IASBABA'S TLP 2023 (PHASE – 1) – DAY 87 SYNOPSIS

Q-1- Religious pilgrimage has the potential to boost regional ties and promote cultural exchange . do you agree ? what are the major pilgrimage sites in india and how can they be leveraged to foster regional cooperation and economic development ? Analyse .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how religious pilgrimages sites can boost regional ties and cultural exchange in second part write about what are major pilgrimage sites in india and how they can leveraged for regional cooperation and development .

Introduction -

Religious pilgrimage sites have potential to build regional and cultural ties.This is because these sites often attract large numbers of people from different parts of the world, who come together to engage in religious practices and rituals. This creates an opportunity for people from different regions and cultures to interact with each other and learn about each other's traditions, beliefs, and ways of life.

Body -

- Religious pilgrimage sites can also help to promote regional tourism, as people from different parts of the world come to visit these sites and explore the surrounding areas.
- This can help to boost local economies and create jobs, particularly in the hospitality and tourism sectors.
- In addition, religious pilgrimage sites can also be a source of inspiration and motivation for people, who may come away from these experiences feeling a greater sense of spiritual fulfillment and contentedness with others. This can help to foster a sense of unity and solidarity among people from different cultures and backgrounds, who may share a common faith or set of values.
- Overall, religious pilgrimage sites can play an important role in building regional and cultural ties by promoting tourism, fostering intercultural dialogue, and creating opportunities for spiritual growth and community-building.

Major pilgrimage sites in India -

- India is home to a large number of religious pilgrimage sites, which are visited by millions of people every year. Some of the major pilgrimage sites in India are:
- Varanasi - Varanasi, also known as Kashi, is one of the oldest cities in the world and is considered to be a sacred city in Hinduism. It is situated on the banks of the River Ganges and is visited by millions of people every year.
- Haridwar - Haridwar is another holy city in India, located in the northern state of Uttarakhand. It is one of the seven holiest places in Hinduism and is known for its temples and ghats (steps leading down to a river).
- Amritsar - Amritsar is a city in the northern state of Punjab and is the site of the Golden Temple, one of the most revered Sikh temples in the world.

- Tirupati - Tirupati is a town in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and is home to the Sri Venkateswara Temple, one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in India.
- Bodh Gaya - Bodh Gaya is a small town in the eastern state of Bihar and is the site where Gautama Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment.
- Rishikesh - Rishikesh is a town in the northern state of Uttarakhand and is known for its temples and ashrams, as well as its connection to yoga and meditation.
- Shirdi - Shirdi is a town in the western state of Maharashtra and is home to the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, a major pilgrimage site for devotees of Sai Baba.
- These are just a few examples of the many pilgrimage sites in India, which draw people from all over the world who seek spiritual solace and cultural immersion

How pilgrimage sites can be leveraged to develop regional cooperation and economic development -

- Pilgrimage sites can be leveraged to develop regional cooperation and economic development in several ways:
- Infrastructure development: Pilgrimage sites often require extensive infrastructure to support the large numbers of visitors they attract. Governments and private investors can leverage this demand to invest in infrastructure development in the surrounding regions, such as transportation, hospitality, and entertainment facilities.
- Promotion of tourism: Pilgrimage sites can be promoted as tourism destinations, which can attract visitors not only for religious purposes but also for leisure and recreation. This can create employment opportunities and generate revenue for the local economy.
- Cultural exchange and cooperation: Pilgrimage sites attract people from different regions and cultures, providing an opportunity for cultural exchange and cooperation. This can lead to the development of cultural tourism and promotion of regional diversity and cooperation.
- Preservation of heritage: Pilgrimage sites are often associated with cultural and historical significance, which can be leveraged to promote preservation of heritage and attract visitors interested in history and culture.
- Education and research: Pilgrimage sites can also be leveraged for educational and research purposes, providing opportunities for scholars and researchers to study the history, culture, and religion associated with the sites.

Conclusion -

Religious tourism has great potential to boost cultural ties and regional development. leveraging it can create opportunities for economic development, cultural exchange, and regional cooperation, promoting sustainable tourism, and preserving heritage.

2. Green hydrogen is emerging as a promising alternative to fossil fuels, with potential to transform the energy landscape. How can India leverage its abundant renewable energy resources to become a leader in green hydrogen production and adoption? What are the challenges in scaling up green hydrogen technology? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with basic idea of green hydrogen and then simply discuss how India can be big player in green hydrogen also highlight challenges.

Introduction

Green hydrogen is a type of Hydrogen that is produced through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources like solar or wind energy. It is a clean source and has the potential to reduce carbon emissions.

Body

Green hydrogen a promising alternative to fossil fuels some of the reasons for this are:

- Clean Energy: Unlike fossil fuels, green hydrogen is produced from renewable sources like wind and solar energy, which makes it a clean source of energy.
- Versatility: Green hydrogen can be used in various sectors such as transportation, power generation, and industries, making it a versatile energy source.
- Energy Storage: Hydrogen can be used as an energy storage medium, enabling the storage of excess renewable energy during peak production times, and its use during times of lower production.
- Reduction in carbon emissions: The use of green hydrogen can reduce carbon emissions, as hydrogen combustion only produces water and does not emit greenhouse gases.

India has significant potential for green hydrogen production and adoption due to its abundant renewable energy resources Here are some ways India can leverage them to become a leader in green hydrogen:

- Scaling up renewable energy capacity: India has set a target of achieving 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. By achieving this target, India can generate a significant amount of green hydrogen using solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources.
- Developing a green hydrogen ecosystem: India needs to develop a complete green hydrogen ecosystem, including production, storage, transportation, and distribution infrastructure. The government can play a critical role in developing this ecosystem by providing incentives and subsidies for green hydrogen production and adoption.
- Encouraging private sector participation: The private sector can play a vital role in driving green hydrogen production and adoption in India. The government can encourage private sector participation by providing tax incentives, subsidies, and other benefits for green hydrogen projects.
- Collaborating with international partners: India can collaborate with international partners to develop green hydrogen technologies, share knowledge and best practices, and attract investment. Collaboration with countries like Japan, Germany, and Australia, which are investing heavily in green hydrogen, can help India accelerate its green hydrogen ambitions.

- Supporting research and development: India can invest in research and development to develop new and innovative green hydrogen technologies. This can help India overcome technical and economic barriers to green hydrogen production and adoption.

However, there are also some challenges associated with the widespread adoption of green hydrogen, which include:

- Cost: Currently, the production of green hydrogen is expensive compared to fossil fuels. This is because it requires large amounts of renewable energy to produce.
- Infrastructure: There is currently a lack of infrastructure for the production, storage, and distribution of hydrogen. Significant investments in infrastructure will be required for the widespread adoption of hydrogen as an energy source.
- Safety concerns: Hydrogen is highly flammable and requires careful handling, storage, and transportation.
- Limited availability: Currently, the production of green hydrogen is limited and unable to meet the demand of various sectors.

Conclusion

By leveraging its abundant renewable energy resources, developing a green hydrogen ecosystem, encouraging private sector participation, collaborating with international partners, and supporting research and development, India can become a leader in green hydrogen production and adoption.

3. The discovery of lithium reserves in India could have significant implications for the country's energy security and economic growth. What are the geopolitical implications of India becoming a major producer of lithium? Examine.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with basic idea of Lithium and then highlight the Significance of the lithium reserve in India also try to examine the geopolitical implications.

Introduction

Recently, lithium resources were found in Jammu & Kashmir by the geological survey of India. Lithium is considered a crucial component for the production of rechargeable batteries, which are used in a variety of electronic devices, including smartphones, laptops, and electric vehicles.

Body

Implications for the country's energy security and economic growth:

- Imports & need of self-sufficiency: India is seeking to secure its critical mineral supplies and build self-sufficiency in this sector. The lithium reserves in J&K could boost the domestic battery-manufacturing industry.
- Expansion of Electric Vehicles: The J&K reserves will also help advance the Indian government's ambitious plan of 30% EV penetration in private cars, 70% for commercial vehicles, and 80% for two and three-wheelers by 2030 for the automobile industry.
- Development of a domestic manufacturing ecosystem for EVs and batteries, which can further contribute to the country's economic growth.
- Employment: It also reduces imports and boosts employment opportunities. The country currently imports all of its lithium needs. India was heavily dependent on Hong Kong and China for its Lithium requirements.
- Energy security: According to the Central Electricity Authority, the country will need 27 GW of grid-scale energy storage systems by 2030. This will require large amounts of lithium.
- Economy: As various government schemes like PLI are focussing on electronics and semiconductors. Availability of lithium resources can help in establishing end to end supply chains.
- Energy Transition: The success of transition from combustion vehicle to an electric vehicle depends on battery, which accounts for at least 30% of the vehicle's cost. India's demand for these critical resources has risen 6 fold in the last five years as it tries to be the electronic and solar manufacturing hub.

Geopolitical Implications:

- Union territory of J&K (previously a state) has been the site of historical cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan, domestic insurgency, and terrorism.
- So, this new discovery has geostrategic implications considering the geopolitical sensitivity of its wider location.
- The world's supply of lithium is under strain due to the concentration of resources in a few locations with 54% of the world's Lithium reserves are found in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.
- If the perceived size of the mineral reserves in J&K is borne out by further exploration, India could jump ahead of China vis-à-vis its Li stockpile.

Conclusion

However, there are also some challenges like investments in exploration, extraction, and processing of lithium, as well as ensuring sustainable mining practices and minimizing the environmental impact of lithium mining. Additionally, there is also a need for developing a robust regulatory framework to manage and govern the extraction and use of lithium reserves.