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Capsule
01

Mains Capsule Series

Paper - I

Indian & World History, Geography, Indian Society

*Coverage of Entire Syllabus of Mains Examination
for IAS/PCS in Question & Answer Format*



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Mains Capsule Series Paper - I

Indian & World History, Geography, Indian Society



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Section I

ART AND CULTURE

Question: Mauryan art was not exclusive to any particular religion. Elucidate.

(150 words) 10

Answer: The Mauryan Empire thrived from 322 B.C.E. to 185 B.C.E. and its first king was Chandragupta Maurya who ruled from Patliputra (present-day Patna). Mauryan art is represented both in court art as well as popular art. While the tall stone pillars and their decorative capitals represent court art, examples of popular art may be seen in sculptures like the Deedarganj Yakshi which is now in the Patna Museum in Bihar.

Art activities in the Mauryan period were mostly related to religions practiced in this period and symbols and units associated with them. The art forms and all of their symbolic representations, however, were not exclusive to any particular religion.

- For example, the Bharhut and Sanchi Stupas not only depict scenes from the life of the Buddha but also the reliefs of Yakshas, Yakshinis, Nagas, and other popular deities.
- The artists, in order to decorate the Stupas, carved many scenes which they observed in nature along with religious ideas. In fact, these are examples of secular art forms.
- Because of regular interactions with other cultures in this period, we also find elements of non-Indian art in the artistic creations of this period. This is particularly true of the Gandhara region which produced art typical to the region, in which many different elements came to be assimilated.
- The Buddha image which began to be sculpted in this period was a departure from earlier representations of him in the form of Bodhi tree, Stupa, footprints, etc.
- Making images for worship became common among other religions as well. The construction of Stupas, Chaityas and Viharas became popular.
- The pillars and their symbolism are often compared to Persian sculptures and 'Greco – Buddhist' symbolism.

Mauryan architecture is considered significant for its large scale, robust and fully formed figures and the unique glaze-like polish that provides a sophisticated finish to the sculptures.

Question: "The Bhakti and Sufi movements not only empowered the Indian society in fundamental ways but also provided the required impetus for the growth of vernacular literature". Comment.

(150 words) 10

Answer: Sufi and Bhakti movements were monistic movements that emerged in different parts of India. Both the Sufi and Bhakti movements stressed the mystical union of the individual with God. They laid great emphasis on love as the bond between God and the individual. These movements also cut across religious and sectarian lines promoting humanity and syncretic thought in society.

In order to make their teachings more accessible to the people, they discarded the use of traditional languages- Sanskrit, Arabic & Persian and favoured local languages, the language of the common people like Hindi, Bangali, Marathi, and Sindhi, etc. The use of the common language by the Bhakti and Sufi saints was, undoubtedly, an important factor in the rise of these languages.

- In eastern Uttar Pradesh Sufi saints, such as Mulla Daud, the author of 'Chandayan', Malik Muhammad Jaisi, the author of 'Padmavati' wrote in Hindi and put forward Sufi concepts in a form which could be easily understood by the common man.

- Amongst the eastern group of languages, Bengali was used by Chaitanya and by the poet Chandidas, who wrote extensively on the theme of the love of Radha and Krishna.
- It was also a Bhakti leader Shankaradeva, who popularized the use of the Assamese in the Brahmaputra valley in the 15th century. He used an entirely new medium to spread his ideas.
- In today's Maharashtra, Marathi reached its apogee at the hands of saints like Eknath and Tukaram.
- Other prominent saints like Kabir, Nanak, and Tulsidas contributed enormously to regional literature and language with their captivating verses and spiritual exposition.
- As a literary movement, it liberated poetry from singing the praises of kings and introduced spiritual themes. From a style point of view, it introduced simple and accessible styles like vachanas (in Kannada), saakhis, dohas and other forms in various languages and ended the hegemony of Sanskrit metrical forms.

The ideas of Bhakti and Sufi saints continued to permeate the cultural ethos of the society through the enormous body of literature left by them. The congruence in their ideas not only saved us from the likely internecine conflicts but also built the spirit of tolerance. For appealing to the common masses, their messages were composed into songs, proverbs, and stories that led to the development of Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Maithili and a number of other languages.

Question: The Sangam literature offers a window into the ancient culture, religious beliefs, and overall socio-economic conditions of its time. Examine. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: The period roughly between the 3rd century B.C. and 3rd century A.D. in South India (the area lying to the south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra) is known as the Sangam Period. At the Sangams eminent scholars assembled and functioned as the board of censors and the choicest literature was rendered in the nature of anthologies. These literary works were the earliest specimens of Dravidian literature. Major sources giving details of Sangam age include Tolkappiyum, Ettuogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinekilkanakkau, and two others- Silappathikaram and Manimegalai.

Sangam literature is one of the main sources used for documenting the early history of the ancient Tamil society as discussed below—

Sangam Polity and Administration

- During the Sangam period, the hereditary monarchy was the form of government.
- Each of the dynasties of Sangam age had a royal emblem – tiger for the Cholas, carp/Fish for the Pandyas, and bow for the Cheras.
- The king was assisted by a wide body of officials who were categorised into five councils.
- They were ministers (amaichar), priests (anthanar), envoys (thuthar), military commanders (senapathi), and spies (orral).
- The military administration was efficiently organized and a regular army was associated with each ruler.
- The chief source of the state's income was land revenue while a custom duty was also imposed on foreign trade.
- The major source of fulfilling the royal treasury was the booty captured in wars.

Sangam Society

- Tolkappiyam refers to the Five-fold division of lands – Kurinji (hilly tracks), Mullai (pastoral), Marudam (agricultural), Neydal (coastal) and Palai (desert).
- Tolkappiyam also refers to four castes namely arasar(Ruling Class), anthanar(priests), vanigar(carried on trade and commerce) and vellalar(Agriculturists).
- Ancient primitive tribes like Todas, Irulas, Nagas and Vedars lived in this period.

Position of Women during the Sangam Age

- A lot of information is available in the Sangam literature to understand the position of women during the Sangam age.
- Women had respect and were allowed intellectual pursuits. There were women poets like Avvaiyar, Nachchellaiyar, and Kakkaiyapadiyar who flourished and contributed to Tamil literature.
- Women were allowed to choose their life partners. But the life of widows was miserable.
- There is also a mention of the practice of Sati being prevalent in the higher strata of society.
- Religion
- The primary deity of the Sangam period was Murugan, who is hailed as Tamil God.
- The worship of Murugan was having an ancient origin and the festivals relating to God Murugan were mentioned in the Sangam literature.
- Other Gods worshipped during the Sangam period were Mayon (Vishnu), Vendan (Indra), Varuna and Korravai.
- The Hero Stone or Nadu Kal worship was significant in the Sangam period and was erected in memory of the bravery shown by the warriors in the battle.

The economy of the Sangam Age

- Agriculture was the chief occupation where rice was the most common crop.
- The handicraft included weaving, metal works and carpentry, shipbuilding and the making of ornaments using beads, stones, and ivory.
- These were in great demand in the internal and external trade that was at its peak during the Sangam period.
- High expertise was attained in spinning and weaving of cotton and silk clothes. These were in great demand in the western world especially for the cotton clothes woven at Uraiyur.
- The port city of Puhar became an important place of foreign trade, as big ships entered this port containing precious goods.

Question: Prehistoric paintings help us understand the mind of early human beings. Elucidate.

(150 words) 10

Answer: distant past when there was no paper or language or the written word, and hence no books or written documents, is called prehistoric times. Painting and drawing were the oldest art forms practised by human beings to express themselves, using the cave walls as their canvas.

The subjects of their drawings were human figures, human activities, geometric designs and symbols. Some of the examples of the sites of early rock paintings in India are Lakhudiyar in Uttarakhand, Kugallu in Telangana, Piklihal and Tekkalkotta in Karnataka, Bhimbetka and Jogimara in Madhya Pradesh etc.

These prehistoric paintings help us to understand about early human beings, their lifestyle, their food habits, their daily activities and, above all, they help us understand their mind—the way they thought.

- The themes of paintings found in Bhimbetka are of great variety, ranging from mundane events of daily life in those times to sacred and royal images. These include hunting, dancing, music, horse and elephant riders, animal fighting, honey collection, decoration of bodies, and other household scenes.
- The Mesolithic artists loved to paint animals. In some pictures, animals are chasing men. In others they are being chased and hunted by men.
- Some of the animal paintings, especially in the hunting scenes, show a fear of animals, but many others show a feeling of tenderness and love for them.
- Some of the pictures of men, women and children seem to depict a sort of family life.

- The paintings of the Chalcolithic period reveal the association, contact, and mutual exchange of requirements of the cave dwellers of this area with settled agricultural communities of the Malwa plains.
- Some of the most beautiful paintings are very high up on rock shelters or close to the ceilings of rock-shelters. The paintings made at these places were perhaps for people to be able to notice them from a distance.
- Some of the paintings depict, in a dramatic way, both men and animals engaged in the struggle for survival.
- The paintings of individual animals show the mastery of skill of the primitive artist in drawing these forms. Both, proportion and tonal effect, have been realistically maintained in them.
- At Bhimbetka, in some places, there are as many as 20 layers of paintings, one on top of another. Maybe, this was because the artist did not like his creation and painted another painting on the previous one, or some of the paintings and places were considered sacred or special or this was because the area may have been used by different generations of people at different times.

Prehistoric period remains are a great witness to the evolution of human civilisation, through the numerous rock weapons, tools, ceramics and bones. More than anything else, the rock paintings are the greatest wealth the primitive human beings of this period left behind.

Question: The decline of Harappan cities did not mean the end of the Harappan traditions. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

Answer: The Indus Valley Civilization was the earliest known urban culture of the Indian subcontinent—one of the world's three earliest civilizations, along with Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt. The nuclear dates of the civilization appear to be about 2500–1700 BCE. The Indus Valley Civilization interestingly declined around 1800 BCE without leaving any clear reasons for its demise, leaving scholars debating about the causes that resulted in the civilization's decline. Many such theories include Aryan invasion, climate change, drying of the Saraswati River, while others conclude that a great flood struck the area.

The end of the cities however did not mean the end of the Harappan tradition. The Harappan communities which continued after the urban phase retained their older traditions which is evident through various examples such as:

- The priests of the Harappan urban centres who were part of a highly organised literate tradition merged into the ruling groups of the Aryans.
- The cults of Pashupati (Siva) and of the mother goddess and phallic worship seem to have come down to us from the Harappan tradition.
- Similarly, the cult of sacred places, rivers or trees and sacred animals show a distinct continuity in the subsequent historic civilization of India.
- The evidence of fire worship and sacrifice in Kalibangan and Lothal is significant. These were the most significant elements of the Vedic religion.
- Many aspects of domestic life like the house plans, disposition of water supply and attention to bathing survived in the settlements of the subsequent periods.
- The traditional weight and currency system of India, based on a ratio of sixteen as the unit, was already present in the Harappan civilization. It might well have been derived from them.
- The folk communities also retained the traditions of craftsmanship as is evident from the pottery and tool making traditions.
- The technique of making a potter's wheel in modern India is similar to those used by the Harappans. Bullock carts and boats used in modern India were already present in the Harappan cities.

As such we can say that many elements of the Harappan civilization survived in the subsequent historical tradition.

Section I

MODERN HISTORY (BEFORE INDEPENDENCE)

Question: Discuss the contributions of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in the making of modern India.

(150 words) 10

Answer: The history of modern India roughly starts with the advent of Britishers in India. The dissemination of colonial culture and ideology led to an inevitable introspection about the strengths and weaknesses of indigenous culture and institutions. This period also saw the prevalence of social evils like sati, child marriage, caste rigidity, etc. in the Indian society.

Driven by the resolve to modernise Indian society, the great scholar and reformer- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar instigated social reforms. He believed in high moral values, was a deep humanist and generous to the poor. He studied Sanskrit grammar, literature, Vedanta philosophy, logic, astronomy, and Hindu law for more than 12 years at Sanskrit College in Calcutta, and received the title of “Vidyasagar” — Ocean of Learning — at the age of just 21. His contributions to the making of modern India can be summarised in the following way:

- **Women:** The focus of his social reform was women. Vidyasagar started a movement in support of widow remarriage which resulted in legislation of widow remarriage.
 - As government inspector of schools, he helped organise girls’ schools, many of which he ran at his own expense.
 - As secretary of Bethune School (established in 1849), he was one of the pioneers of higher education for women in India.
 - Vidyasagar spent the last 18 years of his life living among Santhal tribals in present day Jharkhand, where he started what is possibly India’s first school for Santhal girls.
- **Education:** Before getting into social reforms, Vidyasagar had already devoted a large part of his life in refining the Bengali education sector.
 - As an educator at Sanskrit College, Fort William College and founder of the Metropolitan Institution, he is credited with introducing a fixed routine and the concept of weekly offs in the education system.
- **Child Marriage:** He was also a crusader against child marriage and polygamy.
 - He launched a powerful attack on the practice of marrying off girls aged 10 or even younger, pointing to social, ethical, and hygiene issues, and rejecting the validity of the Dharma Shastras that advocated it.
- **Promotion of indigenous culture:** He introduced Western thought in Sanskrit College, Calcutta to break the self-imposed isolation of Sanskrit learning.
 - Vidyasagar cited even Vedic texts to prove that the Hindu religion sanctioned widow remarriage.
- **Against Caste Rigidity:** To break the priestly monopoly of scriptural knowledge, he opened the Sanskrit College to non-brahmins.
- **Literature:** Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar’s contribution to literature is immense. His contribution to the alphabet, translation of several Sanskrit books including Kalidas’s Shakuntala, has helped Bengali literature.
 - As an academician, he evolved a new methodology to teach Sanskrit. He also devised a new simpler Bengali textbook (BornoPorichoy) and evolved a new prose style.

- **Source of Inspiration:** Considered as the doyen of Bengal Renaissance, he has been a ready reference for millions of Bengalis to not only encourage their children to study but also to strive for excellence in the face of adversity.

It is quite clear that Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, often touted as a man who was way ahead of his time brought great reforms in the Indian society. To initiate and undertake these reforms which today appear to be modest and limited, was not an easy task. Breaking the bonds of tradition created social tensions and it was a continuous struggle. It was out of this struggle that new and modern society evolved in India.

Question: What were the prominent changes made in the administration of India after the Revolt of 1857 especially in the fields of provincial administration, local bodies and public services? **(150 words) 10**

Answer: The considerable support which the revolt of 1857 obtained and the threat it posed to the very existence of British rule in India, forced the British to examine the entire nature of their connection with India. The consequences of the Revolt of 1857 may be studied under various heads such as:

Administrative changes

- By the Government of India Act 1858, the power to govern India was transferred from the East India Company to the British Crown.
- The authority over India, which was wielded by the directors of the Company and the Board of Control, was now to be exercised by a Secretary of State for India aided by a Council.
- The Act of 1858 provided that the Governor-General would have an Executive Council whose members were to act as heads of different departments and as his official advisers.

Provincial Administration

- The Act of 1861 marked the turning of the tide of centralization. It laid down that legislative councils similar to that of the centre should be established first in Bombay, Madras, and Bengal and then in other provinces.
- In 1870, under Lord Mayo, provincial governments were granted fixed sums out of central revenues for the administration of certain services like police, jails, education, medical services and roads and were asked to administer them as they wished.
- In 1877, Lord Lytton transferred to the provinces certain other heads of expenditure like Land Revenue, Excise, General Administration, and Law and Justice.
- In 1882, all sources of revenue were divided into three heads- general, provincial, and those to be divided between the centre and the provinces.

Local Bodies

- The Government further decentralized administration by promoting local government through municipalities and district boards.
- Local services like education, health, sanitation and water supply were transferred to local bodies that would finance them through local taxes.
- Ripon resolution of 1882 laid down the policy of administering local affairs largely through local bodies, a majority of whose members were to be non-officials.
 - However, the local bodies functioned just like departments of the government as the Government retained the right to exercise strict control over the activities of the local bodies.

Public Services

- Maximum age of entry into the civil service was gradually reduced from 23 in 1859 to 19 in 1878.

- Under Indian pressure, different administrative services were gradually Indianised after 1918; but the position of control and authority were still kept in British hands.
- Moreover, people soon discovered that Indianisation of these services had not put any part of political power in their hands. The Indians in these services functioned as agents of British rule and loyally served Britain's imperial purposes.

Question: World War I linked India to global events in profound ways with far reaching consequences. Discuss by giving suitable examples. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: World War-I (1914-1918) was one of the greatest watersheds of 20th-century geopolitical history. It was one of the biggest wars in the history of the world in which more than 70 million military personnel were mobilised. It cost the lives of over 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians. It also had a serious impact on the global economy and the demographic structure of countries.

India as a British colony also made huge contributions to Britain's war effort. It contributed soldiers and volunteers to fight on behalf of the allied forces and as many as 1.5 million Indians died fighting for the British cause. The country also supplied 170,000 animals, 3.7 million tonnes of supplies, jute for sandbags, and a large loan (the equivalent of about £2 billion today) to the British government.

The war had a significant impact on India and even brought India closer to the world leaving a profound mark on how Indians perceived themselves:

- First and foremost the world war ended the myth of invincibility of the British Empire in India as the British faced many humiliating defeats during the war.
- The war also filled Indians with the sense of equality that was meted to them by French and Belgian soldiers. This also resulted in a feeling of hatred towards British rule which treated them as lesser humans.
- Formation of the USSR during the war led to the rise of communism in India and imparted a socialist tinge to the freedom struggle. For example- Indian revolutionaries were inspired by the Russian Revolution of 1917.
- The growth and spread of Marxism and Socialism during the war inspired many socialist and communist groups in India. The ideologies attracted peasants and workers and made them an integral part of the national movement.
- Fighting outside India in Europe, Egypt, Mesopotamia etc brought Indian soldiers divided along caste and religious lines closer to each other which led to the development of a sense of belongingness and thus giving impetus to Indian nationalism. For example, Punjab which supplied a large proportion of the troops turned into an epicentre of nationalism after the war.
- War created opportunities for Indian industrialists to set up industries in the country. As a result, a good number of factories sprang up in centres like Bombay. This created employment and benefited the economy.

The war awakened the conscience of the common Indian soldiers who were fighting for the independence of other nations but were themselves under colonial rule. It linked India with major global events/ideas which resulted in setting the tone for the future Indian national movement and provided India with the new tools for resisting the colonial coercion.

Question: The South African experiment prepared Mahatma Gandhi for leadership of the Indian national struggle in many respects. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi visited South Africa in 1898 where he witnessed white racism and the humiliation to which Asians were subjected. He decided to stay in South Africa to organise the Indian workers to enable them to fight for their rights. He stayed there till 1914 after which he returned to India.

Gandhi employed various ways and unheard methods in South Africa which emerged as potent tools against Britishers in India:

Methods adopted in South Africa	Similarities in India
<p>Organisation & Publication: To unite different sections of Indians, he set up the Natal Indian Congress and started a newspaper-Indian Opinion.</p>	<p>He founded Harijan Sevak Sangh in 1932 to eradicate untouchability in India and for the upliftment of Harijans. He also started publishing Young India from 1919 to 1931. He used Young India to spread his unique ideology and thoughts regarding the use of non-violence.</p>
<p>Civil Disobedience: In 1906, he started passive resistance or civil disobedience against Registration Certificates (1906) which he called Satyagraha. He termed Satyagraha as devotion to truth, the technique of resisting adversaries without violence.</p>	<p>In India, he started Champaran Satyagraha (1917) and Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919) on similar lines.</p>
<p>Negotiations: Through negotiations, Gandhi succeeded in reaching an agreement by which the Government of South Africa conceded to major Indian demands relating to the poll tax, the registration certificates and marriages.</p>	<p>Gandhi-Irwin Pact: Mahatma Gandhi suspended the civil disobedience movement, and he agreed to participate in the next round table conference on the question of constitutional reforms.</p>
<p>Petitions: Gandhi relied on sending petitions and memorials to the authorities in South Africa and in Britain hoping that once the authorities were informed of the plight of Indians, they would take sincere steps to redress their grievances.</p>	<p>On similar lines, it was his usual practice to send petitions and memorials to authorities before launching a full-fledged movement against any issue.</p>
<p>The capacity of masses: In South Africa, he came to know about the immense capacity of masses to participate and sacrifice for a cause. He also gained an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the masses.</p>	<p>From Champaran (1917), Ahmedabad (1918) and Kheda (1918), Gandhi made sure that his movements encompassed people from every walk of life.</p>

Although Gandhi experimented with various methods of protesting against authorities on a much smaller scale in South Africa, his extrapolation of those methods in the Indian freedom struggle was relatively successful considering the size and diversity of India. He successfully established the idea of India and collective power in the psyche of masses of India. Therefore, it can be said that Gandhiji started as an activist in South Africa, but emerged as a leader in India through the application of his experiences in South Africa.

Question: “Constitutional reforms introduced by the British government from time to time were always too little and too late”. Discuss with special reference to Montagu-Chelmsford reforms. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: Early nationalists believed that India should eventually become a self-governing nation. They moved very cautiously in putting forward political demands regarding the structure of the state, for they were afraid of the government declaring their activities seditious and disloyal and suppressing them. The constitutional reforms introduced by the British government from time to time were in no way intended to provide relief to the demands of Indian masses. British government always retained its supremacy in all the constitutional reforms introduced by it.

- Earliest constitutional reforms such as the Regulating Act 1773 and Pitt’s India Act 1784 brought about the British government’s involvement in Indian affairs. But there was nothing in these Acts which could address the people of India.

Section I

MODERN HISTORY (AFTER INDEPENDENCE)

Question: The linguistic reorganization of states resulted in rationalizing the political map of India without seriously weakening its unity. Examine. (250 words) 15

Answer: At the time of independence in 1947, India consisted of more than 500 disjointed princely states that were merged together to form different states. The grouping of states at the time was done on the basis of political and historical considerations rather than on linguistic or cultural divisions, but this was a temporary arrangement.

On the basis of the State Reorganisation Commission's (SRC) recommendations, the linguistic reorganisation of 14 States and six Centrally-administered territories was partially completed in 1956, with several other States to be reorganised later on. This was a massive state rationalisation exercise, not simply to establish newer modes of power and authority but to rearrange social, cultural, regional and linguistic diversities into more manageable enclaves of state power.

The formation of states on linguistic basis has rationalised the political map of India in more than one way:

- The formation of these states changed the nature of democratic politics and leadership. The path to politics and power was now open to people speaking regional languages rather than the small English speaking elite.
- Language coupled with the regional and tribal identity provided the most powerful instrument for the formation of ethno national identity in India.
- It led to the local people participating in the administration in larger numbers because of being able to communicate in a common language.

Events since 1956 have clearly shown that loyalty to a language is quite complementary to the unity of the nation such as:

- By reorganizing the states on linguistic lines, the national leadership removed a major grievance which could have led to fissiparous tendencies.
- Linguistic reorganization of the states has not in any manner adversely affected the federal structure of the Union or weakened or paralysed the Centre as many had feared.
- The central government wields as much authority as it did before. The states have also been cooperating with the Centre in planning and economic development.

However, reorganising states on the basis of language has put forth certain challenges in front of the nation such as:

- It has led to several unintended consequences such as regionalism, linguistic chauvinism and foundation of the "Sons of the soil" doctrine.
- It has been used for divisive purposes and transformed into disruptive tendencies, such as communalism, casteism and linguistic or regional exclusiveness.
- The issues of jobs, educational opportunities, access to political power and share in the larger economic cake has fueled rivalries and conflicts based on religion, region, caste and language.
- Several issues that are a threat to India's integrity have also emerged such as demand for new states on the basis of backwardness such as Marathwada and Saurashtra, ethnicity in the North East etc.

The political leadership of newly independent India had the foresight to visualize the consequences of not acquiescing to popular aspirations. States' reorganization did not, of course, resolve all the problems relating to linguistic conflicts. Disputes over boundaries between different states, linguistic minorities and economic issues such as sharing of waters, and power and surplus food still persist. However, their decision to linguistically reorganize the states has removed one important factor that would've jeopardized India's integrity and thus strengthened the cause of Indian unity.

Question: Had the private sector been allowed a free play right from the beginning, India could have developed much better. Critically analyse. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: After gaining independence in 1947 from the British rule, the leaders of independent India had to decide on the type of economic system most suitable for our nascent nation. It had to be a system which would promote the welfare of all and not just of the elites. The choice was between capitalism as followed by Western countries and socialism as established in the former Soviet Union.

Why India opted for the Mixed Economy model

- The capitalism model works on the principle of demand and supply and opting for it would have meant that the great majority of Indians would be left behind without the chance to improve their quality of life.
- In socialism, the government decides what goods are to be produced in accordance with the needs of society and the desires of individual consumers are not given much importance which did not go well with the democratic system opted by India.
- The answer for India was found in an economic system which combined the best features of socialism but without its drawbacks. This 'mixed-economy' system had a strong public sector but also the concept of private property and democracy.
- The government would 'plan' for the economy with the private sector being encouraged to be part of the plan effort. But the private sector was ordained to play second fiddle to the public sector which was entrusted with major responsibilities for development.

How Private Sector could have led to better development outcomes

- **Resource mobilization for infrastructure development:** The private sector is more oriented towards resource maximization as well as resource optimization as it is driven by profit-motive. This would have led to better utilization of resources at the time of independence.
- **More competition leading to enhanced efficiency:** Many sectors of the Indian economy kept reserved for the public sector in early years hardly witnessed any growth as there was no competition. Had these sectors been open to the private sector there would have been competition and attendant growth.
- **Judicious allocation of capital:** The private sector ensures that the capital is deployed for value maximization. While the public sector led economic model did not prioritize allocation of capital on market principles leading to inefficiencies and slower pace of development.
- **Faster adoption of new technology:** The private sector is faster to use new technologies and adopt new ways of operating to ensure current and future needs are met. While the public sector is caught up with long delays in decision-making leading to poor outcomes.
- Examples of Western countries like the US, Britain, Germany etc. and some East Asian countries are enough to show that when the private sector is given enough space to work independently, it brings in better outcomes for the economy.

Challenges with Private Sector

- **Poor condition of economy:** Indian economy at the time of independence was in shambles due to the exploitation by the British government. It was in dire need of government intervention and the public sector was forced to play a leading role in uplifting the economy.
- **Widespread inequality:** Social and income inequalities were rampant and as the private sector only works to maximize profit, it became the responsibility of the public sector to lead the way in promoting economic prosperity for all.
- **Lack of capacity of Indian Capitalists:** There was not enough capital in the hands of the Indian private business houses at the time of Indian independence to take on the developmental challenge facing the country.
- **Fear of Capitalism:** The face of British capitalism and its exploitative tendencies was fresh in the minds of Indian leadership and they found it hard to adopt the private sector led economic model of development which might have led to inflow of foreign private entities in the hope of getting a market to exploit.

There was an inherent contradiction in the attitude and policy of the government as regards the private sector and its role in India's development just after independence. The government on one hand had emphasised the importance of the private sector in the mixed economy of India, but at the same time it took various measures, both direct and indirect, which did not help the private sector to develop freely and rapidly like reserving certain sectors of economy only for the public sector. Though, the challenges faced at the time of independence were so huge and multifaceted that most Indian nationalists believed that the best antidote to mass poverty would be rapid industrialization led by the state.

Question: Throw light on the major environmental movements witnessed in India. Also, discuss the economic and identity issues associated with environmental movements. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: Environmental movement is a type of social movement that involves an array of individuals, groups and coalitions that perceive a common interest in environmental protection and act to bring about changes in environmental policies and practices.

The genesis of environmental movement in India can be traced back to the early twentieth century when people protested against the commercialization of forest resources during the British colonial period.

Major Environmental Movements in India:

- **Bishnoi Movement:** This movement was led by Amrita Devi in which around 363 people sacrificed their lives for the protection of their forests. This movement was the first of its kind to have developed the strategy of hugging or embracing the trees for their protection spontaneously.
- **The Chipko Movement:** The Chipko movement was a non-violent agitation in 1973 that was aimed at the protection and conservation of trees, but perhaps, it is best remembered for the collective mobilisation of women for the cause of preserving forests, which also brought about a change in attitude regarding their own status in society. The name of the movement 'chipko' comes from the word 'embrace', as the villagers hugged the trees and encircled them to prevent being hacked.
- **Narmada Bachao Andolan:** This movement is against the Narmada River Valley Project. It has drawn upon a multiplicity of discourses for protests such as: displacement risks and resettlement provisions; environmental impact and sustainability issues; financial implications of the project; forceful evictions and violations of civil liberties; issues pertaining to river valley planning and management etc
- **Appiko Movement:** Appiko Movement is one of the forest-based environmental movements in India. The movement took place in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka in the Western Ghats. The movement created awareness among the villagers throughout the Western Ghats about the ecological danger posed by the commercial and industrial interests to their forest which was the main source of sustenance.

- **Silent Valley Movement:** Silent Valley Movement in Kerala was against the construction of a hydroelectric dam on the river Kunthipuzha under the Kudremukh project.
- **Tehri Dam Conflict:** It is one of the most protracted environmental movements in recent years. The major issues of the movement include- seismic sensitivity of the region, submergence of forest areas along with Tehri town etc.

These environmental movements were mainly against the ecological concerns such as greater exploitation of the already depleted natural resources, construction of big dams etc.

However, along with these ecological concerns, there were also economic and identity issues associated with these environmental movements.

Economic issues:

- All the villagers relied on the forest to get firewood, fodder and other daily necessities. The livelihood needs of poor villagers were put at stake against the government's desire to generate revenues from selling timber.
- The need for infrastructural development attracted many foreign logging companies, who were eyeing the vast forest resources. This led to denying of villager's control over these natural resources on which they relied for both food and fuel.
- Widespread flooding of the villages and forest areas, which was attributed to the mismanagement due to commercial logging and construction of big dams, led to displacement of villagers thereby losing their means of livelihood.

Identity issues:

- The villagers valued the forest for their own sake and were of the view that their existence and identity is closely linked to the forest. They were able to perceive the link between their victimization and the denuding of mountain slopes by commercial interests.
- Women, being solely in charge of cultivation, livestock and children, suffered the most due to floods and landslides. The message of the environmental movement leaders made a direct appeal to them.
- Women were given no share in the decision-making process, public power and political activities like men. These movements provided them with the opportunity to raise their concerns and fight for their rights.

Question: What are the key principles of Simla Agreement? Do you agree that this Agreement did not fully achieve India's objectives? **(250 words) 15**

Answer: The Simla Agreement was signed by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan on 2nd July 1972. The agreement sought to reverse the consequences of the 1971 war (i.e. to bring about withdrawals of troops and an exchange of Prisoners of Wars). It was a comprehensive blueprint for good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan.

Under the Simla Agreement both countries undertook to abjure conflict and confrontation which had marred relations in the past, and to work towards the establishment of durable peace, friendship and cooperation.

The Simla Agreement contains a set of guiding principles, of which the following principles of the Agreement are particularly noteworthy:

- A mutual commitment to the peaceful resolution of all issues through direct bilateral approaches.
- To build the foundations of a cooperative relationship with special focus on people to people contacts.
- To uphold the inviolability of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, which is a most important confidence building measure between India and Pakistan, and a key to durable peace.

It also sets few other guidelines such as: respecting each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; respect for each others' unity, political independence; sovereign equality; and abjuring hostile propaganda towards each other.

Section I

WORLD HISTORY

Question: In the context of colonialism, bring out the reasons behind easy domination of Asian and African countries by the Western powers. **(150 words) 10**

Answer: Colonialism can be defined as “control by one power over a dependent area or people.” It occurs when one nation subjugates another, conquering its population and exploiting it, often while forcing its own language and cultural values upon its people. By 1914, a large majority of the world’s nations had been colonized by Europeans at some point.

There are several reasons that explain the easy domination of Asian and African countries by Western powers such as:

- The most important condition favouring the imperialist conquest of Asia and Africa was that the Industrial Revolution had not come to this part of the world. In comparison with the production of Western countries in the 19th century, Asian and African methods were backward.
- Also, because of the lack of knowledge that the Industrial Revolution had brought to the West, the two continents were militarily unable to stand up to the armed might and power of Europe.
- The governments of the countries of Asia and Africa were very weak in the 19th century, though in ancient and medieval times powerful empires had existed there. In the 19th century, the old ways of governing were still followed, even though they had outlived their usefulness.
- Strong nation-states in the modern sense had not developed. The people’s loyalties were still to local princes as in feudal times, or to tribal chieftains. These rulers cared little for the welfare of the people.
- In Africa, there were conflicts between states and within states and the rulers and chiefs often sought the support of the Europeans against their rivals.
- There were other reasons too which helped Europeans in dominating Asia and Africa such as their economic pre-eminence in manufacturing, trade, and international finance as well as their undisputed mastery of the seas during most of the 19th century.

Question: Western policy of appeasement of the fascist powers caused the Second World War. Examine. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: The policy of appeasement was the policy followed by the British and the French, of avoiding war with aggressive powers such as Japan, Italy and Germany by giving way to their demands in order to maintain peace and harmony.

Learning from the First World War made Britain and France apprehensive of another global escalation and they wanted to avoid a war-like situation by any means as:

- British and French governments were not prepared for war because there was a strong anti-war attitude prevailing among the people in these countries.
- The devastation left by the First World War forced the European leadership to work for peace and harmony in every possible way.
- The western powers believed that mistakes were committed at the Paris Peace Conference and some of the German grievances were quite genuine.

- The fear of communism was also behind the policy of appeasement. It was believed that Germany and Italy would act as buffers to check the spread of communism.

Examples of policy of appeasement:

- The allied powers failed to check the German advancement in Rhineland which under the Treaty of Versailles and Locarno was to remain demilitarised.
- German occupation of Austria, Czechoslovakia met no resistance whatsoever from either Britain or France.
- The signing of the Munich Treaty was also a form of western appeasement employed to avert the imminent danger of war.
- Backed by German expansionist motives, Italy too attacked Ethiopia in 1935 which was a member of the League of Nations. The failure of the League in stopping the aggression highlighted its ineffectiveness in containing global conflicts.

The policy of appeasement can be held responsible for the Second World War as:

- The policy of appeasement allowed Hitler to destroy the system created by peacemakers of Paris (after the First World War).
- This policy played a role in the failure of the League of Nations because western democracies were supposed to maintain peace by providing meaningful leadership to the League.
- It allowed Germany, Italy and Japan to come closer to form the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis. The emergence of this alliance had disturbed the balance of power.
- The policy of appeasement convinced Hitler that western democracies had neither the intention nor the capacity to stand in front of Germany. He was greatly emboldened by the appeasing attitude.
- Eventually, the policy of appeasement drove Hitler to attack Poland on 1st Sep 1939 and with this World War II commenced.

Question: What were the conditions that helped the growth of imperialism in the 19th century? Also discuss the evolution of Japan as an imperialist power. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: The term 'imperialism' means the practice of extending the power, control or rule by a country over the political and economic life of areas outside its own borders. This may be done through military or other means, and particularly through 'colonialism' or the practice of acquiring colonies by conquest or other means and making them dependent.

Many countries of the world were until recent years under the control of one imperialist country or another. Multiple reasons can be cited that favoured the growth of imperialism such as:

Demands created by the Industrial Revolution

- The Industrial Revolution resulted in the great increase in the production of goods which was far in excess of the demand at home. Asian and African nations were seen as suitable markets for the goods their industries were producing.

Improvement in transportation and communication

- Changes in transport and communication that came with the Industrial Revolution made the spread of imperialism easier.
- Steamships could carry goods between home countries in Europe and the acquired territories much faster than the old sailing vessels.
- Railroads and inland waterways eased transportation of raw materials out of the interior of the continents and of finished products into the hinterland markets.

Extreme nationalism

- The later part of the 19th century came to be associated as a period of intense nationalism. Many nations developed myths of their superiority over other people. Keeping colonies were seen as a symbol of prestige and power and imperialism became the fashion of the age.
- The ideas of imperialism were promoted by natives of England, France and Germany and great pride was taken in calling their territories as 'empires'.
- Acquiring a colony also had a chain reaction. If a country acquired a colony, it needed another to protect it.

The civilising mission

- In the minds of many Europeans, imperialist expansion was very noble. They considered it their nation's destiny to civilize the people of Asia and Africa. Rudyard Kipling calls these colonial subjects as the white man's burden.
- Christian missionaries were dedicated to spread Christianity which also promoted the idea of imperialism.

Explorers and adventurers:

- They went into unknown or little known territories and brought back reports that indicated opportunities for trade and development. The work of explorers and adventurers was particularly important in Europe's taking over of Africa.

Japan started on her program of imperialist expansion in the last decade of the nineteenth century.

- Until 1853 Japan was a closed economy. It was after the attack of American warships under Commodore Perry that compelled the Japanese to open their country to American shipping and trade.
- However, Japan escaped the experience and fate of other Asian countries. In 1867, after a change in government, known as the Meiji Restoration, Japan began to modernize her economy. Within a few decades, Japan became one of the most industrialized countries of the world.
- With fewer resources inland to support her industries, Japan began to look for areas that had resources. China provided ample opportunities for Japan's imperialist designs.
- The war between China and Japan over Korea in 1894 resulted in increased influence of Japan in China.
- The Anglo Japanese Treaty of 1902 recognized Japan as a power of equal standing with the great European powers.
- Japan also took over the southern half of Sakhalin Island (Russian island) after it defeated Russia in 1904-05.
- Japan gained control of the southern part of the Liaotung Peninsula along with Port Arthur which was leased to her in 1910 after Korea became a colony of Japan.

Japan's rise as an imperialist power shows that imperialism was not limited to any one person or region. Rather, it was the result of greed for economic and political power which could distort the policy of any country regardless of its race or cultural claims.

Question: What were the causes of the Russian Revolution? Also discuss the impact of the Russian Revolution on Indian National Movement. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a watershed event of the 20th Century. Marxist ideas of socialism and the proletarian revolution came to the fore for the first time. Russia of the 20th century faced serious domestic and international problems. Eventually, Bolshevik Party headed by Lenin overthrew the Tsarist regime in the October Revolution of 1917. Thus, Russia became the USSR [Union of Soviet Socialist Republics], which lasted until its disintegration in 1991.

Politically, most areas of Russian society had reason to be dissatisfied with the existing autocratic system which was not willing to share power with the people.

- They had no representation in government, and the Tsar remained out of touch with the people's problems.
- The members of Duma wanted liberal reforms from the Tsar but he was not prepared to sanction any reforms.
- Dissatisfaction with Russian autocracy culminated in the Bloody Sunday massacre, in which Russian workers saw their pleas for justice rejected as thousands of unarmed protestors were shot by the Tsar's troops. The response to the massacre crippled the nation with strikes.
- Japanese victory over the mighty Russians in the Russo-Japanese war also lowered the international and domestic prestige of Russia. The defeat eroded people's trust in Tsar and his capabilities.

The social causes of the Russian Revolution mainly came from centuries of oppression of the lower classes by the Tsarist regime and Nicholas's failures in World War I:

- While rural agrarian peasants had been emancipated from serfdom in 1861, they still resented paying redemption payments to the State and demanded communal tender of the land they worked.
- World War I also added to the chaos in Russian society. Conscription swept up the unwilling in all parts of Russia.
- The vast demand for factory production of war supplies and workers caused many more labour riots and strikes.
- The soldiers themselves, who suffered from a lack of equipment and protection were discontent with Russia's poor accounting in the war.

Economic conditions were in the state of absolute neglect and suffered from apathy:

- The economic causes of the Russian Revolution largely originated in Russia's outdated economy.
- Russia's agriculture was largely based on independent peasants who seldom owned modern machinery.
- The rapid industrialization of Russia also resulted in overcrowding of urban areas and poor working conditions of industrial workers.

The Russian Revolution had a decisive impact on the history of the twentieth century. It was by no means a specifically 'Russian' phenomenon. As Lenin was to put later, Bolshevism was 'World Bolshevism' by virtue of its revolutionary tactics, theory and program.

Likewise, it also impacted the character of the Indian National Movement in various ways:

- The declaration of the Equality and Sovereignty of the people of Russia and their right of self determination proved to be an explosive statement for Indian freedom movement.
- Class character and socialistic orientation of the Revolution had its due impact on the character of the Indian National Movement.
- It provided the Indian national movement with its economic and socialistic aim which until had only political undertone.
- The ideas particularly attracted the radical Indian intelligentsia such as Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose etc.
- The movement encouraged the peasants and workers to come forward to start and agitate on the similar lines, for eg. strikes in the Bombay cotton mills in 1918 and 1919 as well as 200 strikes involving 1.5 million workers were the direct result of the Revolution.
- The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) which was established in March 1920 giving shape to the organised working class trade union movement in India was also an outcome of the Revolution.

The Russian Revolution therefore with a new message of hope of salvation for the entire mankind, considerably broadened the social and economic contents of the Indian National Movement.

Section II

INDIAN SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Question: The locus of poverty in India is shifting from rural to urban areas. Comment. **(150 words) 10**

Answer: India has witnessed tremendous growth over the last two decades. The proportion of people below the poverty line has dropped from 45% to 22% between 1994 and 2012. However still a considerable proportion of Indian population continues to remain below the poverty line. As more and more people migrate to the cities in search of better economic opportunities, the locus of poverty in India is shifting to cities as well.

Urban Areas as Locus of Poverty:

- Urban poverty in India is over 25%, some 81 million people live in urban areas on incomes that are below the poverty line. Although, rural poverty remains higher than urban poverty, but the gap is closing, i.e. locus of poverty is shifting to urban areas.
- Today, one in every six of India's urban households live in slums, a number forecast to rise exponentially over the coming years.
- The Rangarajan committee (2012) estimated that the number of poor were 19 per cent higher in rural areas and a whopping 41 per cent more in urban areas than those of the previous estimates.
- The data suggest that the rate of urban poverty has been coming down. However, the absolute numbers of urban poor remain extremely large, at more than 76 million.
- Moreover, there is no standard definition of slums and the massive lack of research provides no account of the lives of the urban poor.

Few prominent reasons for shifting of locus of poverty from rural to urban India are:

- **Push-Pull factors:** In India, the causes of urban poverty can be linked to the lack of infrastructure in rural areas (push factor), forcing inhabitants of these regions to seek out work in India's mega-cities (pull factor). The urban poor are largely the overflow of the rural poor who migrate to urban areas in search of alternative employment and livelihood.
- **Lack of skills:** Most of the poor are not able to participate in the emerging employment opportunities in different sectors of the urban economy as they do not have the necessary knowledge and skills to do so.
- **Indebtedness:** Unemployment or underemployment and the casual and intermittent nature of work in urban areas lead to indebtedness, that in turn, reinforces poverty.
- **Inflation:** A steep rise in the price of food grains and other essential goods further intensifies the hardship and deprivation of lower income groups.
- **Unequal distribution:** The unequal distribution of income and assets has also led to the persistence of poverty in urban India.
- **Unsatisfactory growth:** The overall growth of agriculture and industry have not been impressive. The gap between poor and rich has actually widened.
- **Asymmetrical development:** The green revolution exacerbated the disparities regionally and between large and small farmers. There was unwillingness and inability to redistribute land. The benefits of economic growth have largely not trickled down to the poor.

Question: Establish the relationship between caste and economic inequality in India. Describe some of the policy measures designed to address caste inequality. **(150 words) 10**

Answer: In India it is said that the “wealth hierarchy mimics the caste hierarchy”.

According to a recent paper by the World Inequality Database, India’s upper caste households earned nearly 47% more than the national average annual household income in 2012.

The NSSO data of 2011-12 shows that Dalits are least likely to start their own enterprises and most likely to work as labourers for others, with Scheduled Castes (SC) having the lowest relative share in the self-employed category and the highest share in the casual labourer category.

Relationship between caste and economic inequality in India:

- **Educational backwardness:** The literacy rate for SCs is around 66% which is less than the national average of 74%.
- **Low salaried employment:** Due to low education, lower castes are stuck in low salaried employment as agricultural labourers or low-skill labourers in the non-agricultural sector.
- **Low ownership of assets:** Upper castes are also major land owning classes in India. Being landless, lower castes have to resort to manual wage employment for their livelihood.

Policy measures designed to address caste inequality:

Constitutional safeguards/measures: The discrimination on the basis of caste was addressed by means of Constitutional measures:

- Article 15 prohibits the discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- Article 16 ensures equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
- Article 46 requires the State to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Legislative measures: These were introduced to protect the lower caste population from atrocities of upper caste:

- The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989
- The Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955
- The ‘Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013’

Economic measures: Various agencies have been established to provide financial assistance to lower caste population to address prevailing economic inequalities:

- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation- to promote prosperity among Scheduled Castes by improving flow of financial assistance and through skill development & other innovative initiatives.
- National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation for economic upliftment of safai karamcharis who mostly come from lower castes.
- Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes to promote young entrepreneurs.
- Standup India scheme and Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes.

Question: Globalisation has changed the role of State. Critically evaluate its impact in the context of developing countries. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: Globalization is a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies, and governments of different nations, a process driven by international trade and investment and aided by information technology.

Being multi-dimensional and global in nature, this process has effects on the environment, on culture, on political systems, on economic development and prosperity, and on human physical well-being in societies around

the world. Globalization, both as an ideology and process, has become the dominant political, economic and cultural force in the 21st century and impacted the role of state in a significant manner.

Change in Political role:

- Globalization has changed the role of the state politically because of strengthened interstate relationships and dependence on one another. States were created to be sovereign but now, due to globalization, often give their sovereignty away to ‘pooling’ in conventions, contracting, coercion and imposition. This has led to increasingly similar jurisdictions across states and to power being seen as an economic rather than political progress because states now make political progression and regression together, causing states to become more developmental.

Change in Economic role:

- Globalized economic changes have a substantial effect on the state’s role. The global economy has been created by online banking, stock markets and, largely, global franchises. The state no longer controls currency because of intangible assets and importation as well as online and electronic banking and a shared currency between many states, like in much of Europe.
- International organizations like WTO have a dominant role in influencing countries to adopt certain market initiatives.

Social dimension

- Social globalisation has created greater social awareness of human rights violations, child labour abuses and corruption. These challenges, in turn, affect public administration and the role of government. The major change in the configuration of the public-private spheres in favour of globalising the corporate sector has changed the leading role of government in the allocation of resources, the distribution of wealth, the stabilisation of the economy and economic growth.

Impact on developing countries:

Advantages:

- By economic integration, it helps the government of developing countries to deal with major problems by increasing their economic growth, solving the poverty problems etc.
- The model of state and its functioning also evolves as a result of the free flow of political ideas.
- The government takes policy initiatives in the field of health, education and technology which are the direct result of globalization.
- Recent verdicts on the rights of the LGBTQ community in India are the perfect example of the changing role of the state in providing rights to its citizens.

Disadvantages:

- Matters related to India’s subsidy regime at WTO shows too much interference by the dominant powers at the world stage.
- Globalization facilitates the spread of new diseases in developing nations by travellers between countries, and states in developing countries have to rely on developed countries due to lack of capabilities of tackling these problems.
- Decrease in skilled labor in the developing countries because of easy mobility of skilled manpower to other countries having higher opportunities.
- Globalisation has led to economic inequality in developing countries.

- In this way, globalization has changed the role of the state in many ways: politically through interdependence and independence of states, socially through the problems and threats of terrorism and deadly diseases, technologically through the media and internet and economically through the change from national to global economies.

Globalization is often seen to have lowered the importance of the state, but in the end, the states that will remain the most successful in the face of globalization are those who adapt to the changes their role makes.

Question: Gender justice is as important as religious freedom. Analyse in the context of recent developments in India. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: The recent issues like that of triple talaq and women's entry into Sabarimala temple has sparked debate between gender justice and religious freedom.

- **Gender Justice:**

Gender justice is a fundamental human right, every woman and girl is entitled to live with dignity and freedom, without any fear. Constitutional provisions which guarantee gender justice are:

Article 14 (Equality before law),

Article 15 (Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth),

Article 51A(e) (fundamental duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women) etc.

- **Religious Freedom:**

Religious freedom encompasses freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion. Constitutional provisions with respect to religious freedom are:

Article 25: Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion

Article 26: Freedom to manage religious affairs

- Both, gender justice as well as religious freedom are guaranteed by the Constitution of India. In the name of religious freedom, one can not seek protection of outdated rituals or irrational exclusionary practices. As societies change with time, outdated traditions should also change accordingly.
- Restrictions based on gender is one of the ways of imposing patriarchy. Often the restrictions are based on patriarchy and not religion.

Analysis:

- The religious exclusion has a public character. It is not just an issue of a sacred tradition but that of violation of fundamental right to equality as well.
- All changes begin with rejection or partial rejection of practices that were in motion for hundreds and thousands of years. Historically, legal reforms usually precede socio-political change. Legal abolition of several antiquated practices such as Sati or untouchability did not witness a social transformation overnight.
- It is high time that the extent of applicability of religious freedom is defined rationally. We need to keep in mind that our Constitution doesn't acquire its secular character merely from the words in the Preamble, but from a collective reading of many of its provisions, DPSP included, and particularly the various fundamental rights, including that of gender justice that it guarantees.
- We also need to revisit our history to evaluate every act of discrimination that has been defended on the grounds of customs, traditions and religious practices. Beliefs and customs of devotees cannot be changed through a top-down approach. The reforms should come from within the society.
- On a larger spectrum, religious discrimination is practised across various socio-political groups. Such discrimination is pervasive and practised openly without the fear of law.

Section III

GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA & THE WORLD

Question: Explain the formation of tropical cyclones. Discuss why the Bay of Bengal is more prone to cyclones?
(150 words) 10

Answer: Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges. This is one of the most devastating natural calamities.

- They are known as Cyclones in the Indian Ocean, Hurricanes in the Atlantic, Typhoons in the Western Pacific and South China Sea and Willy-willies in the Western Australia.
- The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical cyclones are:
 - Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C
 - Presence of the coriolis force
 - Small variations in the vertical wind speed
 - A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation
 - Upper divergence above the sea level system

Formation of tropical cyclones:

- The tropical cyclones have a thermal origin over large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C. At these locations, the strong local convectional currents acquire a whirling motion because of the coriolis force.
- Under these favourable conditions, multiple thunderstorms originate over the oceans and merge, creating an intense low pressure system.
- In the thunderstorm, air is uplifted and at a certain height, moisture in the air undergoes condensation.
- Condensation releases latent heat of condensation making the air warmer and is further uplifted and causes a drop in pressure.
- More air rushes to the centre of the storm to fill in the low pressure created. This cycle is repeated as long as the moisture is supplied.
- On reaching the land (the landfall of the cyclone) the moisture supply is cut off and the storm dissipates.
- Both the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea experience cyclonic events, however the frequency and intensity of cyclones in the Bay of Bengal is higher. E.g.: Phailin (2013), Hudhud (2014), Daye (2018) and Fani (2019). Moreover, nearly 58% of cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal reach the coast as compared to only 25% of those formed in the Arabian Sea.

Reasons why Bay of Bengal is more prone to cyclones:

- **Weather Components:** The Bay of Bengal is a more likely target because the slow winds around it keeps temperatures relatively high- about 28 degrees around the year. Warm air currents enhance the surface temperature and aid the formation of cyclones. On the other hand, the Arabian Sea receives stronger winds that help dissipate the heat.

- **Influx of fresh water:** The Bay of Bengal receives higher rainfall and constant inflow of fresh water from the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. This means that the Bay's surface water keeps getting refreshed, making it impossible for the warm water to mix with the cooler water below, making it ideal for a depression. In the case of Arabian Sea, lack of constant fresh water supply helps the warm water mix with the cool water, reducing the temperature.
- **Absence of large landmass:** Due to the lack of any large landmass between the Pacific and the Bay of Bengal, cyclonic winds easily move into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Location:** Adjacent to the northwest Pacific, which is one of the world's most active basins for typhoons, the Bay of Bengal receives the remnants of major landfalls in the Philippines, China and South Asia. From these places come low-pressure systems that develop into a monsoon depression or a cyclone.

Question: The issue of multiple time-zones for a country like India keeps resurfacing. In this context, examine the feasibility of multiple time zones in India. **(150 words) 10**

Answer: The northeastern states have for a long time been demanding that they have a time zone distinct from the Indian Standard Time (IST), so they can take advantage of the early daylight hours.

- Moreover, even the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) - India's official timekeeper - has supported a long standing demand for a separate time zone for eastern states.
- Countries across the world keep different times because of Earth's rotation and revolution around the Sun. As Earth turns by 15° around its axis, time changes by one hour; a 360° rotation yields 24 hours. As a result, the world is divided into 24 time zones shifted by one hour each.
- Indian Standard Time is based on longitude 82.5° E, which passes through Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. It is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), U.K.

Need of multiple time zones for a country like India:

- **Enhanced Efficiency:** Northeast region loses important daylight which can be used productively as the sun rises as early as 4 am in summer and offices open at 10 AM. It will lead to greater efficiency among the workforce and in energy consumption. Advancing IST by just half an hour would result in saving 2.7 billion units of electricity every year by using the daylight hours.
- **Environment friendly:** Reduction in energy consumption will significantly cut down India's carbon footprint boosting India's resolve to fight climate change.
- **Geographical Expanse:** India stretches from 68 degree 7 minute East in Gujarat to 97 degree 25 minute East in Arunachal, which is almost 30 degrees of longitude, more than enough to have two time-zones.
- **Economically Prudent:** There are also economic benefits to having two different time zones; people will be able to work better and plan better, according to natural cycles.
- **Social Benefits:** Many social policy objectives can be achieved such as reducing road accidents and improving women's safety.
- **Health (Circadian Rhythm):** Many people in India operate in a time zone that is not an appropriate diurnal cycle for them. People's productivity and efficiency follows a biological clock that is synchronized with the daily light-dark cycles.

Challenges:

- **Implementation:** Mismatch in office timings, different working hours for banks and a chance that railway accidents might become more frequent. Implementing two time zones will require synchronizing railway traffic which otherwise will create utter confusion. Marking of the dividing line of the two zones would be a problem.
- **Political Consequences:** Already India is divided on the lines of religion, caste, race, language, etc. Multiple time zones may further introduce a new fault line.

Way forward:

- Alternatives like shifting of IST by one hour, Daylight Saving Time (wherein the time in the clock is adjusted forward in spring & is readjusted backward in autumn) can also be considered. The government meanwhile must gather data and track changes in economic activity pattern of the nation.
- Nevertheless, in a heterogeneous and diverse country like India, it is important to consult all stakeholders and arrive at a better solution so as to use the lost light hours that are dimmed by a common IST.

Question: Interlinking of rivers solves the twin problems of drought and flood. Analyse in the context of the government’s National River Linking Project. (150 words) 10

Answer: National River Linking Project (NRLP) is a proposed large-scale project that aims to link Indian rivers by a network of reservoirs and canals. It aims at reducing persistent floods in Eastern India and water shortages in Southern and Western India. It will comprise of 30 links to connect 37 rivers across the nation through a network of nearly 3000 storage dams. It has two major components: Himalayan component and Peninsular component.

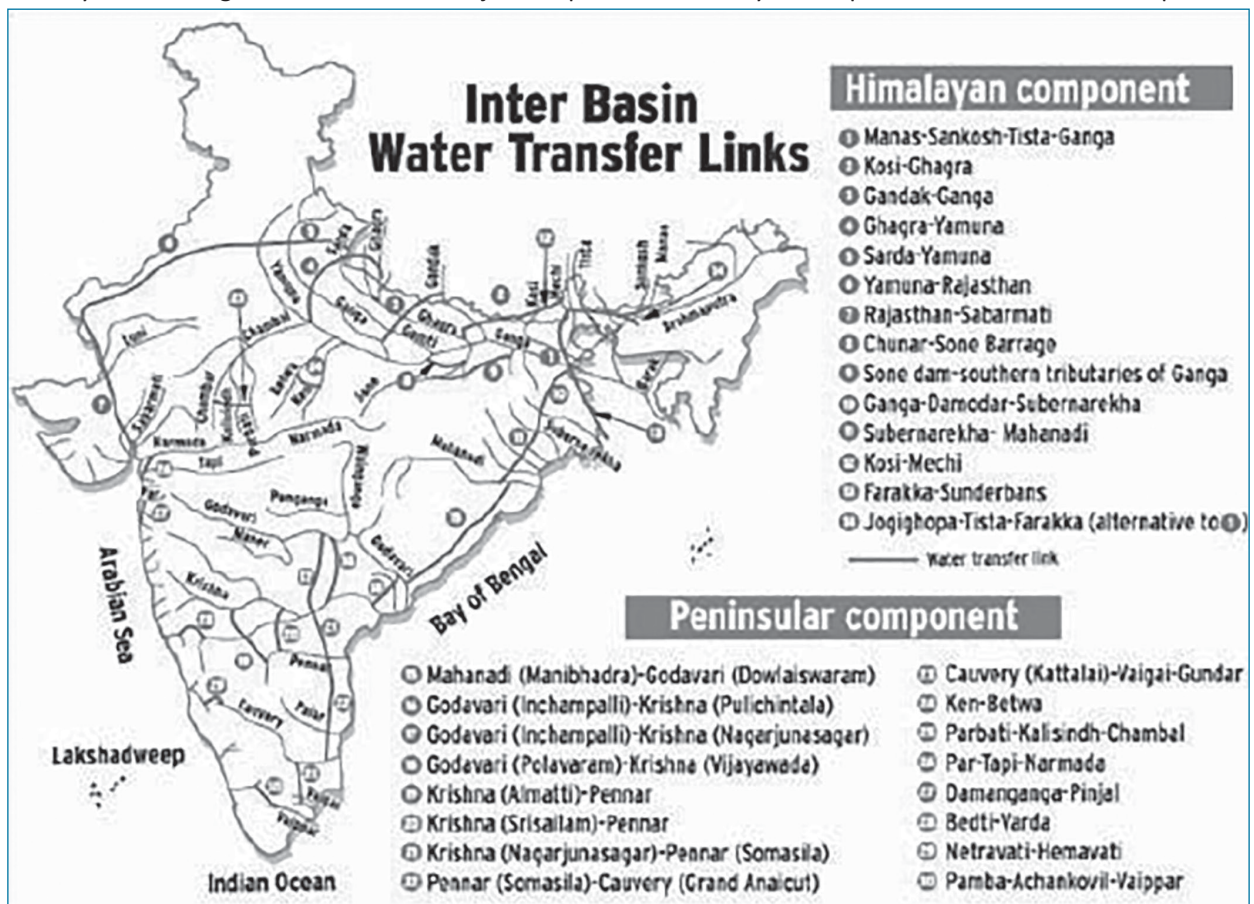


Fig: River Links under the NRLP

Interlinking of rivers (such as NRLP) solves the twin problems of flood and drought by:

- Diverting the surplus water from the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin of the north and north-eastern states which are affected by recurring floods.
- Channeling the excess water from the water-surplus regions to the rainfall deficit areas of western and peninsular states. For example, the transfer of surplus water from Ken (UP) to Betwa (MP) is critical to irrigate nearly 7 lakh hectares in drought-ravaged Bundelkhand.

- The canals will ensure greater equity in the distribution of water by enhancing the availability of water in drought prone and rainfed areas.
- The huge network of dams and reservoirs will facilitate storage of excess water during monsoon seasons for later use in drier months. Thus it can solve the water crisis situation by providing alternative, perennial water resources.

Despite its huge benefits, interlinking of rivers has many issues such as:

- Alteration of the river regime and reduction in the sediments deposited by the rivers in deltas thus threatening the fertile coastal areas.
- Diversion of forest areas and national parks. For example, the proposed Ken-Betwa interlinking will submerge parts of Panna tiger reserve.
- Massive investment is required for implementation of the project.
- Social unrest/psychological damage due to forced resettlement of local people (for example: Sardar Sarovar Project). Also there is an issue of loss of livelihood due to submergence of agricultural lands.

However, recurring floods and droughts in India are caused not only due to erratic rainfall but also due to human factors such as deforestation, excessive irrigation, over-exploitation of groundwater and lack of rain water harvesting.

Therefore, a detailed feasibility analysis of the project should be conducted to minimize socio-economic and environmental implications along with fixing the existing man-made causes of floods and droughts.

Question: “India needs smart urbanization”. In light of this, discuss the issues and challenges associated with urbanization in India. **(250 words) 15**

Answer: Urbanisation in India is taking place at a faster rate with over 34% of India’s current population living in urban areas (UN World Urbanisation Prospects Report 2018). It has expanded rapidly as increasing number of people migrate to towns and cities in search of economic opportunity.

Smart urbanisation involves effective integration of physical, digital and human systems in the built environment to deliver a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future for its citizens.

Issues associated with urbanisation in India:

- Urban sprawl or real expansion of the cities, both in terms of population and geographical area, which has encroached upon the agricultural and forest lands.
- Overcrowding and haphazard development of urban areas which has led to annually recurring instances of floods, diseases and fire in many cities.
- Rising demands for basic services such as clean water, public transportation, sewage treatment and housing.
- Proliferation of slums due to policy, planning, and regulatory deficiencies.
- Huge quantities of garbage generated by the cities which are posing a serious health problem.
- Environmental concerns such as urban areas becoming heat islands, rising air pollution, groundwater pollution and persistent water crisis.
- Rising urban poverty, inequality and unemployment.
- Urban Crimes such as human trafficking, sexual assault, child labour etc.

Several smart urbanisation measures like Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT etc are being taken up by the government to address these issues.

However, there are various challenges which impede the progress such as:

- Many urban local governments lack a modern planning framework which limits effective land utilisation and cities’ abilities to grow in accordance with changing needs.
- 74th Amendment Act has been implemented half-heartedly by the states, which have not fully empowered the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). ULBs need clear delegation of functions, functionaries and funds.



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