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Q.1) You and your friends decided to take a cultural trip across India. In your incredible journey, you visited three important cities – Varanasi, Ujjain, and Rameshwaram. In all these cities, temples were the main attraction for your group. Please describe the differences you would have noticed in the design and architecture of the temples belonging to these cities? (10 Marks)

Approach-

Candidates need to address the difference between temples Varanasi, Ujjain and Rameswaram. With keeping in mind geographical historical background styles and different schools of temple architecture candidates can highlight the difference between temples.

Introduction–

The temples in India developed in every region of the country, often the geographical, climatic, ethnic, racial, historical and linguistic aspects of the region had a greater part to play in shaping the style of the temples in India which can be noticed in Varanasi, Ujjain and Rameswaram.

Body

Varanasi:

- Built by multiple patrons near and far rather than a singular local dynasty, Banaras's temples present a compelling case study for exploring the mobility of objects, patrons, and artisans, and the negotiations between local and transregional forms. Whereas in Ujjain and Rameswaram mostly local dynasty has build temples.
- The ghats line the Ganges River as immense staircases that build from the edge of the river to the sky is totally different from Ujjain and Rameswaram. From the top, there are idyllic views of the sunrise and sunset. Cremations take place at the top of the ghat as well which is an unique in India.
- The Kashi Vishwanath Temple is the most famous religious tourist attraction of the city. In addition, the Bharat Mata Temple, Durga Temple, Tulsi Manas Temple, and the Archaeological Museum.
- Some patrons brought their distinctive regional styles and building methods, seen in the wood and brick "Nepali temple" (1842), sponsored by the Nepalese royal family and modeled after the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu.
- The most important attraction of Varanasi – Ganga aarti can be witnessed on the Dashashwamedh Ghat daily at dusk. It is considered as the most spectacular ghat filled with tourists, monks, Men, Women, and children celebrating the water. This type of arti and reverence cannot be noticed in other part of India.



- In Varanasi most amazing aspect of this temple is that it has been destructed and re-constructed many times in history which is different from Ujjain and Rameswaram.

Ujjain:

- Ujjain has been the Prime Meridian for Hindu geographers since the 4th century BC. Ujjain has been an excellent center for study and research based on River Kshipraa.
- Ujjain has many religious and ancient monuments. However many of these shrines are still in use and are modified since time to time. This has reduced the ancient appeal from the shrines as compared to Varanasi and Rameswaram.
- Built in Bhumija, Chalukya and Maratha styles of architecture, the temple is an architectural marvel. Of note are its marble walkways that were restored in the latter half of the 19th century by the Scindias.
- Ujjain has notable monuments of the region are Sandipani Ashram, Mahakal Temple, Avanti Parshwanath, Kaal Bhairav, Nava Graha Mandir. Mostly based on nagara style of architecture.

Rameswaram:

- One of the four pilgrimage places, Char Dham of India, it modestly invites followers of Lord Shiva from everywhere to pay visit at least once in their lifetime.
- Rameshwaram Island being associated with the legendry temple built in marvelous Dravidian style of architecture.
- Many gopurum structures can be noticed. There are two gopurams, one located in the East and one located in the West. The one in the East is 78 feet high with five tiers. The one in the West is 126 feet high and has nine tiers and is known as rajagopuram.
- The material used for reconstruction of the temple was mainly granite. Granite stones according to historical records were shipped to this island that date far back to 1414 CE.
- The town has been changed many hands; main amongst them were Cholas, Jaffna Kingdom, Allaudin Khilji (Malik Kafur), Pandya Dynasty, Vijayanagara Empire, followed by some other rulers who ruled the town for a very short while before British East India Company directly took over it and made it a part of Madras Presidency.
- The bridge to Lanka named 'Rama Set u', also known as Adam's Bridge is of religious as well as ecological importance.

Conclusion

Temples depict the deities in human form in such a way that the divine is brought from abstraction to accessibility, and even intimacy. It takes devotee on journey towards knowledge and realisation of formless eternal.



Q.2) When your friend from the US visits you in India, she is mesmerized to see the Kathakali dance performed by local dancers of Kerala. She is wondering as to what do the colours of the face make up mean and what the premise of the dance is. How would you explain these to her? Discuss. (10 Marks)

Approach

Candidates need to directly address the question with giving simple introduction on the kathakali and then write features and explain the symbolism of face and dance expression and colours involved in the kathakali has.

Introduction

Kathakali originated as part of the bhakti movement and is believed to have been performed by soldiers of the kingdom, as the plays were written by a prince himself. Kathakali is a blend of dance, music and acting and dramatizes stories, which are mostly adapted from the Indian epics and it is one of the eight classical dances of India.

Body

Colours of face make up:

- Kathakali dancer emphasizes on their facial expressions instead to depict various emotions. Here body movements are specifically controlled.
- While most other dance forms like Bharatnatyam and Odissi focus on hand gestures and body postures.
- Some characters have a green face representing heroic or excellence as a warrior with red dots or lines on their cheeks or red-coloured moustache or red-streaked beard representing evil inner nature, while others have a full face and beard coloured red, the latter implying excessively evil characters.
- The characters in Kathakali fall into certain broad categories distinguished by their typical make-up.
- The face of the artist is painted over to appear as though a mask is worn. The lips, the eyelashes and the eyebrows are made to look prominent. A mixture of rice paste and lime is applied to make the chutti on the face which highlights the facial make-up.

Premise of dance:

- Kathakali is typically structured around 'Attakatha' meaning the story of attam or dance.
- 'Attakatha' are plays that were historically derived from Hindu epics like 'Bhagavata Purans', 'Mahabharata' and 'Ramayana' which were written in certain format that



allows one to determine the dialogue portions that is the Pada part and the action portions that is the Shloka part of the performance.

- The make-up code followed in 'Kathakali' conventionally typifies the characters of the acts categorising them as gods, goddesses, saints, animals, demons, and demonesses among others.
- The most popular stories are Nala Charitam, Duryodhana Vadham, Kalyanasowgandhikam, Keechaka Vadham, Kiratham, Karna and Shapadham.
- However recently, stories from other cultures, such as the story of Mary Magdalene from the Bible, and Shakespeare's King Lear have also been adapted into Kathakali scripts to popularise the art.

Conclusion

Based on geographical locations, traditions, rituals many forms of dance have originated over time each having its uniqueness. Even though all might have different forms and emotions they show similar theme of devotion to Almighty, Culture, Heritage etc. Kathakali is one such cultural dance mostly adapted from the Indian epics.

Q.3) Have you ever thought about the lifestyle of the people belonging to the Harappa civilisation? If you were to describe their customs, values and daily life, what would be the most important elements of your description? Comment.

Approach:

Introduce the lifestyle of the people belonging to the Harappa civilisation and then give your views on what should be the most important elements when describing the customs, values and daily life of the Harappa civilisation.

Introduction:

The Harappan Civilisation lifestyle was urban in nature with exceptional skill in building and town-planning in their civic life. Major excavations undertaken at the Indus sites have given us a fair idea about other aspects of civilization including society, customs, values and daily life, technology, economy, religion, etc.

Body:

Customs, Values and Daily Life of Harrappan Civilization: The Most Important Elements



The social and economic life of the people of Harappan Civilization was systematic and organized.

Customs

- Their dress habits were simple. One statue shows the use of two pieces of cloth—one for the upper portion and the other for the lower portion of the body.
- The upper garment was like a modern shawl that was drawn over the left shoulder and under the right so as to leave the right arm free and in the sitting posture it came down up to the feet. The lower garment was like a modern dhoti.
- There was very little difference in the garments worn by males and females.
- Both men and women of the Harappan society were fond of wearing ornaments. There were some common ornaments that were used by both. They included necklaces, fillets, armlets, rings and bangles.
- Ladies used some specific ornaments like girdles, nose-studs, ear-rings and anklets. There was a great variety in the shape and design of these ornaments.
- The wealthy people used ornaments made of gold, silver, ivory and other semi-precious stones whereas ornaments of the poor were made of copper, bronze, shell and terracotta.
- Beads of various designs and metals were also used in large numbers.

Values

- The Harappan culture was a religious one. The people of Harappan civilization worshipped many gods and goddesses.
- Foremost among them was the Divine Mother whose clay, images have been found at Mohenjo-Daro. There also the figure of a god engraved on a seal has been found. It was a three-headed horned deity seated cross-legged. Around this figure are grouped various animals.
- Scholars have identified this as “Pashupati” Siva. Harappans were frolic worshippers.
- The last aspect of Harappan religion attached much importance to the practice of Yoga. A large number of terracotta figurines show individuals in various yogic postures or asanas.

Daily Life

- The civilization itself was a glorious conglomeration of people of various origins.
- As the civilization centred around city culture the social life of the people bore touches of an urban influence.
- Their civic life was highly disciplined and quite scientific.



- The inhabitants preferred to live in a proper hygienic atmosphere, as is proved by their town-planning systems.
- Since the people of Harappan culture were city-dwellers, they had various pastimes for useful recreation of their leisure.
- They entertained themselves by playing indoor games like dicing, dancing and singing.
- Further hunting, fishing, arranging animal and bird fights formed other sources of amusement.

Conclusion:

To conclude with the words of Sir John Marshall, “The Indus Valley Civilisation has been mainly an independent and indigenous growth, a product of the Indian soil marked by certain specifically Indian features not present in any other early civilization. Indeed, the Indus Valley civilisation is no less individual and national than other great river valley civilizations of antiquity.”

Q.4) With the help of suitable examples, discuss the key features of Buddhist literature. (10 Marks)

Approach-

Candidates need to write about the Buddhist literature, highlighting its key features with suitable example is the demand of question.

Introduction–

The earliest Buddhist texts were passed down orally in Middle Indo-Aryan languages called Prakrits, including Gāndhārī language, the early Magadhan language and Pāli through the use of repetition, communal recitation and mnemonic devices. These texts were later compiled into canons and written down in manuscripts.

Body

Key features of Buddhist literature:

- Vernacular: During his lifetime the Buddha taught not in Vedic Sanskrit, which had become tough to the people, but in his own Indian dialect, he also encouraged his monks to propagate his teachings in the vernacular. For example language of Pali and other local languages developed through the teachings of Buddhism.
- Folklore: Jatakas are very much close to folklore literature and they contain the tales of previous births of Buddha in poems. The Jataka have also been mentioned in the Khuddaka Nikaya.



- Based on discipline and rules: The subject matter of Vinay Pitaka is the monastic rules for monks and nuns. It can also be called as Book of Discipline. Its three books are Suttavibhanga, Khandaka and Parivara.
- Biographical: In Sanskrit Lalit is a Lotus. Lalitvistara is a Sanskrit text that deals with the biography of Buddha. Buddha Charita is an epic style Sanskrit work by Ashavaghosa. It mainly deals with Buddha's Life.
- Discourse and dialogue: Milinda Panha literal meaning is Questions of Milinda contains the dialogue between the Indo-Greek King Menander I or Milinda of Bactria, and the sage Nagasena. It is in the question answer format related to Buddhism.
- Adoption of different technologies: Asian Buddhist institutions were at the forefront of the adoption of technologies related to bookmaking, including paper, and block printing which were often deployed on a large scale. First surviving example of a printed text Diamond Sutra (c. 868).
- Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit (BHS): Sanskrit Buddhist literature refers to Buddhist texts composed either in classical Sanskrit, in a register that has been called "Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit" or a mixture of the two. Most prominent among which was the Sarvāstivāda.

Conclusion

Buddhism literature arose to suit the needs of a changing society, patronized by an emerging class and left an indelible mark on India's culture, philosophy and way of living. These literature also found their influence in neighboring countries and helped India expand its footprint in these regions, paving way for a cultural connect to this day.

Q.5) In India, music is deeply integrated into the lives of common people – their traditions and the nature that they inhabit. Elucidate. (10 Marks)

Approach

Candidates need to directly address Indian music relevance in daily life of the common people with explaining there tradition and nature. Try to give some suitable example for better substantiation.

Introduction

Indian music has developed over centuries into a nuanced, glorious art Form. Indian music, through a variety of melodic entities (ragas), Ornamentation of notes and rhythmic patterns, tries to unite the performer and listener in the experience of emotions or bhava.

Body



Relevance of Indian music:

- Expressing emotions: Music plays a more important role in our life than just being a source of entertainment as it can express our feelings as well as emotions which is of course connected to our daily life. Indian classical music is rich in terms of ragas which contain different rasas or bhaavas or emotions.
- For example Rasiya Geet closely woven into the very fabric of daily life and day to day chores of its people.
- Increasing the concentration: There are plenty of people who swear that listening to music helps them concentrate on what they are doing and help them focus in a much better way in everyday life.
- Weddings, birth of a child, festivals: Later on, folk songs were extensively used for recreational purposes and to celebrate special events.
- Information generation to generation: Folk songs were also used to pass on prominent information from one generation to another. Since people did not have a solid material to preserve ancient information, passing down important information in the form of songs became utmost important.
- Socio-religious reforms: Religious leaders like Adi Shankaracharya used many such songs to spread his message throughout the country. Rabindra sangeet topics dealt in these songs include modernism, humanism, structuralism, reflection, romance, introspection, psychology, nostalgia, yearning, etc. Mando of Goa dealing with love, tragedy and both social injustice and political resistance during Portuguese presence in Goa.
- Entertainment of workers: Bhatiali was sung by the fishermen of ancient Bengal. It is said that this musical form was used by the oarsmen and fishermen of Bengal to keep themselves entertained when they didn't have to row their boats with all their might.
- Religious worshipping reverence: The religious and philosophical unity embodied through musical practice, therefore, has deep historical roots, which has meant that music and religion share many aspects of a common ontology.
- For example Pandavani is a folk singing style involving narration of tales from the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata.

Conclusion

Indian Music has various benefits in our daily lives, it takes us away from our daily life stress and calms our minds. It provides us with a feeling of deep relaxation and creates an aura of positivity around us. Helps improve the mind vigorously and makes one more artistic as well as ingenious.



Q.6) Do you think the 19th-century social reform movements had an intrinsic dichotomy when it came to the question of embracing modernity versus restoring the ancient glory of the country? Comment. (10 Marks)

Approach-

Candidates need to write about the Buddhist literature, highlighting its key features with suitable example is the demand of question.

Introduction–

From the early 19th century, debates and discussion about social customs and practices took a new character due to the development of new forms of communication. There was intrinsic dichotomy between Reformist and revivalist ideas in the mind of reformers. Few were keen to spread knowledge of modernization others were interested in highlighting past glory and customs.

Body

Reformist view towards social reforms:

- Blind adherence to western ideology wasn't practices but reform indigenous culture. Thus modernization was the aim of the reformers.
- The movements believed in rationalism and religious universalism. A rational and secular outlook was more important to prevalent social practices. E.g. medical opinion was cited as an aid to oppose child marriage.
- They used faith to challenge such practices. They referred to the period of past where no such practices existed but they used it as only an aid and an instrument. Thus they wanted to prove that no practice like sati, child marriage etc were sanctioned by religion.
- These movements contribute towards the liberation of the individual from the conformity born out of fear and from uncritical submission to Exploitation by the priests and other classes. E.g. Brahmo Samaj and its Variants.
- Various agitations in all parts of India eg. Temple entry movement were meant to achieve social equality between dalits and upper castes, and also made efforts to treat dalits in a more humanely way. Narayan Guru from Kerala played a very important role.

Revivalist view:



- The Theosophists advocated the revival and strengthening of the ancient religions of Hinduism, Zoroastrianism and Buddhism. They recognised the doctrine of the transmigration of the soul.
- Dharma Sabha in 1830, in order to counter the ideas of Brahamo Samaj and advocated status quo and opposed abolition of Sati.
- The Arya Samaj followed the motto “Go Back to Vedas” and the Shuddhi movement whereas Tabligh movement aimed to reach out to ordinary Muslims and revive their faith.
- Revivalist movements believed that the western thinking and missionary propaganda would ruin Indian culture and ethos, and thus there was a need to protect the religion.
- They were also influenced by the rich cultural heritage of India brought to light by the western scholars, and found that it was even superior to the western culture.
- Wahabi Movement was a revivalist movement with slogan to return to pure Islam. Jihad was declared with the prime objective of converting Dar-UL-Harb (land of infidels) into Dar-UL-Islam (land of Islam).
- The tendency to look backwards, appeal to past greatness, and rely on scriptural authority.
- Appeals to past greatness created false pride and smugness, while the habit of finding a ‘Golden Age’ in the past acted as a check on the full acceptance of modern science and hampered the effort to improve the present.
- The evil aspects of this phenomenon became apparent when it was found that, along with a rapid rise of national consciousness, another consciousness – communal consciousness – had begun to rise among the middle classes.

Conclusion

Socio-religious reforms were a reaction against colonial judgement and native backwardness. The movement arose and declined, but with lasting impact on society and the public sphere of ideas. It helped Indians to have comparatively more self-confidence, self-respect and the feelings of patriotism. From these, humanity and morality among the common people spread and the feelings of political freedom and modern development raised.

Q.7) Explain the philosophical basis of ‘Swadeshi’ and its contribution to India’s freedom struggle.

Approach

Candidates need to directly address philosophical basis of swadeshi movement during 1905. And also explain the contribution of swadeshi philosophy in future course of freedom struggle.



Introduction

The Swadeshi movement was part of the Indian independence movement and contributed to the development of Indian nationalism. The movement, begun in 1906 by Indian nationals opposed to the Partition of Bengal, was one of the most successful movements against British rule.

Body

Philosophical basis of Swadeshi:

- The ideological inspiration came from the new regional literature, which provided a discursive field for defining the Indian nation in terms of its distinct cultural heritage or civilisation.
- It was also a response to gendered discourse of colonialism that had established the philosophical connection between masculinity and political domination, stereotyping the colonised society as having un-manly characters and therefore unfit for rule.
- From the philosophical perspective, the idea of Swadeshi promotes “Not mass production, but production by the masses.” As per Gandhi.
- It would imbibe in the people self-governing perspective. Maximum economic and political power, including the power to decide what is to be imported into or exported from the village, would remain in the hands of the village assemblies.

Contribution of philosophical basis of Swadeshi to Indian freedom struggle:

- Concept of swadeshi later became the basis of all the anti-British movements and became fundamental in Gandhian philosophy.
- Philosophy of Swadeshi was instantly identified as the highest form of patriotism and “Swadeshim” became the cradle of New India. It was an intensely spiritual movement and aimed at the emancipation of India in every sense, of every Indian.
- With fervent national calls for the boycott of British goods, schools, courts and administration came stirring appeals for embracing “Swadeshi” in all spheres of life, indigenous manufactures, national education, language, literature and above all “Swaraj” or political freedom became the life breath of the nation was due to philosophical touch of swadeshi.
- It was a movement for total emancipation of every Indian in all walks of life political, economic, social, cultural and above all spiritual.
- The Swadeshi and boycott movements placed great emphasis on ‘Atmasakti’ or self – reliance as a means of reasserting national dignity in different fields. For example in painting, music and literature which enhanced freedom struggle.



- Amar Sonar Bangla, written by Rabindranath Tagore in protest against Bengal's partition, became a rallying point for the Swadeshi and boycott movements.
- The ideas of non – cooperation and passive resistance, successfully applied many years later by Mahatma Gandhi, found their origin in early 20th century Swadeshi and boycott movements.

Conclusion

Though the Swadeshi Movement was not successful in reaching its immediate goals but it provided a platform for the national freedom struggle. Later it showed the way to nationalist leaders to prepare the masses for the next phase of struggle under Gandhiji's leadership.

Q.8) Do you think the Royal Navy mutiny has an underrated legacy in the historical context? Substantiate your views.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about the RIN mutiny in introduction then highlight causes and why it has underrated in history. Then explain its significance and the legacy how it fastened the transfer of power.

Introduction–

On February 18, 1946, a section of non-commissioned officers and sailors known as Ratings, serving in the Royal Indian Navy, mutinied against the British Officers. The mutiny started as a strike by the ratings to protest against the hardships regarding pay, food and racial discrimination.

Body

Causes:

They suffered abuses by superior officers, arrest of a rating for scrawling 'Quit India' on HMIS Talwar, INA trials, use of Indian troops in Indonesia and the demand for their withdrawal were some of the reasons behind the RIN mutiny.

The commander of HMIS Talwar, F M King, reportedly addressed the naval ratings as "sons of coolies and bitches", which inflamed the situation further.

Soon, ordinary people joined the ratings, and life came to a virtual standstill in both Bombay and Calcutta.



The strikers were inspired by the INA trials and the persona of Subhas Chandra Bose.

Why it was underrated:

The revolt, however, failed to see support from the Indian leadership who perhaps saw a mutiny, so close to independence, as a danger.

The leaders realized that any mass uprising would inevitably carry the risk of not being amenable to centralized direction and control.

476 sailors were discharged as a result of the mutiny. They were not taken into the Indian or Pakistani navies after independence.

Besides, now that independence and power were in sight, they were eager not to encourage indiscipline in the armed forces.

Legacy and significance:

It was immediately after this revolt that PM Atlee dispatched the Cabinet Mission to India, so it is also inferred that the mutiny hastened the process of transfer of power to India.

Mutinies are usually confined to a particular station, establishment or ship. However, this was the first instance when the entire service joined the revolt.

Most striking feature was that it was directed against the British government and not against superior officers – not a single officer, British or Indian, was harmed.

The RIN strike came at a time when the Indian nationalist sentiment had reached fever pitch across the country.

Conclusion

The RIN revolt remains a legend today. It was an event that strengthened further the determination among all sections of the Indian people to see the end of British rule. Deep solidarity and amity among religious groups was in evidence, which appeared to run counter to the rapidly spreading atmosphere of communal hatred and animosity.

Q.9) How did developments during the interwar period on the international front affect the freedom struggle in India?

Approach



Candidates need to directly address how interwar period created a atmosphere at international stages. Then straightaway write about the impact of interwar period on Indian National struggle.

Introduction

It has been criticised that the interwar period (1919 to 1939) was not a phase of reconstruction but that of global politics reshaping itself for a second war. International factors during interwar period and many other, no doubt helped to create the sort of atmosphere which affected the Indian freedom struggle.

Body

Impact of interwar period on freedom struggle:

Inter-war years lead to the rise of 2nd leg of Indian National Movement, it prepared a firm and deep base in for Nationalistic activities in India, the culmination of various International influences, along with rising mass participation in India.

Appeasement was the policy followed by the British, avoiding war with aggressive powers such as Japan give opportunity to INA.

The situation really began to drift out of control with the onset of the economic crisis, or the Great Depression 1929.

Formation of USSR after the war also led to the rise of communism in India with the formation of CPI and imparted a socialist influence on the freedom struggle.

As a result of Russian Revolution of 1917, militants got inspired by socialism-which made people realize the ill effects of capitalism. It brought most ignored sections like peasants to the forefront later many peasants movement impacted imperialism.

Myth of the indestructible power of the British Empire in India as the British faced many humiliating defeats during the war. This raised the self-confidence among Indians.

Under international circumstances British government realized that the participation of the Indian National Congress was necessary in any discussion on the future of constitutional government in India.

Lack of Focus of British on its colonies- as they were on the back foot to defend themselves because of their reducing impact.



The Labour Party, which had come to power in Britain after the end of the World War, lifted the ban on the Congress and elections were declared in India which paved the way for the powerful Indian leaders to come back in the game.

The British, facing such grave problems back home, did not have the energy and resources to hold India and the enthusiastic Indians who were determined to achieve independence.

The American government pressurized Britain to grant India its due independence because the Allied Powers stood for freedom and democracy.

Conclusion

Thus, Interwar period had far reaching effects on India's freedom movement- it lead to the strengthening of the foundation laid by the Moderates and acted as the link between initial efforts and final culmination to Independence.

Q.10) The food processing industry has immense potential to generate employment and be a driver of regional growth. Comment.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the FPI. And then comment the employment potential in the FPI also how it will help regional growth.

Introduction

Food Processing includes process under which any raw product of agriculture, dairy, animal husbandry, meat, poultry or fishing is transformed through a process (involving employees, power, machines or money) in such a way that its original physical properties undergo a change and the transformed product has commercial value and is suitable for human and animal consumption.

Body

- India's food processing sector continues to grow in response to changing demographics:
- Over 16 % of the total workforce in the organised sector and 32 % in the unorganised manufacturing sector are employed in the food processing industries. The industry employs nearly 15 million people directly and 37 million indirectly.



- India is one of the top rankers in the production of bananas, guavas, ginger, papaya etc although processing levels in the country remain limited, which indicates an extensive opportunity in the food processing sector.
- By 2024, food processing sector is expected to employ 9 million people in India and expected to generate about 8,000 direct and 80,000 indirect jobs as per ASSOCHAM.
- Farm related employment in agricultural sector (Allied activities like dairying), self-employment opportunities particularly to women, development and management of infrastructural facilities like storage and processing centres, transportation network, research and innovation to add value to the product and others.
- Government of India has come out with SAMPADA scheme to give boost to Food Processing Industry in the country. Thus the policymakers have identified food processing as a key sector in encouraging labour movement from agriculture to manufacturing.
- Women can be given training in the area of processing and can go for value addition through mango pulp processing, guava products processing such as guava leather, guava nectar and various carbonated and fresh fruits beverages.
- Food processing will require different types of inputs thus creating an incentive for the farmer to grow and diversify crops.
- It is an important source of foreign exchange. For e.g. Indian Basmati rice is in great demand in Middle Eastern countries.
- Food Processing being a labour intensive industry will provide localized employment opportunities and thus will reduce the push factor in source regions of migration.
- Processing increases the shelf life of the food thus keeping supplies in tune with the demand thereby controlling food-inflation. For e.g. Frozen Safal peas are available throughout the year.

Conclusion

Food processing has numerous advantages which are specific to Indian context. It has capacity to lift millions out of poverty and malnutrition with employment opportunities. Government should develop industry in a way keeping in mind the interests of small scale industry along with attracting big ticket domestic and foreign investments.

Q.11) How has religiosity and religious beliefs shaped the values of the Indian society? Illustrate.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about what is religiosity and religious beliefs directly answer how it had shaped the Indian value system and how it influenced the morality of Indian society.



Introduction

We define religiosity as the degree to which someone is involved in organized religious activity and religious practice, the degree to which their behavior, life, and person feels hope in a religious sense is known as religious beliefs.

Body

Religiosity and religious beliefs shaping values of Indian society:

- Religion is a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred thing which unite in to one single moral community. For example in India Hinduism Islam Sikhism forms a community. People belonging to a particular religion closely identify themselves with the religious group.
- It had helped in the development of ethical values Care for the parents, protection of children, helping the poor and disabled , honesty are certain values, preached by religion.
- According to religious morality, maintenance of wife and children is the bounden duty of the husband in Indian society as per value system developed by religion.
- The verses from Bhagwat Gita in Hinduism contribute to improve self-reflection, better the senses and expands one's inner development, through attitudinal changes in the individuals. It offers us the tools to connect with our deepest insubstantial spirit, and leads us to participate in the battle of life.
- Human values are inculcated from the Vedic teachings to lead a peaceful integrated life. Veda is the source of all Dharma i.e. religion, morality, righteousness and good conduct.
- Indians value religious tolerance due to values developed by religion as per pew survey people in all six major religious groups overwhelmingly say they are very free to practice their faiths, and most say that people of other faiths also are very free to practice their own religion.
- Indian Society has evolved systems of social stratification based on teaching of religion which in the past helped in accommodating outsiders, but concomitantly it has also been the reason for discrimination and prejudice.
- The practice of mixing up religion with politics or using religion beliefs or practice for the sake of political and economic gains is a reason for conflict between communities and competition. It give birth for communalism Example The Bhiwandi communal riot (1970).

Conclusion



Indian society is an exemplification of multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-ideological constructs, which co-exist, at once striving to strike harmony and also to retain its individuality.

Q.12) Do you see a perceptible decline in family as an institution? If yes, what are the underlying factors causing it? Analyse.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the basics of family and as institution it's decline also. Also mention the factors responsible for it.

Introduction

The family, in Indian society, is an institution by itself and a typical symbol of the collectivist culture of India right from the ancient times. Many believe that the family is fragmenting, as there is an increase in the legal and social acceptance of marital breakdown, cohabitation and so on.

Body

Decline of family as an institution:

- The increasing commercialization of the economy and the development of the infrastructure of the modern state have introduced a significant change in the family structure in India in the 20th century. Especially, the last few decades have witnessed important alterations in family life.
- All of these changes are taking place in the context of increased urbanization, which is separating children from elders and contributing to the disintegration of family-based support systems.
- Decline in family system might create a case for more individuals to face mental health issues.
- Decline in family as an institution will bring structural changes in society. On the positive side, Indian society might see decreased growth of population and feminization of workforce as an impact of decline in family as an institution.

Factors responsible for such change:

- Change in Fertility: Fertility declined due to the combined effect of substantial socio-economic development and shift from agriculture. The emphasis was on the quality of life rather than the number of children, a new concept added to the family.



- No fixed habitation: In the daily life if an individual doesn't have a home the life would be one of great unrest as it would be haphazard in nature.
- Modernistic value: Career oriented, competitive and highly aspirational generations are keeping restraint from so called complicated family structures.
- Individualism over collectivism: Individualism led to assertion of rights and freedom of choices. It forced generations to see sense of achievement in life through only material prosperity perspective.
- High divorce rates: Technology driven change in attitude, behaviours and compromised values becoming major cause for breaking down of marriages. Anti-social behaviour is increasingly destroying families.
- Parochial attitude: High earnings and less responsibility to other family members have attracted extended families to split up.
- Emerging agency: The most of the socializing functions today, like child raising, education, occupational training, caring of elderly, etc., have been taken over by the outside agencies, such as crèches, media, nursery schools, hospitals, occupational training centres, hospice institutions, funeral contractors, etc. These tasks were once exclusively performed by the family.

Conclusion

Family is a very fluid social institution and in the process of constant change. Modernity is witnessing the emergence of same-sex couples (LGBT relationship), cohabitation or live-in relations, single-parent households, a large chunk of divorced living alone or with their children. These kinds of families might not necessarily function as traditional kinship group and may not always prove institution for socialization.

Q.13) Examine the factors behind the Crimean war of 1853-56? Why was it significant? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidates need to write about Crimean war and it's different factors also highlight the significance of the crimean war.

Introduction

The Crimean War broke out on 5th October 1853, a military conflict fought between the Russian Empire on one side, against an alliance of Britain, France, the Ottoman Empire and Sardinia. The complexity of the war meant that it was fought on the grounds of various reasons by different parties, as everyone had a vested interest in the region.



Body

The outbreak of violence arose from various factors:

- As the Ottoman Empire steadily weakened during the 19th century, the Russian Empire stood poised to take advantage by expanding southward.
- In the 1850s, the British and the French Empires were allied with the Ottoman Empire and were determined to prevent that from happening.
- Russia's aggressiveness also made the British nervous about maintaining their trade with Turkey and access to India. Meanwhile, the French, who still remembered Napoleon I's defeat by the Russians, saw a chance to take revenge.
- Religious tensions helped trigger the war. While it's remembered as a clash of empires, the Crimean War was sparked by a seemingly minor religious dispute.
- For years, Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics had squabbled over access to holy sites within the borders of the majority-Muslim Ottoman Empire.
- Its name notwithstanding, the Crimean War was a global conflict that featured several different theaters of battle. Early clashes occurred in the Balkans and in Turkey, and the focus only shifted to Crimea after the Allies launched an invasion of the peninsula in September 1854.
- For centuries, one central goal of Russian foreign policy was to obtain a warm water port in the south namely, at the Bosphorus Straits and the Strait of the Dardanelles, the small waterways connecting the Black Sea to the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas.

Significance:

- The war helped convince Russia to sell Alaska to the United States. Several factors were involved in Russia's decision to offload its North American territories in Alaska, but the most pressing arose after its defeat in Crimea.
- Thanks to new technologies such as the steamship and the electric telegraph, the Crimean War was the first major conflict where civilian journalists sent dispatches from the battlefield.
- The resulting Treaty of Paris, signed on March 30, 1856, guaranteed the integrity of Ottoman Turkey and obliged Russia to surrender southern Bessarabia at the mouth of the Danube.
- The Crimean War produced about 500,000 total casualties, with about half suffered by each side. A disproportionate number of deaths were caused by disease. Their work paved the way for later developments in battlefield medicine.

Conclusion



The greater importance of the Crimean War is embodied in one international and one national element. It was the final war in which the Ottoman Empire had any victorious role and it marked the end of the veritable charade of Russian military dominance on the Continent. On the national scale, the Crimean War, some historians have argued, marked the beginning of the road to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Q.14) How did the disintegration of the USSR shape the future of Eastern Europe? Analyse.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the fall of USSR and then simply write about how it affected and shaped the eastern European nations.

Introduction

The Soviet Union was established in 1922 by a treaty signed between Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia Soviet Socialist republics and Trans-Caucasian Federation. It later constituted fifteen smaller states. Notwithstanding its achievements, the USSR met its fateful decline in 1991 mainly due to Mikhael Gorbvachev's economic and political reforms- Perestroika and Glasnost respectively.

Body

- Rise of nationalism among countries like Russia, Baltic republics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), Ukraine, Georgia etc is the most important and immediate cause of disintegration of the USSR.
- The national feeling was strong among the more prosperous areas in USSR and not in Central Asian republics. Ordinary people among prosperous republics didn't like to pay big price to uplift the backward Central Asian republics.
- Emergence of new countries and new alliances – Eg: Baltic countries aligned with NATO.
- Changes in politics of Europe led to dilution of division between Western and Eastern Europe. Demolition of the Berlin wall, the unification of Germany, the end of the Warsaw Pact and rise of democratic regimes changed the politics of Europe.
- The membership of European Union enlarged with eastern European countries leading to emergence of new economic bloc -EU.
- With the EU looming over the realm, the now-independent countries of Eastern Europe shifted their economic direction away from Moscow and the collapsing Communist state and toward the core industrial countries of Western Europe and the EU.



- With the fall of Communism came economic reforms that shifted countries from central planning to open markets.
- Great elegance has helped it become one of the major tourist attractions in Eastern Europe. Major movie studios have also traveled to the city to film.
- There was Change in power equations many eastern European countries joined the bipolar world, capitalist ideology, IMF, OECD, World Bank etc.

Conclusion

Hence, the disintegration of the USSR resulted in a phase of USA's dominance in world politics. Countries like India maintained good relations with Russia post-disintegration and shared the idea of having a multipolar world order. India's position also improved at international and regional level not in a hegemonic way but as a responsible and powerful country.

Q.15) Discuss the historical background of the NATO. How is it shaping the events in

Eastern Europe today? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidates need to discuss the historical background of the NATO and how is it shaping the events in Eastern Europe today.

Introduction

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. It was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside of the Western Hemisphere.

The historical background of the NATO

- After the destruction of the Second World War, the nations of Europe struggled to rebuild their economies.
- The United States viewed an economically strong, rearmed, and integrated Europe as vital to the prevention of communist expansion across the continent.
- As a result, Secretary of State George Marshall proposed a Marshall plan.
- The plan resulted in promotion of the idea of shared interests and cooperation between the United States and Europe.



- Aid provided through the US-funded Marshall Plan (also known as the European Recovery Program) and other means fostered a degree of economic stabilisation.
- European states still needed confidence in their security, however, before they would begin talking and trading with each other.
- Military cooperation, and the security it would bring, would have to develop in parallel with economic and political progress.
- With this in mind, several Western European democracies came together to implement various projects for greater military cooperation and collective defence, including the creation of the Western Union in 1948, later to become the Western European Union in 1954.
- In the end, it was determined that only a truly transatlantic security agreement could deter Soviet aggression while simultaneously preventing the revival of European militarism and laying the groundwork for political integration.
- Accordingly, after much discussion and debate, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed on 4 April, 1949.

How is it shaping the events in Eastern Europe today?

- The current confrontation between Russia and the west is fuelled by many grievances, but the greatest is the belief in Moscow that the west tricked the former Soviet Union by breaking promises made at the end of the cold war in 1989-1990 that NATO would not expand to the east.
- The threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine has placed heightened importance on the United States' and NATO's defences across eastern Europe, which for decades have acted as a buffer between Russia and the West.
- NATO has four multinational battalion-size battlegroups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, which operate on a rotational basis.
- Although Ukraine is not a NATO member, the alliance also provides strategic-level advice to the country and has described the relationship as "one of the most substantial of NATO's partnerships."
- Other assets at NATO's disposal in the region include a missile defense system in Romania, designed to "detect, track, engage, and destroy" ballistic missiles in the atmosphere.

Conclusion

Today, the crisis in Ukraine makes it all too clear that the U.S. and NATO need to take a very different approach to creating an effective strategy and to NATO's force planning and modernization on a country-by-country level. Regardless of how Russia's present pressure on Ukraine works out, it is clear that Russia is likely to be hostile as long as President Putin is in power.



Q.16) The rise of rogue nations thirsty for vengeance is mostly a result of past humiliations? Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates need to write about the rogue states and with few examples explain the term. Also highlight the background and rise of rogue states in context of world history.

Introduction

We Consider North Korea, Iran, Sudan, and Syria as “rogue states.” The concept of Rogue State, however, is not a novel one in global history. Germany under the rule of the ruthless Adolf Hitler, Libya under notorious Muammar Gaddafi, and Iraq under the reign of iniquitous Saddam Hussein were all once considered rogue states.

Body

Rogue state being seen to meet certain criteria, such as being ruled by authoritarian or totalitarian governments that severely restrict human rights, sponsoring terrorism and seeking to proliferate weapons of mass destruction.

Rise of rogue states:

- Due to possession of Nuclear weapons with Iran, North Korea, many countries perceive it as a rogue state. Also, countries with no nuclear weapons such as Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan can disrespect international order and laws known as rogue state.
- These countries have gone through many conflicts due to internal disturbance, cold War politics and geo strategic location.
- There were sanctions including embargoes on weapons imports and exports, frozen funds and bank transfers, restrictions on travel for example on North Korean diplomats and a ban on imports of luxury goods.
- The US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 marks an important turning point in Iraq's history. The events brought an end to Ba'ath party's decades-long reign and Saddam Hussein's dictatorial administration.
- In 2011, the first civil war broke out in Libya against the regime of Gaddafi. This war was a part of a series of anti-dictatorial protests in countries of Arab world known as the Arab Spring.
- In response to the civil war, a multi-state NATO-led coalition began a military intervention in Libya in March 2011, aimed at protecting civilians and providing cover for a rebel advance.



- Soviet invaded Afghanistan in 1979. “Mujahideen” fighters (separatist group), with the U.S.’s support, repelled Soviet forces in the 1980s. Soviet withdrew in 1989 and the government collapse. Subsequently, civil war erupted for control of the country.

Conclusion

Generally, rogue states do not play by the rules of international politics. Rather they are outsiders to the international community who defiantly flout and show contempt for international laws and policies that are meant to promote global peace with an aim of attaining their own selfish interests and disturb global peace.

Q.17) Why did the Vietnam war take place? Who were the major stakeholders in this war? What happened in its aftermath? Discuss.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the Vietnam War write about the stakeholders and reasons for Vietnam War. Also highlight the aftermath consequences of the Vietnam War.

Introduction

Vietnam War (1950s to 1970s) was the longest and most polarizing conflict in the history of United States. This conflict was basically a proxy war but it took life of some 58,000 American soldiers and 1.5 million Vietnamese. For United States, the war was a complete disaster.

Body

Vietnam War:

- US President Eisenhower (1953-61) was a supporter of the Domino Theory. After China, North Korea, South Vietnam will also goes the communist way sooner or later the communist revolution would reach all other Southeast Asian nations. This will threaten huge US investments in Japan.
- Vietnam was divided during the Cold War, when tensions between the U.S. and The Soviet Union were at an all-time high.
- The Geneva Accords were signed in July of 1954 and split Vietnam at the 17th parallel. North Vietnam would be ruled by Ho Chi Minh’s communist government and South Vietnam would be led by emperor Bao Dai.
- The Collapse of French Indochina and Rise of Ho Chi Minh. When the French rejected his plan, the Viet Minh resorted to guerilla warfare to fight for an independent Vietnam.



Stakeholders in the war:

- Soviet Union, China, and all communist allies backed North Vietnam, while the US and all other anti-communist allies backed South Vietnam.
- It was a conflict that raged in three countries: Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
- Both Japan and France had mobilised forces to take control of the region by 1938.
- Vietnamese nationalists, particularly Ho Chi Minh inflamed nationalist feelings in Indo-China. He encouraged Vietnamese to oppose the Franco-Japanese occupation of their country, with the support of the communist group Viet Minh.

Aftermath of Vietnam war:

- Although the United States' direct involvement in the war ended, fighting between the two Vietnamese forces continued. Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, fell to northern forces on April 30, 1975, and the country was unified as a communist country.
- Around 3 million Vietnamese people, 300,000 Cambodians, 60,000 Laotians, and 58,220 American military personnel were estimated to have died.
- In 1976, Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City.
- In 1986, the communist country began political and economic reforms that helped Vietnam gradually integrate into the global economy. In 2007, it became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Loss of prestige for US and her allies – both domestically and internationally
- Start of the proxy Mujahedeen war in Afghanistan by the US to counter Soviet Union without direct confrontation and possibility of a disaster like Vietnam

Conclusion

The struggle between the different camps led to a Cold War which unlike a conventional war lasted for over four decades, worsening economy, growth and life for humanity as the opposing camps fought for geostrategic influence in various continents.

Q.18) Why did communism fail as a politico-economic system? Critically analyse.

Approach

Candidates need to critically analyse why did communism fail as a politico-economic system
Introduction.

Introduction:



There are numerous reasons to justify that communism in practice had major weaknesses as an economic system but the main concern would be the issue of human incentive. The theory of communism assumed that every human under its ruling would have a “good heart” with the incentive to work for the overall benefit of the country. In human nature, it is natural for humans to express self-centred feelings as a primary instinct but communism expected society to take a more humanitarian approach to the functioning of an economy.

Why did communism fail as a politico-economic system?

- Communism collapsed because it didn't take into account the capabilities and potential of individual people, and it measured potential as an entire contribution of society. Famous examples of when this didn't work was the Russian revolution.
- By default, a communist country, such as the Soviet Union, valued utilitarianism above everything else. This meant that every action performed within the state had to have a palpable ending.
- A reason for the failure of Communism as an economic system is because communism expected the country to be an autarky.
- This meant that there would be no international trading of any produce and resources, including labour.
- Consequently, this would hinder the global distribution of technology as well as a varied and skilled workforce.
- This would result in slower economic development, because making revenue from tourism and exports wouldn't even exist, as well as causing the country to become increasingly disjointed from the world to an extent where society could become ignorant of modern practices and technological advancements.
- When all of this occurs, there would be a lack in modernity throughout a communist economy, and this would cause the country to become underdeveloped and backwards moving, rather than a fully functioning representation of a developed economy.
- In communism, individualism makes room for the collective. Ideals like freedom of speech were considered dangerous to the Communist party.
- The forced collectivization act and the lack of artistic freedom are just two examples of how communism chose to circumvent some of the fundamental human rights.
- Another reason is that communism would treat everyone homogenously which means that everyone would follow one order of beliefs or culture regardless of their language, religious or cultural differences.
- A non-existent multicultural society, while supplemented by the lack of tourism would not be economically beneficial for the economy.

Conclusion



Overall, communism failed as an economic system because it did not adapt for ever changing requirements, and due to its economic restrictions, it could not develop as quickly as capitalist countries. Looking at communism from a more diplomatic perspective, one could argue that Karl Marx's theory of how capitalism was a flawed economic system whereby ultimately economy would collapse is also a true representation of what occurs in a communist state.

Q.19) What makes the Dead Sea a unique geographic feature? How was it formed? Explain.

Approach

Candidates need to write about the Dead sea simply write about the unique geographic feature and it's formation.

Introduction

The Dead Sea, also known as Salt Sea, is located on left side of Jordan and right side of Jerusalem. Scientists have expressed fear that Dead Sea may disappear because water from its only water source (the Jordan River) has been rushing out of the Dead Sea more than it is moving into the Dead Sea.

Body

Dead Sea unique geographic feature:

- Dead Sea is the lowest waterbody on Earth, with the lowest elevation on land. The Dead Sea's water is about 10 times saltier than normal ocean water.
- The rocks and sand shimmer at the water's edge here due to the presence of crystalline sodium chloride.
- The Jordan River is the only major water source flowing into the Dead Sea, although there are small perennial springs under and around the Dead Sea, forming pools and quicksand pits along the edges. There are no outlet streams.
- The rich concentration of minerals in its water and mud, zinc, and oxygen-rich air has been clinically proven in the treatment of psoriasis and other skin diseases, asthma, rheumatism, high blood pressure, and more.

Formation of dead Sea:

- There are contending theories about the Dead Sea formation. About 3.7 million years ago, the area now known as the Jordan River Valley was repeatedly flooded by water from the Mediterranean Sea.
- The waters created a lagoon called the Sedom Lagoon, which connected to the sea through what is currently called the Jezreel Valley. Later on, about 2 million years ago,



the land between this lagoon and the Mediterranean Sea rose to such an extent, that the sea could no longer flood the area, leading to the creation of a landlocked lake.

- Shifts in tectonic plates led to the rising and dropping of the floor of the valley, and the harsh desert climate led to gradual evaporation and shrinking of the lake, until finally, about 70,000 years ago, what remained was the Dead Sea with its low elevation.

Conclusion

Dead Sea is a unique ecosystem and a sensitive barometer of the state of the environment in a part of the world. Water remains a precious commodity in the arid region, agriculture upstream will likely continue to overpower the environmental needs of the Dead Sea in the near term. Artificial solutions like the Red-Dead Conveyance project could provide alternative routes to preserving this unique ecosystem.

Q.20) What is the Great Rift Valley and where is it located? Why is it significant geographically? Discuss.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the great rift valley and it's location also discuss the significance of great rift valley geographically.

Introduction

A rift valley is a lowland region that forms where Earth's tectonic plates move apart or rift. Faulting due to divergence creates the rift system. For example Great Rift Valley.

Body

Great rift Valley:

The Great Rift Valley is a series of contiguous geographic trenches, approximately 7,000 kilometres in total length, that runs from the Beqaa Valley in Lebanon which is in Asia to Mozambique in Southeast Africa.

Geographic Significance:

- The Rift Valley has been a rich source of fossils that allow study of human evolution, especially in an area known as Piedmont.
- Because the rapidly eroding highlands have filled the valley with sediments, a favourable environment for the preservation of remains has been created.



- Those parts that are grasslands contain a greater concentration of wild animals than any other area of comparable size. Species unique to the Rift Valley include the mountain gorilla that is found on the forested slopes of the Virunga volcanoes and fish that dwell in the alkaline springs.
- The wide variety of terrains from desert to mountain results in adaptation of flora to altitude, temperature, and rainfall totals.
- The African Rift Valley lakes include some of the oldest, largest, and deepest lakes in the world, and many are freshwater ecoregions of great biodiversity, while others are alkaline or soda lakes supporting highly specialized organisms.
- The lakes of the Western or Albertine Rift, together with Lake Victoria, include the largest, deepest, and oldest of the Rift Valley lakes. They are also referred to as the Central African lakes. Lakes Albert, Victoria, and Edward are part of the Nile River basin.
- The volcanic activity at this site and unusual concentration of hotspots has produced the volcanic mountains Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya, Mount Karisimbi, Mount Nyiragongo, Mount Meru, and Mount Elgon, as well as the Crater Highlands in Tanzania.

Conclusion

The Earth is an ever-changing planet, even though in some respects change might be almost unnoticeable to us. This change is currently happening and East African rift system is a perfect example of it.

Q.21) Briefly explain the geography of the horn of Africa.

Approach-

Candidates need to briefly explain the geography of the horn of Africa.

Introduction:

As the second-largest continent, Africa covers over 30 million square kilometers. Bordered by oceans and seas on nearly all sides, the continent has approximately 30,500 kilometers of coastline. In only one area does Africa border another continent by land, connecting to Asia via the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt. An isthmus is a narrow strip or small area of land connecting two larger landmasses. Bodies of water border an isthmus on two sides with land on the other two sides.

Horn of Africa



Horn of Africa is a peninsula on the eastern coast of Africa that juts into the Arabian Sea and curves around the southern portion of the Arabian Peninsula. It is located to the east of the continent of Africa and south-west of the red sea and consists of four countries; Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.

The geography of the horn of Africa

- The Horn of African is a region that is recognized internationally as comprising Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti.
- This region covers approximately 2 million square kilometers, with Ethiopia as the largest country, covering over half of the region's area (1.1 million square kilometers).
- The region contains diverse land features, including the Somalian and Eritrean coast, Ogaden desert, and Ethiopian highlands.
- It has coastlines on the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean.
- The Horn of Africa is separated from the Arabian Peninsula by the Bab el-Mandeb Strait (the strait connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden).
- Up to 18 million years ago, Yemen and the Horn were a single landmass. However, the Gulf of Aden's rifting separated the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn region.
- Part of the region, particularly Somalia, sits on the Somali Plate, which also includes the neighbouring Madagascar Island.
- The Horn's arid lowlands contrast the wet Ethiopian mountains, which receive plenty of rain (over 2,000 mm) throughout the year.
- The lowlands are particularly dry because of the tropical monsoon effects.
- The tropical monsoons originate from the west, resulting in seasonal rains in Sudan and the Sahel. Thus, the monsoons' moisture is lost before reaching Somaliland and Djibouti. The north-easterly winds, common during winter, provides rain only in Somalia's mountainous areas.

Conclusion

The climate varies greatly by region, with lowland areas being hotter while plateaus experience a temperate climate. Addis Ababa experiences highs of 79 degrees Fahrenheit and lows of 39 degrees Fahrenheit. The Danakil Desert is an arid region in southern Eritrea, north-eastern Ethiopia, and north-western Djibouti, covering approximately 100,000 square kilometers. It is one of the driest, hottest areas in the Horns, with daily temperatures reaching over 45 degrees Celsius.

Q.22) Examine the significance of soil as a resource. What are the threats to the soil wealth in India? Discuss.

Approach



Candidates need to write about the importance significance of the soil as a resources. And then highlight in short the threats to the soil wealth in India.

Introduction

According to recently released Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by WWF India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity.

Body

Soil is very important and a valuable resource for every human being. Soil is the mixture of rock debris and organic materials, which develop on the earth's surface.

Significance of soil as a resources:

- The fertile soil helps in the growth and development of the plants. The plants thus produced are healthy and provide food, clothing, furniture, and medicines.
- It supports many life forms including bacteria, fungi, algae, etc. These microbes, in turn, maintain environmental balance by retaining the moisture and decaying the dead organisms.
- The topsoil supports certain life activities such as reproduction, hatching, nesting, breeding, etc. of a few organisms.
- The organic matter present in the soil increases the fertility of the soil which is responsible for the growth of the plants. It also contains certain minerals and elements that are necessary for the plants to carry out their cellular activities.

Threats to the soil wealth in India:

- Declining Soil Fertility: Apart from natural factors such as floods, volcanoes and earthquakes, a number of human-induced factors such as deforestation, ill management of industrial wastes, overgrazing by cattle, and urban expansion, are also responsible for the loss of soil's productive capacity.
- Agri exploitation: Overuse of chemical fertilisers on soil, excessive tillage, jettisoning of age-old organic soil revival practices and lack of appropriate crop rotation.

Conclusion

Soils are Degraded which threatens human livelihood and very existence. Thus, the need is to reverse the trend by sustainable soil management in agriculture, development and so on. There is a need to collaborate at state, national and international level.



Q.23) Marine resources can become the lifeline of coastal economy and livelihood. In this light, do a SWOT analysis of India's marine resources.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the marine resources with India explain how it's lifeline for coastal economy and then do the swot analysis various strengths weakness of India's marine resources.

Introduction

With an exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.02 million sq.km and a long coastline of 8,118 km with rich and diverse marine living resources. There is need to focus on utilisation of wealth from the marine and other aquatic resources of the country for improving the lives and livelihoods of fishermen and their families.

Body

Marine resources as lifeline for coastal economy and livelihood:

- Employment generation: It will provide jobs, improve livelihoods of many. This will help in inclusive growth. E.g improving fishery resources exploitation can provide livelihood to many.
- Food security: It will lead to food security through fishery sector and other sea food resources. It would also help in reducing malnutrition issue in India as fishes are good source of nutrition.
- Essential mineral: Seawater contains economically useful salts such as gypsum and common salt. Gypsum is useful in various industries.
- Efficient transportation and logistics: Indian Ocean is a major gateway of trade with 80% of global oil trade happening through it. Better connectivity in the region will significantly cut the transport cost and will reduce logistics inefficiencies.

Weakness and threat:

- Much of these resources, however, are not easily accessible, so their recovery involves technological challenges and high cost.
- Extinction of a species affects other species is accelerating the extinction of more species through a chain reaction.
- Drilling in these oceanic deposits could destabilize the seabed, causing vast swaths of sediment to slide for miles down the continental slope.
- Tsunamis, cyclones, hurricanes typhoons etc. leave thousands of people stranded and property worth millions destroyed.



Opportunity:

- Reducing marine pollution and debris including from land-based activities.
- Promoting sustainable exploitation of marine resources.
- Halting the destruction of marine resources especially through acidification.
- Eliminating harmful subsidies that promote fishing overcapacity.

Conclusion

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14), calls to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. India should expedite its efforts to exploit oceanic resources in Indian Ocean. What is required is use of technology to exploit oceanic resources in Indian Ocean with government Blue growth initiative. India has rightly launched O-SMART scheme aiming at regulated use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development in this direction.

Q.24) With the help of suitable examples, discuss the correlation between continental drift and the distribution of species.

Approach

Candidates need to write and explain the economic of scale with production of goods point of view. And with suitable example discuss how it affect the location of the industry.

Introduction

According to Wegener's Continental Drift theory, all the continents were one single continental mass (called a Super Continent) – Pangaea and a Mega Ocean surrounded this supercontinent. The mega ocean is known by the name Panthalassa.

Body

Correlation between continental drift and distribution of species:

- Fossils of plants discovered on different continents helped to wegener push his case that the continents were once locked together before breaking up and drifting away. For example glossopteris.
- Glossopteris was Fossil from fern. It is a fern that was discovered in Africa, South America, Antarctica, India, and Australia.



- There are three families of cycad are widely distributed throughout tropical and temperate continents of the world. Prior to the theory of continental drift, the widely scattered distribution of present-day cycads in Australia, South Africa, Malaysia and the Americas was an enigma.
- There are more than 100 species of coral trees, mostly found in Mexico, Central and South America, and Africa. It is doubtful that corals existed when Africa and South America were connected.
- During continental drift plant species must have evolved or gone extinct because of climate change.
- Continent moving towards pole will get least sunlight and less photosynthesis means less temperatures and less vegetation. Whereas continent moving towards the equator will generate high vegetation with high warmer climate.
- Continent drift had changed the size and topography of the continent due to which land masses get impacted by ocean circulation patterns and general circulation of atmosphere.
- These dynamic structures encouraged the relocation of the focal point of plant species diversity.

Conclusion

The theory of continental drift can be used to provide a simplified explanation of the global distribution of plant, their evolution and provide a background. There is also more research needed to study other abiotic factors in relation to plant species diversity.

Q.25) What is seafloor spreading? How does it occur? What are the landforms and features associated with seafloor spreading? Discuss.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the fintech industry and discuss the location factors affecting the it.

Introduction

Sea floor spreading theory was given by Harry Hess. The theory states that in the middle of ocean, the oceanic plates are moving away from each other in the middle of the oceans. Whereas, at the oceanic continental plate boundary, the oceanic plate gets sub ducted under the continental plate.

Body



Forces that cause Seafloor spreading

- Convictional current theory which was proposed by Arthur Holmes addresses the forces which cause the sea floor spreading.
- According to Holmes the heat which is generated from the radioactive decay of substances deep inside the Earth (the mantle) creates magma which consists of molten rocks, volatiles, dissolved gases among other material.
- Further this magma, heat and gases seek a path to escape which leads to the formation of convection currents in the mantle.
- According to the theory of Seafloor spreading, convectional cells are the force behind drifting of continents thus these conventional cells are explained by convectional current theory of Holmes
- These ocean plates get subducted under the continental plates (since ocean plates are denser than continental plates), when these two types of plates converge.

Landforms and features associated with sea floor spreading:

- Rocks on either side of the crest of oceanic ridges having equidistant locations from the crest were found to have similarities both in terms of their constituents, their age and magnetic orientation.
- Rocks closer to the mid-oceanic ridges have normal polarity and are the youngest and the age of the rocks increases as one moves away from the crest (ridge).
- The rocks of the oceanic crust near the oceanic ridges are much younger than the rocks of the continental crust.
- Geophysical formations- various phenomenon mentioned above causes geophysical formations on sea bed such as sea mount, guyots, young fold mountains or deep trenches are formed at the boundary of oceanic continental plates.

Conclusion

Geographers have combined the knowledge from Plate tectonic theory, Sea floor spreading theory as well as continental drift theory to explain the formation of various physical features and geological processes on earth. Further these theories combined with modern technological advancements have helped humankind to predict various disasters more efficiently and save lives this making lives more secure and economy resilient.

Q.26) What is a hailstorm? How does it occur? Explain.

Approach

Candidates need to explain the hailstorm and how it occurs.



Introduction:

In the last decade, India has been repeatedly battered by different extreme events like heavy rainfall causing extensive flooding, droughts, unseasonal rainfall, hailstorm etc. The number of extreme events of very heavy rainfall has almost doubled in the country in the last 50 years. Among other extreme events unseasonal rains and hailstorms are mostly observed during pre-monsoon season from March to April in the country. The unseasonal rains and hailstorms have destroyed crops in lakhs of acres of farmland in many states including Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh causing huge losses to farmers.

What is a hailstorm?

- Hailstorm is a severe weather phenomenon, which causes extensive damage to crops, property and livestock. It is a thunderstorm that produces ice as precipitation.
- Hailstorms can cause serious damage to aircraft, automobiles, glass-roofed structures, skylights, besides crops, property, people and livestock.
- Hail is solid precipitation made of balls or irregular lumps of ice, each of which is called a hailstone.
- Unlike graupel or snow-ice pellets that are smaller and translucent, hailstones consist mostly of water ice and measure between 5 mm and 15 cm in diameter.
- Any thunderstorm, which produces hail that reaches the ground, is termed a hailstorm.
- In India, hailstorms mostly affect the northeast and western Himalayas, with the maximum strikes in March and April.

Occurrence of hailstorm:

- A hailstone begins as a water droplet that is swept up by an updraft inside of a thundercloud. Inside the cloud, there are a large number of other supercooled water droplets already present.
- These supercooled particles will adhere to the water droplet's surface, forming layers of ice around it.
- As the water droplet reaches higher elevations within the cloud it comes into contact with more and more supercooled particles.
- This is because it is at the highest parts of the cloud, where the temperature is too low (at least 32 degrees Fahrenheit) for water molecules to remain in either a liquid or gaseous state.
- The hail embryo will grow larger and larger as it reaches higher altitudes in the updraft.
- The hailstone will reach a size and weight where gravity will begin to act on it and pull it down.



- However, this is not necessarily the end of its formation, as it could be pulled into another strong updraft and remain in the upper part of the cloud.
- Hail forms as super-cooled droplets, ice crystals and water freeze upon an embryo hailstone.
- Once hail forms, gravity will bring the hail to the earth's surface. If the updraft is stronger than the pull of gravity, the hailstone will continue to grow.
- Once the hail reaches a size that the updraft can no longer keep aloft, the hail stone will make its way down.

Conclusion

Though occurrences of hailstorm are unavoidable, need is felt now for its prediction followed by recovery, rescue and remedial measures. There are methods available these days to detect hail-producing thunderstorms using weather satellites and weather radar imagery. Severe weather warnings are issued now for hail when the hail reach a damaging size, as it can cause serious damage to structures, crops and live stocks.

Q.27) What are the factors that explain the presence of cold deserts in different parts of the world? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidates need to write about the cold desert and explain the factors that are responsible for cold desert formation with suitable example.

Introduction

Cold desert are arid ecosystems which receive rainfall less than 25cm in a year. They are located in the interior of the continent and at high latitude, characterized by the temperate climatic condition – hot summer and chilled winter.

Body

Factors explaining the presence of cold desert:

- Cold deserts are formed in temperate regions, at higher altitudes and are located at the centre of the continent. For example Arctic, the Antarctic and Greenland including the areas above the tree lines of mountain ranges.
- They have hot summer and extremely chilled winter (temperature may reach up to -40C).
- Precipitation occurs in the form of snow, the humidity remains low throughout the year. Examples- Atacama Desert(Peru), Gobi Desert etc.



- Because of the low temperatures, pressure, moisture, distance from sea, and poor vegetation; precipitation is very low in these regions.
- Besides, the high P (Precipitation)/E (Evaporation) ratio in temperate regions is responsible for the formation of cold deserts.
- It is covered by sand, gravel, and clay. Several mountains ranges, basins, and large expanses of salt flats can be found here. For example Great Basin Desert.
- It is a cool arid subarctic winter temperatures region covers large landscape for example 1000km strip on the Pacific coast, west of the Andes Mountains Atacama Chile in South America.
- Vegetation is scattered with needle like leaves to reduce the water loss. The animals commonly found in cold deserts include foxes, jackrabbits, kangaroo rats, pocket mice, badger etc.
- In India Ladakh has the mighty Karakoram Range in the North and in the south, it is bound by the Zaskar mountains. Several rivers flow through Ladakh.

Conclusion

Cold desert is important biome of the ecosystem there is increased stressed on such regions especially in Ladakh and Lahul Spiti. There is need of conservation of landscape, biological diversity and the cultural heritage in these region with controlled and regulated anthropogenic activities.

Q.28) The presence of geographical features has strong impact on the society, economy and power of a nation. Elucidate.

Approach-

Candidates need to elucidate how the presence of geographical features has strong impact on the society, economy and power of a nation. Give strong references and examples and highlight in order to elucidate this.

Introduction:

Development can be defined as a culmination of economic, social, and political progress that gives rise to higher standards of living, in balance, across the population.

The geographical features of a nation:

Geographical features refer to the landscape of a region, which encompasses the continual interaction between culture and the natural environment over an extended period.



The presence of geographical features has strong impact on the society, economy and power of a nation.

- Topography or configuration of the physical features of an area is significant in the context of development as the physical features, in combination with the human interaction, are foundational for the sustenance of life.
- For example: where situated between nations, such as the Himalayas between China and India, mountain ranges can offer the key benefit of protection from a militaristic perspective, but within Russia the Ural Mountains bisect the nation into East and West.
- Geopolitics is the use of geographical framework to understand world affairs, especially concerning the basis of influence, and power of space and territory.
- Trade and natural resources do determine economic development of a nation. Sometimes effect can be negative also.
- For example, when looked at in isolation, Russia's economic development has been restricted by their lack of a warm-water port with access into open sea lanes. Their ports on the Arctic and Pacific, such as Murmansk and Vladivostok, freeze for a few months annually.
- Another example of importance of geographical factor can be demonstrated by example of China. China's geographical location creates potential ocean trade chokepoints that could threaten their economic development.
- The Malacca Strait, at its smallest 2 miles wide, has been a cause for concern as it could potentially prevent access to China, effectively strangling their economy that relies heavily on the gas and oil.
- Moreover, this could have severe social consequences, as a breakdown in the chain of production may result in widespread laying off of workers, reducing disposable income and their quality of life. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that with international co-operation and agreement of passage, China's geographical location should be less influential.
- Geographical features are key components in many political decisions and actions. The borders of countries, location of natural resources, access to ports, and the designation of voting districts are a few of the many geographical factors that affect politics.
- Geographical features like location and climate have large effects on income levels and income growth through their effects on transport costs, disease burdens, and agricultural productivity, among other channels.
- As stated earlier, location is an extremely important factor in the development of power because it determines climates, economics, natural resources strategic position, and even national policies. Favourable geographic location results in tremendous economic and strategic advantages.



- Human settlement and cultural development are shaped by geographic features like mountains, deserts, and water. Other factors that affect cultural development are climate, location, topography, water resources, and natural resources.

Conclusion

Geographical features have had a greater influence on the nation's overall development. However, it must be acknowledged that geographical features cannot be evaluated in isolation; they operate in partnership with political direction to influence all components of development.

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