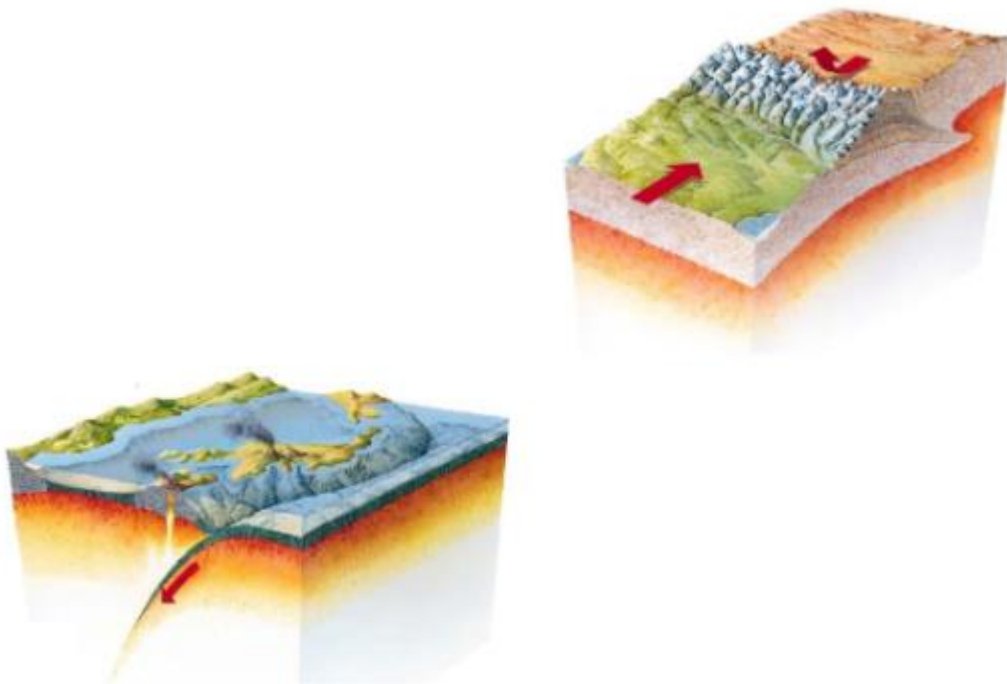
- The movement of these crustal plates causes the formation of various landforms and is the principal cause of all earth movements. Earthquakes are a direct consequence of interaction between various lithospheric plates.



Divergence forming divergent edge or the constructive edge:

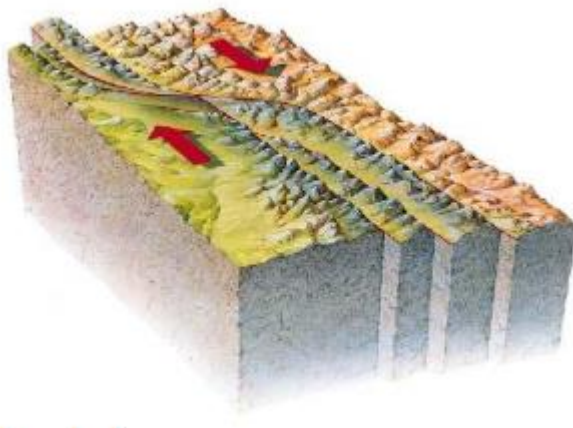
- The plates diverge or move away from each other. Here, the basaltic magma erupts and moves apart giving rise to sea floor spreading.
- Earthquakes (shallow focus) are common along divergent edges.

- 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.

2. How does convergence of air masses lead to the formation of temperate cyclones? Discuss. How are temperate cyclones different from tropical cyclones? Explain.

Approach

Candidates are expected to temperate cyclone and how its formed due to convergence of air masses. And explain the difference between the tropical cyclone and temperate cyclones.

Introduction

The cyclonic system developing in the mid and high latitude i.e. 35° latitude and 65° latitude in both hemispheres, beyond the tropics is called the Temperate Cyclones or Extra Tropical Cyclones.

Body

- According to polar front theory, the warm-humid air masses from the tropics meet the dry-cold air masses from the poles and thus a polar front is formed as a surface of discontinuity.

- Such conditions occur over sub-tropical high, sub-polar low pressure belts and along the Tropopause.
- The cold air pushes the warm air upwards from underneath. Thus a void is created because of lessening of pressure. The surrounding air rushed in to occupy this void and coupled with the earth's rotation, a cyclone is formed which advances with the westerlies (Jet Streams).
- There are pockets of warm air or warm sector wedged between the forward and the rear cold air or cold sector. The warm air glides over the cold air and a sequence of clouds appear over the sky ahead of the warm front and cause precipitation.
- The cold front approaches the warm air from behind and pushes the warm air up. As a result, cumulus clouds develop along the cold front. The cold front moves faster than the warm front ultimately overtaking the warm front. The warm air is completely lifted up and the front is occluded (occluded front) and the cyclone dissipates.
- The processes of wind circulation both at the surface and aloft are closely interlinked.
- So temperate cyclone is intense frontogenesis involving mainly occlusion type front.

Difference between temperate and tropical cyclone:

	Tropical cyclone	Temperate cyclone
1. LATITUDE	Confined to 10 – 30 degree N and S of the equator.	Confined to 35 – 65 degree N and S of the equator. They are more pronounced in the Northern hemisphere due to greater temperature contrast owing to large expanse of landmass.
2. FORMATION	They form only on seas with temperatures more than 26-27 degree C. They dissipate on reaching the land.	Temperate cyclones can be formed on both land and sea.
3. WIND VELOCITY AND DESTRUCTION	Wind velocity of tropical cyclones is much greater (100 – 250 kmph) (200–1200 kmph in upper troposphere)	Wind velocity in temperate cyclones is comparatively low. Typical range: 30 – 150 kmph.
4. INFLUENCE ON INDIA	Greater destruction due to winds, storm surges and torrential rains. Tropical cyclones affect both the coasts of India but the east coast is a hot spot.	Less destruction due to winds but more destruction due to flooding. Temperate cyclones bring rains to north-west India. The associated instability is called 'Western Disturbances'.
5. LIFETIME	Tropical cyclones don't last for more than a week.	Temperate cyclones may last for 2 to 3 weeks.

Conclusion

Cyclones can have an economic and emotional effect on people and property directly affected. Thousands of people have died or been displaced by them. Hundreds of homes could be destroyed causing millions of dollars' worth of damage. Having a better understanding of cyclones can help you better prepare and perhaps minimise or prevent cyclone damage.

3. Examine the factors that make the Pacific rim highly prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to examine the factors that make the Pacific rim highly prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Introduction

The Ring of Fire is a string of volcanoes and sites of seismic activity, or earthquakes, around the edges of the Pacific Ocean. Deep ocean trenches and high mountain ranges are also part of the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire isn't quite a circular ring. It is shaped more like a 40,000-kilometer (25,000-mile) horseshoe. A string of 452 volcanoes stretches from the southern tip of South America, up along the coast of North America, across the Bering Strait, down through Japan, and into New Zealand. Several active and dormant volcanoes in Antarctica, however, "close" the ring.

The Factors That Make the Pacific Rim Highly Prone to Earthquakes and Volcanic Activity

Roughly 90% of all earthquakes occur along the Ring of Fire, and the ring is dotted with 75% of all active volcanoes on Earth. The Factors That Make the Pacific Rim Highly Prone to Earthquakes and Volcanic Activity includes:

- The abundance of volcanoes and earthquakes along the Ring of Fire is caused by the amount of movement of tectonic plates in the area.
- Along much of the Ring of Fire, plates overlap at convergent boundaries called subduction zones. That is, the plate that is underneath is pushed down, or subducted, by the plate above. As rock is subducted, it melts and becomes magma.
- The abundance of magma so near to Earth's surface gives rise to conditions ripe for volcanic activity. A significant exception is the border between the Pacific and North American Plates.

- This stretch of the Ring of Fire is a transform boundary, where plates move sideways past one another. This type of boundary generates a large number of earthquakes as tension in Earth's crust builds up and is released.
- Many volcanoes in the Ring of Fire were created through a process of subduction and most of the planet's subduction zones happen to be located in the Ring of Fire.
- The Ring of Fire is largely a result of plate tectonics, where the massive Pacific Plate interacts with less-dense plates surrounding it.
- The Ring of Fire is the result of plate tectonics. Tectonic plates are huge slabs of the Earth's crust, which fit together like pieces of a puzzle. The plates are not fixed but are constantly moving atop a layer of solid and molten rock called the mantle.
- Sometimes these plates collide, move apart, or slide next to each other. In fact most tectonic activity in the Ring of Fire occurs in these geologically active zones.

Conclusion

The Pacific Ring of Fire is aptly named. It's a string of volcanoes in the Pacific Ocean, and the region is prone to earthquakes. In fact, most earthquakes strike within the ring.

4. Why do thunderstorms occur? Explain the mechanism. How do thunderstorms affect agriculture in India? Discuss.

Approach

The candidate needs to simply explain the reason behind the occurrence of the thunderstorms and its mechanism. The candidate also has to discuss how the thunderstorms affect agriculture in India.

Introduction

Thunderstorm, a violent short-lived weather disturbance that is almost always associated with lightning, thunder, dense clouds, heavy rain or hail, and strong gusty winds.

The reason behind the occurrence of the thunderstorms

Thunderstorms occur when warm, moist air rises into cold air. The warm air becomes cooler, which causes moisture, called water vapor, to form small water droplets – a

process called condensation. The cooled air drops lower in the atmosphere, warms and rises again.

The mechanism of thunderstorm

- Three basic ingredients are required for a thunderstorm to form: moisture, rising unstable air (air that keeps rising when given a nudge), and a lifting mechanism to provide the “nudge.”
- The sun heats the surface of the earth, which warms the air above it. If this warm surface air is forced to rise—hills or mountains, or areas where warm/cold or wet/dry air bump together can cause rising motion—it will continue to rise as long as it weighs less and stays warmer than the air around it.
- As the air rises, it transfers heat from the surface of the earth to the upper levels of the atmosphere (the process of convection). The water vapor it contains begins to cool, releases the heat, condenses and forms a cloud. The cloud eventually grows upward into areas where the temperature is below freezing.
- As a storm rises into freezing air, different types of ice particles can be created from freezing liquid drops. The ice particles can grow by condensing vapor (like frost) and by collecting smaller liquid drops that haven't frozen yet (a state called "supercooled").
- When two ice particles collide, they usually bounce off each other, but one particle can rip off a little bit of ice from the other one and grab some electric charge. Lots of these collisions build up big regions of electric charges to cause a bolt of lightning, which creates the sound waves we hear as thunder.

How do thunderstorms affect agriculture in India?

- Many hazardous weather events are associated with thunderstorms.
- Under the right conditions, rainfall from thunderstorms causes flash flooding, killing more people each year than hurricanes, tornadoes or lightning.
- Thunderstorms of West Bengal, Chotanagpur plateau of Jharkhand and northeast India during March-June are often accompanied by violent destructive squalls reaching 100 km per hour. They are known as ‘Norwesters’ in meteorological language in India as their modal direction is from northwest.
- They are also called ‘Kahaiskalis’ which means evil or black storms of month of Vaisakh. They cause widespread damage to crops and kill cattle and at times, people too. During March-June the thunderstorms of north western and central India are often preceded by dust storms.

Conclusion:

At present there is provision for issuing warnings based on certain known facts for high-speed wind, hail and heavy rain associated with the thunderstorms generally 24 hours in advance to the warnees listed with different meteorological offices in the

country. In addition, such warnings are issued on radio, television and other news media from different meteorological offices in India.

5. What do you understand by photochemical smog? What are the atmospheric Conditions that create photochemical smog? Why is it considered harmful? Discuss.

Approach

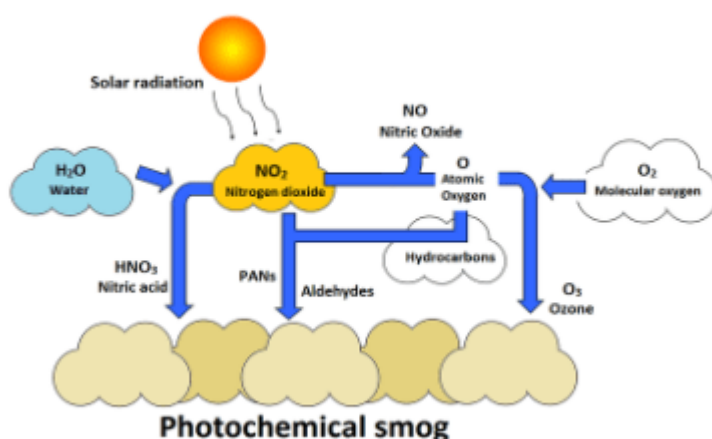
In this question candidates need to write about what is photochemical smog, what are condition required to generate photochemical smog and why it is considered as harmful discuss in detail

Introduction

Photochemical smog is a type of smog produced when ultraviolet light from the sun reacts with nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere. It is visible as a brown haze, and is most prominent during the morning and afternoon, especially in densely populated, warm cities.

Body

Photochemical smog, also known as summer smog, is a type of smog that is produced when UV light originating from the sun interacts with the oxides of nitrogen present in the atmosphere.



How is Photochemical Smog Formed?

- Photochemical form is formed by a complex series of chemical reactions involving sunlight, oxides of nitrogen, and volatile organic compounds that are present in the atmosphere as a result of air pollution.

- These reactions often result in the formation of ground level ozone and certain airborne particles. The formation of photochemical smog is closely related to the concentration of primary pollutants in the atmosphere.
- It is also related to the concentration of secondary pollutants (in some cases).
- Common examples of primary pollutants that contribute towards photochemical smog include oxides of nitrogen such as nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, and nitrous oxide and most VOCs (volatile organic compounds).
- Common examples of secondary pollutants that contribute towards the formation of photochemical smog include aldehydes, tropospheric ozone, and peroxyacyl nitrates (often abbreviated to PAN).
- During peak-traffic hours in the morning, large amounts of nitrogen oxides and volatile hydrocarbons are released into the atmosphere. These pollutants can be traced to automobile emissions and industrial discharge.
- Some of these hydrocarbon pollutants rapidly undergo oxidation by the hydroxyl groups in the atmosphere, resulting in the formation of peroxy radicals. These peroxy radicals go on to convert nitric oxide into nitrogen dioxide.

Why it is considered harmful-

- Photochemical smog has a number of negative effects on the environment and human beings.
- The chemicals contained within it, when combined with hydrocarbons, form molecules which cause eye irritation.
- The atmospheric radicals interfere with the nitrogen cycle by stopping ground level ozone from being eliminated.
- Ground level ozone can prove to be extremely toxic to human beings. Other negative symptoms associated with photochemical smog include decreased vision and shortness of breath.

Way forward -

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by MoEFCC in April, 2018 and this was preceded by Clean Air Programme in Delhi in February 2018 to sensitise the public in general and implementing agencies in particular.
- Significant action has been taken in Delhi and NCR, including the formulation of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) by CPCB.
- Other Measures include ban on petcoke in Delhi and NCR; strict surveillance over coal-fired plants; strict action against construction activities; regular field surveillance by CPCB teams starting from September 2017.
- Augmentation of air quality monitoring stations in Delhi and NCR, upgradation of Central Control Room in CPCB; integration of data on air quality from stations of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD); Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB); launching a Mobile App called SAMEER for grievance redressal;

Conclusion-

The most obvious way to minimize photochemical smog levels is to eliminate the use of fossil fuels by using non-polluting or sustainable sources of electricity, such as nuclear power, hydropower, and wind power. The need of hour is to reduce effects of photochemical smog, the suggestion by NITI Aayog "Breathe Free India" initiative also needs to be implemented.

1. Explain the significance of human resource for an economy. Take a few international examples to illustrate your views.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about human resource how it is important for economy. Give some international examples to illustrate your point.

Introduction-

In an ordinary sense, human resource refers to the population of the country but in economics, the healthy, educated, and skilled manpower is known as human resource. So, human resource is the process of improving the quality and efficiency of the people. According to the National planning commission, "Human resource is the knowledge, skill, efficiency and physical and mental capacity to do work inherent in the people of the country".

Body -

Role of Human Resource in Economic Development

- Human resources play an important role in the overall development of a country. Capital, natural resources, as well as other productive resources remain inactive in nature. Human resource is necessary to mobilise them.
- Utilization of Natural resources- Human resources are necessary for the utilization of natural resources like mineral, water, forest, etc. Utilization of these resources is necessary for economic development. Thus, only human resources mobilize and utilize them properly.
- Compensate for the deficiency of natural resources -The utilization of human resource compensates the deficiency of natural resources. Many countries are poor in natural resources like Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc. but they are able to achieve high economic growth by properly utilizing the human resource.
- Utilization of physical capital-Only the existence of physical capital can't do anything for economic development. They should be properly utilized. To, operate machinery & equipment and to run factories and industries is impossible without the involvement of human resource.

- Increase in production-The human resources of a country help to increase the production of different goods and services. By using skilled human resources, a country can produce a variety of goods and services having high quality.
- Increase in managerial capacity and entrepreneurship -Human resources increase the managerial capacity and entrepreneurship. It leads to innovation.
- The new production technique, new market and new technology are developed. This increase the production and national income.
- Development of agriculture and industry-The modern and superior technologies should be use for the modernisation of agriculture and rapid industrialisation's. This is made possible only by human resource.
- Theodore Schultz observes "It is simply not possible to have the fruits of a modern agriculture and the abundance of modern industry without making large investment in human being.
- Changes in technology-Human resources of a country can bring new technology. Advance technology is necessary to bring development in the country. There are other roles of human resources such as the development of transportation and communication, the supply of labour, etc.
- Human resource is an important factor of economic development. As opined by Adam Smith the prosperity of a country is determined by the skill, efficiency and attitude of the labour used by that country.

Examples of countries who focuses on human resource development-

- Many countries have been able to develop themselves due to the will, capacity and skill of their human resources.
- As for example, the countries like Japan, Singapore, Germany, and Hon Kong have been able to achieve economic miracle by mobilising their human resource.
- Asian countries have topped a new World Bank measure called the "human capital index" – a measure of youth mortality, schooling and health. The institution said increasing health and education investment could lead to more than half the children born this year doubling their lifetime earnings.
- The human capital index is an attempt to shame countries into boosting efforts "to ensure a healthy, educated and resilient population ready for the workplace of the future"
- Singapore topped the poll after it was highly rated for its universal healthcare system, education exams results and life expectancy figures. The rest of the top five were South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland.
- African countries feature heavily in the bottom 20 places in the index, the Washington-based development organisation said in a report. It judged that they had failed to make sure millions of children had the diet, healthcare and education in their early years to prepare them to take skilled jobs later in life.

Conclusion-

Human resources are playing an important role in attaining economic development of a country. Economic development of country involves proper utilization of its physical resources by its labour force and other forms of manpower for the proper

utilization of production potential of the country. For the poorest people, human capital is often the only capital they have. It is a key driver of sustainable, inclusive economic growth, but investing in health and education has not gotten the attention it deserves.

2. Do you find a correlation between resource abundance and migration trends? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the how resources and resources abundance can affect the migration how it's correlated.

Introduction:

The resource abundance is region with plenty of economic, knowledge, financial and natural resources such as fossil fuels and certain minerals but the region have worse development outcomes less livelihood opportunities for localities which generates push factors for migration also abundance of resources creates pull factors and attract migration.

Body

Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, at a new location (geographic region).

Correlation between resource abundance and migration trends:

- Millions of people who migrated from their far-off villages to the big cities of Kolkata, Mumbai or Madras during British era due to abundance of financial resources capital led industries and urbanisation. It did so because these cities with resources offered them some promise for a better living.
- Professional especially known as gold collar jobs they represent subdivision of the tertiary sector representing special and highly paid skills for example ICT based professionals, senior business executives, government officials, research scientists, financial and legal consultants they come to urban area due to Quaternary activities based resources. Cities like Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad etc.
- People migrate in large number from rural to industrial area for example Bhilai, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh and Jamshedpur region in search of employment. These industries are surrounding by the natural resources and also known as Ruhr of India'.

- Coal and Mining Sector continues to be a major driving force for internal migration and attracts labourers from Nepal and Bangladesh, particularly the coal-mines in the north-eastern state of Meghalaya, Orissa, Jharkhand etc.
- Also in Middle east countries many Indians from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana etc work in resources abundance countries in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc as mining engineers, mining workers, resources mapping engineers.
- Natural ecosystem based resources attract professionals working from home to settle in hill stations, natural tourism spot in worktation, villas etc especially after COVID19 due to changing nature of workplace and hybrid working model.
- Some migrant labourers from UP and Bihar due to lack of land resources migrates to Punjab and Haryana because they get a better price, they have organised market and agricultural resources.
- Rural areas especially North east youngsters by and large, lack educational knowledge resources in there region, especially those of higher education and rural youngsters have to migrate to the urban centres for this purpose. Many of them settle down in the cities for earning a livelihood after completing their education.
- Large scale displacement of local people happens to due creation of dams canals it's a creation of water resources for industries and agricultural but impact many local indigenous people and make them homeless and migrate to different region. For example Narmada project etc

Conclusion

India can to formulate migration centric policies, strategies, and institutional mechanisms in order to ensure inclusive growth and development and reduce distress induced migration, thereby increasing India's prospects for poverty reduction and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

3. What are India's key strengths and weaknesses in the area of renewables? Discuss. How does India's situation compare to its western counterparts? Examine.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to Discuss the India's key strengths and weaknesses in the area of renewables. The candidate also needs to examine how does India's situation compare to its western counterparts.

Introduction

India ranks 3rd in renewable energy country attractive index in 2021. The country has set an ambitious target to achieve a capacity of 175 GW worth of renewable energy by the end of 2022, which expands to 450 GW by 2030. This is the world's largest expansion plan in renewable energy. As of 31 June 2021, the total installed capacity

for Renewables is 96.95 GW still India has its own strengths and weaknesses in the area of renewables.

India's key strengths in the area of renewables

- India was ranked fourth in wind power, fifth in solar power and fourth in renewable power installed capacity, as of 2020. In October 2021, India retained its third rank on the EY Renewable Energy Country Attractive Index.
- Installed renewable power generation capacity has increased at a fast pace over the past few years, posting a CAGR of 17.33% between FY14-FY20.
- Wind energy capacity in India has increased by 2.2 times from FY 2016-17 to FY 2020-21
- Solar power capacity has increased by more than 5 times in the last five years from 6.7 GW to 40 GW in March 2021. Government of India further targets to increase the total Renewable Energy Capacity to 450GW by 2030.
- 42 solar parks of aggregate capacity 23,499 MW have been approved in 17 states up to March 2019
- Solar Parks in Pavagada (2 GW), Kurnool (1 GW) and Bhadla-II (648 MW) included in top 5 operational solar parks of 7 GW capacity in the country
- The world's largest renewable energy park of 30 GW capacity solar-wind hybrid project is under installation in Gujarat.

India's key weaknesses in the area of renewables

- Renewable power projects face risk, according to the IEA report, due to the "poor financial health" of India's Discoms causing delays in the signing of PPAs.
- India's Central Electricity Authority, in its August 2020 report on the renewable sector, noted that 39.4 GW of renewable power projects were delayed, many due to belated execution or PPA approval.
- "Delays in execution or approval of the PSAs create business uncertainty for the developer, who is suspended in limbo for months. As tariffs fall, the uncertainty becomes exacerbated.
- In India, all utility-scale power purchase is done through a competitive bidding process, where the tariff is discovered through an auction process. Unfortunately, there is no regulatory supervision.

How does India's situation compare to its western counterparts?

- As of June 2018 reports, the country intends to reach 225 GW of renewable power capacity by 2022 exceeding the target of 175 GW pledged during the Paris Agreement.
- The sector is the fourth most attractive renewable energy market in the world. As in October 2018, India ranked fifth in installed renewable energy capacity.
- India was ranked fourth in wind power, fifth in solar power and fourth in renewable power installed capacity, as of 2020.

- In October 2021, India retained its third rank on the EY Renewable Energy Country Attractive Index. Installed renewable power generation capacity has increased at a fast pace over the past few years, posting a CAGR of 17.33% between FY14-FY20.

Conclusion

The Government of India is aiming to achieve 227 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, much ahead of its target 175 GW as per the Paris Agreement. The Government is committed to increased use of clean energy sources and is already undertaking various large-scale sustainable power projects and promoting green energy heavily. In addition, renewable energy has the potential to create many employment opportunities at all levels, especially in rural areas.

4. How do natural resources shape the geopolitics of a region? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

The candidate needs to simply explain with the help of suitable examples how do natural resources shape the geopolitics of a region.

Introduction

Global power shifts in the post-Cold-War era have characteristically moved away from traditional military rivalries to economic expansion and prowess. The paradigm, in part fuelled by technological advances and the ferocious scale of globalization in recent decades, has highlighted the strategic advantages lent in particular by natural resources. Natural resources are becoming the new powerful key to defining geopolitics and securing economic and strategic interests.

Natural Resources Shaping the Geopolitics of a Region

- Rapid industrialization, rising demand for energy, emergence of new markets and depletion of natural resources at a disconcerting rate, are all adding to a growing rivalry among nations for access and control of resources and precious minerals.
- The quest for alternative sources and favourable access is, therefore, driving many growing economies to seek political and strategic partnerships far afield.
- China's systematic large-scale investment strategy in Africa, a continent with vast reserves of oil, gold, coal, nickel, diamonds and copper, since the 1980s is now viewed as exemplary economic foresight.

- Although contentious and often accompanying allegations of neo-imperialism on Beijing's part, the partnership has not only boosted growth in the world's second largest economy, but also pumped over \$100bn in jobs and infrastructural projects in the continent historically marred by conflicts, poverty and underdevelopment.

Suitable Examples

- The enviable oil wealth of the Middle East, which has allowed the region for over 50 years to monopolize global oil supplies, production and prices through its OPEC cartel, is now a classic text-book example of how natural resources can critically mold foreign policies and forge enduring political ties.
- In 2010, China stopped its rare minerals' exports to Japan amid a diplomatic crisis over a disputed island-cluster in the East China Sea for two months, a move that nearly crippled its neighbour's prodigious electronics industries.
- Currently Africa's largest trading partner, China has established special economic zones in Zambia, Egypt, Nigeria, Mauritius and Ethiopia

Conclusion:

Although, increased competition for natural resources, especially to meet energy demands, in recent years has allowed for large scale exploration of new reserves and in the process also boosting developing economies in regions like Latin America, Central Asia and Africa, the rivalry is precariously intertwined with global politics and security.

5. What are the challenges associated with the exploitation of forest resources in India? Do you think the current policies promote the sustainable use of forest resources? Critically examine.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about challenges associated with the exploitation of forest resources in India .in second part of question write about whether current policies that promote sustainable use of forest resources, examine critically.

Introduction

Forests have been the major source of livelihood for most Indians. The forestry sector is one of the main pivots on which the nation's welfare was built. The forest is not only important for material goods but also as a valuable ecological and cultural resource. The forestry subsector has over the years contributed immensely to the socio-economic development in the country. It also serves as resource base for many forest

industries. The raw materials for the production of timber, pulp and paper are derived from the forest.

Body

Indian forests face a number of problems which are both natural and manmade. 10 Main Problems Faced by the Indian Forestry are,

- The biggest problem of the Indian forests is the inadequate and fast dwindling forest cover.
- It has already been mentioned that forests cover only 20.55 per cent of the area against the required coverage of 33 per cent. Even this small percentage of forest cover is seriously threatened by the increasing demand for major and minor forest products.
- Low Productivity: Productivity of Indian forests is very low as compared to some other countries. For example, annual productivity of Indian forest is only 0.5 cubic metre per hectare while it is 1.25 cubic metre per hectare in the USA, 1.8 cubic metre per hectare in Japan and 3.9 cubic metre per hectare in France.
- Nature of Forests and their Uneconomical Utilisation: The forests are thick, inaccessible, slow growing and lack in gregarious stands in many parts of the country. Some of them are very thin and comprise only of thorny bushes. These factors make their utilization uneconomical because there is a good deal of wastage and this makes it very expensive in spite of the cheap labour available in India.
- 4. Lack of Transport Facilities: One of the biggest problems faced by the Indian forests is the lack of proper transport facilities. About 16 per cent of the forest land in India is inaccessible and does not have proper transport facilities. It must be remembered that the major product of the forests is timber which is a cheap and bulky commodity
- Forest Fires: Large tracts of vegetal cover are destroyed every year by forest fires. Forest fires in India are most destructive in dry season. Insufficiency of properly trained personnel is a big handicap.
- Plant Diseases, Insects and Pests: Large tracts of forest cover suffer from plant diseases, insects and pests which leads to considerable loss of forest wealth. For example, thousands of hectares of sal forests in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are being threatened by sal borer for which no remedial measures have been adopted so far.
- Obsolete Methods of Lumbering and Sawing: In most of the Indian forests, obsolete methods of lumbering, sawing etc. are practised. This system leads to a lot of wastage and low forest productivity. Large quantities of inferior wood which could be put to better use through seasoning and preservation treatment remain unutilised or go waste. Saw mills use old obsolete machinery and do not get proper power supply.
- Undue Concessions to Tribal's and Local People: In vast forest tracts, tribals and local people have been granted customary rights and concessions for free-grazing as well as removing timber fuel and minor forest products. They are also allowed to continue with age-old shifting cultivation.

Does current policies promote sustainable use of forest resources –

- The forest right Act recognizes and vest the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations.
- It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD.
- The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD.
- The Act identifies four types of rights- Title rights, Use rights, Relief and development rights, Forest management rights.

Challenges

Administrative Apathy- As tribals are not a big vote bank in most states, governments find it convenient to subvert FRA or not bother about it at all in favour of monetary gains.

- Lack of Awareness-The forest bureaucracy has misinterpreted the FRA as an instrument to regularise encroachment instead of a welfare measure for tribal.
- Dilution of Act-Certain sections of environmentalists raise the concern that FRA bends more in the favour of individual rights, giving lesser scope for community rights.
- Reluctance of the forest bureaucracy to give up control-The forest bureaucracy fears that it will lose the enormous power over land and people that it currently enjoys, while the corporate fear they may lose the cheap access to valuable natural resources.

Conclusion-

At present there is an urgent need of undertaking silvicultural operations on a large scale. Intensive development schemes for afforestation should be adopted along with High yielding varieties .Proper arrangements to save forests from fires and plant diseases can go a long way to solve several problems. A thorough inventory of forest resources is necessary to make an accurate assessment of our forest resources and make plans for their proper use.

1. Why do certain regions of the world experience extreme arid conditions? Explain With the help of suitable examples.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about regions in world where extreme arid conditions are found .In second part of question explain the reasons behind those condition with suitable examples.

Introduction

A region is arid when it is characterized by a severe lack of available water, to the extent of hindering or preventing the growth and development of plant and animal life. Environments subject to arid climates tend to lack vegetation and are called xeric or desertic. Most "arid" climates straddle the Equator these places include parts of Africa, Asia, South America, North America, and Australia.

Body

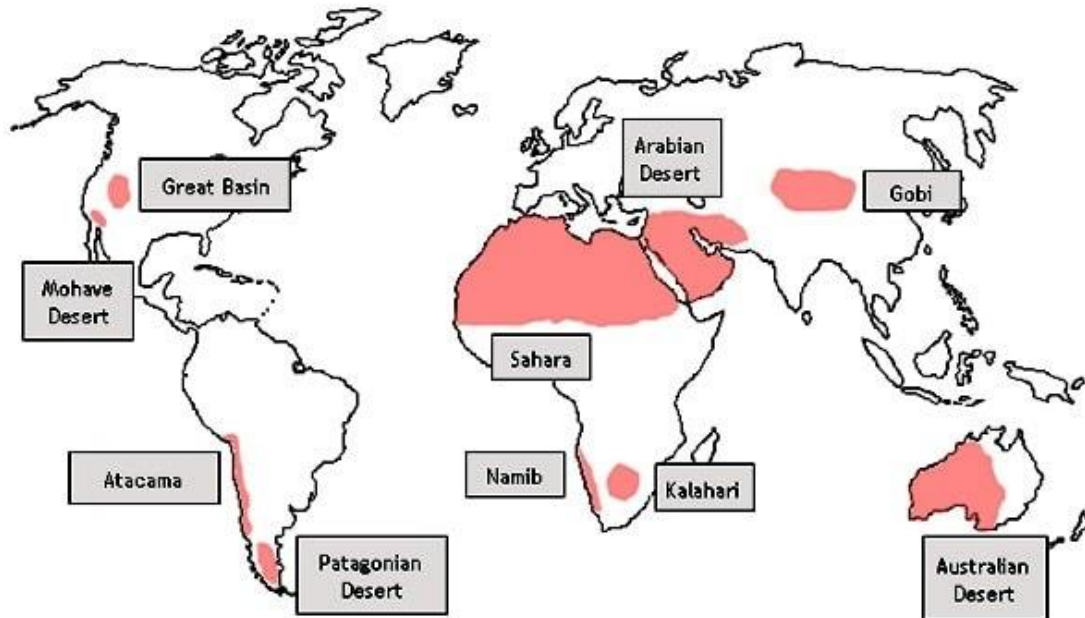
There are four major factors responsible for formation of deserts

- Offshore areas of trade wind and falling under the rain shadow area: When the moisture laden trade wind flows from east to west shed their moisture on the eastern part and by the time they reach the western margin, they become dry. These dry winds make the soil more and this led to the formation of the desert.
- Anticyclonic conditions: The areas between 20 ° -30 ° latitude on western margins of continents are the regions of descending air. Because of this, the air gets compressed and warm as it descends and thus the moisture keeps decreasing.
- Formation of Rain-shadow Zone: A region in the lee of mountains that receives less rainfall than the region windward of the mountains is called rain-shadow zone.
- Thar Desert in India is formed due to the formation of rain-shadow zone because Aravallis mountains are situated parallel to the region. Therefore the moisture holding winds pass away from the region because there is absence of mountain barriers.
- Presence of cold ocean currents along the western coast of continents tends to stabilise the air over the coast. This prevents cloud formation and rainfall. Hence, it leads to arid conditions or the formation of marine deserts on the adjacent coastal lands.

Deserts are regions of scanty rainfall which may be hot like the hot deserts of the Saharan type or temperate as are the mid- latitude deserts like the Gobi.

- The major hot deserts of the world are located on the western coasts of continents between latitudes 15° and 30°N and S.
- They include the Sahara Desert, the largest single stretch of desert, which is 3,200 miles from east to west and at least 1,000 miles wide.
- The next biggest desert is the Great Australian Desert which covers almost half of the continent.
- The other hot deserts are the Arabian Desert, Iranian Desert, Thar Desert, Kalahari and Namib Deserts.
- In North America, the desert extends from Mexico to USA and is called by different names at different places, e.g. the Mohave Sonoran, Californian and Mexican Deserts.

- In South America, the Atacama or Peruvian Desert is the driest of all deserts with less than 0.5 inches of rainfall annually.
- The Patagonian Desert is more due to its rain- shadow position on the leeward side of the lofty Andes than to continentality.



Map – Arid regions of world .

Conclusion-

Study of arid climatic conditions are important because it encompasses many important aspects of climate. Not only this, but the arid climatic conditions impacts the well-being of the people that live in or around it. Understanding how the climate of the area came to be is important to understand how climate works, how it changes the environment, and how it impacts people in its environment.

2. With the help of suitable examples, discuss the landforms associated with Glaciers.

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about landforms associated with glaciers .Give some examples of glacial landforms.

Introduction-

A glacier is a large, perennial accumulation of crystalline ice, snow, rock, sediment, and water that originates on land and moves down slope under the influence of its own weight and gravity. They are sensitive indicators of changing climate. Glaciers have played a prominent role in the shaping of landscapes in the mid and high latitudes of alpine environments. The major landforms made by glaciers are Glacial Erosional Landforms and Glacial Depositional Landforms.

Body-

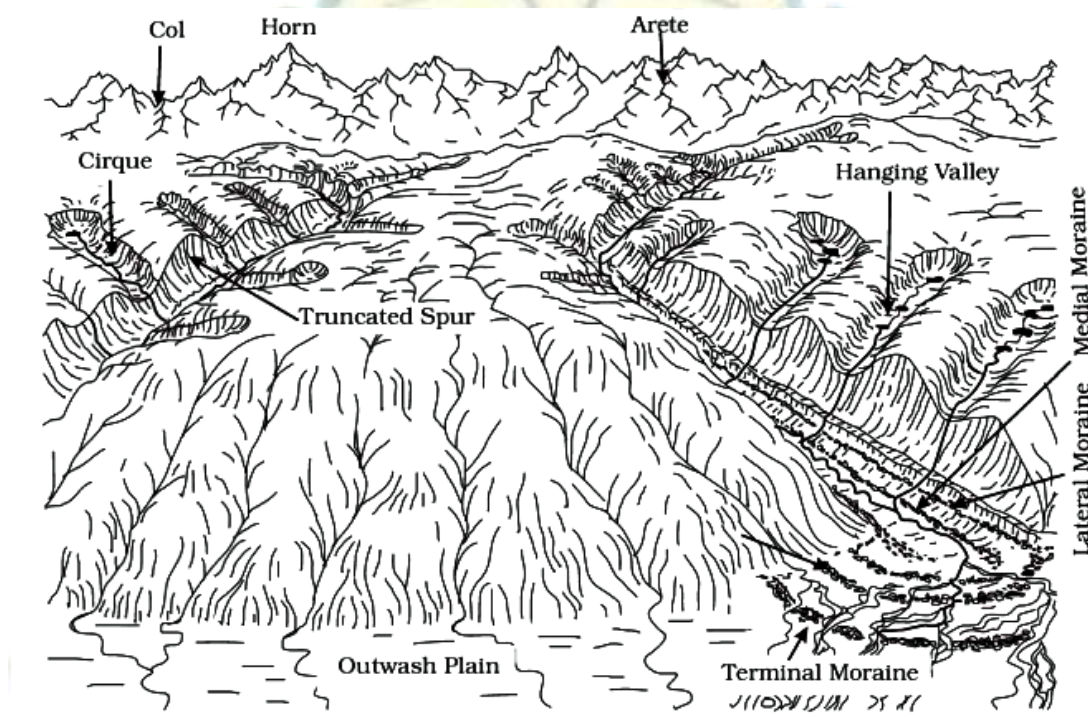
Erosional Landforms-

- **Glacial Valleys/Troughs:** These valleys are trough-like and U-shaped with broad floors and relatively smooth, and steep sides.
- The valleys may contain littered debris or debris shaped as moraines with swampy appearance.
- Very deep glacial troughs filled with sea water and making up shorelines (in high latitudes) are called fjords/fiords.
Eg- Andes, Alps, Himalayas.
- **Cirques:** Often are found at the heads of glacial valleys, these are the most common of landforms in glaciated mountains.
- They are deep, long and wide troughs or basins with very steep concave to vertically dropping high walls at its head as well as sides.
- A lake of water can be seen quite often within the cirques after the glacier disappears. Such lakes are called cirque lakes or tarn lakes.
Eg- the Eel glacier Mt Anderson.
- **Horns and Serrated:** Ridges Horns form through headward erosion of the cirque walls.
- If three or more radiating glaciers cut headward until their cirques meet, high, sharp pointed and steep sided peaks called horns form
- Eg- Flinsch peak, Montana.

Depositional Landforms-

- **Glacial Till:** The unsorted coarse and fine debris dropped by the melting glaciers is called glacial till.
- Some amount of rock debris small enough to be carried by such melt-water streams is washed down and deposited.
- Such glaciofluvial deposits are called outwash deposits.
- The outwash deposits are roughly stratified and assorted.
E.g.- Yellowstone national park deposits
- **Moraines:** They are long ridges of deposits of glacial till.
- Terminal moraines are long ridges of debris deposited at the end (toe) of the glaciers.
- Lateral moraines form along the sides parallel to the glacial valleys.
- Many valley glaciers retreating rapidly leave an irregular sheet of till over their valley floors called ground moraines.
- The moraine in the centre of the glacial valley flanked by lateral moraines is called medial moraine.

- They are imperfectly formed as compared to lateral moraines. Sometimes medial moraines are indistinguishable from ground moraines.
- E.g.- a side glacier of the Gorner Glacier, Zermatt, Switzerland.
- **Eskers:** These are ridges made of sands and gravels, deposited by glacial meltwater flowing through tunnels within and underneath glaciers, or through meltwater channels on top of glaciers.
- Over time, the channel or tunnel gets filled up with sediments. As the ice retreats, the sediments are left behind as a ridge in the landscape.
- E.g.- Pispala's Pyynikki Esker in Tampere, Finland.
- **Drumlins:** They are smooth oval shaped ridge-like features composed mainly of glacial till with some masses of gravel and sand
- The long axes of drumlins are parallel to the direction of ice movement.
- They may measure up to 1 km in length and 30 m or so in height.
- The drumlin end facing the glacier is called the stoss end and is blunter and steeper than the other end called tail.
- E.g. - Drumlins around Horicon Marsh, Wisconsin,



Conclusion-

Glaciers are moving bodies of ice that can change entire landscapes. They sculpt mountains, carve valleys, and move vast quantities of rock and sediment. In the past, glaciers have covered more than one third of Earth's surface, and they continue to flow and to shape features in many places. Glaciers and the landscapes they have shaped provide invaluable information about past climates and offer keys to understanding climate change today.

3. Discuss the unique morphology of India's northeast. How does it affect the climate there? Explain.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to Discuss the unique morphology of India's northeast. The candidate also needs to explain How does it affect the climate there.

Introduction

The Northeast is home to historic cities and large rural areas that serve as important natural habitats and agricultural lands. Climate varies widely across the region and tends to be coldest in the north, at high elevations, and away from the coast.

The unique feature of India's northeast morphology includes:

- The Assam state is divided into three distinct geographical regions. To the north is the Brahmaputra River valley at the foothills of the Himalayas; to the south is the Barak River valley. In between the two valleys are Karbi Anglong and Cachar hills.
- The state of Arunachala Pradesh has a significant forest cover of 82 per cent. It is mostly mountainous, and the only plains are in a thin band of land at the foothills bordering Assam.
- The Nagaland state is mostly hilly with plains limited to a small portion bordering Assam. The state is drained by four major rivers and dozens of minor rivers and tributaries.
- The Sikkim state is mostly mountainous with high hills, covered with evergreen forests in the south, and snow-capped Himalayan mountains towards the north
- Only 10 per cent of Manipur is a valley while the rest is hills, divided between the eastern and western hills. Around a fourth of the valley area is covered with lakes, wetlands, barren lands and small hillocks, which leaves a small area for agriculture.
- The Meghalaya state receives 71 per cent of its annual rainfall during the monsoon months. It has mostly hilly terrain with elevations with Khasi hills in centre, Jaintia hills in the east and Garo hills in west and some plain areas of low elevation.
- It has physiographic variation with hills and plants / trees in the northern and western parts; in the south, the slopes are steep and regular with dense forest.
- The Mizoram state is a land of rolling hills, rivers and valleys.
- Tripura is a landlocked state with small hills and low-lying land with numerous deep rivers and valleys.

- The hills of the state run from north to south and parallel to one another till they disappear in the plains of Bangladesh.
- Around 70 percent of North East India is hilly terrain.
- Almost 70 per cent of the world's orchids are found in India's Northeast.
- The North-East India has been identified as one of the world's seven richest biodiversity areas by Myers 2000.
- The world's largest riverine island, the Majuli, is in the Northeast.

How does it affect the climate there?

- The north-eastern states are among India's least developed, so they get special financial support from the central government.
- Initial scientific research and field observations confirm that the region is suffering from the impacts of climate change already.
- Due to its unique location and topography, it has distinct precipitation and drainage patterns.
- From March to May, thunderstorms contribute about 20 % of annual rainfall. From June to September, monsoon rains supply another 70 %.
- The monsoon season is marked by frequent floods, as melting Himalayan snow and torrential rains feed the majestic Brahmaputra River.
- Because of climate change, moreover, rainfall is becoming more unpredictable and erratic.
- The impact on people, fields and livestock is devastating and set to get worse.
- The North East India, which normally receives heavy rainfall during the monsoon months (June-September), has changed character for the worse.
- The flood-drought cycle now has begun to happen within a year, especially during the monsoon.
- The rains come in quick bursts and flood the region, followed by elongated dry periods that border on drought.
- The climate of North East India is changing: Rainfall patterns over the region in the last century have considerably changed, resulting in its overall drying up.
- During the monsoon, rainfall patterns in North East India differed significantly from one sunspot epoch to another, suggesting differential intensification of the seasonal trough of low pressure over the country.

Conclusion

Northeast India has a subtropical climate that is influenced by its relief and influences from the southwest and northeast monsoons. The Himalayas to the north, the Meghalaya plateau to the south and the hills of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur to the east influences the climate but the climate forecasts indicate that these trends will be exacerbated in the future.

4. What is the Pacific Rim? Why is this region unique? Explain.

Approach

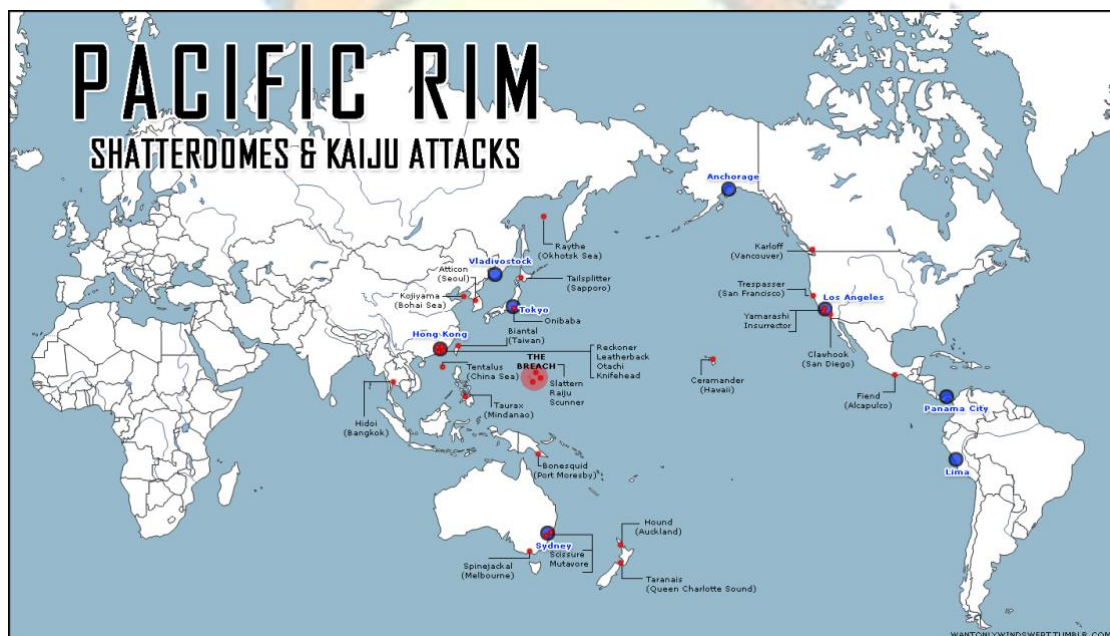
Candidates should explain the Pacific Rim and Why is this region unique.

Introduction

The Pacific Rim is a geographical term used to describe land located along the rim of the Pacific Ocean that overlaps the Pacific Ring of Fire – an area in the Pacific Ocean where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.

The Pacific Rim is also part of the Pacific Basin, which includes all lands in the Pacific Rim and all islands in the Pacific Ocean.

There are many nations and territories that are designated as part of the Pacific Rim.



Why is this region unique?

- The area encircling the Pacific Ocean is called the "Ring of Fire," because its edges mark a circle of high volcanic and seismic activity (earthquakes). Most of the active volcanoes on Earth are located on this circumference.
- In the post–World War II era, the Pacific Rim has become an increasingly important and interconnected economic region.
- The Pacific Rim includes countries bordering the Pacific Ocean from North and South America to Asia to Oceania.
- Most of these countries have experienced major economic change and growth to become components of an economically integrated trade region.
- While there is some degree of cultural sharing, the Pacific Rim region is really united through trade. A great deal of the world's trade crosses the Pacific

Ocean, and the coastlines along this ocean are responsible for managing some of the world's leading export and import industries.

- For a supposedly “peaceful” ocean, the Pacific Rim harbours some of the world’s busiest geological features, including volcanoes and earthquakes.
- Also known as the “Ring of Fire,” the geological features of this region around the Pacific Ocean give scientists insights into the seething cauldron that is the planet’s interior.
- Four-fifths of the world’s seismic activity happens in this location.

Conclusion:

More than half of the world’s currently active volcanoes circle the Pacific Ocean; hence its nickname, “Ring of Fire”. With such lively activity occurring daily around the rim of the Pacific Ocean, it’s no wonder that geologists keep close tabs on the Ring of Fire.

5. What do you understand by the term ‘drought’? Why are some parts of the world more prone to droughts than others? Explain.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the what is drought and explain why there are few regions more drought prone than with underlying factors.

Introduction:

In India, around 68% of the country is prone to drought to varying degrees. The 35% area which receives rainfall between 750 mm and 1125 mm is considered drought-prone while 33% receiving less than 750 mm is chronically drought-prone.

Body

Drought:

Drought is a prolonged dry period in the natural climate cycle that can occur anywhere in the world. It is a slow-onset disaster characterized by the lack of precipitation, resulting in a water shortage. Drought can have a serious impact on health, agriculture, economies, energy and the environment.

Some part of world more prone to droughts than others:

- Erratic monsoons: The South-west monsoon accounts for 70 to 80 per cent of the annual rainfall over major parts of India. Failure of monsoons, for reasons like El Nino etc, is the major reason for droughts in India.

- Skewed distribution of monsoon: This makes some regions, like the leeward side of Western Ghats, chronically prone to droughts.
- Depletion of water resources: Depletion of surface and sub-surface water resources, especially in areas of low yearly rainfall for example Patagonian desert.
- Socio-Economic Drought: In the social and economical drought occurs when, the availability of food and income is low for example sub Saharan Africa due to crop failure and social security.
- Agricultural Drought: In meteorological or hydro logical drought harms to the crop yield in an area. It is considered to be affected by agricultural drought. The crop failure and low yields affects the income of the farmers in which leads to difficulties in meeting the essential requirements.
- Climate change is also altering the timing of water availability: Warmer winter temperatures are causing less precipitation to fall as snow in the Northern Hemisphere, including in key regions like the Sierra Nevada of California.
- Prolonged drought: Much of Australia is facing a drought that is a result of three consecutive summers (36 months) with very little precipitation.
- El Niño: is a recurring climate event during which abnormally warm equatorial Pacific waters pull moisture-laden clouds away from the Indian subcontinent.
- Faulty cropping systems: that lead to excessive wastage of water like the flooding of fields during rice sowing for example Punjab Haryana in India.
- Building unviable large dams, wrong cropping patterns, water diversion for non-priority uses, neglect of local water systems and unaccountable water management by the government for example in Maharashtra India.

International Efforts:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP).
- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) developed a Drought Risk Reduction framework.
- Great Green Wall: Initiative by Global Environment Facility (GEF), where eleven countries in Sahel-Saharan Africa have focused efforts to fight against land degradation and revive native plant life to the landscape.

Conclusion

Successive governments have come and gone, not giving proper importance to areas frequently affected by droughts. To ensure 'per drop more crop', integration of technology in to irrigation methods is done for assuring 'Samrudh Kisan, Samrudh Bharat'. Besides as a supplementary measure we can incorporate traditional water harvesting and water management techniques which will help India to have a water security.

1.What are the current set of challenges impeding girl education in India? Analyse.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about current status of girls education in India and what are the current challenges impeding girl education in India.

Introduction

Girls' education goes beyond getting girls into school. It is also about ensuring that girls learn and feel safe while in school; have the opportunity to complete all levels of education, acquiring the knowledge and skills to compete in the labour market; gain socio-emotional and life skills necessary to navigate and adapt to a changing world; make decisions about their own lives; and contribute to their communities and the world.

Body

Every day, girls face barriers to education caused by poverty, cultural norms and practices, poor infrastructure, violence and fragility. Girls' education is a strategic development priority for the World Bank.

- Reasons for Girls Dropping Out: The reasons for girls dropping out in India are varied. The primary ones are obvious: Girls drop out of school because,
- Engaged in domestic activities (31.9%)
- Have financial constraints (18.4%),
- Not interested in education (15.3%),
- Get married (12.4%).
- Gender Biases and Social Norms: The problem is not only rooted in poverty and poor quality of school education, but also gender biases and outdated social norms. Gender bias within schools and classrooms may also reinforce messages that affect girls' ambitions, their own perceptions of their roles in society, and produce labour market engagement disparities and occupational segregation
- The states having the highest rate of secondary school drop-outs among girls are also the ones where a significant percentage of girls get married before the age of 18 years.
- Low Expenditure on Girls Education: Deep-rooted gender biases are also reflected in the choice of schools, access to private tuitions and the choice of discipline in higher education.
- The average annual household expenditure on girls at this level is Rs 2,860 less than that on boys.
- In India, the average annual cost for professional courses is much higher compared to that of simple graduation programmes (Rs 50,000 vs Rs 8,000).
- Of the girls who do manage to enrol in a tertiary degree, a smaller proportion go on to pursue professional courses such as engineering (28.5%), while many

more take courses such as pharmacy (58.7%) or opt for “normal graduation” (52%) as per AISHE 2019-20.

- Their representation is lowest in institutions of national importance, followed by deemed and private universities.
- When gender stereotypes are communicated through the design of school and classroom learning environments or through the behaviour of faculty, staff, and peers in a child’s school, it goes on to have sustained impact on academic performance and choice of field of study, especially negatively affecting young women pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.
- Poverty is one of the most important factors for determining whether a girl can access and complete her education. Studies consistently reinforce that girls who face multiple disadvantages — such as low family income, living in remote or underserved locations or who have a disability or belong to a minority ethno-linguistic group — are farthest behind in terms of access to and completion of education.
- Violence also prevents girls from accessing and completing education – often girls are forced to walk long distances to school placing them at an increased risk of violence and many experience violence while at school.
- Most recent data estimates that approximately 60 million girls are sexually assaulted on their way to or at school every year. This often has serious consequences for their mental and physical health and overall well-being while also leading to lower attendance and higher dropout rates.
- Child marriage is also a critical challenge. Girls who marry young are much more likely to drop out of school, complete fewer years of education than their peers who marry later. They are also more likely to have children at a young age and are exposed to higher levels of violence perpetrated by their partner. In turn, this affects the education and health of their children, as well as their ability to earn a living. Indeed, girls with secondary schooling are up to six times more likely to marry as those children with little or no education.

Way Forward

- To overcome these systemic challenges, the government has taken a number of initiatives in the past such as the National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), supernumerary seats in all IITs and the PRAGATI Scholarship scheme for girls in technical education.
- However, in these unprecedented times, we need unprecedented measures to address the issue of girl child school drop-outs and bring more girls in professionally and monetarily rewarding fields of higher education.

Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges, especially for girls. However, with recent experiments and learning experience, informed targeting of ample resources and an agile policy environment, this challenge could well prove to be an opportunity. Given the right enabling environment, educational outcomes can be improved. Addressing gender bias in education requires providing social, financial and emotional support to the girl child.

2. Do you think the current policy framework for uplifting the socio-economic status of tribal's in India needs rethinking? Why? Substantiate.**Approach**

In this question candidates need to write about current status of tribal in India. and is current policy framework for uplifting the socio economic status of tribal's needs rethinking. Give your points and Substantiate.

Introduction

The tribal population in India, though a numerically small minority, represents an enormous diversity of groups. It is widely acknowledged that a large section of the Indian population, especially the tribal communities, have not received the full benefits of development processes undertaken over the past seven decades and adversely affected by the developmental projects undertaken during this period hence rethinking of current policy framework is need of hour .

Body

Accordingly, the Prime Minister's Office constituted a High-Level Committee (HLC) in 2013, under chairmanship of Prof. Virginius Xaxa. The Committee was mandated to examine the socio-economic, educational and health status of tribal communities and recommend appropriate interventional measures to improve the same. It submitted report in May, 2014.

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes explains a scheduled tribe is one with Primitiveness, geographical isolation, shyness and social, educational & economic backwardness due to these reasons are the traits that distinguish Scheduled Tribe communities of our country from other communities.
- Tribal people constitute 8.6% of the nation's total population, over 104 million people according to the 2011 census. The forest occupiers a central position in tribal culture and economy. The tribal way of life is very much dictated by the forest right from birth to death
- There are over 700 Scheduled Tribes in India according to The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. While often clubbed under the same umbrella. They vary among themselves in respect of language and linguistic traits, ecological settings in which they live.
- The first Backward Classes Commission (Kaka Kalelkar Commission, 1953) appointed by the President of India under Article 340, defined Scheduled Tribes as "They lead a separate exclusive existence and are not fully assimilated in the main body of the people. They may belong to any religion."

Why rethinking of policy framework is necessary for uplifting socio economic condition of tribal's in India.

- Substantial resources have been allocated specifically for tribes in all these spheres, and special programmes and schemes have also been formulated to address problems on these fronts, beginning from the first phase of India's

planned development. And yet the status of tribes in these spheres continues to be one of the critical gaps in India's road to development. This also raises the question of institutions and systems for delivery of public goods and services.

- Massive development displacement: As a part of the faulty nation-building process, tribal areas have witnessed the large-scale development of industry, mining, infrastructure projects such as roads and railways, hydraulic projects such as dams and irrigation. These have been followed by processes of urbanization as well.
- It has been often loss of livelihood, massive displacement and involuntary migration of tribes.
- There is also argument for inadequate resource allocation for tribal development and Poor implementation of programmes is offered as another explanation for the issue of lack of social development among tribes.
- Another arguments regarding poor development of the tribal populations is built around the issue of the traditional socio-cultural aspects of tribal life For example, education in the regional language is usually familiar to the general population, including the Scheduled Castes, but this is not the case in the tribal context.
- States of Jharkhand and Odisha, which have considerable natural resources, but also the highest percentages of tribal people living below the poverty line.
- Overcoming tribal 'isolation' through large-scale mining, industrial and infrastructure projects, as these States have witnessed, has clearly not resolved the problem of poor development indicators. Rather, these have led to further impoverishment and vulnerability.
- The model of development imposed on tribals has been questioned. Massive push to this development agenda with economic liberalisation and the entry of private corporations into tribal areas, has been met with considerable resistance by tribal communities.
- Laws and rules that provide protection to tribes are being routinely manipulated and subverted to accommodate corporate interests.
- The Independent India adopted a constitution which tried to placate the historical injustices to tribal's, the fifth and sixth schedules dedicated to the administration of the tribal's, and to undo the injustices of colonial India, the policy of affirmative action towards Scheduled tribes are some among the various actions taken in Independent India to better accommodate them in the Indian State.

Conclusion-

Tribal's form an integral part of India which needs to be protected from clutches of private interest. Government may use recommendation of XAXA Committee for the protection and development of tribal's. As more number of tribes are being assimilated into the mainstream, there is an urgent need for effective implementation of these schemes to safeguard tribal culture and uplift their lives socially and economically.

3. Critically evaluate the status of India's healthcare infrastructure to tackle pandemics. You can take the COVID-19 pandemic as a case study to illustrate your point.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to critically express his views on whether or not the French revolution achieved its intended objectives?

Introduction

India, which has the second-largest population in the world is suffering severely from COVID-19 disease. Although the number of COVID-19 cases are still low in India currently, experts have warned against community spread of the disease which will lead to rapid and huge increase in demand for health facilities.

India's Healthcare Infrastructure to Tackle Covid-19 Pandemic: Case Study

Private healthcare is expensive and unavailable for many poor households in India which leaves public healthcare facilities as the only available option for them. For patients who are found to be COVID-19 positive, isolation wards are needed; additionally, for critical cases, intensive care is needed. Currently, almost all suspected cases of coronavirus are referred to government hospitals and it's important to assess where we stand in terms of medical capacity to provide necessary healthcare to the affected individuals.

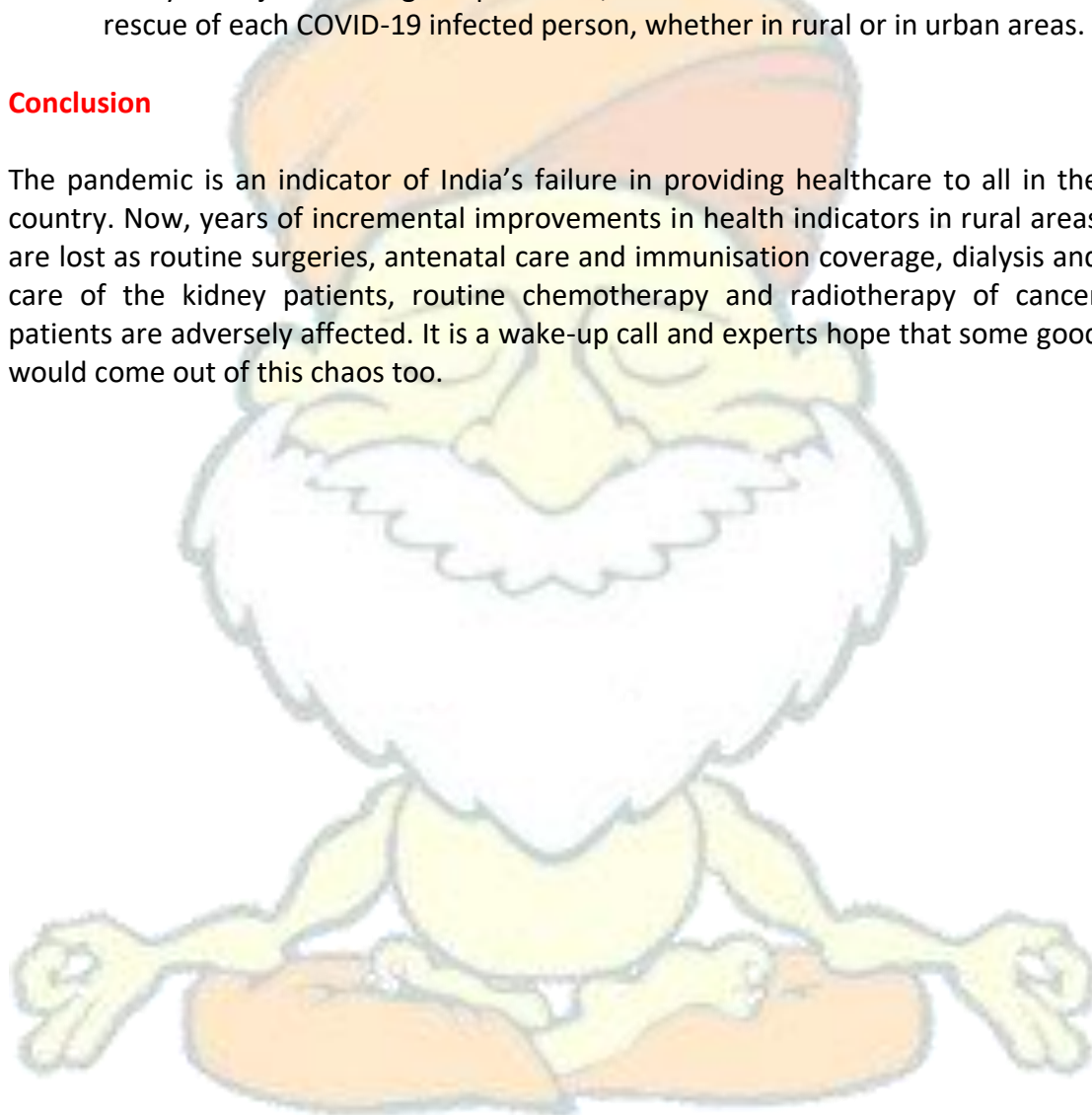
Situation

- Using data from National Health Profile–2019, we observed that there are 7,13,986 total government hospital beds available in India. This amounts to 0.55 beds per 1000 population.
- The major reason public healthcare has failed to perform during the pandemic is the deficiency in infrastructure — both in terms of physical structures and human resources.
- As per the reports, rural districts accounted for 45.4 per cent of the total COVID-19 cases in the country and 50.8 per cent of the deaths.
- Yet, hospitals in rural areas have just 37 per cent of the beds available in all government hospitals across the country, admits the National Health Profile of India for 2019.
- India's public health expenditure (a sum of Central and state spending) has remained between 1.2 per cent and 1.8 per cent of GDP between 2008-09 and 2019-21.

- This is quite low when compared with other countries such as China (3.2 per cent), US (8.5 per cent) and Germany (9.4 per cent).
- The National Health Mission, which envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality healthcare services, receives about 50 per cent of the budgetary allocation for health.
- Worse, the allocations for the rural component (National Rural Health Mission) have decreased by 3 per cent since last year.
- Even state-level insurance schemes did not perform well. Chhattisgarh, for instance, has a universal healthcare scheme, the Khoobchand Baghel Swasthya Sahayata Yojana. During the pandemic, this scheme should have come to the rescue of each COVID-19 infected person, whether in rural or in urban areas.

Conclusion

The pandemic is an indicator of India's failure in providing healthcare to all in the country. Now, years of incremental improvements in health indicators in rural areas are lost as routine surgeries, antenatal care and immunisation coverage, dialysis and care of the kidney patients, routine chemotherapy and radiotherapy of cancer patients are adversely affected. It is a wake-up call and experts hope that some good would come out of this chaos too.



4. Why should skilling the population be a key priority for the government? Analyse in the light of India's current demographic composition and the associated challenges.

Approach

Candidates should explain Why did the Europeans become colonial powers and how did colonies serve their economic and political interests?

Introduction

At precisely the year 2020, the proportion of those Indians who belong to the working age (15 to 64 years of age) and those who are dependent was almost 50-50. Between 2020 and 2040, this proportion is expected to turn even more favourable. But whether this will turn into a demographic dividend or not will depend entirely on how many of those in the working age bracket are working and becoming prosperous.

India's current demographic composition and the associated challenges

- Unemployment in India is an issue that is holding back the creative urges of the youth of the country, and even has the potential to turn our demographic dividend into a demographic disaster.
- our economy was the second-fastest growing economy in the world for few the past few years till a relative slowdown two years ago got accentuated into a sharp fall caused by the ongoing Covid pandemic.
- But it must be remembered that the unemployment scenario only worsened with the outbreak of Covid but the truth of the matter is that unemployment had raised its ugly head even before the economy began to tank and it came to a grinding halt after the lockdowns during the first wave of last year.
- Already high, joblessness only increased many folds with thousands of people losing jobs across India, adding to the problem. Besides, there is a significant chunk of disguised unemployment as well that becomes difficult to trap in data.
- According to the 2018 report by NCAER, India had about 468 million people in its workforce.
- Around 92% of them were in the informal sector. Around 31% were illiterate, only 13% had a primary education, and only 6% were college graduates.
- Further, only about 2% of the workforce had formal vocational training, and only 9% had non-formal, vocational training.
- Besides, our growth pattern, driven by capital intensive automated manufacturing processes increase growth, but do not result in corresponding growth in jobs. Even mega investments in plants and projects fail to provide employment as similar investments in the past used to, leaving many seeking employments high and dry.

Why should skilling the population be a key priority for the government

- Now the above discusses challenges brings us to two questions: if jobless growth is something that we as a country must follow and whether there was a need to relook at this phenomenon, and give a greater thrust to labour, and give a policy push to this factor of production so that their interests are well looked after.
- Now, this is the kind of solutions that we can come up with unless we take a fresh look with an open mind and a new approach—:
- Firstly, we should treat our unemployed youth as a labour force that gave the country a distinctive advantage over many countries that have greying societies. They desperately need human resources to run their cities and utilities, without which life would become difficult.
- The trick is to make our labour force, skilled and competitive, able to take up assignments across the globe.
- Hence the only solution to solving the India's current demographic composition associated challenges is to make our labour force, skilled and competitive, able to take up assignments across the globe.
- It is here that the Union Government can pitch in, with aggressive marketing of the services that our youth can take up.
- In the areas of IT and IT-enabled services, our professionals are already on a strong wicket and are much in demand across the globe. If only they were sufficiently skilled and aware of the conditions there—physical, climatic, and way of life.
- Perhaps a little training and improvement of their skills is what is required to make them ready for an assignment abroad.
- This size advantage of the youthful population can turn into a massive problem, indications of which already exist, unless our training and skilling processes close the ever-widening skills gap.

Conclusion:

Learning should not stop with earning. Only a skilled person will grow in today's world. This is applicable to both people and countries," while exhorting the stakeholders to continuously skill, re-skill and up-skill. If the skilling issue is not resolved, India risks forfeiting its so-called "demographic dividend". Thanks to the fact that India's working-age population is growing faster than its population of young and old dependents, there is great opportunity for India to improve both its social and economic outcomes if the higher number of workers are productively employed.

5. Do you think poverty and hunger are two sides of the same coin? Why or why not? Explain.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write poverty and hunger. Analyze the statement how poverty and hunger are same also highlight different angle a perspective how there is difference between hunger and poverty with highlighting different dimension of hunger.

Introduction:

Poverty and hunger have been a universal and increasing menace to humankind. Poverty is a condition characterized by lack of basic needs such as water, health care, foods, sufficient access to social and economic services, and few opportunities for formal income generation. Hunger and food insecurity are the most serious forms of extreme poverty.

Body

Poverty and hunger two side of same coin:

- Hunger is due to poverty as poverty always has led to people going without regular meals because they cannot afford to eat. The main outcome of poverty is hunger.
- Poverty manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to land and livelihood , social discrimination and elimination at work can also create poverty led hunger.
- Therefore mostly weaker section and financial deprived people are suspected to the hunger.
- Sub saharan Africa and other poor underdeveloped countries has the high hunger as per the Global hunger Index.
- Recent Covid led economic crisis was deepening as people who lost their jobs were yet to find replacements and little had been accomplished after the lockdown for the revival of livelihoods many were going through hunger. The net of hunger became more widespread as more people had to start skipping some meals in a day.
- Things were much worse for socially vulnerable groups such as households headed by single women, households with people having disabilities, transgender people and old persons without caregivers.

Hunger different from poverty:

- Climate change: Climate change has significant implications for people's diet and nutrition. Reduced access to foods impairs nutritional status and diminishes resilience, particularly in climate hit communities.

- War led mass starvation: UN unanimously passed a resolution condemning the use of food insecurity and starvation as a tactic of war. Ending hunger and extreme food insecurity features among the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- Social exclusion: Many times due to social exclusion and lack of proper documentation for certain governments schemes make community go hungry despite eligible for schemes.
- Protein hunger: Pulses are a major contributor to address protein hunger. However, there is not enough budgetary allocations done to tackle the problem. With Eggs missing from menus of Mid-day Meals in various States, an easy way to improve protein intake is lost.
- Micronutrient deficiency: (also known as hidden hunger): India faces a severe crisis in micronutrient deficiency. Its causes include poor diet, disease, or increased micronutrient needs not met during pregnancy and lactation.

Government Interventions:

- Food Fortification: Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- National Food Security Act, 2013: It legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- POSHAN Abhiyan: Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2018, it targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls).

Conclusion

With the largest number of undernourished people in the world, India needs to hasten to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 of 'Zero Hunger' by 2030. The GHI ranking should prompt us to look at our policy focus and interventions and ensure that they can effectively address the concerns raised, especially against Covid-19-induced nutrition insecurity.

1. Why was Britain the first country to industrialise? Discuss the causative factors. How did other countries catch up? Examine.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about factors lead to industrialisation of Britain .what lead to Britain became first country to industrialise and how did others countries catch up with Britain.

Introduction

The Industrial Revolution began first in Britain in the 1700s. Historians have identified several reasons for why the Industrial Revolution began first in Britain, including: the effects of the Agricultural Revolution, large supplies of coal, geography of the country, a positive political climate, and a vast colonial empire. After Britain waves of industrialisation started flowing to other countries of world.

Body

- The Agricultural Revolution was a major event in world history and had a profound effect on life in Britain. For example, many historians consider the Agricultural Revolution to be a major cause of the Industrial Revolution, especially in terms of when and how it began in Britain. For instance, the Industrial Revolution began due in part to an increase in food production, which was the key outcome of the Agricultural Revolution.
- The next main reason for why Britain was the first to industrialize was the large supplies of coal present in the country. Coal was a necessary ingredient in the industrial process as it fuelled the steam engines that were used in trains, ships and all other sorts of machinery.
- Not only did Britain have large supplies of the resource, but it was also easily obtainable. Unlike other European nations, coal in Britain was relatively close to the surface and was therefore relatively easy for miners to find and extract it. The mining of coal became even easier after the invention of the steam engine by Thomas Newcomen, which was originally used to pump water out of coal mines.
- The third main reason for Britain's industrialization was the basic geography of the country. An important aspect of early industrialization was the ability of people to transport goods and resources easily across the country. For example, goods produced in factories needed to be able to be transported cheaply and reliably to market so that they could be sold for a profit. At the same time, factory owners needed to have raw materials shipped to their factories so that they could be turned into consumer goods.
- Britain had some of the best rivers for easily and affordably transporting goods and resources. Improvements in shipbuilding and the introduction of the steamboat furthered Britain's dominance in this area. As well, as the Industrial Revolution began in the country, several entrepreneurs, constructed canal systems that helped expand Britain's transportation capabilities. As such, the geography of the country allowed industrialization to flourish because it made transporting goods easy for the factory owners.
- The next major reason for Britain being the first country to industrialize was the political climate of the time. In the 1700s, Britain had a stable government after having gone through civil war and revolution in the decades before. In contrast, France underwent its own revolution in the late 1780s and 1790s (French Revolution), meaning it was not concerned with industrialization and was instead focused on its own internal conflict.

- British government was open to the ideas of laissez-faire capitalism which were necessary for industrialization to occur. For example, the British government promoted free trade policies with its neighbouring countries which helped create markets for British produced goods.
- The final reason for why Britain was the first country to industrialize was due in large part to its vast colonial empire. When the Industrial Revolution began, Britain was in the midst of the Age of Imperialism, which saw European nations explore and dominate vast areas of land around the world.
- Britain had the largest empire out of all of the countries participating in the Age of Imperialism. For example, by the 1700s, Britain had control over areas such as: North America, South Africa, Egypt, India and Australia.
- This is important because it gave Britain access to huge amounts of natural resources that it could then use in the factories that developed during the Industrial Revolution.
- The industrial revolution began in Great Britain in the late 1770s before spreading to the rest of Europe. The first European countries to be industrialized after England were Belgium, France and the German states.
- The rest of Europe didn't industrialize until after 1850. Spain, Portugal, Austria-Hungary, Italy and the Ottoman Empire started to industrialize very late in the 19th century.
- Belgium was the second country in Europe in which the industrial revolution took place and the first nation in continental Europe. Belgium became the world's second industrial power, after Britain.
- In France, industrialization was slower, due to its lack of coal and iron. By the end of the 19th century, the majority of French workers were still employed in non-manufacturing jobs. When France did fully industrialize, textile and furniture manufacturing became the dominant industries.
- In Germany, industrialization was also slow, due to the region being divided into several independent states rather than a unified country, but Germany eventually became a global leader in chemical research in industrial and university labs.
- The industrial revolution in America began after two textile manufacturers, Samuel Slater and Francis Cabot Lowell, introduced mechanized textile manufacturing to the United States in the late 1790s and early 1800s.
- The industrial revolution came late to India, due to its complicated political and economic relationship with Great Britain.

Conclusion

The Industrial Revolution became one of the major forces of change in the nineteenth century as it led Western civilization into the industrial era that has characterized the modern world. Beginning in Britain, its spread to the Continent and the new American nation ensured its growth and domination of the Western world.

2. Compare and contrast the unification of Germany vis a vis Italy. How did their unification shape the future of Europe? Explain.**Approach**

The candidate has to Compare and contrast the unification of Germany vis a vis Italy. The candidate also has to explain How did their unification shape the future of Europe.

Introduction

By 1871, Europe was remapped with the rise of two newly united nations - the Kingdom of Italy and the German Empire. The unification movements of both countries took place at roughly the same time in the mid-19th century and were motivated by the same historical trends - that of liberalism and nationalism.

Compare between the unification of Germany vis a vis Italy

- One of many similarities in terms of the unification process is that for the two countries, unification was led by the most economically advanced state.
- In Germany, as in Italy, Austria- was the main obstacle to unification. Nonetheless, inside the Confederation, Austria had to face the rivalry of another powerful German state - Prussia.
- Probably the most obvious commonalities one can point out is the fact that in order to be specific, these countries were separated first. Italy was divided into the 11 original states it had been in prior to Napoleonic era; whereas the number of states in Germany was significantly lowered from about 300 to 39.
- Both leaders used diplomacy and military action to attain unification, but they differed in which tactic dominated their unification efforts.
- Both Italy and Germany's unification techniques started with failed innovation in 1848.
- In both unification procedures Napoleon III was in some way involved.

Contrast between the unification of Germany vis a vis Italy

- As the clear aim in Germany was a specific nation, Italia did not have the same clear-cut objective. Bismarck wanted unity from quite at the beginning in the process, since his main goal was to regulation over Australia and to be the leader of your entire land. Cavour however, was strongly opposed to unification for a long time. It wasn't till unification was inevitable that Cavour was behind it.
- Germany specific for seriously political and economic causes, whereas in Italy concentration resulted in anything more cathedral based.
- Germany also gained their unification through direct and open conflict. On the contrary, Italy's objected was to separate themselves from France in

hope of a solitary government. There were tremendous ups and downs for Italy and her people, and unification fit the need at the time.

- Where Italy was under a thumb of foreign control, Germany was independent. Some of the foreign controls for Italy included Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Pope, the Duchies of Spoleto and the kingdom of Two Sicilies. Germany entered unification with a major war with France and later established world power, but this was through denial of advice from multiple areas, including the Pope.
- Nevertheless, a circumstance of unification that Italia faced was that once the nation had been specific, there was not any freedom of faith: Catholicism ruled supreme by the order in the Pope. In Germany, concentration was disconnected from faith and there is little performed over the lifestyle of both Protestants and Catholics within Germany.
- Germany won their unification quickly and swift, just seven weeks, where Italy was a bloody battle for their solitary government for multiple years and multiple leaders. Italy took years longer along with a lot of leader and king restructuring too finally gain the same success as Germany.

How did their unification shape the future of Europe?

- The unification of both Germany and Italy changed each country forever. The impact for both the unification of Germany and Italy created a forceful mindset for independence, economic growth, and a strong nationalism. However, to each its own can be a statement here, as the unifications also brought bloody war, separation, and controlling politics.
- The emergence of two newly-born nations marked a shifting balance of power in Europe, especially in favour of Germany. In fact, the unifications of Germany and Italy changed the balance of power in Europe in terms of substance and nature.
- France was not the dominant power in European politics after the unifications of Germany and Italy. Over the several decades before 1870, France reigned supreme in the continent.
- The unification of Germany and Italy, in spite of the fact that democracy was not completely victorious there, marked a great advance in the history of the two countries.
- The revolutions and movements described above, along with the Industrial Revolution, deeply influenced the course of the history of mankind. The forces that generated these revolutions and movements were also at work in other countries.
- Their success in one place fed the fires of revolt and encouraged change in the rest of the world. They are still being felt today, transforming social, political and economic life everywhere.

Conclusion

Italian unification owed much to the leadership of Piedmont and Cavour, and to French and Prussian military role. Yet, forces from below were also important, especially the liberals and nationalists who rallied to Cavour and Garibaldi. On the other hand, "unification from above" was clearly the pattern in Germany. It was achieved mainly by Prussia, her army, her ruling Junker class, and the Junker leader Bismarck. Also, it was not so much the unification of Germany and Italy which transformed Europe, but the measures designed to manage it.

3. Do you think the French revolution achieved its intended objectives? Critically comment.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to critically express his views on whether or not the French revolution achieved its intended objectives?

Introduction

French revolution was a revolution that marked the end of a historical era and the beginning of the contemporary age, it marks a dividing line between the ancient regime and the French Revolution: the monarchical absolutism that governed feudal society. It ended the system of absolute monarchies of the European countries, which was based on the principle that all powers resided in the king, who was the source of all power by divine right; such right was the legal and philosophical basis of his sovereignty.

The main objectives of French Revolution were:

- To put an end to the monarchy.
- To eliminate the feudal system and excessive privileges and inequalities.
- Build a more modern state.
- Declare the rights of man and citizens. To create the French Republic.
- Separate the powers of the State and establish sovereignty.

Whether or not the French revolution achieved its intended objectives?

To a certain extent the French revolution was successful in achieving its objectives. The achievement includes:

- The first Constitution was formed, and the ecclesiastical goods were eliminated so that, they were passed on to the nation to solve economic problems.

- It also stirred feelings of national pride that had not existed before. Enlightenment ideas triumphed over the monarchy and the United States was born creating a new political system.
- Servitude, feudal rights and tithes were eliminated; property was disintegrated and the principle of equitable distribution in the payment of taxes was introduced.
- The Revolution also saw the beginnings of socialist theory, such as the necessity of economic planning and a greater equality between the rich and the poor.
- These theories, along with a growing nationalism, would play a significant role in European politics in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- The abolition of absolute monarchy in France was a direct consequence of the process which succeeded in putting an end to the privileges of the aristocracy and clergy.
- The principles of freedom of worship and freedom of expression written in the Declaration of Human Rights were established, freedom of conscience and civil rights for Protestants and Jews were initiated.
- Perhaps one of the most important outcomes of the French Revolution is that it gave many citizens a taste of liberty, equality, and power, however briefly it lasted.

But to some extent it failed as well the failures include:

- One of the most obvious failures of the French Revolution was the Reign of Terror from 1793-94.
- The Terror, which was orchestrated by Robespierre and his followers, was ostensibly a way to provide for the security of the Republic by exposing traitors to the people.
- Instead of putting into practice the democratic ideals of liberty and equality that he spoke of in public, Robespierre used the Terror to execute or imprison thousands of people who he viewed as a threat. Violence and chaos were two of the main characteristics of the Revolution.
- Besides the Reign of Terror, there were revolts by rural peasants against their lords; bread riots by the sans-culottes in the cities; the September Massacres and the brutal handling of the insurrection in the Vendean department.
- On top of all this, France was at war with most of Europe for all but the early years of the Revolution.
- The French Revolution also failed to establish a constitutional monarchy or a representative government. France began in 1789 with the absolute monarch of Louis XVI and ended with the military dictatorship of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Conclusion

Like many radical upheavals, the French Revolution resulted in some successes as well as many failures. Even the outcomes that were viewed as positive, however, came at a very high price.

4. Why did the Europeans become colonial powers? How did colonies serve their economic and political interests? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates should explain Why did the Europeans become colonial powers and how did colonies serve their economic and political interests?

Introduction

Colonial powers began as early as the first decades of the sixteenth century. From the 16th century until the 20th century, the major colonizers in Southeast Asia were European powers, including the British, French, Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese.

Why did the Europeans become colonial powers?

- The reason European countries wanted more colonies was that colonies helped countries accumulate wealth and power. Having more land also gave a country more global power and allowed them to establish strategic military positions across the world.
- The reasons for African colonisation were mainly economic, political and religious. These countries became involved in a race to acquire more territory on the African continent, but this race was open to all European countries. Another reason for European interest in Africa is the industrialization when major social problems grew in Europe: unemployment, poverty, homelessness, social displacement from rural areas, etc.
- Europe saw the colonization of Africa as an opportunity to acquire a surplus population, thus settler colonies were created.
- The reasons for the “Growth of American Imperialism was because of Economic, Political, Religious, Exploratory. Economic- Desire to make money, expands and control foreign trade, acquire raw materials and cheap labor, etc.
- The motivations for the first wave of colonial expansion can be summed up as God, Gold, and Glory: God, because missionaries felt it was their moral duty to spread Christianity, and they believed a higher power would reward them for saving the souls of colonial subjects; gold, because colonizers would exploit resources.
- As the Europeans saw it, the range of the European lifestyle would significantly increase living standards for the peopled.
- While economic motives were obviously the primary motivation for colonial development, the Europeans thought that they were not only refining the natives’ conditions, but they were redeeming their mortal souls by bringing Christianity to them.
- Politics played a big role in colonialization, seeing colonies as a sign of power and global supremacy; however, every country had their own strategic reasons.

- One of the main factors, in my personal opinion, is the Europeans belief in white- supremacy.

How did colonies serve their economic and political interests?

- Several nations of the Europe became most powerful at some point in history, with five major countries rising to power with one thing in their mind to be more superior to other countries. Spain, Portugal, England, France, and Netherlands became dominant nations of Europe outshining the other nations.
- Establishment of colonies globally enhanced the level of trade with the countries and profits. The five European nations travelled around the world colonizing the empires that they could find in the effort of achieving complete supremacy. Colonization brought the European countries wealth and enormous power but it also brought the emergence of different cultures, and people with different identities.
- Economically, the Europeans depleted many of the resources that the colonies had. The European went in, plundered what they wanted, and sold it to their home countries, with the colonies receiving none of the profit.
- Everywhere in the American colonies, a crushing demand for labor existed to grow New World cash crops, especially sugar and tobacco. This need led Europeans to rely increasingly on Africans, and after 1600, the movement of Africans across the Atlantic accelerated.
- The European benefitted by taking Silver and Gold from Americas, Wealth from trade, monopoly rights from Multinational trading companies,
- Mercantilism and Favourable Balance of Trade and Rise of capitalism (smaller nongovernmental monopolies, producing more manufactured goods) are the other ways in which the European benefitted from colonies.
- Politically the European benefitted by means of Monarchies supported by overseas trade, Monopoly Companies, Tax trade, large navies and armies, Overseas Empires etc.
- With colonialism European nations spread their influence across the globe. They brought European culture; language, religion, government and education systems to many different regions in the world.

Conclusion:

In short Colonialism did not, however, merely impact the development of those societies that did the colonising. Most obviously, it also affected the societies that were colonised. This is because colonialism ended up creating very distinct sorts of societies in different places. In particular, colonialism left very different institutional legacies in different parts of the world, with profoundly divergent consequences for economic development.

5. What is the philosophical basis of communism. How does it differ from socialism and capitalism? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about use of emotions during crisis of conscience and confusion in the decision making. How following emotion can help in personal public life.

Introduction:

Communism is a political, economic, and philosophical ideology that aims to create a classless society based on equal rights for all, regardless of social class (labour or bourgeoisie), over the means of production. This ideology advocates for the radical uprooting of the wealthy ruling class in order to establish a democratic free society with no class divisions and shared ownership of the means of production.

Body

Difference with socialism and capitalism:

Ideological difference:

- In capitalism Maximisation of profit by any means necessary. It also believes in Laissez-Faire, a philosophy which emphasizes on leaving circumstance to run their natural course without any external intervention.
- In socialism From each according to his ability, to each according to his contribution.
- Whereas in communism From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.
- One way communism differs from socialism is that it calls for the transfer of power to the working class by revolutionary rather than gradual means.
- The official ideology of the ruling parties of China, Cuba, Laos and Vietnam but China and Cuba have loosened economic restrictions and allowed free market activities.

Ownership of Economic Resources:

- In capitalism ownership of economic resources and property is actively encouraged with little to no government intervention
- In communism all economic resources are publicly owned and controlled by the government. Individuals hold no personal property or assets.
- In socialism Individuals can own personal property but all industrial and production capacity is communally owned and managed by a democratically elected government.

- Both communism and socialism advocate public control of the means of production, although socialism allows for the continued existence of capitalism in some parts of the economy.
- For examples USA regulates many aspects of its economy and owns and manages very “socialist” enterprises such as public schools, public transportation, and public libraries.

Welfare:

- In Capitalism welfare system is available only to those who have the wealth to pay for their services.
- Communism supports widespread universal social welfare with an emphasis on public health and education.
- Socialist state will be for the welfare of everyone in the society without any discrimination.
- For example India being mixed economy is neither pure capitalism nor pure socialism but a mixture of the two system. through Directive Principles, State strives to achieve various common social goals like conservation of the environment, gender equality, representation to depressed communities etc.

Conclusion

Communism is what existed in the Soviet Union and still exists in China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea and Vietnam. It isn't monolithic, but the common thread is a fully centralized economy achieved through state intervention. At the other end is social democracy, which is common in Europe. It preserves capitalism, but with stricter regulations and government programs to distribute resources more evenly.

1. With the help of suitable examples, discuss the role of social hierarchies and discrimination in creating vulnerabilities for few sections?

Approach –

In this question write about how social hierarchies and discriminations creates problem and vulnerabilities for few sections of society. In second part of answer explain your points with suitable examples.

Introduction-

Social stratification refers to a society's categorization of its people into groups based on socioeconomic factors like wealth, income, race, education, ethnicity, gender, occupation, social status, or derived power (social and political). As such, stratification is the relative social position of persons within a social group, category, geographic

region, or social unit. These hierarchies and discrimination creates problem for certain section of society and pushed them to margins.

Body-

The Indian social landscape presents the grave situation of the vulnerable for long,

- That section of the population which is exposed to the numerous possibilities of being attacked or harmed, either physically or mentally can be referred to as the "vulnerable" section. Their vulnerability is a consequence of the social structure and the circumstances that arise within and beyond the space they inhabit.
- The categorization of people by social stratum occurs most clearly in complex state-based, polycentric, or feudal societies, the latter being based upon socio-economic relations among classes of nobility and classes of peasants.
- Historically, whether or not hunter-gatherer, tribal, and band societies can be defined as socially stratified, or if social stratification otherwise began with agriculture and large-scale means of social exchange,
- Determining the structures of social stratification arises from inequalities of status among persons, therefore, the degree of social inequality determines a person's social stratum. Generally, the greater the social complexity of a society, the more social stratification exists, by way of social differentiation.
- The social status variables underlying social stratification are based in social perceptions and attitudes about various characteristics of persons and peoples. While many such variables cut across time and place,

Economic-

- Strictly quantitative economic variables are more useful to describing social stratification than explaining how social stratification is constituted or maintained. Income is the most common variable used to describe stratification and associated economic inequality in a society.
- According to Marx, Social class is determined by one's relationship to the means of production. There exist at least two classes in any class-based society: the owners of the means of production and those who sell their labor to the owners of the means of production

Social-

- Social variables, both quantitative and qualitative, typically provide the most explanatory power in causal research regarding social stratification, either as independent variables or as intervening variables. Three important social variables include gender, race, and ethnicity, which, at the least, have an intervening effect on social status and stratification in most places throughout the world.

Gender-

- Gender is one of the most pervasive and prevalent social characteristics which people use to make social distinctions between individuals. Gender distinctions are found in economic-, kinship- and caste-based stratification systems. Eg women have been victims of patriarchy. Gender stereotyping has created problems for both men and women. The backward castes have been

a prey to the social hierarchy. The tribals have been forced to assimilate and displaced

Race-

- Racism consists of both prejudice and discrimination based in social perceptions of observable biological differences between peoples. It often takes the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are perceived to be ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities.

Ethnicity-

- Ethnic prejudice and discrimination operate much the same as do racial prejudice and discrimination in society. In fact, only recently have scholars begun to differentiate race and ethnicity; historically, the two were considered to be identical or closely related.
- It is not only the society but also the ever increasing pace of "development" that has some role to play here. One side of the coin reflects wonderful results but the other side presents a grim picture of the widened gap between the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the mainstream and the marginalised. The engines of growth require an introspection into how far the quality of life has improved and how many are being left behind.
- The physically disabled have struggled for accessibility and acceptance. The mentally challenged have been despised in brutal ways. The "human" in the transgenders has been denied. The children have been the worst sufferers in all these cases.

Conclusion

Coming to terms with their vulnerability will lead to a series of tragic phenomena- of age, of neglect, of abuse, of disrespect, of deprivation and most unfortunately, that of a huge crisis of identity. Sadly, our society has a pre-conceived image etched for every being and conduct and it vigorously tries to fit everyone into it. This "one size fits all approach" is the tragedy of our times.

2. What are the institutional and legal measures in place to address the vulnerabilities faced by distressed children. Critically evaluate their performance.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the institutional and legal mechanisms addressing the vulnerability of children. As question demands the critical evaluation highlight their performance and effectiveness towards welfare of the children.

Introduction:

Worldwide, children have been profoundly affected by the social and economic upheavals caused by COVID-19. In India, even before the pandemic hit, millions of children were left to absorb the accumulated problems of diseases, riots, disaster, extreme poverty, informal labour, abuse, exploitation and social injustice. Across the spatial and temporal dimensions, there are many more childhood narratives of deep vulnerabilities and resilience at the same time.

Body

Institutional and legal measures for welfare of children:

- The Constitution of India, which came into effect on 26th January 1950, guarantees children's rights. Article 21-A guarantees the right to free and compulsory elementary education for all children in the age group 6-14 years. Article 24 (a) secures the right to be protected from any hazardous employment until 14 years.
- Juvenile Justice Care and Protection of Children Act, 2015 Child welfare committee and CARA : It aims at ensuring proper care, child adoption, development, and social reintegration of children in difficult circumstances by adopting a child-friendly approach.
- Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009: Right to education was only the provision in the Directive Principles of State Policy which had a period of ten years within which the State had to fulfil the mandate to provide free and compulsory education.
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986: This Act prohibits children's engagement in certain kinds of employment and regulates the conditions of work of children in certain other employments.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights: The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012: The act aims at punishing the offenders who are guilty of sexual offences against children below the age of 18 years of age.
- The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme: Indian government welfare programme that provides food, preschool education, and primary healthcare to children under 6 years of age and their mothers.
- Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act: The law intended as a means of limiting and eventually abolishing child prostitution in India by gradually criminalizing various aspects of sex work.
- Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act: The main objective of the act is the arrest of the declining sex-ratio in India due to rampant female foeticide.

Evaluation of institutional and legal measures:

- Female foeticide: The census of 2011 has recorded the lowest ever sex ratio of 914 in the age group 0-6 years with 3 million missing girls; from 78.8 million in 2001 to 75.8 million in 2011. Female foeticide is happening due to lack of PCPDT act improper use, due to strong son preference, the practice of dowry and the patrilineal necessity of heir.
- Child labour: According to 2011 national census of India, out of total child population of nearly 260 million under-14 years of age group, 10.1 million are working as child labourers. Though the child labour and regulation act was passed in 1986 and later on amended in 2016 but in spite of that the practice of child labour has not been abolished completely, though it has been reduced.
- Child trafficking: Thousands of children are being trafficked from India's remote rural areas and sold into work in cities, often as domestic staff for wealthy families there is inefficiency in Immoral trafficking act. Between 2011 and 2013, more than 10,500 children were registered as missing from the central state of Chhattisgarh, one of India's poorest states.
- Hunger: Performance of ICDS Poshanabhiyan stands questionable as Hunger affects each one of us but it affects the children all the more. As per UNDP one third of the children are malnourished. According to Global Hunger Index (GHI) of 2021 India is at 101st position, behind its neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- Education: Despite RTE act and Article 21A, 37% of rural children have dropped out The main reasons behind that are pandemic-induced school closure & economic hardship.
- Sexual assault: The rate of conviction under the POCSO act is only about 32% if one takes the average of the past 5 years and the percentage of cases pending is 90%.
- Other issues: Mental health of children, problems with Mother's health leading to malnutrition in children ,caste discrimination, begging, drug abuse, corporal punishment climate change disaster related distress etc are other issues ineffectively handled by institutions or legal mechanisms.

Conclusion

Violations of the child's right to protection take place in every country and are massive, under-recognized and under-reported barriers to child survival and development, in addition to being human rights violations. Children subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect are at risk of death, poor physical and mental health, HIV/ AIDS infection, educational problems, displacement, homelessness, vagrancy and becoming poor parents later in life. However, there are several remaining challenges need to address it.

3. What are the key challenges faced by the old age population in India? Do you think the erosion of joint family has aggravated to the vulnerabilities of the elderly? Critically examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to first explain the key challenges faced by the old age population in India. The candidate had to give his thoughts on and critically examine whether the erosion of joint family has aggravated to the vulnerabilities of the elderly or not.

Introduction:

The elderly Indian population is one of the fastest-growing in the world. At 110 million, India has the second-largest global population of ageing citizens. By 2050, that number will probably increase to 240 million. Yet, India lacks basic infrastructure and expertise to support the health & welfare of our elderly.

The key challenges faced by the old age population in India

- According to multiple surveys across the country, for most Indian senior citizens, the biggest concerns are Healthcare costs, Lack of financial support and Isolation. In addition, most of the aged are not accorded the dignity of care they deserve in later life.
- Lack of physical infrastructure is a major deterrent to providing comfort for the aged.
- Very little information and knowledge exist about specific geriatric diseases. Mental health issues are rarely discussed and the country is ill-prepared to deal with the increasing incidence of Dementia, Alzheimer's and depression amongst the elderly.
- In addition, there is little public or private financial support for the elderly.
- Unlike most developed countries, Emergency Response infrastructure for senior citizens is ill-developed, including the availability of public ambulance for hospitalization.
- One of the biggest fears for most senior citizens living alone is how to access an emergency facility, if required, especially at night.
- Rapid socio-economic change, including more nuclear families, is also making Elder Care management difficult, especially for busy adult children responsible for their older parents' wellbeing.
- Managing Home Care for the elderly is a massive challenge as multiple service providers, who often do not talk to each other, are involved in providing that care - nursing agencies, physiotherapists, medical suppliers.

The erosion of joint family has aggravated to the vulnerabilities of the elderly: Critical Examination

Agree, the erosion of joint family has aggravated to the vulnerabilities of the elderly:

- Nuclear family system has replaced joint family system. The tradition of supporting and caring parents in their old age is weakening day by day.
- Old people cannot exercise any authority on young generation.
- Social transformation resulting from the modernization of society has changed the status of elderly persons making them helpless and lonely.
- Today, elderly face different problems such as fewer opportunities of earning, high disease prevalence rate, low interaction in society, isolation from their children, unawareness of their legal rights and naturally reluctance to ask for justice.
- As elder people have had experiences of losses in their lives such as deaths of loved ones, broken relationships, health ups and downs and limited mobility they need more family support in this stage of life which is not there in nuclear families.

Don't agree, the erosion of joint family has not aggravated to the vulnerabilities of the elderly:

- In most joint family, where a great number of the elderly people face same vulnerabilities as discussed above despite living with their young children or with their grandchildren. Here the elderly people depend economically and socially on their families who fail to give their time or understand the vulnerabilities of the elderly.
- Even in joint family, the elderly is considered a financial burden and useless for the family. The younger generation is addicted to speed, performance, efficiency and growth but the elderly cannot come up to all these modern requirements hence remain vulnerable.

Conclusion:

We no longer have what our previous generation had, which was an intergenerational living arrangement with many children in the same vicinity, if not house, to care for/share the care of the elderly. Yet, the Indian policy for the aged remains optimistic about the role of the family in providing necessary support to elders.

4. Unemployed youth is vulnerable to radicalisation. In this regard, critically evaluate the performance of different welfare schemes targeted towards unemployed youth.

Approach

Candidates should comment on Unemployed youth being vulnerable to radicalisation in introduction. Candidate should then critically evaluate the performance of different welfare schemes targeted towards unemployed youth in this regard.

Introduction

The radicalisation landscape is diverse in nature and pathways of joining these groups are extremely multifaceted. Income inequality creates social tensions and tends to contribute to social and political instability. A report from the World Bank confirms that unemployed youth dropouts are vulnerable to violent or criminal activity to vent out their frustration.

The Performance of Different Welfare Schemes Targeted Towards Unemployed Youth

The government of India launched so many welfare programmes for the holistic development of the country. Some are Antyodaya Anna Yojna, National Gramin Awaas Mission (formerly Indira Awas Yojna), Bharat Nirman, etc. all these programmes are launched to alleviate poverty and generate employment so that economy can grow rapidly in this competitive world. **Few of them are:**

- PMKVY – Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana was launched in 2015. The objective of PMKVY was to enable the youth of the country to take up industry-relevant skill training in order to acquire a secured better livelihood.
- The government launched the Start-Up India Scheme in 2016. The aim of Startup India programmes was to develop an ecosystem that nurtures and promotes entrepreneurship across the nation.
- Stand Up India Scheme also launched in 2016 aimed to facilitate bank loans to women and SC/ST borrowers between Rs 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore for setting up a greenfield enterprise.
- National Skill Development Mission was set up in November 2014 to drive the 'Skill India' agenda in a 'Mission Mode' in order to converge the existing skill training initiatives and combine scale and quality of skilling efforts, with speed.

Despite such schemes there are several issues like:

- Most welfare programs are not designed to be a long-term income solution. The idea of a “welfare queen” just doesn't exist in reality. You get enough to meet your basic needs and nothing more.

- One of the easiest ways to prevent fraud or long-term benefit acquisition is to place a cap on how many benefits an individual or household can receive during the year.
- Welfare programs do not offer enough money to make a significant difference.

Conclusion:

There is a need for governments to focus on tapping the enormous energy and potential of the youth. If channelized constructively, the dynamism that youth bring to the table, could become a contributing factor for socio-political progress in south Asia. Educational reforms need to be brought in where the kind of education imparted to youth could incorporate mandatory brainstorming and counselling sessions. Also, enough employment opportunities and innovation hub centres should be welcomed where the youth could pitch in their ideas and could get the right guidance.

5. Do you think migrant workers are vulnerable? Why? Substantiate your views. What are the mechanisms in place to address those? Discuss.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about how migrant workers are vulnerable. Why they are vulnerable and what mechanisms are available to address those vulnerabilities.

Introduction-

Migrant workers are considered as the backbone of the industrial sector. The disturbing visuals of these migrant workers on the roads and their deaths on the way to native places due to COVID-19 pandemic has put forward the less debated issue of vulnerability of migrants population.

Body-

Vulnerability of Migrant workers:

The concept of vulnerability can be understood to mean that some people are more susceptible to harm, relative to others, as a result of exposure to some form of risk. The type of harm to which they are more susceptible varies: it may be psychological, physical, environmental, etc. Hence, migrants vulnerability is assessed on four factors i.e. Individual factors, household and family factors, community factors and structural factors.

Individual factors:

- These factors are related to individuals. Individual characteristics are a central element of vulnerability.
- Some examples of individual factors are age, sex, racial and/or ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, personal history, mental and emotional health, and access to resources such as money, goods or support.
- For instance, U.P. and Bihar male migrants in Mumbai, faced numerous problems such as, money problem, lack of sanitation, no other option to look for help etc. during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Not just during pandemic, but also during normal times too migrant workers and students face discrimination due to factors such as ethnicity, religion, caste etc.

Household and family factors:

- Household and family factors are related to the family circumstances of individuals and their family members, the role and position of individuals within the family, and family histories and experiences.
- Families are important in determining vulnerabilities, as they are typically the first option for individuals who require support, particularly children and young people.
- For instance, many of the cycle rickshaw pullers who work in the big cities, live with their families in the nearby crowded areas. Which exposed the family to sanitation issues, basic amenities availability issue, security issues, less or no education to children issue etc.
- The children and the Women are most prone to vulnerability due to less food availability, lack of sanitation and security.

Community factors:

- Individuals and their families are situated within a broader physical and social community context.
- Communities with strong social networks and access to resources can provide support and protection to individuals and families, whereas communities without such networks and resources can create risk factors for individuals and families.
- Examples of community factors include availability of quality educational opportunities, health care and social services; equal access to resources; livelihood and income-generating opportunities;

Structural factors:

- At the broadest level, structural factors are the political, economic, social and environmental conditions and institutions at national, regional and international levels that influence the overall environment in which individuals, families and communities are situated and which shape their beliefs, decisions and behaviours.
- Examples of structural factors include histories of colonization and conflict, political systems, migration policies and governance, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.
- For instance, USA asked foreign students that they will have to leave the USA if their universities hold online classes. Which has affected the students across the globe who are studying in USA.

- When it comes to the migrant workers, they are looked as the Invisible population in the city. Hence,

Following institutional measures are established to address the vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers:

- Unorganised Workers' Social Security (UWSS) Act, 2008 includes legal entitlements, as it defines the migrant workman as a subset, it provides for contingencies of livelihood loss and it makes the Act legally enforceable.
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a demand-based scheme. MGNREGS provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural unskilled labour. This scheme addresses the vulnerability of migrant workers by giving them employment in their area of residence.
- The Public Distribution System (PDS) has clearly played a crucial role in preventing the spread of hunger across affected areas preventing the migration from one place to other.
- The Mid day meal scheme has multiple implications as it not just provides the meal to the children but also opens up opportunity for the parents to not to leave the village in search of work.
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana: To ensure old age protection for unorganised workers.
- Atal Pension Yojana: It is a social security scheme launched under the National Pension System (NPS) and aims at providing a steady stream of income after the age of 60 to all citizens of India including the migrants and labourers.
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (under the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan): Both of the schemes provide for life insurance and accident insurance respectively to the migrants and labourers.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat): It aims at providing health cover to protect the migrants among others against the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.
- Around 500 million Indians do not have cards under the National Food Security Act, and not all of them are middle-class.
- For MGNREGS wages is chronically higher than the supply due to inefficiencies in implementation. Therefore, the increase in wages under the scheme by Rs 20 is the minimum that could have been expected.
- Also schemes need to be formulated to provide education to the children of migrant worker. e.g. Many such schools are run by some NGO's as "Schools under bridge" in big metro cities.
- To avail the benefits of social security schemes there is need of Aadhar card be attached to the bank account, but many of the migrant labourers still don't have Aadhar cards.

Conclusion-

Migration is a rising policy priority and there is a need to respond equitably to the interests of different section of the migrating population. It is important for the government to engage those migrant workers in employment generated in the local

area. The (MGNREGA) scheme can act as a cushion for the state government to tackle the huge flow of migrant labourers in rural areas. The government should increase the scope of work done under the MGNREGA scheme.

1. How did WWII and its aftermath create the foundations of a troubled Middle East? Analyse

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about impact of WWII in middle east. Candidates can write middle east during world war how it got influenced and rise of arab independence started and in later space have to write how WWII was the foundation for few troublesome issues in middle east.

Introduction:

It can be argued that the Middle East during the World War II has been regarded as that conflict's most overlooked theater of operations. Though the threat of direct Axis invasion never materialized beyond the Egyptian Western Desert. These actions left an indelible mark in the socio-political evolution of the modern states of the Middle East.

Body

Middle east during WWII:

- There were growing nationalist movements that called for independence from any and all forms of foreign influence in the region in the form of Arab Nationalism.
- The region was quiet for the first few months of the war, until Fascist Italy declared war against France and Britain on June 10, 1940. It remained a major active theatre for two and a half years until the British Commonwealth Eighth Army crossed the border from Libya into Tunisia.
- In February 1943, command of the Eighth Army passed from Middle East Command to the Allied Joint command for the Mediterranean, Allied Forces Headquarters (AFHQ).
- Saudi Arabia, posturing as neutral though somewhat favoring the Allies, officially declared war on Germany and Japan in February 1945, though, in reality, the entire Middle East Theatre was quiet from 1943 until the end of the war.
- The Europeans, exploiting the sentiments of Pan-Arabism and the desire for independence among the Arab populace of the Ottoman Empire, made overtures with the promise of independence in return for support against the Turks.

- The Arabs were not the only one to whom the Allies made such lofty promises. They even roped in the Zionist movement a Jewish nationalist group to support their war effort.
- The terms were the same but it would contrast the promises made to the Arabs. One of these, the Balfour Declaration, would have serious repercussions in Middle-Eastern politics for years to come.

Aftermath of WWII:

- The Middle-East was the most unstable of the post-imperial regions after World War II ended in 1945.
- The League of Nations gave Britain trusteeship for Palestine, Iraq and Transjordan. France gained Syria and Lebanon.
- When some of these countries became independent post-1945, sectarian violence plunged some into civil war as is the case of Lebanon.
- The most intractable issue of all was the future of the Palestine mandate, granted to Britain by the League of Nations in 1920. Arab nationalists saw this as Arab land and demanded its independence.
- But the Jewish demands for a homeland of their own in what they considered the historic land of Israel, put them at odds with the Arabs.
- In 1948, the David Ben-Gurion declared the foundation of the State of Israel and became its first prime minister, with Chaim Weizmann, leader of the world Zionist movement, as Israel's first president. Almost immediately the Arab nations would declare war on Israel and would launch the first of three Arab Israel Wars.
- The division of the Arab world into separate states was imposed on them and undermined their political unity and ultimately the power of a unified Arab people.
- The United States and the Soviet Union became superpowers and the Middle East became a major theater of Cold War conflict. And thrown into all this was Israel and oil.
- Even Iraq would face the same condition but only authoritarian dictators like Saddam Hussein would help keep the peace. It was the same condition in Syria as well.
- However, the recent civil war in Syria has further thrown the delicate balance of the region in further disarray. Only time will tell what course will a decolonised Middle-East will take.
- The region was militarised, which meant a huge increase in the number of mouths to feed and a massive increase in the local money supply as military requisitions were added to local demands.

Conclusion:

World War II brought changes in the status of countries and continents. End of war gave birth to various institutions World bank, IMF and UN but it also made Middle East the cockpit of postwar international politics shaped very much by oil wealth, the

Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the rise of Arab nationalist, jihadist and Islamist movements.

2. Why did the US invest heavily towards the postwar reconstruction efforts in Europe? Analyse.

Approach

Candidates are expected to analyse (break the topic into sub parts in order to make it simple and clear) why did the US invest heavily towards the post war reconstruction efforts in Europe.

Introduction:

World War II devastated Western Europe, inflicting a staggering death toll on combatants and civilians, and destroying homes, buildings, factories and key infrastructure essential to economic commerce across the continent. The physical damage was so severe that in May 1947, nearly two years after Victory in Europe Day, Winston Churchill described Europe as “a rubble-heap, a charnel house, a breeding ground of pestilence and hate.” The United States worked to rebuild post-war Europe, investing \$22 billion — or roughly \$182 billion in real 21st-century dollars adjusted for inflation — in economic foreign assistance across 16 war-torn nations from 1946 to 1952.

Why did the US invest heavily towards the postwar reconstruction efforts in Europe?

- At the time, leaders in Washington understood that the United States had a powerful strategic interest in helping Western Europe to recover and stand on its own.
- As Secretary of State George C. Marshall said on June 5, 1947: “Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.”
- That’s why the United States worked to rebuild post-war Europe, investing \$22 billion — or roughly \$182 billion in real 21st-century dollars adjusted for inflation — in economic foreign assistance across 16 war-torn nations from 1946 to 1952.
- To be sure, America’s post-war commitment to Western Europe demonstrated our nation’s character. Yet it also advanced our economic interests.
- America’s \$182 billion in economic foreign assistance to Europe amounts to far less than the more than \$250 billion in goods that the United States now annually exports to those countries.
- The economic relationship between the United States and the 27-nation European Union today is the most advanced in the world, with the two blocs exchanging roughly \$2.7 billion in goods and services each day.

- What's more, Washington and Brussels are currently negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a far-reaching agreement that could further boost U.S.-European economic ties by further reducing red tape and investment barriers on both sides of the Atlantic.
- After World War II, the United States also understood the strategic importance of using foreign assistance and other tools to aid and rebuild post-war Japan.
- Between 1946 and 1952, Washington invested \$2.2 billion — or \$18 billion in real 21st-century dollars adjusted for inflation — in Japan's reconstruction effort. That amounts to more than one-third of the \$65 billion in goods that the United States exported to Japan in 2013.
- Today, Japan is a mature democracy, the world's third largest economy and one of America's most important allies in the Asia-Pacific.

Conclusion:

Decades after World War II, foreign assistance programs are still helping Washington to advance America's core national security interests by promoting economic development and regional stability, while at the same time opening and expanding international markets for U.S. businesses. The United States successfully did this in post-war South Korea, and it has the opportunity to do it again in other parts of the world.

3. Elaborate upon the concept of neo-colonialism. How is neo-colonialism shaping the global political discourse? Examine.**Approach**

Candidates should first elaborate upon the concept of neo-colonialism. He also needs to examine or explain deeply how is neo-colonialism shaping the global political discourse.

Introduction

The term "neo-colonialism" generally represents the actions and effects of certain remnant features and agents of the colonial era in a given society. Post-colonial studies have shown extensively that despite achieving independence, the influences of colonialism and its agents are still very much present in the lives of most former colonies. Practically, every aspect of the ex-colonized society still harbours colonial influences. These influences, their agents and effects constitute the subject matter of neo-colonialism.

In a neo-colonial state, the former colonial masters ensure that the newly independent colonies remain dependent on them for economic and political direction. The dependency and exploitation of the socio-economic and political lives of the now independent colonies are carried out for the economic, political, ideological, cultural, and military benefits of the colonial masters' home states. This is usually carried out through indirect control of the economic and political practices of the newly independent states instead of through direct military control as was the case in the colonial era.

How is neo-colonialism shaping the global political discourse?

- **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."

4. What is the philosophical basis of communism? How does it differ from Socialism? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach-

In this question first explain definitions of communism and socialisms .and what are philosophical basis for communism. Explain the difference between socialism and communism with help of suitable examples.

Introduction-

Communism (from Latin communis, 'common, universal') is a philosophical, social, political, and economic ideology and movement whose goal is the establishment of a communist society, namely a socioeconomic order structured upon the ideas of common ownership of the means of production and the absence of social classes,

Body-

Communism is an ideology that seeks to establish a classless, stateless social organization, based upon common ownership of the means of production. It can be classified as a branch of the broader socialist movement.

- Various offshoots of the Soviet and Maoist interpretations of Marxism-Leninism comprise a particular branch of communism that has the distinction of having been the primary driving force for communism in world politics during most of the 20th century.
- Karl Marx held that society could not be transformed from the capitalist mode of production to the communist mode of production all at once, but required a transitional period which Marx described as the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat.
- The communist society, which Marx envisioned emerging from capitalism has never been implemented, and it remains theoretical; Marx, in fact, commented very little on what communist society would actually look like. However, the term 'Communism', especially when it is capitalized, is often used to refer to the political and economic regimes under communist parties that claimed to embody the dictatorship of the proletariat.

- According to the Marxist argument for communism, the main characteristic of human life in class society is alienation; and communism is desirable because it entails the full realization of human freedom.
- "In communist society, where nobody has one exclusive sphere of activity but each can become accomplished in any branch he wishes, society regulates the general production and thus makes it possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticise after dinner, just as I have a mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, herdsman or critic."

Communism differs from socialism on many aspects -

Communism-

- From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs
- The economy is planned by the Central Government
- All economic resources are publicly owned and controlled by the government. Individuals hold no personal property or assets.
- Class is abolished. The chances of one worker earning more than the other are nonexistent
- Religion is effectively abolished.
- Supports widespread universal social welfare with an emphasis on public health and education
- Although the concept of egalitarian societies existed since the time of Ancient Greece, the foundations of modern-day communism were established in 1848 by the German Philosopher, Karl Marx (May 5th, 1818 – 14 March 1883).

Socialism-

- From each according to his ability, to each according to his contribution
- The economy is planned by the central government
- Individuals can own personal property but all industrial and production capacity is communally owned and managed by a democratically elected government.
- Classes exist but the differences between them are greatly reduced. It is possible for some people to earn more than others.
- Freedom of religion is allowed
- The state will be for the welfare of everyone in the society without any discrimination
- The economy of the 3rd century BC Mauryan Empire was described by economists as "a socialized monarchy" and "a sort of state socialism".
- It became more prominent towards the end of the 18th century and after 1848

Conclusion-

Although communist regimes are on decline in this age but it also offers some benefits. The theoretical advantages of communism are built around equality and strong social communities. Communist ideology advocates universal education with a focus on developing the proletariat with knowledge, class consciousness, and historical understanding. Communism supports the emancipation of women and the ending of

their exploitation. As communism and socialism emphasise on masses hence ideology will remain relevant.

5. How did US intervention in Afghanistan shape the regional geopolitics in Asia? Elaborate.

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about how America enters Afghanistan and changed its regional geopolitics.

Introduction-

The speedy withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan has been matched by the swift advance of the Taliban across the nation. While the US has confirmed that 90% of the withdrawal is done, the Taliban has claimed that it is in control of 85% of Afghanistan territory. The American intervention in Afghanistan in last two decades had shaped regional geopolitics in larger sense.

Body-

The United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 1267, creating the so-called al-Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee, which links the two groups as terrorist entities and imposes sanctions on their funding, travel, and arms shipments.

- Al-Qaeda operatives hijack four commercial airliners, crashing them into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. A fourth plane crashes in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Close to three thousand people die in the attacks.
- Although Afghanistan is the base for al-Qaeda, none of the nineteen hijackers are Afghan nationals. Mohammed Atta, an Egyptian, led the group, and fifteen of the hijackers originated from Saudi Arabia. President George W. Bush vows to “win the war against terrorism,” and later zeroes in on al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.
- Bush eventually calls on the Taliban regime to “deliver to the United States authorities all the leaders of al-Qaeda who hide in your land,” or share in their fate.
- President George W. Bush signs into law a joint resolution authorizing the use of force against those responsible for attacking the United States on 9/11. This joint resolution will later be cited by the Bush administration as legal rationale for its decision to take sweeping measures to combat terrorism, from invading Afghanistan

- The U.S. military, with British support, begins a bombing campaign against Taliban forces, officially launching Operation Enduring Freedom. Canada, Australia, Germany, and France pledge future support..
- The idea of a regional solution to Afghanistan has always had much political appeal. But divergent regional strategic perspectives limit the prospects for a sustainable consensus on Afghanistan.

US Withdrawal and Regional Powers

- Taliban: Taliban itself remains a major variable. If the Taliban does not accommodate the interests of all Afghans, it simply sets the stage for the next round of the civil war in Afghanistan
- .The Taliban is also signalling that it will not be a proxy for anyone else and that it will pursue independent policies.
- China: The US withdrawal from Afghanistan today reinforces the strongly held conviction in China that the US is in terminal decline.
- The withdrawal, at a time when China is offering an alternative to the Western model of international governance, is seen in China as a great ideological victory.
- However, for China, potential Taliban support to the Xinjiang separatist groups is a major concern.
- India: India will have three critical areas in dealing with the Taliban.
- Protecting its investments, which run into billions of rupees, in Afghanistan;
- Preventing a future Taliban regime from being a pawn of Pakistan;
- Making sure that the Pakistan-backed anti-India terrorist groups do not get support from the Taliban.
- Other: None of the regional countries want to see Afghanistan becoming the nursery of international terror again under the Taliban.
- Iran can't ignore the Sunni extremism of the Taliban and its oppressive record in dealing with the Shia, and Persian-speaking minorities.
- Pakistan worries about the danger of the conflict spilling over to the east of the Durand Line, and hostile groups like the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) gaining sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

Way Forward

- Use of Multilateral Organisations: Such as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) should be used in dealing with the Afghan questions and achieve stability.
- Geography, membership and capabilities make the SCO an important forum to address the post-American challenges in Afghanistan.
- An independent, sovereign, democratic, pluralistic and inclusive Afghanistan is crucial for peace and stability in the region.
- In order to ensure the same, the Afghan peace process, as stated by India's Afghan policy, should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.
- Also, there is a need for the global community to fight against the global concern of terrorism

Conclusion-

The US's exit from Afghanistan has triggered Taliban emergence, geopolitical flux and thus, instability in the region. As these factors will increasingly push India into a geopolitical tough spot in the region, smart statecraft, therefore, is required to deal with changing dynamics in Afghanistan. If India remains active and patient too, many opportunities could open up in the new Afghan phase.

1. Do you think globalisation has led to the erosion of Indian culture? Critically examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about globalisation and then simply critically examine how globalisation has led to erosion of Indian cultural also candidates are required to argue and write how it has strengthened and enhanced the Indian culture.

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

Erosion of Indian culture:

- Under the influence of Western ideas of individualism there has been more homogenization of values and beliefs. Eg: Loss of local artefacts, promotion of western dressing, shift from local culinary habits etc.
- A term denoting the increasing rationalization of the routine tasks of everyday life. It becomes manifested when a culture adopts the characteristics of a fast-food restaurant. These effect traditional sources of livelihood as well as societal norms.
- The penetration of global music has resulted in the marginalisation of traditional music among different cultures of the world. Today, pop music and its local variations can be heard in all social settings from weddings to religious festivals and birthday celebrations.
- The western influence of individualism has led to an aspirational generation of youth. Culture of national identity, family, job and tradition are changing and rapidly and significantly.
- The influence of transnational corporations has resulted in a central common language mainly English, which dominates regional dialects, and minority languages.

- Increased consumerism and availability of media has led to erosion of local cultural traits.
- Unmonitored access to Western culture has led to increasing misrepresentation, stereotyping and the risk of loss of cultural and intellectual property rights.
- The globalisation generalised the taste and preferences of people relating to food, dance forms and Values. This undermines the peculiar features of various cultural ethnicities.

Revival of culture:

- In a globalised world where increased prosperity and materialistic pursuits have decreased the religion based conflicts and superstition.
- Indians excelling in the services sector of the economy. Also, technology has helped preserve some of the dying artefacts, document local languages and also exposed Indians to various global arts/movies etc. For example, Flipkart and amazon is selling tribal artefacts, Channapatna wooden toys etc.
- Revival of Yoga in the country as well as in the international level. This can be seen in the popularity of the 'Art of Living' course by Ravi Shankar, or the celebration of International Yoga day across the world
- There has been a revival of ayurvedic medicines in the country as well as outside it.
- Due to increasing uncertainty by inter-linkage with the outside world, there has been religious revivalism. This can be manifested in the use of religion to attract voters, or mobilizing people on the basis of religion.
- Increasing demand for local handicraft products in global market, such as Chikenkari or bandhani.
- Due to increasing global tourism, locals are making efforts to preserve their diversity and revive their traditions.

Conclusion:

All these changes have led to drastic changes to Indian culture, though most of these changes are confined to the urban areas, but the rural areas are fast catching up. We can see that the western culture is influencing the Indian culture, but it is not replacing it, rather there is a mixture of both cultures.

2. Can economic empowerment alone lead to social empowerment? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates are expected to express their views on if economic empowerment alone led to social empowerment. They have to substantiate their views with examples in support.

Introduction:

Social empowerment is understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude poor people and keep them in poverty. Economic empowerment is the ability to make and act on decisions that involve the control over and allocation of financial resources.

Economic empowerment leads to social empowerment

- Economic empowerment involves providing people, usually disadvantaged women, with the education, training and skills that they need to find a job, earn an income and become self-supporting.
- Economic independence can change people's life, as they are no longer dependent on someone else, to provide their food, a roof over their head or clothing.
- This empowerment allows them specially women more independence over their lives and increases their happiness, productiveness and life satisfaction thus leading to their overall social empowerment.
- Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality as it boosts productivity, increases economic diversification and income equality in addition to other positive development outcomes.
- Economic empowerment is about so much more than simply having a job, it is about establishing independence, creating a sense of purpose and a feeling of belonging within the community.

But economic empowerment ALONE can't lead to social empowerment:

Following are the example showing how economic empowerment alone can't lead to social empowerment:

- The ability of governments to achieve their social and economic goals with limited resources is dependent upon the efficiency, transparency and flexibility of public administration institutions.
- Even though economic advancement is witnessed worldwide, certain economies are marked with a very interesting paradox - accelerated economic progress on one hand, and extreme social & economic inequality, particularly for women, girls, marginalised & vulnerable groups on the other. Hence economic empowerment alone can't lead to social empowerment.
- Empowerment of women is perceived as equipping them to be economically independent, self-reliant, with positive esteem to enable them to face any situation and they should be able to participate in the development activities.

- However, Social mores, rising incomes of men, and gender-based segregation in the job market are limiting women's economic empowerment in India.
- Simply handing out financial aid to marginalised women will not help them out of their situation and can create a dependence on aid.
- Equipping women with the skills and resources they need to develop their own business results in income generation and a greater standard of living for the women involved.

Conclusion:

Empowerment can be approached from distinct perspectives, which carry different political priorities and strategies. The under-representation of women in the workforce is both a social and economic loss. Social Empowerment means all the sections of society in India, have equal control over their lives, are able to take important decisions in their lives, and have equal opportunities. Without empowering all sections of society equally, a nation can never have a good growth trajectory.

3. Examine the role identity politics plays in creating communal tension in the society.**Approach**

Candidates should first explain identity politics in intro and then examine or dig deeper into examining the role identity politics plays in creating communal tension in the society.

Introduction

The ideologically laden term 'identity politics' refers to social movements to gain recognition of historically oppressed ethnocultural or racialized groups. It is the politics in which groups of people having a particular racial, religious, ethnic, social, or cultural identity tend to promote their own specific interests or concerns without regard to the interests or concerns of any larger political group. In its nation-building effort since independence, India has primarily had to deal with four key group identities: language, religion, caste, and tribe.

The Role Identity Politics Plays in Creating Communal Tension in the Society

- Identity politics has sowed the seeds of hatred and enmity among different sections of society based on castes, religion, ethnicity etc.
- Identity politics is responsible for limited or narrow-minded views of the citizens and political parties along with being responsible for divisive tendencies.

- The mentality produced by politics driven by the criterion of identity produces the situation by which it is governed, having as a central condition the groups in which society has been classified.
- Identity schemes based on religion have become a major source of conflict not only in the international context but also become a challenge for Indian democracy and secularism.
- Those who prioritize their particular type of identity politics may promote the interests of their group without regard to the interests of larger and more diverse political groups that are based on shared theory.
- The driving force behind religious conversions is, more often than not, a desire to live a “worthy” life, to have an identity that one can be proud of. The caste system being practised even today in Hinduism, despite all governmental efforts to eradicate it, is a major cause of religious conversions in India.
- Rise of dominant political, regional and state parties is one of the consequences of identity politics in India. For e.g., BSP, Shiv sena etc. which do add to the communal tension in the society.
- The nations embracing identity politics, apparently compromise many of its secular and equality principals.
- The curse of identity politics rips apart the social fabric in the supposedly democratic nations.
- It is unfortunately the cause of these nations not moving forward in eliminating socio-economic deprivation as it destroys social cohesion and stands in the way of economic progress.
- A series of aggressions in India and its South Asian neighbourhoods against certain targeted communities is revealing the face of identity politics. This calls for the nations to wake up and respond, to guarantee a true democracy to its citizens.

Conclusion:

To conclude, while extreme Hindu nationalism can undermine India as a nation and will almost certainly be intensely inward-looking, it is most difficult to conceive of a political situation arising out of the usual course of democratic politics, which will allow it to control the Indian state. India's diversities and its democratic institutions, however imperfect, make that nearly impossible. Diversity and democracy have become the institutionalized and deeply rooted common sense of Indian politics by now. Also, there is enormous scope for transformation due to our new generation, who are looking for jobs, better careers, and not identifying themselves with caste, religion and region. They are forward-looking and progressive. Hopefully, they would make a new India which would be free from all kinds of communal and caste conflicts, prejudices, hatred, and discrimination- this is not only possible through the law but is possible only through positive collective efforts.

4. Examine the factors that give rise to regionalism. What are the repercussions if

Regional identity starts to threaten national unity? Illustrate.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about what regionalism is and what factors gives rise to regionalism. In second part of question explain about what repercussions possible if regional identity starts to threaten national unity

Introduction

Regionalism is a political ideology which seeks to increase the political power, Influence and self-determination of the people of one or more sub national regions. Regionalist tendencies often stir inter-state hostility as its spillover effect. Regional movements often result in violent agitations, disturbs not only the law and order situation but also have negative implications on the economy of the state as well as the nation.

Body

Regionalism in India is a multidimensional phenomenon as it is a complex amalgam of geographical, historical, cultural, economic, politico- administrative and psyche factors

- It is not possible to indicate exactly any particular factor, which has been solely responsible for the phenomenon of regionalism. Therefore, all these factors need to be explained briefly.
- Some of the most important the causes of regionalism in India are as follows: (i) Geographical Factor (ii) Historical and Cultural Factors (iii) Caste and Region (iv) Economic Factors (v) Political-Administrative Factors.

Geographical Factors

- The territorial orientation based on geographical boundaries relate to the inhabitants of a particular region which are symbolic, at least in the Indian context. This is more so because of the linguistic distribution along geographical boundaries. The topographic and climatic variations along with differences in the settlement pattern induce in people the concept of regionalism.

Historical and Cultural Factors:

- In the Indian scenario the historical or cultural factors may be considered the prime components of the phenomenon of regionalism. The historical and cultural components interpret regionalism by way of cultural heritage, folklore, myths, symbolism and historical traditions. People of a particular cultural group also derive inspirations from the noble deeds and glorious achievements of the local heroes. Nevertheless there are sudden political and economic realities which can be covered under the gamut of historical and cultural factors.

Caste and Region:

- Caste system and religion in Indian society play only a marginal roll in causing regionalism. Only when caste is combined with linguistic preponderance or religion it may cause regional feeling. In the like manner religion is not so significant except when it is combined with linguistic homogeneity or based on dogmatism and orthodoxy or linked with economic deprivation. However, regionalism is usually a secular phenomenon in a relative sense and it can cross-cut the caste affiliation or religious loyalties.

Economic Factors:

- In the present times, uneven developments in different parts of the country may be construed as the prime reason for regionalism and separatism. There are certain regions in the country where industries and factories have been concentrated, educational and health facilities are sufficiently provided, communication net work has been developed, rapid agricultural development has been made possible. But there are also certain areas where the worth of independence is yet to be realized in terms of socio-economic development.

Political-Administrative Factors:

- Political parties, especially the regional political parties as well as local leaders exploit the regional sentiments, regional deprivation and convert them to solidify their factional support bases. They give place to the regional problems in their election manifesto and promise for political and regional development.

Is regionalism a threat to national unity and integrity?

- Parochial regionalism poses a threat to the sovereignty of the nation.
- The anti-migrant or anti-Bihari stance of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) which opposes the employment and residence of non-Maharashtrian people in the state of Maharashtra is a prime example of negative regionalism.
- Regionalism beyond a point can lead to secessionism, such as strong regionalism in Punjab ultimately resulted in the growth of Khalistani terrorism.
- Regionalism often promotes Vote- Bank politics, thereby weakens the national integration.
- Regionalism can weaken the time tested fabric of 'Unity in Diversity', if promoted in an ultra manner.

Conclusion-

Unity in Diversity ethos needs to be preserved for the pluralistic character of the Indian nation state. Formation of the NITI Aayog has been a positive step to enhance co-operative federalism by fostering the involvement of the State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

5. Can a society progress economically without practicing secularism? Substantiate

Your views.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates first need to write about secularism and then define can progress of society possible without practicing secularism.

Introduction

Secularism is the principle of seeking to conduct human affairs based on secular, naturalistic considerations. It is most commonly defined as the separation of religion from civic affairs and the state, which in accordance with religious pluralism defines secularism as neutrality on issues of religion as opposed to total opposition of religion in the public square as a whole, Society can progress economically with secularism and that progress will be long lasting.

Body

Secularisation coupled with respect and tolerance for individual rights such as abortion, divorce and homosexuality can boost a country's economic growth,

- Secularisation may lead to economic development of a country when it is accompanied by a greater respect for individual rights, a study measuring the importance of religion in 109 countries has found.
- The study, published in the journal Science Advances, shows that a decline in religion influences a country's future economic prosperity.
- While it is well documented that rich countries tend to be secular whilst poor countries tend to be religious, it is still unclear if secularisation causes wealth or the other way around, researchers said.
- The subject has long been debated by classic scholars of social science including French sociologist Emile Durkheim, who claimed that religion fades away once economic development has satisfied our material needs.
- German sociologist Max Weber has argued that changes in religion drive economic productivity.
- Researchers from the Universities of Bristol in the UK and Tennessee in the US used data from birth cohorts from the World Values Survey to get a measure of the importance of religion spanning the entire 20th century (1900 to 2000).
- The study revealed that secularisation precedes economic development and not the other way around. Although this does not demonstrate a causal pathway, it does rule out the reverse.
- Secularisation only leads to economic development when it is accompanied by a greater respect for individual rights.
- The findings show that secularisation only predicts future economic development when it is accompanied by a respect and tolerance for individual rights.

- Countries where abortion, divorce and homosexuality are tolerated have a greater chance of future economic prosperity.
- Very often secularisation is indeed accompanied by a greater tolerance of homosexuality, abortion, divorce etc. But that isn't to say that religious countries can't become prosperous. Religious institutions need to find their own way of modernising and respecting the rights of individuals.
- Over the course of the 20th century, changes in importance of religious practices appear to have predicted changes in GDP across the world," Alex Bentley from the University of Tennessee, added.
- This doesn't necessarily mean that secularisation caused economic development, since both changes could have been caused by some third factor with different time lags, but at least we can rule out economic growth as the cause of secularisation in the past.

Conclusion

Secularisation only leads to economic development when it is accompanied by a greater respect for individual rights. It is a tool to ultimately ensure delivery of justice in a democratic state. A society can't progress economically without practicing secularism.

1. Do you think the presence of women in democratic local bodies increases inclusivity and performance? Critically examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about participation of the woman in local bodies and how it has increased inclusivity and performance of the local bodies. As question demands to critically examine candidates also need to write an alternate view on local bodies whether it had truly become inclusive.

Introduction:

In 1992, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment mandated that one-third of village and urban government positions in the country should be reserved for women. The policy was introduced to increase the political representation of women at the local level.

Body

Women's political participation has emerged as a key element of the discourse for performance and inclusivity of local bodies:

- They are bringing their experience in the governance of civil society making the state sensitive to the issues of poverty, inequality and gender injustice, thus influencing the decision-making process, planning, implementation and evaluation of various developmental programs at the local level.
- It also provided an opportunity to hitherto deprived low caste women to participate in the mainstream political processes. Its spiral effect boosted women's confidence in their abilities and encouraged them to seek a meaningful role in society.
- Women Representatives have become more articulate, conscious of their power, and have learnt to effectively tackle bureaucratic and political hurdles. There have been many notable instances where women have played an important role in bringing real change to the ground.
- For example Ms. Arati Devi, a former investment officer with a leading bank in India, left her job to become one of the country's youngest sarpanch leaders in her village in the Ganjam district of Odisha. Here she started a massive literacy campaign for women that helped achieve nearly 100 percent literacy in her village.
- Women are also making suggestions for water sanitation and fuel problems in areas which were generally not discussed by men. A woman panchayat member from Yavatal district organised a camp for women to discuss issues like dowry and also convinced women to implement improved stove and biogas systems.
- Seeing these elected women in action chairing meetings, taking decisions tackling social patriarchal issues, and leading the development of their villages inspires other women and girls who aspire to become leaders themselves one day.
- There has also been a perceptible improvement in administration mainly because women sarpanchs hold meetings during the day and no dubious deals are struck late at night. They are also more accessible than men who are often not around. Due to these factors there is much more honesty and transparency in local administrative matters.

However, due to poor socio-economic status of women and prevailing patriarchal set-up, the intended inclusivity and performance at local level was not fully realized:

- Indian society in villages is still traditional and conservative e.g. in rural areas tradition of parda or veil is very strong especially North Indian states, women are discouraged in public spaces, even government officials at local level avoid talking to women due to conservative outlook.
- This situation of lower social status results in them being mere 'titular heads' phenomenon is referred to as 'sarpanchpati'. Same noticed in ULBs one witnesses the wide-spread tokenism. Due to such phenomena efficiency of the local bodies gets reduced.
- For a common woman, it's not that easy to raise the ladders of politics without a strong political background. Therefore, the elected women mostly come from the 3B brigade beti, bahu, biwi.

- Also Dominant caste and tribal women with local political background and caste-tribal based politics turns out winner, other marginal and vulnerable woman doesn't get participation.
- The lack of openness in political decision-making and undemocratic internal processes pose a challenge for all newcomers, but particularly for women as they tend to lack insider knowledge or political networks.
- Education influences the social mobility of women. Formal education such as provided at educational institutions create opportunities for leadership, and impart leadership essential skills. Because of a lack of understanding of politics, they do not know about their basic and political rights.
- Raising the reservation for women to without showing any concern or efforts for their capacity building, training or inculcating confidence have led to such situation.

Conclusion:

Women's equal participation and representation in local decision-making processes is critical for prioritizing women's practical needs and issues in local governments' agendas and for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Gender-balanced local councils may be an important step in helping to attain gender balance at the national levels.

2. Discuss some of the most important women movements of the 21st century. What are the most recurring themes of these movements? Examine.**Approach**

Candidates are expected to examine or go deeply into his views about language being a binding factor for a nation. candidate also have to critically comment on having a common national language hurting national unity.

Introduction:

Throughout the history of humanity and democracy, social movements have become one of the most crucial tools to bring about reforms and changes. It is said that women's movements are among the most important crusade of modern social movements.

Some of the most important women movements of the 21st century:

THE ME TOO (OR #METOO) MOVEMENT: The Me Too (or #MeToo) movement, with variations of related local or international names, is a social movement against sexual abuse and sexual harassment where people publicize allegations of sex crimes. The phrase "Me Too" was initially used in this context on social media in 2006, on Myspace, by sexual assault survivor and activist Tarana Burke.

THE CHALLENGE ACCEPTED CAMPAIGN: The Instagram challenge was launched alongside another hashtag campaign #WomenSupportingWomen with the core objective of empowering and encouraging women to share the black-and-white photographs and selfies of themselves on their respective Instagram accounts. The campaign became originally viral in social media in 2016 with the intention of spreading positivity to tackle cancer and for cancer awareness.

PINJRATOD: Imposing oppressive rules in the name of protecting women gave rise to PinjraTod. Hostels in the country were sexist, and discriminatory towards women, right from setting early curfew, that sometimes-included reduced time at the library, so women can be protected from the evil outside the protection of hostels at night (according to the college/hostel administrations).

The Gulabi Gang: Founded by Data SatbodhSain in 2006 due to the lack of police response to domestic violence, the organization grew to an estimated 2,70,000 members in 2014. This organization doesn't stop at violence against women, it also fights against corruption, child marriage, and dowry deaths.

Nirbhaya Movement: Nirbhaya, the name that would send chills down the spine of many of us who followed the news in 2012, about the gang rape and torture of a medical student in Delhi on 16th December 2012. For those who were living in denial that rape culture was not part of the culture, the Nirbhaya case jolted the country, evoking a movement unlike any other.

Stop Acid Sale: Laxmi Agarwal was just 15 when a group of men threw acid at her, disfiguring her face and body. The reason: she refused to marry one of them. Until then, the news of acid attacks was just another part of the news section, but Laxmi wanted to bring an end to the attacks once and for all. She gathered 27,000 signatures for a petition to curb the sales of acid and took the issue to the Supreme court, with her campaign, StopAcid Sale. The campaign gained momentum nationwide, with many victims of acid attacks and public, voicing their stance against acid sale.

The most recurring themes of these movements:

Today, young women like Malala Yousafzai and Nadia Murad are breaking barriers and creating new models of leadership. But despite these advances, the state of women's rights remains dire. Inequality and discrimination are the norm, everywhere. Progress has slowed to a standstill — and in some cases, been reversed. The most recurring themes of women movements includes:

- There is a strong and relentless pushback against women's rights. Violence against women, including femicide, is at epidemic levels. More than one in three women will experience violence in some form during her lifetime.

- Legal protections against rape and domestic violence are being diluted or rolled back in some places. Rape within marriage continues to be legal in 34 countries. Women's sexual and reproductive rights are under threat from different sides.
- Women leaders and public figures face harassment, threats and abuse, online and off.
- The policing of personal freedom and dress are a daily reality for millions of women and girls.
- From Governments to corporate boards to awards ceremonies, women are still excluded from the top table.
- Everywhere, women are worse off than men, simply because they are women. Migrant and refugee women, those with disabilities, and women members of minorities of all kinds face even greater barriers. This discrimination harms us all.

Conclusion:

When apprising the ideologies of women movements, it is specified that within the women's movement, there have been different understandings of patriarchal oppression and its outcomes and, therefore, also varied strategies to combat it. Some organizations have small intellectual groups while there have been some that have had mass support. Some have emerged in support of certain causes or for the purpose of a focused campaign, while there are some groups that have existed for years with evolving agendas. The principles vary from radical, liberal, socialist, Marxist and Gandhian, to the new fundamentalist.

3. What are the socio-economic implications of a burgeoning unemployed population? Discuss.**Approach**

Candidates should introduce briefly about most Indians being deeply religious. Then Candidates are also expected to illustrate or explain with examples that how does religiosity shape the values and conduct of individuals in the society.

Introduction

A rapidly increasing population plunges the economy into mass unemployment and under-employment. As population increases, the proportion of workers to total population rises. But in the absence of complementary resources, it is not possible to expand jobs. The result is that with the rise in labor force, unemployment and under-employment increases.

The Socio-Economic Implications Of A Burgeoning Unemployed Population

A rapidly increasing population reduces income, savings and investment. Thus, capital formation is retarded and job opportunities are reduced, thereby increasing unemployment. Moreover, as the labor force increases in relation to land, capital and other resources, complementary factors available per workers decline. As a result, unemployment increases. The Burgeoning Unemployed Population has both social and economic implications.

The economic Implications of a Burgeoning Unemployed Population

- Non utilisation of manpower; human resources are not fully utilised. It is sheer wastage for the society.
- Loss of output in the economy because unemployed persons only live as consumer not as producers.
- Thus, living only as consumer will add up the consumption not the production. They don't earn nor do they save for investment; thus, capital formation is low.
- Due to disguised unemployment, there is a low level of productivity which implies lesser surplus from an output for future generation.
- Thus, these consequences lead to not only low level of present output but also the low level of future output because of lesser surplus for future investment.

The social Implications of a Burgeoning Unemployed Population

- Unemployment leads to low quality of life which leads to the state of perpetual sufferings.
- Higher the degree of unemployment; higher will be the inequality in the distribution of income and wealth.
- Unemployment divides the Society into have or have not. Accordingly, class conflict that compounds the problem of social unrest.
- Unemployment leads to the vicious circle in society by causing problems like illiteracy; poverty; etc.
- Thus, social consequences of unemployment is that it is a social menace as it denies social justice and enhances social unrest by increasing the disparity between have and haven't.

Conclusion:

Unemployment is a biggest issue which the economy faces today and a hurdle in the growth and development of the economy. India has a backlog of unemployment which keeps on growing with a rapidly increasing population. This tends to increase the level of unemployment manifold as compared with actual increase in labor force

4 What strategies can be adopted to make an urban space more inclusive and Equitable? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about what are urban spaces and what strategies can be adopted to make urban spaces more inclusive and equitable .give examples to substantiate your point.

Introduction

The urban space refers to several urban areas and their related multicentric municipalities forming a whole in a single stretch. In the multicentric urban space, the urban areas are either adjoining or linked together by multicentric municipalities.

Body

Cities are engines of growth and cultural assimilation. With growing urbanization which has already reached 30% of the population and expected to increase with time. The cities today need a futuristic outlook in order to do away with their woes.

- **Sustainability:** Temperatures in cities are soaring high due to the phenomenon of urban heat islands, which calls for a sustainable urban plan which uses the minimum amount of resources, so that issues like pollution and waste management can be tackled easily
- **Inclusive:** Inclusive growth is the mantra for the future with the SDGs by the UN and also the 12th FYP. The new urban spaces must provide affordable housing to all, so that people do not have to clutter in slums
- **Community participation:** The days of top-down planning are over and hence the new cities must have the institutional structures in place to materialize fruitful citizen participation in urban governance.
- **E governance:** With digital India and other such initiatives, e governance is the future; hence the new cities must do away with archaic governance procedures and use ICT effectively to increase transparency and speed in service delivery.
- **Smart systems:** "Smart" is the buzzword and hence smart systems for transportation, metering etc. need to be put into place in order to minimize leakages and ensuring a hassle free life for citizens
- Cities certainly need a makeover and the "smart cities" and "AMRUT" are initiatives in this direction, which have accorded due importance to innovative and forward looking measures. However, these are certainly leaps forward, but implementation of these tenets is the key to making our cities a better place to live
- **JUST, EQUAL AND INCLUSIVE-** equality of law and identical enforcement of all provisions, similarity of opportunities and ration distribution, adoptive and collaborative and conducive for minorities and for vulnerable groups.
- **Availability of fundamental necessities-** definition of a dignified and true life now consists of adequate water, electricity, housing, education and health

services. A future city must incorporate them naturally. There should be no requirement to raise special demands for their accessibility.

- Habitable and pollution free-if a dreamt city has all imagined features but is classified under “Red Alerts” all the time and where restriction is imposed on all outdoor activities then it would be a like cage outside of which has all things but are out of reach.
- Amicable and peaceful- a future city should free from unnecessary riots and irrational protests but legitimate voice and logical demand must never be suppressed. It should have enough space for relaxation from the pompous of city life.
- Now technology has advanced and we have many innovative young minds that are dotted with path breaking ideas coming up with new ways of an easy city life every day.
- Give special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women and children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.
- Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Conclusion-

The global experience shows that migration will continue as long as there is hope, aspiration, and an alternative livelihood option better than those available at home. In this context, the government has the task to build back better urban spaces in India, with a human-centred approach at its core.

5. How effective are subsidies as a means of eradicating poverty? Critically Examine. Why are direct transfers considered a better welfare alternative? Explain.

Approach-

In this question candidates need to write about what are subsidies, how subsidies can be effective means of eradicating poverty. In second part write about how direct transfers can be better alternative for welfare.

Introduction-

A subsidy is a benefit given to an individual, business, or institution, usually by the government. The subsidy is typically given to remove some type of burden, and it is often considered to be in the overall interest of the public, given to promote a social good or an economic policy. However since independence it is proved that it failed to eradicate poverty.

Body-

Subsidies are one of the quintessential attributes of any welfare state. India, at the eve of independence was left with uphill task of socio-economic development. Markets were almost nonexistence; masses lived in abject poverty and illiteracy hence subsidies were given.

- Latest economic survey rightly points out that despite spending as high as 3.77 lakh crore rupees annually on subsidies there is no 'transformational impact' on standard of living of masses.
- While subsidies have helped some poor people to do firefighting in life, main allegation on a subsidy economy is that, through subsidies, money meant for poorest is appropriated by richer sections of the society due to mistargeting and leakages.

Subsidies: are they solution to a problem or are they themselves a problem?

- As already said, a welfare state without subsidies cannot be imagined. Governments have to extend subsidies to achieve objectives of socio-economic policy.
- By this, they aim at-Making basic necessities affordable to poor people through extension of consumer services.
- Subsidies should be aimed at specific development objectives. On achievement of these objectives subsidies should be phased out. It is only then that subsidies can go well with an undistorted market economy.
- However, in a democracy, subsidy once extended becomes a politically sensitive issue and governments suffer huge political risk if they phase out such subsidies. Overtime, new subsidies are extended which pile up on older ones and they soon consume scarce revenue resources of government. This takes a heavy toll on other expenditure of the government. They are forced to cut allocation to developmental and infrastructure avenues. Further, higher subsidy expenditure pushes up fiscal and revenue deficits as government starts spending more than it earns. This fiscal deficit can be closed preferably by raising more revenue through new taxes (proactively) or by borrowing money.
- Most significant consequence of either of this alternative is that money is squeezed out of economy and which results in lower consumption/demand.

This, in turn hits the growth in economy. Less growth results in lower collection of taxes.

- On other hand subsidy burden remains same or even increases. Further, higher borrowing results in higher amount of interest to be paid. So in short, careless or politically motivated subsidy results in lower revenues for government and higher unproductive expenditure.

Some subsidies led distortion in India:

- Energy- Groundwater nexus – Agriculture sector is perhaps having most justifiable claim on subsidized inputs given the dismal situation of the farmers in the country. On these lines, water and electricity for agricultural use are heavily subsidized by state governments.
- most governments have failed to ensure rational and sustainable use of subsidized water and electricity. Owing to this, in large parts of India, groundwater is being extracted indiscriminately as electric pump consume electricity that is almost free of cost. This has led to dramatic fall in groundwater levels.
- Subsidized fertilizers-due to excessive use of fertilizers groundwater is also getting polluted and chemical bioaccumulation problem is impacting health of people.
- Cultivation of wheat, Rice and sugarcane at cost of pulses, horticulture crops and coarse but nutritious grains –
- The study observes that food subsidy has not only raises the fiscal deficit of central government; it may also fail to achieve long-term sustainable growth as well as a reduction in poverty. Finally, we have suggested that subsidies may be used as a short-term remedy to cure social ailments like poverty.

Direct Benefit Transfers as solution-

- Given above are only few examples of subsidy support gone wrong. In such scenario, direct benefit transfers comes to rescue government from this problem. It is likely to have multiple benefits –
- Fiscal savings – Assuming explicit subsidies being extended by state in current form to remain between 3 to 4 lakh crores, DBT will curb this expenditure by around 15%, which is a conservative estimate of current leakages. This can save government around 50,000 crore, which can be used more efficiently for developmental purposes.
- It hits at roots of corruption – It is common knowledge that subsidized fertilizer is diverted to industrial use from agricultural sector, kerosene is mixed in diesel and PDS food is leaked in black markets
- Further, Direct transfers will eliminate intermediaries which will end system of rent seeking from beneficiaries. Otherwise there is rampant system of illegitimate commission which is collected by government officials where they have power to stop, deny or delay the benefit to be passed.
- Better nutrition – When there is cash transfer poor will be able to diversify their diet by including more items like pulses, eggs etc. This will increase their protein intake.

Conclusion-

Subsidies are meant for poor people and they shall ensure equitable redistribution of resource. Subsidies extended to rich are regressive. They help in keeping poverty intact and create inefficiencies in economy which culminates in inflation and corruption. Rationalization of subsidy regime will improve markets in India which will then attract more investment. This in short, can turn the wheel of a virtuous economy which creates more employment and attacks poverty at its .

1. How does ethnic diversity manifest itself in the social discourse in India? Do a critical analysis.**Approach**

Candidates are expected to explain about the ethnic diversity in India. And then do critical analysis of the social discourse in India related to the ethnic diversity and its manifestations.

Introduction:

Ethnicity is a term that describes shared culture the practices, values, and beliefs of a group. This might include shared language, religion, and traditions, among other commonalities. An ethnic group is a collection of people whose members identify with each other through a common heritage consisting of a common culture.

Body

Ethnic diversity in India:

- India has evolved as an ethnically diverse country with significant similarities, and commonalities in ways of life.
- Not only the peopling of India from different racial and regional origins but the geographical diversity within provided ecologies for evolution, sustenance, the perpetuation of diversity and interaction, assimilation and harmonisation of the same.
- In 2011, 1241 individual ethnic groups were found among scheduled castes while the number of individual ethnic groups notified as scheduled tribes was 705. India has as many as 325 languages and 25 scripts in use, deriving from various linguistic families.

Manifestations of the ethnic diversity in social discourse:

- Ethnicity relates to ascriptive identities like caste, language religion, region etc.

- Ethnic groups that use ethnicity to make demands in the political arena for alteration in their status, in their economic well-being, etc. are engaged very often in a form of interest group politics.
- For example The tribal belt of Central India comprising the portion of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa has seen the rise of the Jharkhand Movement, which agitated for the formation of a separate state for tribals and which they succeed in achieving.
- Ethnicity is manifested in Indian politics not merely due to grassroots discontent but is also a creation of vested political interest.
- The ethnicity is socially mobilised and territorially confined. It has numerically sufficient population, and is a pool of symbols depicting distinctiveness. For example A few educated tribal Christians organised Chhota Nagpur UnnatiSamaj (CNUS) in 1928 for the tribal upliftment.
- Soon after Independence the most powerful manifestation of ethnicity in India was the demand for creation of state or province on linguistic basis. The State Reorganisation Committee was formed in 1956 and boundaries of the states were redrawn on the linguistic basis.
- The ethnic identity having a strong emotive appeal mobilises people into strong cohesive groups which then go on to make their demands felt whether real or imaginary.
- Influence of Dravidian culture can be seen across all South Indian states, politically, food habit of people living in these states is similar, wedding rituals are same.
- Also ethnic social movements are basically movements demanding for a larger share of the fruits of development and for this they adopt various strategies of mobilisation.
- However, it is not to deny that there have also been forces and ideas that have attempted to communalize and divide Indian people on religious, caste, linguistic, racial, and regional identities. One of the major setbacks to Indian civilizational unity, in this regard, was a division of the country in 1947 on the basis of religion.
- The progress of one ethnic community is viewed with unpleasantness and the economic collapse of the opposite side is gladly welcomed in a communally charged atmosphere. The vested interest groups having economic and other anti-social motives trigger communal conflicts in order to gain through a riot. For example Bhiwandi Riots.

Conclusion:

Despite emerging contradictions in recent years and rising violence along religious and caste lines, India still stays as a 'honeycomb' in which communities are engaged in vibrant interaction, sharing space, ethos, and cultural traits. Its our peculiar societal genius to form of coexistence where diversity can flourish and find its place

2. Can language be a binding factor for a nation? Examine. Do you think not having a common national language can hurt national unity? Critically comment.

Approach

Candidates are expected to examine or go deeply into his views about language being a binding factor for a nation. candidate also have to critically comment on having a common national language hurting national unity.

Introduction:

Language function can be classified into four categories: cognitive (related to learners' intellectual development), instrumental (related to the use of language for material purposes), integrative (related to group membership) and cultural (related to cultural appreciation and understanding).

Can language be a binding factor for a nation

language may be also used as a political and social element in the process of building, unification and maintaining of a nation and as an essential element of national identity hence it acts as a binding factor for a nation.

The following are examples of how language act as a binding force for a nation:

- Learner or user of language is connected in time and space to cultural tradition of a nation which is considered as a significant process connected with the unique form of access to other traditions of a nation.
- In India a large number of languages are found. The problem of multiplicity of languages is solved because Sanskrit works as a link language. People of the North and the South have accepted Sanskrit as their language. Thus, Sanskrit language act as a binding force for India.
- Indonesian government believed that the adoption and development of a national language is an essential feature of nationhood and the choice Javanese language was discarded due to the fear that the sense of favouring the largest ethnic group in Indonesia can become an obstacle to the unification of the nation.

- Hebrew language is generally conceptualized as the Jewish language, and it continues to be used as a ritual language and as a symbol of Jewish identity in the Diasporas, creating and maintaining national identity in Israel.
- Polish language not only constitutes a part of Polish culture, but also endures the endangered Polish national identity and the lack of supports became part of struggle and opposition to such a situation. Polish language was treated as a basic instrument in the fight for national liberation.

Can, not having a common national language hurt national unity?

- To a certain extent not having a common national language will hurt national unity as national languages do foster national unity.
- National language is a driving force behind unity of the nation's people, and makes them distinct from other nations – provided you give your language respect.
- A common national language means that it should be everyone's primary language, as well as the preferred source of communication at every level. Hence the idea of common national language is important for national unity.
- But at the same time if we take example of say India: in that case the tension between a desire to build national unity anchoring Hindi is sharply contrasted by the exclusion of other linguistic groups.
- It strips down to one idea: whether national integration can take precedence over people's linguistic and cultural identities.
- Arguably, language remains key to every political and social discourse, so the question of language is not just about imposition — but about threatening one's individual's cultural identity.
- "Language is integral to culture and therefore privileging Hindi over all other languages spoken in India takes away from its diversity."

Conclusion:

Language as a core element of culture becomes a major factor contributing to the sense of national identity. Learning a language is a process where all language skills are acquired which link to many areas, including country's economy, history, political system, and social issues. In an attempt to build and maintain a national identity, language is considered to be the primary determinant of success besides the knowledge. In fact, the use of a common language throughout the territory unites its inhabitants.

3. Most Indians are deeply religious. How does religiosity shape the values and conduct of individuals in the society? Illustrate.

Approach

Candidates should introduce briefly about most Indians being deeply religious. Then Candidates are also expected to illustrate or explain with examples that how does religiosity shape the values and conduct of individuals in the society.

Introduction

The Pew survey on religion in India finds that regardless of their socio-economic status, Indians claimed a religious identity and their commitment to tolerance is accompanied by a strong preference for keeping religious communities segregated.

How does religiosity shape the values and conduct of individuals in the society?

- Religion is probably the strongest belief system that has existed for thousands of years. In many ways, it is a code of conduct, a rule book that allows individuals in the society to function in a non-primitive or cultured manner.
- Functionalists believe that religion maintains social solidarity and value consensus amongst a society's population and this helps maintain the well-being of society.
- The earliest forms of religion were established to facilitate social bonding. In fact, it is also believed that religious practices are adaptive and have emerged to sustain survival and reproductive advantages through gene selection or gene-culture coevolution dynamics.
- It is no surprise then, that this system is crucial to thinking patterns and plays a vital role in formation of self-identity and a collective identity of a community, which then shapes attitudes, cultural norms and influences individual and group behaviour.
- Children are particularly perceptive to religious beliefs and the concepts of Gods and other supernatural agents, which leads to a teleological bias of accepting explanations of phenomenon, based on the purpose they serve rather than their postulated causes, which persist into adulthood.

- These attitudes are contingent upon factors such as beliefs about God's existence, immortality and omnipresence; attributions about psychological characteristics such as fairness, compassion and harshness; and attributions about God's causal involvement and motives in one's life events.
- Durkheim sees religion as a social fact and all the people following a particular religion follow specific beliefs and practices.
- These are also in nature of moral codes which each member follows. This binds them into a single community and integrates them together and they feel comfortable living together.

Conclusion:

The role of religion in society is definitely a dynamic one. The relationship between both religion and society is always changing. Religion affects different societies in different ways and different forms, causing the forms of society to change according to a change in religion. Religion can be a driving force in society, but as a reactionary rather than in a radical way. In states where the majority of the population embrace one religion, the boundary between government and religion becomes permeable.

4. What discriminations and challenges do women face in the workplace? Explain With the help of suitable examples.**Approach**

A simple straightforward question where candidate needs to write about challenges and discriminations faced by women in workplace. In second part of question substantiate your points with suitable examples.

Introduction

Women constitute fifty percent of total population of India. According to global gender gap report women constitute only 22 percent of workforce in India compared to 82 percent of men.

Body

Women have been trying to break away from norms and standards set by society. They have been marching for equal rights and fighting for their rightful place in the world

The Challenges faced by women in workplace-

Representation of Women

- Women continue to remain underrepresented at every level, starting from entry-level jobs to C-suite roles. According to the Women In the Workplace 2018 report, representation of women of colour is the least causing them to stay behind white men, men of colour, and white women. Women of colour comprise only 17% of entry-level roles and 4% of C-Suite positions.
- This underrepresentation gets worse in senior management positions. Only 22% of C-suite executives are women. Compared to 62% of men in managerial positions, only 38% of women are promoted to be managers

Gender Pay Gap

- Women earn 77.9 cents for every dollar earned by men. Research by Pay scale says that in 2018, the median salary for women is roughly 22 percent lower than the median salary for men.
- In India, too, the fight for equal wages continues. The Labour Bureau in India has found that in rural areas in the agricultural sector, the daily wage for men is ₹264.05 and ₹205.32 for women. In non-agricultural sectors, the average daily wage rate for men is ₹271.17, while for women it is ₹205.90.

Sexual Harassment

- The #Me-too movement brought out numerous cases of women facing sexual and non-sexual harassment in the workplace. These cases ranged from unwelcome verbal, visual, non-verbal or physical harassment.

Unemployment Penalty

- During child-rearing years, the unemployment penalty for women is longer. This means that when women take longer leaves, they have a much harder time getting rehired.

Race and Ethnicity

- 64% of Americans say that racism continues to be a major problem in society. In the workplaces, too, it continues to be a problem. White men and women continue to get hired over people of color, women from diverse ethnicities.

Pregnancy Discrimination

- The Guardian reports that over 50,000 women lose their jobs over maternity discrimination.
- A type of employment discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, refers to when women in the workplace are fired, not hired, or discriminated against their pregnancy or are expecting

That Time of the Month'

- Women all over the world have at least once in their life have been subject to prejudice when on their periods. When they show emotions like anger or irritation, they are mocked by comments like, "stop fussing. Are you on your periods?"

Women Bosses

- Lots of men feel threatened by female bosses. There are countless studies which show that men prefer male over female bosses. In recorded Gallup polls since the 1950s, the number of respondents saying they would like to work for a woman has never exceeded 25%

Conclusion-

The world talks about progression and creating an environment where all people are treated equally. Why is the word “feminism” branded with so much hatred and contempt? It’s time we shatter toxic masculinity and make people understand that feminism’s goal is to reduce gender gaps and achieve political, economic, personal, and social gender equality.

5. The construct of gender must not be seen through the prism of sex. Do you Agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach-

In this question candidates need to write about gender and sex differently and explain how gender is constructed term while sex is natural. Write your opinions on this.

Introduction-

Gender is a social and cultural construct, which distinguishes differences in the attributes of men and women, girls and boys, and accordingly refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women. Gender-based roles and other attributes, therefore, change over time and vary with different cultural contexts.

Body-

The concept of gender includes the expectations held about the characteristics, aptitudes and likely behaviours of both women and men (femininity and masculinity). This concept is useful in analyzing how commonly shared practices legitimize discrepancies between sexes.

- Sex refers to a set of biological attributes in humans and animals. It is primarily associated with physical and physiological features including chromosomes, gene expression, hormone levels and function, and reproductive/sexual anatomy.
- Sex is usually categorized as female or male but there is variation in the biological attributes that comprise sex and how those attributes are expressed.
- Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions and identities of girls, women, boys, men, and gender diverse people. It influences how people perceive themselves and each other, how they act and interact, and the distribution of power and resources in society.
- Gender identity is not confined to a binary (girl/woman, boy/man) nor is it static; it exists along a continuum and can change over time.
- There is considerable diversity in how individuals and groups understand, experience and express gender through the roles they take on, the expectations placed on them, relations with others and the complex ways that gender is institutionalized in society.
- The concept of gender includes the expectations held about the characteristics, aptitudes and likely behaviours of both women and men (femininity and masculinity). This concept is useful in analyzing how commonly shared practices legitimize discrepancies between sexes.
- Gender-based Constraints that women or men face that are a result of their gender. An example of constraints women farmers face might be not having title to their land, male dominated cooperative membership, being more tied to their homes preventing access to extension services. Constraints that are not based on gender are referred to as general constraints.
- A term referring to the understanding that when a society invests in girls, the effects are deep for the girls, multiple for society and a driver of sustainable development.
- Higher levels of schooling among mothers correlate with better infant and child health.

Benefits of not mixing gender with sex

- One of the stated goals of sex- and gender-based analysis is to help government decision-makers including those in the health sector identify sex and gender considerations, such as the participation and inclusion of diverse populations.
- To achieve that, these issues need to be incorporated from the very beginning, while programs and policies are in the developmental phase.
- It will help to promote egalitarian society
- It will reduce stereotyping of LGBTQ community
- It will reduce burden of women in domestic works

Conclusion

Any nation to prosper and society to progress it is vital to provide equal access of opportunity to everyone and not impose work based on gender roles. As stereotyping regarding gender reduces every section of society will prosper.

1. What are the ecological services provided by coral reefs? Discuss. How is climate change threatening the ecosystem sustained by coral reefs? Examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write the ecological services provided by coral reefs. Candidate also has to discuss how is climate change is threatening the ecosystem sustained by coral reefs.

Introduction:

The earth is home to millions of species. Every organism depends on one or another organism for energy, survival, and other life processes. As a part of an ecosystem, humans derive lots of benefits from the biotic and abiotic components. These benefits are collectively termed as ecosystem services. Life and biodiversity on earth depend on these services.

The Ecological Services Provided by Coral Reefs:

- Coral reefs are one of the most biodiverse ecosystems containing approximately 830,000 species world-wide thus benefitting biodiversity and this diversity of reefs contributes to the maintenance of a genetic library.
- Corals engineer the environment, interacting with and creating suitable conditions for other tropical nearshore ecosystems.
- Coral reefs dissipate 97% of the energy that would otherwise hit shorelines. This shoreline protection benefits 197 million people who live below 10 m elevation and within 50 km of reefs.
- Coral mucus acts as an energy carrier between reefs and other nearshore environments whilst sponges play an important role in transferring energy and nutrients between trophic levels.
- Fisheries products from reef environments include a range of taxa that are used for subsistence and cash income.
- Coral reef fisheries provide diverse livelihood opportunities. More than a quarter of small-scale fishers fish primarily on coral reef ecosystems.
- Coral reefs can underpin the discovery of compounds with high biotechnological potential.
- Reef tourism is calculated to be worth US \$35.8 billion dollars globally per annum (international and domestic visitors). This includes on-reef tourism and indirect contributions from reefs to tourism.

Climate change threatening the ecosystem sustained by coral reefs:

- Climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reef ecosystems. Scientific evidence now clearly indicates that the Earth's atmosphere and ocean are warming, and that these changes are primarily due to greenhouse gases derived from human activities.
- Climate change will affect coral reef ecosystems, through sea level rise, changes to the frequency and intensity of tropical storms, and altered ocean circulation patterns.
- When combined, all of these impacts dramatically alter ecosystem function, as well as the goods and services coral reef ecosystems provide to people around the globe. Climate change leads to:
- It can cause thermal stress that contributes to coral bleaching and infectious disease.
- It may lead to increases in sedimentation for reefs located near land-based sources of sediment. Sedimentation runoff can lead to the smothering of coral.
- Climate change leads to stronger and more frequent storms that can cause the destruction of coral reefs.
- It increased runoff of freshwater, sediment, and land-based pollutants contribute to algal blooms and cause murky water conditions that reduce light.
- The climate change leads to changes in connectivity and temperature regimes that contribute to lack of food for corals and hampers dispersal of coral larvae.
- It also led to Ocean acidification as a result of increased CO₂ and a reduction in pH levels which decreases coral growth and structural integrity.
- Warmer water temperatures can result in coral bleaching. When water is too warm, corals will expel the algae (zooxanthellae) living in their tissues causing the coral to turn completely white. This is called coral bleaching. When a coral bleaches, it is not dead. Corals can survive a bleaching event, but they are under more stress and are subject to mortality.

Conclusion:

Today, these important habitats are threatened by a range of human activities. Many of the world's reefs have already been destroyed or severely damaged by pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, disease, global climate change, ship groundings and other impacts. However, we can still protect and preserve our remaining reefs for future generations if we act now.

2. What do you understand by orographic precipitation? Can you identify the regions of the world that receive most of their rainfall through orographic precipitation?

Approach

Candidates are expected to explain the orographic precipitation. Candidate has to mention regions of the world that receive most of their rainfall through orographic Precipitation.

Introduction

Orography is defined as the study of the topographic relief of mountains, and more broadly includes hills and any part of an elevated terrain region. Orography is also called oreography. Oreology or orology falls within the broader discipline of geomorphology.

Orographic Precipitation:

- Orographic precipitation, whether snowfall or rainfall is the result of the Orographic Effect or what follows when flowing air comes into contact with a rising slope and travels upland.
- When the flow of air is interrupted by a hill or mountain and it is forced to rise, it can cause disturbances in the weather system.
- As the weather system moves up along a mountain, there are changes in temperature and pressure.
- A hill or mountain is warmed by the sun, which in turn heats the air flowing just above it.
- This is called an anabatic wind, and when it rises above the top of the crest is warmer than the air around it and rises through convection.
- As this warm air rises over the top, it gradually expands and cools till it condenses into water vapor and forms cumulus clouds. These then produce rain and even thunderstorms.

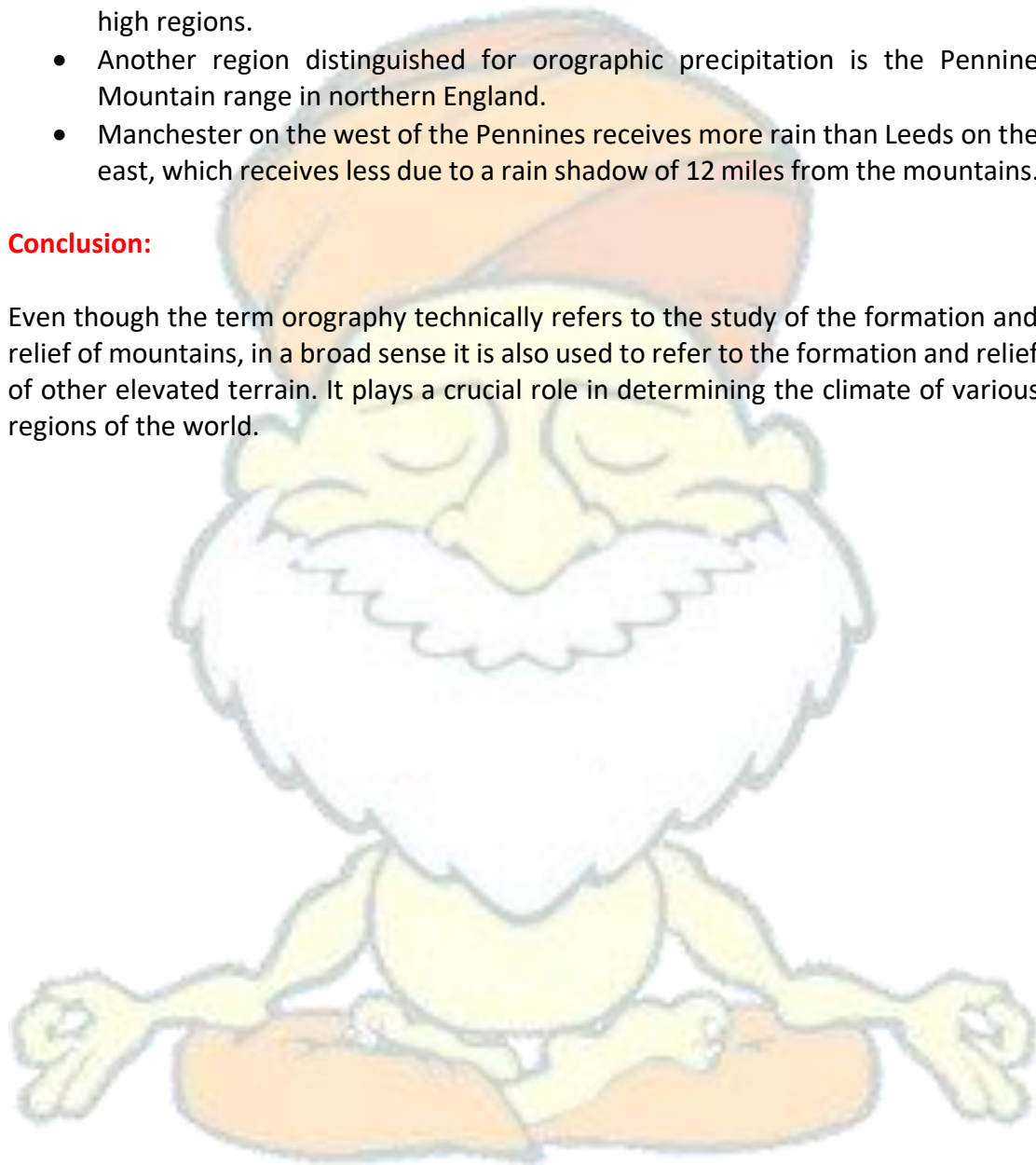
The Regions of the World That Receive Most of Their Rainfall Through Orographic precipitation:

- Some places of the world are well known for their orographic precipitations. Mountain rainfall is common on oceanic islands like Hawaii and New Zealand.

- In these places, much of the prevalent rainfall is on windward sides and the opposite regions remain comparatively dry, sometimes almost desert-like.
- This phenomenon results in substantial disparities in rainfall. Coastal areas receive significantly less rain (20 to 30 inches or 510 to 760 mm) per year than the interior uplands, which receive over 100 inches (2,500 mm) per year. Leeward coasts are particularly dry.
- For example, in Hawaii, Waikiki gets less than 20 inches of annual rainfall while high regions.
- Another region distinguished for orographic precipitation is the Pennine Mountain range in northern England.
- Manchester on the west of the Pennines receives more rain than Leeds on the east, which receives less due to a rain shadow of 12 miles from the mountains.

Conclusion:

Even though the term orography technically refers to the study of the formation and relief of mountains, in a broad sense it is also used to refer to the formation and relief of other elevated terrain. It plays a crucial role in determining the climate of various regions of the world.



3. What are rapids? How are they different from waterfalls? Explain.

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about definition of rapids first and then explain how rapids are different from waterfalls.

Introduction-

The landforms created as a result of degradation action (erosion) or aggradations work (deposition) of running water is called fluvial landforms. These landforms result from the action of surface flow/run-off or stream flow (water flowing through a channel under the influence of gravity). rapid and waterfall are examples of such fluvial landforms.

Body-

Rapids are sections of a river where the river bed has a relatively steep gradient, causing an increase in water velocity and turbulence.

- Rapids are hydrological features between a run (a smoothly flowing part of a stream) and a cascade. A rapid, is a sudden change in gradient of a river and resultant fall of water.
- A waterfall is simply the fall of an enormous volume of water from a great height, because of a variety of factors such as variation in the relative resistance of rocks, relative difference in topographic reliefs; fall in the sea level and related rejuvenation, earth movements etc
- For example, Jog or Gersoppa falls on Sharavati (a tributary of Cauvery) has a fall

Diagrams of rapids and waterfall-

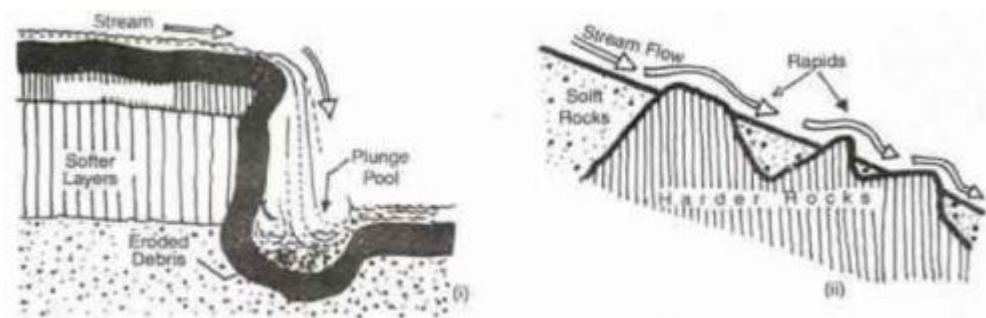


Fig. 1.50 Formation of—(i) waterfall, and (ii) rapids.

Rapids and waterfall difference-

- Rapids are stream sections with extremely strong currents, numerous obstacles, and steps in their streambeds.
- A waterfall is a vertical drop in a streambed. Both are sites of vigorous erosion. Rapids often form where resistant bedrock confines a stream to a narrow channel, and forces an increase in water velocity. Fast-moving water, laden with abrasive sand and gravel, cuts into the bedrock, forming cliffs on either side of the cataract. Large boulders fall from the cliffs, creating obstacles in the streambed, and increasing water turbulence.
- Rapids are navigational hazards that have hampered exploration, travel, and trade on the world's rivers throughout human history. Today, adventurers explore remote natural areas, and test their athletic abilities, by kayaking, canoeing, and rafting along these treacherous stretches of rivers.
- Waterfalls form where fast-flowing water traverses a geologic contact between more resistant and less resistant rock layers, or across a fault that has juxtaposed different rock types. In other words, waterfalls often form at the end of a series of rapids.
- Turbulent, sediment-laden water quickly erodes the less-resistant rocks, creating a vertical step in the streambed. Falling water erodes the soft rock even more quickly, and the waterfall grows taller.
- Turbulence at the base of the waterfall undercuts the newlyformed cliff, and it moves upstream. Niagara Falls, for example, retreats upstream about 3.3 ft (1 m) each year.
- Waterfalls also form where streams flow across pre-existing cliffs. They are common where streams reach the ocean along eroding or tectonically uplifting coastlines.
- For example, many streams end at spectacular waterfalls along the Scandinavian fjords. Yosemite Valley's famous waterfalls occur where small streams flow over the rim of the valley.
- Angel Falls, in Venezuela, is Earth's tallest waterfall at 3212 ft (979 m). Victoria Falls, on the Zambizi River along the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, is one of the natural wonders of world; its beauty and mythical history are legendary.

Conclusion-

Waterfalls on a river mean a healthy life for the river and this leads to the growth of trees and plants along the River banks and the presence of the trees leads to reduced soil erosion due to stability of the soil by the plants. Whereas Rapids can be important to the health of a stream system. The water splashing over rocks captures air in bubbles. This splashing, called white water, leads to more dissolved oxygen in the water. The oxygen is useful to fish, insects, and bacteria in the water, and in turn to the ecosystem around the stream.

4. What is the significance of the Brazilian rainforests for the world climate? What might happen if deforestation of the rainforests continues unabated? Explain.

Approach

In this question candidate need to write about Brazilian rainforests ,their significance for the world ,what is deforestation issue in this rainforest and what will happen to if this deforestation continues explain in detail.

Introduction

The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest intact forest. It has unparalleled diversity of life, the Amazon plays an essential role in helping to control the planet's climate. In the last 40 years, the Brazilian Amazon has lost more than 18 percent of its rainforest an area about the size of California to illegal logging, soy agriculture, and cattle ranching. Despite the creation of protected areas in recent decades, most of the remaining forest is under threat.

Body

According to the data from Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), the Amazon Forests in Brazil has experienced 74,155 fires since January 2019.

- This is an 85% increase from the last year (2018) and significantly higher than that in the year 2016, when there were severe drought conditions in the region associated with a strong El Nino event.
- Moreover, there is nothing abnormal about the climate this year or the rainfall in the Amazon region, which is just a little below average.

Amazon Rainforests

These are **large tropical rainforest** occupying the drainage basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries in northern South America and covering an area of 6,000,000 square km

Tropical forests are closed-canopy forests growing within 28 degrees north or south of the equator.

- They are very **wet places**, receiving more than 200 cm rainfall per year, either seasonally or throughout the year.
- Temperatures are uniformly high - between 20°C and 35°C.
- Such forests are found in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico and on many of the Pacific Islands.
- Comprising about 40% of Brazil's total area, it is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.

Reason Behind the Fires

- Natural Cause: The dry season creates favourable conditions for the use and spread of fire.
- Man-made causes: Since the 1960s, the Amazon has witnessed large-scale deforestation because of cattle-ranching, logging, power projects, mining and farming.
- The Amazon has large reserves of gold and other minerals.
- Immediate Cause: Environmentalists have blamed farmers setting the forest alight to clear land for pasture.
- The President of Brazil has repeatedly said that he believes that Brazil should open the Amazon up to business interests, to allow mining, agricultural and logging companies to exploit its natural resources.

If deforestation continues following concerns are there

- The Amazon rainforest is a repository of rich biodiversity and produces approximately 20% of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere.
- It is home to many indigenous communities, their life depends on the forests.
- Additional Carbon Emissions: Carbon intake by the Amazon basin matches the emissions released by nations in the basin. The burning of forests, therefore, implies additional carbon emissions.
- Further deforestation could lead to Amazon's transformation from the world's largest rainforest to a savanna, which would reverse the region's ecology.
- Savanna is a vegetation type that grows under hot, seasonally dry climatic conditions and is characterized by an open tree canopy (i.e., scattered trees) above a continuous tall grass understory (the vegetation layer between the forest canopy and the ground).
- The largest areas of savanna are found in Africa, South America, Australia, India, Myanmar (Burma)–Thailand region in Asia, and Madagascar.
- Impact on Water Cycle: Amazon rainforest has the ability to produce at least half of the rain it receives. The rain produced by the Amazon travels through the region and even reaches the Andes mountain range.

- The United Nations and the international community need to take serious measures to save the forests.

Conclusion-

The Amazon rainforest plays an important part in regulating the world's oxygen and carbon cycles. It produces roughly six percent of the world's oxygen and has long been thought to act as a carbon sink, therefore its aptly called a Lungs of world hence its protection is necessary.

5. What are the endogenic forces that are responsible for orogeny? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidates need to explain the what are endogenic forces. And then link how it's responsible of the orogeny that is mountain building also try to give examples.

Introduction

Endogenic forces are the pressure within the earth, also known as internal forces. Such internal forces contribute to vertical and horizontal motions and lead to subsidence, land upliftment, volcanism, faulting, folding, earthquakes, etc.

Body

- Orogeny or orogenesis, is the building of continental mountains by plate-tectonic processes that squeeze the lithosphere. It may also refer to a specific episode of orogeny during the geologic past.

Endogenic forces responsible for the orogeny:

- Endogenic forces can be classified as slow movements diastrophic and sudden movements. Slow movements cause changes very gradually which might not be visible during a human lifetime.

Diastrophic forces:

- Diastrophic forces refer to forces generated by the movement of the solid material of the earth's crust. Diastrophic movements are gradual and might stretch for thousands of years.

- Orogenic or the mountain-forming movements act tangentially to the earth surface, as in plate tectonics.
- In classical plate tectonics, plates interact in exactly three different ways: they push together (converge), pull apart, or slide past each other.
- Orogeny is limited to convergent plate interactions; in other words, orogeny occurs when tectonic plates collide. The long regions of deformed rocks created by orogenies are called orogenic belts, or orogens.
- In actuality, plate tectonics is not at all that simple. Large areas of the continents can deform in blends of convergent and transform motion, or in diffused ways that do not give distinct borders between plates.
- The Mediterranean Ridge is the result of the African plate subducting (sliding) underneath the Eurasian plate and other smaller micro-plates. If it continues, it will eventually form extremely high mountains in the Mediterranean.
- The Andean Orogeny has been occurring for the past 200 million years, although the Andes have only arisen in the past 65 million years. The orogeny is the result of the Nazca plate subducting underneath the South American plate.
- Orogens can be bent and altered by later events, or severed by plate breakups. The discovery and analysis of orogens is an important part of historical geology and a way to explore plate- tectonic interactions of the past that do not occur today.
- The orogenic movement is a more complicated deformation of the Earth's crust, associated with crustal thickening due to the convergence of tectonic plates.
- Such plate convergence forms orogenic belts that are characterised by "the folding and faulting of layers of rock, by the intrusion of magma, and by volcanism.

On the other hand, sudden movements like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in a very short period:

- Sudden geomorphic movements occur mostly at the lithospheric plate margins tectonic plate margins.
- The plate margins are highly unstable regions due to pressure created by pushing and pulling of magma in the mantle convectional currents. These movements cause considerable deformation over a short period.
- Such movements may result in uplift or subsidence in coastal areas. An earthquake in Chile (1822) caused a one-metre uplift in coastal areas. An earthquake in New Zealand (1885) caused an uplift of up to 3 metres.
- The Himalayan Orogeny started as the Indian subcontinent began moving towards the Asian plate 71 million years ago. The collision between the plates, which is still ongoing, has created the largest landform of the past 500 million years; the combined Tibetan Plateau and Himalayan Mountain range.
- These landforms, along with the Sierra Nevada range of North America, may have induced a global cooling around 40 million years ago. As more rock is

lifted to the surface, more carbon dioxide is sequestered from the atmosphere to chemically weather it, thus decreasing Earth's natural greenhouse effect.

Conclusion

The topographic features of the Earth have evolved over time and have been mainly caused due to forces active in the Earth's crust. Due to which we know many of the features found on the Earth's surface are not stable or changeless. Changes will continuously occur both on the surface and beneath the surface. Therefore we need to study and understand forces responsible for the creation of major relief features of the earth's surface such as mountains, plateaus, plains and valleys, etc.

1. How did a hostile China shape India's political and economic development post independence? Examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write in detail and go deep into how a hostile China shape India's political and economic development post-independence.

Introduction

While both India and China have a long history, their histories are very different. China has been by and large a stable, centrally run state through its history with limited periods of instability and lack of a single authority. India's history has been exactly the reverse.

How did a hostile China shape India's political and economic development post-independence?

- China was much advanced in science and technology, with gunpowder, printing, paper and paper currency as its inventions. Nehru took keen interest in not just learning from it but also competing with it.
- The contrast between the two was most stark in agriculture. Being vast territories there is a similar diversity in the eco- agricultural make up of regions in both countries.
- But China's central rule meant that a uniform revenue collection system and land ownership pattern prevailed especially while the central power was effective. India by contrast had different legal patterns of revenue collection and different land tenures as a result of a lack of central authority reinforced by British experimentation with Ryotwari, Zamindari, Mahalwari etc.
- Land reform was a straightforward issue of changing ownership of large landholding across China as far as the Communists were concerned.

- They were also committed to it as soon as they could become the sole powers. In India land reform was a maze of regional complexity and the Congress Party was not a revolutionary organization.
- Land reform thus became a state/ provincial subject rather than a union/central policy issue.
- Thus, India added legal and economic variation to the eco agricultural one.
- India diverted resources from domestic consumption goods production, especially of the machine produced variety, to investment goods production in the industrial sector and small-scale industrial consumer goods.
- Even its savings rate was not significantly raised and the growth rate remained modest.
- China seems to have concentrated its industrial efforts also on the basic goods sector initially, but soon after the first three four years switched to an all-round emphasis on heavy as well as light industries.
- Apart from the aberration of back yard steel furnaces in the Great Leap Forward phase, it was not saddled with a small-scale industry strategy. But China had a more successful resource mobilization strategy than India did.
- The Indian Second Five Year Plan [1956-61] ran into a resource constraint by 1958. China on the other hand ran into the evils of overweening ambition in launching the Great Leap Forward.

Conclusion

India and China are two of the oldest and still extant civilizations. For Europeans, they were legendary seats of immense wealth and wisdom right up to the eighteenth century. Somewhere between the mid-eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries, both these countries became, in the European eyes, bywords for stagnant, archaic, weak nations. China adopted a road that India could always have adopted; indeed, right after independence.

2. What was the immediate policy focus in terms of economic priorities after independence? Did it succeed? Critically examine.

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates have to mention the immediate policy focus in terms of economic priorities after independence. The candidate has to critically examine the result of these immediate policy focus in terms of economic priorities after independence.

Introduction-

India became an independent nation on August 15, 1947. Prior to that the Indian subcontinent was under the British rule for nearly two centuries which is a very long

period to sufficiently influence every aspect of the country such as politics, culture, social system, economy etc. In the beginning, our country India was rich in economy, culture and polity. It was due to advent of foreigners that it gradually got pushed into backwardness.

The Immediate Policy Focus in Terms of Economic Priorities After Independence

- On 14 August 1947, Nehru had said: "The immediate tasks ahead included the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity."
- At the time of independence, Indian economy was generally rural and agricultural.
- At the beginning years of the First Five-year Plan, contribution of the primary sector in GDP at factor cost was largest followed by tertiary sector and secondary sector respectively.
- The objective of India's development strategy has been to establish a socialistic pattern of society through economic growth with self-reliance, social justice and alleviation of poverty as given in the constitution.
- These objectives were to be achieved within a democratic political framework by using the mechanism of a mixed economy. Hence Post-independence, India was declared to be a planned and a mixed economy.
- India was not only facing regional disparities at the level of resources, but inter-regional disparities were also prevalent, since centuries.
- Deeply entrenched mass poverty could only be remedied once the government started the process of economic planning.
- The abject poverty of the masses made the government go for planning so that it could play an active role in the allocation of resources and mobilise them for equitable growth and development.
- Although, constitutionally India was declared a federation of states, but in the process of planning, the authority of regulation, directing and undertaking economic activities got more and more centralised in the Union government.

The Result of These Immediate Policy Focus in Terms of Economic Priorities After Independence:

- India's First Five-Year plan was a brave effort. The success achieved in many fields was remarkable and, in many cases, the plan targets were exceeded.
- The first plan period did not cause any significant inflationary pressure on the economy. This was due to increased production, particularly in the agricultural sector.
- Although the target for national income growth was only an 11% increase, the actual increase was 18%. Per capita income went up by 11%.
- Food production rose from 52.2 million tonnes in 1951-52 to 65.8 million tonnes in 1955-56.
- In cotton, jute, sugarcane and oilseeds, the achievements were close to the targets.

- The first five-year plan was a successful plan primarily because of good harvests in the last two years of the plan.
- With an active role of the state in all economic sectors, targets and objectives of immediate policy more or less achieved.
- Objectives of rehabilitation of refugees, food self-sufficiency & control of prices were more or less achieved.
- But at the same time, it can't be ignored that when India was freed, it has deep marks of stagnation. During the phase of fifty years of economic planning, its growth rate is zero or nearby.
- The policy miserably failed to make a dent on poverty as 40 per cent of population is in tight grip of poverty.

Conclusion-

While some have a high opinion of India's growth story since its independence, some others think the country's performance in the seven decades has been abysmal. It's arguably true that the Five-Year Plans did target specific sectors in order to quicken the pace of development, yet the outcome hasn't been on expected lines.

3. Linguistic reorganisation of the country was inevitable as well as desirable. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach-

In this question candidates are need to write about what is linguistic reorganisation? Was it inevitable as well as desirable. Give your opinion about it and substantiate your views.

Introduction –

At the time of independence in 1947, India consisted of more than 500 disjointed princely states that were merged together to form different states. The grouping of states at the time was done on the basis of political and historical considerations rather than on linguistic or cultural divisions, but this was a temporary arrangement. Linguistic reorganization of country strengthen the democratic set up and it also promoted the cultural diversity of our country.

Body-

For a newly Independent India emerging from the pathos of partition The grouping of the States at Independence was done more on the basis of historical and political

principles than social, cultural or linguistic divisions. There was not enough time to undertake a proper reorganisation of the units at the time of making the Constitution.

- The Government appointed a commission under S.K. Dhar to examine the feasibility of reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis. The S.K Dhar Commission preferred reorganisation for administrative convenience rather than on linguistic basis. A Congress Committee under Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya (the JVP Committee) too did not favour a linguistic base.
- However, in 1953, the first linguistic State came into being as Andhra Pradesh, created by separating the Telugu speaking areas from the State of Madras.
- This followed a prolonged agitation and the death of Potti Sriramulu after a 56-day hunger strike. As there were several more demands for states on a linguistic basis, a commission was set up under Justice F. Fazl Ali with H.N. Kunzru and KM. Panikkar as members to study the demand. The efforts of this commission were overseen by Govind Ballabh Pant, who served as the Home Minister from December 1954.
- The Commission submitted its report on 30 September 1955, with the following recommendations:
- The three-tier (Part-A/B/C) state system should be abolished.
- The institution of Rajapramukh and special agreement with former princely states should be abolished.
- The general control vested in Government of India by Article 371 should be abolished.
- Only the following 3 states should be the Union Territories: Andaman & Nicobar, Delhi and Manipur. The other Part-C/D territories should be merged with the adjoining states.
- In Part II of Report of the States Reorganization Commission (SRC) 1955, titled "Factors Bearing on Reorganization", the Commission clearly said that "it is neither possible nor desirable to reorganise States on the basis of the single test of either language or culture, but that a balanced approach to the whole problem is necessary in the interest of our national unity. "
- Though sceptical of the recommendations the Congress government at the centre passed the State reorganisation committee act 1956 facilitating creation of newer states and 14 states and six union territories were formed via the 7th amendment.
- The successive committees (Dhar,JVP) on it also cautioned the leadership even though popular demand for it persisted. But the death of Patti Sriramalu in 1952 forced the government to relent and SRC was constituted in 1956, and which paved the way for the reorganisation of states on linguistic basis.
- Although at that time, to many of the experts, it seemed problematic, their functioning has proved it was sound policy in following ways.

Linguistic reorganisation was desirable in many ways :

- Language has deep root with the culture and custom of the people and in country like India it can't be overlooked.

- To make democracy real and effective for the masses ,the polity and administration has to be conducted in the language which they understand.
- Both the points were very strong and that's why the national leadership even though apprehensive with timing by and large supported this.
- The linguistic regional committees attracted the masses to INC- more democratic set up is the result.
- Ease of administration set up.
- large no of population can be understood.
- Ensure the federalism.
- One of the easy criteria for reorganization and would heal the communistic voices to some extent.

Conclusion-

By reorganizing the states on linguistic lines, the national leadership removed a major grievance which could have led to fissiparous tendencies. Linguistic reorganization of the states has not in any manner adversely affected the federal structure of the Union or weakened or paralysed the Centre as many had feared but made country more united.

4. Critically assess the land reforms implemented just after independence. What Were the key objectives of these reforms? Why didn't they succeed completely? Examine.

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about what are land reforms, what are their key objectives. And examine what are the shortfalls of land reforms ad why they fail to achieve their intended targets.

Introduction-

Land distribution has been part of India's state policy from the very beginning .Land reform refers to efforts to reform the ownership and regulation of land in India. Or, those lands which are redistributed by the government from landholders to landless people for agriculture or special purpose is known as Land Reform. although it is a revolutionary step it fails to attain its intended targets.

Body-

Land reforms in Post Independence period:

A committee, under the Chairmanship of J. C. Kumarappan was appointed to look into the problem of land. The Kumarappa Committee's report recommended comprehensive agrarian reform measures.

- The Land Reforms of the independent India had four components:

- The Abolition of the Intermediaries
- Tenancy Reforms
- Fixing Ceilings on Landholdings

Consolidation of Landholdings:

- These were taken in phases because of the need to establish a political will for their wider acceptance of these reforms.
- Land distribution has been part of India's state policy from the very beginning

Abolition of the Intermediaries-

- Abolition of the zamindari system: The first important legislation was the abolition of the zamindari system, which removed the layer of intermediaries who stood between the cultivators and the state.
- The reform was relatively the most effective than the other reforms, for in most areas it succeeded in taking away the superior rights of the zamindars over the land and weakening their economic and political power.

Advantages:

- The abolition of intermediaries made almost 2 crore tenants the owners of the land they cultivated.
- The abolition of intermediaries has led to the end of a parasite class. More lands have been brought to government possession for distribution to landless farmers

Disadvantages:

- zamindari abolition did not wipe out landlordism or the tenancy or sharecropping systems, which continued in many areas. It only removed the top layer of landlords in the multi-layered agrarian structure.
- It has led to large-scale eviction. Large-scale eviction, in turn, has given rise to several problems – social, economic, administrative and legal.

Issues:

- While the states of J&K and West Bengal legalised the abolition, in other states, intermediaries were allowed to retain possession of lands under their personal cultivation without limit being set.

Tenancy Reforms:

- After passing the Zamindari Abolition Acts, the next major problem was of tenancy regulation.
- The rent paid by the tenants during the pre-independence period was exorbitant; between 35% and 75% of gross produce throughout India.
- Tenancy reforms introduced to regulate rent, provide security of tenure and confer ownership to tenants
- Issues: In most of the states, these laws were never implemented very effectively. Despite repeated emphasis in the plan documents, some states could not pass legislation to confer rights of ownership to tenants.
- Few states in India have completely abolished tenancy while others states have given clearly spelt out rights to recognized tenants and sharecroppers.

Ceilings on Landholdings:

- The third major category of land reform laws were the Land Ceiling Acts. In simpler terms, the ceilings on landholdings referred to legally stipulating the maximum size beyond which no individual farmer or farm household could

hold any land. The imposition of such a ceiling was to deter the concentration of land in the hands of a few.

- In 1942 the Kumarappan Committee recommended the maximum size of lands a landlord can retain. It was three times the economic holding i.e. sufficient livelihood for a family.
- In 1972, national guidelines were issued with ceiling limits varying from region to region, depending on the kind of land, its productivity, and other such factors.

Issues:

- In most of the states these acts proved to be toothless. There were many loopholes and other strategies through which most landowners were able to escape from having their surplus land taken over by the state.

Consolidation of Landholdings:

- Consolidation referred to reorganization/redistribution of fragmented lands into one plot.
- The growing population and less work opportunities in non- agricultural sectors, increased pressure on the land, leading to an increasing trend of fragmentation of the landholdings.
- This fragmentation of land made the irrigation management tasks and personal supervision of the land plots very difficult.

Way Forward:

- It has now been argued by the NITI Aayog and some sections of industry that land leasing should be adopted on a large scale to enable landholders with unviable holdings to lease out land for investment, thereby enabling greater income and employment generation in rural areas.
- This cause would be facilitated by the consolidation of landholdings.
- Modern land reforms measures such as land record digitisation must be accomplished at the earliest.

Conclusion-

The pace of implementation of land reform measures has been slow. The objective of social justice has, however, been achieved to a considerable degree.

Land reform has a great role in the rural agrarian economy that is dominated by land and agriculture. New and innovative land reform measures should be adopted with new vigour to eradicate rural poverty.

5. How did the political class tackle the issue of tribal integration post independence? Critically analyse.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about tribal integration first and then various challenges related to integration. As question demands critical analysis candidates need to present how political class tackled issue of integration with policies and then highlight the drawbacks in it.

Introduction

The Government of India has adopted a policy of integration of tribals with the mainstream aiming at developing a creative adjustment between the tribes and non tribes leading to a responsible partnership. By adopting the policy of integration or progressive acculturation the Government has laid the foundation for the uninhibited march of the tribals towards equality, upward mobility, and economic viability and assured proximity to the national mainstream.

Body

The task of integrating the tribal people into the mainstream was extremely complex due to:

- Diverse dwelling conditions
- Different cultures & tradition
- Varied languages
- Spread all over India
- Resided mostly in hills & forest areas in colonial India
- Lived in isolation
- Different habits and ways of life with their non-tribal neighbours

There were certain broad guidelines laid down by Nehru, with the help of V Elwin, which was called as “Tribal Panchsheel”. They are:

- People should develop along the line of their own genius – avoid imposing anything on them
- Try to encourage in every way their own traditional arts and culture
- Tribals rights to land and forest should be respected
- Technical experts needed for development but avoid introducing too many outsiders into tribal territory.
- Judge results not by statistics or amount of money spent, but by the quality of human character involved.
- Should not over administer these areas or overwhelm them with a multiplicity of schemes

Other legislative measures were introduced by the Indian government post-independence under the Nehru leadership and vision:

- Article 46 of the constitution emphasized the promotion of educational and economic upliftment of the tribal people. At the same time provided for their protection from exploitation.
- The application of fundamental rights was amended for providing power to the governor of the states with tribal areas to amend laws for the protection of tribal interests.
- Reservation of seats in the legislature as well as administration.
- Setting up of Tribal Advisory Councils in all states.
- Commissioner for scheduled tribes appointed by the President – to investigate whether the safeguards provided to the tribal people are reaching as targeted.

In spite of the constitutional safeguards and the efforts for integration by central & state governments, the tribals integration and welfare has been very slow and had few problems:

- Quite often the funds allocated for tribal welfare are not spent or are spent without corresponding results and sometimes funds are even misappropriated.
- Administrative personnel are either ill trained or prejudiced against tribals.
- Denial of justice, often because of their unfamiliarity with the laws & the legal system.
- Violation of strict land transfer laws to tribals, leading to alienation of land & eviction of tribals.
- Rapid extension of mines & industries has worsened their conditions in many areas.
- The progress of education among the tribal people has been disappointingly slow.
- Exploitations from the forest officials and unsympathetic attitude of officials. The Christian missionaries played a key role in creating anti-national feelings among the people of the northeast.
- The Naga's declared themselves as a separate country in 1955 under the leadership of A.Z Phizo and also the support of external agents. However, the Indian army took control in 1956 and took control of the situation.
- They were living in acute poverty and although being central in terms of geographical location, they were cut off in terms of delivery of goods and services.
- Central Indian tribals now took to arms under the inspirations of ideas of Mao, Karl Marx, Lenin etc. This violent movement is since known as Naxalism. It is so-called as it originated in the region of Naxalbari in West Bengal in 1967. The areas under the Naxal control are today referred to as the Red Corridor.

Conclusion

The situation today in the tribal areas indicates the coexistence of both the tribal and the non-tribal population and their common demands of economic and social development as well as justice. It is important to understand the aspirations of the

tribal areas with respect to the region as when the region develops, all elements integral to the region inevitably develop. However, care must be taken to ensure the distinctiveness and uniqueness of the tribal people are not infringed upon in the name of development.

