

IAS BABA



TLP 2022

Phase 2 - Compilation

Part 1/2

GS 1



Q.1) What are the recurrent themes and unique features of Bhakti literature? Discuss.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to start with a brief explanation of Bhakti literature and then discuss the recurrent themes and unique features of Bhakti literature.

Introduction-

Bhakti literature represents the legacy of a socio-religious reform movement that prevailed from 8th century to 17th century CE and was characterized by use of local languages and socially inclusive outlook. This literature can be traced back to both the Brahmanical and Buddhist traditions, as well as to the ancient literature like Vedas, Upanishads and Gita. Despite being present in India long before the growth and arrival of Sufism in India, Bhakti emerged from a religious doctrine into a popular movement based on equality for the first time in South India between the 6th and the 10th century.

Body

The recurrent themes of the Bhakti literary tradition:

- **Influence:** Bhakti poetry was an important influence in the development of regional languages due to the fact that it emphasized people's everyday speech, rejecting the elite tradition of Sanskrit.
- **God:** Bhakti also challenged the caste system as many of its poets were from the lower castes and a common theme of the poetry is that God is within every human being.
- **Kannada:** Some of the earliest bhakti poetry was written in Tamil. From the A.D. 900's, Kannada became an important influence, with devotional literature such as the Vachanas (sayings) of the saints of various Hindu sects. Famous Kannada poets of the medieval period include Basavanna and Allama Prabhu.
- **Marathi:** The next language to adopt bhakti was Marathi, the most important poet being Gyaneswar (1200's). Other Marathi poets were Eknath and Tuka Ram.
- **Gujarati:** In Gujarati, prominent poets were Narsi Mehta and Premananda.
- **Other languages:** Bhakti literature was also followed in several other languages like Kashmiri, Bengali, Assamese, Manipuri, Oriya, and early variants of Hindi.

- **Sant tradition:** Another kind of bhakti is found in the Sant tradition, which believes in one omnipresent God. Bhakti became a great platform for Hindu-Muslim unity.

Unique features of Bhakti literature

- **Devotional:** The bhakti literature includes devotional songs which are sung in praise of God like Kirtana Ghosha of Shankardeva (Vaishnava devotional songs) or Thirumurais (Shiva devotional song), etc.
- **Non-sectarian:** Despite its propagation by Hindu saints, it considers all sects equal. For example, in Bhakti poems, Radha-Shyam is supposed to be the equivalent of Seeta-Ram.
- **Emphasis on local and regional languages:** Bhakti literature was written in vernacular languages and because of this they got acceptance by people easily. Alvars and Nayanars for example used the local Tamil language instead of Sanskrit and the Surdasa on the other hand preferred Brijbhasha.
- **Reduced evils in society:** The Bhakti literature began to be composed in the sixth century AD in south India by the Tamil poet-saints and it preached against all evils or social abnormalities that existed in the society at that time for example caste rigidity, irrelevant rituals and religious practices, blind faiths, and social dogmas.
- **Inter-regional appeal:** The Sanskrit word bhakti is derived from the root bhaji, which means "divide, share, partake, participate, to belong to" and the Bhakti literature encourage sharing and participation of all people from all regions and are characterized by the presence of non-elite features such as regional languages. For example, Ramacharitsmanas and Hanuman Chalisa written in Awadh gained popularity across the length and breadth of the country
- **Inter-Religious harmony:** Bhakti literature saw religion as a loving tie based on love between the worshiped and the worshiper, rather than a cold formal worship. For example, Sufi poetry of Baba Farid was incorporated into Sikhs' religious canons.
- **Unorthodox approach:** The bhakti literature does not follow the orthodox approach, instead it also enlightens people against several orthodox approaches. For example, Guru Nanak talked about futility of unnecessary rituals or the absurdity of superfluous ceremonies and pilgrimages in his poems.
- **Against elitism:** Bhakti literature is marked by use of non-elite elements like regional dialects, inclusion of castes and out-castes, anti-ritual, emphasis on love for God over respect for Him.

Conclusion:

Bhakti literature provided a breath of relief for masses under conditions of social and political repression. Bhakti literature contributed in the popularization of the Bhakti cult and appealing to a broader audience without deviating from orthodoxy and political awakening.

Q.2) Temple architecture reached its zenith during the Chola period. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.**Approach**

Candidates need to explain the background and characteristics of the temple architecture under Chola dynasty with examples and highlight how it reached to zenith.

Introduction

The Chola period saw the culmination of Dravida temple art resulting in the most sophisticated buildings of medieval India. The Tamil Nadu temples were fully evolved in their style and design by the 8th century.

Body

- The Dravidian Style got fully developed after a transition from the rock cut structures of the Pallava Period.
- The earliest Chola Temple we find at Nanthamalai, where Vijayalaya Chola commissioned a temple named “Vijayalaya Cholisvara” temple, dedicated to lord Shiva.
- The Chola kings utilised their wealth earned through their extensive conquest in building exquisite monuments. It is due to this, the Chola period witnessed the culmination in evolution of Dravidian temple architecture making the Chola temples of that era artistically elaborate and sophisticated.
- During this period the architectural development reached its zenith. The temples were decorated with artistic stone pillars and wall decoration. Emphasis was on elongated limbs and polished features.
- Example: Carvings of the wheel chariot in Airavatesvara Temple are so fine that all the minute details are visible.
- The temples of the Imperial Cholas are covered with exquisite well composed sculptures and frescoes.

- Largest and tallest of all Indian temples i.e. Siva Temple of Thanjore was built in Chola Period.
- Pyramidal storey about the deity room depicts the maturity and grandeur Cholas brought in the temple architecture. Example Shiva temple of Thanjavur depicts the material achievement of the Chola Temple.
- Chola temples had a beautiful shikara stone at the top. It had elaborate and carefully made carvings. It is a marvel how these structures weighing in tonnes is placed without the help of cranes.
- In the chola period simple gopurams evolved into more exquisite and well composed structures with carvings and series of effigies on them. Sanctum of the Chola temples is both circular and square in size. Inner side of the external walls and the sanctum were beautified.
- On the upper side of the sanctum special vimanas are built. Dome shaped sikhara and kalasa were also there on the top of Gopurams.
- Many temples are having pillared mandapams namely arthamandapa, mahamandapa and nandi mandapa. Sculptures and inscriptions are also fixed on the walls of these temples.

Conclusion

The Chola art and architecture were prolific, especially their temple building. They build over a hundred important temples which are still in a good state and still more temples are active shrines.

Q.3) Indian folk music is deeply inspired by nature and religious. Illustrate.

Approach

The question demands to discuss about the Indian folk music in brief and describe in detail about its inspiration first from nature, then religion giving examples from different parts of India. Conclude by giving the importance to tradition of folk music in India.

Introduction

Recently Digital Version of Gurbani and Shabad Kirtan from Prasar Bharti's archives was launched by Information and Broadcasting Minister. Folk Music represents songs with a simple, modal melody and stanzaic, narrative verse that originated among the

people of a country or region and was passed down by oral tradition from one singer or generation to the next.

Body

Aspects of Indian folk music:

- Rural folk based: Mostly composed by rural folk based on traditional orally transmitted rules.
- Inspiration: by natural, spiritual, religious, emotional realm. Famous subjects of folk music are: agriculture songs, castes songs, region songs, children's songs, songs of god goddesses, local songs etc.
- Singers and performers: May be sung individually or in groups dressed in beautiful costumes representing particular theme in performance.
- Practice and Performance: May not require regular practice as mostly performed on occasions and processions in different territories. Different kinds of musical instruments like drums and pipe, etc., are used
- Expression of Art: Spontaneous expression in easy language, local dialect, and simple tune.
- Appeal to: Despite its broad appeal, it is written in a regional dialect.
- Feature: It contains a strong emotive expression of human love and separation.
- Historical appeal: Folk songs are important to music because they give a short history of the people involved in the music like for instance, Pandavani, a folk music popular in most parts of Central India, is believed to be as old as the Hindu epic Mahabharata.

Indian folk music inspired from nature:

Folk music has great variety, with songs being composed on the natural beauty, rivers and rural and riverine life. Hence, the trees, the seasons, birds, flowers, snow, rain, animals and the entire gamut is found reflected in their folk songs.

Some of these are:

- **The Banbhajans of Madhya Pradesh's** Chhattisgarh region or the Bangits of Assam's Brahmaputra River Valley are two examples. These forest-songs are inextricably linked to nature and the emotions evoked by it.
- The fisherman of ancient Bengal sang **Bhatiali**: to keep themselves entertained when they didn't have to row their boats as hard as they could. These songs follow the rhythm of the waves and the sea.

- **Goma Music of Siddhi Tribe:** where men attire has woven produce of forests like the leaves, peacock feathers, etc represents the importance associated to forests and livelihood opportunities it provides to the community and village.
- **Bihugeet :** During the famed Bihu festival in Assam, this folk song is performed. A dance performance is usually performed in conjunction with the music. The song, which is mainly performed by young boys and girls, depicts the Assamese people's cheerful temperament. Bihugeet tells many stories, and many of the themes are related to nature.
- **Bhavageete** is one of Karnataka's most important folk music genres. Bhavageete literally translates to "music of expression," hence the singer's expressions are the most significant component of this music. This musical form's subject matter includes nature, love, philosophy, and other topics.
- **Indian folk music inspired by religion:**
- Religious proposition of Indian folk songs is most commonly seen among rural folks that bound together a community through religious performances where every member has a particular role to play. They present a devotional aspect of the community living and reciprocity of individual duties towards god which is also an essential feature of bhakti movement in India.
- **The Bauls' Music:**The Bauls were a group of Bengali musicians who rose to prominence in the 18th and 19th centuries. Their music was frequently devotional in character, and some of it was influenced by the Kartabhajas' tantric cult.
- **Rasiya:(UP)** These songs narrate the love stories of Radha and Krishna.
- **Qawwali:** A form of Sufi music often sung for devotional purposes.
- **Bhajan ,Kirtan,Abhang from Maharashtra :** A form of devotional music, which is sung to seek the blessings of gods and goddesses like Vitthal ,Amba bai ,Mahalaxmi and saints like Dyaneshwar ,Tukaram Eknath, etc.

Conclusion

The thoughts and sentiments of the primitives are expressed clearly from these folk-songs. These folk-songs also help in getting knowledge about the culture of the primitive societies.

1. The Gharana system rooted in the guru–shishya tradition has ensured the survival and growth of various art forms in India. Illustrate.**Approach**

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to start with a brief explanation of the gharana system and its roots in the guru–shishya tradition and then illustrate (by giving examples) how the Gharana system has ensured the survival and growth of various art forms in India.

Introduction-

The gharana is a system of social organization in Hindustani music that links musicians or dancers by lineage or apprenticeship, and by adherence to a particular musical style. This gharana system also indicates a comprehensive musicological ideology that sometimes changes substantially from one gharana to another. It directly affects the thinking, teaching, performance and appreciation of music.

Body:**The Gharana system rooted in the guru–shishya tradition**

- The guru-shishya ("master-disciple") relationship is at the heart of the gharana tradition through which knowledge and guidance is passed orally from teacher to student over the course of a long, close relationship which may last 15 to 20 years or more.
- Although finding this kind of relationship is rare today, however, in the past, students often lived with their teachers, spending much of their days practicing and listening to music, and often acting as servants.
- Mostly in cases where possible, students were the sons of teachers. If no son could carry on the tradition, then relatives of the family were given preference.
- A son of the original family line who goes on to represent the gharana is called a khalifa in Muslim traditions (all of the major tabla gharanas were founded by Muslims except for Benares).
- Today, few of the original gharana family lines have prominent artists. Sabir Khan of the Farrukhabad gharana is the last remaining direct descendant of any gharana's original family line who is also a prominent and recognized master.
- In other cases, where disciple was not descendant, ones taken in, or ties a dhaga (Ganda) takes a gregarious, formal training staying with his/her Guru, tolerating all his tantrums, executes all his households happily till he becomes an elite stalwart.
- The disciple exceptionally respects his/her Guru like God and this element is purely, sacredly an Indian culture which has been followed in no other field except in musical heritage. And the credit goes to the Gharanas.
- Today, the maestro disciples of the early musicians touch their ears in respect while speaking out the name of their Guru.

- Despite the loss of family lines, all of the gharanas have prominent exponents and lineages outside of the family line. In fact, in the modern era, it is the non-hereditary performers who have been the most influential.

The Gharana system has ensured the survival and growth of various art forms in India

- The gharana was somewhat comparable to a “style” or “school” in the artistic sense.
- Over the years poor transportation and communication caused the various gharanas to adopt their own particular approach to presentation, technique, art form and repertoire.
- Gharanas that were found throughout the North in every field of dance, vocal and instrumental music tend to be distinct among themselves. For example, one generally does not find tabla players saying that they are from a vocal gharana or a vocalist claiming to come from a kathak gharana.
- The Gharanas emerge from the creative style of a genius, who gives existing structures a totally new approach, form and interpretation and have always been influenced, expanded, and sometimes significantly changed, by their most prominent and creative artists.
- The gharana tradition has a geographical reference and is named after a place as a particular style of music was developed in a particular area as a community culture and that was a time when there was no communication among places, and so the music also developed without any outside references to the social dynamics of the time when gharanas began.

Examples of few gharanas system that ensured the survival and growth of various art forms in India includes:

- **Gwalior Gharana** - This is the oldest among all the Khayal Gayaki (vocal) styles. The distinctive feature of this style of singing has been noted as its lucidity and simplicity.
- **Agra Gharana** - The Agra Gharana places great importance on developing forcefulness and deepness in the voice so that the notes are powerful and resonant.
- **Kirana Gharana** - It derives its name from the birthplace of Abdul Kharim Khan of Kirana near Kurukshetra. In the Kirana style of singing, the swara is used to create an emotional mood by means of elongation and use of Kana-s.
- **Jaipur/ Atrauli Gharana** - The most distinctive feature of the Jaipur Gharana can be best described as its complex and melodic form which arises out of the involuted and undulating phrases that comprise the piece.
- **Rampur Sahaswan Gharana** - The Rampur Sahaswan Gharana there is a stress on the clarity of swara in this style and the development and elaboration of the raga is done through a stepwise progression.
- **Patiala Gharana** - Patiala Gharana is regarded as an offshoot of the Delhi Gharana. The Patiala Gharana is characterized by the use of greater rhythm play and by Layakari with the abundant use of Bols, particularly Bol-tans.

- **Delhi Gharana** - The Delhi Gharana was represented by Tanras Khan and Shabbu Khan. The highlights of Delhi Gharana are pleasing vistaar and exquisite compositions.
- **Benaras Gharana** - The Benaras Gharana evolved as a result of the great lilting style of khayal singing known by Thumri singers of Benaras and Gaya.
- **Mewati Gharana** - The Mewati Gharana gives importance to developing the mood of the raga through the notes forming it and its style is Bhava Pradhan. It also gives equal importance to the meaning of the text.

Conclusion:

Gharanas are still and will always be the backbone and ambrosia of Indian Classical music, as it organizes, analyses and provides a unique, transcended standard to the field and will continue to emanate the new forms, elements, intonations by its invention and of course great musicians and keep the Ragadari sangeet cognizant and culminating. To belong to a gharana is to belong to your home. It is where you come back. It's like an anchor, without which one would be lost.

2. The festivals in India symbolise cultural diversity as well as unity. Do you agree? Substantiate with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidates need to explain both the cultural diversity and unity associated with Indian festivals with suitable examples.

Introduction

Most Indian festivals signify the importance of religious linguistic cultural and geographic diversity as well as unity in celebration of festivals. Thus, India present seemingly multicultural situation within in the framework of a single integrated cultural whole.

Body

Festivals as symbol of cultural diversity:

- Whether it is fireworks, dancing, feasting or fasting the central theme of the grand Indian festivals highlight the differences on how people from different regions of India prepare for celebration every year. For example From Holi to Diwali, from Shivratri to Eid, each day is commemorated with a distinct attribute.

- Because of population diversity, there is immense variety in festivals as it is a blend of various cultures. For example Hindustani music used in North Indian festivals and Carnatic music in southern India.
- India also has diversity of many other types like that of settlement patterns tribal, rural, urban; marriage and kinship patterns this depicts the diversity in festivals.
- Indian festivals and food speak of India's rich cultural and traditional background. Every region has its own food preparations depending on the kind of food available locally. Tamil Nadu, for example, has several dishes made out of coconut which is easily available in the southern part of this country.

Indian festivals symbolizing unity:

- Most of the festivals specific to the Hindus are seasonal in nature. They announce the go in season and mark the harvesting seasons symbolise the unity.
- For instance, Bihu is a festival of Assam. Likewise, Tamil Nadu celebrates Pongal. In addition, there is Basant Panchami which people celebrate through North India and West Bengal as well.
- Members of all the communities participate in the festivities attached to a festival. Holi, Diwali, Id, Muharram, Baisaki and Christmas involve all the people at one level or the other. Therefore, despite having strong religious content, our festivals represent our –commonness, forge our unity and encourage a social bond.

Conclusion

India is a plural society both in letter and spirit. It is rightly characterized by its unity and diversity. A grand synthesis of cultures, religions and languages of the people belonging to different castes and communities has upheld its unity and cohesiveness.

3. What is a Santoor? How is it different from a Veena or Sitar? Explain. Recently, a legendary Santoor player passed away. Who was he? What is his legacy? Discuss.

Approach:

The question main four parts that need to be addressed, starting with the introduction about brief introduction on importance of India's musical instruments. Then give information about Santoor in brief and later compare it with Veena and Sitar according to various parameters. State about the legendary santoor player and his legacy.

Introduction:

Indian artists from these traditions have been developing and performing with traditional and indigenous musical instruments that suit their style since ancient times. As a result, India's musical instruments like Santoor, Veena and Sitar have a lengthy history and are an important component of the country's cultural traditions.

Body:

- Santoor is derived from the term Shata-tantric, which means "hundred-string Veena."
- It comprises of a hollow box with twenty-five bridges, each of which supports four strings.
- Two wooden mallets known as mezbabs are used to play it. It is a traditional instrument in Jammu and Kashmir and dates back to ancient times.
- It was called Shatha Tantri Veena in ancient Sanskrit texts.

Difference between Santoor, Veena and Sitar:

	SANTOOR	VEENA	SITAR
Body Design	The body of the santoor is essentially a trapezoid-shaped box with a wooden frame.	It has a huge, circular body and a broad, wide neck carved into the end.	A large neck with 20 metal frets and six to seven main cords characterizes the sitar
Strings arrangement	The frame is attached with anywhere from 40 to more than 100 strings which is usually composed of steel, brass, or copper.	It has 24 brass or bell-metal frets that are attached with a mixture of beeswax and other ingredients	Sitar has 13 sympathetic strings below the frets that are tuned to the raga's tones
Playing mode	It is played with both hands and a pair of light wooden mallets.	To play, the musician plucks the melody strings downward with a plectrum worn on the first and second fingers, while the drone strings are	The player plucks the string using a metallic pick or plectrum called a mizraab. The thumb stays anchored on the top of the fretboard

		strummed with the little finger of the playing hand.	just above the main gourd.
Types	Usually many types based on location and practice but Kashmiri, Persian and Indian Classical Santoor instrument are popular ones.	Some significant ones are: Rudra Veena, Saraswati Veena, Vichitra veena and others.	There are 3 main types of sitar- Ravi Shankar style Sitar, Gandhar Pancham, Bass Sitar or Surbahar.
Key Players	Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, Rahul Sharma, Satish Vyas are notable Santoor players.	Famous veena players are Asad Ali Khan, Jayanthi Kumaresh.	Famous sitar players are Ravi Shankar, Anoushka Shankar, Annapurna Devi, Ustad Shujaat Khan.

Recently Legendary Santoor player Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma passed away.

Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma legacy:

- By 17, Sharma was playing both the santoor and the tabla for the local radio station.
- Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan And Sangeet Natak Academy Award recipient.
- Shiv Kumar Sharma collaborated with many musicians, including Zakir Hussain and Hariprasad Chaurasiya. Pt.Sharma and Chaurasiya duo also performed in the central hall of India's parliament.
- Some of his famous albums are Call of the Valley, Sampradaya, Elements: Water, Music of the Mountains, Megh Malhar, etc.
- Famous for his performance on **Dhun in Pahadi**.
- However, Sharma's focus remained on classic music rather than film songs
- He was also the first musician to play the eight-kilogram santoor on his lap for hours at a time, despite the fact that the santoor was normally performed on a wooden stand.
- In 1998, Kumar and Chaurasiya became the first Indian musicians to play at a Nobel prize ceremony in Oslo
- To emulate the timbre of human voice, he enlarged the range to three octaves and developed a technique for smoother gliding between music notes.
- Shiv Kumar Sharma has devised a unique method of playing it in order to keep the notes and sound consistent over time.

- With his hard work, determination and talent, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma made the santoor a global name.

Conclusion

The importance of classical instruments is recognised not only in India but entire world where they are played in a combination of regional or folk music(trans -genre)to enhance the spectrum of melodies.

1. Reformers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries laid the foundation for the greater struggle for independence. Elucidate.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to start with a brief explanation of reforms of late 18th and early 19th centuries. Elucidate (throw light by giving examples) by first giving examples of reformers and their reforms in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and then explaining how they laid the foundation for the greater struggle for independence.

Introduction-

India in the late 18th and early 19th centuries witnessed a series of reform movements undertaken in various parts of the country that were oriented toward a restructuring of Indian society along modern lines. Several reformers such as Raja Rammohan Roy, Henry Vivian Derozio, Keshab Chandra Sen, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and several others started the social and religious reform movements to systematically remove the social evils and ideologies that were decaying the Indian culture and society.

Body:

The reformers and their reforms in the late 18th and early 19th centuries

- **Raja Ram Mohan Roy:** Founded Brahmo Samaj in 1828 and started the movement that fought against idol worship, polytheism, caste oppression, unnecessary rituals and other social evils like Sati, polygamy, purdah system, child marriage, etc. Society also strove for women's rights like widow remarriage and education of women. It also fought and attacked prevailing superstitions among Hindus.
- **Henry Louis Vivian Derozio:** Started the Young Bengal Movement in Calcutta in the 1820s through which he encouraged radical thinking among his students. He criticized the prevailing religious practices of orthodox Hinduism. He also inspired free-thinking and propagated the spirit of liberty, equality and

freedom. The Young Bengal Movement continued even after Derozio's dismissal and his sudden death in 1831. Though deprived of leadership, the members of this group continued preaching radical views through teaching and journalism.

- **Ishwar Chandra Vidhya Sagar:** He personally took part in the first widow remarriage that was performed in Calcutta in 1856. He was attacked by the orthodox Hindus for his powerful support to the cause of widow remarriage as well as for his efforts at promoting education of girls.
- **Sir Syed Ahmed Khan:** In the early 19th century, the first signs of Muslim awakening appeared under the leadership of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of Bareilly in U.P. and Shariatullah of Bengal. This was happening due to the Christian Missionaries, influence of western ideas and modern education. Hence, they set themselves to the task of purifying and strengthening Islam and promoting Islamic learning.
- **Debendranath Tagore:** He founded Tattvabodhini Sabha (1839) and also published Tattvabodhini Patrika. Tattvabodhini Sabha amalgamated with the Brahmo Samaj in 1859. He also compiled selected passages from the Upanishads, which are known as Brahma Dharma.

How they laid the foundation for the greater struggle for independence

All the reformers propagated the idea of one God and the basic unity of all religions. Thus, they tried to bridge the gulf between different religious beliefs.

- All the reformers attacked priesthood, rituals, idolatry and polytheism. The humanitarian aspect of these reform movements was expressed in their attack on the caste system and the custom of child marriage.
- The reformers attempted to improve the status of girls and women in society. They all emphasized the need for female education.
- By attacking the caste system and untouchability, the reformers helped to unify the people of India into one nation.
- The reform movements fostered feelings of self-respect, self-reliance and patriotism among the Indians.
- At the same time, when some of the social legislations were passed, like, the abolition of Sati, 1829 was passed by Lord William Bentinck and implemented across all presidencies across British India, Prohibition of child marriage, widow remarriage, etc. were all understood by Indians as a bid to impose Christianity over them.
- Therefore, in the first half of the 19th Century, the British proposal of social reform through the means of legislation- although it was directed towards the acceptability of British rule over India, conservative sections viewed this as an imposition of Christianity over them.
- Though the policies of the British under influence of late 18th and early 19th centuries reformers helped in abolition of social evils prevalent at that time but gradually led to breach the socio-religious fabric of India since they were mainly focused and based on the English perception and attitude.
- The Hindu revival and reform movements of the 19th and early 20th centuries were closely linked with the growth of Indian nationalism and the struggle for

independence. The Arya Samaj strongly encouraged nationalism, and, even though Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission were always uncompromisingly non-political, their effect in promoting the movement for self-government is quite evident.

- That's how these reformers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries laid the foundation for the greater struggle for independence by contributing largely to the revolt which was expressed in 1857.

Conclusion:

Decades come and go but what remains are the impression and great acts of the social reformers. India is privileged to have a number of great souls like Dayanand Saraswati and Raja Ram Mohan Roy. They managed to bring revolutions by making radical changes in the society.

2. The lack of a united front at home to thwart the imperial motives of the British allowed the expansion of British dominance in 18th century India. Do you agree? Critically examine.

Approach

Candidates need to highlight the reality of lack of united front and different rivalries due to which British expansion was possible as question demands to critically examine candidates also need to highlight different other factors.

Introduction

The British were able to take control of India mainly because India was not united. The British signed treaties and made military and trading alliances with many of the independent states in 18th century India.

Body

Lack of united force and internal rivalries gave the way for British expansion:

- Lack of Maratha unity: "The Maratha unity was artificial and fortuitous, and therefore un-certain". It was this basic weakness that stood against the Maratha Power and it did neither acquire real strength nor permanence. After the death of Madhav Rao the Marathas were caught in the meshes of mutual hostilities and machinations; the result was that the Marathas could not put up that unity, sense of purpose, strength and patriotism which were necessary to meet the English.

- **Anglo Sikh War:** The immediate cause for the English Company's invasion of the Punjab was the revolt of Mulraj, the Governor of Multan. The final and decisive battle at Gujrat near Chenab was won by the English in 1849. This war resulted in the annexation of Punjab. This war resulted in the annexation of Punjab. In March 1849, Lord Dalhousie annexed Punjab under the Treaty of Lahore and pensioned off Dalip Singh to England along with his mother Rani Jindan. The second Anglo Sikh War ended with British conquest of Punjab.
- **Anglo Mysore War:** The Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas launched an invasion from the north. The British won a decisive victory at the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799. Tipu was killed during the defence of the city. Much of the remaining Mysorean territory was annexed by the British, the Nizam and the Marathas.
- **Battle of Plassey:** It was desertion in the Nawab's camp and treason that resulted in the victory of Clive. Clive excelled in the game of diplomacy and used Jagat Seth and Mir Jafar to win without fighting.
- **Annexation of Sindh:** Many people helped the British in the conquest of Sindh, including a Hindu government minister of Sindh, Mirs of Khairpur, Chandio Tribesmen, and Khosa Tribesmen. Then, Charles Napier hired Khosa Baloch tribesman. Chandio Baloch Sardar brought a cavalry of 10,000 to support Charles Napier in the Miani war, but did not participate in the actual war, and his armies stood on reserve to attack in case Charles Napier lost the war. For his role, Chandio sardar got Chandka (present day Larakana, Qambar-Shahdadkot districts) as Jagir.

There were other factors also apart from Indian disunity such as:

- **Strong Financial Backup:** The income of the Company was adequate enough to pay its shareholders handsome dividends as also to finance the English wars in India.
- **Better Military Discipline and Regular Salary:** A regular system of payment of salaries and a strict regime of discipline were the means by which the English Company ensured that the officers and the troops were loyal.
- **Civil Discipline and Fair Selection System:** The Company officers and troops were given charge on the basis of their reliability and skill and not on hereditary or caste and clan ties.
- **Setting up a New Administration:** The government passed the Regulating Act and the Pitt's India Act to gain more and the direct control over the affairs of the company.

Conclusion

There was a vacuum of power in India regional governors and rebel commanders tried to establish their superiority at different places and started fighting against each other. This gave the British the opportunity to establish their trading posts which led to economic exploitation of India and later political subjugation.

3. It was the British's economic ingenuity that enabled them to rapidly expand their political power in India. Do you agree? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach:

The answer to this question needs to address the key demand of question relating to how economic policies of British made their political expansion easy. But start with Introduction relating to any Fact or timeline of how Britain successfully plotted economic and political interest in India. Give examples in key points and write conclusion at end.

Introduction:

With the discovery of new sea routes to India which advanced traders mainly Europeans especially towards India till India became independent in 1947, British policies highlight economic alongside political might draining Indian economic wealth and political will.

Body-

British Economic Ingenuity helping expansion of their political Power in India:

a) Setting up Trade centres:

In 1600, England formed the East India Company which the government of the United Kingdom backed. England was able to extend its borders with its assistance. The Indian subcontinent is the extent of her territorial boundaries. The first factory was founded in Surat, In 1613.

Fort St. George was the first fortified factory built in Madras. This was the first proprietary holding acquired by the company on Indian soil.

This was the foundation of need for more territorial and political control so that economy of East India Company is flourished.

b) Search of Colonies for Raw materials:

The Industrial Revolution aided English merchants in amassing a large sum of money from Asia, Africa, and America.

They sought to use their newfound fortune to establish industries and trade with India. The main aim of the British was to transform India into a consumer of British goods.

Politically it led to losing sovereignty over territorial resources and economic decision making into the hands of colonisers.

For example: Textile Manufacturing and Trade Previously, Europe was a key market for Indian handloom. Cotton, linen, silk, and woollen commodities from India already had markets in Asia and Africa. The textile industry in England advanced significantly as a result of the arrival of industrialisation. The direction of textile commerce between Britain and India has now shifted. Machine-made clothing from English companies was smuggled into Indian markets in large quantities.

c) Policy on Land Revenue and Land Settlements:

Since ancient times, the main source of livelihood for the people were agriculture. During British rule, revenue from land kept on increasing, and the reasons for this were many like Wars, official luxuries, zamindar exploitation.

Direct and indirect means were carried out to bring about this collection of revenue for the British.

These policies helped British to expand Political control by keeping economic resources flow increasing.

Permanent settlement, Mahalwari, Ryotwari system created confusion and misery for poor cultivators but led to surplus revenue for British.

d) Commercialisation of Agriculture-

Introduction of a large number of commercial crops such as tea, coffee, indigo, opium, cotton, jute, sugarcane and oilseed were forcefully grown which did not leave much scope for Indian producers to reap profit.

Indigo was grown under a different system where all farmers were compelled to grow it on 3/20th part of their land.

This commercialisation led Britain to become supplier of Agri goods from Indian soil and projection of political might of British empire in world.

e) Rise of the New Money-lending Class -

Time bound and excessive demand of revenue by the British government forced the peasants to take loans from the moneylenders.

These moneylenders often exploited the peasants by charging high interest rates.

Local administration failed to provide relief and natural justice to the rural poor. Even some Indian Princely States were forced to remain silent. This deprived Indian political class from effective decision making.

f) Emerging New Middle Class-

A major impact of the British rule in India was the beginning of a new middle class. With the rise of the British commercial interests, new opportunities opened to a small section of the Indian people.

They often acted as the agents and intermediaries of the British traders and thus made huge fortunes.

This class advanced British to take political positions with less interference.

For Example: The new landed aristocracy, which came into being after the introduction of Permanent Settlement, also formed a part of this new class.

g) Transport and Communication-

England needed Railways to connect raw material producing areas with exporting ports, as well as to simplify the movement of British commodities across the country and to transport raw materials to ports. Even telegraph and basic telecommunication devices were installed. Politically, this move helped British in speedy transmission of Orders, Law ordinance, complaints from officials, espionage activity.

For Example:

Spontaneous Arrest of National leaders as well as on ground supporters on announcement of Quit India movement was implemented using good British communication system.

Conclusion:

British establishing political supremacy alongside economic supremacy helped support mighty British empire in India while draining Indian wealth and taking away political rights.

1. Examine the factors that led to the split of the Indian National Congress at Surat. How did it alter the course of the freedom struggle? Briefly explain.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to start with a brief explanation of the split of the Indian National Congress at Surat. Then examine the factors that led to the split of the Indian National Congress at Surat. Finally, briefly explain how it altered the course of the freedom struggle.

Introduction-

The expulsion of extremists from congress in December 1907 at the Surat session is known as “Surat Split” in modern Indian history and was the most significant event in the history of the Indian Struggle against British Rule. In the 1907 Surat session, the Extremist camp was led by Lal Bal Pal and the moderate camp was led by Gopal Krishna Gokhle. In this session, congress met in an atmosphere of anger and resentment as with the election of Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh as the president, extremists had an objection to this election. Initially the extremists protested against the election but soon they accepted Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh as the president and offered to cooperate. But the session was suspended. Congress got split.

Body:

The factors that led to the split of the Indian National Congress at Surat

- The partition of Bengal in 1905 provided impetus for the extremists to openly criticize the Moderates' methods thus promoting extremist ideology.
- The moderate method of constitutional agitation, which included petitioning, praying, and protesting, had exhausted the Indian masses, giving rise to extremist tendencies that emphasized direct action against the British.
- The Extremists set two main goals for the Surat Session of Congress. First, they demanded that Lala Lajpat Rai be appointed President of the INC and secondly, they demanded for Swaraj's resolution. Both these demands were rejected by the Moderates.
- Also, while working together for the Bengal movement, their ideology clashes again as the two sides were of different views regarding the movement.

- The extremists were of the view that the movement should be expanded and should target the government while the moderate leadership which was invited to see the process of administrative reforms by the British felt it would be dangerous to rouse the British at this time. Both sides thus viewed each other as the enemy.
- The extremist leader Tilak and moderate leader Gokhale wanted to avoid a split as they knew that a divided congress could be easily subdued by the British but they had to kneel before the other leaders of their factions.
- Finally in 1907 under the presidency of Rash Bihari Ghosh the party split in Surat.

How did it alter the course of the freedom struggle?

- Rabindranath Tagore's efforts to reconcile the Moderates and Extremists following the Surat Split were futile. Also, the adoption of resolutions for permanently disqualifying the Congress's Extremist section at the 1908 Allahabad convention aggravated the situation.
- Following the Surat Split in 1907, the Moderates demanded colonial self-government in contrast to the Extremists' demand for total independence.
- The moderates' constitutional politics did not impress the British government, as evidenced by the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909. They had lost touch with the nationalism's younger generation as the younger generation desired results, which fuelled the rise of revolutionaries and in order to suppress militant nationalists, the British used a divide and rule strategy.
- Extremism was mostly confined to Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab, where the rise in terrorist activity allowed the government to unleash repression. With the incarceration of leaders such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the moderate-dominated Congress went dormant.
- Separate electorates were granted to Muslims in 1909. This was a setback for Congress because the most critical and vocal elements were not included in the INC.
- Surat Split was a big failure of Indian nationalists on the one hand & on the other hand it was the great success of the British it and what the British failed to achieve in the Partition of Bengal was achieved by the Surat Split.
- Expulsion of extremists nullified the effect of both sections of Nationalists because moderates & extremists could be effective only by together.
- If extremist's sword moderates are shields once they are away, they lose effect.
- The Surat Split allowed the British to neglect moderates & suppress extremists successfully.
- Tilak was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment & was deported to Myanmar. Arvindo Ghosh was tried in the Alipore Bombing case.
- Though he was acquitted but left active politics & retired to the presidency. The Surat Split resulted in the sudden death of the Swadeshi Movement.
- It was a movement by extremists & once they were no longer in congress the movement lost its leadership & it died out suddenly.

- Surat Split transformed the atmosphere of political activism into passivism because for decades no mass agitation could be organized in India.
- Surat Split & failure of the swadeshi movement disillusioned the younger generation of nationalists; they lost their faith in the efficacy of peaceful methods & started believing that western bondage of British only by the western hammer of the violation.

Conclusion:

The Surat Split came as a great lesson to Indian nationalists which resulted in them realizing their mistake. This bitter experience came in handy when similar ideological differences developed due to the sudden withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920-21. It was because of the tough lesson fought by Surat Split another split could be avoided consciously.

2. A crucial part of the national movement was agitation for constitutional reform. Considering this, what in your opinion, was the biggest constitutional achievement in the 20th century? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates need to highlight the any of the biggest constitutional achievement in 20th century as per personal opinion and explain it on the basis of constitutional durability and longevity and how much importance it holds today.

Introduction

The enactment of the Constitution was an ambitious political experiment with universal adult franchise, federalism in a region consisting of over 550 princely States, and social revolution in a deeply unequal society it was the biggest achievement of the 20th century.

Body

Enactment of Constitution in 1949 as the biggest achievement:

- If India were to try and draft a Constitution today she would almost certainly fail. The significant achievement of India's Constituent Assembly is that it created a Constitution which has survived.
- Pakistan's assembly took seven years to draft the country's Constitution (1956), which collapsed in 1958 and again in 1969, 1978 and so on.

- India's Constituent Assembly had men of genius with vision, passion, integrity and patience who were not angling for power. Let no one trivialise their foundational achievement.
- The unusual achievement for the Indian Constitution is that the legitimacy of the Constitution has never been questioned by a large number of social groups or political parties.
- The constitution does not just represent the opinions of its members. It encapsulates a widespread consensus at the time. Because the core laws were not embraced by all major social groups or political parties, several countries around the world had to revise their constitutions.
- The Constituent Assembly was elected by the Indian people. At the time, there was no global adult franchise.
- The Constituent Assembly carved in a method that was well-organized, accessible, and agreeable. Everyone acknowledged and agreed on the fundamental beliefs.
- No major social organisation or political party has ever questioned the constitution's legitimacy in the recent half-century.

Constitutional features makes it's unique achievement:

- Promoted unity in diversity: It points to India is an example of the fact that fractionalized environments produce constitutional stability precisely because no single group can dominate others.
- Public ratification produces a more enduring constitution in democracies — but not in autocracies.
- Longer constitutions are more durable than shorter ones which suggest that specificity matters.
- Flexible: In conclusion, the study points out that constitutions work best when they are most like ordinary statutes: relatively detailed and easy to modify.

Conclusion

Each time we vote, or protest, we put the Constitution in its place. India is a multi-cultural, multi-religious civilization of enormous diversities. To capture all this in the embrace of its versatile Constitution is an unparalleled achievement, which will carry India into the future.

3. While a colony of the British, India was forced to participate in several wars that were not her own, and these wars proved too costly for India. Elucidate.

Approach-

Briefly Introduce the answer with facts related to British spending on wars from Indian treasury or the need of British to participate in wars to protect its colonies. Mention

about the prominent wars that British fought affecting Indian wealth. Conclude with analysis of Indian economic drain due to hefty expenditure.

Introduction-

Britain overambitious territorial expansion and siege to form new colonies through wars, indirect strategic conquests on the base of Indian Economy was adversely affecting capacity of India to focus on Developmental issues This was highlighted by eminent statisticians and analyst like Dadabhai Naoroji and Mahatma Gandhi.

Body-

India being British colony had no defence, economic or sovereign control on decision making related to wars. All wars fought by Britain colonial motive in name of protecting India's security led India to enter them de facto without consultation.

India's forceful participation as a Colony in wars were costly to India-

Seven Years Wars(1756-1763),

- Britain faced severe Economic stress fighting resistance in American colonies, the cost of which was also bore by Indian treasury as India was indirectly dragged in War as a supporter to British interest.

Anglo Afghan Wars(1839–1842, 1878–1880, 1919),

- Fearing Russian invasion in Afghan territory, British vehemently involved India in Anglo Afghan war.
- During the course of the British retreat from Kabul, out of an army of 16,500, only a few hundred would survive to return to India along with it bountiful expense was bore by India.

Anglo Burmese wars (1824–26, 1852, 1885),

- British were fearful of expansionist aims of Burma being an independent country and to check spread of French commercial motives in southeast asia.
- This caused India's participation and economic loss for India.

Anglo Nepal War:

- The Anglo-Nepalese War (1814-16) was sparked by a border dispute between India and Nepal. Because the India-Nepal border was not precisely defined, a dispute was unavoidable.
- Eventually this caused Indian defence expenditure to increase.

World war I(1914-1918)

- Requisitioning of food supplies, particularly cereals, led to rampant food inflation.
- Exports of cash crops like jute suffered due to the loss of the European market.
- Meanwhile, rising military demand for jute products compensated for the decline in civilian demand with jute mills in Bengal establishing monopolies; skewed income distribution grew even more so, shifting from jute farmers to capital

- The Great Depression that occurred in 1929 presented a deep post recovery shock from World war I.

World War II(1939-1945)

- a huge sum of money in the treasury that was utilised to fund numerous military initiatives
- Economic imbalances related to currency exchange problems.
- Establishment of exchange control have caused the value of the Indian currency to plummet.
- Inflation caused was seen mostly attributed to Sterling Balance problem in which British government took use of their currency; to fund the war, they simply transferred pound bonds to the Government of India's account at the Bank of England.

Conclusion:

Such conscious Economic drain out of Indian economy on wars has not only affected defense expenditure but also developmental ,social and structural expenditure as famine ,shortage of resources and increased land taxes were frequent.

3. Do you think the prerogative to adopt the uniform civil code should be left to the states ? critically comment .**Approach**

A simple straightforward question where candidates first need to explain about what uniform civil code is. And in second part give their opinions about does prerogative to adopt uniform civil code should be left to states or not .And give their critical views about it .

Introduction

The term, 'Uniform Civil Code' is explicitly mentioned in Part 4, Article 44 of the Indian Constitution. Article 44 says, "The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. Uniform Civil Code in India is a widely debated topic lately since the first petition was filed in 2019 to seek for framing of a UCC to promote national integration and gender justice, equality, and dignity of women.

Body

- A Uniform Civil Code means that all sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a national civil code, which shall be applicable to all uniformly.
- They cover areas like- Marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, adoption and succession of the property. It is based on the premise that there is no connection between religion and law in modern civilization.
- Article 44 corresponds with Directive Principles of State Policy stating that State shall endeavour to provide for its citizens a uniform civil code (UCC) throughout the territory of India.

Uniform Civil Code Debate

Historical perspective – The debate for a uniform civil code dates back to the colonial period in India.

- Pre-Independence (colonial era)

The Lex Loci Report of October 1840- It stressed the importance and necessity of uniformity in the codification of Indian law, relating to crimes, evidence and contract. But, it also recommended that personal laws of Hindus and Muslims should be kept outside such codification.

The Queen's 1859 Proclamation- It promised absolute non-interference in religious matters.

So while criminal laws were codified and became common for the whole country, personal laws continue to be governed by separate codes for different communities. Post-Colonial era (1947-1985)

- During the drafting of the constitution, prominent leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr B.R Ambedkar pushed for a uniform civil code. However, they included the UCC in the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP, Article 44) mainly due to opposition from religious fundamentalists and a lack of awareness among the masses during the time.
- At present, personal law is the set of laws that applies to people based on their faith and religion. Most religions have a different set of 'personal laws' and are governed by their respective scriptures.
- With the implementation of Uniform Civil Code, there would be a common law for all citizens irrespective of religion, gender or caste. Personal law is often conflicting and contradictory and is not uniformly applied across courts and region.
- The Supreme Court in October 2015 said, "This (separate laws for different communities) cannot be accepted. Otherwise, every religion will say that it has a right to decide various issues as a matter of its personal law
- In Shah Bano Begum case, Chief Justice Y.V. Chandrachud observed that Parliament should outline the contours of a common civil code as it is an instrument that facilitates national harmony and equality before the law.
- In 1995, in the Sarla Mudgal case, the Supreme Court said, "When more than 80 per cent of the citizens have already been brought under the codified personal

law there is no justification whatsoever to keep in abeyance, any more, the introduction of 'uniform civil code' for all citizens in the territory of India

Should states given prerogative to adopt uniform civil code

- As the demand for Uniform Civil Code (UCC) gains momentum again after MNS chief Raj Thackrey also joined the chorus for 'One Nation One Law' rule. While addressing a rally in Pune, Raj Thackrey reasserted that the nation should follow one set of laws.
- This comes at the heels of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami declaring his intention of implementing the Uniform Civil Code in the state." We will soon implement UCC, would like other states to follow,
- As per Article 12 of the Constitution, 'State' includes central and state governments. As per that authority, if Uttarakhand or any other state government brings any such legislation, it would require Presidential assent under Article 254 of the Constitution.
- Uniform Civil Code can only be brought by parliamentary legislation as is clear from government reply before courts and Parliament. Article 44 of the Constitution mandates UCC throughout the territory of India, which was confirmed by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju in February 2022.
- Despite being in the Parliamentary domain, the Supreme Court continues to entertain various PILs covering key subjects of UCC. The apex court has issued notice to the government on the need for uniform laws for all citizens across religious faiths on matters of divorce, maintenance, alimony, adoption, guardianship, succession and inheritance
- In July 2021, Justice Pratibha M. Singh of Delhi High Court observed: "In modern Indian society, which is gradually becoming homogenous, the traditional barriers of religion, community and caste are slowly dissipating." She said that Uniform Civil Code (UCC) should not "remain a mere hope".
- The implementation of UCC would try to bring about a long needed change and an end to plenty of confusion that is mandatorily needed, but due to some of the disadvantages it offers, it has become hard to implement it, even though decades have passed since it was proposed for the first time.
- It is to be noted that Uttarakhand is not the only state declaring its intention of having UCC. Currently, Goa is the only state in the country to follow a version of the Uniform Civil Code
- States should not given prerogative in matters relating to the implementation of UCC because of its diversity consensus of all parties are hard to achieve,
- Because of multi party system and federal form of governments there will always be opposition to policies
- Hence states should have minimum rule regarding implementation of UCC.

Way Forward

- The government and society will have to work hard to build trust, but more importantly, make common cause with social reformers rather than religious conservatives.
- Rather than an omnibus approach, the government could bring separate aspects such as marriage, adoption, succession and maintenance into a UCC in stages.
- Need of the hour is the codification of all personal laws so that prejudices and stereotypes in every one of them would come to light and can be tested on the anvil of fundamental rights of the Constitution.

Conclusion

UCC can only emerge through an evolutionary process. Hence major sensitization efforts are required to reform current personal law reforms which should be first initiated by the communities themselves. A secular republic like India needs a common law for all citizens rather than differentiated rules based on religious practices.

4. Do you think armed forces should be gender neutral? Why or why not? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidate can open answer with the history of reforms to increase number of women in the army. In the second part, reasons for the non-inclusivity of gender in the armed forces can be given with a way forward.

Introduction

In the 1.4-million-strong Indian Army, women constitute a minuscule 0.56%, while the corresponding figure is 1.08% in the Air Force and 6.5% in the Navy. While many institutions in the country have become far more gender-inclusive, one which has been slow off the mark is the armed forces, especially the Army.

Body

Women in the armed forces

- After Independence, Indian armed forces started opening their doors for women officers, starting with the medical branches in 1958. From 1992, the government started recruiting women as officers in logistics branches (ASC, AOC, JAG, AEC, and Intelligence Corps) as well as in technical services like EME, followed by technical arms and aviation.

- Thousands of women applied for the 25 vacancies in the first batch in 1992. The first batch of lady cadets underwent training along with male cadets at OTA Chennai and were commissioned in 1993.
- There was no looking back after that. In 1994, the Indian Airforce started recruiting women pilots in support roles. Two women pilots took part in the Kargil War by flying in the combat zone.
- In 2015, the IAF inducted women as fighter pilots. An all women crew of six Indian Navy officers took part in Navika Sagar Parikrama aboard the INSV Tarini in 2018. In early 2021, the Indian Navy started deploying women officers on warships too.
- In 2007, India became the first country to provide All-Female Formed Police Unit (FFPU) for UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia. There were 105 female officers from India's paramilitary troops, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). In 2019, India's first female engagement team was sent to Congo.
-

Armed forces and gender neutrality

- Despite making considerable contributions regarding women's participation in armed forces and even in UN Peacekeeping Missions, India is yet to frame a National Action Plan based on the WPS agenda to increase the participation of women at the domestic level in India's security and military domain.
- As of February 8 2021, the percentage of women in the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy is 0.56%, 1.08% and 6.5%, respectively. Militaries the world over are masculinist organisations, and the culture is set in a way that makes the integration of women replete with challenges.
- Feminist Scholars have highlighted how if attention is not paid to the discursive and performative elements of gender dichotomies, the discursive structures of gender subordination remain even in a gender-integrated military.
- It was only in 2018 that homosexuality was decriminalised in India, and the Indian military hasn't even opened up a conversation of allowing queer people in the military. Homosexuality is a punishable offence in the military.
- The conversation needs to begin now. Women's participation without engaging with the questions of gender and sexuality in the military will perpetuate the same masculinist culture.
- When women join military, They join groups whose terms, premises, and behavioural norms are already defined in terms of the masculine values that they have prized before the inclusion of women, so it becomes difficult for gender inclusivity.

What are the reasons given for non-inclusivity of gender?

- The vulnerability of women soldiers to sexual harassment
- Physical fitness limitations
- Lack of infrastructure such as separate sleeping arrangements and toilets.
- Risks involved in combat role

- Fear of Women officers seeking privileges such as easier postings which might lead to resentment among men.
- It is claimed that male troops, who are predominantly drawn from rural backgrounds, may be unwilling to “accept” a woman commander.
- Concerns are raised over physiology, motherhood and physical attributes of women officers.
- Women officer appointments need extra considerations to hygiene, sensitivities and privacy issues while accommodating them. In Siachen, there are posts with only four soldiers. They sleep and share the same cramped post.

Interestingly, none of the above reasons are fault of women, yet they are excluded.

What can be done?

- Behavioural change at societal level is needed.
- Need to revise their terms of engagement
- Certain concessions given to women officers can be withdrawn, and they can be put through the field and rough appointments with troops.
- The selection for command assignments has to merit-based irrespective of gender.
- The selection for the command should be done through officer's confidential reports and closed promotion board, common for both genders, and the names and gender of the profile should be hidden from selection board.
- It is not as though other professions are immune to sexual harassment. This is just an excuse of status quo mind set which needs to be changed.

Conclusion

Willingness to change at attitude at institutional level can only be the way forward. Most of the reforms undertaken in the army have been initiated by the Supreme Court. Change needs to happen from below, not top down. Army is one of the most important institution of our nation, under representation of women in it fails us as an equal society.

1. Many tough yet important decisions were deferred by the contemporary leadership to avoid a socio-political crisis in newly independent India. Critically comment.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about different important socio economic and socio political reforms which were implemented or deferred by Indian contemporary leadership. Explain different reforms which were deferred to avoid crisis and also write about reforms which were taken despite crisis.

Introduction

India took baby steps to become one of the largest democracies in the world, overcoming a plethora of challenges to earn global recognition. India has come a long way since Independence, avoided many right and wrong decisions leaving behind a string of landmarks that define its journey from the agony of Partition to a strong, powerful and developing nation.

Body

Many leaders Failed to carry on momentum and to avoid socio political crisis, also it was a matter of sheer absence of political will and commitment:

- Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Article 44: Due to diversity in India, it is somewhere tough to come up with a common and uniform set of rules. However, the attempts to bring in a Uniform Civil Code faced resistance from orthodox sections who claimed that it would create communal disharmony.
- Hindi As only official language: In India language changes every few kilometres just like the water. Therefore it, was been difficult and has witnessed violence and heated debates in 1965 such as anti-Hindi-imposition agitations of Tamil Nadu.
- Population control law: The population control bill of 2019, which was withdrawn in 2022. The two-child policy has been introduced in Parliament 35 times since independence. These drafts were heavily criticised by the general public.
- The three major agri reform laws which were repealed: Agricultural economists and other stakeholders have been advocating agricultural market reforms for decades. It left government hesitant about pursuing these reforms in stealth mode again to avoid crisis.
- Labour codes: Rules on Labour Codes deferred till date. The codes will result in less take-home pay and easier layoffs. Labour reforms can be tough even at the best of times, but why risk political capital and avoid political labour unrest. The government will doubtless have to walk the path of reform very cautiously.
- To make voting compulsory: The first is to make voting compulsory, as has been done in at least 30 democracies, which has increased the voter turnout to over 90 per cent. Currently, the voter turn-out in India ranges is low.

- Sedition: The other major irritant is the gross misuse of Section 124A of IPC. It is a travesty but most political parties do not want the deletion of this provision of law.
- Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act: The government must use the state armed police and central para-military police for the purpose. Deletion of the act is a strong case for withdrawing the armed forces from the civilian areas in J&K and NE moving them near the international border to deal with infiltrations, mercenaries, terrorists and militants.
- Adopt inquisitorial police system: Looking to the political interference and inadequacies in police investigations, time has come to make a structural change from the accusatorial system India has adopted from the colonial times to the inquisitorial system prevalent in Europe. Justice V. S. Malimath, in his report on Reform of Criminal Justice System has also suggested it.
- Indecisive for GM food crops: India is still undecided on genetically engineered or genetically modified organism (GM) crops. Political Willingness is lacking to adopt and implement a modern agricultural policy framework, including biotechnology, to address the country's food security concerns. Political establishment has saved themselves from political activist agitation.

Many tough decision reforms were taken by leaders despite the socio political unrest in India such as:

- 1991 reforms: Political will of leaders during 1991 reforms for having pulled it through must be remembered. We commend that leadership for rescuing India from "falling off the cliff" and managing the reforms under the compulsion of the Fund and the Bank, with a looming balance of payment crisis.
- Green Revolution: The Green Revolution in India in 1960 saw an increase in food grain production, with development of high-yielding varieties of wheat and pulses.
- 1976 mass sterilisation: The campaign was initiated by Sanjay Gandhi and saw about 6.2 million men sterilised in a year, with about 2000 dead owing to botched-up surgeries.
- 1990 reservation by VP singh government: The whole country was in the grip of protests against giving government jobs to certain castes on the basis of birth despite that decision was continued.
- Pokhran II: India conducted nuclear bomb tests at Pokhran 1998 tough decision to take under global pressure of disarmament with the codename "Operation Shakti". It led to India becoming a full-fledged nuclear state.
- Demonetisation: In 2016, the government announced the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 banknotes. Many Farmers, traders and the youth groups were all agitating but as a step against black money it was carried forward.
- Goods and Services Tax: It was the resultant tax after subsuming major central and state taxes.

- Solving Kashmir conundrum: Abrogation of Article 370 was long overdue for the full integration of the state and should have been done years ago to set the record straight on the status of J&K.

Conclusion

The most important lesson being that the process of reforms has to be more consultative, more transparent and better communicated to the potential beneficiaries. It is this inclusiveness that lies at the heart of democratic functioning of India. It takes time and humility to implement reforms, given the argumentative nature of our society. But doing so ensures that everyone wins.

2. The defeat in the 1962 war against China was a wake up call for India's diplomatic and defense apparatus. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Approach

Candidate can trace the conflict in brief. In the body part, lessons learnt by India on diplomatic and military front can be given in detail. While highlighting the recent conflict with China, rise of new strategic thinking can be stated.

Introduction

On 10 July, over 350 Chinese troops surrounded an Indian post at Chushul, Leh. Using loudspeakers, they told the Gurkha regiment to not fight for India. On 20 October the People's Liberation Army invaded India in Ladakh, northern Uttarakhand and across the McMahon Line in the then North-East Frontier Agency (now Arunachal Pradesh), catching India completely off guard. The Sino-Indian War put the spotlight on India's unpreparedness in a war situation and underlined the need to modernise its armed forces.

Body

The lessons India learnt on defence and diplomatic front

- The aftermath of the war saw sweeping changes in the Indian military to prepare it for similar conflicts in the future, and placed pressure on Nehru, who was seen as responsible for failing to anticipate the Chinese attack on India.
- Indians reacted with a surge in patriotism and memorials were erected for many of the Indian troops who died in the war.
- The war also put an end to Nehru's earlier hopes that India and China would form a strong Asian Axis to counteract the increasing influence of the Cold War bloc superpowers.

- According to James Calvin, India gained many benefits from the 1962 conflict. This war united the country as never before. India got 32,000 square miles (8.3 million hectares, 83,000 km²) of disputed territory even if it felt that NEFA was hers all along.
- War also highlighted the crucial strategic mistakes India committed, including not using the Indian Air Force.
- In the decade preceding 1962, the Indian ruling elite was convinced that having woven China into the Panchsheel Agreement, it had managed to craft a sound 'China policy'. It was neither alert to the Chinese military developments in Tibet nor to the construction of Sinkiang-Tibet road which began in March 1956.
- Primarily due to ideological and emotional reasons, the Chinese geostrategic challenges and threats were either not accepted or underplayed till the Parliament and public opinion forced the government to adopt a military posture against China.
- It would more than double its military manpower in the next two years and it would work hard to resolve the military's training and logistic problems to later become the second-largest army in the world. India's efforts to improve its military posture significantly enhanced its army's capabilities and preparedness.
- However, since 1962 there have also been many instances when China had to face setbacks after initiating aggression against India.
- The Nathu La conflict is better known as the India-China war of 1967. In a strong message to China that the mistakes of 1962 won't be repeated, India landed a stern blow on the PLA's pride at the Nathu La post in Sikkim.

Aftermath of 1962

- During the 1962 war, India was left isolated. Barring Western countries like USA and UK, none came to India's aid, though India considered herself as the leader of the Non-aligned Movement.
- Seeking to balance the other side, each country has forged relationships that act as a counterpoint to the other; most notably, Beijing's "all weather friendship" with Islamabad and Delhi's partnership with Moscow.
- The rivalry has also led both sides to compete for influence in their peripheries, especially in Burma and Nepal, and to resent the spread of the other's influence close to their borders.
- In 1993 and 1996, the two sides signed the Sino-Indian Bilateral Peace and Tranquility Accords, agreements to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control.

Conclusion

Recent face-off between India and China in Galwan valley has awoken the memory of 1962 war. The standoff reveals China's policy dilemma over India. Beijing wants to effectively check a rising New Delhi by asserting its strength and psychological

advantage in bilateral ties. But on the other hand, China is anxious about the impact of the current crisis on its regional and global geostrategic objectives. The 1962 war changed Indian strategic thinking forever and compelled India to adopt nuclear arms and offensive defence in the upcoming decades.

3. Even though proclamation of emergency in 1975 is blot on Indian political history, it paved the way for critical constitutional reforms that strengthened the democratic roots in India. comment .

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates are expected to write about, emergency of 1975 and even though it was blot on Indian political history how it leads to critical constitutional reforms and eventually strengthened the democratic roots in India.

Introduction

The emergency was declared by the Indira Gandhi government in 1975 and was in place for 21 months. Threat to national security and bad economic conditions were cited as reasons for the declaration. Although this was blot on Indian political history it led the way for constitutional reforms and The supreme court strengthened the concept of Basic structure which To uphold the democratic rights of the citizens.

Body

Reasons for declaring emergency in 1975,

Economic issues:

- India support to Bangladesh's liberation caused serious repercussion on India's foreign exchange reserves.
- Consecutive monsoon failure in 1972 & 73 affected India food grains availability and fueled prices.
- Large scale unemployment and economic recession led to industrial unrest and wave of strikes in different parts of country which culminated in All India railway strike in May 1974.

Executive tussle with Judiciary:

- Union government under the leadership of Indira Gandhi amended the constitution in the Parliament that it can abridge Fundamental rights while giving effect to DPSPs. But, Later, In Kesavananda Bharti Case, the Apex Court ruled that there are some basic features of the constitution, which can't be amended.
- Furious with SC judgment, Union Government changed the long-term precedence of appointing senior most judges in SC as Chief Justice.
- Allahabad HC, while hearing the plea of socialist leader Raj Narain on the validity of victory of Indira to Lok Sabha ruled in the his favour and set aside her victory and ruled her election invalid on the grounds of abuse of power.

JP Movement:

- The students of Gujarat protested immensely in 1974 against the rise in prices of food-grain, cooking oil & other essential commodities, later joined by the political parties too.
- Inspired by the efforts and success by Gujarat student's movement, similar agitation was initiated in Bihar by students in March 1974.
- JP Narayan gave a call for "Sampooran Kranti" (Total Revolution) against the immense corruption, to defend democracy from authorization personality of Indira Gandhi.

1975 emergency as a blot on Indian political history -

- The union government misused its emergency powers and curbed democratic rights of the citizens, opposition parties and of the press.
- Electricity of the newspaper houses got disconnected, leaders of opposition parties were arrested.
- Government curtailed the freedom of press via "Press censorship" and made it mandatory to get its approval before publishing it.
- Protests, strikes and public agitations were not allowed.
- Fundamental right of constitutional remedies to move the court for restoring their FRs got suspended.
- Religious and cultural organization like RSS, Jamait-E-Islami was banned on the apprehension of disturbance to social and communal harmony.
- Government misused the provision of preventive detention, arrested the political workers of opposition parties.
- Torture and custodial deaths occurred during Emergency, arbitrary relocation of poor people, imposition of compulsory sterilization to control population.

The power misused came as a wake up call for the entire nation and consequent steps were taken to amend the constitution (44th constitutional amendment) to take safeguards against misuse of powers:

- Ground for Emergency declaration: the word 'internal disturbance' was replaced by 'armed rebellion' in respect of national emergency.

- Made the president to declare a national emergency only on the written recommendation of the cabinet.
- Empowered the president to send back once, the advice of the cabinet for reconsideration.
- Provided that the fundamental rights guaranteed by article 20 and 21 cannot be suspended even during emergency.
- Gave constitutional protection to publication in newspaper of true reports of the proceedings of parliament and state legislatures.
- Further, it was the supreme court decision which upheld that government can arrest any person or even take extreme steps under emergency, it is legal and no relief is available. However, the judiciary learnt its lessons and consequently passed several judgments to uphold democracy.
- the Supreme Court has thereafter enlarged the concept and the application of Article 21 well beyond what was ever contemplated by the framers of the constitution
- The supreme court expressed its view on ADM Jabalpur judgement to be violative of fundamental rights in Ram deo Chauhan case.
- The supreme court strengthened the concept of Basic structure which was reiterated in cases like Minerva mills.
- The judiciary in later judgments evolved the collegium system for appointments of the judges to uphold the independence of the judiciary.
- To uphold the democratic rights of the citizens, it also invented tools like Public interest litigation in 1980.

Conclusion-

The 1975 emergency is viewed as the darkest phase in the democratic history of India. But it also reminded the absolute powers vested in the government in emergency situation. The consequent defeat of congress illustrated that it is the citizens who are the ultimate deciders of democratic fate in India. It also helped in perfecting the Indian democratic setup to restore the people's faith in democracy.

4. The economic reforms of 1991 proved to be a moment of economic turn around for the country. Examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the 1991 reforms and simply explain how it brought a momentum shift in economy of India. Try to explain in socio economic perspective also and try to write some limitations of it.

Introduction

There has been a revolutionary change in Indian Economy since the espousal of the New Economic Strategy in 1991. When a nation becomes liberalised, the economic effects can be intense for the country. Government reduced the import duties, opened reserved sector for the private players, devalued the Indian currency to increase the export. This is also known as the LPG Model of growth.

Body

Economic reforms focused on the following aspects:

- L – Liberalization (Reduction of government control)
- P – Privatization (Privatization involves the transfer of ownership of economic resources from the public sector to the private sector)
- G – Globalisation (It suggests integration of the national economy with the global economy).

1991 reforms brought a economic turn around for the India:

- There was a philosophical change in 1991 a major turnaround happened where the individual is responsible and can be blamed and the collective is not to be. So, individual has to go to market and fulfil the needs by itself, for itself.
- The market became dominant and the public sector retreated with privatisation in education, health care, employment etc.
- Liberalization led to the replacement of licenses raj increased the business opportunities in India and enabled faster economic growth.
- Deregulation of the industrial sector was carried out by abolishing industrial licensing for most of the sectors except product categories- alcohol, cigarettes, hazardous chemicals, industrial explosives, electronics, aerospace and drugs and pharmaceuticals.
- Strongest revolution of new century has been one of Information Technology, which started in last years of past century. This revolution was different because it made globalization even more obvious and stark.
- It made possible transfer of real time human labour across nations, without transfer humans themselves. There by it increased the employment rate in India. Number of computers which were just 18,000 in 1991 has now reached to 220 million.
- In banking sector, liberal policies have great impact in Indian economy. Since improvements, there have been three rounds of License Grants for private banks. Private Banks such as ICICI, HDFC, Yes Bank and also foreign banks, raised standards of Indian Banking Industry.
- Usually, Telecom sector was a government owned domination and therefore service was not very efficient. But after reforming polices, private telecom sector reached zenith of success. Indian telecom companies are progressing at global scale.

- Many infrastructure areas earlier reserved for the government were opened to private-sector participation, often in public-private partnerships, and many of them were bedeviled by crony capitalism.
- India's economic reforms have been highly successful in moving the country from low-income to middle-income status, despite little improvement in its institutions and quality of public goods.
- In 1991, agriculture provided employment to 72 percent of the population and contributed 29.02 per cent of the gross domestic product. However, in 2018 the share of agriculture in the GDP went down drastically to 15% and employment to nearly 50%.

Socio economic turnarounds:

- Post-reform period, poverty declined faster in the 2000s than in the 1990s. Around 138 million people were lifted above the poverty line during this period. The poverty of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also declined faster in the 2000s.
- India's working-age population has started rising, yet participation in the workforce has actually fallen in recent years, especially for females.
- Economic liberalization has benefited Dalits, the lowest of the Hindu castes, once condemned to the dirtiest work, such as cleaning latrines, cremating the dead, and handling dead animals and their hides.

Limitations of economic reforms:

- Basic problems of employment, agriculture, industry, infrastructure development and fiscal management persisted despite the New Economic policy (NEP).
- The big improvements in private-sector competitiveness are not even remotely replicated in government service competitiveness. India's social indicators remain dismal.
- Subcontracting and outsourcing led to downsizing workers at a greater pace, which also added to informal sector employment.
- Regional disparity in economic growth occurred as more FDI was attracted towards industrially developed States like Gujarat, Maharashtra.
- Due such dynamic situations, instability has increased, the gap between the rich and the poor has expanded.
- For example, the minimum wage in 1991 was Rs. 35 which has risen to Rs. 165. But, on the other hand managerial salaries having cap of 3,12,000 has risen to even 30 crores. Thus, it has risen by almost a 1000 times.

Conclusion

Economic reform is a continuing process and not a one-time action. The 1991 reforms focused too much on market and hence balance needs to be restored by the state

intervention and holistic change with focus on bringing change in health education and agriculture.

5. How did India Against Corruption (IAC) movement change the politics in the country? What were the key takeaways from this movement? Analyse.

Approach

Candidate can give a brief outlook of IAC movement in the beginning. In the body part, outcomes of IAC movement can be given followed by its effects on Indian politics. In the end, key takeaways can be stated.

Introduction

The India against corruption movement was the sequence of protests in India in 2011. The movement called for a regulation mechanism against corruption from the political parties in India. On 5 April 2011, the protest gained momentum when Anna Hazare went on a hunger strike at the Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The movement was also called the Anna Hazare anti-corruption movement.

Body

What was the outcome of IAC movement?

- In 2011, India Against Corruption (IAC) was formed, an anti-corruption movement famous for its protest on establishing the Jan Lokpal bill. The committee has been fighting corruption and insisting on establishing the Lokpal bill.
- The IAC launched a campaign to allow the citizens to understand the corrupt government policies and demand the government to draft the Lokpal bill.
- Anna Hazare, the face of Anna Andolan, set out on a hunger strike in April 2011 for the government to form a committee including the government officials and civil society to form a stern bill with more power and authority to its Ombudsman.
- After the Jantar Mantar protest, the IAC failed to pass the Jan Lokpal bill in 2011. This failure, despite huge support, encouraged the team to become proactively involved in politics.
- Arvind Kejriwal leading India Against Corruption campaign, established his political party Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), in November 2012. AAP became the second winning party and made the minority government in Delhi in 2013.

India against corruption and effects on Indian politics

- In the 20th century, India witnessed two mass protests against corruption—the Jayaprakash Narayan-led movement in 1974 and the V. P. Singh-led movement in 1989, but they were against corruption in ruling political class.
- The mass anti-corruption movement that started in India in 2011 was different from the previous ones as the situation at ground zero was ready for a people's war against corruption.
- Citizens from different walks of life sans political affiliation came together and formed a non-formal huddle, India Against Corruption (IAC)
- The IAC movement resulted in strengthening of anti-corruption mechanism and provided traction to combat graft, a departure from political lament and promise to curb the menace.
- The IAC split on the issue of extending its arm into electoral politics, but it had a positive impact in democratic politics. A splinter group formed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which changed the nature of party politics and governance paradigm.

Key takeaways

- The numerous scams, graft and pilferage of taxpayers' money adversely affected the Indian economy between 1990 and 2010 and restricted development.
- It gave rise to new political agenda of corruption free governments. The promises made by AAP, in delhi elections proved to be effective as people spearheaded the change of government, though on a small scale, but on the prime agenda of corruption free government.
- On two occasions, corruption proved to be politically combative and self-subsuming for the incumbent governments. The corruption taint on Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi in 1977 and Rajiv Gandhi in 1989 became the main reason for their electoral Waterloo.
- The IAC inclusion of citizens in the fight against graft in 2011-12 is an epochal movement, as it reset the agenda of corruption in India from a political issue to an apolitical narrative. It was the first battle won by the people of the country in the long-drawn war against corruption in public domain.
- The IAC movement prodded political parties to adopt zero tolerance towards corruption. The NDA government continued the war against corruption through structural reforms, such as direct cash transfers to the poor, digitization of public service delivery, and punitive interventions like forced retirement of officials implicated in graft.

Conclusion

The IAC movement did not solved the problem of corruption in the Indian polity, but it started a fundamental reform in the way corruption was dealt. Graft and siphoning-off of funds from the public exchequer continues to flourish in state and local bodies. It would need an IAC 2.0 mass mobilization protest movement at the provincial and

grassroots levels. But the shift India observed in Indian politics because of the IAC movement, changed the governance and politics for better.

1. Why are inclusion and tolerance considered important traits for a modern and progressive society? Explain.

Approach

Candidate can highlight the importance of inclusion and tolerance while underlining the basic principles. In the second part, benefits of tolerant and inclusive society can be given along with the conclusion.

Introduction

Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society—improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity. Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation for those whose opinions, practices, race religion, nationality etc. are different from one's own. These two qualities are very important for a modern society.

Body

Importance of inclusion

- An inclusive society welcomes everyone. It would be one in which one is at ease enough to recognize one's individuality and communicate one's sentiments. Social inclusion ensures that one's perspectives are respected like everyone else's.
- The need for social inclusion in establishing an individual's character cannot be overstated. Individuals are more susceptible to poor psychological health, depression, solitude, and low self-esteem if they are omitted.
- Through social inclusion, a more happy and healthy human condition is enabled. People that are socially included can:
 1. have a strong sense of belonging.
 2. Believe they are deserving of their society's duties.
 3. Be a contributing member of the community.
 4. Be surrounded by peers or companions and not feel isolated.
 5. Foster social connections.
- In an egalitarian world, everyone, regardless of ethnic background, has a relevant and valued position in society. Age, ethnicity, social background, sex, gender identification, sexual preference, different talents, religious views, training, and life experiences are all factors.

Importance of Tolerance

- Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. It is fostered by knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience and belief.
- Tolerance is harmony in difference. It is not only a moral duty, but is also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace.
- Without tolerance and harmony, the lasting peace of societies cannot be maintained, and loyalty for each other cannot be established. Lack of tolerance leads to fighting, violence, and finally it destroys the peace and security of society. For e.g. Mass shootings in USA.
- Tolerance is essential because it recognises that there can be more than one path for the attainment of truth and salvation. A tolerant society protects the right to dissent. If there is pervasive intolerance the inevitable consequence will be violence and that would ultimately pose a serious threat to democracy.

Benefits of inclusion and tolerance

- Human development: Where everyone is treated equally and given equal opportunity, everyone is able to effectively utilize their talents and resources to improve their living standard. This helps in achieving social and economical goals like ending poverty, health, education etc., Best example is Japan or South Korea which saw exponential development over a few decades.
- Human creative freedom: Any country which is intolerant has suffered from suppression of human creativity. Whether it is Albert leaving Berlin shows intolerance and non-inclusivity counter productive for creativity.
- Even economically, tolerance and inclusion helps a nation where the investors are willing to come up with new projects which can be seen in countries like India whereas the countries like Pakistan where intolerance and discrimination is a norm is seen as unworthy of any investment.

Conclusion

Tolerance and inclusivity means recognizing diversity as a strength. Inclusive and tolerant society means improving the terms that allow people and families to participate in society, or more specifically, the process of improving the capacity, opportunity, and respect of people who are underprivileged in society due to their identification. This ultimately leads to the egalitarian society where anyone can progress only with the hard work and unnecessary hurdles are removed from the path of progression.

2. How do stereotypes create social fissures? Explain with the help of suitable examples. Can stereotypes be dismantled? If yes, how? Discuss.

Approach

Candidate can highlight and explain what is stereotypes and then explain how it creates different social fissures and rift with giving the example. Also discuss whether this stereotypes can be broken and explain what measures at larger society needs to be taken.

Introduction

A stereotype is a thought that someone has about specific types of individuals that may or may not accurately reflect reality. Stereotypes can also be thought of like caricatures, which are pictures that exaggerate certain features while oversimplifying others and end up distorting the essence of an individual.

Body

Stereotype creating social fissures:

- **Social division:** Division on the basis of religion, region, race, ethnicity etc. Has deeply affected the psyche of individuals and developed stereotypes against certain sects. E.g. Muslims are commonly branded as terrorists without any discrimination.
- **Alienation:** Alienation of the particular subsection leads to the development of stereotypes against the government or the whole Individuals who are discriminated against might develop a feeling of stereotyping that a particular sect or government is against them. E.g. Dalit often see upper caste as oppressor and develop stereotypes against them.
- **Patriarchal mindset:** Prejudice and bias about women as weak has led to development of stereotypes in human minds, which is deeply ingrained. Although women have come forward breaking shackles, still discriminatory behaviour has kept stereotypes alive. Many women today prefer to become housewives in spite of having good educational qualifications because they think they are made for house work.
- **For example Misrepresentation and harmful stereotypes of women in advertising** have a significant impact on women — and young girls — and how they view themselves and their value to society.
- **Socialisation and upbringing:** People are socialised to adopt the same stereotypes. Stereotypes are usually acquired in early childhood under the influence of parents, teachers, peers, and the media.
- **For example A child who sees his friend smoking and being branded as cool by others,** would associate smoking with coolness and would develop stereotypes for the same, ultimately smoking.

- Regional discrimination: People from Bihar are stereotyped as Illiterate, Uncultured, Socially Backward. These are often associated with the word 'Bihari'. This has been going on for so much time now.
- Racial discrimination: It occurs when a person is treated less favourably, or not given the same opportunities, as others in a similar situation, because of their race, the country where they were born, their ethnic origin or their skin colour.

Dismantling of stereotypes:

- Pandita Rambai broke many stereotypes despite being born in a high-caste household she got herself educated and used her privilege to spread education for women, particularly those who were widows or child-widows.
- Change in the mindset is required to bridge the gaps in gender equality. Apart from family and workplace support, use of technology is required to maintain work-life balance.
- The need of the hour is to encourage such depressed sections through affirmative action, stricter implementation of anti-discrimination law like that against untouchability, gender harassment.
- Games like cricket have seen a national unity based on shared emotion. Similarly reviving our National games like Hockey can become a symbol of unity.
- Cultural sensitization programs must be taken up in colleges to avoid hatred based on regions and promote friendship among students.
- Introducing a system of national education that would help people to overcome stereotypes and prejudice and develop an attachment towards the diverse humanity can act as a long-term solution to the problem of stereotype.
- Schemes like "Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat" have been launched by the GOI to celebrate unity in the diverse culture of the nation and to strengthen sentiment for National Unity between the citizens of states, which is a welcomed step.
- In India, tolerance and liberalism is found for all religions, castes, communities, etc. They can propagate Peaceful co-existence and achieve an innate harmony and order in the society.

Conclusion

Adaptability is the process of changing according to time, place and period. Indian society has shown fluidity and has adjusted itself with changing times. Our peculiar societal genius is to fashion a form of coexistence where diversity can flourish with equal neutral feelings and find its place.

Q-3

In an urban society , what role do immigrants play ? Examine in the Indian social context.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about how immigrants play a important role in urban society, In second part of answer write about positives and negative impacts of immigration have Indian society at large .

Introduction

According to the International Migrant Stock 2019 report (released by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs), India with 5 million international migrants has emerged as the top source of international migrants, constituting 6.4% of world's total migrant population. The 21st century is seeing a phenomenon of rapid urban expansion and internal migration in the developing countries. These immigration's lead to demographic, social, economic and environmental consequences in both urban and rural areas.

Body

Impact of Immigration on urban demography:

- Immigration brings tangible change in demographic characteristics of place of origin and place of destination. The absolute number of population, the density of population, age composition, and literacy rates are either favourably or adversely affected.
- Immigration changes the characteristics of the population in regions of out migration-the proportion of old, children and females increases due to out-migration in source region.
- Immigration leads to demographic changes with large young male population dominating the age-sex composition.
- Immigration of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region. The population density of urban areas increases with increase in birth rates.
- Immigration fills gaps in demand for and supply of labour and efficiently allocates skilled and unskilled labour.
- Immigration leads to intermixing of people from different cultures which brings up a composite culture among the people.
- UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report) shows that children left behind by migrating parents and seasonal migrants face fewer educational opportunities overall. According to the report, 80% of migrant children across seven Indian cities did not have access to education near worksites.
- Large scale movement of people from rural to urban areas causes overcrowding in cities and puts heavy pressure on urban infrastructure. Improper urban planning coupled with large influx of poor migrants lead to development slums
- lacking basic infrastructural facilities such as safe drinking water, electricity, sewage, housing, security, hospital etc.
- It provides remittances to households in the areas of origin, increases consumer expenditure and investment in health, education and assets formation.

- When a migrant return to its place of origin, he/she brings knowledge, skills and innovation. It enhances knowledge and skills of migrants through exposure and interaction with the outside world.
- Lack of affordable housing in Indian cities force migrants to live in slums. Many seasonal migrants are not even able to afford rents in slums force them to live at their workplaces (such as construction sites and hotel dining rooms), shop pavements, or in open areas in the city.
- Immigration lead to mixing of people from one are to another. It impact urban services and change demography of place of origin and destination. It often put burden on urbanisation and hinder health of an urban centre. A proper management and plan is needed to make migration to urban centres fruitful.

Challenges Faced By Society And Administration Due To Such Migration:

- **Inclusion and Integration of Migrants:** Internal migration is not viewed positively in India and policies are often aimed at reducing internal migration, as a result, there is a lack of integration of migration with the process of development.
- **Psychological and Emotional Stress:** Any person migrating to a new country faces multiple challenges, from cultural adaptation and language barriers to homesickness and loneliness.
- **Employment challenges:** Foreign labor migrants often face unacceptable treatment from their employers. For instance, some labor migrants are paid below their contract wage and may be forced to work long hours and denied regular time off. Systems like reservation of jobs in many states and countries for the locals (visa barriers in US, Saudi Arabia's Nitaqat law) pose as the main hurdle.
- **Contract Wage System:** The problems faced by migrants in destination countries range from contract violation, non-payment of salary, long working hours, and poor working conditions.
- **Health Hazards:** The poor and harsh living conditions coupled with difficult and risky working conditions, lack of information, and lack of medical health support also leads to several health problems of the migrants.
- **Lack of Information:** In spite of the challenges and problems faced by the migrants in the destination countries, low tendency to seek assistance from the diplomatic missions in the destination countries were also observed due to lack of knowledge, information about the role of diplomatic missions, trust and effectiveness to enhance access to justice.

Significance of Indian Diaspora:

Economic Front:

- Indian diaspora is one of the richest minorities in many developed countries, this helped them to lobby for favourable terms regarding India's interests. For example, at 2.8 million, Indians may number just 1% of the U.S. population, but they are the most educated and richest minority, according to a 2013 Pew survey.
- The migration of less-skilled labour (especially to West Asia) has also helped in bringing down disguised unemployment in India.
- In general, migrants' remittances have positive systemic effects on the balance of payments. Remittances of \$70-80 billion help to bridge a wider trade deficit.

- By weaving a web of cross-national networks, the migrant workers facilitated the flow of tacit information, commercial and business ideas, and technologies into India.

Political Front:

- Many people of Indian origin hold top political positions in many countries, in the US itself they are now a significant part of Republicans and Democrats, as well as the government.
- The political clout of India's diaspora can be estimated by the fact, the role it played in turning around doubting legislators into voting for the India-U.S. nuclear deal.

Foreign Policy Front:

- Indian diaspora is not just a part of India's soft power, but a fully transferable political vote bank as well.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reception at Madison Square Garden is a way of thanking the Indian-American community members who played a big part in his electronic campaign and election funding.
- The institutionalization of "diaspora diplomacy" is a distinct indication for the fact that a country's diaspora community has become considerably more important as a subject of interest for foreign policy and associated government activities.

Challenges faced by Indian diaspora

- **Anti-Globalization:** With the rising Anti-globalization wave, there has been an increase in the incidents of suspected hate crimes against the Indian community.
- **West Asian Crisis:** The volatility in West Asia, together with the fall in oil prices, has caused fears of a massive return of Indian nationals, curtailing remittances and making demands on the job market.
- **Returning Diaspora:** India must also realise that diaspora in West Asia is semi-skilled and mainly engaged in the infrastructure sector. After the infrastructure boom will get over India should be ready for the eventuality of Indian workers returning.
- **Regulatory Cholesterol:** There are many inadequacies of the Indian system for the diaspora to collaborate with India or to invest in the country
- For example, grievances like red tape, multiple clearances, distrust of government are acting as hindrances in fulfilling opportunities presented by Indian Diaspora.
- **Negative Fallout:** It must be remembered that having a strong diaspora does not always translate to benefits for the home country. India has had problems with negative campaigning and foreign funding, coming from abroad, for separatist movements like the Khalistan movement.

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.

4. How does gender bias in the workplace affect the agency of women? What are its social fallouts? Discuss.**Approach**

Candidates are expected to write what is gender bias. And explain how gender bias is affecting the agency of woman. And then simply highlight the negative social fallout due to the gender bias in the society.

Introduction

Gender bias is the tendency to prefer one gender over another. It is a form of unconscious bias, or implicit bias, which occurs when one individual unconsciously attributes certain attitudes and stereotypes to another person or group of people. These ascribed behaviors affect how the individual understands and engages with others.

Body

- The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2020 ranked India at 149th position out of 153 countries on Economic participation and opportunity.
- As many as 85 per cent women missed out on a raise, promotion or work offer because of their gender in India, according to LinkedIn Opportunity Index 2021.

Gender bias at work place:

- Unequal pay: It is very common form of discrimination, wages earned by women are generally lesser than their male counterparts.
- Glass ceilings: It's an invisible barrier to keep the females from rising beyond a certain level in a hierarchy. It is mostly concerned with high-achieving women in the corporate sector.
- Diminished responsibilities: The sex differences are exaggerated to treat men and differently as the latter are given jobs with less responsibility like house-keeping, organising events, etc. Whereas men are entrusted with leadership roles.
- Positional bias: Women are stereotypically considered for the posts of secretaries, HR (human relations), receptionist, etc.
- Sexual harassment: Women are also victim of various forms of sexual harassment at workplace affecting their work productivity and is a grave safety concern.
- Restrooms: Workplaces, especially in unorganized sector (e.g. Salt farming) do not have adequate facilities of restrooms subjecting women workers to undergo long work-hours without relieving themselves impairing their health.
- Victimization: When the prejudiced or biased treatment translates into victimization of the women workers.
- Terminations: There are cases of females being dismissed on account of speaking against sexual harassment or for asking for equality even in

companies like Wipro. Also, females are being terminated on account of taking maternity leaves as well.

- Interview questions: Women candidates are often put to questioning in terms of their work commitment due to their familial responsibilities and the choices they make in their personal lives which male candidates aren't asked about.
- Conversations: Due to the deeply seated discriminating attitude towards women, they are talked to differently than their male counterparts.
- Outdated views: There are outdated views regarding the dressing, working, and how they must carry themselves, etc., which affect their productivity.

Social fallouts of gender bias at workplace:

- Discrimination is against the basic human law of equality and humanity which seeks to treat a fellow human as inferior and second-class citizens. The most fundamental moral principle of civilised societies i.e. equality, which forms the basis of Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- Widespread discrimination can lead to intolerance and conflict in the society. Discrimination at workplace results in breeding of ill feelings at work, and reduced productivity.
- Women entrepreneurs in India are mostly concentrated in low-paying industries. Manufacturing sector, tobacco products, apparel and textiles attract the largest share of women entrepreneurs.
- Patriarchal mindset and deep-seated patriarchy will make women confine to the domestic sphere and the four walls of the household only.
- Prejudice and stereotypical attitude at workplace towards women by not considering them as equals which leads to biases against women in various areas like work assessment, job assignment, etc.
- Socialisation process with religion, history, media has further entrenched the patriarchy deeply into the minds of people including the women at work place.
- The overall participation of women in corporate India is only of 20-22%. This sharply falls to 12-13% at senior and top levels.
- Seeing women as an object of male satisfaction rather than an equal participant in the economy.
- Seeking to maintain the age-old gendered power roles in the society which favour the males over females.

Measures and suggestion:

- Improving gender balance is an important first step for India's development and its achievement of greater economic growth and gender equality.
- Imposing a mandatory women quota in the boardroom — something that countries such as Norway, France, Sweden and Spain have done can ensure a place for women.
- Procedural acceptance of sharing the burden of parental care by both men and women with the measures like paternity leave will ensure the gender balance in hiring process.
- Sensitisation of society and co-workers to gender understandings can be of help.

- There is a need for timely auditing of laws to ensure better implementation of legislation.
- Better transport infrastructure added with childcare facilities at or near workplaces will help women realise their full potential.

Conclusion

Getting women into the workforce is not enough, it should be accompanied by their ascent to the leadership positions. It will help create a women-centric environment within the organisation. Ultimately, the goal is not merely to increase female labour force participation, but to provide opportunities for decent work that will, in turn, contribute to the economic empowerment of women.

1. What are your views on the idea of implementing population control legislation in India? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidate can approach question while giving the context of population control legislation. With the help of facts and data from various reports, need for the population control legislation can be given. In the second part, shortcomings of the policy can be highlighted with the way forward.

Introduction

In 2050, India's population is projected to be 1.69 billion, which will be higher than that of China. The population of China is estimated to be 1.31 billion in the same year. This ever-increasing rate of population in India is considered as the root of most of the problems the country faces. A nominated MP recently introduced a private member's Bill- Population Regulation Bill, 2019- in the Rajya Sabha, seeking to enforce a two-child norm by giving incentives for those adopting the small family practice and penalties for those contravening it.

Body

Why do we need population control legislation?

- At present, India hosts 16% of the world's population with only 2.45% of the global surface area and 4% water resources.

- The ecosystem assessments also pointed out that the human population's role in driving other species into extinction and precipitating a resource crunch.
- So, the population explosion would irreversibly impact India's environment and natural resource base and limit the next generation's entitlement and progress.
- Despite the decrease in fertility rate, according to United Nations World Population Prospects report India's population will continue to increase up till 2050.
- As the population increases, the demand for new cars and houses also increases leading to effect on the air quality due to the emission of harmful gases like carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. This leads to global warming, a rise in sea levels, and changing climate patterns as well as more waste generation and associated issues.
- In India, there already exists great amount of income and wealth inequality (Oxfam report). Overpopulation also leads to increase in the unemployment of the country as the number of people exceeds the number of jobs available in India.
- Overpopulation might create tensions between the States or even among a few countries for the demand of resources leading to conflicts and probably war. Since vast sections of population are dependent on unsustainable resources, grave consequences can be seen across vulnerable sections.

However, as of data until August 2019, India had no contemporary 'population explosion'. Thus, population control bill is not considered a necessity for India due to the following factors

- India's TFR is about to reach the net replacement rate, or NRR, of about 2.1-2.2. So, India is not being threatened by a "population explosion". The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and Census data show that in most states, and many urban areas, the total fertility rate (TFR) has already reached replacement levels (2.1).
- The approach is anti-poor, as they tend to have more children than middle-class people. Further, it is an anti-democratic practice that impairs a citizen's right to choice and his/her sexual and reproductive rights.
- People have more children if there is a high prevalence of socio-economic issues such as infant and child mortality. For instance, the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) reveals that women who have little access to health and education and those caught in a cycle of poverty, produce more and more children.
- The International Convention on Population and Development or Cairo Convention is a bar in bringing legislation for population control. The convention was against forced sterilizations and thus Indian government, being a signatory to it, can't bring in forceful means of population control.
- Researchers argue that it remains difficult to establish a robust connection between population growth and development. Countries like South Korea and Taiwan experienced rapid population growth throughout the second half of

the 20th century without it negatively impacting their per capita income. Instead, between 1960-80, the average per capita income in South Korea and Taiwan was 6.2 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

- The biggest victims of the Population control Bill will be Indian women. Many women already can't choose to refuse marriage or to reproduce, and are forced to undergo non-voluntary birth control measures. These 'habits' may only intensify. Female infanticide will also likely worsen
- Further, according to an affidavit by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in SC, mentions that international experience show that any coercion to have a certain number of children is counter-productive and leads to demographic distortions.
- Also, analysis of the government's newly-released health data showed that such population control laws are unnecessary: in 19 of the 22 states and Union Territories for which data were released, women have fewer than two children, on average, which is less than the replacement level for population.

What can be done?

- If the states want to ensure a lower and stable fertility rate, they first need to strengthen medical infrastructure and focus on socio-economic issues.
- The success of India's southern states in containing population growth indicates that economic growth, as well as attention to education, health, and empowerment of women work far better to dis-incentivize larger families than punitive measures.
- The Cairo Consensus called for the promotion of reproductive rights, empowering women, universal education, maternal and infant health to untangle the knotty issue of poverty and high fertility. The consensus also demands an increase in the rate of modern contraceptive prevalence, male contraception.
- Adopting Women-Centric Approach: Population stabilisation is not only about controlling population growth, but also entails gender parity. So, states need to incentivize later marriages and childbirth, promoting women's labor force participation, etc.
- Seeing Population as a Resource rather than Burden: As the Economic Survey, 2018-19, points out that India is set to witness a sharp slowdown in population growth in the next two decades.
- Further, population estimates also predict a generational divide between India's north and south, Fifteen years from now.
- India needs to look after the ageing population: According to the United Nation's 2015 World Population Ageing Report, the number of people over 60 years in India is expected to increase from 116.55 million in 2015 to over 330 million by 2050.

Conclusion

The need of the hour is better education and awareness rather than an iron hand policy to control the population. Government should improve the implementation of poverty alleviation measures which can also help control population. Instead of population control Bills, India should consider a 'population investment bill' that takes the health, wellbeing and education of its citizens seriously.

2. The lack of participation of women in governance is not an issue of equity alone.

The absence of women in positions of power affects performance also. Elucidate.

Approach

Candidate can start with the argument of low representation of woman and necessity of woman involvement at different level. Question expects candidate to mention how lack of woman in politics/governance is matter beyond equity it affects performance and larger public interest. With giving certain facts elucidate how woman can be more efficient.

Introduction

India needs feminization of politics and government systems in a huge way to increase women representatives. It would include the involvement of women in the decision-making process, power-sharing, running political parties, holding political offices, and policymaking at all levels of governance of the state.

Body

Not just a matter of equity but lack of woman representation affects the efficiency and performance:

- Lower Criminalization of Politics: Male legislators are about three times as likely as female legislators to have criminal charges pending against them when they stand for election. This explains the growth difference mentioned above.
- Policy Making– Better representation of women's and children's concerns in policymaking. Eg: Panchayat Raj institutions serve as a good example in this front.
- Lower Corruption: The rate at which women accumulate assets while in office is 10 percentage points lower, per year than among men. These findings line up with experimental evidence that women are more just, risk-averse and less likely to engage in criminal and other risky behaviour than men.
- Economic growth: It was found that male and female politicians are equally likely to negotiate federal projects for road building in their constituencies. However, women are more likely to oversee completion of these projects.
- For example the share of incomplete road projects is 22 percentage points lower in female-led constituencies.

- Study by the United Nations found, Women legislators in India raise economic performance in their constituencies by about 1.8 percentage points per year more than male legislators.
- When average growth is 7%, this implies that the growth premium associated with female legislators is about 25%.
- For example IndiaSpend reported women panchayat leader in Tamil Nadu invested 48 percent more money than their male counterparts in building roads and improving access.
- Another study by the United Nations found that women-led panchayats delivered 62 percent higher drinking water projects than those led by men.
- Esther Duflo study (NBER Working Paper 8615) showed that in a randomised trial in West Bengal, women pradhans focus on infrastructure that is relevant to the needs of rural women, suggesting that at least at the local level outcomes can be different.
- There is documented evidence both at the international level and at the gram panchayat (village) level to suggest that a greater representation of women in elected office balances the process and prioritizations that elected bodies focus on.
- From a feminist viewpoint politics needs to follow a road that moves women out of the traditional social and political marginalization.

Despite so many favorable points for women, women make up 14% of the Lok Sabha and 11% of the Rajya Sabha. Factors for lower participation:

- Prejudice: Ironically it exists among both men and women – against genuine equality. It is believed that male legislators have the gumption to fulfill election manifesto more than women.
- Lack of Political Education: 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.
- Work and Family: Uneven distribution of family care responsibilities means that women spend far more time than men in home- and child-care. A woman not only has to give her time and effort at time of pregnancy and childbirth, but it continues till the child is dependent on parents for care.
- Lack of Political Networks: 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.
- Social Conditioning: They have to accept the dictates imposed on them and bear the burden of society. Public attitudes not only determine how many female candidates win a general election but also directly and indirectly how many are considered and nominated for office.
- Panchayat pati: On the reserved seats, at the local level, political leaders take positions in the name of their wife, and after winning elections, actual power is used by their male counterparts instead of women. (Concept of sarpanch pati raj/pati panchayat phenomenon)

- Nepotism: Another major factor is familial support to pursue political career for women. In India, it is most often those women who have a political background that enter into electoral arena.

Not just giving equity but to feminize the Indian political and governance system we will have to:

- Passage of Women's Reservation Bill: All political parties have to reach a consensus and ensure the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, which calls for reserving 33 percent of seats in Parliament and all state legislative assemblies for women.
- Women Quotas in political parties: The Gill formula: There is a need to implement the proposal of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to make it mandatory for the recognized political parties to ensure putting of minimum agreed percentage for women in State Assembly and Parliamentary elections, so as to allow them to retain the recognition with the Election Commission as political parties.
- Deconstructing stereotypes: It is important for all institutions (state, family and community) to respond to women's specific needs such as bridging gaps in education, renegotiating gender roles, the gender division of labor and addressing biased attitudes.
- Women's leadership and communication skills need to be enhanced by increasing female literacy especially in rural areas. They should be empowered in order to break socio-cultural barriers and improve their status in the society.
- Political mentoring and skill training can enhance their political and governance knowledge; thereby becoming potential candidates who will steer the nation towards development.

Conclusion

Recognizing the significance of roles of women in decision making process in the society is critical to strengthen women's agencies for building a progressive society with equality of opportunities among all citizens.

Q-3

Failing to plan is planning to fail ,Bring out the significance of this statement in the context of challenges faced by India's urban infrastructure.

Approach-

In this question candidates need to write about importance of planning in urban infrastructure and how failing to plan is eventually lead to planning to fail.in second part of answer write about some challenges faced by India's urban infrastructure .

Introduction -

India has been among the fastest growing economies in the world for close to two decades, and aspires to be among the top three largest economies in the world by 2047 — the 100th year of its Independence. Currently, India's nearly 30% population lives in urban areas and it is expected to rise upto 50% by 2050. To contain upcoming future challenges and to make a proper trajectory towards new India, Sustainable urban planning is an important aspect.

Body -

Urbanization is an integral part of the process of economic growth. As in most countries, India's towns and cities make a major contribution to the country's economy. With less than 1/3 of India's people, its urban areas generate over 2/3 of the country's GDP and account for 90% of government revenues.

Challenges faced by urban infrastructure regarding planning -

Planning:

- Many urban governments lack a modern planning framework.
- The multiplicity of local bodies obstructs efficient planning and land use.
- Rigid master plans and restrictive zoning regulations limit the land available for building, constricting cities' abilities to grow in accordance with changing needs.

Housing:

- Building regulations that limit urban density – such as floor space indexes – reduce the number of houses available, thereby pushing up property prices
- Outdated rent control regulations reduce the number of houses available on rent – a critical option for the poor.
- Poor access to micro finance and mortgage finance limit the ability of low income groups to buy or improve their homes.
- Policy, planning, and regulation deficiencies lead to a proliferation of slums
- Weak finances of urban local bodies and service providers leave them unable to expand the trunk infrastructure that housing developers need to develop new sites.

Service delivery:

- Most services are delivered by city governments with unclear lines of accountability.
- There is a strong bias towards adding physical infrastructure rather than providing financially and environmentally sustainable services.
- Service providers are unable to recover operations and maintenance costs and depend on the government for finance.
- Independent regulatory authorities that set tariffs, decide on subsidies, and enforce service quality are generally absent.

Infrastructure:

- Most urban bodies do not generate the revenues needed to renew infrastructure, nor do they have the creditworthiness to access capital markets for funds.

- Urban transport planning needs to be more holistic – there is a focus on moving vehicles rather than meeting the needs of the large numbers of people who walk or ride bicycles in India's towns and cities.

Environment:

- The deteriorating urban environment is taking a toll on people's health and productivity and diminishing their quality of life.
- Other Infrastructure Bottlenecks in India.

Financing

- Infrastructure projects are highly capital intensive and funding is considered as a major impediment in achieving the infrastructure goals.
- The infrastructure broadly can be divided into two types,
- one which is very essential for the public at large and have no or very little revenue potential and other which has handsome revenue potential.
- The first kind of infrastructure must be totally government financed whereas the later can be developed on PPP mode. Since resource constraints will continue to limit public investment in infrastructure, PPP-based development needs to be encouraged wherever feasible.

Land Acquisition

- Compensation fixed in terms of registered value is always the bone of contention.
- There is always a substantial difference between the compensation offered and the actual value of the land. The land owners always feel aggrieved which results in dispute and litigation.

Clearances from numerous agencies

- Most of the infrastructure projects in India suffer from delays in completion. This is mainly due to an inadequate regulatory framework and inefficiency in the approval process.
- Infrastructure projects require multiple sequential clearances at various levels of government. There are various approvals needed at every stage which definitely delay the infrastructure projects.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- Environmental safeguards and guidelines have proven to be one of the major reasons for delay in infrastructure projects, especially in the power sector. While new projects need to comply with these regulations, even a project under construction may need to comply with revised standards midway through the execution stage.
- Poor pre-construction planning.
- Due to the already adverse effect of various impediments like land acquisition, statutory approvals, delayed financial closure, etc. the pre-construction phase of infrastructure projects is pretty long. Therefore, there is delayed commissioning and completion of projects.

Suggestions and Way Forward-

- India's Infrastructure which is an essential and most important component of Urban Development, is in a poor shape and needs an immediate attention and redress both from Government and Industry.

- There must be a more conducive environment for potential concessionaire. There is always a worry of early clearances and investors are stuck in the bureaucratic cycle.
- There is a necessity for improvements in the investment climate.
- Migration of large population to urban centers is causing new cities to emerge and existing ones to expand. This is causing rapid urbanization. Therefore, India needs to develop satellite cities for which the need is of mass-transport systems.
- There must be Single window statutory clearance which even includes Environmental clearance to projects.
- There are good competent people working in different departments of government, however they are working in silos, we need better and effective coordination for a fast project roll out.
- There is no doubt that fiscal support is the dominant factor for infrastructure development but equally important is enabling policies from the governments end. Then only the world class infrastructure dream of India can be realized and place India's economy on a high growth trajectory.
- India has the second largest urban population in the world and by 2050, around 50% of India's population ie., 814 million is expected to live in urban areas.
- Given this scenario, the present infrastructure and amenities in cities and towns are not adequate to address the expanding urbanization process.
- Several initiatives were launched by the government to promote urban infrastructure in the country. Major initiative is the twin effort of Smart Cities Mission and the AMRUT scheme.

Conclusion-

Cities experience constant evolution, they are not just drivers of economic growth, but are magnets of global knowledge exchanges and playgrounds for innovation. However, to enable them to fulfill their purpose, it is important to reshape the planning of the cities which is also inclusive of the components such land-use, housing, transportation etc.

4. Explain the concept of sustainable urban development. Do you think the Smart Cities initiative fits into the template of sustainability? Critically examine.

Approach

Candidate can outline the concept of sustainable urban development in detail while explaining various components. In the next part, smart city initiative and sustainable urban development can be linked, conclusion can be given in the end.

Introduction

It is estimated that by 2050, 66% of the global population will be residing in cities, compared to 54% residing now. This implies that 2.4 billion people will be potentially added to the global urban population. Consequently, this will inevitably result in a significant expansion of existing urban environments and lead to the need to create new ones. Cities use 2% of the earth's surface, yet consume more than 75% of the natural resources available globally. It is a high time that we think of sustainable urban development.

Body

Why do we need sustainable urban development?

- At present, most countries of the world including developing countries follow the urbanisation models of the West which are based on low population densities spread over large amounts of land. This is a sustainable model in the West because of low population levels.
- However the same model can't be replicated in the developing countries because of large population pressure. In most of the cities in the developing world there are large well endowed enclaves which are modelled on cities in the West e.g., Lutyens in Delhi. These enclaves are not sustainable.
- The water use in Lutyens is 400 litres per capita while it is only 30 litres on the outskirts of Delhi. Most of this water is sourced from outside. This disparity within cities is not sustainable in the long run.
- Moreover cities in the developing world have their own local challenges. They are situated in tropical climates (high temperature, high rainfall regions) and are vulnerable to different disasters (like flooding due to cyclones), distinct from cities in the West (mostly Temperate climate).

What is sustainable urban development?

According to United Nations World Economic and Social Survey 2013, a sustainable city has the following characteristics

- They should meet their inhabitant's development needs without imposing unsustainable demands on local or global natural resources and systems.
- They should not transfer risk both spatially and temporarily.
- They should integrate socio-economic development, environmental management, and urban governance.
- The settlements should be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Some other factors include

- Good governance— this needs participation by people amid a framing of equality and justice.
- Sustainable city involves a framework of ethics: This is because the politics and governance of cities are informed by the political cycle. People are in power

for a certain number of years, and they often make decisions based on this timeline.

- A sustainable city must have an understanding of whether it is thinking about future generations in the contemporary way it is responding to sustainability.

Smart city mission and sustainability

- Smart Cities Mission is one of the mechanisms that will help functionalize the nationwide implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with priorities like poverty alleviation, employment, and other basic services.
- This mission has been the one taking charge of the technological advancements of our cities to improve governance, sustainability and disaster risk resilience.
- Smart solutions are being implemented to improve energy efficiency and non-motorised transport capacity in urban centres.
- The Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework has been adopted which aims to help cities adapt, collaborate and exchange best practices to achieve international standards for green, sustainable and resilient urban habitats.
- So far, the infrastructure for 417.5 km of smart roads, solar panels generating 30 MW of energy and 253.5 MLD of wastewater treatment capacity has been completed.
- The overall reduction in GHG emissions from projects implemented under SCM is expected to reach 4.93 million tonnes of CO₂ by 2022.

Conclusion

Smart city mission accompanies the spirit of sustainable development through minimum resources and smart solutions. Sustainability is the buzzword around any development. To ensure the optimum use of resources sustainable urban development can be achieved. Smart city mission face challenges of resources and funds, which needs to tackle effectively to cater the growing demand of urban spaces.

1. Some social groups are more vulnerable than others to the impact of the global economic crisis. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidate can briefly describe the vulnerable groups in the case of economic crisis. In the body part, impact of economic crisis on vulnerable groups can be examined in the context of covid pandemic.

Introduction

The social groups of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and the economic groups of rural agricultural labourers and urban casual labourers are the ones most vulnerable to poverty. The poverty ratios for each of these groups are higher than the average Indian poverty ratio. Apart from these groups, women, elderly people and female infants are considered to be the most vulnerable to economic crisis.

Body

Impact of economic crisis on vulnerable groups

- According to a global study by "World Bank Organisation", there are 122 women living in poverty ridden conditions per 100 men.
- In India, societies are continuously evolving, yet a significant portion of our societies are still predominantly patriarchal. This puts women in the frontline when the effect of economic crisis is concerned.
- Expectant women often leave jobs to take care of their children and family. This causes the woman to be economically dependent on her husband/family.
- As per the CMIE report, there was a net loss of 7 million jobs between February 2020 and February 2021 after the pandemic. Households experienced an average of 12 per cent loss in income during the last fiscal year.
- The loss for the poor and middle class ought to be higher. Besides, the CMIE survey is criticised for being biased towards the richer households, and hence the actual loss for poorer households tends to be higher than the reported.
- 218 million additional people (168 million in rural and 50 million in urban areas) would have been pushed into poverty at 12 per cent contraction in their monthly per capita consumption.
- As per the CMIE's (June 2021) consumer pyramid household survey, there was a loss of 22.3 million jobs during April and June 2021, of which daily wage-earners were the worst hit.
- The 5-10 per cent of contraction in income/consumption shows that the impact of economic crisis on poverty is humongous.
- In pre-Covid times, around 35 per cent (265 million people) of the rural population was poor. However, this number is expected to rise to roughly 381-418 million, with the total headcount ratio reaching 50.9-55.87 per cent in 2021-22.
- Across social categories, a higher percentage of people from marginalised groups are expected to fall into poverty than the other groups. For instance, at an all-India level, around 13-20 per cent of additional SC/ST people are expected to fall into poverty as compared to 12-16 per cent of upper caste people
- Economic crisis induced poverty, therefore, leads to widening disparity between SC/ST and non-SC/ST groups.

- Across major occupations, our analysis reveals that self-employed agriculture, non-agriculture, and casual labourers bear the highest impact in rural areas. In urban areas, casual labourers disproportionately bear the brunt of the crises.
- The ongoing farm distress, rural indebtedness, lack of infrastructures, small, marginal scattered landholdings, adverse terms of trade, and corporatisation of agriculture contribute to vulnerability for labourers in rural areas.
- In the urban area, it is mostly the informal nature of jobs, depressed earnings, and little to no social security that place the casual workers at the brink of vulnerability.
- A rising number of poor can lead to demand shocks in the economy, which will further lead to the contractions in GDP growth. Therefore, the identification of poor and vulnerable groups is need of the hour so that directed interventions can be made.
- During times of financial and economic crisis, households often adopt coping strategies, such as making changes in household expenditure patterns; however, these can negatively influence education, health and nutrition, which may lead to lifelong deficits, especially for children, and thus perpetuate the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

Conclusion

Global economic crisis reverse the progress made over decades. Crisis widens the gap between poor and rich which leads to social unrest and health emergency. To achieve the aim of sustainable development goals, we must prioritise the strategies of social protection, employment guarantee and food security for vulnerable sections.

2. The vulnerabilities of migrant workers were badly exposed during the COVID pandemic. In this regard, evaluate the measures adopted by the government for the welfare of migrant workers.

Approach

Candidate can start the answer with highlighting the migrant workers crisis during pandemic. By brief elaboration on their vulnerability and problems try to highlight the different programs and measurement of state and central government, candidates can highlight a particular scheme beneficial for migrants.

Introduction

The COVID-19 crisis for India was a humanitarian crisis involving inter-State migrants on return journeys home racked by pain and suffering and no surety of any income going ahead. For a majority of migrant labourers, migration is either a livelihood accumulation strategy or survival risk reducing strategy whichever way we define the nature of migration.

Body

- 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 migrant's population.
- 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.

Vulnerabilities of Inter-State migrant worker:

- Sudden announcement of lockdown left them unprepared for it.
- Contrary and uncoordinated government orders caused confusion (Ex: Delhi migrants).
- Dire situation with no work, money or food.
- Harassment at the hands of house owners.
- Lack of political voice due to their migrant status.
- Anxiety about the survival of their families back home.
- Physical distancing for the unorganised sector is difficult in India given the realities of high-density human settlements (Ex: slums).
- All the above factors lead to their mass exodus from urban areas to their homes often by foot due to suspension of Transport facilities.

Measures to provide relief to these groups:

- First of all, an online database needs to be created to register the names and places of origin and migration of the workers e.g. An online database named as National Migrant Information System (NMIS), by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). It will help streamline the movement of the migrant workers.
- Setting up of relief camp, facilitating food and healthcare to the poor people, migrants should be priority for the regions where transport facility is not available. e.g., Over 500 hunger relief centres were set up by the Delhi government. One nation One ration card scheme by Union government.
- It was reported by many states that a high number of COVID 19 positive cases were found among the migrant workers. To tackle this issue state governments

opened quarantine centres for migrants. Also states imposed strict measures to follow while entering and leaving state borders.

- Arranging the interstate transport facility for the migrants so that their migration can be streamlined. e.g., Shramic special trains were arranged by the Government.
- Vande Bharat Mission is the biggest evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions.
- It is also considered as the largest exercise to bring back Indian citizens since the evacuation of 177,000 from the Gulf region in the early 1990s at the start of hostilities between Iraq and Kuwait during the first Gulf War.
- The mission has given priority to Indian citizens with “compelling reasons to return” – like those whose employment have been terminated, those whose visas have expired and not expected to be renewed under the present circumstances and those who have lost family members in recent times.
- PMGKAY was a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19. It was the first step by the government when pandemic affected India. The scheme reached its targeted population feeding almost 80Cr people. These were further the groups which are most marginalised including mostly migrants. It has proven to be more of a safety net to migrant people who had job and livelihood losses. Thus they were able to follow lockdown rules effectively without the need to worry about daily food requirements.

Institutional framework for migrant labourers:

- The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.
- National Migrant Workers Commission at the Central level backed up by State level Migrant Workers Commissions.
- 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.

Conclusion

Even though various measures taken by the government migrants are still affected by the pandemic. Many of them have lost their jobs and lost a source of income. These problems may not be resolved until concrete measures are taken. The Central Government, States and NGOs must come together to mitigate the impact of pandemic.

3. Sex workers are highly vulnerable social group .why? Discuss , do you think there are adequate institutional and policy measures to protect the interests of sex workers in India ? critically examine .

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about how sex workers as a social group remain vulnerable in society , in second part of answer write about is there any institutional support from government to protect interest of sex workers .critically examine the policy measures for sex workers and shortcomings regarding them.

Introduction

Recently, in a significant order, Supreme Court has recognized sex work as a “profession” and observed that its practitioners are entitled to dignity and equal protection under law. The Centre yet to come up with a law on sex workers, the Supreme Court, in exercise of its powers under Article 142, has issued a series of directions on their “rehabilitation”, including for sensitizing police to treat sex workers with dignity and to avoid abusing them or subjecting them to violence.

Body

Prostitution in India

- It is said that prostitution is the oldest profession in the world.
- In India, their presence can be dated back to ancient times with scriptures mentioning the presence of three kinds of women those who were chaste and devoted to a single man (even if the man had many wives).
- The second were women who kept away from men and lived as nuns.
- The third kind were women who had multiple lovers and were attached to no single man.
- In later times, such women were considered the wives of a temple deity or a Devdasi, who saw their god in all their lovers.
- This last kind of women has often been described in modern literature as ancient sex workers or prostitutes or sacred concubines.

Sex workers as vulnerable group of society

- Violence against prostitutes occurs worldwide, both through physical and psychological forms. The victims are predominantly women. In extreme cases, violent acts have led to their murder while in their workplace.
- Women working in prostitution experience higher levels of violence against them than the general population of women.
- The SC also appointed a panel to make suitable suggestions on prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of sex workers who wish to leave sex work.

- In its final report submitted in 2016, the panel noted that sex workers Found it difficult to acquire proofs of identity such as ration cards or voter cards because they lacked a proof of residence
- District authorities did not recognise the identities of sex workers and their children
- No access to schemes meant for their rehabilitation
- No access to credit offered by states, because the lack of documents prevented them from opening bank accounts.
- Hence situation of sex workers remains vulnerable in India.

What are the Related Provisions/Supreme Court Views in India?

- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act:
- The legislation governing sex work in India is the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.
- The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Children Act was enacted in 1956.
- Subsequent amendments were made to the law and the name of the Act was changed to Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.
- The legislation penalizes acts such as keeping a brothel, soliciting in a public place, living off the earnings of sex work and living with or habitually being in the company of a sex worker.
- Justice Verma Commission (2012-13):
- The Justice Verma Commission had also acknowledged that there is a distinction between women who are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and adult, consenting women who are in sex work of their own volition.
- Budhadev Karmaskar Vs State of West Bengal (2011) Case:
- The Supreme Court, in Budhadev Karmaskar v. State of West Bengal (2011), opined that sex workers have a right to dignity.

What are the Challenges Faced by Sex Workers?

Discrimination and Stigmatisation-

- The rights of sex workers are non-existent, and those doing such work face discrimination due to their criminalised status.
- These individuals are looked down upon and have no place in society, and most times are treated harshly by their landlords and even the law.
- Their fight to be given the same human, health, and labour rights as others, continues as they are not deemed as falling under the same category as other workers.

Abuse and Exploitation-

- Most times, sex workers are exposed to a slew of abuses that range from physical to mental attacks.

- They would face harassment from clients, their own family members, the community, and even from people who are supposed to uphold the law.
- Although India is a signatory to numerous international agreements on the rights of women and has a constitution that prohibits discrimination and exploitation by gender, as well as a plethora of related legislation, it has failed to satisfactorily protect the human rights of women, particularly those of sex workers.
- This is manifested in high levels of violence in the sex industry, child sex workers, lack of access to health care, and high levels of HIV infection.
- Policies that revolve around rescue and rehabilitation, or are based on the premise that sex work is immoral, are unlikely to effectively promote the well-being of sex workers.
- An alternative paradigm, which revolves around an explicit recognition of the human rights of sex workers together with an activist approach to achieve them, involving a collaboration between NGOs and collectives of sex workers, has worked well to protect the human rights and health of sex workers in India

Way Forward-

- It is time to recognise sex work as work and assign morality to their work.
- Adult men, women and transgender persons in sex work have the right to earn through providing sexual services, live with dignity, and remain free from violence, exploitation, stigma and discrimination.
- It is time we rethink sex work from a labour perspective, where we recognise their work and guarantee them basic labour rights.

Conclusion

The government may now use the SC's directions as an opportunity to improve the conditions of sex workers, facilitate rehabilitation, and remove various inconsistencies in the applicable laws. Parliament must also take a re-look at the existing legislation and do away with the 'victim-rescue-rehabilitation' narrative during these times of crisis especially, this is all the more important

4 With the help of suitable examples, discuss the social and economic implications of illegal mining in India.

Approach

Student can start the answer by giving a brief data about the mining industry in India followed by the role of mining in Indian economy. In the next part, socio-economic implications of illegal mining can be given along with the way forward.

Introduction

In India, the mining industry is a major economic activity that contributes significantly to the country's economy. Over 3,500 mining leases are active in the country, spanning

23 states and covering a total area of 316,290.55 hectares. Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Karnataka account for nearly 70% of the total. However, these mineral extractions from nature frequently cause imbalances, which have a huge negative impact on the environment.

Body

Role of mining in Indian economy

- The total value of mineral production (excluding atomic and fuel minerals) was estimated to be \$16.6 billion in 2017-18, an increase of about 13% over the previous year. At the moment, the mining sector contributes 2.3-2.5 % of GDP.
- Between 2013-14 and 2017-18, India's mineral production increased at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.72 percent.
- It is a highly labour-intensive industry that employs both unskilled and skilled workers. Because it is a part of the primary sector, it primarily employs people who are unskilled.
- The growth of the mining-based industry also benefits related industries and contributes to the region's overall development.

What causes illegal mining?

- Arbitrary coal mine allocations result in lengthy litigation, cancellation of allocations, and accusations of corruption in block allocations.
- Bureaucratic roadblocks cause delays in environmental clearances.
- Investors suffer long delays and losses as a result of judicial intervention.
- For example, in 2017, the Supreme Court imposed harsh penalties in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha for illegal mining without green clearances.

Socio-economic implication of illegal mining

- The local population is losing more than just land; they are also losing a tribal way of life and their rich cultural heritage.
- Left-wing extremism has flourished in resource-rich states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha.
- Miners' lives are also endangered by the rudimentary methods used and the lack of adequate safety equipment and protocols.
- Illegal mines related accidents, for example, occurred at the Ksan coal mine in Meghalaya's Jaintia Hills in 2018 and Chasnala near Dhanbad in 1975.
- This is a type of illegal mining that is particularly prevalent in North Eastern states such as Meghalaya (Ksan coal mine incident).
- Mine-related deaths, inadequate rehabilitation and developmental steps, among other things, have all resulted in human rights violations.
- Massive local protests against mining have occurred in the Niyamgiri Hills of Odisha, POSCO in Odisha, and a Sterlite protest in Tamil Nadu.

- Illegal Mining activities have resulted in the loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage.
- Mining in a given area causes diseases such as fibrosis, pneumoconiosis, and silicosis in both workers and residents.
- Water pollution – in mining areas, water from streams and rivers has become acidic and unfit for drinking.
- In mining-rich areas, contaminated air with high particulate matter is also a major issue.

What can be done?

- There is a need to speed up the clearance process in order to make the best use of mineral resources.
- To prevent mine-related accidents, strict enforcement of mining-related rules is required, particularly the prohibition on Rat-Hole and unscientific mining.
- Block allocations should be transparent, and a rule-based order should be established.
- Technology is being used to improve mineral exploration and surveillance systems.
- The displaced population must be properly rehabilitated, and tribal rights must be respected in accordance with the law.
- Before allocating the projects, proper environmental impact assessments (EIA) and social impact assessments (SIA) must be completed in timely manner.
- DMF should be used to build physical and social infrastructure, and efforts should be made to include the local population in the process.

Conclusion

India is progressing on the technological front, and lot of progress has taken place in remote monitoring as well as surveillance in the field of mining. Along with that, socio-economic measures to improve health and well-being of tribal population can improve the efforts against the left wing extremism. Holistic approach is required to address the issue of illegal mining.