



TLP 2023

Daily Answer Writing



Phase 1 (GS-1)
Compilations

1. Evaluate the role of deserts and their geographical features such as sand dunes and salt pans on the climate and ecosystem of the regions they occupy and their impact on human settlements and trade ?

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about role of deserts and their features such as sand dunes salt pans on climate change and ecosystem of the regions .and impact they had on trade and human settlements .

Introduction

A desert ecosystem is characterized by low precipitation and high temperatures, with a variety of plant and animal life adapted to these harsh conditions. Sand dunes can have an impact on climate change by trapping and preserving carbon in the sand. They can also help to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere by acting as a sink, absorbing and storing carbon from the atmosphere.

Body

- Dunes move when sand grains on one side are picked up by the wind and deposited on the other. But the speed of movement varies greatly depending on factors including the shape and size of the dunes, moisture content in the sand, and wind speed.
- Dune movement can be dramatically slowed or prevented by sparse vegetation. When vegetation cover drops below 14%, erosion speeds up significantly. The result is a self-perpetuating system in which the blown sand smothers remaining plants, destroying ecosystems and prompting further erosion.
- These shifting sands are likely to destroy local ecosystems, making any kind of farming or other use of nearby land even more difficult, they report in Nature.
- The model included seasonal variations in annual rainfall and the likely impact of an increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases on temperature. It did not, however, include the influence of higher carbon dioxide levels on plant productivity, nor human impacts such as increased agriculture in surrounding areas.
- Fighting the process of vegetation loss and dune movement would require major adaptations," says Thomas. One possible solution would be to plant new vegetation. But dune ecosystems are very sensitive and differ greatly from region to region. It would take many years of careful tending to stop a moving dune from wandering around, he explains.

Salt pan

- Natural salt pans or salt flats are flat expanses of ground covered with salt and other minerals and are found in deserts.
- Large salt plains are common in the Sahara Desert, the Kalahari Desert, the Rann of Kutch, the western United States and the central deserts of Australia.
- These are natural formations which are formed by evaporation of a water pool such as a lake or pond.

- This happens in climates where the rate of water evaporation exceeds the rate of precipitation.
- If the water cannot drain into the ground, it remains on the surface until it evaporates, leaving behind minerals precipitated from the salt ions dissolved in the water.
- Over thousands of years, the minerals (usually salts) accumulate on the surface. These minerals reflect the sun's rays (through radiation) and often appear as white areas.
- Ecological significance: Salt pans play a significant role in the ecology of the neighbouring areas. Salt pans have different species of birds and insects thriving on them. They have an enormous water-holding capacity that helps in flood control.
- Sand dunes in the Kalahari Desert in Africa, which have been immobile for thousands of years, will soon start to move again, researchers warn. The wandering dunes may affect hundred of thousands of people in southern Africa.
- Low precipitation: Deserts typically receive very little rainfall, which can contribute to a lack of vegetation and a high rate of evaporation. This can increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- High temperatures: Deserts are known for their high temperatures, which can accelerate the rate of evaporation and contribute to the formation of heat waves.
- Dust storms: Deserts are also known for their dust storms, which can transport large amounts of dust and other particles into the atmosphere. These particles can reflect sunlight and contribute to cooling the planet.
- Researchers have long warned that some of the driest and poorest parts of the world are getting drier, causing deserts to grow. But researchers wondered whether the anticipated climate change might also affect the movement of dunes within deserts.

Impacts on human settlements -

- Human settlements in deserts are challenging due to the arid conditions and lack of water, which can limit the availability of resources such as food and fuel. Additionally, the harsh living conditions can make it difficult for people to survive in these regions.
- Deserts also act as a barrier to human expansion and help to preserve unique ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Researchers have long warned that some of the driest and poorest parts of the world are getting drier, causing deserts to grow.
- Dune movement can be dramatically slowed or prevented by sparse vegetation. When vegetation cover drops below 14%, erosion speeds up significantly.
- These shifting sands are likely to destroy local ecosystems, making any kind of farming or other use of nearby land even more difficult.
- The model included seasonal variations in annual rainfall and the likely impact of an increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases on temperature.
- It did not, however, include the influence of higher carbon dioxide levels on plant productivity, nor human impacts such as increased agriculture in surrounding areas.

- Local people are aware of the problem, , but often act to worsen it. Large-scale sheep farming in the northern part of South Africa, for example, reduces available ground water, because it requires extensive well digging.
- Fighting the process of vegetation loss and dune movement would require major adaptations,". One possible solution would be to plant new vegetation. But dune ecosystems are very sensitive and differ greatly from region to region.
- It would take many years of careful tending to stop a moving dune from wandering around
- Additionally, deserts can also impact human settlement through their arid conditions and lack of resources. However, they also can act as barriers to human expansion and can help to preserve unique ecosystems and biodiversity.

Conclusion

Deserts have played a significant role in human settlement and trade throughout history. Due to their harsh conditions, deserts have often been viewed as barriers to human migration and economic activity. However, many deserts have also served as important trade routes for caravans and merchants, connecting different regions and cultures.

2. Evaluate the role of plateau and highlands in shaping the climate, vegetation, and human settlement patterns of the regions they occupy.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea about plateaus and highland and then simply highlight its role in shaping climate, vegetation and human settlement.

Introduction

Plateaus or plateaux, also called a high plain or a tableland, is an area of a highland consisting of flat terrain that is raised sharply above the surrounding area on at least one side.

Body

Shaping Climate:

- Plateaus and highlands typically have a cooler and drier climate than the surrounding lowlands due to their elevation. This can limit the types of vegetation that can grow, with forests giving way to grasslands and shrublands.
- This is due to the fact that as air rises, it cools and moisture condenses, producing clouds and precipitation. However, as air continues to rise, it can cool so much that the moisture condenses into snow and ice rather than rain, reducing the amount of precipitation that reaches the ground.

- The highlands and plateaus can also create local weather patterns due to the relief of the terrain, leading to the formation of clouds and precipitation in certain areas while other areas remain dry.
- Additionally, they can act as a barrier to the prevailing winds, causing them to rise and cool, leading to the formation of clouds and precipitation on the windward side of the highlands or plateau, while the leeward side remains dry.
- The high altitude of highlands and plateaus also means that the temperature tends to drop with altitude, creating a colder climate at higher elevations. This can lead to the formation of glaciers and permanent snowfields.
- These regions may also have unique microclimates and biodiversity. Human settlement patterns in plateaus and highlands tend to be sparse, as the rugged terrain and harsh climate make agricultural and economic development difficult.

Shaping vegetation:

- The lower temperatures and lower precipitation rates at higher elevations can limit the types of vegetation that can grow. Typically, as one goes up in elevation, forests give way to grasslands, shrublands, and rocky alpine tundra.
- Forests, which thrive in warmer and more humid environments, are typically found at lower elevations and are replaced by grasslands and shrublands as the elevation increases.
- The shrublands and grasslands are adapted to the drier and cooler conditions and are characterized by tough, hardy plants that can survive in the harsher environment.
- In addition, highlands and plateaus often have unique microclimates due to their topography, which can lead to high levels of biodiversity, with many endemic species found only in these regions.
- These microclimates can also create local weather patterns, leading to the formation of clouds and precipitation in certain areas while other areas remain dry, which can affect the vegetation.

Human settlements:

- These regions may be important for resource extraction, such as mining and grazing, and they may also be used for protection and conservation.
- Additionally, some highlands and plateau regions are also known for their cultural, spiritual and historical significance which attract tourism.
- They may also be used for protection and conservation of natural resources, as well as for recreational activities such as hiking and mountaineering.
- Human settlement in plateaus and highlands tends to be sparse due to the harsh climate and rugged terrain. These regions are often difficult to cultivate, and the lack of water resources can make economic development difficult.

Conclusion

Plateaus and highlands shape the climate, vegetation, and human settlement patterns of the regions they occupy through their elevation and unique microclimates, making them less hospitable for human habitation but more for specific plant and animal species, and also for resource extraction, protection and tourism.

3. Discuss the impact of volcanic activity and the formation of volcanic landscapes on the geology, climate, and ecosystem of the regions they occupy, and how it affects human settlement and economic development.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea of volcanism and then write down how it impacts geology and climate also write down how it positively and negatively affect the human settlements.

Introduction

A volcano is an opening or rupture in the earth's surface that allows magma (hot liquid and semi-liquid rock), volcanic ash and gases to escape. The volcanic eruption could have implications for the local and regional environment like earthquakes, landslides, lahars (mudflows), ash and thunderstorms.

Body

Climate and ecosystem due to volcanic activity:

- The gases and dust particles thrown into the atmosphere during volcanic eruptions have influences on climate.
- Volcanoes have also caused global warming over millions of years during times in Earth's history when extreme amounts of volcanism occurred, releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Even though volcanoes are in specific places on Earth, their effects can be more widely distributed as gases, dust, and ash get into the atmosphere.
- This is due to the atmospheric circulation patterns, eruptions in the tropics can have an effect on the climate in both hemispheres. Eruptions at mid or high latitudes only have an impact on the hemisphere they are within.

Geology landscapes due to volcanic activity:

- Volcanic eruptions can create new landforms, such as volcanic islands and mountains, and deposit layers of ash and lava, which can change the soil composition and fertility.
- Volcanic activity can also create new mineral deposits, such as gold, silver, copper and other metals, which can become an important resource for human civilization.
- These mineral deposits can form in different ways, for example, in the form of veins and lodes, as well as in the form of volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposits.
- The volcanic ash and rock fragments can also change the albedo of the region, which can affect the regional climate.
- Volcanic activity can also create geothermal areas, which can be used for power generation and other forms of economic development.
- Additionally, volcanic landscapes often have unique biodiversity, with many endemic species found only in these regions.

- However, volcanic activity can also be hazardous to human settlements and can lead to destructive events such as volcanic eruptions, ashfall, lahars, and volcanic gas emissions. These events can cause significant damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and human health, and can lead to displacement of populations.

Economic development and human settlements:

- Volcanic activity and the formation of volcanic landscapes can have both positive and negative impacts on human settlement and economic development. While they can be inhospitable and hazardous to human habitation, they can also provide opportunities for economic development.
- For example, Volcanic ash and rock fragments can be used for construction and road building, and volcanic landscapes often have unique biodiversity which can be utilized for tourism and recreation. Volcanic landscapes can also contain geothermal resources which can be used for power generation and other forms of economic development.
- Volcanic eruptions can cause significant damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and human health, and can lead to displacement of populations. Additionally, the rugged terrain and harsh climate of volcanic landscapes can make it difficult for people to settle in these regions.

Conclusion

Most of the active volcanoes on earth occur on the Circum-Pacific Belt, also referred to as The Ring of Fire. Volcanoes are a natural exogenic phenomenon that cannot be avoided, but developing disaster risk resilience will surely be a step in the right direction.

4. Evaluate the effects of solar activity, including sunspots, solar flares and coronal mass ejections, on the earth's atmosphere and its implications for human civilization.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about effects of solar activity, sunspots, solar flares and coronal mass ejection on earth atmosphere and its effect on human civilization.

Introduction

A solar storm is used to refer to the atmospheric effects that are visible on earth through certain events that occur on the surface of the Sun. Solar Storms happen when a Sun emits large bursts of energy in the form of solar flares and coronal mass ejections. An adverse effect of solar storms is the disruption of satellites and other electronic means of communications.

Body

What are the effects of Solar Activity on Earth-

- Auroras: When charged particles from a CME reach areas near Earth, they can trigger intense lights in the sky, called auroras.
- Affects Electronics and Satellites: The energy, radiation and high-energy particles emitted by the flares can affect Earth-bound objects and life on Earth – it can affect the electronics within satellites and affect astronauts.
- Failure of Power Grids: Very powerful Earth-directed coronal mass ejections can cause the failure of power grids and affect oil pipelines and deep-sea cables.
- Sunspots, Solar Flares, Coronal Mass Ejections and their influence on Earth: Coronal Mass Ejection Coronal Mass Ejections (shown left) and solar flares are extremely large explosions on the photo-sphere.
- In just a few minutes, the flares heat to several million degrees F. and release as much energy as a billion megatons of TNT.
- They occur near sunspots, usually at the dividing line between areas of oppositely directed magnetic fields. Hot matter called plasma interacts with the magnetic field sending a burst of plasma up and away from the Sun in the form of a flare.
- Solar flares emit x-rays and magnetic fields which bombard the Earth as geomagnetic storms. If sunspots are active, more solar flares will result creating an increase in geomagnetic storm activity for Earth.
- Therefore during sunspot maximums, the Earth will see an increase in the Northern and Southern Lights and a possible disruption in radio transmissions and power grids. The storms can even change polarity in satellites which can damage sophisticated electronics.
- Therefore scientists will often times reposition satellites to a different orientation to protect them from increased solar radiation when a strong solar flare or coronal mass ejection has occurred.

Impact of Solar Flares and CMEs on Earth-

- Not all solar flares reach Earth, but solar flares/storms, solar energetic particles (SEPs), high-speed solar winds, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) that come close can impact space weather in near-Earth space and the upper atmosphere.
- Space-dependent services: Solar storms can hit operations of space-dependent services like global positioning systems (GPS), radio, and satellite communications.
- Radio communication: Geomagnetic storms interfere with high-frequency radio communications and GPS navigation systems.
- Magnetosphere: CMEs, with ejectiles loaded with matter travelling at millions of miles an hour, can potentially create disturbances in the magnetosphere, the protective shield surrounding the Earth.
- Astronauts: Astronauts on spacewalks face health risks from possible exposure to solar radiation outside the Earth's protective atmosphere.
- Other: Aircraft flights, power grids, and space exploration programmes are vulnerable.

Effects of Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections on Earth-

- Geomagnetic Storm: caused by the shock wave of moving mass, which may also disturb Earth's magnetosphere.
- Aurora: In vast areas surrounding Earth's magnetic poles, solar energetic particles can create extremely powerful auroras. In the northern hemisphere, these are

known as the Northern Lights (aurora borealis), whereas in the southern hemisphere, they are known as the Southern Lights (aurora australis).

- disruption of Radio Transmissions.
- damage to Satellites.
- damage to Electrical Transmission Line Facilities.

Implication on human civilization -

- Very high-energy particles, such as those carried by Coronal Mass Ejections, can cause radiation poisoning to humans and other mammals.
- When a coronal mass ejection strikes Earth's atmosphere, it causes a temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field.
- It can throw satellites off course and cause them to fall to the surface of the earth, putting many urban centers at risk.
- Some scientists have speculated that migrating animals which use magneto reception to navigate, such as birds and honey bees, might also be affected.
- Rapidly fluctuating geomagnetic fields can produce geomagnetically induced currents in pipelines. This can cause multiple problems for pipeline engineers. Pipeline flow meters can transmit erroneous flow information and the corrosion rate of the pipeline can be dramatically increased.

Conclusion

Fortunately, no matter what, flares do not have a significant effect on Earth. The Earth's atmosphere more or less acts as a shield to prevent the cosmic radiation from reaching the surface. There can be measurable effects at ground level, but the amount of radiation is pretty insignificant.

5. Evaluate the effects of global warming and its impact on the Earth's geophysical phenomena such as sea level rise, melting of glaciers and permafrost, and changes in precipitation patterns.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea about global warming and then highlight how its impacting globally on different geophysical phenomena what changes has occurred due to it.

Introduction

Global warming, also known as climate change, is the gradual increase of the Earth's average surface temperature due to burning of fossil fuels and other human activities. The effects of global warming can have a significant impact on the Earth's geophysical phenomena.

Body

Global warming can have a wide range of impacts on the Earth's geophysical phenomena, including:

- **Sea level rise:** As the Earth's temperature increases, ice and snow in the polar regions begin to melt, causing sea levels to rise. This can have a significant impact on coastal areas, as it can lead to flooding and erosion.
- **Extreme weather:** Global warming can lead to an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, and heavy precipitation. This can have a significant impact on agriculture and food production, as well as human health and well-being.
- **Ocean acidification:** As carbon dioxide (CO₂) is absorbed by the ocean, it can lead to a decrease in the pH level of seawater, a process known as ocean acidification. This can have a significant impact on marine life, as it can make it more difficult for shellfish and other organisms to form and maintain their shells.
- **Wildfires:** Global warming can lead to an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires. This can have a significant impact on human communities, as well as wildlife and their habitats.
- **Climate-induced migration:** Climate change can lead to the displacement of people due to extreme weather events, sea-level rise and other impacts. This can lead to increased pressure on infrastructure and resources in receiving areas and can lead to conflicts.
- **Glacier retreat:** As the Earth's temperature increases, glaciers and ice sheets begin to melt, causing them to retreat. This can have a significant impact on freshwater availability and flooding in downstream areas that rely on glacier meltwater.
- **Changes in precipitation patterns:** Global warming can lead to changes in precipitation patterns, such as increased droughts in some regions, also heavy cloud burst with flash floods.
- **Climate variability:** Global warming can cause changes in precipitation patterns, leading to more extreme weather events such as floods and droughts.
- **Loss of biodiversity:** Global warming can cause changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, which can lead to the loss of habitats for many plant and animal species.
- **Natural disasters:** Global warming can increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes and typhoons, which can cause significant damage to infrastructure and communities.

Conclusion

Humankind has become dependent on the burning of fossil fuels to support our way of life, but it increases global warming at an unnatural rate that led to melting of glaciers. To restore the glaciers we need to utilize alternative energy sources, increase our energy efficiency and decrease our individual carbon footprints.

6. Discuss the causes and consequences of El Niño and La Niña, two of the most important geophysical phenomena that affect the global climate.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea of El Nino and La Nina with its formation. And then simply explain what are its causes and different consequences

Introduction

El Niño and La Niña are two natural climate phenomena occurring across the tropical Pacific Ocean and influence the weather they are two opposing weather patterns that can have significant impacts on weather patterns around the world.

Body

- El Niño is caused by a warming of the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, which leads to a shift in the prevailing winds and a change in the location and strength of the jet stream.
- This can lead to increased rainfall in the western Pacific and drought in the eastern Pacific. El Niño can also result in increased storm activity in the eastern Pacific, and can have a range of impacts on weather patterns around the world, such as increased rainfall in some regions and drought in others.
- La Niña is the opposite of El Niño, and is caused by a cooling of the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean. This leads to a shift in the prevailing winds and a change in the location and strength of the jet stream, which can lead to drought in the western Pacific and increased rainfall in the eastern Pacific.
- La Niña can also result in decreased storm activity in the eastern Pacific, and can have a range of impacts on weather patterns around the world, such as increased drought in some regions and increased rainfall in others.

Impact on global climate:

- During an El Niño event, the trade winds that usually blow from east to west across the Pacific weaken or even reverse. This allows warm water from the western Pacific to move eastward towards the coast of South America, leading to an increase in temperature and a shift in weather patterns.
- El Niño can result in increased rainfall in some regions, such as the southern United States, and drought in others, such as Australia and Indonesia.
- It can also lead to increased storm activity in the eastern Pacific, and can have a range of impacts on weather patterns around the world, such as increased flooding in some regions and drought in others.
- La Niña, on the other hand, is characterized by a cooling of the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, which leads to a strengthening of the trade winds and a shift in weather patterns.
- La Niña can result in increased rainfall in some regions, such as the western Pacific, and drought in others, such as the southern United States.

- It can also lead to decreased storm activity in the eastern Pacific, and can have a range of impacts on weather patterns around the world, such as increased drought in some regions and increased flooding in others.

El Nino impacts India:

- El Nino and Indian monsoons are inversely related. The most prominent droughts in India – six of them – since 1871 have been El Nino droughts, including the recent ones in 2002 and 2009
- However, not all El Nino years led to a drought in India. For instance, 1997/98 was a strong El Nino year but there was no drought (Because of IOD).
- El Nino directly impacts India's agrarian economy as it tends to lower the production of summer crops such as rice, sugarcane, cotton, and oilseeds.

La Nina impacting India:

- Winter rainfall is less than normal in North India.
- Snowfall over Western Himalayas is less than normal.
- Winter temperatures in the plains are less than normal.

Conclusion

Both El Niño and La Niña can have significant impacts on agriculture, freshwater resources, and human settlements, as well as on the timing and distribution of plant and animal species. They can also impact the fishing and tourism industries, as well as global economy and trade.

7. **Analyse the factors responsible for concentration of automobile industries in certain regions of the world including the role of labor availability, cost of production and access to markets and resources?**

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about factors responsible for concentration of automobile industries in certain regions of world and role of labour availability, cost of production, and access to markets and resources.

Introduction

The automobile industry is highly concentrated in a few countries with the majority of production taking place in China, the United States, Japan, Germany, and South Korea. It accounts for 60% of world global automobile production. Other players include India, Brazil etc. Many factors are responsible for their concentration in regions.

Body

There are several factors that can contribute to the development of the automobile industry in a particular region. These include,

Access to natural resources:

- Automobile manufacturing requires large amounts of raw materials, such as steel and aluminum. Regions with abundant natural resources, such as iron and coal deposits, may have an advantage in this regard.

Skilled labor force:

- The automobile industry is highly technical and requires a skilled workforce. Areas with strong engineering and technical education programs may be more likely to develop a robust automobile industry.

Government policies and incentives:

- Government policies and incentives can play a significant role in the development of the automobile industry. For example, governments may provide subsidies for research and development, or offer tax breaks for companies that invest in the industry.

Access to markets:

- The automobile industry is highly globalized, and having access to large domestic and international markets is crucial for the success of the industry.

Economic stability:

- A stable economy with low inflation and steady GDP growth can attract investors and manufacturers to invest in the industry.

Infrastructure:

- Good infrastructure such as highways, ports and airports are necessary for the industry to thrive, as it ensures ease of movement of goods and people.

Innovation:

- Automobile industry is constantly innovating and changing, having research and development centers and companies with forward-thinking approach can be an advantage for a region to have a well-developed automobile industry.

cheap land availability:

- These industries need large tract of land to setup assembly lines, administrative buildings and testing facilities.

Cheap Skilled Labour:

- These industries are capital intensive with high capital investment per capita employee. Industry prefers cheap and easy availability of skilled labour and if government initiatives for skill developments are ongoing in an area, then it is also preferred.

Good Quality logistics:

- These industries need supply of accessories such as window glass, tyres, paint etc. And are committed to provide delivery of final product at per-determined time. This requires better connectivity with roads, trucks etc.

Industrial conglomeration:

- When a industry is setup in an area, gradually over time supporting infrastructure is put in place by the authorities. New industrial proposals take advantage of already developed resources and prefer setting up plants in the same area.

Closeness to final customer:

- It is preferred to serve the customer better with reduced transportation cost of the final product and learn the change in their taste to update manufacturing plans.

Closeness of suppliers-

- Industry has to interact with number of OEMs for window glass seats, wipers, tyres etc. If these are at a distance from the manufacturing plant, it will increase

the input cost for final product making them less competitive in the market. Hence, closeness is preferred with OEMs. Ex: Manesar and gurgaon.

- Mostly in India we have our auto industries in three clusters namely NCR Chakan and Chennai.
- Auto industry started in India in 1940s with setup of Hindustan and Mahindra and Mahindra.
- After independence, import substitution industrialization was set in place. Monopolistic tendencies were checked by limiting production quota. Ambassador was dominant product and served government.
- Late 1980s saw efforts for more production for example Maruti Udyog whose Maruti 800 captured the market. After 1991, many foreign investors and companies came in the fray and the target is increasingly middle class, urbanizing, daily commuting population of India.
- Rural markets are dominated by two wheels. Indian cars are more focused on low-cost, fuel-efficient products and are exported to various destinations including US, Europe, Africa, etc.
- Many luxury segment cars are in demand in India as well. Domestically, density of cars has increased immensely specially after Nano model of Tata.
- Pollution standards of Bharat stage 4 and 3 are enforced. There is an increased emphasis on adapting electric and hybrid vehicles in near future as well.

Conclusion

The future of automotive industry will hinge on four major technologies: automation, connectivity, electric power, and the shared economy. Perhaps the most obvious and fundamental change facing the auto sector is the rise of autonomous cars hence there will be some changes in location factors regarding automobile industry.

8. Discuss the impact of energy costs and government policies on the location of oil refineries and how it affects the global oil industry.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea about location of oil industries and refineries and how cost and policies impacting global oil industry.

Introduction

Energy costs and government policies have a significant impact on the location of oil refineries, which in affect the global oil industry.

Body

Energy costs and policies are a major factor in the location of oil refineries:

- Oil refineries require large amounts of energy to operate, and the cost of energy can significantly impact their profitability. Therefore, oil refineries are often located in regions with low energy costs, such as the Gulf Coast of the United States, which has access to low-cost natural gas.

- Government policies also play a significant role in the location of oil refineries. Government regulations and taxes can affect the profitability of oil refineries and therefore influence where they are located.
- For example, some governments provide tax breaks or subsidies to oil refineries in order to attract them to their region.
- Additionally, governments may have restrictions on the location of oil refineries, such as zoning laws, which can affect where they are built.
- The location of oil refineries can also have an impact on the global oil industry. For example, if most oil refineries are located in one region, such as the Middle East, it can create a dependency on that region for oil products.
- Additionally, if oil refineries are located close to the sources of oil production, such as in the Gulf of Mexico, it can make the transportation of oil more efficient and cost-effective, which can benefit the global oil industry.
- Government policies and incentives: Government regulations, taxes, and incentives can affect the profitability of oil refineries and therefore influence where they are located. For example, some governments provide tax breaks or subsidies to oil refineries in order to attract them to their region.
- Environmental regulations and compliance costs: Oil refineries are subject to strict environmental regulations, so they are often located in regions with less stringent regulations or where the government is willing to provide incentives for environmental compliance. These regulations and compliance costs can have a significant impact on the operating expenses of a refinery.
- Energy costs: The cost of energy is an important factor to consider when it comes to the location of oil refineries. Refineries located in regions with lower energy costs can have a competitive advantage in terms of their operating expenses.

Conclusion

In nutshell, the location of oil refineries is influenced by energy costs, government policies, and other factors, which in turn can affect the global oil industry by influencing the cost and availability of oil products, and the dependency of a certain region for oil products.

9. **Evaluate the role of technological advancements and international trade agreements on the location of high-tech industries, particularly in the field of information technology and semiconductors.**

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea of food value chain also with giving an example highlight the challenges of FPI in India.

Introduction

The location of the industry at a particular place is the result of a number of decisions taken at various levels. There are certain non-geographical factors such as technology advancement and agreements that facilitate this decision-making.

Body

Technological advancements and international trade agreements have had a significant impact on the location of high-tech industries:

- Technological advancements have made it possible for companies to produce and distribute products and services more efficiently and at a lower cost, which has led to the decentralization of production and the emergence of global supply chains.
- This has allowed high-tech industries to locate in areas with lower labor costs, such as developing countries, while still being able to access advanced technologies and specialized inputs from other countries.
- International trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), have also played a role in the location of high-tech industries.
- These agreements have reduced trade barriers and increased access to foreign markets, making it easier for companies to locate production in countries with lower labor costs and then export their products to other countries.
- This has led to the growth of high-tech industries in countries such as China and Mexico, which have become major exporters of high-tech products.
- Moreover, the increasing use of digital technologies and the increasing trend of outsourcing and offshoring have allowed companies to relocate their high-tech industries to cheaper locations.
- This has led to the growth of high-tech industries in countries such as India, where labor costs are relatively low and there is a large pool of skilled workers with expertise in areas such as software development and data analysis.

Semiconductor and IT industries:

- Access to R&D and advancements: Semiconductor and IT industries rely heavily on R&D to stay competitive and develop new technologies. Locations with strong R&D capabilities and resources, such as universities and research centers, are more likely to attract semiconductor and IT companies.
- Agreement and policies stability: Semiconductor companies are looking for locations that have a stable political environment and robust security measures to protect their assets and intellectual property.
- Government agreements: Many governments offer various tariff, such as tax breaks and subsidies, to attract high-tech industries to their region. Locations that offer attractive incentive packages are more likely to attract IT and semiconductor companies.

Conclusion

In summary, technological advancements and international trade agreements have led to the decentralization of high-tech industries and the growth of high-tech industries in countries with lower labor costs, as well as increased access to foreign markets and specialized inputs.

10. Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries indicate the major environmental issues faced by them?

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about distribution of rubber producing countries and in second part write about major environmental issues faced by them.

Introduction

According to Fao Stat (Food and Agricultural Organization Corporate Statistical Database) of 2022, Thailand is the largest Producer of Rubber in the World followed by Indonesia, Vietnam, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, India, China etc. There are major environmental issues in these countries including deforestation, biodiversity loss, climate change, etc.

Body

Natural rubber contributes to deforestation, biodiversity loss, pollution, and more. But climate change and disease also threaten natural rubber producing countries.

- There are 28 countries worldwide that produce natural rubber.
- The most distinct characteristics they share is a tropical climate. Tropical climates with consistent temperatures around 25-30 degrees and rainfall of 200 cm support healthy rubber trees.
- Countries with this ideal equatorial climate that produce natural rubber are found primarily in South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia.
- For decades Thailand has been the world's biggest producer of rubber, growing 35% of the world's natural rubber supply in 2019.
- The top five countries that produced the most rubber in 2019 are Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, and China.

Major environmental issues faced by these countries are,

- Deforestation - growing natural rubber is leading cause of deforestation in mainland South Asia
- Biodiversity loss - rubber is grown by deforestation of equatorial vegetation which are known for their species biodiversity.
- Climate change - deforestation of equatorial vegetation which are known as lungs of the forest will affect the carbon sequestration and this accentuated the rate of global warming

- Diseases -rubber being a monoculture plantation is highly vulnerable to pest attacks and diseases .
- Man animal conflicts -monkey human conflict in tripper because of deforestation of land for rubber plantation .
- Cases of stealing of land from indigenous communities .
- Pollution - sulphate are released from latex processing facilities (latex are extracted from rubber trees)
- a large-scale of natural rubber plantation results in environmental issues such as the Nitrous oxide (N₂O) emission which is obtained from the use of synthetic fertilizer during the cultivation process.
- The postulate of Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) was employed to examine the relationship between economy and environment from the natural rubber plantation in major producers using secondary data ranging from 2005 to 2018.
- Therefore, the N₂O emission in which represents environmental degradation was regressed with the value of natural rubber production as the proxy for the economy growth using a fixed effect model on the panel data regression analysis.
- Results show that there is an inverted U-shape curve from the relationship between the N₂O emissions and the value of natural rubber production. Hence, this study supports the postulate of EKC's hypothesis.
- In addition, results found that the average value of natural rubber production from major producers was not yet reached the turning point of EKC.
- Some suggestions were made in order to increase the productivity while maintaining yet reducing the emission obtained from the use of synthetic fertilizer during cultivation process.

Conclusion

The best way to ensure more responsible production of natural rubber is to grow trees for rubber production on low quality degraded land instead of clearing high quality natural forests to plant them. WWF goal is to have majority of companies that produce and use rubber commit to ethically and sustainable produced rubber .this include car manufacturer, tire makers and rubber processors.

11. Discuss the multidimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world.

Approach

Start with basic intro with referring to mineral oil distribution and then explain how uneven distribution has several multiple implications.

Introduction

Petroleum is unevenly distributed around the planet. The Middle East contains slightly less than half of the world's proven reserves (including Iran but not North Africa). Following the Middle East are Canada and the United States, Latin America, Africa,

and the former Soviet Union region, which includes Russia, Kazakhstan, and other countries.

Body

The immense strategic importance of mineral oil and its lop-sided distribution across the globe have many multi-dimensional implications:

- **Political:** Many historical and present-day conflicts involve nations trying to control resource-rich territories. For example, the desire for diamond and oil resources has been the root of many armed conflicts in Africa.
- **USA's interference in the geopolitics of West Asia** is also one of the reasons for uneven distribution of oil minerals.
- **Employment & Migration:** Availability of Oil reserves leads to more job opportunities in the Middle east. That is the reason why India has a large diaspora in the middle east.
- **Balance of Trade:** The un-even distribution of the mineral oil resources affects the balance of trade between the importing and the exporting countries. This in turn affects the Foreign-exchange reserves of the country.
- **Growth:** Un-even distribution of mineral oil also has led to un-even growth across the globe. Rise in import prices directly hamper the capabilities of the government to spend on welfare objectives.
- **Energy Security:** The un-even distribution of the mineral energy resource has led to high degree of energy insecurity in the oil deficient countries. It also, directly affects their strategic autonomy.
- **Diplomatic leverage :** The lop- sided distribution of the vital mineral oil resource is a vital factor in leveraging its availability for diplomatic gains. For example, India's major dependence on Middle East for oil, provides it with a diplomatic bargain over India.
- **Economic implications:** Uneven distribution of the mineral oil across the world, leads to economic consequences like inflation, for the importing country. For example, India is susceptible to global shocks in oil prices.
- **Regional conflict:** As the mineral oil resource is strategic in nature, its uneven distribution leads to great power conflict over the control of the region. For example, disputes in oil rich regions of middle East.

Conclusion

As the uneven distribution of the mineral oil resources leads to various implications ranging from economic to energy security. This highlights the need for India to diversify its energy basket both in terms of content and geography.

12. India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by basically referring to Indian water resources and then shortly analyse the causes of water scarcity.

Introduction

India's average total annual rainfall which is higher than the world average of 990 mm should normally suffice to meet the country's critical needs. India has enough fresh water to meet its needs but the problem is the unequal distribution and sporadic nature of monsoon.

Body

- India is a monsoonal country with abundant surface and ground water across its length and breadth. It accounts for 18% of the world population and about 4% of the world's water resources.
- Water resources in India include precipitation, surface, groundwater storage and hydropower potential.
- India receives an average rainfall of about 1170 mm which corresponds to an annual precipitation of about 4000 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) including snowfall.
- As per the latest assessment, the annual replenishable ground water resource of country has been estimated as 433 billion cubic meter (bcm), out of which 399 bcm is considered to be available for development for various uses.

Causes of water scarcity:

- Unequal water distribution as most of the rainfall that is received in India is distributed over a specific time and area. The level of water table rises during rainfall months but then decreases when there is no rainfall.
- Overpopulated cities, which create pressure on natural resources add to the problem of water scarcity.
- Due to inefficient irrigation techniques and small land holdings for agriculture, over-exploitation of groundwater is in practice. This has lowered the water table, leading to conflict between the demands from industry, agriculture and domestic sector.
- Lack of recycling capacity for used water and low emphasis on water treatment and reuse along with dumping of municipal and industrial waste in water bodies has led to reduction in input to water sources.
- Low awareness about rain water harvesting, water usage efficiency coupled with increasing purchasing power of people has increased demand leading to magnification of the problem.
- Increasing Geogenic groundwater pollution as well as increasing river pollution limits utilizable water in the country.

- The concretization in urban areas and encroachment of water bodies in both urban and rural areas not only prevent surface storage and groundwater recharge but also causes disasters like floods. Guwahati's Deepor Beel, for example, is used by the municipal corporation to dump solid waste.
- Climate change increases incidences of droughts and reduce annual precipitation in drought prone central and North West India.
- The water harvesting and reuse technology is still a luxury in India, the people in rural and small towns face hardship for purchase, use, and repair because of less motivation among both public officials and general public for use of these equipment.

Way forward:

- Water-use efficiency in agriculture can be ensured by making farmers aware and by providing them, on the ground, technologies like the one related to water resistant crops.
- In-situ water conservation techniques like rain water harvesting, check dams need to be continued.
- Managing the demand side of water management is crucial as India cannot increase the per capita availability of water.
- Hiware Bazar Model like replication where village very well manages the 300-400 millimeters (mm) of rainfall that it receives every year.

Conclusion

The Government needs to holistically handle the supply as well as the demand side of water management and everybody in the society, i.e., the central government, the state governments (water, being the state subject), citizens, NGOs and companies need to come together to tackle water crisis in the country.

13. Discuss the various tectonic plate boundaries and their impact on the world's physical geography. including examples of significant geological events such as earthquakes and volcanoes.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about various tectonic plate boundaries and their impact on worlds physical geography .in second part write their impact on earthquakes and volcanoes.

Introduction

The edges where two plates meet are known as plate boundaries. The majority of geologic events, such as volcanoes, earthquakes, and mountain formation, occur at plate boundaries. There are three types of plate boundaries: Divergent, convergent, and transform plate boundaries.

Body

A plate boundary is a three-dimensional surface or zone where the velocity (speed or direction) of one lithospheric plate relative to the neighboring lithospheric plate changes significantly.

As high-temperature deformation mechanisms become more prominent than the near-surface brittle mechanisms of fracturing, faulting, and cataclastic flow, the breadth of these plate boundaries may expand with depth.

Types of Plate Boundaries-

Three types of tectonic borders are formed by the movement of tectonic plates-

Convergent Boundaries-

- When two tectonic plates collide, a convergent plate boundary is formed. Convergent Boundaries are also called destructive boundaries.
- The common examples of convergent boundaries are the subduction zones that are formed when the heavier plate slides beneath the lighter plate, creating a deep trench.
- The dense mantle material is transformed into buoyant magma, which rises through the crust to the Earth's surface.
- The rising magma has created a chain of active volcanoes known as a volcanic arc over millions of years.
- Convergent plate boundaries cause mountain formation and the formation of island arcs in addition to Subduction Zones (Festoons).
- If both convergent plates are oceanic, the volcanoes form a curved line of islands parallel to the trench, known as an island arc.

Convergence can happen in three different ways:

- Between an oceanic and continental plate-
- Between two oceanic plate-
- Between two continental plates-
- When continental and oceanic plates clash, the oceanic plate, which is thinner and denser, is pushed aside by the continental plate, which is thicker and less dense.
- The Washington-Oregon (United States) coastline is an example of an oceanic-continental convergent plate boundary.

Divergent Boundaries-

- Divergent Boundaries are formed when the tectonic plates pull apart from each other. Divergent Boundaries are also called constructive boundaries.
- Seafloor spreading and rift valleys occur along divergent borders.
- Magma from deep under the Earth's mantle rises to the surface at divergent oceanic borders, pushing two or more plates apart. Along the seam, mountains and volcanoes rise.
- The ocean floor is renewed, and large basins are widened as a result of the process.
- Examples of divergent boundaries include the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the American Plates are split from the Eurasian and African Plates.
- The world's oceans are connected by a single mid-ocean ridge system, making it the world's largest mountain range (10,000 miles).
- Eg) Giant troughs form on land, such as the Great Rift Valley in Africa, where plates are pulled apart.

- If the plates continue to diverge, eastern Africa will split from the continent millions of years from now, becoming a new landmass.
- The border between the plates would then be marked by a mid-ocean ridge.

Transform Boundaries-

- Transform Boundaries are formed when tectonic plates travel horizontally past each other but parts of the plates become stuck where they touch.
- Plate interaction happens without generating or destroying crust, therefore these limitations are conservative.
- As a result, they don't build beautiful landforms like mountains or oceans, but the slowing motion frequently causes big earthquakes, such as the devastating 1906 earthquake in San Francisco.
- Stress builds up in these places of contact, forcing the rocks to crack or slip, lurching the plates forward, and creating earthquakes.
- Faults are the places where things break or slip.
- Eg) In the Ring of Fire, the majority of Earth's faults can be found along transform borders.
- A transform boundary, such as the San Andrea's Fault in California, occurs as the Pacific Plate advances northward past the North American Plate.
- It's one of the Rings of Fire's most active faults.

Significance of Plate Boundaries-

- borders are significant because earthquakes and volcanoes are frequently associated with them.
- When the Earth's tectonic plates collide, massive amounts of energy are released in the form of earthquakes.
- Different geological features are linked with each of these types of plate borders.

Conclusion

With the other plates that surround it, a single tectonic plate can have numerous types of plate boundaries. Besides, as the molten rock from deep below the Earth (known as magma) can move upward at these plate intersections, volcanoes are frequently found near plate boundaries. As a result of the movement of Earth's tectonic plates, the planet's surface is shaped.

14. Analyse the world's climate zones and how they are affected by factors such as latitude, altitude, and ocean currents. Describe how these climate zones shape the physical geography of different regions around the world.

Approach

Start with basic intro with referring to the scramble of Africa try to analyze how it led to the competition among European powers.

Introduction

Regions of the world have differences in temperature and climatic zone due to different geo physical characteristics. These differences influence the lifestyle of the people living under different climatic conditions.

Body

To understand different climatic conditions, let us discuss the factors which cause the variations in the climate of a place or a region.

Latitude or Distance from the Equator:

- The places near the equator are warmer than the places which are far away from it.
- This is because the rays of the sun fall vertical on the equator and slanting in the temperate and polar regions.

Altitude or the Height from the mean sea level:

- The temperature decreases with the height of a place. For a vertical rise of 165 metres there is an average decrease in temperature at the rate of 1°C.
- Thus, the temperature decreases with increase in height. Shimla situated on a higher altitude is cooler than Jalandhar, although both are almost on the same latitude.

Ocean Currents:

- Ocean currents are large movements of water usually from a place of warm temperature to one of cooler temperature or vice-versa.
- The warm ocean currents raise the temperature of the coast and sometimes bring rainfall, while the cold currents lower the temperature and create fog near the coast.
- Port Bergen in Norway is free from ice even in winter due to warm North Atlantic Drift while Port Quebec in Canada remains frozen during winter months due to chilling effect of the Cold Labrador Current in spite of the fact that Port Quebec is situated in much lower latitude than Port Bergen.

Mountain Chains

- The mountain chains act as natural barrier for the wind. The on-shore moisture laden winds are forced to rise after striking against the mountain; and give heavy rainfall on the windward side.
- These winds descending on the leeward side cause very low rainfall. The great Himalayas check the moisture laden monsoon winds from crossing over to Tibet. This mountain chain also checks biting polar cold winds from entering into India.
- This is the reason for which northern plains of India get rains while Tibet remains a perpetual rain shadow area with lesser amount of rainfall.

Climatic zone affecting physical geography:

- High Altitude climate: Some of the world's most iconic mountain ranges include the Himalayas, the Andes, the Rockies, the Alps, and the Karakoram.
- Desert climate: Major deserts include the Sahara, the Arabian Desert, the Gobi Desert, and the Atacama Desert.

- Rainforests zone: The world's largest rainforests are found in the Amazon and Congo Basins, as well as in Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Glaciers and ice caps: Some of the world's most iconic glaciers and ice caps include those in Antarctica, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic.

Conclusion

Overall, climate zones play a major role in shaping the physical geography of different regions around the world, by influencing the types of plants and animals that can survive in an area, as well as the types of landforms that are present.

15. Explain the role of mountain ranges in shaping the world's physical geography, including their impact on weather patterns.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by basically referring to the importance of mountain ranges, then highlighting different examples to explain how they shape weather patterns.

Introduction

Mountain ranges play a key role in the support of world's geography, economic, social and cultural sectors. It has a huge impact on local weather patterns which develops local species, topography, hydropower, tourism, forests, agriculture.

Body

- When the saturated air mass comes across a mountain, it is forced to ascend and as it rises, it expands; the temperature falls, and the moisture is condensed. The chief characteristic of this sort of rain is that the windward slopes receive greater rainfall.
- When air reaches the mountains, it is forced to rise over this barrier. As the air moves up the windward side of a mountain, it cools, and the volume decreases. As a result, humidity increases and orographic clouds and precipitation can develop.
- When the air descends the leeward side, it warms and is drier because the moisture in the air was wrung out during the ascent. This area with a lack of moisture is known as a rain shadow.
- While this effect can occur near any mountain range, one of the more prominent areas where it can be observed is in the Sierra Nevadas and leeward side of western ghats. Many times, these mountains can be snowcapped while just to the east Death Valley can be hot and dry. Below is a look at snow in the mountains from satellite.
- When the temperature decreases with an increase in elevation are called the normal lapse rate. At times, the situation is reversed and the normal lapse rate

is inverted. It is called inversion of temperature. Eg. Sea breeze, land breeze, Fog, etc.

- Mountain weather conditions also change drastically. For example, the weather could be clear blue skies, then a thunderstorm minutes later. The temperature can also go from being extremely hot to below freezing.

Important mountain ranges affecting local weather patterns:

- Andes act as a large wall between the Pacific Ocean and the continent, they have a tremendous impact on weather in the region.
- The northern part of the Andes is typically rainy and warm, and the weather is also wet in the eastern part of central Andes, and the area to the southwest. The mountains form a rain cover over the eastern plains of Argentina, which have extremely dry weather.
- The Rocky Mountains cast a fairly substantial rain shadow - a dry area on the leeward side of the mountain range, where wind does not hit, which forms because the mountains block rain-producing weather systems and create a metaphorical shadow of dryness.
- The Great Dividing Range blocks the flow of moist air coming from the Tasman Sea. This creates rain over the range and reduces the amount of rainfall in inland regions west of the range.
- The Himalayas have a profound effect on the climate of the Indian subcontinent and the Tibetan Plateau. They prevent frigid, dry winds from blowing south into the subcontinent, which keeps South Asia much warmer than corresponding temperate regions in the other continents.
- The Atlas Range causes a rain shadow effect, preventing the areas beyond the mountains from receiving much rainfall. During the winter months, the highest peaks of the Atlas Mountains are among the few parts of Africa to see snow.

Conclusion

The mountain ranges of the world provide essential ecosystem-based services to global communities as well as inspiration and enjoyment to millions. Therefore, the challenge is to sustainably manage mountain regions to avoid degradation and avoid subsequent increases in poverty and hunger among communities.

16. What is your opinion on recent decision of the government to allow foreign universities to open their campuses in India ? Critically comment.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write their opinion on recent govt decision on opening foreign university campuses in India and examine it critically .

Introduction

The government and the University Grants Commission's decision to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome move. The initiative will not only

provide access to our students to global quality education but create healthy competition between institutions.

Body

The Indian government is set to welcome foreign universities — such as Harvard, Oxford and Yale to India.

- Foreign universities ranked in the Top 500 globally, as well as other "reputed" foreign higher education institutions, can set up campus in India — as outlined in the country's National Education Policy (NEP), which was adopted in 2020.
- Unveiling the plans last week, University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman pointed out that foreign universities with Indian campuses can only offer full-time programs "offline" and not online or through distance learning.

Pros -

- The government and the University Grants Commission's decision to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome move.
- The initiative will not only provide access to our students to global quality education but create healthy competition between institutions.
- In this milieu, professionalization of the functioning of HEIs has become a top priority for Indian universities.
- Other challenges facing Indian higher education include coping with demographic structures, poor performance, adherence to traditional systems, digital divide, and struggles in scaling up. Over-centralization and a lack of accountability and professionalism are the other issues.
- The burden of academic and administrative responsibilities has also significantly increased, diluting the core agenda of higher education, i.e., imparting knowledge, quality teaching and research, lack of domain expertise in academic administrators in improving governance structures has also hindered the progress of education reforms.
- A primary reason management reforms are not prioritized in India is that university leadership and academic administrators may not have the domain expertise to improve the internal governance structures, processes, and managerial approaches.
- Meanwhile, the uncertainty over higher education funding, ever-increasing student enrolment, global competition, the continuation of conventional systems, prioritizing digitization and the continuing marketisation of higher education signal the need for complete modernization and professionalization of higher education institutions systems.

Cons -

- A report by India-based business consulting firm Red seer on higher education abroad estimates that the number of Indian students opting for higher education abroad grew from 440,000 in 2016, to 770,000 in 2019. That is set to grow to around 1.8 million by 2024.
- Overseas spending was poised to grow from current annual \$28 billion to \$80 billion (€18.5 billion to €74 billion) annually by 2024.
- Many students opt to go abroad for the experience, and for the income opportunity overseas which is not available in India.

- However, some educators are not sure how much of an impact the move will have, and believe the more immediate need is to reform the current university system, where individuality is suppressed.
- It isn't clear that the top foreign institutions that are being targeted by this scheme would have any interest in coming to India, nor that the current political situation is conducive to their doing .
- Currently, the space for any independent, critical analysis has been considerably restricted. This would certainly be on the minds of those who lead the foreign universities that are being invited here.
- Establishing universities and campuses is a challenging proposition, not to mention developing courses, creating research facilities, hiring faculty workers and relocating international workers, among other considerations.
- The new regulation allows the foreign institution free play, and they are given more freedom, which is not given to the Indian institution
- "For instance, they can fix their fees, the admission norms, and have full freedom in faculty appointments
- The decision by the UGC to permit foreign universities to establish branches in India will "harm" the nation's higher education system.
- "The policy will harm, dilute and destroy the Indian higher education system, leading to commercialization.
- This decision will make education expensive and Dalits, minorities and the poor will be adversely affected. The decision is a reflection of the government's pro-rich approach," it said.
- Setting up of foreign universities here was unavoidable in the age of globalization, and given that the barriers for exchange of goods, services and ideas is happening it was inevitable that education would be the last frontier, where all barriers would be dismantled.

Conclusion

The proposal in the New Education Policy 2020 to allow foreign universities to set up offshore campuses in India can significantly alter the dynamics of higher education in India. It can also save India significant amounts of foreign exchange and, over time, also become a source of foreign exchange earnings if overseas students also choose to enrol at these campuses.

17. Critically assess the efforts of the central government in recent years to address extreme hunger and malnutrition in India.

Approach

Start with basic intro with referring to the scramble of Africa try to analyze how it led to the competition among European powers.

Introduction

In a bid to tackle malnutrition and hunger, government working with several programmes like MDM, POSHAN and POSHAN Atlas ensuring the nutrition of children, women, and pregnant mothers in impoverished areas and the government seems to be looking at community management of the problem.

Body

Efforts of central government to address extreme hunger and malnutrition:

- Cash transfers seem to be a favoured solution for several social sector interventions which includes the health and nutrition sectors. Example: use of JAM trinity (Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar, Mobile).
- Targeting the right beneficiaries: i.e pregnant women and families with children under the age of five is possible.
- Expanding choice at the household level: They make decisions on what to put on their plates.
- Food Fortification: Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- National Nutrition Strategy: The Strategy aims to reduce all forms of malnutrition by 2030, with a focus on the most vulnerable and critical age groups.
- Saksham Anganwadi: It seeks to work with adolescent girls, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children below three.
- Child stunting in India declined from 54.2% in 1998–2002 to 34.7% in 2016–2020, whereas child wasting remains around 17% throughout the two decades of the 21st century.
- Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, wasting from 21.0% to 19.3% and underweight prevalence is down from 35.8% to 32.1%.

Failure of government efforts:

- India already has two robust national programmes addressing malnutrition the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) and the National Health Mission but these do not yet reach enough people.
- Despite several efforts as per NFHS-5, from 2019 to 21, 35.5% of children under the age of five had stunting, 19.3% had wasted, and 32.1% had an underweight condition.
- Regarding its global standing as a crucial indication of human development, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 has handed India more dismal news. India came in at position 107 out of 121.
- The delivery system is also inadequate and plagued by inefficiency and corruption. Some analysts estimate that 40 per cent of the subsidised food never reaches the intended recipients.
- The current policies have encouraged modern agri-food systems to price healthy diets many times more than diets that rely on staple cereals.

- These restrictions have made low-cost foods with a high energy density and little nutritious value more popular.
- Pulses are a major contributor to address protein hunger. However, there is not enough budgetary allocations done to tackle the problem.
- With Eggs missing from menus of Mid-day Meals in various States, an easy way to improve protein intake is lost.
- Though the government has surplus of foodgrains, there is calorific deficiency because the allocation and distribution is not proper. Even the yearly budget allocated is not fully utilised.

Way forward

- Getting schemes right: It requires greater involvement of local government and local community groups in the design and delivery of tailored nutrition interventions.
- A comprehensive programme targeting adolescent girls is required if the intergenerational nature of malnutrition is to be tackled.
- Child nutrition: The need of the hour is to make addressing child malnutrition the top priority of the government machinery, and all year around.
- Convergence with other Schemes: Nutrition goes beyond just food, with economic, health, water, sanitation, gender perspectives and social norms contributing to better nutrition.

18. With the help of suitable examples, describe the significance of digital technologies to improve the efficacy of public services.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by basic definition digital governance with use of technologies. Also try to substantiate with relevant examples.

Introduction

Use of digital technology to perform government activities and achieve the objectives of public services is done at huge level in India. Through e-governance, government services are made available to citizens and businesses in a convenient, efficient and transparent manner.

Body

Digital technology in governance and public service:

- Digital technologies have made it easier to collect and collate data and convert it into meaningful information using various algorithms. For example: Different surveys like census, NFHS etc. for deciding policy intervention.
- Digital technology can enable data sharing and monitoring in real time, helping in identifying bottlenecks and undertaking necessary reforms. For example: online dashboards for tracking status of project implementation.

Different digital governance programmes improving efficacy of public service:

- UIDAI collects minimal biometric data in the form of iris and fingerprints. This has helped to exclude bogus beneficiaries of government schemes and eligible beneficiaries are targeted well hence quality of Service delivery system has improved immensely.
- Digital Saksharta Abhiyan or National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) Scheme has been formulated to impart IT training to 52.5 lakh persons, including Anganwadi, ASHA workers and authorised ration dealers in all the States/UTs across the country.
- The initiative aims at training non-IT literate citizens to become IT literate to enable their active and effective participation in the democratic, developmental process, and enhance their livelihood too.
- The NAM Portal provides a single window service for all APMC related information and services. This includes commodity arrivals and prices, buy and sell trade offers and provision to respond to trade offers, among other services.
- e-Granthalaya is an Integrated Library Management Software developed by National Informatics Centre, (NIC), Department of Electronics & Information Technology. The application is useful for automation of in-house activities of libraries and to provide various online member services.
- eBiz is being implemented by Infosys Technologies Limited (Infosys) under the guidance and aegis of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The focus of eBiz is to improve the business environment in the country by enabling fast and efficient access to Government-to-Business (G2B) services through an online portal.
- DigiYatra has started facial recognition for airport entry on trial basis in the Hyderabad airport. DigiYatra intends to offer air passengers a “seamless, hassle-free and paperless journey experience.

Conclusion

With the penetration of technology in the hands of a layman, e-governance aims to empower citizens with service delivery without time delay and in effective manner. India is emerging as the country with highest monthly internet usage. The more steps need to be taken to increase the penetration of services in effective and efficient manner.

19. What is your opinion on recent decision of the government to allow foreign universities to open their campuses in India ? Critically comment.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write their opinion on recent govt decision on opening foreign university campuses in India and examine it critically .

Introduction

The government and the University Grants Commission's decision to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India is a welcome move. The initiative will not only

provide access to our students to global quality education but create healthy competition between institutions.

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The Indian government is set to welcome foreign universities — such as Harvard, Oxford and Yale to India.

- Foreign universities ranked in the Top 500 globally, as well as other "reputed" foreign higher education institutions, can set up campus in India — as outlined in the country's National Education Policy (NEP), which was adopted in 2020.
- Unveiling the plans last week, University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman pointed out that foreign universities with Indian campuses can only offer full-time programs "offline" and not online or through distance learning.
- A panel shall assess each application on merits, including the credibility of the educational institutions, the programs to be offered, their potential to strengthen educational opportunities in India, and the proposed academic infrastructure, and make recommendations.
- Foreign universities will also be able to control the admissions procedure, the cost of attendance and the repatriation of their cash.
- However, they will need to ensure the quality of education taught at their Indian campuses is on a par with the standard of teaching at their main foreign locations, according to the UGC.

Will Indian students stay in India

- Officials in the UGC said that some universities from Europe had already expressed an interest in establishing Indian campuses, and that the government was holding exploratory talks with other embassies and foreign delegates.
- India has more than 1,000 universities and 42,000 colleges. But despite being home to one of the world's largest higher education systems, India's gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education is just 27.1% — among the world's lowest.
- The outflow of students to universities abroad has skyrocketed in recent years. Better educational quality and outcomes abroad have driven the increase, as well as factors such as higher standards of living, gaps in the Indian education system leading to a supply-demand imbalance, and upward income mobility of Indian households.
- A report by India-based business consulting firm Red seer on higher education abroad estimates that the number of Indian students opting for higher education abroad grew from 440,000 in 2016, to 770,000 in 2019. That is set to grow to around 1.8 million by 2024.
- Overseas spending was poised to grow from current annual \$28 billion to \$80 billion (€18.5 billion to €74 billion) annually by 2024.
- Many students opt to go abroad for the experience, and for the income opportunity overseas which is not available in India.

Mixed reactions

- However, some educators are not sure how much of an impact the move will have, and believe the more immediate need is to reform the current university system, where individuality is suppressed.

- "It isn't clear that the top foreign institutions that are being targeted by this scheme would have any interest in coming to India, nor that the current political situation is conducive to their doing .
- Currently, the space for any independent, critical analysis has been considerably restricted. This would certainly be on the minds of those who lead the foreign universities that are being invited here.

Free reign' for foreign universities

- Establishing universities and campuses is a challenging proposition, not to mention developing courses, creating research facilities, hiring faculty workers and relocating international workers, among other considerations.
- The new regulation allows the foreign institution free play, and they are given more freedom, which is not given to the Indian institution.
- "For instance, they can fix their fees, the admission norms, and have full freedom in faculty appointments.

Undermining the system

- The decision by the UGC to permit foreign universities to establish branches in India will "harm" the nation's higher education system.
- "The policy will harm, dilute and destroy the Indian higher education system, leading to commercialization.
- This decision will make education expensive and Dalits, minorities and the poor will be adversely affected. The decision is a reflection of the government's pro-rich approach," it said.
- Setting up of foreign universities here was unavoidable in the age of globalization, and given that the barriers for exchange of goods, services and ideas is happening it was inevitable that education would be the last frontier, where all barriers would be dismantled.

Conclusion

India won't realize the world leader aspiration by inviting prestigious foreign universities to locate campuses, instead of enabling the creation of international campuses of universities from developed countries, we need to focus on becoming a global higher education destination in our own right.

20. Critically assess the efforts of the central government in recent years to address extreme hunger and malnutrition in India.

Approach

Start with basic intro with referring to the scramble of Africa try to analyze how it led to the competition among European powers.

Introduction

In a bid to tackle malnutrition and hunger, government working with several programmes like MDM, POSHAN and POSHAN Atlas ensuring the nutrition of children,

women, and pregnant mothers in impoverished areas and the government seems to be looking at community management of the problem.

Body

Efforts of central government to address extreme hunger and malnutrition:

- Cash transfers seem to be a favoured solution for several social sector interventions which includes the health and nutrition sectors. Example: use of JAM trinity (Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar, Mobile).
- Targeting the right beneficiaries: i.e pregnant women and families with children under the age of five is possible.
- Expanding choice at the household level: They make decisions on what to put on their plates.
- Food Fortification: Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- National Nutrition Strategy: The Strategy aims to reduce all forms of malnutrition by 2030, with a focus on the most vulnerable and critical age groups.
- Saksham Anganwadi: It seeks to work with adolescent girls, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children below three.
- Child stunting in India declined from 54.2% in 1998–2002 to 34.7% in 2016–2020, whereas child wasting remains around 17% throughout the two decades of the 21st century.

Failure of government efforts:

- India already has two robust national programmes addressing malnutrition the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) and the National Health Mission but these do not yet reach enough people.
- The delivery system is also inadequate and plagued by inefficiency and corruption. Some analysts estimate that 40 per cent of the subsidised food never reaches the intended recipients.
- The current policies have encouraged modern agri-food systems to price healthy diets many times more than diets that rely on staple cereals.
- These restrictions have made low-cost foods with a high energy density and little nutritious value more popular.
- Pulses are a major contributor to address protein hunger. However, there is not enough budgetary allocations done to tackle the problem.
- With Eggs missing from menus of Mid-day Meals in various States, an easy way to improve protein intake is lost.
- Though the government has surplus of foodgrains, there is calorific deficiency because the allocation and distribution is not proper. Even the yearly budget allocated is not fully utilised.

Way forward

- Getting schemes right: It requires greater involvement of local government and local community groups in the design and delivery of tailored nutrition interventions.
- A comprehensive programme targeting adolescent girls is required if the intergenerational nature of malnutrition is to be tackled.
- Child nutrition: The need of the hour is to make addressing child malnutrition the top priority of the government machinery, and all year around.
- Convergence with other Schemes: Nutrition goes beyond just food, with economic, health, water, sanitation, gender perspectives and social norms contributing to better nutrition.

21. With the help of suitable examples, describe the significance of digital technologies to improve the efficacy of public services.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by basic definition digital governance with use of technologies. Also try to substantiate with relevant examples.

Introduction

Use of digital technology to perform government activities and achieve the objectives of public services is done at huge level in India. Through e-governance, government services are made available to citizens and businesses in a convenient, efficient and transparent manner.

Body

Digital technology in governance and public service:

- Digital technologies have made it easier to collect and collate data and convert it into meaningful information using various algorithms. For example: Different surveys like census, NFHS etc. for deciding policy intervention.
- Digital technology can enable data sharing and monitoring in real time, helping in identifying bottlenecks and undertaking necessary reforms. For example: online dashboards for tracking status of project implementation.

Different digital governance programmes improving efficacy of public service:

- UIDAI collects minimal biometric data in the form of iris and fingerprints. This has helped to exclude bogus beneficiaries of government schemes and eligible beneficiaries are targeted well hence quality of Service delivery system has improved immensely.
- Digital Saksharta Abhiyan or National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) Scheme has been formulated to impart IT training to 52.5 lakh persons, including Anganwadi, ASHA workers and authorised ration dealers in all the States/UTs across the country.

- The initiative aims at training non-IT literate citizens to become IT literate to enable their active and effective participation in the democratic, developmental process, and enhance their livelihood too.
- The NAM Portal provides a single window service for all APMC related information and services. This includes commodity arrivals and prices, buy and sell trade offers and provision to respond to trade offers, among other services.
- e-Granthalaya is an Integrated Library Management Software developed by National Informatics Centre, (NIC), Department of Electronics & Information Technology. The application is useful for automation of in-house activities of libraries and to provide various online member services.
- eBiz is being implemented by Infosys Technologies Limited (Infosys) under the guidance and aegis of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The focus of eBiz is to improve the business environment in the country by enabling fast and efficient access to Government-to-Business (G2B) services through an online portal.
- DigiYatra has started facial recognition for airport entry on trial basis in the Hyderabad airport. DigiYatra intends to offer air passengers a “seamless, hassle-free and paperless journey experience.

Conclusion

With the penetration of technology in the hands of a layman, e-governance aims to empower citizens with service delivery without time delay and in effective manner. India is emerging as the country with highest monthly internet usage. The more steps need to be taken to increase the penetration of services in effective and efficient manner.

22. How have recent policy changes, such as the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the Ayushman Bharat scheme, affected access to basic necessities and healthcare for vulnerable groups? Critically examine.

Approach

Start with basic intro on both the schemes or start with recent changes and then as per demand of question provide both of the arguments.

Introduction

The recent decision of free foodgrains to all 81 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) till December 2023 and to include more health packages in Ayushman Bharat considered beneficial for poor Indian.

Body

Advantage of recent changes:

- The beneficiaries will now get 35kg of foodgrains free for the next one year and others will get 5kg for free in a month till December 2023.

- Merger of PMGKAY: The center has also decided to discontinue the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and it has now been merged with the NFSA.
- Unemployment remains at record levels and there is widespread hunger among vulnerable communities. The government extending PMGKAY and also universalise the public distribution system itself, so that anyone in need would receive food support regardless of whether they possessed a ration card or not.
- Ayushman bharat helps reduce catastrophic expenditure for hospitalizations, which pushes 6 crore people into poverty each year. Helps mitigate the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.
- At a time when the world was battling with the effects of Covid on its decline and insecurity due to various reasons, India has been successfully maintaining food security and health security with these schemes for its vulnerable sections while taking necessary steps to keep availability and affordability for the common man.
- Policymakers and experts concede that the extension of schemes will make a difference to food security and public health post pandemic situation.
- It has been observed that “the social safety net provided by the expansion of India’s food subsidy program and unified health scheme absorbed a major part of the pandemic shock.

Critical assessment of changes and overall schemes:

- Political-election freebies: In the months prior to the latest extension made in late September 2022, there was much debate on the relevance of freebies. Critics point out that the scheme’s extension is with an eye on the elections in 2023.
- Expensive: It’s very expensive for the government to sustain and increases the need for an abundant supply health service and cheap grains. In 2022, India has had to restrict exports of wheat and rice after erratic weather hurt harvest, adding to pressure on food prices, and rattling global agricultural markets.
- Increase Fiscal Deficit: It could pose a risk to the government’s target to further narrow the fiscal deficit to 6.4% of gross domestic product.
- Inadequate Health Capacities: The ill-equipped public sector health capacities calls for necessary partnerships and coalitions with private sector providers. In such circumstances, the provision of services can be ensured only if the providers are held accountable for their services.
- The Expenditure Department at the Centre did not favour it, citing a funds crunch. It also held the view that such a scheme was no longer needed “in non-pandemic times”.

Conclusion

Even in regular times, access to nutritious food and health security is essential. Pandemic or not, access to affordable and safe food and health should not be an uncertainty for any section of the society.

23. How effective are existing legal frameworks, such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in preventing and punishing discrimination and violence against vulnerable groups? Is there room for improvement? If yes, what? Explain.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by writing basics on PoA or its objective and also highlight the effectiveness of the act in curbing the discrimination also write the drawbacks with some suggestions to improve in the end.

Introduction

The Act lists various offenses relating to various patterns or behaviours inflicting criminal offenses and breaking the self-respect and esteem of the scheduled castes and tribes' community, which includes denial of economic, democratic, and social rights, discrimination, exploitation, and abuse of the legal process.

Body

PoA, was enacted to protect the marginalized communities against discrimination and atrocities:

- Awareness: The POA has improved awareness regarding different types of atrocities faced by SCs and STs = ensured the reduction in the crime rate because of resultant legal punishment.
- Change in Mindset: The act has created a positive change in the mindset of upper caste towards SCs and STs.
- Empowerment: POA has improved the political participation of Dalits. SCs and STs are now able to avail better education and health facilities without much discrimination. The act has helped Dalits economically by increasing access to grants and finances from the government without any discrimination. Thus, the act has ensured the inclusive development of the Indian economy.
- Ensuring rights: The act has increased awareness among SC/ST about various rights provided by the constitution. The act has ensured Right to Equality as guaranteed under the Fundamental Rights of Indian Constitution. The act has helped in protecting the unique identity and traditional practices of these communities.

Some of the facts that raise questions over the effectiveness of the SC/ST PoA Act:

- POA act is among the most misused laws in India. Many use this act to settle a personal score or to defame some innocent person.
- Increase in crimes: As per the NCRB report, 2019, Crimes against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities increased by 7.3% and 26.5% respectively in 2019.
- State-wise: Uttar Pradesh has the most number of cases of crime against SCs – 11,829 cases, which is 25.8% of the total such cases in the country followed by Rajasthan with 6,794 cases (14.8% of all cases), Bihar (14.2%), and Madhya Pradesh (11.5%).

- Conviction rate: According to a status report on the implementation of the PoA Act, released by the National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ), over the decade prior to 2018, the average conviction rate under (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for cases of atrocities against Dalits and Adivasis remained at 25.2% and 22.8% respectively.
- Legal system: Consequently, there has been a huge backlog of cases pertaining to atrocity crimes and a slow process of resolving them. The Special Courts are not adequately resourced.

Scope of improvement:

- Registration of Cases: Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) should be developed for filing and investigating cases so that there is no confusion or doubt among the investigators about the procedure to be followed.
- Training and Capacity building of judges, lawyers, and policemen is required in these types of cases
- Prosecution: Successful prosecution of genuine cases by the lawyers must be rewarded.
- Research: There is a requirement for research into the types of punishment, as an alternative to imprisonment that can prevent future crimes by individuals or communities.

Conclusion

Laws alone cannot realize the vision of our constitution-makers it requires the educational and economic advancement of the backward communities like SCs and STs in India and educational reforms all over the country so that root cause of the discrimination can be dealt with.

24. What measures can be taken to improve accountability and transparency of welfare schemes for vulnerable populations. And ensure that resources allocated for these schemes reach their intended beneficiaries? Share your thoughts.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write their thoughts on what measures can be taken to improve accountability and transparency for welfare schemes for vulnerable population and ensure that schemes reach their intended beneficiaries .

Introduction

India is considered to be a welfare state and government bring schemes that play a crucial role in solving many socioeconomic problems in Indian society, however measures need to taken to improve accountability and transparency in these schemes and ensuring that these schemes reached to intended beneficiaries.

Body

Measures need to taken to fix accountability and transparency -

- Need to change the economic policies with a focused plan both in terms of expenditure and implementation.
- The policies are made in ministries but implemented at the state, district, and village levels. Hence, there is a need to strengthen grassroots governance.
- Also, proper feedback should be channelized to the policymakers to modify the systemic flaws.
- The need of the hour is to simplify procedures, incentivize performance, reduce red-tape, and make the best use of technology to achieve the desired goals.
- A similar type of central and state schemes can be merged, to ensure better convergence and avoid leakage.
- All the major welfare programs need to be gender-sensitive.
- The government must ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out and those who don't require must be removed, by using technology like AI, big data, etc.
- Human development could be achieved only when the fruits of welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries.
- India could see growth in many aspects only when the eligible beneficiaries were able to reap the benefits of the welfare scheme introduced by the Union and State governments.
- There is a general consensus that transparency - a situation in which information about a decision-making process is made publicly available and can easily be verified both in terms of the rules and the identities of the decision makers - increases the probability of detection of corruption.
- Furthermore, transparency allows detection (and reduces the likelihood of corrupt behaviour) because it lowers the information barrier, allowing for scrutiny and monitoring. Transparency also deters corruption by increasing the chances of getting caught
- Proactive publishing of information by the government and simplifying administrative procedures are additional ways of promoting transparency that go beyond the traditional access to information practices.

Recent Initiatives for Improving Monitoring of Various Schemes-

- There has been a shift to a sector-wide approach as opposed to creating schemes in silos, uniting similar schemes and a greater role for states in implementation which has enhanced the efficacy of schemes.
- Bottlenecks in delivery have also been addressed with the increased use of technology in monitoring (Garv and Swacchh Bharat dashboards), fixing accountability (PRAGATI) and broadening public interaction (MyGoV).
- Proactive communication, including the prime minister's involvement through social media and his radio programme, has increased awareness about and participation in many welfare schemes.

Way Forward -

- The core administrative and governance inefficiencies in social protection programs should be addressed to improve the impact of economic growth on social and welfare indicators. This can be achieved without large enhancement of social welfare budgets and also lead to improved efficiency.

Conclusion

The poor implementation of social schemes in the State have resulted in wasteful government expenditure and limited access to beneficiaries, government entitlements should reach all intended beneficiaries, without leaving anyone out. But the government will have to bridge two major gaps in the country's social protection delivery in order to achieve it: information and accountability.

25. What were the main causes and events of the French Revolution, and how did it shape the course of modern European history?

Approach

Candidates can start the answer by giving idea of French revolution and as per demand simply write causes political, social, religious and economic also highlight prominent events. In the write about how it led the modernism in Europe.

Introduction

French Revolution was an important chapter in the history of Europe. It marked a turning point in the history of humankind. The French Revolution put an end to the age-old absolute monarchy, feudal laws and social inequality. For the first time ideas like "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" were introduced.

Body

Causes and events:

Political:

- Despotism: From 1553 there was the despotism of the Bourbon dynasty in France. The complete centralization of power alienated all sections of the society.
- The incompetence of Louis XVI: From his accession in 1774, Louis XVI had faced a worsening financial situation, compounded by the money and troops sent to assist the Americans in the war against Britain.

Religious:

- Luxurious Clergies: The clergies of France were included in the upper class. They hardly paid any taxes and had strict controls on people social life. However, Clergy and their institutions were rampant with immoral activities which angered the common people.
- Roman Catholics and their monopoly: Reformist Protestants were minorities. Since they advocated reforms, the clergy persecuted them and even charged them with blasphemy.

Economic:

- Feudal economy: The government did nothing to improve farming, feudal too neglected it and exploited farmers. The sustained neglect was the main cause of the Serfs revolt against the king.

- Unsatisfied merchants: There was ample mineral wealth in France. Many rivers like Sen, Rhone, Loire and Atlantic, the Mediterranean seashore was useful for the development of trade. However, due to uncertain taxation and legal hurdles merchants were highly dissatisfied with the monarchy.

Events:

- After being locked out of the meeting of the Estates-General, they moved to an indoor tennis court where they pledged the so-called Tennis Court Oath, vowing to remain there until a new constitution had been written.
- France was proclaimed a constitutional monarchy, while the National Assembly was dissolved and replaced by a new political body named the Legislative Assembly.

Modern Europe due impact of French revolution:

- Nation State: Napoleon carried ideals of the Revolution to the rest of Europe: Liberty, Modern Laws, Democratic Rights, protection of private property. This, in turn, gave rise to Modern Nationalism paving way creation of the sovereign nation-state.
- Declaration of rights of man: The constitutional assembly came out with the document of human rights which granted political liberty, like freedom of speech, press, association, worship, and ownership of property.
- Revolutionary ideas: The revolution gave birth to the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity in Europe. These ideas started in France and spread to other areas like Italy, Germany, etc. promoting equality, freedom and democracy, and good governance.
- Political Parties: These parties kept the government under check and balance by criticizing bad policies.

Conclusion

Thus, the importance of the French Revolution laid in laying the foundation of Modern States based on Liberal Democratic ideals. Also, indirectly it laid the groundwork for the growth of Socialism and Communism by providing an intellectual and social environment in which these ideologies could flourish.

26. What are the key factors that contributed to the decolonisation process and how did it affect the political ,economic and social structure's of newly independent countries ?

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about factors that contributed to the decolonization process and how did it affect the political economic and social structure of newly independent countries .

Introduction

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

Body

Factors led to decolonization post world war II-

- Lack of resources: After World War II many nations had financial crunch, ran out of financial resources, and bad administration which no longer could help them maintain colonies.
- Freedom movements: Many independence movements started in colonial states. Many countries took the advantage of that.
- Education and literature: Education and western literatures gave room for rational thinking and independence thoughts.
- Third world: Many exploited and ignored states came together to oppose Imperialism.
- Non-aligned movement: Nehru from India, Tito the communist leader from Yugoslavia, Nasser from Egypt successfully opposed French and British imperial powers.
- Establishment of United Nations: United nations put pressure on imperial countries like UK, France to provide independence to colonies. Nation-state has been accepted as ideal form of political organization.
- New international economic order: In 1961, non-aligned movement was followed by formation of United Nations conference on trade and development (UNCTD) which tried to promote new international economic order. It emphasized the importance of under developed countries.
- Cold war: United States and USSR pressurized European allies to give independence and free them.
- Atlantic charter (1941): it stated that people should have the right to choose their own government.
- Influence from newly decolonized countries: Many states were influenced from the neighbouring countries for decolonization and they had mutual support.
- Social causes: various films, books, museum displayed the impact of colonization which rose national feeling and patriotism among colonies.
- Neo-colonialism started: practice of using capitalism and globalization by their power and administration

Impact On Economy

- Newly independent African states were found to need to upgrade their economic systems. Additionally, even though the former colonies were now legally independent, they remained largely reliant on the West for assistance in building their political and economic institutions. As a result, western corporations continued to exert considerable influence over the new states.
- In order to finance their own growth, newly independent republics borrowed money from Western nations, which led to the creation of a new debt system.

- The major point of contention is that, even in the absence of explicit governmental controls, the interaction between more and less developed economies tends to accentuate the gap between them.
- Dependence on foreign money has been argued to impede long-term economic growth and, more broadly, to influence the social, political, and economic makeup of the dependent country.
- Despite these concerns, it is clear that decolonization entails a fundamental shift in the systems that govern international trade, particularly in the post-World War II era.
- Modern states have widely recognized rights to regulate economic activity within their borders, including the ability to nationalise industries with foreign ownership and renegotiate agreements with multinational businesses.

Social Schism:

- Each country contained a number of different tribes which had united in the nationalist struggle for freedom. However, as soon as the Europeans withdrew, their allegiance shifted back to their respective tribes thus leading to fissiparous tendencies within the nations. For eg. in Nigeria, the Congo (Zaire), Burundi and Rwanda, tribal differences became so intense that it led to civil wars.

Political Problems:

- African politicians lacked experience of working with the system of parliamentary democracy left behind by the Europeans. Most African leaders who had taken part in Guerrilla campaigns before independence were influenced by Marxist ideas, which often led them to set up one-party States as the only way to achieve progress.
- Politically, many countries have been unable to pay off this debt for decades, therefore it still persists. Decolonization's effects on broader ideas of international dominance or injustice are hotly debated. Dependency and world systems theorists envisioned decolonization as causing the change in the mere form, but not the content, of core-periphery connections.

Conclusion

One of the most important effects of decolonization is the instability of the post-colonial political systems, which entails another, far-reaching consequences. These include deep economic problems, inhibiting growth and widening disparities between the northern and southern part of the globe

27. How have different political philosophies such as communism, capitalism and socialism influenced the Socio-economic and political development of various countries around the world ?Analyse with the help of suitable examples .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how communism socialism and capitalism influenced Socio-economic and political developments in various countries around the world . Analyse these developments with examples .

Introduction

Political philosophies are the ideals that help us to understand the reasons for the actions taken up by the people in a particular course of time, which impacted the global political setup.

Body

Political philosophy is concerned with the concepts and arguments involved in political opinion. Many types of political ideologies have taken shape over hundreds out of which we will be discussing three philosophies that have played significant roles in the modern world- communism, socialism, and capitalism.

- These political philosophies have impacted society in major ways and resulted in pertinent historical changes in the world.

Capitalism-

- In a capitalist system, the factories fuel the economy, and a wealthy few own the factories. This created the need for a large number of people to work for the factory owners. In this environment, the wealthy few exploited the labourers, who had to labour to live.

Effect of capitalism on society-

- Capitalism ensures economic growth as it empowers both manufacturers and consumers and keeps money in rotation.
- It ensures the accessibility of goods and services at a competitive price and helps to improve the standard of living in the country.
- Capitalism paved the way for LPG reforms in the world and provided opportunities for the labor force to opt for global employment opportunities, which have further shrunk the global boundaries.
- America, England, Germany are capitalist countries and their system leads to unequal distribution of wealth- rich get richer and poor get poorer.
- In this system exploitation of resources leads to detrimental effect on environment.
- The market system fosters competition that generally produces the most efficient allocation of resources.
- In pure capitalism, also known as laissez-faire capitalism, the government's role is restricted to providing and enforcing the rules of law by which the economy operates, but it does not interfere with the market. (Laissez-faire means "let it be.")
- In laissez-faire capitalism, businesses become free to form monopolies or oligopolies, which reduces competition, and thereby reduces the advantages of capitalism. Instead, a plutocracy is created, where the wealthy rule the economy for their own benefit.
- With climate crisis posing a grave threat to our collective future, millions living below the poverty line, the economic and social shocks of the corona virus pandemic and unemployment wave still reverberating, Gen Z and Millennials say they have grown increasingly disillusioned with capitalism.

Socialism-

- Socialism is a political and economic ideology that believes in the public ownership of means of production and distribution based on a plan formulated by a central authority.

Effect of socialism on society-

- Cuba Laos followed Socialistic kind of economy this economy and Creates a welfare society where all the basic needs of people (food, clothes, and shelter) are fulfilled by the State at very affordable prices.
- Providing employment is the State's responsibility based on capabilities, education, and skills.
- This system leads to good development of health sectors for masses in Cuba and provides health professionals to south America.
- All the profits go to the State, which utilizes them for the well-being of the society by providing them with free education, improving public health amenities, ensuring social security, etc
- Socialists also seek to nationalize monopolies, which greatly enrich their owners at the expense of the people. However, unlike communism, most small or nonessential enterprises would remain privately owned. Also unlike the Communists, most socialists do not advocate violence or force to achieve their economic system.

Communism-

- In layman's terms, communism is the political system in which the community owns and controls entities like factories, farms, services, etc. intending to treat everyone equally.
- China and north Korea followed this system but later china mould it develop their own kind of communism which suits them.
- Communism is based on the goal of eliminating socioeconomic class struggles by creating a classless and stateless society in which everyone shares the benefits of labour and the community controls all property and wealth.
- In communist nations, the difference between the official claims and societal realities is different. The dictator government controls the information and every sort of communication channel that cut-offs the society from the outer world.
- Although Marx and Engels believed that property should belong to society, they did not really give much thought to how economic decisions would be made. Eg)- Communist countries, particularly Russia and China, decided on a centrally planned economy (command economy).
- Another major feature of communist economies was their emphasis on the country's self-reliance, discouraging international trade and investment.

Conclusion

Communism backs full control of the Government across all standards of production and other resources; Socialism exercises adaptable forms of controlling the State, and Capitalism supports a free market and overall economy without the involvement of the State. All three have an individual effect on society as well as various forms impact the welfare of the society.

28. In what ways has globalization contributed to the empowerment or disempowerment of marginalized communities in India? Examine.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer giving idea of globalisation and then examine both side of arguments as per the demand of question.

Introduction

Globalization is a process of increasing interdependence, interconnectedness and integration of economies and societies to such an extent that an event in one part of the globe affects people in other parts of the world.

Body

Globalisation empowering the marginalized communities:

- With Secularisation of caste, rigid caste system is gradually giving way to relaxed norms. Inter-caste marriages, intermingling and socializing with marginalized castes is no longer regarded as a taboo.
- Globalisation as a new world economic order promises of more prosperity, progress and freedom for all for example, rise of Dalit capitalism also manifest this thought.
- Globalisation has helped in giving them voice through transmission of ideas from outside India. The increasing recognition outside has influenced their social movements in India. It is evident from NALSA judgement in which supreme court has realized the rights of transgenders.
- Globalisation has broadened the mindset of young people as people tend to avoid child marriages unlike the past. It has helped in intensifying the fight against child marriages, rise in widow remarriages.
- The basic tenets of Globalisation like openness, individualism, freedom etc., stand against the religious parochialism. It allows marginal communities to practice their religion and maintain gender neutrality.
- There is increasing level of work force participation by women. In the formal sector, setting up of various MNCs has helped in opening up of multiple economic pathways for women thus making them economically independent.
- Availability of study books and information on the internet due to Globalisation has increased tremendously which allows traditionally marginalized student to read on any topic of interest and pursue career in it.

Globalisation disempowering the marginalized communities:

- Globalization has increased the phenomena of cultural lag across India. Cultural lag is the idea that society has trouble keeping up with technological change. This results in a period of maladjustment and a failure to manage new risks.
- For example, with the advancement in medical technology, child sex ratio became adverse in India owing to sex selective methods.
- There is a rise in commodification and objectification of women due to rise in IT, social media tools which is influenced by the new value system.

- Globalisation has forced vulnerable castes towards informal sector doing menial jobs due to lack of requisite skills. For example, erstwhile untouchables have become manual scavengers.
- The pro-market stance of Globalisation has led to the widening of the gap between the privileged few and the large mass of the marginalized sections of the society including the SCs and Dalits.
- Lack of effective legal protection to the tribals and their involuntary displacements has eroded their sociocultural heritage in the form of language and culture.
- Due to Globalisation in agriculture, marginalized farmers are paying a heavy price for a better variety of imported seeds having resistance to diseases because of the patent rights imposed by WTO as highlighted by recent boll worm incident in case of cotton.
- Due to globalisation informal sector has led to contractualization of the labour which lacks affinity and turns exploitation of migrant labours, woman and different nomadic labourers.

Conclusion

Though it has helped in bringing a lot of benefit to Indian economy, it has also widened the gap between the rich and poor. There is need to imbibe Globalization judiciously by adopting the different facets incrementally so that social upheavals are wined off.

29. How has the concept and practice of secularism evolved in India and how has it been affected by global and domestic political developments .Analyse .

Approach-

In this question candidates need to write about how the concept of secularism has evolved in India , in second part of answer write about how its been affected by global and domestic political developments.

Introduction

Secularism is a doctrine where all religions are given equal status, recognition and support from the state or it can also be defined as a doctrine that promotes separation of state from religion.however global and domestic events created challenge before it

Body

Secularism in Ancient India-

- Before the arrival of Islam in the 12th century, followed by Mughal and colonials, Indian religions are known to have co-existed and evolved together for many centuries.
- In ancient India, the Sanatan Dharma (Hinduism) was basically allowed to develop as a holistic religion by welcoming different spiritual traditions and trying to integrate them into a common mainstream.

Secularism in Medieval India-

- In medieval India, the Sufi and Bhakti movements restored the secular character of Indian society. They spread the different facets of secularism like tolerance, a sense of brotherhood, universalism, harmony, and peace in society.
- The leading light of these movements were Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, Baba Farid, Saint Kabir Das, Guru Nanak Dev, Saint Tukaram, and Mira Bai.
- Religious toleration and freedom of worship marked the State under mughal emperor Akbar in medieval India.

Secularism in Modern India-

- British East India Company pursued the policy of divide and rule, even then the spirit of secularism was strengthened and enriched through the Indian freedom movement.
- The policy of “divide and rule” to some extent contributed to communal discord between various communities.
- In India, the first face of Secularism is reflected in the Preamble of India where the word ‘Secular’ is read.
- Indian Secularism is also reflected in its fundamental rights (Article 25-28) where it guarantees each of its citizens the right to practice any religion.
- With the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution of India (1976), the Preamble to the Constitution asserted that India is a “secular” nation.

Globalization led to enhanced secularization in India in following ways-

- Access to education-Globalization has aided in the explosion of information on the web that has helped in greater awareness among people about various religions, customs, practices and the concept of secularism itself. It also had led to questioning the age-old exploitative traditions like Devadasi and Triple-talaq.
- Employment-There is an increase in the number of multinational companies operating in India. MNC's recruit based on talent, not based on affiliation to religion or caste.
- The Teamwork concept in such companies promotes brotherhood between persons of different religions and enhances secularization.
- Urbanization-It has been estimated that by 2050 more than 50% of India's population will live in cities. The boom of services sector and city-centrist job creation has led to increasing rural to urban migration. It is observed that Urban areas are more secular than in rural areas. People eat together, increased instances of inter-faith marriages are seen in urban areas.
- Increased exposure to Different cultures:Globalization has increased the exposure of a variety of cultures and religions in the form of movies, festivals, cuisine. These all are increasing understanding of other religion from their lens.
- Globalization hasn't led to enhanced secularization in India:
- Communal Politics-As long as Political parties rely on Vote bank politics, instances of communal flareups continue to rise. The Gujarat riots of 2002, Muzzafarnagar riots of 2013 show that Globalization has no or very little impact on the secularization of India.
- Spread of Communal violence-Globalization made communal hatred and violence border less. Even peaceful countries such as New Zealand (Christ church attack), European countries like France, Britain etc., are victims of communal violence.

- Technology-Availability of technology is an outcome of Globalization, sometimes they act negatively as a means to spread religious fundamentalism. Eg.- Radicalization of youth by ISIS, Spread of fake news and resultant mob lynchings.
- These processes hinder secularization of India as a whole.

Challenges with India's Secularism -

- Mingling of Religion and Politics that is mobilization of votes on grounds of primordial identities like religion, caste and ethnicity, have put Indian secularism in danger.
- Communal politics operates through communalization of social space, by spreading myths and stereotypes against minorities, through attack on rational values and by practicing a divisive ideological propaganda and politics.
- Politicization of any one religious group leads to the competitive politicization of other groups, thereby resulting in inter-religious conflict.
- One of the manifestations of communalism is communal riots. In recent past also, communalism has proved to be a great threat to the secular fabric of Indian polity.
- Rise of Hindu Nationalism in recent years have resulted into mob lynching on mere suspicion of slaughtering cows and consuming beef.
- Islamic fundamentalism or revivalism pushes for establishing Islamic State based on sharia law which directly comes into conflict with conceptions of the secular and democratic state.
- In recent years there have been stray incidences of Muslim youth being inspired and radicalized by groups like ISIS which is very unfortunate for both India and world.

Way Ahead -

- There is need to shift focus from a politically-led Secularism project to a socially-driven movement for justice.
- Second, a shift of emphasis from inter-religious to intra-religious issues, without completely ignoring inter-religious issues

Conclusion

Indian secularism is not an end in itself but a means to address religious plurality and sought to achieve peaceful coexistence of different religions.

30. In what ways have social movements and grassroots organization contributed to the empowerment of marginalized communities ? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about what ways the social movements and grassroots organizations contributed to empowerment of marginalized communities, give some examples to explain it.

Introduction

Social movements are purposeful, organized groups striving to work toward a common goal. These groups might be attempting to create change, to resist change ,

or to provide a political voice to those otherwise disenfranchised . Social movements create social change and empowers marginalized communities .

Body

Social movements often arise with the aim of bringing about changes on a public issue, such as ensuring the right of the tribal population to use the forests or the right of displaced people to settlement and compensation.

- India has for the first time included marginalized communities as key focus areas in assessing the impact of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” While it is an urgent call with a global partnership recognising the ending poverty and deprivation such as reducing inequality, improving health and education.
- When Raja Rammohun Roy campaigned against sati and formed the Brahmo Samaj, defenders of sati formed Dharma Sabha and petitioned the British not to legislate against sati.
- Peasant movements have often been brutally suppressed. More recently the social movements of erstwhile excluded groups like the Dalits have often invoked retaliatory action. Likewise proposals for extending reservation in educational institutions have led to counter movements opposing them.
- Peasant movements or agrarian struggles have taken place from pre-colonial days. The movements in the period between 1858 and 1914 tended to remain localised, disjointed and confined to particular grievances.
- Well-known are the Bengal revolt of 1859-62 against the indigo plantation system and the ‘Deccan riots’ of 1857 against moneylenders.
- Some of these issues continued into the following period, and under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi became partially linked to the Independence movement. For instance, the Bardoli Satyagraha(1928, Surat District) a ‘non-tax’ campaign as part of the nationwide noncooperation movement, a campaign of refusal to pay land revenue and the Champaran Satyagraha (1917-18) directed against indigo plantations.
- The first organisation to be founded was the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha (1929) and in 1936 the AllIndia Kisan Sabha. The peasants organised by the Sabhas demanded freedom from economic exploitation for peasants, workers and all other exploited classes. At the time of Independence we had the two most classical cases of peasant movements, namely the Tebhaga movement and the Telangana movement (1946-51).
- ‘new farmer’s movements began in the 1970s in Punjab and Tamil Nadu. These movements were regionally organized, were non-party, and involved farmers rather than peasants (farmers are said to be market-involved as both commodity producers and purchasers).
- Novel methods of agitation were used: blocking of roads and railways, refusing politicians’ and bureaucrats’ entry to villages, and so on. It has been argued that the farmers’ movements have broadened their agenda and ideology and include environment and women’s issues. Therefore, they can be seen as a part of the worldwide ‘new social movements’.
- Middle class mass upheaval in Gujarat (popularly known as Navnirman movement) against corruption, price rise, unemployment, speculation, hoarding

and black-marketing in 1974 was replicated in Bihar in the name of Sampoorna Kranti Movement under the leadership of a Gandhian leader, Jay Prakash Narayan. The unprecedented strike of the railway workers gave proof of the political power of collective strength of the working class.

- Tribal people's struggles against destructive development which served the interests of the kulaks, moneylenders, contractors, bootleggers and indigenous industrialists thriving on the barbaric means of surplus extraction developed in Chhattisgarh, Singhbhum, Bhojpur, Srikakulam, Chandrapur, Dhulia and in the pockets of the North Eastern states.
- The tribal masses in Dhule region of Maharashtra demanded the Employment Guarantee Scheme in response to the 1974 drought paralysing normal agricultural activities. This historic demand revolutionised the thinking of the development workers about responsibility of the state at the time of economic crisis.

Grassroots organisations contributions for empowerment of marginalized communities -

- They are the first point of contact and are closely connected to the marginalized community they work with. This enables them to build a relationship of trust
- Deeper outreach of grassroots organizations and SHGs helps information dissemination easier. Moreover, most of them are women centric which provides opportunity to bring behavioral change since women have greater propensity to adapt towards environmental conservation.
- The intermediaries provide structure and resources, such as training, research, or assistance with advocacy, to help establish and maintain various efforts.
- Since local people are directly dependent on ecological resources such as forest produce, apiculture in local ponds, lakes, etc, they are more sensitive towards ecological conservation and should be given more authority of local development.
- The Chipko Movement, an example of the ecological movement, in the Himalayan foothills is a good example of such intermingled interests and ideologies. A villagers rallied together to save the oak and rhododendron forests near their villages.
- When government forest contractors came to cut down the trees, villagers, including large number of women, stepped forward to hug the trees to prevent their being felled. At stake was the question of villagers' subsistence.
- Economics of subsistence was pitted against the economy of profit. Along with this issue of social inequality (villagers versus a government that represented commercial, capitalist interests), the Chipko Movement also raised the issue of ecological sustainability. Cutting down natural forests was a form of environmental destruction that had resulted in devastating floods and landslides in the region.
- Nazdeek -It is a legal empowerment organisation committed to bringing access to justice closer to marginalised communities in South Asia. They work with tea plantation workers, garment factory workers and slum dwellers who predominantly come from Dalit and Indigenous communities, to seek accountability from the government and employers.
- Their model fuses grassroots legal education, community monitoring of service delivery, strategic research, advocacy and use of judicial and non-judicial remedies to advance socio-economic rights.

- Adivasi Munnetra Sangam- ACCORD (Action for Community Organisation, Rehabilitation and Development) is an organization which began work in 1985 in the Gudalur Block of the Nilgiris District in Tamil Nadu, abutting the border with Kerala and Karnataka.
- ACCORD built a cadre of Adivasi youth who in turn formed a community-based organisation, the Adivasi Munnetra Sangam (AMS), which has led protests for the recovery of land for the Adivasis which had been taken over by outsiders. Over the years, the organization has established itself as an important and effective voice for the protection of the Adivasis.

Conclusion

Social movements and Grass root organizations empowers of local people in governance. Involvement of local people, community, SHGs etc is important for empowerment of marginalized communities, environment conservation and sustainable development.

31. Discuss the role of women's organizations in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of poverty alleviation and development.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea about inequality and then straightway address the question with highlighting how woman organisation worked for woman development and poverty alleviation.

Introduction

Women constitute almost half of the country's population, therefore improving their condition in the country can immensely contribute to poverty alleviation. Therefore, role of woman organisation becomes important to fill the gap in such instance.

Body

- Improving Socio Economic situation: The origin of SHGs with SEWA in 1972 came together to find ways to improve woman's living conditions. It can be defined as self-governed, peer-controlled information group of people with similar socio-economic background and having a desire to collective alleviation of poverty.
- Entrepreneurial culture: SHGs have become a vehicle to lift people from below poverty line, generate awareness about welfare and developmental schemes of government, monitor its implementation etc. For example, Lizzat papad promotes entrepreneurial culture among women.
- Aiming gender parity: Beijing Platform for Action stemming from the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995, the prioritization of women's leadership was considered vastly important. Two decades later, the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development underscored the need and urgency to achieve gender parity in leadership through SDG Target 5.5.

- **Financial Independence:** Gramin Vikas Evam Chetan Sansthan (GVCS) was founded in 1998 in Barmer, Rajasthan. It is committed to empowering women artisans by making handicrafts a viable means of home-based employment for financial independence.
- **Health and Awareness:** In 2017, a Mumbai-based non-profit organization, 'SheSays' led by Trisha Shetty, began a campaign, #LahuKaLagaan, which called to abolish tax on sanitary napkins. As the campaign went viral across the country, other organisations picked up the cause. Eventually, in 2018, the 12 per cent tax on sanitary napkins was scrapped by the government.
- **Skills and education:** Milaan foundation works for an inclusive and equal world for girls. It strives to achieve this through the empowerment of young girls from marginalised communities with the education, knowledge and skills needed to pursue their dreams.
- **Exposure and leadership skills to underprivileged:** Ibtada from Rajasthan works closely with government schools to improve the learning levels of underprivileged girls. It also has a programme for young girls to build confidence, provide exposure, awareness, and hone leadership skills.

Acts as pressure groups:

- Sampatlal devi's started a society called the Gulabi Gang with a group of women from her village to fight various forms of social injustice. This developed into an organized women's movement with tens of thousands of members spread over several districts in Uttar Pradesh.
- Nirbhaya Vahini helps to mobilize public opinion and launch a sustained campaign for ban on liquor trade, self-defence training for girls, special protection for women security in every district, and Fast-track court and special investigating & prosecuting wing in every district.

Conclusion

Responsibilities of organisation are huge because women's empowerment plays a catalytic role towards the achievement of transformational economic, political and social changes required for sustainable development.

32. Analyse the impact of rapid population growth on poverty and development in India, what are the potential solutions to address these challenges ?

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about impact of rapid population growth on poverty and development in India, In second part of answer write potential solutions to address these challenges .

Introduction

High population growth will have several repercussions like unemployment, poverty, poor standards of living, a larger gap between the rich and the poor, lesser resources, greater exploitation of natural resources. It will have adverse effect on development .

Body

Impact of Rapid population on poverty -

- Increase in the population results in more family expenses. It leads to rise in unemployment pushing family into vicious cycle of poverty.
- At one end high population growth rate is one of major reasons of poverty in India.
- High population below poverty line add to high level of illiteracy, poor health care facilities and poor access to financial resources.
- Hence high population growth affects the per capita income and makes per capita income even lower.
- Whereas on the other side for poor, one more child means two more hands to work and earn for livelihood of family, and this particular reason make poverty a strong cause for growing population.
- lack of money and proper awareness or education about contraceptive methods is among major causes of population increase in India due to poverty.
- It leads to poor lifestyle and high mortality, particularly among children, which keeps the fertility rates high, due to uncertainty, further increasing the population upwards.
- It leads to rise in unemployment pushing family into vicious cycle of poverty.
- Increased number of people in agricultural families results in decreased portion of divided land among the family members causing lower incomes.

Impact of population on development -

- Water shortages-Already up to 40% of the world's population face water scarcity and the risk of drought. A growing population will put pressure on scarce water supplies and this is a factor behind many minor and major conflicts with countries having to find ways around the shortage of water.
- If this is not addressed soon, the Indian population may become a liability.
- Generating unsustainable waste-We are currently generating non-biodegradable rubbish that we are struggling to process. It tends to end in landfill, causing methane emissions and other toxic problems.
- Problem of Unemployment-Large size of population results in large army of labour force. But due to shortage of capital resources it becomes difficult to provide gainful employment to the entire working population.
- Disguised unemployment in rural areas and open unemployment in urban areas are the normal features of an under developed country like India.
- Pressure on Environment-Population explosion leads to environmental degradation. Higher birth rate brings more pollution, more toxic wastes and damage to biosphere. Briefly speaking, population explosion hinders the economic development.

- Education-The low income of large family dose not afford to provide education to their children. Which results into creating a problem of illiteracy and again none awareness among the class.
- Pressure on food, clothing & housing-A country with fast growing population has to face a serious problem of scarcity of necessary food, minimum clothing & proper housing facilities, which are basic needs of human life. Thus, it affects the life style and results slum areas, starvation etc.
- It is estimated that India is currently producing 25 million job seekers but provides jobs to only 7 million.

Potential solutions to address these challenges -

- A population can be an asset if the youth of the country has access to education, skill development, increased employment opportunities, etc.however, currently, India faces a very high unemployment rate.
- The current government is bearing the burden of providing the access to clean drinking water, houses, cooking fuel, electricity, and healthcare to the whole of the Indian population and is aiming to create a \$5trillion economy.Also, India's landmass is only 35-40% of China's landmass.
- The government needs to play a pivotal role and invest in education, health and creating economic opportunities for young people, which would help us harness demographic dividend.
- This calls for forward-looking policies incorporating population dynamics, education and skills, healthcare, gender sensitivity, and providing rights and choices to the younger generation.
- India needs to invest more in children and adolescents, particularly in nutrition and learning during early childhood.
- India needs to increase female workforce participation in the economy.
- It is, therefore, important to understand that in order to have a better future for all on a healthy planet, attainment of the SDGs is critical.
- Providing adequate education and training to the young population would make them productive, effective and competent, thereby making them key contributors to economic growth.

Conclusion

Efforts to combat the 'vicious circle' of poverty, rising population growth and environmental degradation are said to require multidisciplinary policies in all sectors.These policies need to be carefully established taking account of the need to achieving sustainable development if the resourced that are available for future generations are to be preserved .

33. Discuss the role of women in addressing poverty and developmental issues in urban areas including through their participation in their labor force and in community level initiatives .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about role of women in addressing poverty and developmental issues in urban areas through participation in labor force and community level initiatives .

Introduction

In economic development of India, its cities have a major role to play. Women can play major role in addressing poverty and developmental issues in urban area through their participation.

Body

Role of women in addressing poverty and development in urban area-

- Urban areas faces lack of durable housing, overcrowding, insufficient access to clean water, poor sanitation, and threats of forced evictions. Women and girls often suffer the worst effects.
- Sustainable cities and towns support the equal participation of women and men, especially in urban planning and management, as well as governance.
- Under the principles of decentralization, states should ensure that local authorities have the right and the ability to regulate a substantial share of public affairs.
- Over the last few decades, there has been substantial progress in women's access to power and decision-making, but there is still persistent under-representation by women in politics.
- A growing number of urban governance programme and tools have been developed to improve women's participation and empowerment, targeting diverse groups of women—from the grassroots to technical experts to the highest levels of academia and politics.
- To improve policies and programme, governments and urban planners benefit from understanding how gender affects women and men differently as victims of disasters, but also how the knowledge and skills of both can help them and their communities to survive.
- Furthermore, women in the informal economy are more often found working in the most vulnerable situations, for example as contributing family workers.
- Income losses owing to poor health, combined with high out-of-pocket payments in the absence of social health protection, are a major cause of poverty among women who work in the informal sector.
- There is a clear positive relationship between poverty and informality; the poor face higher rates of informal employment, although with some important disparities owing to the fact that employment is an individual-based measure, whereas poverty is measured at the household level and thereby strongly affected by household size and composition
- It is noteworthy that, when poverty rates are compared between women and men who are in informal employment in most developing countries, and more generally in most countries that have the highest incidence of poverty, more women than men in informal employment live in households that fall below the poverty line
- High occurrence of such health ailments often increases the burden of additional care work on women living in dense informal settlements, increasing their time poverty.

Roles women can play in addressing developmental issues in urban areas -

- To facilitate women's involvement, most of the work could be organized on a part-time basis, say four hours a day. A part-time employment option would be attractive for many poor women in urban areas.
- Urban women, on the whole, have greater access to services and infrastructure, more opportunities to engage in paid employment, and are subject to fewer sociocultural restrictions than women living in rural areas.
- However, they do not benefit equally with men in urban environments. They are disadvantaged in income poverty, asset poverty, time and power.
- Homogeneity and limited exposure in rural areas can limit awareness of alternative gender roles discouraging contestation of gender norms and confidence in the possibility of social change, e.g. in the division of labour.
- Urban heterogeneity fosters tolerance of differences, and can erode existing assumptions of gender differences and cultivate support for equality. Increasing feminisation of labour in urban areas has accompanied an informalisation of labour, but informal sector activities (e.g. street vending) are precarious, mostly unregistered and poorly paid.
- Urban environments provide advantages for education compared to rural areas, but there are barriers particularly for girls from poor urban households. In slums, after-school study is often limited by lack of space, peace, light and other infrastructure.
- Women can increase their empowerment and agency when they have accumulated more (and more diverse) assets and when supportive structural policies are in place.
- Gender-based violence is a core area of focus in analyzing women's economic empowerment, and in urban settings, particularly, where gender norms may be challenged.
- Transformation of gender roles in urban contexts will require wider community involvement and in many contexts collective action to promote group interests and entitlements.
- Full-time employment tends to be very difficult for them, especially if they have young children. Wage employment for a few hours a day would be much easier to manage.
- It would give them some economic independence and bargaining power within the family, and help them to acquire new skills.
- The economic dependence of women on men is one of the prime roots of gender inequality and female oppression in India. Giving priority to women would have two further merits.
- Cities offer several opportunities to mitigate climate change impacts through risk assessments, building codes, land use planning, and nature-based solutions. Rainwater harvesting and management is one way to prevent time poverty for women.
- Thus, to effectively implement climate change policies in urban resilience strategies, policy measures must be inclusive and gender sensitive, with particular attention to the experience of slum residents.
- SHG can become a vehicle of change for the poor and marginalized. SHG rely on the notion of "Self Help" to encourage self-employment and poverty alleviation.

- It looks to build the functional capacity of the poor and the marginalized in the field of employment and income generating activities.

Way forward-

- Women play a crucial role in the production of food and in feeding their families and the world and gender equality are highly connected to food security at a local, national, and global level.
- Thus, women's labour force participation and access to decent work are important and necessary elements of an inclusive and sustainable development process.
- A policy framework encouraging and enabling women's participation should be constructed with an active awareness of the "gender-specific" constraints that face most women.

Conclusion

The need of the hour is to provide them with opportunities for health, education, work through initiatives like SHGs, NGO programs and Government initiatives like DAY-NULM, PM Awas Yojana, ICDS etc. This would help us in achieving the SDG-5 which empowers all women & achieve gender equality.

34. How does the diversity of India's population, with regards to religion, language, ethnicity, and caste, impact the country's social and political landscape? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach-

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic definition of moral attitude and simply write about its different facets and relate it to suitable real time examples.

Introduction

The term 'diversity' in Indian case means collective differences, that is, differences which mark off one group of people from another. These differences may be of any sort: biological, religious, linguistic etc. Thus, diversity means variety of races, of religions, of languages, of castes and of cultures.

Body

Diversity impacting social and political landscape:

- Regionalism: Regionalism tends to highlight interests of a particular region/regions over national interests. It can also adversely impact national integration. Law and order situation is hampered due to regional demands and ensuing
- Divisive politics: Sometimes, ascriptive identities such as caste, religion etc. are evoked by politicians in order to garner This type of divisive politics can result in violence, feeling of mistrust and suspicion among minorities.

- Inter-religious conflicts: Inter-religious conflicts not only hamper relations between two communities by spreading fear and mistrust but also hinder the secular fabric of the country.
- Inter-state conflicts: This can lead emergence of feelings related to regionalism. It can also affect trade and communications between conflicting states. For instance, Cauvery River dispute between Karnataka and Tamil
- Geographical isolation: Geographical isolation too can lead to identity issues and separatist. The North-East is geographically isolated from the rest of the country as it is connected with the rest of the country by a narrow corridor i.e the Siliguri corridor (Chicken's neck).
- Development imbalance: uneven pattern of socio-economic development, inadequate economic policies and consequent economic disparities can lead to backwardness of a region. For instance, due to economic backwardness of the North East region, several instances of separatist demands and secessionist tendencies have sprung up in the NE India.
- Ethnic differentiation and nativism: Ethnic differentiation has often led to clashes between different ethnic groups especially due to factors such as job competition, limited resources, threat to identity for example frequent clashes between Bodos and Bengali speaking Muslims in Assam.

Factors Leading to Unity:

- Fairs and festivals: They also act as integrating factors as people from all parts of the country celebrate them as per their own local for example Diwali is celebrated throughout.
- Sports and Cinema: These are followed by millions in the country, thus, acting as a binding force across the length and breadth of country.
- Institution of pilgrimage and religious practices: Closely related to them is the age-old culture of pilgrimage, which has always moved people to various parts of the country and fostered in them a sense of geo-cultural unity.

Conclusion

Eventually, it is the responsibility of the political and religious leadership, civil society, intelligentsia and the media to uphold the values of mutual respect and tolerance to stress societal solidarity and tolerance.

35. How do the various forms of social inequality such as those based on gender , caste and class shape the experiences and opportunities of different individuals and communities within Indian society ? Examine .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how does social inequalities such as gender, caste, and class shape experiences and opportunities of individuals and communities within Indian society.

Introduction

Social inequality exists throughout the world, but perhaps nowhere has inequality been so elaborately constructed as in the Indian institution of caste. Caste, class, and gender, has shaped the experiences for people for many centuries.

Body

The United Nations describes inequality as “the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities”,

- It occurs when resources in a given society are distributed unevenly based on norms of a society that creates specific patterns along lines of socially defined categories e.g. religion, kinship, prestige, race, caste, ethnicity, gender etc. have different access to resources of power, prestige and wealth depending on the norms of a society.

Gender inequality -

- Social Inequality due to gender have large impact on income of women. In patriarchal societies large gender wage gap tends to exist.
- Gender wage gap is highest in India according International Labor Organization women are paid 34% less than men.
- Women comprise over 42 per cent of the agricultural labour force in the country, yet they own less than 2 percent of its farm land according to the India Human Development Survey (IHDS).

Caste inequality -

- Caste is significant factor for determining access to resources like education, income, health valued by individuals.
- India's upper caste households earned nearly 47% more than the national average annual household income, the top 10% within these castes owned 60% of the wealth within the group in 2012, as per the World Inequality Database.
- Inequalities tend to produce social conflict among the social groups e.g. caste groups like Jaats, Maratha, Patel's are demanding reservations but this demand is opposed by caste groups already claiming the benefits of reservations, such clash of interest due to perceived inequality tend to produce violent conflicts between opposing caste groups.
- Poor development indicators like IMR, MMR, low per capita income, lower education and learning outcomes at schools, high rate of population growth can be traced to existing socio-economic inequalities.
- Inequality causes a wide range of health and social problems, from reduced life expectancy and higher infant mortality to poor educational attainment, lower social mobility and increased levels of violence and mental illness.

Class inequality-

- In rural areas, many low-caste people still suffer from landlessness, Hence create class distinction with people with land and landless people and gave rise to unemployment, and discriminatory practices
- Inequality has been rising sharply for the last three decades. The richest have cornered a huge part of the wealth created through crony capitalism and inheritance.

- They are getting richer at a much faster pace while the poor are still struggling to earn a minimum wage and access quality education and healthcare services, which continue to suffer from chronic under-investment.
- The ownership of SCs/STs and OBCs in non-agricultural establishments is lower than overall figures, suggesting that India's socially deprived groups typically face greater barriers in the non-farm sector of the economy. The scale of deprivation is however far higher for SCs and STs than for OBCs.

Caste class shaping the personal and community experiences -

- SC/STs continue to be subjected to identity-based violence by upper castes. Additionally, a consequence of reservations is that individuals belonging to the lower castes are not viewed based on their own merits, but rather through the lens of their collective stigmatised caste identity.
- Therefore, it is plausible that social exclusion and repeated exposure to such discrimination may affect one's beliefs, perceptions, and aspirations even when there have been marginal economic benefits at the aggregate.
- Caste not only dictates one's occupation, but dietary habits and interaction with members of other castes as well. Members of a high caste enjoy more wealth and opportunities while members of a low caste perform menial jobs. Outside of the caste system are the Untouchables.

Measures to Deal with Inequalities-

- Enforcement of Constitutional Guarantee of equality as enshrined in fundamental rights. Articles 14, 15 and 16 form part of a scheme of the Constitutional Right to Equality. Article 15 and 16 are incidents of guarantees of Equality, and gives effect to Article 14.
- Promoting Civil Society-Provide a greater voice to traditionally oppressed and suppressed groups, including by enabling civil society groups like unions and association with in these groups.
- Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes should be motivated to become entrepreneurs, schemes like Stand up India need to be expanded to widen its reach by increasing funding.
- Women Empowerment-For gender equality policies like affirmative action by reserving seats in legislatures, increasing reservation at Local self government both at Urban and village level to 50% in all states, strict implementation of The Equal Remuneration act,1976 to remove wage gap, making education curriculum gender sensitive, raising awareness about women right, changing social norms through schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao etc.
- By ensuring universal access to public funded high quality services like Public health and education, social security benefits, employment guarantee schemes; inequality can be reduced to great extent.
- As underlying drivers of gender inequalities, discriminatory social institutions perpetuate gender gaps in development areas, such as education, employment and health, and hinder progress towards rights-based social transformation that benefits both women and men.
- In some urbane circles, inter caste marriages linking mates of similar class status have become acceptable. Correlations between caste and occupations are declining rapidly.

Way forward-

- In recent years, key changes have occurred in caste observances. It is now legally and socially unacceptable to openly advocate any caste's superiority or inferiority, and lower caste groups are flexing their political muscle.
- Even as traditional hierarchies weaken, caste identities are being reinforced, especially among disadvantaged groups with rights to special educational benefits and substantial quotas reserved for them of electoral offices and government jobs.

Conclusion

In order to reduce inequality in India, Govt needs to take various measures. Government has to utilize the time to prioritize skill development. A skilled economy is the need of the hour to completely utilize India's demographic dividend towards equality.

36. How have the processes of modernization and globalization impacted traditional social structures and practices in India and what has been the role of government and civil society in addressing these changes? Analyse.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how the process of ,modernization and globalization impacted traditional social structures and practices in India, In second part write the role of government in addressing these changes .

Introduction

The process of modernization and Globalization is used to describe how trade and technology have made the world a more connected and interdependent place. Globalization also captures in its scope the economic and social changes that have come about as a result.

Body

Effect of modernization and globalization on Indian society-

- Transformation of a society from a rural and agrarian condition to a secular, urban, and industrial one.
- It is closely linked with industrialization. As societies modernize, the individual becomes increasingly important, gradually replacing the family, community, or occupational group as the basic unit of society.
- Division of labour, characteristic of industrialization, is also applied to institutions, which become more highly specialized. Instead of being governed by tradition or custom, society comes to be governed according to abstract principles formulated for that purpose.
- Traditional religious beliefs often decline in importance, and distinctive cultural traits are often lost.
- Western institutions like banking system, public administration, military organization, modern medicine, law, etc., were introduced in our country.

- Western education broadened the outlook of the people who started talking of their rights and freedom. The introduction of the new values, the rational and secular spirit, and the ideologies of individualism, equality and justice assumed great importance.
- Acceptance of scientific innovations heightened the aspirations for raising the standard of living and providing material welfare for the people.
- Many reform movements came into being. Several traditional beliefs and practices dysfunctional to society were discarded and many new customs, institutions and social practices were adopted.
- Our technology, agriculture, entrepreneurship and industry were modernized leading to the economic well-being of our country.
- The hierarchy of political values has been restructured. Accepting the democratic form of government, all native states, which had been under a monarchic form of government, have been merged into the Indian State and the authority and domination of feudal and zamindars has been demolished.
- There have been structural changes in social institutions like marriage, family and caste, creating new forms of relations in social life, religion, etc.
- The introduction of the modern means of communication, such as railway and bus travel, postal service, air and sea travel, press, and radio and television have affected man's life in varied respects.
- Growth of cities: It has been estimated that by 2050 more than 50% of India's population will live in cities. The boom of services sector and city centric job creation has led to increasing rural to urban migration.
- Indian cuisine: is one of the most popular cuisines across the globe. Historically, Indian spices and herbs were one of the most sought after trade commodities. Pizzas, burgers, Chinese foods and other Western foods have become quite popular.
- Old Age Vulnerability: The rise of nuclear families has reduced the social security that the joint family provided. This has led to greater economic, health and emotional vulnerability of old age individual
- Globalization also means growing interdependence in other nations- this can issues like misdistribution of resources. The parity between underdeveloped, developing, and developed remains status quo in many cases.
- Globalization does have a great effect on the ecologies and environments of nations that need safeguards that lessen the negative effects rather than exploiting them without regard to such concerns.
- The negative effects of globalization on the Indian Industry are that with the coming of technology the number of labor required is decreased and this resulted in increasing unemployment, especially in the arena of the pharmaceutical, chemical, manufacturing, and cement industries.
- There are a few challenges for companies due to globalization such as Migration, relocation, labor shortages, competition, and changes in skills and technology.

Role of government to addressing and mitigating these changes-

- Civil society plays a vital role in the formation of public policies to meet the common goals and aspirations of a global citizenry.
- With the advent of Globalisation, civil societies got more organized, formal and structured. Moreover, it also started receiving funds from international

organization for specific cause. For example, Oxfam trust, American india foundation etc.

- Reservation in the educational institutions and financial assistance in the form of scholarships provides them greater access to quality education. NGOs has given them voice against the oppression.
- The first important legislation was the abolition of the zamindari system, which removed the layer of intermediaries who stood between the cultivators and the state.
- Among the other major land reform laws that were introduced were the tenancy abolition and regulation acts. They attempted either to outlaw tenancy altogether or to regulate rents to give some security to the tenants.
- Globalisation has provided farmers with better quality seeds that have helped them to increase their product yield. With advanced technologies, farmers have better access to weather forecasting system which reduces chances of crop failure.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize equality of opportunity and reducing inequality of outcomes, the elimination of discrimination in law, policy and social practice, and socio-economic inclusion of all under the banner goal 'to leave nobody behind'.
- The acceleration of urbanization is profoundly affecting the transformation of Indian society. India's largest cities have grown at twice the rate of its small towns and villages, with many of the increases due to rural-urban migration. Hence government creating employment opportunities in to tackle migration issues .
- Globalization has led to loss of livelihood. Because of it, there are differing views on the impact of Globalisation. With greater awareness among the masses about their rights, the government is making a conscious effort to fulfill their demands by moving towards a right based approach by enacting laws like RTI, MNREGA and others
- Inter caste marriages promoted by government-The rigid caste system is gradually giving way to relaxed norms. Inter-caste marriages, intermingling and socializing with other castes is no longer regarded as a taboo .
- Globalization has forced vulnerable castes towards informal sector doing menial jobs due to lack of requisite skills. For example, erstwhile untouchables have become manual scavengers.
- Globalization has created more space for women in the economic workspace. This has led to a significant improvement of women in India's socio-economic landscape. It has thus, helped in giving flexibility and opportunities to women.

Conclusion

The process of globalization has changed the industrial pattern and social life of people. This has had an immense impact on Indian trade, finance, and cultural system but it is useful only when it will preserve the environments, life forms and civilizations of this planet.

37. What is a continental rift zone? How do they form? Explain. Give an example of an active continental rift zone.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic idea of continental rift zone and simply as per demand highlight its formation and give examples on active continental rift zone world over.

Introduction

Continental rift zones occur in weak spots in the continental lithospheric plate. Rift zones are found both on the continents and on the floor of ocean basins.

Body

Formation:

- In terms of the theory of plate tectonics, they occur in divergence zones, belts where two of the various lithospheric plates that make up the Earth's surface are separating.
- Where tectonic plates move away from one another the lithosphere thins. The underlying asthenosphere rises and expands like a hot-air balloon, elevating a broad region. If the plate is capped by thick continental crust, the resulting continental rift zone rises high above sea level.

Examples of continental rift zone:

- The biggest active continental rift valleys on Earth are the East African Rift, the Baikal Rift Valley, the West Antarctic Rift, and the Rio Grande Rift.

Great Rift Valley:

- The Great Rift Valley is a geographical feature running north to south for around 6,400 kilometres from northern Syria to central Mozambique in East Africa.
- The northernmost part of the Rift forms the Beqaa Valley in Lebanon.
- Farther south, the valley is the home of the Jordan River which continues south through the Jordan Valley into the Dead Sea on the Israeli-Jordanian border.

East African Rift Valley:

- The Eastern Rift Valley (also known as Gregory Rift) includes the main Ethiopian Rift, running eastward from the Afar Triple Junction, which continues south as the Kenyan Rift Valley.
- The Western Rift Valley includes the Albertine Rift, and farther south, the valley of Lake Malawi.
- To the north of the Afar Triple Junction, the rift follows one of two paths: west to the Red Sea Rift or east to the Aden Ridge in the Gulf of Aden.

Pacific Ocean:

- In the Pacific Ocean, the East Pacific Rise has created rift valleys where the Pacific plate is separating from the North American plate, Cocos plate, Nazca plate, and Antarctic plate.

Baikal Rift Zone:

- The Baikal Rift Valley is formed by a divergent plate boundary, where the Amur plate is slowly tearing itself away from the Eurasian plate, and has been doing so for about 25 million years.

Conclusion

The Rift zone is being formed, most likely as a result of mantle plumes and eventually as a result of the African super swell. The Rift Structures are a complicated system of rift segments that serves as a modern analogy their evolution provide background research for sustaining loss and resistive measures.

38. With the help of suitable examples explain the formation of fault block mountains. how they are different from vault or dome mountains? Discuss .

Approach-

In this question candidates need to write about formation of fault mountains along with examples. In second part discuss about how they are different from dome mountains.

Introduction

A mountain can be defined as the natural elevation on the earth's surface. It may be broad at the base and narrow at the top. There are four types of mountains classified on the basis of formation and nature. They are Fold Mountains, Block Mountains, Volcanic Mountains, and Dome Mountains.

Body

The Block Mountains are formed due to faults in the crust, which are planes where rocks have moved past each other, generating "block mountains".

- A mountain can be formed when the rocks on one side of a fault rise relative to the other. Block mountains, or horsts, are raised blocks.
- Block Mountains are formed as the result of damage caused by the tensile and compressive forces caused by endogenous forces from the Earth's interior, also known as fault-block mountains.
- The Block mountains represent an upright portion of the land between two faults or on either side of a valley or canyon gap.

Formation of Block Mountains-

- Block mountains are formed due to the upward movement of the middle block between two normal faults. The up-thrown block is also called a horst. The submitter area of such a block mountain is of the flat surface but the side slopes are very steep.
- Block mountains may be formed when the side blocks of two faults move downward whereas the middle block remains stable at its place.
- It is apparent that the middle block projects above the surrounding surface because of the downward movement of side blocks.
- Such block mountains are generally formed in high plateaux or broad domes.
- .

- Thus, the side blocks become horsts and block mountains. Such mountains are associated with the formation of rift valleys.
- When a fault block is raised or tilted, block mountains can result. Higher blocks are called horsts and troughs are called grabens.
- A spreading part of the surface causes tensional forces.
- When the tensional forces are strong enough to cause a plate to split apart, it does so much that a center block drops down relative to its flanking blocks.
- Block mountains may be found in India's central-western region, such as the Satpura and Vindhya mountains.

There are two basic types of block mountains:

- Tilted block mountains have one steep side contrasted by a gentle slope on the other side.
- Lifted block mountains have a flat top and extremely steep slopes.

Examples of block mountains -

- A Sierra Nevada Range, where delamination created a block 650 km long and 80 km wide that consists of many individual portions tipped gently west, with east-facing slips rising abruptly to produce the highest mountain front in the continental United States.
- Block mountains include the Great African Rift Valley (valley floor is graben), the Rhine Valley (graben) in Germany, the Vosges mountain range in France, the Sierra Nevada in the United States, and the Harz mountains in Germany.
- Block mountains are also called fault-block mountains since they are formed due to faulting as a result of tensile and compression.

Dome mountains -

- A mountain range resulting from dissection of a structural dome
- A structural dome is generated when a region of flat-lying sedimentary strata is bent or bowed upward, forming a dome mountain.
- When magma cools, it forms a huge dome of harder rock beneath the surface, which erosion occasionally exposes.
- The top of the dome gets eroded by wind and rain since it is higher than its surroundings. As a result, a circular mountain range emerges.
- Dome Mountains ranges are made up of numerous individual peaks formed by worn-away domes.

<p>Fault block mountains . They have continental type of crust They have found in western united states . In uplift mechanism they have uplift forces Block mountains may be formed when the middle block between two normal faults moves downward. Examples -Sierra newada mountains . In India they are found in south western region such as Satpura and vindya mountains .</p>	<p>Vault or dome mountains . They have crustal and igneous rock inland . They found in isolated structures in in flat lying sedimentary rocks . In uplift mechanism they have igneous intrusion Dome mountains arise when enormous globs of magma float up from beneath the crust and push up top rocks, causing the crust to bulge in a rounded shape. Examples -The Weald in Southeast England and The Black Hills of South Dakota are typical examples of Dome Mountains.</p>	
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Conclusion

When a fault block is raised or tilted, block mountains are formed. Higher blocks are called horsts and troughs are called grabens. A spreading apart of the surface causes tensional forces. When the tensional forces are strong enough to cause a plate to split apart, it does so much that a center block drops down relative to its flanking blocks.

39. What do you understand by process of glaciation ? What are the landform associated with glaciation ? Explain with the help of suitable examples .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about process of glaciation and land-forms associated with glaciation. Give some examples of land-forms created through glaciation .

Introduction

Glaciers are the mass movement of the ice that can change the entire landscape. They can sculpt mountains and carve valleys. Glaciers can move a vast quantity of rocks and sediments and creates landforms.

Body

As glaciers move across a landscape, they alter the terrain and carve out unique formations. This process is called glaciation,

- It is responsible for many of the most recognizable landscapes on Earth.
- Glacial processes are the way that glaciers shape the land through processes of weathering, erosion, transportation, and deposition. Abrasion and plucking are the two main glacial processes of erosion.

Glacial Erosional Landforms-

Cirque/Corrie-

- Hollow basin cut into a mountain ridge.
- It has steep sided slope on three sides, an open end on one side and a flat bottom.
- When the ice melts, the cirque may develop into a tarn lake.

Glacial Trough-

- Original stream-cut valley, further modified by glacial action.
- It is a 'U' Shaped Valley. It at mature stage of valley formation.
- Since glacial mass is heavy and slow moving, erosional activity is uniform – horizontally as well as vertically.
- A steep sided and flat bottomed valley results, which has a 'U' shaped profile.

Hanging Valley-

- Formed when smaller tributaries are unable to cut as deeply as bigger ones and remain 'hanging' at higher levels than the main valley as discordant tributaries.
- A valley carved out by a small tributary glacier that joins with a valley carved out by a much larger glacier.

Arete-

- Steep-sided, sharp-tipped summit with the glacial activity cutting into it from two Horn-

- Ridge that acquires a 'horn' shape when the glacial activity cuts it from more than two sides.

D-Fjord -

- Steep-sided narrow entrance-like feature at the coast where the stream meets the coast.
- Fjords are common in Norway, Greenland and New Zealand.

Glacial Depositional Landforms-

- Glacial Depositional Landforms - eskers-morains

Outwash Plain-

- When the glacier reaches its lowest point and melts, it leaves behind a stratified deposition material, consisting of rock debris, clay, sand, gravel etc. This layered surface is called till plain or an outwash plain.

Esker-

- Winding ridge of un-assorted depositions of rock, gravel, clay etc. running along a glacier in a till plain.

- The eskers resemble the features of an embankment and are often used for making roads.

Kame Terraces-

- Broken ridges or un-assorted depositions looking like hump in a till plain.

Drumlin-

- They are smooth oval shaped ridge-like features composed mainly of glacial till with some masses of gravel and sand.
- The long axes of drumlins are parallel to the direction of ice movement.
- They may measure up to 1 km in length and 30 m or so in height.
- The drumlin end facing the glacier is called the stoss end and is blunter and steeper than the other end called tail.

Kettle Holes-

- Formed when the deposited material in a till plain gets depressed locally and forms a basin.

Moraine-

- They are long ridges of deposits of glacial till.
- Terminal moraines are long ridges of debris deposited at the end (toe) of the glaciers.
- Lateral moraines form along the sides parallel to the glacial valleys.
- Many valley glaciers retreating rapidly leave an irregular sheet of till over their valley floors called ground moraines.
- The moraine in the centre of the glacial valley flanked by lateral moraines is called medial moraine.
- They are imperfectly formed as compared to lateral moraines. Sometimes medial moraines are indistinguishable from ground moraines.

Conclusion

In glacial landforms, glacial erosion landforms occur due to scouring of land surface due to deposition of ice and snow and glacial depositional landforms is the depositions of crushed rocks and sands after the melting of glacial.

40. Assess the contribution of Lal Bahadur Shastri to reviving the morale of India as a nation.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with giving short description about Lal Bahadur Shastri and then simply write about shastri's contribution in raising morale bar in India.

Introduction

Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India was a great statesman known for his honesty and humility. He served the country in various roles and was one of the most down-to-earth personalities of our history.

Body

- During Shastri's brief Prime Ministership, the country faced two major challenges. While India was still recovering from the economic implications of the war with China (1962), failed monsoons, drought and serious food crisis presented a grave challenge. The country also faced a war with Pakistan in 1965.
- Shastri's famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', symbolised the country's resolve to face both these challenges it revived Indian masses morale.
- Shastri Ji as India knows him was a humble yet strong statement who guided India through tough times. Also, Shastri promoted White Revolution and Green Revolution.
- Against societal prejudice and discrimination: Shastri was born Lal Bahadur Shrivastava being against the prevailing caste system, he decided to drop his surname.
- The title 'Shastri' refers to a 'scholar' or a person, adept in the holy scriptures. During the adverse situations too, he came forward, made himself accountable and showed the signs of a true leader- one who leads from the front.
- Accountability: He served as the railway minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet and was so conscientious that he resigned following a train accident at Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu in 1956. His gesture was hailed by all including Nehru, whom he considered his "hero".
- Practice before preaching: In 1965, India was embroiled in a war with Pakistan and the country was facing an acute food shortage. He asked his family to give up a meal a day. It is only after he was sure that his own family could survive this he announced on All India Radio, urging the public to sacrifice one meal at least once a week.
- Moral public and private life: Shastriji had a Chevrolet Impala car for official use, which his son once used for a drive. When Shastri learned about it, he asked his driver to check the distance the car was used for and later deposited the money in the government account.
- Believed in "Sheelam Param Bhushanam": In his maiden Independence Day speech, he had laid emphasis on character and moral strength – not only for personal growth but for the development of the nation.

Conclusion

Shastri's overall tenure helped India to become self-sufficient and later to become an exporter of the foodgrains mainly his ideas, body of work boosted Indian morale in 1960's. Also, his tenure led the foundations on which industrial growth could be achieved later

41. Discuss the political and social effects of caste based movements in post independence India. Do you think the prevalence of caste system has weakened the social fabric in India? Critically examine .

Approach -

In this question candidates are expected to write about political and social effects of caste based movements in post independence India. Also write about does caste system weakened social fabric in India. examine It critically .

Introduction

Caste based movements are basically a social revolution aimed for social change, replacing the age old hierarchical Indian society, and is based on the democratic ideals of liberty, equality and social justice.

Body

Social effects of caste based movements in India -

- After Independence, India's new constitution identified groups of former Untouchables as "scheduled castes," singling them out for consideration and government assistance.
- The constituent assembly mandated with the function to draft the constitution of independent India adopted the Constitution based on the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
- The real idea behind the said ideals was to create an egalitarian society where discrimination in any form be denounced and the state would aspire to create an empowered society free from any such discrimination.
- Indian constitution provided constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individuals. On the bedrock of fundamental rights constitution provided for the abolition of untouchability, and discrimination based on caste, race, gender and place of birth.
- extensive economic and social rights for disadvantaged sections, and also won the Assembly's support for introducing a system of reservations of jobs in the civil services, schools and colleges for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, a system akin to affirmative action.
- Due to various affirmative action policies, legal reforms, political awareness, social movements, industrialization, urbanization, and economic growth, the caste system has undergone a drastic change in the era of modernity and market economy.
- Occupational hierarchy too has significantly changed except priesthood and cleaning sewer and skinning dead animals.
- Upper caste people are today doing all the jobs which are opposite to their caste status.
- Due to the positive discrimination policy (reservation policy) in jobs and education, members of the Dalit community are no longer considered impure or polluted in an organization.

- Inter-caste marriages among educated Indians, especially in urban areas, are increasing day-by-day.
- The spread of quality education, availability of jobs and new economic opportunities have changed many things.
- The thinking and social behaviour of the generation born after 1990 have undergone a significant change.

Political effects of caste based movements in India-

- We have witnessed an utterly unexpected trend in this era it was the violent agitations, to press for the demand for reservation in jobs and education by those not lower or oppressed castes. Instead, they have been socially influential and economically well-off castes.
- These castes are Gujjars of Rajasthan, Jats of Haryana, Marathas of Maharashtra, Patidars/ Patels of Gujrat and Lingayats of Karnataka.
- Apart from the caste polarization for political gain, some factors seem active behind the above-said demand.
- In this scenario, it would not be incorrect to say that the affirmative action aimed to bring socioeconomic parity has become more of a tool to grab power.
- caste provided an extensive basis for organization of democratic politics. Caste identity and solidarity became primary channel through which electoral and political support is mobilized.
- Political parties find it easier to mobilize support directly from a member of caste community by appealing.
- The political system encourage the use of caste as a means f breeding followers.
- Caste enabled the illiterate and ignorant to politically participate in democratic process.

Positives of caste system -

- Although caste system in past provided some benefits like ,It has handed over the knowledge and skills of the hereditary occupation of a caste from one generation to another, which has helped the preservation of culture and ensured productivity.
- It plays a crucial role in the process of socialization by teaching individuals the culture and traditions, values and norms of their society. But by and large caste system have weakened the social fabric of india .

Negatives of caste system -

- The caste system is a check on economic and intellectual advancement and a great stumbling block in the way of social reforms because it keeps economic and intellectual opportunities confined to a certain section of the population only.
- It undermines the efficiency of labour and prevents perfect mobility of labour, capital and productive effort
- It perpetuates the exploitation of the economically weaker and socially inferior castes, especially the untouchables.
- It has inflicted untold hardships on women through its insistence on practices like child-marriage, prohibition of widow-remarriage, seclusion of women etc.
- It has stood in the way of national and collective consciousness and proved to be a disintegrating rather than an integrating factor.
- It has given scope for religious conversion. The lower caste people are getting converted into Islam and Christianity due to the tyranny of the upper

Conclusion

It is high time for the Indian society to get out of caste hierarchy and eradicate all forms of visible or invisible discrimination's and consider all social groups equal in real sense. To thrive as a vibrant democracy and an emerging economic power will be much depends on how far Indian society embraces equality, fraternity and harmony.

42. How did the 1971 Indo Pak war change the political landscape of South Asia ? What are its current day implications ?Discuss.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how did Indo pak war changed the political landscape of south Asia and in second part of answer write about its current day implications.

Introduction

1971 war was fought for independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan. Indian armed forces supported Bangladesh in its liberation war. Pakistan had to suffer huge defeat and about 93000 Pakistani troops surrendered to Indian armed forces.

Body

Bangladesh Liberation war changed the political landscape of South Asia in following ways,

- Diminishing the Two-front War Threat: The East Pakistan uprising provided India with the opportunity to break up Pakistan and eliminate the threat of a two-front war in any future confrontation.
- Although the eastern front remained largely inactive in 1965, it tied down substantial military resources that could have been deployed to greater effect in the western theatre.
- Preventing Side-Lining of Pro-India Awami League: India recognised that a drawn-out civil war in East Pakistan would radicalise the Bengali population.
- This could lead to the side-lining of the pro-India Awami League and shift the leadership of the movement to left-wing pro-China parties such as the Bhashani-led National Awami Party and the Communist Party.
- Negating Internal Security Threat: The Guerrilla warfare, inspired by Maoist ideology, was the major form of resistance against the Pakistani military.
- If India wouldn't have intervened in the Bangladesh Liberation War 1971, this could have been detrimental for India's internal security interests, especially in the context of the Naxalite movement which was then raging in eastern India.
- Negating The Communal Threat: By July-August 1971, 90% of the refugees were Hindus concentrated in the border districts of West Bengal with large Muslim populations.
- Consequently, there was danger of serious communal strife if India did not act quickly to ensure their return.

- Departure from Non-Alignment: At the diplomatic level, India did not act entirely alone. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's carefully crafted diplomatic dispatches to world leaders had helped create a groundswell of support for the persecuted Bengalis of East Pakistan.
- The signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty in August 1971 came as a shot-in-the-arm for India, encouraging it to stay the course.
- The victory defined India's much broader role in foreign politics.
- Many countries in the world, including the United States, realised that the balance of power had shifted to India in South Asia.
- This time all the South Asian member countries should come front to maintain an amicable and good relation that is the basic need for peace and development of this region. Further other nations should also cooperate because the South Asian Region has a lot of potential of economic development.

How did the Indo Pak War 1971 shape today's India-Bangladesh relations-

- The Indo-Pak war of 1971 liberated Bangladesh and established a friendly neighbourhood on the eastern front for India.
- Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in South Asia and one of the fastest-growing economies.
- Indian firms have huge investment opportunities in the country due to their growth potential. Bangladesh is crucial for India's connectivity and peace in the north-eastern states.
- India had recently inaugurated the new trade corridor, Maitri Setu Bridge from Sabroom in India to Ramgargh in Bangladesh on the Feni river in Tripura-Bangladesh border.
- Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize 2021.
- Bangladesh was a special invitee to India's 75th independence day celebrations and President Kovind is part of Victory day celebrations in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh marked 50 years of liberation war victory over Pakistan on 16th December 2021.
- The nation celebrated victory in the 1971 war for independence by hosting a military parade with India's president as a guest of honour.
- Bangladesh has a special place in India's neighbourhood first policy and the relation is ever more crucial in the current geopolitical scenario as well.

Way Forward :-

- India needs to look at more ways to deepen its ties with Bangladesh, especially keeping in mind the shifting nature of geopolitics and geoeconomics in South Asia.
- India and Bangladesh have more or less agreed on most issues and this stability must be maintained.
- India needs to find a fine balance in respecting Bangladesh's economic growth while maintaining its economic progress.

Conclusion

The ultimate accolade for India's role in creating a new nation is that Bangladesh is today a relatively prosperous country, having made steady progress from the category of a Least Developed Country to a developing country. The creation of Bangladesh — from the ashes of East Pakistan — is presumably India's finest foreign policy triumph till date

43. During the freedom struggle, newspapers and magazines published by nationalist leaders were used as effective tools to mobilize the masses. Comment.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting importance of the print medium during struggle and then simply comment on how it mobilized the masses for movement.

Introduction

Newspapers during the freedom struggle in India were an important source of mass communication throughout the country. Leaders used the newspaper to spread awareness among the masses. Though impact of these journals and newspapers was not only limited to towns and cities it helped to mobilize masses in villages.

Body

- The beginning of the 19th century, politically conscious Indians had been attracted to modern civil rights, especially the freedom of the Press.
- Sighting the Importance of Press, the struggle for the freedom of the Press became an integral part of the struggle for freedom.
- James Augustus Hickey is considered the father of Indian Press. He started the Bengal Gazette in the year 1780.

Role of newspaper and magazines to mobilize masses:

- Most members of Congress were Journalists, as a result of which Powerful newspapers emerged during these years.
- These were the Hindu and Swadesamitran under the editorship of G. Subramaniya Iyer, Kesari and Mahratta under B.G. Tilak, Bengalee under Surendranath Banerjea, Amrita Bazar Patrika under Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, through his newspapers, was among the first to advocate bringing the lower middle classes, the peasants, artisans and workers into the Congress fold.
- In these newspapers, government Acts and policies were put to critical scrutiny. They acted as an institution of opposition to the government. The press made people aware about the colonial exploitation.
- Almost every act and every policy of the Government was subjected to sharp criticism, in many cases with great care and vast learning backing it up.
- The newspapers also helped in spreading awareness about the extreme measures taken by the colonial government which further incited protests and revolutionary acts against the British.
- The Role of the press was significant as it acted as a breeding ground for discontent voices of India, which saw prevailing narrative of Colonial authorities as false and wanted to register their protest.

- Nationalist Leaders such as Tilak and Gandhi through their newspapers and editorials took advantage to reach to the readers of the remotest parts of India.
- Thus, generating a nationalistic feeling and mobilizing the masses to fight for freedom of a “Nation” – an imagination which already had grasped minds of masses in urban and rural areas alike.

Conclusion

The country has witnessed up & down of numerous journals & newspapers during the fight for independence and most of them have acted as an effective weapon for social & political renaissance. Journalism has been the backbone of the freedom struggle through formation & propagation of the nationalist ideology and building up of strong national sentiment & consciousness among the masses.

44. In what ways did the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi on the national stage catalyse the freedom movement? explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach-

In this question candidates needs to write about how arrival of mahatma Gandhi catalyzes the national freedom movement, In second part of answer give some examples to substantiate your points .

Introduction

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

Body

Mahatma Gandhi was the leader who guided India towards Independence. India was under the British rule for over 250 years. Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915 at the request of Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

- Gandhi's contribution to the Indian freedom movement cannot be measured in words. He, along with other freedom fighters, compelled the British to leave India. His policies and agendas were non-violent and his words were the source of inspiration for millions.

Champaran-

- The Champaran agitation in Bihar was Gandhi's first active involvement into Indian freedom politics. The Champaran farmers were being forced to grow Indigo and were being tortured if they protested.
- The farmers sought Gandhi's help and through a calculated non-violent protest, Gandhi managed to win concessions from the authority.

Kheda-

- When Kheda, a village in Gujarat, was badly hit by floods, the local farmers appealed to the rulers to waive off the taxes. Here, Gandhi started a signature campaign where peasants pledged non-payment of taxes.
- He also arranged a social boycott of the mamlatdars and talatdars (revenue officials). In 1918, the Government relaxed the conditions of payment of revenue tax until the famine ended.

Khilafat Movement-

- Gandhi's influence on the Muslim population was remarkable. This was evident in his involvement in the Khilafat Movement. After the first World War, the Muslims feared for the safety of their Caliph or religious leader and a worldwide protest was being organised to fight against the collapsing status of the Caliph.
- Gandhi became a prominent spokesperson of the All India Muslim Conference and returned the medals he had received from the Empire during his Indian Ambulance Corps days in South Africa. His role in the Khilafat made him a national leader in no time.

Non-cooperation Movement-

- Gandhi had realised that the British had been able to be in India only because of the co-operation they received from the Indians. Keeping this in mind, he called for a non-cooperation movement.
- With the Congress' support and his indomitable spirit, he convinced people that peaceful non-cooperation was the key to Independence. The ominous day of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre triggered the non-cooperation movement. Gandhi set the goal of Swaraj or self-governance, which since then became the motto of Indian freedom movement.

Salt March-

- Also known as the Dandi Movement, Gandhi's Salt March is considered to be a pivotal incident in the history of freedom struggle. At the Calcutta Congress of 1928, Gandhi declared that the British must grant India dominion status or the country will erupt into a revolution for complete independence. The British did not pay heed to this.
- As a result, on December 31, 1929, the Indian flag was unfurled in Lahore and the next January 26 was celebrated as the Indian Independence Day. Then, Gandhi started a Satyagraha campaign against the salt tax in March 1930. He marched 388 kilometres from Ahmedabad to Dandi in Gujarat to make salt. Thousands of people joined him and made it one of the biggest marches in Indian history.

Quit India Movement-

- During the Second World War, Gandhi was determined to strike the British Empire with a definitive blow that would secure their exit from India. This happened when the British started recruiting Indians for the war.
- Gandhi protested strongly and said that the Indians cannot be involved in a war that is in favour of democratic purposes when India itself is not a free country. This argument exposed the two-faced image of the colonisers and within half a decade, they were out of this country.
- Gandhian phase led to emphasis on Hindus-Muslims Unity. He very well knew that India could not attain freedom without the unity of Hindus-Muslims. Irrespective of religion and caste all people took part in mass movement.
- Thousands of women came out of their homes and participated in salt satyagraha.

- All Working class and professionals participated including lawyers, teachers, professors also joined the national movement.
- Gandhian phase witnessed the involvement of the business class in the movement. Business class participated and gave financial assistance and rejected imported goods.
- He emphasized the development of cottage and village industries. It was seen that these cottage industries were on the rise and people became more self-reliant.
- This helped the Indians be less dependent on imports from other countries and the Britishers
- Under his leadership National movement was inclusive and representative.
- Ultimately, it can be said that the Gandhian movement helped India attain freedom. Gandhi through his nonviolent method shook the foundation of British rule and defeated the great empire.

Conclusion

Mahatma Gandhi is perhaps the most widely recognized figure of the Indian Nationalist Movement for his role in leading non-violent civil uprisings. His contribution not only leads country towards freedom but become torchlight for many countries to follow the path.

45. What were the key developments after the second world war that forced the British to rethink their strategy for India.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates are expected to write about developments that happened after second world war which forced British to rethink their strategy for India.

Introduction

Before the war, Britain maintained colonies all over the world, which provided valuable raw materials, manpower and strategic bases. By 1945, however, colonies were an expensive liability for British government. Hence after war they are forced to rethink their strategy about India.

Body

- Even before the World War II began, the British had realized the futility of holding on to their reign in India.
- By the time the war ended, Great Britain was bankrupt, unable and unwilling to continue to maintain colonies of the British Empire. Britain needed resources and manpower for development of Britain itself.

- The United States' rising global influence and its opposition to imperialism made colonialism less politically viable, while Japan's wartime victories had destroyed Britain's imperial prestige.
- The backbone of British rule in India - British Indian Army was no longer absolutely loyal.
- Thousands of former British Indian soldiers joined Netaji's Azad Hind Fauz and fought against British (its another thing that Azad Hind Fauz was defeated by fellow Indian soldiers). The naval mutiny of 1946 was another example.
- Another backbone of Indian Empire -ICS (Indian Civil Services) was In shambles at the end of world war.
- There was no recruitment for ICS in Britain since the start of world war and large numbers of Indians had succeeded in joining ICS by then. ICS was not able to attract best British talents and without a loyal and able civil service, Britain couldn't have governed India.
- India was no more profitable any more. Due to many reforms and world war arrangement, Britain was paying India for fighting world war.
- Britain could no longer buy Indian raw materials at very low price and dump British goods. The national movements had crippled the British trade and India was getting industrialized as well.
- The new superpowers America and Soviet Union were not supportive of European colonialism. Even America didn't support Britain during Sues Crisis and Soviets were actively calling for independence of colonies.
- as a deeply committed military force comprising Indian volunteers and POWs of the Japanese in South East Asia, with the aim of launching a military campaign to throw the British out of India.And they almost succeeded.
- The INA and Japanese forces were finally stopped by the British Army, with help of Indian soldiers, in Imphal and Kohima in the North East.
- The Bengal Famine in 1943 was devastating for the Indian people but with the British refusing to stop supplies from India in favour of those suffering in the country, only strengthened the resolve of the nationalists in their call for freedom.
- As the war came to an end, the British government in India began to initiate steps for withdrawal.
- The violent partition of the country left deep scars but the British also left behind a professional and well trained defence force in India.

Conclusion

Many developments compelled Britishers to leave India but legacy of the British came in the form of institutions – the civil services, the judiciary, the Railways and other services, all of which contributed deeply in serving as a stable foundation on which modern India stands today.

46. There are conflicting views among historians regarding the 1857 revolt. How would you describe the true nature of the 1857 revolt? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting about 1857 mutiny and different views and perspective on the mutiny. Such as Dr R.C. Mujumdar, Dr S.N. Sen and J. Nehru there nationalistic and feudal-sepoy mutiny perceptions on 1857.

Introduction

About revolt of 1857 historians have expressed different views depending on their perceptions. Mostly they fall into categories namely Europeans and the Indians, Nationalist and Marxist.

Body

Conflicting Views and observations on Revolt:

Indian-Nationalistic:

- According to RC Majumdar, the revolt was neither the first, nor was it national, nor was it a war of independence. That there was a tradition of revolts with the onset of British occupation in India.
- S.N. Sen called this revolt a 'Sepoy Mutiny'. Expressed it was mainly an outburst of the military in which certain other groups also started participating.
- J. Nehru maintains that initially it started as a mutiny of the Indian soldiers, but when it spread rapidly assumed the nature of a mass rebellion with feudal uprising although there were some nationalistic elements in it.
- D. Savarkar referred it wholly first national war of independence.

European and Marxists Historians on the Revolt of 1857:

- Reese, observed that the revolt was a 'war against Christianity'. Revolt even though some of the conservative sections of Indian society were against the imposition of Christianity over them.
- Outram observed that the revolt was a 'Muslim Conspiracy' to overthrow the British from India. His views, Muslims wanted to bounce back into the ruling system, and thus conspired against the British rule is definitely not a valid ground of expression.
- Lawrence and Seeley had some coherence with the Indian viewpoint, especially with that of S.N. Sen, that it was a military revolt in the real sense.
- R. Holmes, said that this revolt was a 'clash of civilization and barbarians. And Benjamin Disraeli described it as a 'National Revolt'.
- According to Marxist historians, the 1857 revolt was "the struggle of the soldier-peasant democratic combine against foreign as well as feudal bondage".

Between Nationalistic and Sepoy-Feudal level mutiny:

- As per my analysis it can be termed somewhere between above two views.

- But had seeds of nationalism and anti- imperialism, concept of common nationality and nationhood was inherent at that time
- It was the first great struggle of Indians to throw off British Rule. It firmly established local traditions of neo resistance to British rule.

Conclusion

Revolt helped in bringing India's people together and paved the way to modern national movement. The revolt demonstrated the unity among Indian people, especially among Hindus and Muslims.

47. In what ways did the Hindu-Muslim divide weaken the freedom struggle ? explain with the help of suitable examples .

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about how Hindu Muslim divide during freedom struggle weakens the freedom movement, Give some examples to substantiate your points .

Introduction

The late nineteenth century saw the emergence of Indian nationalism. Indians felt like one and they tried to overthrow the foreign rule. However, the Hindu Muslim divide weakens the freedom struggle.

Body

Partition of Bengal (1905)

- Indian nationalism was gaining in strength and Bengal was the nerve centre of Indian nationalism in the early 1900s.
- Lord Curzon, the Viceroy (1899-1905), attempted to 'dethrone Calcutta' from its position as the centre from which the Congress Party manipulated throughout Bengal, and indeed, the whole of India.
- The decision to partition Bengal into two was in the air from December 1903.
- The partition was meant to foster another kind of division – on the basis of religion. The aim was to place Muslim communalists as a counter to the Congress. Curzon promised to make Dacca the new capital.
- This resulted in a lot of discontent among the Indians. Many considered this as a policy of 'Divide and Rule' by the British.
- 1905 partition had exposed the British tendencies. Muslim League had supported the partition.

Minto-Morley constitutional reforms (1909)

- The Government of India which was headed by Lord Minto as Viceroy and John Morley as the Secretary of State offered fresh reforms in the Legislative Councils.

- They began discussions with Moderates within Indian National Congress regarding this. However, when the decision was taken, not just Moderates but the country as a whole were disappointed.
- The real purpose of the Morley-Minto Reforms was to divide the nationalist ranks and encourage the growth of Muslim communalism.
- For the latter, they introduced the system of separate electorates under which Muslims could only vote for Muslim candidates in constituencies specially reserved for them.

Communal literature and Forced conversion :

- Literature like Satyarth Prakash and rangeela rasool had widen the gulf between communities. Shudhi movement in Mewat, Haryana and arrival of taabligi jamat to counter it had instilled hatred against each other.

Invocation of Religion into Politics:

- Khilafat movement invoked Muslim cause into politics. Thought it bring unity but it weakened the the secular cause.

Events led to partition

- Muslim leaders didn't get win in elections in 1939 and it led to more frequent demand of separate country by Jinnah and other Muslim leaders.
- Gandhi-Jinnah talk failed, and nobody came up with good solution for both Hindu-Muslim to live in harmony.

Demand for Pakistan and failure of cabinet mission plan:

- The participation of Muslim masses in independence was no where compare to Hindus. Election in 1946 affirmed the Muslim league as a sole Muslim party. And the failure of cabinet mission plan, paved the way for partition.
- Further few congress leaders also started believing that separate country is good solution than having later civil war. Direct action day was final straw that made partition a reality.
- Another problem was very bad implementation of partition. It caused panic in country, and lead to the death of so many people.

Conclusion

Plethora of incidents, and was not a one step move divides the hindu muslim communities and led to weakening of freedom struggle and The partition of the Indian subcontinent into into two separate nations.

48. How did the first world war affect the discourse of nationalist movement in India?Critically examine .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how first world war changes discourse of nationalist movements in India,give both positives and negatives

Introduction

The First World War (1914-1918) altered the economic and political situation in India. The British government declared India as an ally without the consent of the Indians.

This created mass resentment among the Indians against the British rule, as the war had the many socio-economic impacts on Indians.

Body

- A huge rise in the defence expenditure of the British Colonial Government, which increased taxes on individual incomes and business profits.
- Increased military expenditure and demands for war supplies led to a sharp rise in prices which created great difficulties for the common people.
- The crop failure of 1918-19 and 1920-21 led to acute food shortages, accompanied by epidemic influenza.
- These factors, among others, gave impetus to the nationalist movement in India. Apart from the economic impact, the war and its aftermath also involved the following:
 - A large number of Indian soldiers serving abroad. Many returned with an understanding of the ways in which the imperialist powers were exploiting the people of Asia and Africa, with a desire to oppose colonial rule in India.
 - The British were fighting against the Turkish Empire, which was ruled by the Caliph (Khalifa). The Muslims had great respect for the Caliph and joined the Caliphate (Khilafat) Movement for the defence of Turkey against the British.
 - The war effort compounded the oppression faced by the agrarian society faced with exorbitant tax rates, high prices of food & other necessities.
 - The anguish amongst the tenants was leveraged by nationalists who initiated the process of their organization on modern lines & linked them with politics at the national level e.g. in Kisan Sabhas in UP & Mappila agitation in Malabar.
 - The growing nationalism also re-united the moderates & the extremists at the Lucknow session, 1916.
 - Furthermore, the Congress & the Muslim League ignored their differences & put up common Political demands in front of the British.
 - Ghadarites attempted a violent overthrow of British rule, while the Home Rule Leaguers launched a nation-wide agitation for securing Home Rule or Swaraj.
 - Mahatma Gandhi emerged as the leader of the masses & led the Khilafat movement to unify Hindus and Muslims. He also propagated the idea of Satyagraha. The Champaran Satyagraha, Kheda Satyagraha and Ahmadabad Satyagraha- were centred around the issues of locals.
 - The Indian business groups reaped great profits from the war; the war created demand for industrial goods (jute bags, cloth, rails) and caused a decline of imports from other countries to India.
 - As the Indian industries expanded, the Indian business groups began to demand greater opportunities for development.

Conclusion

Thus, the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 gave a new lease of life to the nationalist movement which had been dormant since the Swadeshi Movement.

49. There are conflicting views among historians regarding the 1857 revolt. How would you describe the true nature of the 1857 revolt? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting about 1857 mutiny and different views and perspective on the mutiny. Such as Dr R.C. Mujumdar, Dr S.N. Sen and J. Nehru there nationalistic and feudal-sepoy mutiny perceptions on 1857.

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Conclusion

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50. In what ways did the Hindu-Muslim divide weaken the freedom struggle ? explain with the help of suitable examples .

Approach-

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about how Hindu Muslim divide during freedom struggle weakens the freedom movement, Give some examples to substantiate your points .

Introduction

The late nineteenth century saw the emergence of Indian nationalism. Indians felt like one and they tried to overthrow the foreign rule. However, the Hindu Muslim divide weakens the freedom struggle.

Body

Partition of Bengal (1905)

- Indian nationalism was gaining in strength and Bengal was the nerve centre of Indian nationalism in the early 1900s.
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- Another problem was very bad implementation of partition. It caused panic in country, and lead to the death of so many people.

Conclusion

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51. How did the first world war affect the discourse of nationalist movement in India?Critically examine .

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about how first world war changes discourse of nationalist movements in India,give both positives and negatives

Introduction

The First World War (1914-1918) altered the economic and political situation in India. The British government declared India as an ally without the consent of the Indians. This created mass resentment among the Indians against the British rule, as the war had the many socio-economic impacts on Indians.

Body

- A huge rise in the defence expenditure of the British Colonial Government, which increased taxes on individual incomes and business profits.
- Increased military expenditure and demands for war supplies led to a sharp rise in prices which created great difficulties for the common people.
- The crop failure of 1918-19 and 1920-21 led to acute food shortages, accompanied by epidemic influenza.
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 - The British were fighting against the Turkish Empire, which was ruled by the Caliph (Khalifa). The Muslims had great respect for the Caliph and joined the Caliphate (Khilafat) Movement for the defence of Turkey against the British.
 - The war effort compounded the oppression faced by the agrarian society faced with exorbitant tax rates, high prices of food & other necessities.
 - The anguish amongst the tenants was leveraged by nationalists who initiated the process of their organization on modern lines & linked them with politics at the national level e.g. in Kisan Sabhas in UP & Mappila agitation in Malabar.
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 - Furthermore, the Congress & the Muslim League ignored their differences & put up common Political demands in front of the British.
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 - As the Indian industries expanded, the Indian business groups began to demand greater opportunities for development.

Conclusion

Thus, the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 gave a new lease of life to the nationalist movement which had been dormant since the Swadeshi Movement.

52. A fascinating treatise on medicine and science exists in India's ancient literature. Illustrate with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidate can start the answer with highlighting how India's ancient literature had fame in the medical and science, how science and practice of Ayurveda are narrated in ancient texts. Explain how great level of knowledge and intelligence cultivated medicine, astronomy, geometry, chemistry etc.

Introduction

Three ancient books known as Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Aryabhattiya, Brahmasphutasiddhanta, Siddhanta-Siromani, written years ago, are considered the main texts on ancient Indian medicine and science.

Body

Medical Science

- First written knowledge about the Indian system of medicine is found in 'Atharvaveda'. The treatment of various diseases is given in Atharvaveda's 'Bhaisjya Sutra'. A detailed description is found on the topics of general medicine and mental medicine.
- The texts of a veterinarian named 'Shalihotra' are available in Ayurveda, 'Ashva Symptoms' and 'Ashwa Praja'. These include the description of diseases of horses and medicines for their treatment.
- These texts reveal ancient natural healers who delved into plastic surgery.

Rational Medical Science:

- Three ancient books known as the Great Trilogy -- "Charaka Samhita," "Sushruta Samhita" and "Astanga Hridaya" -- written in Sanskrit more than 2,000 years ago, are considered the main texts on Ayurvedic medicine.

Field of mathematics:

- By the third century AD, mathematics had evolved into a distinct field of study. The Sulvasutras are thought to be the source of Indian mathematics.
- The knowledge of the description of trigonometry in Varahamihira's 'Surya Siddhanta' (sixth century). Brahmagupta also provided sufficient information on trigonometry and he also constructed a sine table.
- Brahmagupta's Brahmasputa Siddhanta was the first book to mention 'zero' as a number; thus, Brahmagupta is known as the man who discovered zero.

Astronomy:

- The Jyotishvedanga texts established systematic categories in astronomy, but Aryabhatta(499 AD) dealt with the more fundamental issue.

- Varahamihira described all of these observations in Panch Siddhantika, which summarizes the five schools of astronomy prevalent at the time.

Scientific Multi-Disciplinary approach:

- For example, Varahamihira's most notable works was the Brihat Samhita, an encyclopaedic study of architecture, temples, planetary motions, eclipses, timekeeping, astrology, seasons, cloud formation, rainfall, agriculture, arithmetic, gemology, scents, and many other topics.
- Baudhayana discovered Pythagoras at least 1000 years before his birth. He would have had a very high level of education, but he was most likely just interested in using mathematics to support his religious ideas, not for its own purpose.

Conclusion

In the presence of scientists such as Varahamihir, Aryabhatta, and Nagarjuna, ancient India was undeniably technologically advanced in the fields of mathematics, medicine, and physics. Scientifically self-sufficient, and as a Vishwaguru, India was the world's leader.

53. Storytelling through visual means has been a dominant art form in India elucidate.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about how storytelling through visual means has been a dominant art form in India. Give some examples of it.

Introduction

Storytelling is the social and cultural activity of sharing stories, sometimes with improvisation, theatrics or embellishment. Every culture has its own stories or narratives, which are shared as a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation or instilling moral values.

Body

Dastangoi:

- It is a mix of two Persian words "Dastan" meaning story and "Goi" meaning telling. A popular source of entertainment in Central Asian countries and Iran, this form of storytelling received patronage in the Deccan region in south India in 16th century.

Yakshagana:

- This form of storytelling emerged from the Bhakti movement in South India between the 7th and 10th century. Performed in a dance-drama style, it blends together classical and folk dance with dialogue.
- He is the key in the entire performance as he is responsible for holding the story together.

Harikatha:

- This is a form of Hindu religious discourse in which the storyteller explores a religious theme, usually based on the life of a saint or a story from an Indian epic. It comprises of storytelling, music, drama, dance, poetry, and philosophy.

Paintings:

- We find many examples of Ramayana and Mahabharata depicted in the form of continuous paintings, for example in Pattachitra of Odisha. Similarly, Jataka stories of Buddha are also found in paintings of Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra.

Rock-cut Architecture:

- The Ajanta cave paintings predominantly narrate the Jataka tales or Buddhist legends describing the previous births of the Buddha.
- Arjuna's Penance a beautiful narrative sculpted onto a single rockface narrating a story from the epic poem, Mahabharata, optimizing the rock fissures and cracks.

Kavad Art:

- Kavad is a portable wooden shrine with visual narratives of Gods, Goddesses, local heroes, saints, and patrons on its panels hinged together.

Puppetry:

- The tradition of narrating stories with the help of puppets has been a great source of entertainment and knowledge. For example Yakshagana Gombeyata, Tholu Bommalata etc.

Conclusion

Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication. At its core, storytelling is the art of sharing information and engaging people. Its significance increased in art form because it stimulates people's minds and evokes emotion.

54. If you were to take cultural tour from Madurai to Kashi, what changes would you observe in temple architecture? Explain.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates are expected to write about temple architecture forms of India and how it changes from south to north from Madurai to Kashi.

Introduction

In ancient temple architecture there are Two broad orders of temples in the country are known as Nagara in the north and Dravida in the south. At times, the Vesara style of temples is also found as an independent style, created through the selective mixing of the Nagara and Dravida orders.

Body

From Madurai to kashi temple architecture changes from dravida style to vesara to Nagara.

Dravida Or South Indian Temple Style-

- Unlike the nagara temple, the dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall.
- The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, which is known as a gopuram.
- The shape of the main temple tower known as vimana in Tamil Nadu, is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving shikhara of North India.
- Kanchipuram, Thanjavur or Tanjore, Madurai and Kumbakonam are the most famous temple towns of Tamil Nadu.

Vesara type of architecture -

- Vesara is a combination of Nagara and Dravidian style of temple architecture styles. The term Vesara is believed to have been derived from the Sanskrit word vishra meaning an area to take a long walk. Many historians agree that the Vesara style originated in the what is today Karnataka.
- The trend was started by the Chalukyas of Badami (500-753AD) who built temples in a style that was essentially a mixture of the Nagara and the Dravida styles, further refined by the Rashtrakutas of Manyakheta (750- 983AD) in Ellora, Chalukyas of Kalyani (983-1195 AD) in Lakkundi, Dambal, Gadag etc. and epitomized by the Hoysalas (1000-1330 AD)
- The Hoysalas temples at Belur, Halebidu and Somnathpura are prime examples of this style.

Unique features of Vesara style of temple architecture

- Ornamentation: In case of ornamentation of temple walls and pillars, Chalukyan temple shows indigenous quality.
- Transformation of Dravida tower: The Chalukyan builders modified the Dravida towers by minimizing the height of each storey and arranging them in descending order of height from base to top with much ornamentation in each storey.

- Transformation of Nagara tower: Instead of inclined storey here modification is seen in the vertical shape of the tower.

Chalukyan architecture-

- Their architecture consisted of admixture of Nagara and Dravidian styles.
- Temples built during this time can be found in- Aihole, Badami and Pattadakal.
- Temples built during their time period do not have a covered ambulatory path.
- The Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal built in imitation of Kailashnath temple is the jewel of Chalukyan architecture.

Rashtrakuta architecture-

- They were the successors of the Chalukyas.
- Their temples were built mostly imitating the Chalukyan style.
- The Kailas temple at Ellora, built during the time of Krishna II is the representative form of architecture of the empire.

Hoysala temple architecture-

- Kesava temple at Belur built during the time of Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas is a representative art of this period.
- In this temple, there are multiple shrines grouped around a central pillared hall and laid out in the shape of an intricately-designed star.
- Such an arrangement could be found in temples during this time in Halebid, Somnathpur and elsewhere.
- Hoysaleswara temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is another famous temple built during this period.

Nagara or North Indian Temple Style-

- In North India it is common for an entire temple to be built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it. Further, unlike in South India it does not usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.
- The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.
- There are many subdivisions of nagara temples depending on the shape of the shikhara.

Conclusion

Most of the architectural remains that survive from Ancient and Medieval India are religious in nature. In different parts of the country, distinct architectural style of temples was result of geographical, ethnic and historical diversities.