

विदेह VIDEHA

UPSC Civil Services Mains GS Paper I (2013–2025)

Descriptive Question Bank with Model Answers · 263 Questions

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Model answers for all questions follow the complete question bank (answers are placed **after** the questions), numbered identically for cross-reference.

2013 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

1. Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

2. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch-bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

3. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

4. “In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India.” Elaborate. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

5. Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoodan and Gramdan Movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

6. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan, ‘Jai Jawan Jai Kisan’. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

7. Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre- and post-independent India. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

8. Analyse the circumstances that led to the Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

9. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q11 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

10. “‘Latecomer’ Industrial Revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what the West had experienced.” Analyze. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q12 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

11. “Africa was chopped into States artificially created by accidents of European competition.” Analyze. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q13 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

12. American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q14 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

13. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the Great Economic Depression? (10 marks, 200 words)

Q15 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

14. Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q16 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

15. “Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women’s organizations free from gender bias.” Comment. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q17 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

16. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q18 · 5 marks · 100 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

17. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate Tags: Salient features of Indian Society.

Q20(a) · 5 marks · 100 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

18. Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. (5 marks, 100 words)

Q20(b) · 5 marks · 100 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

19. What do you understand about the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? (5 marks 100 words)

Q21 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

20. Major hot deserts in the northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree N and on the western side of the continents. Why? (10 marks, 200 words)

Q24 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

21. With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world. (10 marks, 200 words)

2014 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

22. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

23. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

24. Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

25. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

26. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

27. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from the mid-eighteenth century till independence. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

28. What ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

29. What were the major political, economic, and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

30. What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

31. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q11 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

32. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q12 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

33. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q13 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

34. The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q14 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

35. Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q15 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

36. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q16 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

37. Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q17 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

38. Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q18 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

39. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q19 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

40. Tropical cyclones are largely confined to the South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q20 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

41. Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian subcontinent. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q21 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

42. Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q22 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

43. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q23 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

44. Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q24 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

45. Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q25 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

46. How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa? (10 marks, 150 words)

2015 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

47. The ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without breakdown to the present day. Comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q2 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

48. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q3 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

49. How difficult would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q4 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

50. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B R Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q5 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

51. It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years, but its experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q6 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

52. Why did the Industrial Revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present times? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q7 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

53. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q8 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

54. Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q9 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

55. Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q10 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

56. How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q11 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

57. Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q12 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

58. Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q13 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

59. Debate the issue whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q14 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

60. Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing, and navigation? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q15 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

61. Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three Megacities of the country, but the air pollution is a much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q16 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

62. India is well endowed with freshwater resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q17 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

63. The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q18 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

64. How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscape? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q19 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

65. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q20 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

66. What is the economic significance of the discovery of oil in the Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

2016 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

67. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q2 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

68. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q3 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

69. Explain how the uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q4 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

70. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q5 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

71. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q6 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

72. Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q7 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

73. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q8 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

74. To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q9 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

75. “An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation.” Substantiate this statement with suitable examples. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q10 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

76. Why are the tribals in India referred to as ‘the Scheduled Tribes’? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q11 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

77. With a brief background of the quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the ‘Smart City Programme’. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q12 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

78. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on a regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q13 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

79. Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q14 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

80. “The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides.” Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q15 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

81. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q16 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

82. South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q17 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

83. Major cities of India are becoming vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q18 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

84. Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q19 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

85. Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q20 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

86. In what way micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

2017 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

87. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

88. Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

89. Why did the 'Moderates' failed to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

90. What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

91. How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

92. "In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development". Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

93. Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

94. How does the cryosphere affect global climate? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

95. In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

96. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

97. The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

98. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

99. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

100. Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

101. Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

102. In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

103. What characteristics can be assigned to a monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

104. The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What are the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

105. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has transformed into the latter in independent India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

106. "The growth of cities as I.T. hubs have opened up new avenues of employment but have also created new problems". Substantiate this statement with examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

2018 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

107. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

108. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travelers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

109. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

110. Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

111. Why is India taking keen interest in the Arctic region? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

112. Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

113. What are the consequences of spreading 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystems? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

114. "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

115. 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

116. How is the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

117. The Bhakti Movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

118. Discuss whether the formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

119. Why was indentured labour taken by the British from India to their colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

120. "The ideal solution to depleting groundwater resources in India is a water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

121. Defining Blue Revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

122. What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

123. Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success. (15 marks, 150 words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

124. ‘Women’s movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata.’ Substantiate your view. (15 marks, 150 words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

125. ‘Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to these cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.’ Elucidate. (15 marks, 150 words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

126. ‘Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.’ Argue by giving suitable illustrations. (15 marks, 150 words)

2019 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

127. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

128. The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate (150 words, 10 marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

129. Assess the impact of global warming on coral life system with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

130. Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

131. Can the strategy of regional-resource based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

132. Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based food processing industries of North West India. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

133. What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

134. Empowering women is the key to controlling population growth. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

135. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

136. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

137. Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

138. Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolution. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

139. What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

140. How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

141. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

142. How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

143. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

144. What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

145. Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 words)

2020 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

146. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

147. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

148. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movements. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

149. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum- Pacific Zone. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

150. The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

151. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far- reaching impact on the water resources of India? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

152. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

153. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi- cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

154. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

155. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

156. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

157. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

158. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

159. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods, and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

160. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

161. India has immense potential for solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

162. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

163. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

164. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (250 words, 15 marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

165. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

2021 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

166. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

167. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

168. Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

169. Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

170. Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

171. What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of the water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

172. Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

173. Why is India considered as a sub-continent? Elaborate your answer. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

174. Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

175. Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

176. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

177. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

178. "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

179. Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

180. How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

181. Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

182. What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

183. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

184. What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

185. How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

2022 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

186. How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

187. Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the Indian rulers? Give reasons. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

188. Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

189. Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

190. Discuss the natural resource potential of the 'Deccan trap'. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

191. Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for its limited spatial spread. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

192. Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

193. How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

194. Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

195. The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

196. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

197. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

198. What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in the fishing industry of the world. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

199. Describing the distribution of rubber-producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

200. Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

201. Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How? (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

202. Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

203. Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

204. Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resource, with special reference to India. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

2023 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

205. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

206. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

207. Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

208. Discuss the consequences of climate change on food security in tropical countries. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

209. Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

210. How are fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

211. Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in the Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

212. Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

213. Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

214. What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

215. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

216. How did colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

217. Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

218. Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

219. Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

220. From being a net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

221. Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

222. Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

223. Discuss the impact of the post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

2024 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

224. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

225. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

226. What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

227. What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones? (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

228. Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

229. What is the phenomenon of ‘cloudbursts’? Explain. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

230. What is the concept of a ‘demographic Winter’? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

231. Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women’s empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation? (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

232. Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

233. In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, and private sector would be most productive? (150 Words 10 Marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Culture and Heritage*

234. “Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture.” Comment. (Answer in 250 words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

235. How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

236. How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

237. The groundwater potential of the Gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

238. What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geography and Physical Environment*

239. What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

240. What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Social Issues*

241. Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment. (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern and Ancient History*

242. Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS I - History, Society and Geography*

243. Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities. (250 Words 15 Marks)

2025 — GS Paper I : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Ancient History and Urbanism*

244. Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. (Answer in 150 words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Medieval History*

245. Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism. (Answer in 150 words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Indian Art and Culture*

246. 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *World Geography and Climate Change*

247. How are climate change and the sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations? Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Economic Geography*

248. What are non-farm primary activities? How are these activities related to physiographic features in India? Discuss with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Energy and Environment*

249. Explain briefly the ecological and economic benefits of solar energy generation in India with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Physical Geography and Disaster Management*

250. What are Tsunamis? How and where are they formed? What are their consequences? Explain with examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Urbanization and Social Justice*

251. How does smart city in India, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice? (Answer in 150 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Civil Services and National Integration*

252. The ethos of civil service in India stand for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness. Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Globalization and Society*

253. Do you think that globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture? Justify your answer. (Answer in 150 words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Modern Indian Social Reform*

254. Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Post-Independence Consolidation*

255. Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations. (Answer in 250 words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *World History*

256. The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. (Answer in 250 words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Resource Geography*

257. Give a geographical explanation of the distribution of off-shore oil reserves of the world. How are they different from the on-shore occurrences of oil reserves? (Answer in 250 words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geospatial Technology and Planning*

258. How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning? (Answer in 250 words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Geomorphology and Plate Tectonics*

259. Discuss how the changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins of the planet take place due to tectonic movements of the crustal masses. (Answer in 250 words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Population Geography*

260. Discuss the distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin with special reference to land, soil and water resources. (Answer in 250 words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Indian Society and Health*

261. How do you account for the growing fast food industries given that there are increased health concerns in modern society? Illustrate your answer with the Indian experience. (Answer in 250 words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Environment and Development*

262. Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India - Comment. (Answer in 250 words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Tribal Issues and Development*

263. Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion. (Answer in 250 words)

Model Answers — GS Paper I (after the questions, numbered identically)

1. [2013 Q1] Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness.

Comment. (10 marks, 200 words)

The Sangam age means that period in the early history of South India (3rd Century BC to 3rd Century AD) when large numbers of poems in Tamil were composed by several authors. Key points: The people of the Sangam age were engaged in several economic activities such as agriculture, crafts, and trade.; Among the crafts, the most important was spinning and weaving textiles, cotton as well as silk.; The most important aspect of the Sangam economy was flourishing trade with the Roman world.; The growth of trade led to the rise of essential towns and craft centres in the Tamil region.; Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas, is characterized in the Sangam poems as a large city.; It was an important centre of delicate textile and ivory working.; The whole Tamilaham in this era was divided into five tinai or eco-zones, i.e., zones based on their economic resources.; Though the concept of Varna was known, social classes in the Sangam period were not pronounced by higher or lower rankings as in North India.; Based on their occupation, people were known, such as artisans, salt...

2. [2013 Q3] Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch-bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. (10 marks, 200 words)

Conditions during the pre-colonial period in India confined the women in India to the domestic space only. Key points: It all started with Rani of Jhansi, Lakshmi Bai, participating in the great Revolt of 1857 breaking many stereotypes.; The Quit India Movement presented an excellent opportunity for the women in India to overcome the gender barrier and lead the struggle, since most of the male leaders were in jail.; Aruna Asaf Ali played a leading role during the Quit Indian Movement.; ouths that rose to emulate her.; Sarojini Naidu holds pride of place among women freedom fighters of India.; Rani Gaidinliu was a prominent Naga nationalist woman leader from Manipur.; Another revolutionary Matangini Hazra at the age of 73 participated in the Quit India movement defying the barriers of age.; Annie Besant, Irish by birth, was a staunch supporter of India's struggle for freedom.; Vijay Laxmi Pandit entered the Non-cooperation Movement.. Overall, in the different phases of Indian freedom struggle women came forward and took the charge of the struggle not only as the foot soldiers but also as leaders being the torch-bearers defying...

3. [2013 Q4] Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. (10 marks, 200 words)

In different phases of Indian freedom struggle, a lot of foreigners have come to India. Key points: She was Irish by birth and a staunch supporter of India's struggle for freedom.; She was the President (First Woman President) of Indian National Congress for one term at Calcutta in 1917.; An inspirer of Auroville, she is known as the 'Mother'; A British national came to India inspired with the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi.; Her original name was Katherine Mary Heilaman and she was a British National.; He came to India as an Anglican priest and lecturer at St.; A Scottish social worker and a disciple of Swami Vivekananda, she had participated in the Swadeshi Movement.; ouths of this country to be a part of the national movement.; There were many other foreigners who came to India to be a part of its freedom struggle and contributed in every way possible.. Overall, a O Hume, Nalini Sengupta, V Elwin, etc., are a few other names who contributed significantly to the cause of Indian struggle and helped her get freedom from imperial rule.

4. [2013 Q5] "In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India." Elaborate. (10 marks, 200 words)

Lord Dalhousie became the Governor General of India in 1848 and continued till 1856. Key points: He introduced a centralised administrative set up.; During his tenure, he delegated the powers pertaining to Justice, Revenue, and Law Enforcement to the District Magistrates, which is still the case in modern India through the All India Services.; Dalhousie had evinced in the development of education.; Departments of Public Instructions were established.; He shifted the artillery Headquarters from Calcutta to Meerut.; The Gurkha Regiment, which is one of the modern forces in the country, was his creation.; The introduction of railways in India by Dalhousie inaugurated a new economic era.; The use of telegraphs brought major changes in the communication system.; Lord Dalhousie laid down the foundation of the modern postal system.. Overall, hence, he is hailed as “the founder of modern India”.

5. [2013 Q6] Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoodan and Gramdan Movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. (10 marks, 200 words)

The demand for land reforms, through distribution of land to the tillers, and doing away with multiple layers of intermediaries, particularly in those parts of the according to his needs”, was aptly implemented by the Gramdan movement. country where the Zamindari system was prevalent, was an important part of the thinking of the leaders of our freedom movement. Key points: Bhoodan was an attempt at land reform, at bringing about institutional changes in agriculture, like land redistribution through a movement and not simply through government legislation but also through voluntary donation.; Eminent Gandhian constructive worker Acharya Vinoba Bhave drew upon Gandhian techniques and ideas such as constructive work and trusteeship to launch the Bhoodan Movement in the early 1950s.; The Gramdan Movement is the latest phase of the Bhoodan movement.; The objectives of the Gramdan Movement were- Social reconstruction, Economic upliftment, building a new social order based on equality and cooperation, spirit of renunciation of private ownership, and collective ownership and communism.; In the Gramdan Movement, an entire village would pool their share for the land to be cultivated cumulatively and everyone would get...

6. [2013 Q7] Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan, ‘Jai Jawan Jai Kisan’. (10 marks, 200 words)

The slogan ‘Jai Jawan Jai Kishan’ was given by Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in the mid-1960s, at a time when India was battling dual threats of hunger and war. Key points: In the 1960s, India was facing military aggression from both China and Pakistan.; The Indo-China war took place in 1962 and Indo- Pak war took place in 1965.; Even the cold war politics was complicating the situation as Pakistan was an ally of the USA.; In the 1960s, India was facing a serious economic crisis.; India experienced twin draughts.; We were largely dependent on import of food grains.; The Green Revolution had not come in; So, under the circumstances, to strengthen the hand of the farmers and boost agricultural production the slogan ‘Jai Kisan’ was given by prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.; The Green Revolution was initiated during the trying times, and it helped India in achieving self- sufficiency in the agricultural sector.. Overall, our ex-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee added the slogan ‘Jai Vigyan’ to ‘Jai Jawan Jai Kisan’, which underlines the importance of science and technology, along with agriculture and...

7. [2013 Q8] Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre- and post-independent India. (10 marks, 200 words)

Maulana Azad was a scholar and prominent freedom fighter. Key points: Azad was a very active leader of the Indian independence movement.; After the Khilafat movement Azad actively participated in the Civil Disobedience initiatives namely the Dandi March (1930) and Quit India Movement (1942).; He was imprisoned at several instances during the period of 1920-1945.; He was involved in the negotiations for independence with the British, wherein he vehemently opposed the partition.; He always worked for the Hindu-Muslim unity through his Al-Hilal newspaper.; He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from the United Provinces on a Congress ticket.; He was a member of five different committees, and actively

intervened in the debates on the issues of national language and education.; After independence, Azad was appointed as the Education Minister, a post that he went on to hold for a decade until 1958.; He was monumental in establishing the Indian Council for Cultural Relation (ICCR) to secure cultural exchange between India and the Eastern Countries.. Overall, azad was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in the year 1992 in recognition of his efforts as a freedom...

8. [2013 Q9] Analyse the circumstances that led to the Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement. (10 marks, 200 words)

The Tashkent agreement was signed at the Soviet city of Tashkent by the Prime Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and the President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan, in 1966 to end the second Indo-Pakistan War over Kashmir. Key points: The first Indo-Pak war took place just after independence, known as the first Kashmiri war.; In April 1965, Pakistan sent its special forces unit dressed as Kashmiri locals to India.; This was the era of the cold war between two superpowers, the USA and the USSR.; The Indian Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan met at Tashkent.; Since the war was taking a toll on the Indian economy, it is considered that the attainment of these objectives of vital importance for the welfare of the 600 million people of India and Pakistan.; Both sides will use all efforts to create good neighbourly relations in accordance with the United Nations Charter.; All armed personnel of the two countries should be withdrawn no later than 25 February 1966 to the positions they held before 5 August 1965 (before the war).; Relations between India and Pakistan shall...

9. [2013 Q10] Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh. (10 marks, 200 words)

The 1947 partition drew two independent nations - India and Pakistan. Key points: The tyrannical attitude destroyed unique Bengali culture, and to some extent, opposed the thought of secularism.; Since the formation of Pakistan, the Western part branded the Eastern as inferior because it considered the Muslims in the eastern wing subordinate because of their social and cultural affiliation with the Hindu population, powerful, rich, and dominating in East Pakistan before the partition of the subcontinent.; Operation Searchlight was the planned genocide on the 25th of March 1971 and was undertaken by the West Pakistani government against its own citizens of the eastern wing.; The West Pakistani Army conferred no compassion for Bengalis, and the rules of engagement were at no time adhered to.; India had a strained relationship with Pakistan, and having both East and West Pakistan in its border was a major security concern.; The influx of refugees in India from East Pakistan was creating an economic burden, as well as law and order problem.; The development of the northeast sector in India was facing multiple challenges because of the influx of...

10. [2013 Q11] “‘Latecomer’ Industrial Revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what the West had experienced.” Analyze. (10 marks, 200 words)

Japan made rapid strides to industrialise after the Meiji Restoration of 1868, boosting its transportation and communication networks and revolutionising its light industry by the turn of the century. Key points: Scientific discoveries and inventions were the focal points in western IR, whereas the Japanese IR mostly depended upon the reverse engineering of the technologies.; The western world had a huge number of raw materials and energy resources available to them (Coal, iron, etc.), but Japan had to import the raw materials as they had significantly less resources in comparison.; Western industrialisation had a strong background of agriculture revolution and commercial revolution before the IR, Japan did not have these advantages before the Industrial Revolution.; In the case of western industrialisation finance used to come from colonies, landholders, and businessmen voluntarily.; Japanese Industrial Revolution was state-led, whereas the western Industrial Revolution was private sector-led.; Quality wise western products were better than the Japanese products.. Overall, it helped Japan modernise their army and industry to an extent that it could stand toe to toe with the major European powers.

11. [2013 Q12] “Africa was chopped into States artificially created by accidents of European competition.” Analyse. (10 marks, 200 words)

Africa was chopped into states by the Europeans in a mechanism that had no participation of the African States or the African tribes and communities. Key points: France after 1830, Germany after 1850 and the U.S. after the Civil War soon started industrialisation.; Many European countries had by now started following the Policy of Mercantilism.; Africa was rich in mineral resources, had an abundance of cheap/free labour, and it was easy to conquer and hence, the race to acquire the territories began.; This race to occupy territory would often result in wars, and the territory would be divided between the victors.; By the end of the nineteenth century, the chopping off of the African States was complete.; After Belgium captured Congo in 1878, other Europeans met in Berlin to divide the territories within their influence.; In Eastern Africa, Britain captured Kenya, German captured Cameroons, French got Madagascar, and Italy received Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia.; In Southern Africa, the Dutch settled in South Africa for its strategic location, proximity to ports, and availability of gold.; In Northern Africa, the French and the English forces were fighting...

12. [2013 Q13] American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. (10 marks, 200 words)

The American Revolution of 1776 was the greatest phenomenon in the History of Modern Age. Key points: Plantation industry was highly developed.; Many modern industries had also emerged.; Trade & Commerce was also quite advanced.; The resources were in plenty.; Economically the Americans were not dependent on Britain in any way.; After the economic development in America the British Parliament enacted several new laws and imposed new taxes.; These new taxes and the rigid restrictions were opposed by Americans and the developments that followed triggered revolution.; The East Indian company was facing a serious financial crisis in 1772-1773.; Some of the ideals of the Revolution like protection of private property rights, the Doctrine of Laissez- faire (Free Trade), judicial supremacy, meritocracy are all anti-mercantilist ideals.. Overall, thus, the American Revolution was an economic revolt and resulted in the victory of capitalism over mercantilism.

13. [2013 Q14] What policy instruments were deployed to contain the Great Economic Depression? (10 marks, 200 words)

The term Great Economic Depression was used for the severe economic crisis forced by the USA in particular & other capitalist economics in general during 1929 to 1939. Key points: Emergency Banking Relief Act enacted by Parliament and powered by the President to regulate banking power & foreign exchange to pave the way for the restoration of faith in the banking sector.; Federal Deposit Insurance was enacted to insure the banking deposits of the U.S citizens, so that public faith could be restored in the Bank.; A Federal Relief Emergency was announced through which 500 million dollars were distributed to state & local governments to face the economic crisis.; The Civilian Conservation Corps was to provide employment to citizens.; Agricultural Adjustment Administration was to ensure availability of markets for peasants.; Tennessee Valley Authority was to undertake developmental projects in the Tennessee Valley region, as it was severely affected by the depression.; The National Industrial Recovery Act was enacted to stimulate competition and increase production, the government also emphasized to pursue good neighbor policy to improve relations with neighbors to pave the way to increase...

14. [2013 Q15] Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. (10 marks, 200 words)

Urbanization is an obstacle that has assumed gigantic dimensions in some of the world's technically and industrially advanced countries. Key points: Urban sprawl, or a real growth of the cities, both in population and geographical area, of rapidly growing cities is the leading cause of urban problems.; Massive immigration from rural areas and small towns to the big cities has taken place almost consistently, leading to

the growing size of cities.; Overcrowding is a circumstance in which too many people live in little space.; The growing cost of houses compared to the income of the urban middle class has made it impossible for most lower-income groups to reside in congested accommodation.; For instance, Delhi has a shortage of 5,00,000 dwelling units in the coming decades as per the current estimate.; The poor sanitation condition is another dark feature in urban areas and particularly in slums and unauthorized colonies.; These unsanitary conditions lead to many sanitation-related diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria.; No clear-cut distinction can be drawn between slums and squatter settlements in practice except that slums are relatively more stable and are in...

15. [2013 Q16] “Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women’s organizations free from gender bias.” Comment. (10 marks, 200 words)

The Constitution of India has bestowed equal rights on women and men. Key points: To create such an environment, equal contribution of both male and female are required.; In a country with a history of 3000; ears of women’s oppression, emancipating women from this oppression is very much new.; Several evil practices like Sati, purdah, female infanticide, child marriage, patriarchy, son meta preference etc., have maligned women’s position in Indian society.; The growing trend worldwide is to make laws and society gender-neutral.. Overall, for women to be empowered, we need an enlightened society and collective effort from both genders. of their rights regarding pensions, healthcare benefits, etc.

16. [2013 Q17] Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India. (10 marks, 200 words)

Globalisation is a product of urbanisation and economic intensification, which has escalated since the 1970s. Key points: Of the total population of the elderly, 70% are below the poverty line.; Average life expectancy has increased from 58; ears in 2018, indicating that newer medicines and medical techniques are reaching the aged people.; because of globalisation, people have become more prosperous financially, and hence, they can save more for their old age.; because of the availability of information through technology, older people have become more aware Negative Effects of Globalisation on the Aged Population in India; Access to healthcare among older populations is partly determined by government policy, influenced by global forces.; Globalisation has resulted in the greater availability of products like tobacco and fast food, leading to potentially detrimental lifestyle changes.; Globalisation contributes to the restructuring of the redistributive economy.; In the developed world, the magnitude and absolute size of expenditure on programs for older people have made these the first to be targeted with financial cuts.. Overall, the good thing is that we have time to think and devise policies to be better..

17. [2013 Q18] Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate Tags: Salient features of Indian Society.

Abraham Ortelius, a Dutch mapmaker, first to propose such a possibility as early as 1596. Key points: Matching coastlines-zig-saw fit: The shorelines of Africa and South America facing each other match very accurately.; Similarity of age of the rocks: The belt of ancient rocks of 2,000 million; ears from Brazil coast matches with those from western Africa.; According to Wegener, all the continents formed a single continental mass, and the mega ocean surrounded the same.; He argued that the supercontinent, Pangaea, began to split around 200 million; Pangaea firstly broke into two...

18. [2013 Q20(a)] Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. (5 marks, 100 words)

Cities or metropolitan areas are usually warmer compared to their adjacent rural areas. Key points: According to Bouyer, Albedo is the ratio of the reflected solar energy to the incident solar energy.; If the albedo of the urban surface is low, it will store more solar energy, causing an increase of urban temperature.;

Paved and Impermeable Surfaces; Paved over surfaces, such as roads and parking lots, can absorb solar radiation as heat.; Buildings and infrastructures contain a lot of thermal mass, which results in absorbing a lot of heat during the day...

19. [2013 Q20(b)] What do you understand about the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? (5 marks 100 words)

Temperature inversion is a reversal of the normal behaviour of temperature in the troposphere (the region of the atmosphere nearest Earth's surface), in which a layer of cool air at the surface is overlain by a layer of warmer air. (Under normal conditions air temperature usually decreases with height). Key points: Stable air flow, as it would prevent the vertical mixing of air at the low levels.; Open and clear sky, as it would stimulate the continuous evaporation of the radiation.; Longer nights, as this would help in limiting the incoming radiation...

20. [2013 Q21] Major hot deserts in the northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree N and on the western side of the continents. Why? (10 marks, 200 words)

Hot deserts are hot arid areas with little rainfall, extreme temperature, and sparse vegetation. Key points: Sahara Desert- Africa (23° N); Thar Desert – Asia (India) (27° N); Arabian Desert: Asia (20° N) Reasons Most of the World's Hot Deserts are Located near 20-30 degree N and on the Western Side of the Continents; The western part is the place where the heated equatorial air begins to descend.; Desert formation in these particular latitudes is mainly because of complex global air- circulation patterns caused by the rotation of the earth on its axis (earth moves at great speed near the equator and slowly near the poles), the seasonal tilting of the earth in relation to the sun.; Continentality or (Distance from oceans); Most water in the atmosphere evaporates from the sea, and this water eventually precipitates on land.; As air moves inland, it gets depleted of moisture and precipitation drops.; In this latitude off-shore trade winds can be seen, which creates a desertification effect to the western part of the continent.. Overall, with the increasing demand of cotton produce, the decentralization of this industry...

21. [2013 Q24] With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world. (10 marks, 200 words)

Rapid expansion in global energy demand and the growing awareness of the need for sustainable development has put increasing focus on the environmental consequences of burning fossil fuels. Key points: The burning of fossil fuels (oil, gas, and coal) emits greenhouse gases, there is no greenhouse emission of nuclear fuel produced by atomic energy.; Nuclear fuel is a more efficient energy source.; Fossil fuel has a limited supply where nuclear fuel can be used alternatively.; Atomic energy is a reliable source of energy.; Atomic energy is cost effective when a standardized reactor design is used.; Atomic energy produces fewer wastages as compared to fossil fuel.; There are two main processes, by which atomic energy is generated: Nuclear Fusion and Nuclear Fission.; India's Thorium reserves account for one-fourth of the global reserves.; Major areas where Thorium is found are in the States of Odisha, West Bengal, Kerala, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, etc.. Overall, nuclear deals with these countries are a step in the right direction to meet the sustainable energy demands.

22. [2014 Q1] To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) (2500–1700 BCE), also called Harappan Civilization, the earliest known urban culture of the Indian subcontinent. Key points: Wide range of urban and non-urban rural sites: The urban or the 'mature phase' of Indus Valley Civilization includes a wide range of urban and non-urban rural sites.; They varied in size and function but are inherently known for several features like the town planning with

defensive walls with impressive gates around the site, two or more divisions of the settlement at the site, drains, baked brick structures, brick sizes, etc.; Town Planning: The Indus Valley Civilization possessed a flourishing urban architecture laid out on a grid pattern with provisions for an advanced drainage system.; The most important innovation at the time was the standardization of the bricks in a size ratio very close to 4:2:1.; The...

23. [2014 Q2] Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

Gandhara art, style, of Greco-Roman origin, seems to have flourished largely during the Kushan dynasty. Key points: The Gandhara region was open to foreign influences and one such influence from the west was the Roman and Greek realism in art.; The region came under the political influence of a variety of kingdoms like Greek, Mauryan, Parthian, Kushan, Synthian and this resulted in the emergence of a mixed school of art, which borrowed from several traditions of art.; The Gandhara school drew upon the anthropomorphic traditions of Roman religion and represented the Buddha with a; outhful Apollo-like face, dressed in garments resembling those seen on the Roman imperial statues.; Standing figures of Buddha, deceived the elusive stylistic actions of the Roman sculptor, seeking to express majesties.; The drapery was fundamentally Western, the folds and volume of dangling garments were...

24. [2014 Q3] Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Taxila university was a center of its own kind which is frequently referred to as a seat of higher learning in Buddhist literature. Key points: According to some scholars, Taxila was not a university town with lecture halls and residential quarters, which can be seen at ancient Nalanda university.; At Taxila, the preceptor housed his own pupils, who paid for their board and lodging in cash or in the form of service to the teacher and his family.; The Buddhist monasteries also catered to the needs of the students and monks at Taxila university.; In Taxila university the teachers living there may not have had official membership of colleges, in contrast to the Nalanda university.; The centralized system of schooling or syllabus in Taxila was absent as compared to Nalanda university.; The concept of the examination system and...

25. [2014 Q4] The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (10 marks, 150 words)

Panipat is located in present-day Haryana, on the bank of the river Yamuna. Key points: First battle of Panipat led to the establishment of Mughal dynasty; Second battle of Panipat laid the real foundation of Mughal empire; Third battle of Panipat ruined the Maratha ambition to rule India.; It was close to Delhi.; Panipat was a large plain land which was suitable as a battle ground, easy for the movement of cavalry.; Panipat fell on the Grand Trunk Road which was built by Sher Shah Suri.. Overall, thus, for its strategic importance Panipat has always been the preferable zone as a battlefield.

26. [2014 Q5] Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

The advent of Sufism in India is said to be in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Key points: The Sufi and other saints were nomadic in nature.; Bhakti, Sufi movement lacked proper organizational structure.; Sufi and other Saints failed to provide any effective alternative to the existing social customs and system.; Since most of the saints came from the lower strata of the society.. Overall, the interaction between early Bhakti and Sufi ideas laid the foundation for more liberal movements of the fifteenth century

27. [2014 Q6] Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from the mid-eighteenth century till independence. (10 marks, 150 words)

British East India company came to India as a trading company. Key points: Before the Industrial Revolution British followed the policy of mercantilism.; After 1757, the pattern of the Company's commercial or economic relation with India underwent a qualitative change.; The Indian merchants were gradually squeezed out, while the weavers and other craftsmen were compelled either to sell their products at uneconomic rates or to hire themselves out to the Company at low wages.; At the beginning of British rule in the mid 18th century Indian handicraft industries used to supply about a quarter of all manufactured goods produced in the world and constituted chief export items of European trades.; After 1850, a very large amount of British capital was invested in railways, loans to the Indian Government, and to a smaller extent in tea plantations, coal mining, jute...

28. [2014 Q7] What ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

The Royal Indian Navy mutiny was arguably the single most important event in convincing the British government that it could no longer hold on to India. Overall, thus, royal naval mutiny became the last nail in the coffin of British rule in India.

29. [2014 Q8] What were the major political, economic, and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Multiple events which took place globally motivated anti colonial struggle in India, such as: y Unification of Italy and Germany motivated Indians to a great extent. Key points: Unification of Italy and Germany motivated Indians to a great extent.; French revolution and American revolution- The American and French revolutions had huge impacts on India unlike the common belief.; The First World war had also a huge effect in the anti-colonial movement in India.it led to industrialization in India.; The Second World War was one of the most important events which contributed a lot to the anti-colonial struggle in India.; Communist movements all over the world, especially the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, attracted Indian masses as it carried the message of freedom and anti-colonialism.; Home rule movement in Ireland greatly motivated Indian freedom struggle.. Overall, thus, multiple ideas, multiple...

30. [2014 Q9] What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self- image as a world power? (10 marks, 150 words)

The Suez Canal was built in Egypt under the supervision of French diplomat Ferdinand de Lesseps. Key points: ears of construction and separates most of Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula.; The Suez Crisis began on October 29, 1956, when Israeli armed forces pushed into Egypt toward the Suez Canal after Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser (1918-70) nationalized the canal, a valuable waterway that controlled two-thirds of the oil used by Europe.; The Israelis were soon joined by French and British forces, which nearly brought the Soviet Union into the conflict and damaged their relationships with the United States.; In the end, Egypt emerged victorious, and the British, French, and Israeli governments withdrew their troops in late 1956 and early 1957.; In 1956, the globe was indeed still circled by British possessions and dependencies, from the Caribbean in the...

31. [2014 Q10] The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words)

The Kronshtadt Rebellion of March 1921 convinced Vladimir Lenin of the need to retreat from socialist policies and to introduce The New Economic Policy (NEP 1921). Key points: The New Economic Policy, 1921 partially revoked the complete nationalization of industry which was established during the period of War Communism of 1918 to 1921.; The New Economic Policy 1921 introduced a system of mixed economy which

allowed private individuals to own small enterprises, while continuing to control banks, foreign trade, and large industries.; In 1926, Jawaharlal Nehru, who later became India's first Prime Minister, visited the Soviet Union and was deeply impressed by the USSR's socio-economic pattern.; The economic measures promulgated as part of the NEP brought about major changes, in the agricultural sector, the distribution system and in the industrial sector and its organizational forms.; The second five-year...

32. [2014 Q11] How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Women's status is affected by relations in the family, class status, and the ideology of the social group to which they belong. Key points: External effect: The socio-cultural factors and prevalent patriarchal systems do not facilitate the entry of women into the workforce.; Gender parity: As women enter the workforce, they are already entering an unequal landscape, an ecosystem that has traditionally been structured for men to succeed in.; Stereotyping the women's role: The role of women in India is stereotyped as it is believed that they meant to do household work.; Gender Biasness: Gender bias in hiring, personal questions about marriage and maternity, harassment during work, pay disparity, returning to the workforce post childbirth, safety while working in high- risk areas, lack of investor trust these are the challenge's women face.; Marriage and motherhood: Marriage and motherhood...

33. [2014 Q12] Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. (10 marks, 150 words)

The sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males. Key points: New Technology: In the mid-1960s, new technology that allowed for prenatal gender determination, and thus sex-selective abortion, such as the ultrasound, was brought into India.; The liberalization of the Indian economy in the 1990s made ultrasound technology more easily available, and initial introduction of ultrasound led to sex-selection.; Because of rising income, which results in increased literacy, makes it easier for families to access sex-selective procedures such as amniocentesis, or sex determination by using the amniotic fluid.; Gender Discrimination: Gender discrimination, attributed to the persistence of patriarchal systems in India, is sometimes indirectly evaluated by high fertility, the prevalence of joint families, and several indicators of female disadvantage.; Gender Imbalance: Despite major economic and scientific growth over the past few decades, female infanticide...

34. [2014 Q13] The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

A Joint family can take different forms, but has more than one couple, and often more than two generations, living together. Key points: Once the child grows up in the family, he/she leaves home for education first and then eventually to start his/her own family.; Thus, the two generations living apart now become two nuclear families.; Eventually, at a later stage if and when the parents join the family with the son/daughter who had moved out, the family becomes a joint family once again.; This cycle continues in every generation owing to the economic and social constraints.; Land Reforms: Earlier, the joint family members usually lived together because of common ancestral property, which was vast in size.; Land reforms-imposed ceiling restriction on the landholdings.. Overall, the sense of effective cooperation in need and obligation to each other has...

35. [2014 Q14] Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

The rising share of farm work in India undertaken by women is a phenomenon commonly referred to as the "feminization of agriculture". Key points: Increment in Suicides rate among the farmers: Suicide by male cultivators had resulted in a large number of female members in the family taking up the responsibility of managing the household.; According to a report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), "Accidental

Deaths and Suicides in India 2015”, cited crop failure and indebtedness as the major reasons for the deaths, which increased by 2 per cent from the; Migration and social mobility are largely reserved for men: Against the backdrop of rural distress and agrarian crisis, rural men sought employment outside agriculture.; The women in the House are forced to participate in farming to overcome poverty.; Food insecurity: The feminization of agriculture has...

36. [2014 Q15] How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? (10 marks, 150 words)

Secularism is a doctrine that opposes all such forms of inter-religious domination. Key points: The Western concept of secularism implies a complete separation between the religion (the church) and the state (the politics); Indian secularism does not concentrate only on church-state separation, and inter-religious equality is vital to the Indian notion.; It took on a distinct form because of an interaction between what already existed in a society with religious diversity and the ideas that came from the west.; The arrival of western modernity led to the fore hitherto neglected and marginalised notions of equality in Indian thought.; Since India is a secular nation, it must be concerned equally with intra-religious domination.; Indian secularism is compatible with the idea of state-supported religious reform.. Overall, p B Gajendragadkar, a former Chief Justice of India, defined secularism as in the...

37. [2014 Q16] Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree? (10 marks, 150 words)

The name ‘El-Nino’ is given to the periodic development of a warm ocean current along the coast of Peru as a temporary replacement of the cold Peruvian current. ‘El Nino’ is a Spanish word meaning ‘the child’, and means the baby Christ, as this current starts flowing during Christmas. Key points: because of El- Nino, warm water and low-pressure conditions develop in the Eastern Pacific (Peru) and Cold conditions and high pressure in Western Pacific (Australia).; El Nino also leads to reversal of pressure difference between Indian and Pacific Ocean- known as El Nino Southern Oscillation.; Drought conditions which decrease agricultural output, lead to food inflation.; Declined supply of cotton, oilseeds and sugarcane negatively affects the textile, edible oil and food processing industries respectively.; In India, El Nino’s effect will be felt the most at rainfed regions of...

38. [2014 Q17] Why are the world’s fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes. (10 marks, 150 words)

Fold mountains are created where two or more of Earth’s tectonic plates are pushed together. Key points: ears to create a fold mountain.; Fold mountains are often associated with continental crust.; Convergent plate boundaries are sites of collisions, where tectonic plates crash into each other.; At a compression zone, tectonic activity forces crustal compression at the leading edge of the crust formation.; Rocks on the edge of continental crust are often weaker and less stable than rocks found in the continental interior.; When Earth’s tectonic plates grind past one another, enormous amounts of energy can be released in the form of earthquakes.. Overall, they stretch along the entire west coast of South America, from Colombia in the north and through Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina to the south and the Alps roughly mark the top of the...

39. [2014 Q18] Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos. (10 marks, 150 words)

An archipelago is a group of islands closely scattered in a body of water. Key points: The tectonics of Indonesia are very complex, as it is a meeting point of several tectonic plates.; Indonesia is located between two continental plates i.e., the Eurasian Plate and Australian Plate and between two oceanic plates: the

Philippine Sea plate and the Pacific plate.; The subduction of the Indian oceanic plate beneath the Eurasian continental plate formed the volcanic arc in western Indonesia, one of the most seismically active areas on the planet with a long history of powerful eruptions and earthquakes.; This chain of active volcanoes formed Sumatra, Java, Bali, and Nusa Tenggara islands, most of which, particularly Java and Bali, emerged within the last 2–3 million; The Pacific and Australian plate movements controlled the tectonics of the eastern portion of...

40. [2014 Q19] Tropical cyclones are largely confined to the South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? (10 marks, 150 words)

A tropical cyclone is like a heat engine that is energized by the release of latent heat on account of the condensation of moisture that the wind gathers after moving over the oceans and seas. Key points: Tropical water- Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C intensifies the formation of tropical cyclones.; Warm ocean currents- Warm ocean currents near the equator further supply energy to the cyclone system.; Increase of Sea Surface Temperature in late summer- In late summer Sea Surface Temperature increases which intensifies the cyclone.; Tropical cyclones move east to west- tropical cyclones originate only over the seas and on reaching the land they dissipate.; Landmass on western coast- Landmass on the Western coast helps in cyclone formation.; Coriolis force - Presence of strong Coriolis force near equator helps in creating strong whirling effect.....

41. [2014 Q20] Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian subcontinent. (10 marks, 150 words)

The Himalayan glaciers are the water towers of Asia, and the source of many of the world's great rivers: The Yangtze, the Ganges, the Indus and the Mekong. Key points: ears, with dire and far-reaching impacts on food, water and energy security, as well as biodiversity and species loss.; Increased risk of dangerous glacial lake outburst floods: Glacial lakes occur frequently in the Himalayan region, and numerous new lakes will form in response to cryosphere change.; Several glacial lakes in the extended Himalayan region like Hind Kush Himalayans are potentially hazardous and as glaciers continue to retreat, the risk of dangerous glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) may increase further. A deadly flood in Uttarakhand in Feb 2021, sparked by a cratering glacier, was the result of a rapid climate Change and its effect on Himalayan Glacier. ...

42. [2014 Q21] Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

With the intention to overthrow China's monopoly on tea and having found that Indian soil was eminently suitable to cultivate tea plants British developed tea gardens in India. Key points: Tea plants need plenty of water but do not grow well in stagnant water near roots.; Tista ,Rangreej, Mhananda, Balason and many more Himalayan streams and South- West monsoon supply sufficient water for tea cultivation.; Other than Darjeeling steep slope and absence of soil or fertile soil is the major reason for the absence of tea plantation developments.; High altitude of this region allows low temp and thus frost.; Low population density allows large areas under tea plantations.; All the places other than Darjeeling are far away from Kolkata or Chittagong port.. Overall, in 2004, Darjeeling tea became the first product in India to be registered under the...

43. [2014 Q22] Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? (10 marks, 150 words)

At the time of independence, about 75 per cent of the country's population was dependent on agriculture. Key points: It included both institutional and technical reforms which required both finance and skilled labour.; Inputs were expensive.; ielding variety (HYV) seeds especially for wheat and rice was one of the key developments.; of machinery such as tillers, tractors, threshers, and harvesters (in areas such as Punjab and

parts of Madhya Pradesh) required finance too, which came from rich farmers.. Overall, disparities between small and big farmers, land degradation, and excess usage of chemicals were most relevant.

44. [2014 Q23] Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world. (10 marks, 150 words)

The development of the iron and steel industry opened the doors for accelerated industrial growth in the world. Key points: Setting up Integrated Plants: The Indian iron and steel industry for example consist of large integrated steel plants, mini steel mills, secondary producers, rolling mills and ancillary industries.; For Example: The Tata Iron and Steel plant lies very close to the Mumbai-Kolkata railway line and also near to Kolkata that is the nearest port to export steel materials. The rivers Subarnarekha and Kharkai provide water to the plant.; Transportation: Sites located at port areas may have been disadvantageous in earlier times because of their distance from the coalfields.; For example, Japan's steel capacity is concentrated near the major port cities of Himeji, Kobe-Osaka and Tokyo-Yokohama areas of South-Central Honshu.; Environmental Norms: Another major change that disables the...

45. [2014 Q24] Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. (10 marks, 150 words)

The ocean is one of Earth's most valuable natural resources. Key points: Marine life like floating planktons, benthos (crabs) and nektons (fishes).; 90 % of Petroleum reserves of the world are found in continental shelves.; Sulphur can be rarely found on land.; Placer deposits are the deposits made when wave action erodes the beach rocks.; Calcium which is least soluble in ocean water can be obtained from continental shelf.; Precious stones like pearls can be found here.. Overall, these resources can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world if effectively explored and pursued.

46. [2014 Q25] How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa? (10 marks, 150 words)

India and Africa are inextricably connected by their shared colonial pasts and geographic, political, and socio-cultural commonalities. Key points: Africa plays an increasingly important role in the international hydrocarbon markets.; India is now the fastest growing major importer of oil and natural gas in the world.; There are also a number of other primary commodities for which India is a major consumer, such as phosphates that are imported from Africa.; Strengthening the supply links between India and Africa in the energy sector in both upstream and downstream should be an imperative.; India's ties with large energy exporters like Angola and Nigeria is pertinent here.; Energy relations are often strategic.. Overall, india can help African countries to tap the potential of natural resources and further strengthen the ties between the two.

47. [2015 Q1] The ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without breakdown to the present day. Comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Many great civilizations have been developed all over the world during the ancient age. Key points: Archaeologists have found evidence to show that cultures existed here even before the maturity phase of the Harappan civilization.. Overall, this has provided enduring character to Indian culture

48. [2015 Q2] Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The Mesolithic Age is the period between the end of the Palaeolithic Age and the Neolithic Age. Key points: Microliths or small stone tools were used by the people in this Age which were made by blunting one or more

sides with steep retouch.; The Rock art is in the form of petroglyphs (rock paintings) and petrolyphs (rock engravings) of which Bhimbetka is a classic example.; People in this age had, thus developed a clear aesthetic sense as most of the paintings portrayed the nature around them.. Overall, whereas the abstract modern art incidentally lacks the aesthetics of classical and stone age art and appeal to only a selected class of people.

49. [2015 Q3] How difficult would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

One of the greatest men in the history of India is unarguably Mahatma Gandhi. Key points: ear visiting several places in India to understand the situation.. Overall, without Gandhiji, it would have taken a longer time for attaining independence.

50. [2015 Q4] Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B R Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Gandhiji and Ambedkar are among the major makers of modern India. Key points: Gandhi had a profound faith in the Varna system, though it further stretched into the caste system.; Ambedkar's reading of caste, pivoted on seeing the Dalit question as a political issue, and not only a social one, as Gandhi did.; Gandhi's reading of caste fundamentally differed from Ambedkar.; Unlike Ambedkar, Gandhi felt that any exploitative relationship could be rectified only when the exploiter had a change of heart.; Both Gandhiji and Ambedkar worked for the upliftment of oppressed classes throughout their lives.; They maintained the momentum in their struggles for justice and equality until the very end of their lives.. Overall, their contribution to social justice is unparalleled.

51. [2015 Q5] It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years, but its experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The Constituent Assembly of India assembled for the first time on December 9, 1946. Key points: ears, 11 months, and 17 days to be precise) to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India.; ears without a comprehensive legal document like the GOI 1935 Act.; Features of Federal Legislature and Provincial autonomy was taken from the Government of India Act, 1935.; Another feature that had been taken was provincial autonomy.; A Federal Court that was established in 1937 through the Government of India Act, 1935 was considered as the Supreme Court by independent India.; The Constitution of India also borrowed the feature that every state should have a Governor who would be elected by the Central Government.; Public Service Commission that we see in Article 315 of the Indian Constitution had also been taken from the Government of India Act, 1935 yet apart from GOI act 1935 Indian Constitution has been amalgamation of experiences from freedom struggle and other sources as well.. Overall, the basic ideas of the Constitution were also laid down throughout the course of the freedom struggle by...

52. [2015 Q6] Why did the Industrial Revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present times? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Britain was the First country in the world to experience industrialization. Key points: The Proximity of iron & coal mines had also facilitated the Industrial Revolution in Britain. no obstruction in the transport of goods from one end to the other end of the island.; Britain started experiencing changes in the field of agriculture from the 16th century.; The agricultural Revolution was an outcome of progressive law by British Parliament & Scientific invention.; British Parliament passed an enclosure law where the peasants were allowed to fence their fields to keep the wild animals & hunting habits away to save crops.; Private ownership of land was recognized by the British Parliament.; As a result land became sellable commodity & consolidation of land holding took place.; Emergence of large farms increased the production efficiency.; In the 17th century agro

research played a pivotal role in agricultural development.; At the beginning of 18th century Jethro invented a horse drawn seed drill for sowing seeds & later he developed horse drawn hoe.. Overall, rural-urban migration in search of new job opportunities landing people in slums and poor hygienic...

53. [2015 Q7] To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Though putting fingers on Germany alone for launching the world wars would be unfair, as the allied powers were equally to be condemned for opening the door for the infamous war to occur in the first place, which has its root on colonial and imperialist interest. Key points: First, they became the strongest industrial power in Europe after the Franco- Prussian war with the strongest economy and military.; First before the war started.; This all led to World War II.. Overall, other actors, including Britain, Russia, the USA and the League of Nations, can by no means be discounted.

54. [2015 Q8] Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

In his book The Discovery of India Jawaharlal Nehru says that Indian unity is not something imposed from the outside but rather, "It was something deeper and within its fold, the widest tolerance of belief and custom was practised and every variety acknowledged and even encouraged." It was Nehru, who coined the phrase, "unity in diversity" to describe the country. Key points: First, they became united in their battle against the British.; Diversity in Language -Language is a major marker that shows the bewildering diversity which has always existed in India.; First during the medieval times also contributed to the process of connecting peoples and their cultures. in diverse ways.; Diversity in festivals -Similarly, despite a bewildering variety of forms and expression in all other spheres of culture, be it fairs and festivals, food and cuisine or arts and crafts, one can still find a sense of unity writ large across their conception, mood and spirit.; Religious diversity - Religious diversity may be more important for the formation of a common identity.; Diversity in art forms- The unique and splendid art forms of India have...

55. [2015 Q9] Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

British economist and philosopher, TR Malthus, in his Essay the Principles of Population, 1798 says that population would grow in a geometric progression while food production would increase in arithmetic progression. Key points: First, rapid population growth is likely to reduce per capita income growth and well-being, which tends to increase poverty.; Second, in densely populated poor nations with pressure on land, rapid population growth increases landlessness and hence the incidence of poverty.; Finally, the adverse effects of rapid population growth on child health, and possibly on education, will likely increase poverty in the next generation.; Rapid population growth stretches both national and family budgets thin with the increasing numbers of children to be fed and educated and workers to be provided with jobs.; First, general agreement has emerged to the effect that improving economic conditions for individuals generally lead to lower birth rates.; First, young populations and declining fertility rates could see their economies soar, provided they invest heavily in; First, young people's education and health and protect their rights.. Overall, thus, growing population is one of the causes of poverty but poverty is the...

56. [2015 Q10] How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The latest data released by the Census of India shows that the child sex ratio (number of girls per 1,000 boys) among Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country has declined faster than in other categories of the population between 2001 and 2011. Key points: SC community is the part of the caste system which always opt for Sanskritization.; Lack of access to pre-natal detection or diagnostic system because of poverty and lack of

education leads to higher sex ratio among STs.; Women are not treated as a liability but as an asset.; Economic contribution of women is prominent as compared to men in STs.; also, isolation from mainstream society makes them aloof from social evils like -patriarchal norms, early marriages, child marriages, son meta- preference.. Overall, despite the common belief that education will improve attitudes towards female children, this data shows that India's least educated social groups are those with better sex ratios.

57. [2015 Q11] Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Migration is the movement of people away from their usual place of residence, across either internal (within country) or international (across countries) borders. Key points: As per the 2011 census, there were 21 crore rural-rural migrants which formed 54% of classifiable internal migration (the Census did not classify 5.3 crore people as originating from either rural or urban areas).; Firstly, because in both surveys 'migrants' are defined in terms of change from birthplace and change in last usual place of residence.; Secondly, migration surveys give only the main reason for migration and that only at the time of migration.; Another problem is that migration data relate to stocks of migrants and not to flows.; A greater percentage of the urban migrant workers were from the non-agricultural sector; A greater percentage of the male migrant workers were self-employed or in regular employment in 1999–00.; In the case of females, yet, a larger percentage of decadal female migrant workers worked in 1999–00 as casual labourers in the rural areas in agriculture.; ears duration, while 21.4% were of 9; Only 3.04% of the migrants were recorded as...

58. [2015 Q12] Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The current wave of globalization has greatly improved the lives of women worldwide, particularly the lives of those women in the developing world. Overall, with the rise of NGOs in the 21st century, several organizations have been founded and created to defend the rights of women around the world.

59. [2015 Q13] Debate the issue whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The word Dalit is commonly used in Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati and many other Indian languages. Key points: The roots of Dalit oppression go back to the origins of the caste system in Hindu religion.; The introduction of Islam to India from about the thirteenth century CE led to widespread conversions by many low-caste and 'untouchable' groups, and by the mid-nineteenth century about one quarter of the population was Muslim.; During the struggle for Indian independence two different approaches emerged for the improvement of the situation of the people now known as Dalits.; After independence, the Indian Constitution abolished 'untouchability' in law.; Around 80 percent of Dalits live in rural areas.; Mob violence against Dalit communities is frequently reported, sometimes led by landlords, and has been especially noticeable in situations where Dalit workers have joined labour unions or made progress in gaining education and economic mobility.; Dalit women have been particularly badly affected in recent times.; In areas such as health, education, housing, employment and wages, application of legal rights, decision-making and political participation, and rural development, Dalit women have been almost entirely excluded from...

60. [2015 Q14] Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing, and navigation? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The term 'current' describes the motion of the water (when used in association with water). Key points: Wind – It is the most dominant factor or force behind the creation of ocean currents.; Thermohaline circulation – A process driven by density differences in water because of temperature(thermo)& salinity in different parts of the ocean.; Solar Energy – Solar energy creates a difference in heating on a horizontal scale.; Coriolis force – Ferrel's law says that when the winds pass the equator from southern hemisphere and enter the northern

hemisphere, they suddenly turn their direction towards right and it happens because of Coriolis force which is created for earth rotation.; Tides- Rise and fall of tides which is driven by the gravitational attraction of the moon & sun creates local level tidal currents.; Ocean currents act much like a conveyor belt, transporting warm water and precipitation from the equator toward the poles and cold water from the poles back to the tropics.; Upwelling currents are currents that move from deep in the ocean heading towards the surface.; For instance, they sweep nutrients upwards, helping some...

61. [2015 Q15] Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three Megacities of the country, but the air pollution is a much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Pollution is one of the most constant phenomena of Indian cities. Key points: Delhi is landlocked, whereas Mumbai is surrounded by sea on three sides and Kolkata on two sides.; National capital shares its border with the states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.; Unlike Kolkata and Mumbai, Delhi is landlocked.; Delhi is close to industrial areas like Faridabad, Okhla and Noida industrial regions, whereas this is not the case with either Mumbai or Kolkata.. Overall, people's consciousness and efforts can really curb the man-made pollution in Delhi like pollution causing vehicles, burning of rice stubbles etc and shall enable to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

62. [2015 Q16] India is well endowed with freshwater resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

India constitutes 16 percent of the world's population and has four percent of the world's freshwater resources. Key points: India ranks 133 in the world in terms of water availability per person per annum.; ear for lack of access to safe water.; ears, the government has worked on groundwater recharging projects, micro-irrigation, and legislative changes to promote better water management.; ear, the Jal Jeevan Mission has served 20 million families with clean water.. Overall, our journey is to achieve goal six of the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals could just become easier if we remain engaged, influential, and productive to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

63. [2015 Q17] The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Covering around 27% of the earth's land surface, mountains play a critical role in moving the world towards sustainable economic growth. Key points: With the arrival of the British in the 19th century, summer resorts, the so-called 'Hill Stations', were established.; The Himalayan region has an important spiritual meaning for Hindus as a "sacred space"; Apart from pilgrimage tourism, "modern" tourism in the IHR (Indian Himalayan region), which is represented by mass tourism, is largely limited to sightseeing and visiting major tourism hubs.; ears, trekking, mountain climbing, and nature-based tourism in the IHR have been gaining popularity.; Replacement of traditional eco-friendly and aesthetic architecture with inappropriate, anesthetic and dangerous construction.; Poorly designed roads and associated infrastructure.; Inadequate solid waste management.; Degradation of watersheds and water sources.; Loss of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services,. Overall, to overcome this challenge maximizing tourism's positive and creative contribution to IHR local economies, the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and the quality of life of hosts and visitors and harnessing opportunities and innovative actions to make tourism sustainable are essential features.

64. [2015 Q18] How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscape? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The monsoon season lasts three months, from June to September. Key points: The scientists also looked at several natural cycles like the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation impacting the

enhanced decreasing trend observed in the last 80; They found that this was not the case, hence they considered human pollutant emissions as a possible cause.; The influence of anthropogenic activities on the Indian summer monsoon rainfall (ISMR) has been investigated in a number of studies.; On the other hand, there is evidence of an aerosol- induced reduction of precipitation or of no clear indication for an influence of global warming at all.; Air pollution and reduced precipitation caused by climate change results in a reduction of agriculture production in India..

65. [2015 Q19] Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Smart Cities Mission (SCM) was launched with the objective of promoting cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' solutions. Key points: ojana, National Highway Development Programme, Bharatmala, Sethu Bharatam project can increase urban rural connectivity.. Overall, urban rural integration can help in rejuvenating India in a holistic way.

66. [2015 Q20] What is the economic significance of the discovery of oil in the Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The Arctic's vast reservoirs of fossil fuel, fish and minerals, including rare earth materials, are now accessible for a longer period. Key points: ears and a great uncertainty on how to secure the world's future energy supply, the attractiveness of Arctic petroleum exploration is increasing, bringing with it the promise of economic development and job creation.; Greenpeace (a non-governmental environmental organization) asserted that the drilling industry is unprepared, in fact unable, to clean up a major Arctic oil spill.They do not have the technology, nor the infrastructure, to deal with the specific challenges of a disaster in this region Additionally, national and international regulation in the areas of environmental safety, legality, liability and compensation in offshore oil exploration in the Arctic is insufficient and uncoordinated, and adequate technology to contain and remove oil spilled in ice covered waters has not been fully developed.; Combined effects of stress from climate change and pollution from oil; Cumulative effects from other kinds of pollution and potential oil spills; Better and more effective oil spill response technologies; Proper research, risk assessment, innovation & regulation are mandatory European Union's...

67. [2016 Q1] Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The most fundamental of Buddhist architectural monuments, the Buddhist Stupa serves as a marker for a sacred space, and it is a symbolic representation of the Buddha's burial mound. Key points: The great Stupa at Sanchi, is one of the earliest Stupas which was first constructed by the 3rd- century-BCE Mauryan ruler Ashoka and later expanded to twice its original size in stone.; The great Stupa at Sanchi shows Buddha's birth by motifs of Maya being flanked by two elephants.; In Sanchi Stupa, the crossbars, and the intervening square between them are covered with relief sculptures depicting the events of the Buddha's life.; The hemispherical mound at Stupas represents symbolic association i.e., the mountain home of the gods at the center of the universe.; A central pillar supporting a triple-umbrella form (chattra) represents the three Jewels of Buddhism, which are the keys to a true perceptive of the faith: (a) Buddha; (b) Dharma (Buddhist teachings or religious law); and (c) Sangha (monastic community).; Most of the relics at Stupas represent Jataka tales narrating the stories and ideals of Buddhism such as ahimsa or non-violence...

68. [2016 Q2] Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

One of the most important rulers of the Vijayanagar empire was Krishnadeva Raya who reigned from 1509 AD to 1529 AD. Key points: Krishna Deva Rayana Dinachari in Kannada shows contemporary society during

Krishna Deva Raya's time.; It is still debatable among historians whether the record was written by the king himself, but undoubtedly it is said to be one of the most authentic sources to interpret social life during his time.; Kannada poet Mallanarya, Satyendra Chola- katha, Chatu Vittal-anatha who wrote Veera- saivamruta, Bhava-chinta-ratna and Bhaga-vatha respectively, was patronized by Krishnadeva Raya.; His contribution in art and literature marked a zenith in vernacular literature as he composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the Amuktamalyada.; Mythologically, it was believed that eight elephants were holding the earth in eight different directions.; thus, the title 'Ashtadiggajas' was used to celebrate this belief and hence the court was also called Bhuvana Vijayam (Conquest of the World).; The most celebrated poets in his court were Allasani Peddana and Nandi Timmaha who wrote the Parijatapaharana.; The period of the Krishnadeva Raya Empire is known as Prabandha...

69. [2016 Q3] Explain how the uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The uprising of 1857 was a watershed moment in the history of India. Key points: The British Parliament enacted the Government of India Act of 1858 to transfer the powers of the East India Company to the British Crown to ensure more responsible management of Indian affairs.; A member of the British cabinet was appointed Secretary of State for India and made responsible for all matters related to the governance of India.; He was given a council to advise him, called the India Council.; The Governor-General of India was given the title of Viceroy, that is, a personal representative of the Crown.; It was decided that the proportion of Indians in the British Indian army would be reduced, and the number of European soldiers would be increased.; The ratio of British to Indian troops was fixed at roughly 1:2 instead of 1:5, one British and two Indian battalions were formed into brigades so that no sizable station should be without British troops.; The effective Indian artillery, except for a few mountain batteries, was abolished, while the Brahmans and Rajputs of Avadh were reduced in...

70. [2016 Q4] Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Women participated in the Indian anti-imperialist struggle in large numbers. Key points: It was during the Gandhian movement that the single woman acquired a sense of dignity and came to be respected for her political work.; Women's participation in the first major Gandhian phase, the Khilafat and Non-cooperation Movement in 1920-22, was limited but there were some important developments.; The Khilafat Movement in the U.P. was marked by the energetic efforts of Bi Amman.; Another important development was that women went to jail for the first time in the Non- Cooperation Movement.; During this phase, Gandhi actively drew women into the mainstream of politics, asking them to attend the Ahmedabad session of the Indian National Congress, held at the end of 1921, in large numbers.; Most of the leaders had been arrested during the Non-Cooperation Movement. The women took upon themselves the responsibility of keeping the movement alive by holding meetings, often in defiance of prohibitory orders, addressing large crowds, usually for the first time in their lives, and if need be, even going to jail.; The Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-33 was...

71. [2016 Q5] Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose were two legendary personalities, gigantic in their political moral and ethical stature. Key points: ears who had resigned from the coveted Indian Civil Service with the resolute aim and determination to devote himself entirely to the fight for India's freedom.; Although Subhas Chandra was a follower of Gandhi during the initial days, the later part of the 1930s witnessed a growing radicalization of his thoughts and Bose became increasingly frustrated with the lack of momentum in the independence movement.; As Bose started to assert his bold stance in several party forums, it led to a polarization in the Congress party ranks.; Subhash Chandra Bose differed from Mahatma Gandhi's approach

of non-violent movement to oust the British.; He believed that non-violence could be an ideology but not a creed.; The national movement should be free from violence but, if need be, people could resort to arms.; In protest against the decision of Gandhi in calling off the Non-cooperation Movement as a sequence to the Chauri Chaura incident in 1922, Bose felt highly dejected.; Bose found himself frequently at loggerheads...

72. [2016 Q6] Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

After independence, there was a popular demand for the creation of linguistic States, signaling the assertion of regional sentiment over the centralized design of nation-building. Key points: Constitutionally recognized: In December 1953, the States Reorganization Commission was set up and it recommended the creation of linguistic States.; In fact, Article 3 of the Constitution of India recognizes the separate identity of the regions and does not believe that the states, districts and mandals within India are static, unchanging, and permanent.; The Indian Constitution and the process of nation-building have repeatedly come across one basic principle of the Indian approach to diversity is that the Indian nation shall not deny the rights of different regions and linguistic groups to retain their own culture.; The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India.; Recognition of regional aspirations: Democratic politics allows parties and groups to address the people based on their regional identity, aspiration, and specific regional problems.; During democratic politics, regional aspirations get strengthened.; Democratic politics also means that regional issues and problems will receive adequate attention and...

73. [2016 Q7] The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

West Africa was colonized by France and Britain. Key points: Kwame Nkrumah: He was the prominent Ghanaian nationalist leader who led the Gold Coast's drive for independence from Britain and presided over its emergence as the new nation of Ghana.; He was inspired by Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, Marcus Garvey, the Black American leader of the 1920s.; Later, he formed the new Convention Peoples' Party (CPP) in 1949, a mass-based party that was committed to a program of immediate self-government.; In 1950, he initiated a campaign of "positive action," involving nonviolent protests, strikes, and noncooperation with the British colonial authorities.; Under Nkrumah's leadership, Ghana adopted some social democratic policies and practices.; Léopold Sédar Senghor: Senghor was the first African agrégé, i.e., the highest rank of qualified teacher in the French school system, was the propounder of African art on modern painting, sculpture, and music, which confirmed his belief in Africa's potential contribution to modern culture.; He was the major proponent of the concept of Negritude.; He founded the Senegalese Democratic Bloc in 1948.; Senghor emphasis on territorial rather than federal government which would...

74. [2016 Q8] To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Globalization is a multidimensional concept. Key points: Social and cultural life: Joint family is converting into a nuclear family.; Global process affected the family structure and social construction.; But globalization has impacted the social evils of Indian society and now the marriages in different castes are acceptable.; Homogenization versus glocalization of culture: A central contention is that all cultures will become similar, that is homogeneous.; But more than homogenization, there is an increasing tendency towards glocalization of culture.; In fact, the foreign firms have adopted Indian culture.; MNCs like KFC and McDonald's sell only vegetarian and chicken products in India and not its beef products, which are popular abroad.; effect of globalization on Indian language and literature: English language has been favored by many as the mode of communication over the respective mother tongues.; The drastic economic changes and policies brought about by globalization in India have created two countries: the India of Light and the India of Darkness..

Overall, today, globalization is seen as western centric and not through the world centric approach, thus, it has both positive and negative influences on the...

75. [2016 Q9] “An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation.” Substantiate this statement with suitable examples. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Poverty means socially perceived deprivation in terms of basic human needs. Key points: Measuring poverty is to specify a threshold level of expenditure that separates the poor from the non-poor.; The threshold expenditure, called the poverty line, is the amount necessary to purchase a basket of goods and services deemed necessary to satisfy basic human needs at socially acceptable levels.; Poverty can be measured in terms of the number of people living below this line (with the incidence of poverty expressed as the Head Count Ratio (HCR) or the poverty ratio i.e., number of poor to the total population expressed as percentage.; Combating Poverty through growth, jobs and Make in India: An integral part of a well-rounded and holistic anti-poverty strategy must be sustained by rapid growth.; It creates well-paid jobs and raises real wages.; Increased incomes help in another way, like households can purchase and access education and health services.; Rapid growth leads to growth in government revenues.; Government policies and schemes: Over the last few years, thrust on the poor and deprived households is reflected across a range of interventions covering food...

76. [2016 Q10] Why are the tribals in India referred to as ‘the Scheduled Tribes’? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Scheduled Tribes (STs) are the most disadvantaged socio-economic groups in India. Key points: Article 342 gives the President the power to notify those communities in specific regions that fall under the classification of Scheduled Tribes.; Apart from the Fundamental Rights under Articles 15, 16 and others which assure non-discrimination based on caste, gender, race, religion, or place of birth, the other provisions protecting the fundamental rights of Scheduled Tribes are as follows; Article 46 directs the state to work for the welfare and promotion of the interests of Scheduled Tribes, and to take steps to safeguard their interests.; Additionally, Articles 243D, 243T, 330, and 332 promise proportionate reservation of seats for both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats, Municipalities, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Lok Sabha.; Article 338A directs the state to create a National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, to oversee the implementation of the provisions and safeguards of the rights of Scheduled Tribes in India.; Article 164 provides for the appointment of a minister in charge of tribal welfare in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, who may also...

77. [2016 Q11] With a brief background of the quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the ‘Smart City Programme’. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Cities are a confluence of people, places where people live, come to meet, exchange ideas, earn livelihoods, access education, health and other services and enjoy a life of good quality. Key points: The Objectives the ‘Smart City Programme’; To promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of ‘Smart’ Solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a lighthouse to other aspiring cities. It is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalyzing the creation of similar Smart Cities in several regions and parts of the country.; The core infrastructure elements in a Smart City would include adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, affordable housing, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women...

78. [2016 Q12] What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on a regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Regionalism means to situate the approach and sentiments towards a particular region. Key points: The basis of Regionalism is a clustering of environmental, economic, social and governmental factors to such an extent that a distinct consciousness of separate identity within the whole, a need for autonomous planning, a manifestation of cultural peculiarities and a desire for administrative freedom, are recognized and actually put into effect.; The notion of region in India during the period of colonialism and post-independent state is a skewed one.; British colonizers re-structured those regions for colonial exploitation.; The existence of unequal distribution and relative deprivation are the most important aspects in constructing the argument for regionalism.; For instance, if the people from any particular region feel that they are more deprived than others in terms of distribution of resources, infrastructures and so on, then it may create regional affiliation.; For example, the Gorkha Nationalist Liberation Forum (GNLF) started its movement in Darjeeling.; In the view of GNLF, Darjeeling was the most underdeveloped region in comparison to the southern part of West Bengal.; Jharkhand state was formed on 15th November 2000....

79. [2016 Q13] Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

An air mass is a large volume of air in the atmosphere that is mostly uniform in temperature and moisture. Key points: Air masses form over large surfaces with uniform temperatures and humidity, called source regions.; When winds move air masses, they carry their weather conditions (heat or cold, dry or moist) from the source region to a new region.; When the air mass reaches a new region, it might clash with another air mass that has a different temperature and humidity.; The air masses are classified according to the source regions.; Accordingly, following types of air masses are recognized: Maritime tropical (mT), Continental tropical (cT), Maritime polar (mP), Continental polar (cP), and Continental arctic (cA).; Role in the Precipitation and Temperature: The climates of most regions worldwide are affected by air masses.; For example, maritime-tropical air sourced over warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico, mainly between 10 and 30 degrees north of latitude, is the main contributor of precipitation for much of North America east of the Rocky Mountains.; It's also the cause of the persistent humidity...

80. [2016 Q14] "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Landslides are a natural phenomenon causing the downward and outward movement of slope materials like rocks, soil and so on under the influence of gravity. Key points: The Himalayan mountain range was formed because of the collision of Indian and Eurasian plates.; Mountainous slopes combined with rugged topography as well as high seismic vulnerability and rainfall makes the Himalayan region augment the susceptibility to landslides.; The Himalayan regions already are prone to heavy downpours and this creates floods and landslides, and the problem gets aggravated with man-made constructions.; Relentless rain is the trigger.; Hazard mapping locates areas prone to slope failures.; Land use practices such as; Areas covered by degraded natural vegetation in upper slopes are to be afforested with suitable species.; Any developmental activity initiated in the area should be taken up only after a detailed study of the region has been carried out.; In construction of roads, irrigation canals etc. proper care is to be taken to avoid blockage of natural drainage.. Overall, in fact, the management of landslides requires a coordinated and multi-faceted approach among many stakeholders strengthened by the requisite...

81. [2016 Q15] The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Effective management of land resources is the use of land to meet changing human needs (agriculture, forestry, conservation), by ensuring long-term socioeconomic and ecological functions of the land. Key points:

Soil conservation measures are important for land conservation and rehabilitation.; Rural employment schemes can be an effective way of providing livelihoods to poor people while investing in restoration of vegetation and land restoration.; The potential for sound land use practices to store carbon in soils.; This can give poor farmers financial benefits from such practices as part of global efforts to tackle climate change.; Effective management of land resources encompasses established approaches such as soil and water conservation, natural resource management and integrated landscape management (ILM).; It involves a holistic approach to achieve productive and healthy ecosystems by integrating social, economic, physical and biological needs and values, and it contributes to sustainable and rural development. and harvesting, collection, and improved storage of water.; Land degradation and desertification threaten the food security and livelihoods of millions of people, especially in drylands.; The prioritizing of the identification of affected communities and target areas for implementing locally...

82. [2016 Q16] South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The South China Sea is a part of the Western Pacific Ocean. Key points: One-third of the world's shipping passes through here, carrying over \$3 trillion in trade each; ear, making this stretch the second-most used sea-lane in the world.; As for strategic resources, the region has proven oil reserves of around 7.7 billion barrels, with an estimate of 28 billion barrels in all.; The most vital of them all, the country controlling this maritime route will have natural military advantages making this region the geopolitical pivot to controlling the rest of Asia.; For China, the South China Sea also acts as a natural shield in terms of national security.; There has been an ongoing territorial dispute between China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia concerning the ownership of the Spratly Islands archipelago and nearby geographical features like coral reefs etc.; This geopolitical problem gained friction when China began building artificial islands in the South China Sea and took under its territory a major piece of the sea, which it separated with the Nine-Dash Line.; The USA claims that the South China Sea is...

83. [2016 Q17] Major cities of India are becoming vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

An increase in the number of events of floods in major cities is turning into a world-wide phenomenon and is a great challenge to planners all over the world. Key points: Man-made disaster: Overburdened drainage, frenzied and unregulated construction, buildings constructed without paying any heed to the natural topography and hydro-geomorphology all adds to the damage.; With rapid urban expansion, builders have been constructing on the reclaimed wetlands, flood plains and lowlands of the city as these areas have a cheaper land rate.; Overlooking environmental regulations in mega- projects is proving dangerous.; In the 2000's, Delhi's Akshardham Temple Complex and Commonwealth Games Village (CWG) were built on the Yamuna's floodplain.; The secondary runway of Chennai International Airport was built over the Adyar river.; Meteorological Factors: India being a tropical country, has very heavy rainfall throughout the monsoon season.; Changing climate and increased precipitation had a huge role to play in the devastating floods that happened in 2006 and 2017 Mumbai floods.; The extreme rise in the number of rainfall events are directly linked with increased warming of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal...

84. [2016 Q18] Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is a transboundary water distribution agreement between India and Pakistan mediated by the World Bank on 19 September 1960. Key points: Groundwater depletion: The IWT clearly lays out the rules for the use of surface water but groundwater management and governance are not addressed; et. The IWT tends to disregard environmental and climatic factors, whose impacts on the Indus Basin are unravelling gradually. The Indus Basin is the second most overstressed on the Earth, as indicated by a NASA

survey.; Climate change: The Indus river system is said to have maximum dependence on glacial meltwater. In the short-term, increased temperatures and glacial retreat in the Himalayas could result in increased water availability, in the long run water availability is expected to plummet steeply. The construction of the small dams on the Indus river system will have devastating results as these dams are built on high seismic prone zones.; Economic Implications: Both India and Pakistan, being agrarian economies, are heavily dependent on agriculture.; The Indus river provides the key water resources for the economy of India and...

85. [2016 Q19] Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Water based transport is effective as operating costs of fuel are low and environmental pollution is lower than for corresponding volumes of movement by road, rail, or air. Key points: India is estimated to have nearly 14,500 km of navigable inland waterways, even though the exploitation of the sector has remained neglected.; Inland waterways transportation in India is approximately 3% whereas it constitutes 20% of the transport sector in Germany and 32% in Bangladesh.; Not many private players are willing to invest in inland vessels, which have resulted in underutilization of whatever infrastructure is created, thereby spelling trouble for the development of the sector.; According to the report, “the outcome of a National Policy Dialogue on transboundary cooperation” related to the Ganga and the Brahmaputra rivers states, there are not many industrial units on the riverside, especially not along the Brahmaputra.; because of less or no development of special economic zones along Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers, there is hardly any presence of industries resulting in no cargo commitments by the private players.; The inland water transport in the river needs enough depth throughout the...

86. [2016 Q20] In what way micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India involve states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, AP, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. Key points: At the central level, the Union Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for development, conservation and management of water as a national resource.; Water being a state subject, the state government has primary responsibility for use and control of this resource.; Watershed development is not a new concept in India and a peek into history shows that the people of India have adapted by either living along river banks or by harvesting, storing, and managing rainfall, runoff and stream flows.; Run-off Farming: System of growing crops on harvested & stored water in the farm by earthen dam or a bund across the gentle slope of the farmland and shallow, gravelly and rocky uplands for grazing helps harvesting runoff water.; Silvi-pasture: This method is used in areas with rainfall below 200 mm/yr. and food production is very difficult.; Tree species like *Prosopis cineraria* and *Zizyphus nummularia* come up in these rangelands & make a silvipastoral system.; Wind break: Wind erosion, high thermal regime & hot desiccating...

87. [2017 Q1] How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? (150 words, 10 marks)

The Gupta dynasty ruled around the early 4th century to 6th century C.E. Key points: The Gupta gold coins are acknowledged as Dinars, and they are the most extraordinary examples of numismatic and artistic excellence.; Gupta coinage attained the height of metallurgy and iconography.; The coins had the following features and themes; Royal themes: Image of king and queen involved in several ceremonies.; Themes depicting valour: Samudragupta carrying an axe, bow and arrow, standing with a dagger, Skanda Gupta sitting on an elephant and hunting a tiger in one of the coins.; Religious themes: Image of a female goddess in almost every coin, an image of the king holding an animal at the altar for sacrifice, ruler performing Ashwamedha Yajna.. Overall, in the post-Gupta period, numismatics quality declined because of reduction in trade and frequent conflict for power.

88. [2017 Q2] Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. (150 words, 10 marks)

The Mughal Empire had a centralized administration. Key points: The empire was divided into several provinces headed by subedar.; After the death of Aurangzeb, the weaknesses of the Mughal empire enabled the local powers to assert autonomy.; The second group of regional states was the new states or insurgent states set up by rebels against the Mughals, Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, and Afghans.; The successor states were founded by Mughal provincial governor, who exercised autonomy and never formally severed their links with the Centre.; After the death of Aurangzeb, Farruksiyar appointed Murshid Quli Khan as the governor of Bengal.; Burhan-ul-Mulk Sa'adat Khan was appointed subadar of Awadh in 1722, a prosperous region, controlling the rich alluvial Ganga plain and the main trade route between North India and Bengal.. Overall, the British took advantage of the situation and expanded their..

89. [2017 Q3] Why did the 'Moderates' failed to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? (150 words, 10 marks)

The Moderates leader believed in the British justice system and was loyal to them. Key points: Utilitarian theories influenced moderates.; They wanted Legislative Councils to be made more representative, given more power and introduced in provinces where none existed.; They used methods like 'created awareness' and politicised people by exposing real British intentions through newspapers, public speech, etc., and persuaded Britisher to introduce reforms through petition, prayers, and protest (3ps).; The Moderates did not understand the true nature of the British government.; They were alienated from the greater mass of the Indian population.; The peaceful and constitutional methods were not very effective; they did not bring any major change in the policies of the British government.. Overall, they also initiated the people's political awakening and worked as a beacon light for upcoming leaders and successive struggles for independence.

90. [2017 Q4] What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula? (150 words, 10 marks)

The British came to the Malay Peninsula in the late 18th century and tried to control its natural resources by spreading British East India company's trade. Key points: It was a complex area that would be difficult to organize.; The population was multiracial: mostly Malays and Chinese, but with some Indians and Europeans as well.; The influence of the Japanese in the Malay Peninsula during World War II pressured the British to make a reassessment of policies favouring the regional government to gain their support.; Each state had its legislature for local affairs; the sultans retained some power, but the central government had firm overall control.; Chinese communist guerrillas led by Chin Peng organized strikes and violence against the British to support an independent communist state.; It was made clear that independence would follow as soon as the...

91. [2017 Q5] How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth? (150 words, 10 marks)

The Juno mission is the second spacecraft devised under NASA's New Frontiers Program; it was launched in 2011 for understanding the origin and evolution of Jupiter. Key points: It will determine how much water is in Jupiter's atmosphere, which encourages determining which planet formation theory is correct (or if new theories are needed).; It would look deep into Jupiter's atmosphere to measure composition, temperature, cloud motions and other properties.; It will prepare a map of Jupiter's magnetic and gravity fields to reveal its deep structure.; It will explore and study Jupiter's magnetosphere near its poles, especially the auroras (Jupiter's northern and southern lights), to provide new insights into how the planet's enormous magnetic force field affects its atmosphere.; It will reveal the fundamental processes and conditions that govern our solar system during its formation.; Jupiter has the same...

92. [2017 Q6] “In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development”.

Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Coal mining is the extraction of coal deposits from the surface of Earth and from underground. Key points: Coal mining is usually associated with the degradation of natural resources and the destruction of habitat.; Vast quantities of waste material are produced by mining activities in the coal-mining region and pollute the surrounding environment.; Water pollution: Pollution of both surface water and groundwater is becoming rampant because of coal mining activity.; Air Pollution: Mining activities have both direct or indirect association with air pollution.; Noise Pollution: The noise coming out of the mining activities during blasting, drilling, and transportation is polluting the entire environment.; It also affects the health and lives of workers & people living in surrounding areas.. Overall, so, it is high time to think about any other alternative energy sources to achieve United Nations Sustainable Development...

93. [2017 Q7] Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations. (150 words, 10 marks)

Pulse crops are the most important food crops after cereals. Key points: Advantages for Farmer: Pulses help in fixing nitrogen in soils and reduce the requirement of using synthetic nitrogen.; It also provides a cost-effective way of generating income for farmers.; Advantages for Consumer: Pulses are a rich source of proteins containing about 20-30%.; It is the second major source of dietary protein (27%) after cereals (55%); Environmental benefits: Pulses can fix atmospheric nitrogen and their deep penetrating root system enables the plants to use limited available moisture more efficiently.; It improves the physical condition of the soil like soil aeration, water holding capacity, improving microbial population, breaking of hard pans etc.. Overall, india needs to import pulses to the tune of 2 M tonne every year (Rs 3000 crores) to meet its domestic requirement.

94. [2017 Q8] How does the cryosphere affect global climate? (150 words, 10 marks)

The term “cryosphere” comes from the Greek word, “krios,” which means cold. Key points: ear, compose the cryosphere.; Snow and ice have high albedo, it reflects much of insolation.; It reflects heat from the sun, helping to regulate our planet’s temperature.; Climate change indicator: The polar regions are some of the most sensitive to climate shifts, the cryosphere may be one of the first places where scientists are able to identify global changes in climate.; It also determines the regime of water supply, hydrological cycle, filling of water basins and runoff to the World Ocean.; Salinity: Formation and destruction of sea ice, processes on the lower surface of ice shelves and around icebergs redistribute fresh and saltwater.. Overall, the Paris Climate Agreement should be strictly followed by all countries to protect it.

95. [2017 Q9] In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. (150 words, 10 marks)

India is a highly diverse country in terms of language, religion, culture, race etc. Key points: Along with contacts with outside cultures, cultural exchange between different regions of India has also continued.; Regional identities are more real.; In Bengal, both Hindus and Muslims take pride in being Bengalis.; Ethnic culture is solid among the tribal groups.; The regions in the North, South, East and West of India have their characteristic cultures,; et these did not develop in absolute isolation.. Overall, this is the reason that the civilizations got destroyed while Indian culture is present till today because the basis of development was spirituality and not materialism.

96. [2017 Q10] What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)? (150 words, 10 marks)

The framers of the Constitution took note of the fact that certain communities in the country were suffering from extreme social, educational and economic backwardness on account of the primitive agricultural

practices, lack of infrastructure facilities and geographical isolation. Key points: Major Legal Initiatives taken by the State Addressing Discrimination Against STs: Reservation: Article 17 under the Indian Constitution, prohibits discrimination and obligate states to make laws to protect STs.; In the elections of Panchayat, State legislature and Parliament also, seats are reserved for their proper representation.; It granted legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities, partially correcting the injustice caused by the forest laws.; It provides guidelines for undertaking developmental facilities of the villages in and around forested areas.; It empowers and encourages local self-governance amongst the marginalised tribal communities and forest dwellers.. Overall...

97. [2017 Q11] The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. (250 words, 15 marks)

Tolerance is an important concept that helps people to live together peacefully. Key points: ou accept other people's opinions and preferences, even when they live in a way that; ou don't agree with.; our own desires.; An essential aspect of Indian culture is tolerance.; ielded every culture the opportunity of prospering.; Indian society endured and respected Shaka, Huna, Shithiyan, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist cultures.; According to Rigveda, truth is one, even then the Scholars describe it in several forms.; The philosophy of Sarva Dharma Sambhava, Vasudhaive Kutumbkam etc. of ancient texts reflects the extent of tolerance and love.; In India, all religions are respected equally, and Indian culture admits the manifoldness of reality and grasps the plurality of perspectives, customs, behaviours, and institutions.. Overall, lack of tolerance leads to violence, and finally it destroys the peace and security of society.

98. [2017 Q12] Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. (250 words, 15 marks)

At the beginning of British rule in the mid18th century Indian handicraft industries used to supply about a quarter of all manufactured goods produced in the world and constituted chief export items of European trades. Key points: Earlier, Indian handlooms had a big market in Europe.; There was a massive import of machine-made clothes from English factories to Indian markets.; There was a one-way free trade policy between India and England.; On the other hand, Indian handicrafts were taxed heavily when they were sent out of the country.; Besides, under the pressure of its industrialists, British government often imposed a protective tariff on Indian textiles.; ears, India from being an exporter of clothes became an exporter of raw cotton and an importer of British clothes.; The decline of royal courts, reduced the local demand of traditional industries.; The influence of western education created a new class of people, who have a taste for European goods.; The loss of guilds led to decline in the quality of products, workmanship etc. which affected the demand of products of traditional industries.. Overall, british economic policy led to de-industrialization and de- urbanization, increasing pressure on land, increased poverty & unemployment, and crippled rural economy.

99. [2017 Q13] Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century. (15 marks, 250 words)

Since 'twenties of the last century new objectives, ideas imparted a new orientation to the Indian freedom struggle. Key points: Gandhiji came back to India in 1915.; Motilal Nehru report recommended Nineteen Fundamental Rights to uplift the vulnerable section, including the right to vote for both men and women above 21; ears of age unless disqualified equal rights for men and women as citizens and no state religion.; From the 1920s onwards the ideas of Marxism and socialism spread rapidly in India.; The peasant's movements like Eka movement, Kisan sabha movement etc. were integrated with the Congress and national movements.; The left- wing movement did not remain confined to Indian freedom struggle only but raised their voices against the class oppression by the capitalist class.; It reiterated the goal of "Poorna Swaraj": Thus, the goal of complete independence was made a definite goal.; "Poorna Swaraj" did not mean only

political independence: The concept included both political and economic freedom.; Accordingly, the resolution called for equality irrespective of sex, language, caste and creed, universal suffrage, secularism, freedom of speech and expression, freedom to form associations etc.. Overall, it strengthened the National movements and increased the participation of masses and pressured the government.

100. [2017 Q14] Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects. (15 marks, 250 words)

Salinity is the term used to define the total content of dissolved salts in seawater. Key points: The salinity of water in the surface layer of oceans depends mainly on evaporation and precipitation.; Surface salinity is greatly influenced in coastal regions by the freshwater flow from rivers, and in polar regions by the processes of freezing and thawing of ice.; Wind also influences salinity of an area by transferring water to other areas.; The ocean currents contribute to the salinity variations.; The salinity decreases from equator towards poles, because of frequent rainfall and influx of fresh water at equator.; The areas of oceans/seas bordering the continental areas are less saline than interior areas because of influx of fresh water from rivers.; The salinity of inland sea or partially enclosed sea does not depend on the latitudes, it is controlled by influx of fresh water.; The salinity of the water body increases with increase in depth of oceans.; The overall salinity of water in the upper zone is higher than the salinity of the lower zone, which is separated by a transition zone called halocline.. Overall, measuring salinity is one way to probe the water cycle in greater detail.

101. [2017 Q15] Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications. (15 marks, 250 words)

Petroleum is a dark oily liquid with an unpleasant odour. Key points: An oil refinery is an industrial plant that transforms, or refines crude oil into several usable petroleum products.; These refineries are located near ports that can promote export thus generating foreign exchange.; Oil fields can be exhausted in the future, but the market can last for a longer period.; It also insulates developing country from abrupt supply disruption arising from socio-political issues or UN sanctions in the exporter country e.g., Libya or Syria.; At times the crude-oil rich countries have problems like political instability, lack of skilled manpower and technology to refine the oil and use its by- products in the most-optimal manner.; The refineries need water resources for cooling purpose and for discharge of wastes thus these are located based on it.; Transport and infrastructure development like oil pipelines reduced the cost of transportation thus other factors play an important role in determining location of refineries.; Geographical positions create political tensions.; Cooperative federalism: When the Government decides to set up a refinery away from oil-fields, especially in a different state, then it creates a challenge to cooperative federalism and provides propaganda points for the secessionists, as seen in Noonmati-Barauni refinery issue during 50s and 60s.. Overall, on one hand it helps in jobs- creation, economic growth and foreign exchange earning whereas on the other hand it can...

102. [2017 Q16] In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India? (15 marks, 250 words)

Indian population depends on monsoonal rain water for agriculture, hydration, and industry. Key points: ears, several parts of India have experienced devastating flooding events.; The huge amount of excess flood water can be used in irrigation, by channelizing it to nearby fields for irrigation through River linking projects.; By reducing the runoff through afforestation, digging wells etc. can reduce the negative effect and water scarcity.; Through volume reduction by using dams, marshy areas etc. can contain the flood water.; Flood water can be used for all-weather connectivity by using canals, it can be used for inland navigation.; Flood water can be used to produce hydroelectricity.; ear, by channelizing excess water to the drought prone regions to mitigate water scarcity.; Periodicity of rain- The monsoon rains occur in wet spells of a few days

duration at a time.; Unpredictability in the amount of rain- Rainfall amounts vary from one area to the other.. Overall, the average annual rainfall in India is about 125 cm, but it has great spatial variations

103. [2017 Q17] What characteristics can be assigned to a monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia? (15 marks, 250 words)

A monsoon is a seasonal change in the direction of the prevailing, or strongest, winds of a region. Key points: Areas of High Rainfall: The highest rainfall happens along the west coast, on the Western Ghats, and in the sub-Himalayan areas is the northeast and the hills of Meghalaya, where the rainfall exceeds 200 cm.; In some parts of Khasi and Jaintia hills, it exceeds 1,000 cm, and in the Brahmaputra valley and the adjoining hills, it is less than 200 cm.; Areas of Medium Rainfall: Rainfall between 100-200 cm is received in the southern parts of Gujarat, east Tamil Nadu, northeastern Peninsula covering Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, eastern Madhya Pradesh, northern Ganga plain along the sub-Himalayas and the Cachar Valley and Manipur.; Areas of Low Rainfall: Western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, eastern Rajasthan, Gujarat and Deccan Plateau receive rainfall between 50-100 cm.; Areas of Inadequate Rainfall: Parts of the Peninsula, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, Ladakh and most of western Rajasthan, receive rainfall below 50 cm.; Snowfall is restricted to the Himalayan region.; Variability in the onset: A variability of less than 25 per cent exists on the western coasts, Western Ghats, north-eastern Peninsula, eastern plains of the Ganga, north-eastern India, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and south-western part of Jammu and Kashmir.; Retreat of monsoon: The months of October and November are known for...

104. [2017 Q18] The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What are the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? (15 marks, 250 words)

The position of women in India has diversified in different periods and varied classes, religions and ethnic groups. Key points: In the earlier 19th century, when the social reform movement emerged, the leadership was provided by male reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Vidyasagar and many others.; Struggle for women's education resulted in establishing women's schools, colleges, hostels, widow homes, protection homes etc.; The social reformers assumed that female education would revitalise the family system threatened by the growing communication gap between educated men and uneducated wives.; Many women leaders like Pandita Ramabai, Savitribai Phule etc., came forward to work for the upliftment of women.; This movement saw the emergence of women's organisations and institutions, but it was led by male leaders and originated only in metropolitan cities.; Its leaders also realised that religious reforms could not be separated from it.; The social reform movement never emerged as a unified movement but developed within each community.; These Women's and Movement organisations took the lead to project essential issues, which adversely affected the status of women in society.. Overall, thus, the Women's movement during the 19th century was an important variant of social movement because it intended to bring reforms in the institutional arrangements, values, customs and beliefs in the society that had subjugated women over the years.

105. [2017 Q19] Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has transformed into the latter in independent India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Religiousness/Religiosity means an individual's conviction, devotion, and veneration towards a divinity. Key points: Religiosity is concerned with religious aspects only, while communalism is a political ideology.; Communalism is more rigid than religiosity and viewed as a negative concept.; The second stage of communal ideology rests on the notion that in multi-religious society like India the social, cultural, economic and political interests, of the followers of one religion are dissimilar and divergent from the interests of the followers of another; The third stage of communalism is reached when the interests of the followers of different religions or of different 'communities' are seen to be mutually incompatible, antagonistic and hostile.; Communalism emerged as a consequence of the emergence of modern politics which marked a

sharp break with the politics of the ancient or medieval or pre-1857 periods.; After independence two most important factors fuelled communalism were Firstly, the partition deeply wounded the people psyche, Secondly, the resurgence of Hindu-Muslim economic competition fuelled a communal ideology.; Political parties, prompted by political considerations, take decisions, which promote communal violence.. Overall, the government programs like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat etc. are right steps in the direction of communal harmony in society.

106. [2017 Q20] “The growth of cities as I.T. hubs have opened up new avenues of employment but have also created new problems”. Substantiate this statement with examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Information Technology (IT) industry is an essential component of the technology-driven knowledge economy of the 21st century. Key points: All the sub-sectors of this industry have made strides in revenue growth in the last two decades and fuelled the growth of the Indian economy.; The rapid advancement within the IT industry and liberalisation policies such as reducing trade barriers and eliminating import duties on technology products by the Government of India are instrumental in the growth of this industry.; IT sector created 8.73 lakh new jobs in the last five; ears as per the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) report.; Trickle-down effect from this industry has created many more job opportunities and development of the surroundings.; According to the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) IT industry continues to be a net hirer and around 2.5-3 million new jobs will be created by 2025.; These IT hubs in Bangalore, Hyderabad etc., have experienced population outburst.; As the World Bank notes, the city’s economic success is creating infrastructure problems, including poor water quality, traffic congestion and housing shortages.; These are creating many health issues because of extended work timings, work stress, competition etc.. Overall, so, the only way forward here is to practice sustainable development goals (SDG 9) while growing IT hubs.

107. [2018 Q1] Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Cultural heritage is the legacy of cultural resources and intangible attributes of a group or society that is inherited from past generations. Key points: According to IUCN, which helps the world find pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environmental and developmental challenges, natural world heritage sites are not just important environmentally, they also provide social and economic benefits.; WWF survey estimates that, “more than half of the population depend directly on world heritage sites for food, water, shelter, and medicine.; Many Indian art forms are on the verge of extinction such as Tikuli art and the Patna kalam Painting of Bihar to Parsi Ghara embroidery.; Around 197 languages in India are either vulnerable, endangered or extinct.; Large number of historic monuments and heritage buildings are in a pathetic state which needs urgent attention like the mausoleum of Amanat...

108. [2018 Q2] Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travelers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (10 marks, 150 words)

The Chinese and Arab travellers came from vastly different social and cultural environments, they were often more attentive to everyday activities and practices which were taken for granted by indigenous writers, for whom these were routine matters and not worthy of being recorded. Key points: His writings attest that intermingling of people, monks, and students were there in ancient times.; After his return to China, he translated many Sanskrit Buddhist texts in Chinese which he had carried with him and hence, contributed to propagate Buddhism and Sanskrit literature to the Indian Subcontinent.; His accounts are filled with geographical references as he had mentioned about the Silk Route.; He travelled through the Gupta Empire and wrote down his impressions about India; Political Condition and Administration: The administration of the Guptas was liberal, the people enjoyed economic prosperity and the...

109. [2018 Q3] Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. (10 marks, 150 words)

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is widely recognized as one of the twentieth century's greatest political and spiritual leaders. Key points: Non-Violence: The mass movements through the means of non-violence under his leadership earned India freedom from colonial rule.; Mass movement and mobilizing people: His technique of mobilizing people has been successfully employed by many oppressed societies around the world.; Leaders like Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar use the method preached by Gandhi even in the current times, which is an eloquent testimony to the continuing relevance of Mahatma Gandhi.; Secularism: The secular ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi are not only there in the Indian Constitution but also present in Indian society as a core value system.; Gandhianism was tolerant towards all religions and the world today needs more and more religious and tolerant people in societies where violence is...

110. [2018 Q4] Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation? (10 marks, 150 words)

The Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) is an independent regional navigation satellite system developed by India. Key points: Terrestrial, Aerial and Marine Navigation; Vehicle tracking and Fleet management; Integration with mobile phones; Mapping and Geodetic data capture; Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travelers; Visual and voice navigation for drivers In Navigation, IRNSS will help in following way. Overall, but now with the recognition as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS), the Indian navigation system is similarly placed as GPS, most commonly used by marine shipping vessels across the world or the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS).

111. [2018 Q5] Why is India taking keen interest in the Arctic region? (10 marks, 150 words)

The Arctic region, the enormous area around the North Pole spreading over one-sixth of the earth's landmass, is increasingly being affected by external global forces - environmental, commercial, and strategic, and in turn is poised to play an increasingly greater role in shaping the course of world affairs. Key points: India has been invested in the Arctic region for; ears and to secure its share of the pie that the region offers in terms of research and resources, including minerals and hydrocarbons.; It envisages India's engagement in the Arctic region for climate research, environmental monitoring, maritime cooperation, and energy security.; effect on India's Climate: Though none of India's territory directly falls in the Arctic region, it is a important area as the Arctic influences atmospheric, oceanographic and biogeochemical cycles of the earth's ecosystem.; because of climate change, the...

112. [2018 Q6] Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics. (10 marks, 150 words)

Mantle plume is an upwelling of abnormally hot rock within the earth's mantle, which carries heat upward in narrow, rising columns, driven by heat exchange across the core-mantle boundary. Key points: The plate tectonics suggests that "anomalous" volcanism results from lithospheric extension that permits melt to rise from the asthenosphere.; It is, thus, the conceptual inverse of the plume hypothesis because the plate hypothesis attributes volcanism to shallow, near-surface processes associated with plate tectonics, rather than active processes arising at the core-mantle boundary.; Lithospheric extension is attributed to processes related to plate tectonics.; These processes are well understood at mid- ocean ridges, where most of Earth's volcanism occurs.; It is less commonly recognized that the plates themselves deform internally, and can permit volcanism in those regions where the deformation is extensional.; Under this hypothesis, variable volumes of magma...

113. [2018 Q7] What are the consequences of spreading 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystems? (10 marks, 150 words)

Dead Zones are low-oxygen, or hypoxic, areas in the world's oceans and lakes. Key points: Hypoxia which means low or depleted oxygen in a water body.; Dead Zones, beneath, prevent light from penetrating the water's surface.; Dead zones cause larger-scale problems, such as human illness.; Shellfish, such as oysters, are filter feeders.; Many of these microbes are toxic to people.; Algal Blooms, which is the reason behind dead zones, can also lead to the death of marine mammals and shore birds that rely on the marine ecosystem for food.. Overall, investment in research and collective effort of the world community are essential to reverse the present scenario.

114. [2018 Q8] "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

Caste is that intense form of social class organization in which the status of individuals in the hierarchy is defined by descent and birth. Key points: Sanskritization is where the lower castes seek upward mobility by emulating the rituals and practices of the upper or dominant castes.; This aspiration points out that caste awareness, an implicit awareness about apparent Brahmin supremacy, and a corollary of other castes' lower standing exist.; Caste has penetrated the political arena, with castes representing easily identifiable vote banks.; Caste was preferred over the class as caste identities are much more apparent than class, and almost everyone can state which caste they belong to.; Through politics, it has flowed into education as well, in the form of reservation for the lower castes.; This web of caste influence finishes a complete circle with reservations in...

115. [2018 Q9] 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons. (10 marks, 150 words)

Eradication of poverty remains a major challenge of planned economic development. Key points: Problems with the poverty eradication programme by the government: Each poverty alleviation scheme such as MGNREGA, Public Distribution Systems (PDS), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and other Centrally Sponsored Scheme suffer from an array of difficulties such as; Fiscal crisis faced by State Governments resulting in lower spending on social sectors.; Failure of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to reach the poorest in northern and eastern states.; Non-adaptability to local conditions.; Late disbursement of funds.; Reallocation of funds to unrelated recurring expenditure.. Overall, furthermore, India needs to ramp up MGNREGA, introduce a guaranteed urban employment scheme, and boost further cash transfers to poor households.

116. [2018 Q10] How is the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

The idea of secularism was incorporated in the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, which amended the Preamble, and declared India a secular nation. Key points: ears throughout the political process embedded in the notions of equality and democracy, while the western concept of secularism denies religion any space in the functioning of the state.; ielded equal consideration under the Indian Penal Code.. Overall, example: India has intervened by enforcing legislation against the practices of sati or widow-burning, dowry, animal and bird sacrifice, child marriage, and preventing Dalits from entering temples equally resisted the oppression of Dalits and women within Hinduism, the discrimination against women within Indian Islam or Christianity, and the possible threats that a majority community might pose to the rights of the minority religious communities.

117. [2018 Q11] The Bhakti Movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Bhakti Movement attributes to the trend brought forward by several Hindu saints in medieval Hinduism that endeavoured to begin religious reforms by adopting devotion to achieve salvation. Key points: Chaitanya

was a supporter of the Radha-Krishna cult.; His teachings focused on 'love' from intense human love to divine love.; He unlocked the doors of divine love to all by chanting and singing the glories of Krishna in the form of Kirtans.; Kirtan is not merely a religious song but a feeling of happiness emanating from love and devotion, accompanied by singing and dancing of the highest spiritual order when one can sense the presence of Almighty.; He assumed that by singing kirtan alone, one could realize God because it carries the mind from the material world to the divine world.; True to the Vaishnava way of life, Chaitanya stood for truth and non-violence.; His teachings were simple and, thus, had a universal appeal.; He was the chief proponent of the Vedantic philosophy of Achintya Bheda Abheda, a Vedanta school representing the philosophy of inconceivable one-ness and difference.; He founded Gaudiya Vaishnavism, i.e., Brahma Madhva Gaudiya Sampradaya.. Overall, the concept of 'humanity' that came into fruition is contemporaneous with that of Europe”.

118. [2018 Q12] Discuss whether the formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Formation of the new states offer possibilities of having better governance structure, greater participation for people, administrative convenience for the State and equitable distribution of resources. Key points: The University of Oxford provides the first systematic evidence of the effect of redrawing boundaries of states.; ears after the formation of the new states, they have marked an increase in economic activity immediately across the border in the new states.; The Eleventh Plan document provides some data which support that the smaller newly carved states specifically Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh grew at a rate faster (at 9.31% and 7.35% respectively during the period 2004-05 to 2008-09) than their parent states (Uttar Pradesh which grew at 6.29% and Madhya Pradesh which grew at 4.89% during the same five-year period).; The existence of new states would mean the creation of new capital cities (such as Ranchi, Raipur, and Dehradun) and the associated infrastructure.; It is widely understood that capital cities attract firms for several services and agglomeration economies like: Infrastructure of national /international standards such as highways, Mass transport, High tele density, International airport, Relatively large international community and culture, and World-renowned cultural institutions and universities.; School enrolment also increases, suggesting greater investment in human capital.; Durable goods remain comparable across the two sides of the state border, suggesting that free movement of labour and capital can mitigate...

119. [2018 Q13] Why was indentured labour taken by the British from India to their colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? (15 marks, 250 words)

A concise answer should define the key term in the question, explain the main arguments with examples, and end with a balanced conclusion.

120. [2018 Q14] “The ideal solution to depleting groundwater resources in India is a water harvesting system.” How can it be made effective in urban areas? (15 marks, 250 words)

A concise answer should define the key term in the question, explain the main arguments with examples, and end with a balanced conclusion.

121. [2018 Q15] Defining Blue Revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

The term Blue Revolution applies to the striking emergence of aquaculture as an important and highly productive agricultural activity. Key points: Unutilized Potential: It is a matter of great concern that India can exploit only a fraction of the aquaculture potential available to it.; India uses only about 40% of the available ponds, tanks, and other water bodies for freshwater aquaculture and 15% of total potential of brackish water resources.; Farming fish can make fish prices go down because farms produce a lot of fish, all the time, consistently flooding the market.; Commercial fishermen often lose their jobs when there is farming of the

species that they normally catch in the wild.; In case of ocean fish farming, fish wastes, excess food, fish escapes, antibiotics and several chemicals from fish farms can all result in water pollution and harm surrounding habitats by poisoning wildlife and causing other disturbances.; Industries are also a factor that can destroy fish farming.; Social problems: Norms and religious values excluded women or other groups from participation in certain activities.; Lack of family encouragement considering low prestige occupation.; Inadequate family labour.. Overall, eco- friendly aquaculture following the environmental and socioeconomic needs of the society must be evolved.

122. [2018 Q16] What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics. (15 marks, 250 words)

Industrial Corridors are stretched across the country allocated to a specific geographical area with the intent to stimulate industrial development. Key points: Industrial corridor attracts investments and creates jobs in the manufacturing sector.; Increases the contribution of the manufacturing sector to GDP.; Promotes equitable industrialization and urbanization.; Increases labour productivity and income levels.; Infrastructure development: The transportation component in the Industrial Corridor serves as the spine, robust grid networks need to be developed, connecting the clusters to the hinterlands and gateways.; For example, the Odisha government is developing the Biju-expressway corridor connecting its most backward districts along its western border, some of which are Naxal hit regions.; Corridor centric skill-development roadmap: Skill availability is a key determinant of private sector investment decisions.; Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) covers a length of 1483 km.; It covers the state of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.. Overall, thus, India needs a National Industrial Corridor Development Framework that builds on the good work in the recent past and provides a twenty-five-year vision, strategy, and implementation roadmap where the National Government and all the State Governments come together to realize a unified national vision of making India a global manufacturing hub.

123. [2018 Q17] Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success. (15 marks, 150 words)

India is on a high economic growth trajectory. Key points: Addressing negativity by making development a mass movement: In the programme architecture, the following elements address this issue; The 'backward districts' to be called 'Aspirational Districts.'; District officials should draw up a Vision and Action Plan through public participation, to ensure that their district is a full-fledged partner in creating a New India.; Identification of Champions of Change at District and Regional Levels to Make Development a Mass Movement; The scheme architecture encourages the States and District administration to give a lead role to people from all walks of life especially those who have a track record of effecting change despite existing challenges.; Convergence of Initiatives of the Central and State Governments. Overall, seen from this perspective, the architecture of this programme showcases the spirit of cooperative federalism...

124. [2018 Q18] 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view. (15 marks, 150 words)

The status of women in India has gone under several changes from post-independence. Key points: Women of lower social strata have to bear the triple burden of deprivation in terms of caste, gender and poverty.; Women of lower social strata are forced to enter the labour market at a very early age to sustain their families.; Better paid and dignified jobs continue to be out of reach for them through a systematic denial of rights to higher education, skill training, assets and other productive resources.; This process of systematic denial further ensures their exclusion from socio-political scenarios and keeps them restricted to the bottom of the society as invisible citizens.; For women of lower strata, they are coerced to be victimized in the patriarchy.; Particularly, Dalit and Tribal women are bearing the burden of double-day caste and the...

125. [2018 Q19] ‘Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to these cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.’ Elucidate. (15 marks, 150 words)

Globalization can be depicted as increasing global interconnectedness. Key points: A central assertion is that all cultures will become similar, that is, homogeneous.; Glocalization applies to the mixing of the global with the local.; It is not entirely spontaneous, nor is it wholly delinked from the commercial interests of globalisation.; It is a strategy often utilised by foreign firms while dealing with local traditions to enhance their marketability.; In India, all the foreign television channels like Star, MTV, Channel V and Cartoon Network use Indian languages.; Even McDonald’s sells only vegetarian and chicken products in India and not its beef products, which are popular abroad.. Overall, what is more expected even today, is that globalization will take the lead to the formation of not just new local traditions but global ones too, while the cultural specificities in the...

126. [2018 Q20] ‘Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.’ Argue by giving suitable illustrations. (15 marks, 150 words)

Communalism is a political doctrine which makes use of religio-cultural differences to achieve political ends. Key points: Stagnant economy during the British Rule: The stagnation of economy may have affected the aspirations and economic prosperity for certain sections within society.; Certain sections of society, usually termed as ‘Middle Class’, used communalism as a weapon for their survival at the cost of other classes in society.; It may be well illustrated with the emergence of modern politics with its roots in the partition of Bengal in 1905 and the feature of a separate electorate under the Government of India Act, 1909.; Later, British government also alleviated several communities through Communal award in 1932 that endorsed strong resistance from Gandhiji and others.; All these acts were done by the British government to appease one section of the community over other...

127. [2019 Q1] Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art. (150 words, 10 marks)

Gandhara art flourished from 1st century BCE to 4th century CE in the North west part of India came under the political influence of the different kingdoms like Greco- Bactrians, Pratiharas, Kushanas, Shakas etc. which resulted in the emergence of mixed school of arts. Key points: Halo behind the head of Buddha was inspired by ancient Persian solar deities.; Curly hair of Buddha is similar to Parthian style.; The drapery in the statue of Buddha was similar to Parthian drapery in Hellenistic cultures.; The Buddhist inscription in the Kharosthi letters were found in the region.; Buddha in Gandhara art has a youthful, Apollo (Greek god) like face.. Overall, Gupta’s realistic anthropomorphic representations of the Buddha reflect the legacy of the Gandhara artistic influence.

128. [2019 Q2] The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate (150 words, 10 marks)

Bayly, the Indian Rebellion was not one movement, but many. Key points: Sanyasi and Fakir Rebellion: The sanyasi rebellion which was centered in Murshidabad and Baikunthapur took place in the 1770s.; Pagal panthi Revolt: The revolt was started against the oppressive tax regime of the British.; Faraizi Revolt: Led by Shariatullah Khan and Dadu Mian, Faraizi Movement (1838-1848) was the first ever no-tax campaign to support the cause of the tenants against the landholders and British government.; The Wahabi Movement (1830s-1860s) was mainly religious in its origin, but became a class struggle in some places.; The peasant revolts took place against aggressive and assertive economic policies which devastated the traditional agrarian system of India and deteriorated the condition of peasants.; The British officials brought with them traders, moneylenders, zamindars and merchants in the tribal areas that resulted in...

129. [2019 Q4] Assess the impact of global warming on coral life system with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

Coral, a tiny fleshy sea polyp, is an indicator of the health of marine ecosystems. Key points: Global warming imposes a severe threat to coral life.; Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 % with global warming of 1.5 degrees, whereas virtually all (more than 99%) would be lost with a rise of 2 degree compared with preindustrial times- according to IPCC reports.; Research shows that an increase of 1 to 3°C in sea surface temperature will cause widespread mortality and more frequent bleaching.; The increase in the levels of CO₂ in oceans can cause ocean acidification, it impacts the ability of corals to make calcium carbonate.; Corals need water that has a specific salinity and low turbidity, and these changes in weather create an environment that does not support healthy coral.; The global warming influxes freshwater, increases sedimentation...

130. [2019 Q5] Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology. (150 words, 10 marks)

Mangrove is a unique kind of vegetation found in the coastal intertidal zone. Key points: Soil erosion: Mangroves with the help of their unique adaptation stilt roots support the soil of the coastal region which is erosion prone because of its vulnerable location.; Marine Ecosystem: Mangrove is a important part of marine ecosystem as it represents a whole ecosystem containing animal, plant, environment, food chains, food webs etc.; Nutrient cycling: Cycling of some essential nutrients are important for mangrove productivity.; Global warming: because of global warming the sea level goes up causing floods and subduction of coastal regions including mangroves.; Coastal Erosion and storms: High rate of coastal erosion hinders mangrove growth.; Siltation: Rivers are at its mature stage near mangroves.. Overall, by involving local coastal communities, strict implementation of laws, proper monitoring technologies etc. can help in...

131. [2019 Q6] Can the strategy of regional-resource based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India? (150 words, 10 marks)

Manufacturing sector is regarded as the backbone of development in general and economic development by reducing the dependence of people on agricultural income and providing jobs in secondary and tertiary sectors. Key points: Bamboo: India has around 30% of the world's bamboo resources but it contributes to approximately 4% share of the global market.; India is the second leading producer of bamboo.; Coir (coarse fibre derived from the outer husk of the coconut): This is used for making ropes, mats, and mattresses.; With proper financing, Research & Development, storage facilities and capacity building it can strengthen the local economy along with women empowerment.; Jute: India is the leading producer of raw jute and other jute products and holds second position as an exporter after Bangladesh.; Tea: The eastern and southern States are leading producers of tea in India...

132. [2019 Q7] Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based food processing industries of North West India. (150 words, 10 marks)

Argo-based food processing industry means the subset of manufacturing that processes raw materials and intermediate products derived from the agricultural sector. Key points: Before independence some agro based industries were developed in India which paved the way for today's large growth in this sector.; During the 20th century several banks like PNB, Punjab-Sind bank etc., were established near this region.; After the Green Revolution, farmers of Punjab and Haryana invested in creating agro based industries both in small and large scale.; Raw Material: Green Revolution enhanced the agriculture production and supplied optimum amount of raw materials to such industries.; Operation flood milk cooperatives were formed in North West regions for the first time.; Cheap Labor: High population in North west India is the reason behind getting cheap labor.. Overall, similar enabling conditions like North-west India, can be created...

133. [2019 Q8] What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

India is a nation of great cultural diversity i.e, there are many different types of social groups and communities living here. Key points: Constitutional and legal provisions; Indian Constitution has a number of provisions for the protection of minorities and cultural diversities.; Article 51 aims to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people.; Several government initiatives to promote the oneness of Indian society as well as encouraging multiple cultures.; Several laws protecting traditional laws of local communities like Forest rights act etc.; Certain Indian values have been cherished in the movies, dramas, plays, folk dances.. Overall, it should be the prime objective of every citizen of India to cherish, promote, preserve the essence of Indian culture.

134. [2019 Q9] Empowering women is the key to controlling population growth. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

According to Kofi Annan, there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. Key points: Education will inculcate awareness in her and among the society who can create pressure for having more babies.; Independent thinking will enable us to make the right decision about family planning.; Social prestige and confidence will secure her stout determination to go against all social pressures.; It can also address the issue of son meta preference and build social capital and contribute to the national economy.; Digital literacy will make them decipher several birth control measures and their utilities.; We can also see the direct relation between Total Fertility Rate and Women Empowerment.. Overall, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, etc. of the government are the right steps towards achieving sustainable development.

135. [2019 Q10] What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? (150 words, 10 marks)

Secularism means the separation of religion from State. Key points: allows individuals the freedom to live by their religious beliefs and practices as they interpret these.; Some critics argue that in the name of secularism and modernity, courts and government have been unnecessarily interfering in the religious and cultural practices of India such as; Uttar Pradesh police ordered the companies in Noida to ensure employees from a particular community don't offer their prayers in open public spaces, roads, parks.; Tripura HC banned animal sacrifice in Tripura temples.; SC has allowed entry of women in Sabarimala Temple and Haji Ali Dargah.; Restriction on the height of Ganesh, duration of firecrackers, loudness of Navaratri mikes.. Overall, the concept of secularism is not merely a positive attitude of religious tolerance.

136. [2019 Q11] Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. (15 Marks, 250 words)

The Gandhian phase (1917-47) was the final phase of Indian National Movement, which was characterised by truth and non-violence and gave new orientation and perspective to Indian freedom struggle. Key points: Champaran Satyagraha: It is treated as the first Civil Disobedience Movement in India, in which many popular leaders like Rajendra Prasad, Mazharul-Haq, Mahadeo Desai, Narhari Parekh, J.B.; Ahmedabad Mill Strike and Kheda Satyagraha: Leaders like Anusuya Sarabhai, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel etc. organised the masses for struggle and politicised common people for putting pressure on the government.; Khilafat movement: The movement was initially launched by Indian Muslims against British Government's decision to dismember the Ottoman empire.; During the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919), Rabindranath Tagore renounced Knighthood in reaction to the government's action.; Swarajist and no changers: After the Non-Cooperation Movement there were divided opinions in the Congress.; Marxism and other Socialist Ideas: From 1920s onwards the ideas of Marxism and socialism spread rapidly in India.; The idea of armed revolution: The idea of armed revolution led by revolutionaries like Chandra Shekhar Azad, Ram Prasad

Bismil, Bhagat Singh in Punjab and Surya Sen in Bengal strengthened national feelings.; Subhash Chandra Bose, Mohan Singh, Rashbehari Bose etc. strengthened the movement from outside by organising Indian National Army (1942).; During the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) and Dandi March leaders like K. Overall, the collective efforts of people alone with different views and...

137. [2019 Q12] Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. (15 Marks, 250 words)

British never wanted to leave a productive colony like India. Key points: August Offer (1940): The Viceroy Linlithgow proposed creation of constituent assembly after war and the Dominion status created opposition among Indian leaders.; Cripps Mission (1942): because of the threat of Japanese army and pressure from Allied countries to seek Indian cooperation, Cripps proposals were announced.; Wavell Plan (1945): To solve the constitutional questions in India these proposals were announced.; Cabinet Mission (1946): A change in the attitude of the government was visible after the election of the Labour Party in Britain, which was sympathetic towards the Indian movement.; It was also an extremely complicated system, with some uneasy proposals of creation of Dominion of India, groupings of provinces etc. which created conflict among leaders and political parties like the Congress and the Muslim League were opposing it.; The Muslim League also called for the Direct Action Day, which resulted in communal riots between Hindus & Muslims in the country and created necessity for creating the constituent assembly.; Atlee's statement (1947): It fixed a deadline for British to leave Indian, without solving the existing issues in transfer of power.; Mountbatten plan (1947): It developed a plan for freedom along with Partition of India.; Boundary commission: Cyril Radcliffe worked on the boundary line using census reports and some maps.. Overall, since after gaining independence the border dispute, conflict at border...

138. [2019 Q13] Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolution. (15 Marks, 250 words)

The American Revolution (1776-81) and the French Revolution (1789-94) are the two most important events in history. Key points: The American Revolution of 1776 is one of the most major events in the history of mankind with global effect.; It gave the first written Constitution to the world and laid the foundation of people's right of governing themselves.; It promoted democratic values like Constitutionalism, republic government, fundamental rights, no representation without taxation etc.; The liberal & Progressive political system based on the philosophy of Capitalism came into existence.; It inspired anti colonial and anti-monarchical movements in several countries like Netherlands, Belgium, India, Geneva etc.; In the society it brought egalitarianism, religious freedom and meritocracy, which helped in overall development of people and improve their quality of life.; French Revolution was the most important modern revolution, which was an outcome of flawed social structure for radical transformation of society.; It democratised society by ending the age old feudal system and system of privileges & concession.; The ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity brought political awakening in the whole world and inspired several national movements like Indian National Movement etc.. Overall, the revolutions remained the philosophical basis and aspiration of the people beyond the national boundaries and inspired and promoted change in several countries through rational and scientific thinking.

139. [2019 Q14] What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Water stress is defined as the proportion of water withdrawal by all sectors in relation to the available water resources. Key points: Many southern States are under a rain shadow region and the impermeable nature of the Deccan plateau limits its ground water retention.; The salinization of groundwater because of seepage of ocean water in coastal areas.; Water in almost 83% of open wells in Kerala was unclean and most of its rivers too were highly contaminated because of high human intervention.; Because of agriculture demand, industrial usage, catering to the high population density because of urbanisation, exploitation of

groundwater severely impacted its levels and quality in Maharashtra, Karnataka etc.; Western & Northern States; The States like Rajasthan, Delhi etc. face scarcity of rainfall because of the rain shadow region.; The exploitation of groundwater for agricultural activities because of the Green Revolution in regions like Punjab, Haryana etc.; The uranium concentration is an evolving phenomenon in Rajasthan, Gujarat etc., which crossed the WHO permissible limit of uranium levels in groundwater.; Arsenic contamination in the Ganges and Brahmaputra basins and States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar etc. is resulting in cancer and eventually death of people.. Overall, the government steps like Atal Bhujal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichi Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission etc., are in right direction for achieving United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 6- clean water and sanitation for...

140. [2019 Q15] How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism? (15 Marks, 250 words)

According to Report of Working Group II Sustainable Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region released by the NITI Aayog except for Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh, the environmental index of the rest of Himalayan states is very low. Key points: The NITI Aayog Report and the World Bank has pointed out in the past that tourism in the IHR is not sustainable.; The tourism sector, human intervention and development activities in the region severely affected the biodiversity and lives of local communities in the region.; According to India State of Forest Report, the development initiatives and human intervention in the region is responsible for loss of forest cover in many Himalayan States like Nagaland, Mizoram etc.; The construction of roads and airports, and tourism facilities (resorts, hotels, restaurants etc.) negatively impacts environmental resources.; The emission of harmful gases and spread of pollutants by tourists & other industrial activities is making the ecosystem unsustainable.; According to the World Bank survey (2015), the performance on the criteria of 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Environmental compliance of the Himalayan States is very poor.; The forest policy of these States is not comprehensive and sector centric and the Industrial policy is detrimental to the environment.; The development of Ecotourism can ensure sustainable tourism and conserve the environment without damaging its natural habitats.; More emphasis should be given on afforestation and social forestry to increase green...

141. [2019 Q16] How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India? (15 Marks, 250 words)

An urban transport system considers all elements of transportation, including the infrastructure, rolling stock, and traffic flows, in a city as a functioning entity. Key points: Reduce congestion: There is high concentration of human activities within a limited space, urban traffic congestion, especially at the commercial and business districts, is prevalent in all large cities worldwide.; Movement of Inputs and Outputs: It facilitates the movements of different inputs like raw materials, fuels, machineries etc. and outputs for the smooth functioning of the entire production & supply system of the country.; Labour Mobility: It facilitates the mobility of labour for expansion of industries between different regions of the country.; Facilitates Specialization: It facilitates clear- cut geographical specialisation in respect of production by developing the extent of the market.; Extension and Perfection of Markets: It extends the size of market of several products of the country to population lives in urban areas.; Connect inaccessible regions: It makes way for tapping vast unexplored land resources of urban areas and its peripheral regions.; Widening Outlook of the People: It enriches the social, cultural and political outlook of our people.; Quality of life: short commutation enhances productivity by providing adequate leisure time for people.; It ensures public safety by reducing road accidents.. Overall, it can cater the need of growing urbanisation and enhance growth of the cities which contributes around three-fourth part of GDP.

142. [2019 Q17] How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Ocean currents are dedicated, and continuous movement of sea water is generated because of different forces on water like wind, Coriolis forces, temperature, salinity etc. Key points: Connectivity and biogeography: many animals and plants drift with ocean current and water mass in different regions.; Growth and survival: The mixing of warm and cold ocean currents helps in replenishing the oxygen and nutrients in the water and Coast lines also provides a photic zone for marine life, which favours growth of planktons and alga.; Sometimes the cold currents and water mass effect the local environment adversely and threaten the lives of animals.; Climate change: Ocean currents may change because of wind patterns, heat balance and freshwater inflows from glacial melting.; Economic life: Coastal economy is a important outcome of successful management of ocean and marine resources.; Coastal environment: The warm and cold ocean current impacts the coastal ecosystem for example cold ocean currents in the western side of continents lead to formation of deserts in the region.; Mixing of ocean currents also leads to formation of fog-like conditions and brings rainfall in coastal regions.; Climate change is reflected in sea surface temperature and characteristics of tropical storms.; Rising water level: Indian coasts are highly vulnerable to sea level rise, because of the extensive low-lying area, high population density, frequent occurrence of cyclonic storms, high rate of coastal environmental degradation and non-sustainable...

143. [2019 Q18] Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Culture is used to relate language, ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a society. Key points: Linguistic diversity: Officially there are 122 languages but 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution give cultural pockets like Assamese, Gujarati, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu etc.; Religious diversity: According to the data on Population by Religious Communities of Census 2011, Hindu 96.63 crores (79.8%); Muslim 17.22 crores (14.2%); Christian 2.78 crores (2.3%); Sikh 2.08 crores (1.7%); Buddhist 0.84 crores (0.7%); Jain 0.45 crores (0.4%) are dispersed all over the nation forming cultural pockets.; Racial diversity: Anthropologists categorize Indians as belonging to racial admixture.; A particular ethnic group shared a common culture, common language or dialect, a common religion, a common norm, practices, customs and history.; The development of communication and transport facilitated industrialisation and urbanisation.; The metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore etc. became key attractions for people.; A picture of small India can be seen in these cities in the form of cultural pockets.; The People's Linguistic Survey of India identified 780 languages of which 50 got extinct in the past five decades.; There are frequent incidents of attacks on people with different cultures in these pockets.. Overall, the government steps like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat can go a long way in celebrating and strengthening this diversity.

144. [2019 Q19] What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Women constitute around 48% of the population of India, still they face multiple challenges. Key points: Ancient and mediaeval times: There was lack of participation of women in the decision making of Sabha and Simitis.; The practice like polygamy, polyandry etc. were prevalent and women did not given share in the property and treated as "paraya dhan".; Preference of son – Economic survey quoted 'Son meta preference', the phenomena when for the desire of having a son couple continue to produce children until a son is born.; Health & Education: Health and education are widely neglected and compromised.; Female infanticide: Even though the practice is outlawed, 300,000 to 600,000 female foetuses are aborted every; ear in India because of the preference for boys, according to a 2011 study by The Lancet.; Hygiene: There is a lack of adequate sanitation facilities in India.; Domestic crimes: Domestic violence, dowry, harassment, abuse, demolishing self-dignity such as triple talaq and crime at public places are frequent in India.; Lack of representation and power: The women are not represented adequately in the Parliament and other administrative bodies and do not have adequate power and share in policy making and implementation.. Overall, there is a need to

formulate reducing feminized poverty, promoting education of women, and prevention and elimination of violence against women to build New and empowered India.

145. [2019 Q20] Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Globalization means the growing interdependence among different people, regions and countries in the world. Key points: Famous trade routes like the Silk Road connected India to the great civilisations, which existed in China, Persia, Egypt and Rome.; The Indian family structure is moving from the joint family towards the nuclear family under the influence of globalization in the metropolitan cities.; There is a change in the food culture with the emergence of globalization.; The clothing system has also changed with the influence of global brands, jeans, t-shirts etc. became an inseparable part now and the traditional Indian handloom and khadi became marginal.; The use of English language as a means of communication and administrative work also depicts the influence of western culture.; With the growth of a large number of MNCs a new corporate culture which promotes individualism emerged in India, which is very different from the traditional agrarian culture which celebrated community relations.; Young populations with its lucrative offers and monetary incentives.; The Indian Constitution, administrative, legislative and judicial system is also borrowed from several countries and modified as per the need and conditions of India.; Despite wide use of English language, linguistic and regional identities of people are still intact which is evident with the statehood demand by several linguistic communities and regions like Haryana, Andhra Pradesh etc.. Overall, despite the negative effect our deep-rooted traditions and customs...

146. [2020 Q1] The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Rock-cut architecture is a practice of creating several structures out of the natural solid rock by the method of either carving or cutting. Key points: The western Deccan area of India has many caves which even dates to the before Christ era.; Ellora cave and Mahabalipuram having temples of Kailashnath, and Shore respectively signifies the Hinduism ideology being predominant in the region during the 6th century CE.; The signs of Jainism can be found through the caves of Udaygiri and Khandagiri in the eastern part of India.; One of the oldest rock-cut architecture was found in the Barabar caves in Bihar which was built around the 3rd century BCE which depicts the Ajivika sect.; Commerce and religion complement each other in ancient India.; This trade route was used to connect to the interior parts with the seaports of...

147. [2020 Q2] Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (150 words, 10 marks)

The foundation of the Pala dynasty was laid down when the people of Bengal elected a warrior named Gopala to be the ruler of the entire territory in 750 CE. Key points: By developing Buddhist centres of learning like Vikramshila and Nalanda University, which paved the way for scholars to propagate Buddhism to several regions.; King Gopala built the monastery in Odantapuri, Bihar.; King Dharmapala revived the Nalanda University which in turn helped in preaching the Buddhism ideology and founded the Vikramshila University.; King Devapala built many monasteries in Magadh (present day West Bengal and Bihar), where propagation of Buddhist ideology across different regions was promoted.; Most of the architecture during the Pala era was religious.; Apart from Nalanda and Vikramshila, Mahaviharas of Somapura, Devikota, Panditta, Fulbadi, and Jagaddala also contributed immensely to the spread of Buddhism.. Overall...

148. [2020 Q3] Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movements. (150 words, 10 marks)

Lord Curzon was the youngest Viceroy of India who took over the reign in 1899 and governed till 1905. Key points: youngest Viceroy of India who took over the reign in 1899 and governed till 1905.; Calcutta Corporation Act, 1899; This Act further reduced the numbers of the Indian people who were to be elected in the

corporation.; By doing so, the majority shifted towards the European members in the corporation which monopolized the entire corporation.; Lord Curzon deemed Indians to be unfit for ruling.; Indian Universities Act, 1904. Overall, the long-term effect of his policies was the subsequent withdrawal of the British government years later.

149. [2020 Q4] Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum- Pacific Zone. (150 words, 10 marks)

The Circum-Pacific Zone is the area or path around the rim of the Pacific Ocean. Key points: Soils: The soils of the Pacific Ring of Fire include andosols, created by the weathering of volcanic ash.. Overall, the deep study by scientists and geologists is used by policymakers for natural disaster management and mitigation programs.

150. [2020 Q5] The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994 described desertification as “land degradation in arid, semi- arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from several factors, including climatic variations and human activities”. y In Africa’s Sahel region, population growth has caused an increase in wood harvesting, illegal farming, and land-clearing for housing, among other changes. Key points: In Africa’s Sahel region, population growth has caused an increase in wood harvesting, illegal farming, and land-clearing for housing, among other changes.. Overall, thus, desertification is now a global problem and not restricted to climate boundaries.

151. [2020 Q6] How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far- reaching impact on the water resources of India? (150 words, 10 marks)

The Himalayan mountains are home to the highest peak, and it is also the third largest deposit of ice and snow in the world, after Antarctica and the Arctic. Key points: According to the first-ever assessment of climate change impacts on the Hind Kush Himalayan region by the intergovernmental body, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the region is expected to lose half of its present-day glacier area by 2060, a decade earlier than the previously expected timeline of 2070.; The ice and snow in the region are the source for mighty rivers including the Indus, the Yangtze, and the Ganga-Brahmaputra.; The Himalayan system range exerts a major influence on seasonal shifts in the monsoon circulation and the distribution of rainfall over India.; Changing monsoon patterns, including increased severity and frequency of storms, could lead to mountain...

152. [2020 Q7] Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

At the early period of growth, the location of the iron and steel industry was entirely governed by the ratio of raw material assembling cost and distribution cost of finished product to the consumer. Key points: Absence or limited coal and iron ore deposits, like in Japan where iron ore, coal, and almost all raw materials are to be imported.; Transportation: The intermediate location of port like Vizag port because of which Vizag Steel Plant, Visakhapatnam gets distinct advantages in terms of the accessibility with raw materials, market and transportation.; Technology: Open hearth system, electric smelters are now used as state of art and raw material is being replaced by clean energy.. Overall, with this, recently Government of India launched Mission ‘Purvodaya’ aimed at the accelerated development of eastern India through the establishment of an integrated steel hub.

153. [2020 Q8] Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi- cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations. (150 words, 10 marks)

Caste system is a part of multicultural Indian society which is characterized by hereditary transmission of a style of life which includes an occupation, ritual status in a hierarchy, and customary social interaction and exclusion based on cultural notions of purity and pollution. Key points: Since 1991, India has seen a rapid rise in new opportunities because of globalization and liberalization, but upper castes have benefited disproportionately through these changes.; The lower ranked castes are often deficient in basic skills needed to take advantage of new opportunities.; India has seen a steady expansion of educational opportunity through the decades.; Thus, the reality behind the caste system is that caste continues to mediate economic outcomes and continues to assert its presence in society and politics.; Modern occupation and Caste; It turns out that traditional occupations have not broken caste...

154. [2020 Q9] COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (150 words, 10 marks)

The COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis in recent history of mankind and throws the greatest challenge since World War-II. Key points: According to World Economic Forum; Higher-paid workers are working from home while lower-paid blue-collar workers typically do not have this option.; A higher share of low-paid workers is in essential services such as nursing, policing, teaching, cleaning, and store attendants where they are more likely to encounter people who are infected..; Lower paid workers are more represented in the sectors that have suspended activities such as hotels, restaurants, and tourism services.; The pandemic is increasing poverty and inequality between the rich who can afford to provide social safety nets, and the poor that do not have the capacity to do so.; Oxfam's 2019 "Time to Care" report found that the richest 1 percent of...

155. [2020 Q10] Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (150 words, 10 marks)

Regionalism is an expression of a common sense of identity and purpose by people within a specific geographical region, united by its unique language, culture, language, etc. Key points: Positive sides of Regionalism; British exploitative economic policies totally neglected some regions, giving way to economic disparities and regional imbalances fueled the idea behind regionalism.; Language coupled with regional and tribal identity and not religion, provided the most powerful instrument for the formation of Ethnonational identity in India.; Regional recognition in terms of statehood or state autonomy creates self-determination to the people of that region and they feel empowered and content.; Regional identities in India have not always defined themselves in opposition to and at the expense of, the national identity.; Negative sides of Regionalism. Overall, the need of the hour is to develop each region of India, through...

156. [2020 Q11] Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)

The Indian philosophy and tradition represent the complete fusion and synthesis of the consciousness for art and beauty that had been expressed in the form of architecture, visual and performing arts. Key points: The origins of Indian philosophy can be traced back to 2500 BC or even earlier.; The excavations at Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro and several other sites revealed the existence of a very modern urban civilization with expert town planning and engineering skills.; The swastika has tremendous philosophical and spiritual significance in contemporary India.; In Rig Veda, while most of the texts deal with rites and rituals, and beliefs and practices other parts deal with abstract philosophical concepts.; The Vedic people awed and overwhelmed by the forces of nature, ascribed divinity to fire, earth, sky, thunder, sun, dawn, dusk, etc.; Rig Veda provides an extensive list of such Gods and Goddesses that forms the basis for the temple and associated several architecture like Nagara style, Dravida style.; In the Vedic age, the major contribution was towards the written epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata, apart from the Vedas and Upanishads.; Narrative architectures have been widely adopted as a medium of storytelling sculpture like the Pandavas and Draupadi can be

found at the Dashavatara Temple in Deogarh or the main panel at Mahabalipuram shows the descent of Ganga etc.; The literature, epics god and goddess, share many concepts such as dharma, karma...

157. [2020 Q12] Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (250 words, 15 marks)

The Medieval period of 10th and 11th century is considered as an age of great cultural synthesis in India. Key points: Birth of Sabaq-Hindi (Indian Style); The development of Persian literature in the sub-continent entered a new era in the writings of Amir Khusrau.; His writing style represents the first instance of Persian styles being composed in the Indian context that is Sabaq-i-Hindi (the Indian style).; Official language of Imperials and court chronicles; Like the Delhi sultanate, Persian continued as the official language of the Mughal court.; Some of the important political and administrative works are reflected in the work of Abul Fazal's Ain-e-Akbari which gives an account of the social, political, administrative and statistical record of Akbar's reign.; The court chronicles were an important feature of the literature during this period.; Philosophy of Divinity in human beings; The Sufi literature which was in Persian developed a new form called the Malfuzat that was in the form of a dialogue of the Sufi saints.. Overall, this according to Sherwani "was a symbol of the general trend of the cultural goodwill which existed in the country."

158. [2020 Q13] Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)

The National freedom struggle activity in the 1920's decade got new elements. Key points: The Marxist paradigm movement during the 1920s, placed the Indian nationalist movement within a universalistic framework.; MN Roy was the driving force behind the ideology of the communist movement which attracted many Indian intellectuals.; The class base of the Congress and the national movement changed over the period.; ears preceding the First World War, the urban petty bourgeois class became more influential.; The working class participated in the movement with a definite intention to realize social equality.; Two important developments of the mid-1920s were the formation of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu organization, and the Communist Party of India.; These parties have held very different ideas about the kind of country India should be.; Revolutionary nationalists such as Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Sukhdev and others wanted to fight against colonial rule and the rich exploiting classes through a revolution of workers and peasants.; For this purpose, they founded the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) in 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi.. Overall, as a result, "Independence Day" was observed on 26 January 1930 all over the country.

159. [2020 Q14] The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods, and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (250 words, 15 marks)

India's National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has suggested the interlinking of rivers in the country. Key points: Large variation in rainfall and subsequent availability of water resources in space and time: Because of this variability of available water, floods and drought coexist in our country in the same time and space. (Kerala, T.N and South Karnataka are facing drought while Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Assam are reeling under floods) .; It will most likely lead to enhanced and expanded irrigation i.e., the project asserts to provide additional irrigation to 35 million hectares in the water-scarce western and peninsular regions.; The river interlinking project claims to generate a total power of 34,000 MW (34 GW).; It will lead to ground water recharging.; The inter-link would generate a path for aquatic ecosystems to migrate from one river to another, which may give livelihoods to the people who depend on the fishery as their income.; It also seems to promote national integration and a fair sharing of the country's natural water wealth.; Render employment avenues for more than 10 lakh people for the next decade.; It will most likely abolish the flooding problems which recur in the northeast and the northern part of the country every; The large canals

linking the rivers are also anticipated to promote inland navigation too.. Overall, indeed, it is the need of the hour to have a water mission...

160. [2020 Q15] Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (250 words, 15 marks)

The term 'urban flood' can be simplified as "excessive runoff in developed urban areas, where the stormwater doesn't have anywhere to go because of poor capacity of the drainage system, causing inundations. Key points: India being a tropical country, concedes very heavy rainfall throughout the monsoon season. but global warming results in extreme weather conditions and is apparent to increase the flood risk significantly, the number of events is consistent with a warming climate.; IMD's data reveal that in the past century (1901-2015), there has been a rise in widespread extreme rainfall events across the Indian subcontinent by three-fold.; The extreme rise in the number of rainfall events is directly linked with increased warming of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal causing fluctuations of the monsoon winds.; This results in the occasional high-intensity cyclones from the Arabian Sea to the western coast and Bay of Bengal to the eastern coast, resulting in heavy rains lasting for at least 2-3 days, which, when spread over a large region, causes flash floods.; Hydrological Factors: Flood risk arises when the surface runoff is more than the infiltration rate during precipitation.; The infiltration rates depend upon the type of soil and their respective water retention capacity.; Non- perennial rivers change course, when huge amounts of water flow during extreme floods beyond the carrying capacity of the river, affecting the immediate surrounding.; Urbanization: ...

161. [2020 Q16] India has immense potential for solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate. (250 words, 15 marks)

Solar power in India is a fast-developing industry. Key points: India lying in the tropical belt has an advantage of receiving peak solar radiation for 300 days, amounting 2300-3,000 hours of sunshine equivalent to above 5,000 trillion KWh.; The country's solar installed capacity reached 35.12 GW recently.; India has the lowest capital cost per MW globally of installing solar power plants.; The government of India had an initial target of 20 GW capacity for 2022, which was achieved four; In 2015, the target was raised to 100 GW of solar capacity (including 40 GW from rooftop solar) by 2022, targeting an investment of US\$100 billion.; Rajasthan clinched the top position in the list of states with the highest estimated solar energy potential in the country.; Most identified solar hotspots lie in states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are fortunate in receiving insolation of Sun.; The Eastern Himalayan states like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Assam receive annual average insolation below 4Kwh/meter.; Addressing the regional variations. Overall, strong financial measures are required to fund the solar projects, innovative steps like green bonds, institutional loans and clean energy funds can play a important role.

162. [2020 Q17] Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. (250 words, 15 marks)

Forests help mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide economic benefits for the country, and meet specific facets of India's sustainable development goals. Key points: Forest Cover of India: The total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 sq. km that is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country.; Increase in forest and tree cover: The current assessment shows an increase of 0.56% of forest cover, 1.29% of tree cover and 0.65% of forest and tree cover placed together at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e.; Increase in forest cover in states: The top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh.; North-Eastern region: Total Forest cover in the North-Eastern region is 1,70,541 sq. km that is 65.05% of its geographical area.; Mangrove cover: Mangrove cover in the country has increased by 1.10% as compared to the previous assessment.; Total Carbon Stock in the forest: In the present assessment, the total carbon stock in the forest is assessed as 7,124.6

million tonnes.; 21.40% of the forest cover in India is 'highly' to 'extremely' fire prone.; Forest resources of India's resultant effect on climate change; Forests act as a natural stabilizing agent for the climate as they regulate the carbon cycle significantly.. Overall, given the critical state of India's forests, the government and several...

163. [2020 Q18] Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

Globalization is the free exchange of goods, services, people, ideas and even culture across the world. Key points: Loss of community affiliation: With rise in metropolitan of Indian population, the individualism is flourishing, and the social relations are now based on commercial benefits.; Family: Economic migration and the choice for individual space have broken the joint structure of family in India.; Use of English and loss of vernacular language: Under the growing trends of convert culture in education and service-based economy, English education has expanded rapidly at the cost of several vernacular languages.; Diminishing of classical music over western music: The changing taste of music among Indian; outh has left a question mark over the survivability of traditional classical music in India.; Marriage: The growing acceptance to the live- in relationship has questioned the sanctity of the institution of marriage in our society.; Fashion and aesthetics: With the rise in corporate culture, the Indian dressing style has remained merely an occasional stuff that too in cultural occasions only.; Food choice: With the rise of chain restaurants and hotels, the food choice of Indian; outh has inclined towards the Italian and Chinese fast foods.. Overall, one should embrace their cultural identity and values and it is our duty to preserve the cultural identity, yet, globalization is not a matter to fear, and infusion of global identity should be welcomed.

164. [2020 Q19] Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (250 words, 15 marks)

Customs and tradition are a common way of doing things. Key points: Character Test: The Kanjarbhats are a denotified tribe that are governed by their own set of codified rules and a caste panchayat.; Lack of access to safe abortion clinics, particularly public hospitals, and humiliation and attitudes towards women, especially; outh, unmarried women seeking abortion.; "Tradition" is indeed often used to justify discrimination and crackdowns on rights and is easily hijacked by nations determined to flout the rights of groups and to quash broader social, political, and legal freedoms.; "Values" are sometimes used to justify forced marriages in Afghanistan, virginity testing in Indonesia, "honor crimes" in Iraq, and marital rape in Kyrgyzstan, thus, violating human rights.; For LGBT people, the language of traditional values tends to cast homosexuality as a moral issue, and not a rights issue.; Caste discrimination is perpetuated even today in some places in the name of customs and purity.; Religion against the Right to Equality like the Sabarimala case or Haji Ali Dargah, where women are strictly not allowed.; Customs and manners are the expressions of ethics and social conduct in a society.. Overall, in fact, constitution of India has guaranteed Fundamental Rights overlooking the orthodox traditions.

165. [2020 Q20] How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

Digitalization is the trending term in the 21st century. Key points: e-Basta: To be consistent with the Government's Digital India initiative, this project has been created to make schoolbooks approachable, easy-to-use, and user-friendly.; The main idea is to bring several publishers and schools together on the same stand.; Saransh- CBSE Board initiated an e-facility titled 'Saransh' CBSE affiliated schools.; It helps the schools to assess their performance and they can compare it against all CBSE schools at several levels.; With the help of this online facility, schools can find areas of enhancement in students, teachers and curriculum and work on necessary measures to make changes.; E-Pathshala: It is an app developed by NCERT.; It addresses a wide audience and also helps in bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas.; It has a variety of

accessibility options.; e-Education: Digital India aims to connect all the schools in India through Wi-Fi and broadband facilities.. Overall, it will play a key role in improving the Digital Divide in the country and integrating the education sector.

166. [2021 Q1] Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The origins of Bhakti literature can be linked to ancient texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, and Gita as well as to the Brahmanical and Buddhist traditions. Key points: The devotional nature of the literature: Kirtana-ghosha features devotional songs composed by Shankara Deva and Madhavadeva.; A step back for the evil in society: The Tamil poet- saints in south India started writing the Bhakti literature in the sixth century AD.; Inclusivity: Castes and outcasts were encouraged to be included, according to Bhakti literature.; Spirituality: As a result of Bhakti literature, the Bhakti cult was popularized.; Harmony amongst different religions: Baba Farid's Sufi poetry was assimilated into Sikh religious canon.; Bhakti literature started to be composed in the 6th Century AD in South India by the Tamil poet- saints.. Overall, their messages were turned into songs, proverbs, and stories...

167. [2021 Q2] Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

India within the 19th century witnessed a series of reform movements undertaken in several parts of the country. Key points: Prarthana Samaj: The Prarthana Samaj was established in Bombay by Dr.; Satya Shodhak Samaj: it had been started by Jyotiba Phule in Maharashtra, in 1873, to spread of education among women and lower caste people.; The Theosophical Society: Madam H.P.; Self-Respect Movement (1925): Led by EV Ramaswamy Naicker (Periyar) the movement aimed toward nothing wanting a rejection of Brahminical religion and culture which Naicker felt was the prime instrument of exploitation of the lower castes.; Henry Louis Vivian Derozio started the Young Bengal Movement in Calcutta within the 1820s.; Also, Derozio was perhaps the primary nationalist poet of contemporary India.. Overall, thus, these movements helped in developing an intellectual class amongst Indians, formed the amount of India renaissance...

168. [2021 Q3] Assess the main administrative issues and socio- cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The history of the Princely States dates from the classical period of Indian history, the predominant usage of the term Princely state refers explicitly to a semi-sovereign principality that was not directly governed by the British but rather by a local ruler, subject to a form of an indirect rule on some matters. y Princely States accounted for about 40% of the colonial territory and numbered more than 500. Key points: Princely States accounted for about 40% of the colonial territory and numbered more than 500.; After independence, many of them began to consider an independent life, despite British Prime Minister Clement Atlee's vague assertion that paramountcy could not be transferred to either India or Pakistan.; The accession regions to the Dominion of India (or Pakistan) was permitted by the Instruments of Accession signed by the rulers on...

169. [2021 Q4] Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope. Key points: Slope movement occurs when forces acting down- slope (mainly because of gravity) exceed the strength of the earth materials that compose the slope.; Causes include factors that increase the effects of down-slope forces and factors that contribute to low or reduced strength.; Landslides can be initiated in slopes already on the verge of movement by rainfall, snowmelt, changes in water level, stream erosion, changes in groundwater, earthquakes, volcanic activity, disturbance by human activities, or any combination of these factors.; Earthquake shaking and other factors can also induce landslides underwater.; Slumping: It is a particularly

common phenomenon where permeable debris or rock layer lies over impermeable strata such as clay;
Debris Slide: In this type of sliding, materials fall...

170. [2021 Q5] Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Gondwanaland is a complicated assemblage of many elements from several eras. Key points: Despite increases in output and value addition, the mining sector's contribution to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) has been dropping recently.; From 1.93 per cent in 2012-13, the mining sector's share of GDP (excluding petroleum & natural gas) fell to 1.53 per cent in 2017-18.; Tribal areas with forests are where minerals are found.; Multiple clearances and Legal hurdles: Multiple clearances are necessary, which hurts the mining industry and renders it unprofitable.; India has struggled to make major investments in its capital-intensive industries, such as mining.; The mining industry is directly linked to a number of environmental issues.. Overall, the answer is to concentrate on cutting-edge underground mining technology that is employed by miners all over the world.

171. [2021 Q6] What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of the water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Lakes and wetlands are large urban water bodies that serve vital environmental, social, and economic purposes. Key points: Construction of residential and commercial buildings, including houses and restaurants, resulting in urban land change, harming the ecology of nearby water bodies and allowing fertilisers to contaminate the water.; Bangalore had 262 lakes in the 1960s, but just 10 of them are still operational now.; Since water bodies act as sponges for further rainfall, reclamation of water bodies has increased the frequency of floods.; Pollutants are blocked out by water bodies, which filter the air.; For instance, the encroachment of water bodies in West Bengal has led to a major rise in arsenic poisoning.; Illegal mining for building materials like sand and quartzite on the lake's watershed and bed has a terrible effect on the water body.. Overall, all the...

172. [2021 Q7] Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment. (10 Marks, 150 words)

An eruption or rupture in the earth's surface known as a volcano allows gases, volcanic ash, and hot, liquid, or semi-liquid rock to escape. Key points: Ulawun, Papua New Guinea.; Krakatau and Merapi, Indonesia.; Taal volcano, Philippines.; Volcanic ash plumes can cover wide swaths of the sky, obstructing visibility.; It is well known that the volcanic ashes increase the soil fertility in the area.; Volcanic ash creates a localised drop in temperature by reflecting incoming solar light.. Overall, volcanism cannot be prevented, but their harmful consequences can be reduced to least with the right strategies and approach.

173. [2021 Q8] Why is India considered as a sub-continent? Elaborate your answer. (10 Marks, 150 words)

The term subcontinent signifies a "subdivision of a continent which encompasses a distinct geographical, political, or cultural identity" and also a "large land mass somewhat smaller than a continent". Key points: India may be a subcontinent located in South of Asian continent.; This natural physical landmass in South Asia has been relatively isolated from the rest of Eurasia.; The Himalayas (from Brahmaputra within the east to river within the west), Karakoram (from river within the east to Yarkand River within the west) and thus the range of mountains (from Yarkand River westwards) form its boundary within the north.; In the west it's bounded by the mountain ranges of Hindu Kush Mountains, Sulaiman Mountains, Kirthar Mountains, among others, with the Western side of the border (between the Sulaiman Range and also the Chaman Fault) is the western boundary...

174. [2021 Q9] Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. (10 Marks, 150 words)

The origins of tribal knowledge systems can be traced back to centuries of observation of nature, particularly of bird and animal behaviour. Key points: younger generation playing a major role in this process.; They depend on local resources and practice cautious interactions between living beings and natural processes within an ecosystem to protect human life.; Since everyone in a tribal community shares the traditional understandings, they might be thought of as the Knowledge Keepers.; The gender ratio and the proportion of women in the labour force are better than the national average, according to census 2011 data.; They practise sacred ecology, which promotes long-term survival, through narration and dynamic interactions with the natural ecosystems.; Mainstream knowledge is mostly market driven and profit oriented.. Overall, even if there is interaction between tribal and mainstream culture, it is important to...

175. [2021 Q10] Examine the role of ‘Gig Economy’ in the process of empowerment of women in India. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Gig Economy is a free market labour system where freelance or short-term contracts are more common than long-term employment. Key points: because of the flexibility of Gig labour, women are able to balance their careers with their traditional duties as carers and homemakers.; The problem of night shifts and travel safety has been resolved by Gig work which is coupled with WFH and technology.; Women now have access to work-on-demand, giving them the freedom to join the workforce or leave it as they see fit.; Gig employment provides women the opportunity to supplement their income, increase their self-esteem, and have decision-making power— all of which are essential components of the empowerment of women.; The market's demand and supply laws determine how the Gig Economy functions.; Most of the time, flex workers are not eligible for benefits like...

176. [2021 Q11] To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

In the second half of the nineteenth century, Indian nationalism developed as a result of a number of factors, including western education, socio religious changes, and British policies, among others. Key points: years 1885 through 1905 are known as “The Moderate Phase”.; Moderates expressed India's national subjugation and the necessity for its amelioration via petitioning, questioning, and debating techniques.; Some of the methods employed by moderates to spread their ideas include prayer, petition, persuasion, and charitable giving.; Their demands were constitutional, as was their agitation.; Their strategy was to conduct a boycott.; The Moderates' major goal was to establish self-government within the British Empire.; They embodied the most progressive forces of the day.; They provided political training and popularised modern ideals.; They highlighted colonial rule's fundamentally exploitative nature, eroding its moral basis.. Overall, although moderates contributed positively to the cause of India's independence, their ability to mobilise the general populace in support of the cause was limited which proved to be a major reason that the Indian masses did not have a voice or a face in the liberation struggle until Mahatma Gandhi happened.

177. [2021 Q12] Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Gandhi's idea of a peaceful society by the way of national renewal gave rise to the constructive programme. Key points: Satyagraha Sabha: Prior to the Non-Cooperation campaign, the Home Rule Leagues' members created the Satyagraha Sabha.; Promoting indigenous sentiment: Gandhi presented Khadi as a symbol of nationalism, economic freedom, equality and self-reliance.; Through the use of a spinning wheel, khadi bhandars, and a boycott of imported clothing, Khadi and local industries were promoted.; Communal unity: Communal disunity and untouchability were the major hurdles in the way of establishing social unity in our society that created discrimination in the minds of the people.; Gandhi, through a network of Ashrams spread

throughout villages, the promotion of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood was emphasised in language and symbols.; Boycotting Evils in society: He founded 'Harijan Sevak Sangh' in 1932 after his 'Yeravada Pact Fast'.; New or Basic Education: Gandhi was clear that the education of citizens is a backbone of any society.; Upliftment of Women: In his mission of Swaraj, Gandhi needed the cooperation of women, kisans, labourers and students.. Overall, this commitment can serve as a compass for all Indian people, productive workers, and policymakers.

178. [2021 Q13] "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

A succession of economic, social, and political crises plagued the interwar years (1918 to 1939), which led to the growth of authoritarian and ultranationalist regimes in several forms throughout the world. Key points: ears (1918 to 1939), which led to the growth of authoritarian and ultranationalist regimes in several forms throughout the world.; The Great Depression's economic hardships prompted enormous social discontent throughout the world, which in many cases resulted in the fall of democratic governments and a large rise in fascism.; By 1930, unemployment in Germany had reached a record high of 22%.; In the 1930s, there was a severe threat to democracy all over the world because of the dissolution of the League of Nations and the emergence of militant dictatorships.; Fear of Communism: Communism was spreading fast after the Russian Revolution of 1917 and as communism is against any private property, it created tension among capitalist nations.; Nazism in Germany: People in Germany, which were afflicted by unemployment, enraged by territorial losses, and disheartened by an incompetent government, favoured strong leaders like Hitler, who swiftly transformed democracy into dictatorship.; Hitler rose to power in Germany with lax institutional controls.; Persecution of Jews: The Jewish community faced more persecution once the Nazis came to power and put their antisemitic philosophy and laws into effect. Approximately six million European Jews were killed by the Nazis and their allies...

179. [2021 Q14] Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

A mountain range is a collection of ridges that developed simultaneously and underwent similar processes. Key points: The Ural Mountain range: The Ural Mountain range runs sternly north to south through western Russia, from the shore of the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River and northern Kazakhstan.; oung, feeble continent of Kazakhstan.; Andes: They are the longest continental mountain ranges in the entire world.; The Himalayan Mountain range: The lowlands of the Indian subcontinent are separated from the Tibetan Plateau in Asia by the Himalayan Mountain range.; The Atlas: The more than 2,500-kilometer-long Atlas Mountain range extends through Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia (1,600 miles).; Rocky mountain range: Southwest of the United States, from northern British Columbia to New Mexico, the Rocky Mountains are located.; Mountains are unique ecosystems that stand out for their complexity and diversity.; Extreme climatic and geomorphic events are more likely to be sparked by steep topographic, climatic, and biological gradients paired with stark seasonal contrasts, which may then have a major effect on natural and human settings.; A change in climatic circumstances may have an effect on poverty and food security because 12 percent of the world's population lives in mountains, and the vast majority of them do so in developing nations that are economically and physically marginalised.. Overall, communities rely on them as sources of revenue from agriculture, tourism, and the utilisation of natural resources.

180. [2021 Q15] How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Arctic and Antarctica are very different geographically. Key points: Global warming, caused by climate change, has an effect on the melting of the cryosphere, or the world's ice cap.; In addition, it has an effect on other weather patterns and air circulation, which can result in major climate change events that have an

effect on millions of people.; The strengthening of extratropical cyclones and the intensification of the Central Pacific Trade Winds are both related to the melting of Arctic ice.; Throughout the planet, several glaciers are melting quickly.; More sea ice melts as a result of rising global temperatures, which sets off a chain of events linking the melting Arctic to southern weather.; The ice in the Arctic region, unlike the Antarctic continent, is melting, exposing the Black Ocean beneath it, which absorbs more sunlight than ice and as a result warms more quickly.; This feedback cycle is causing the Arctic to warm far more quickly than the rest of the planet.; The tropics' sea surface temperature, which rises and falls with El Nino, as well as solar cycles and even volcanic eruptions, have a modest influence on the jet streams.; The harsh winters that struck portions of North America and northern Europe in 2009–10, 2010–11, and 2013–14, which resulted in record snowfalls and billions of dollars in damage, have so far shown the highest association between Arctic...

181. [2021 Q16] Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Mineral oils (also known as base oils, mineral base oils or lubricant base oils) are chemical substances prepared from naturally occurring crude petroleum oil. Key points: Economical: The balance of commerce between the nations that export and buy mineral oil is impacted by the uneven distribution of this commodity worldwide.; Political: Nations vying for control of regions with abundant resources are a common factor in both historical and contemporary wars.; Job Opportunities: The Middle East has greater employment prospects as a result of the oil resources there.; Security of Energy: Energy insecurity in countries with a shortage of oil is caused by the uneven distribution of mineral energy resources.; International Relations: The inequitable allocation of oil resources is an important element in using their availability for diplomatic purposes.; Uneven development: Uneven growth has occurred all around the world as a result of uneven mineral oil distribution.. Overall, to improve energy security, which also reduces emissions and stimulates economic growth, it is vital to reduce reliance on imported fuels and diversify the energy sources used to produce power.

182. [2021 Q17] What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

IT (Information Technology) is typically the department within the enterprise that deals with computer hardware, software applications and systems, the computer-based data of the organizations, and data communications. Key points: There is a sharp socio-cultural division between the local and migrated people.; In the pretext of protecting culture, petty elements can start divisive politics that occasionally turn violent because of cultural disparities and wealth gaps between local and migrant professionals.; As the society is a mix of different ethnic groups, where sense of community is missing.; There is sharp class-division between the haves and have-nots.; Young people move from small towns and rural areas to the main IT hubs, their parents are left behind and in need of social and emotional support.; In India, this is contributing to the dissolution of the joint family culture and the rise of the nuclear family.; There is a huge digital divide.; This investment ought to be spread around fairly, rather than concentrated in a few places.. Overall, initiatives should be taken to develop India as a strong economy and to achieve UN Goal Number 1 which states eradicating poverty in all its forms, UN Goal Number 11 which states Sustainable Cities and Communities.

183. [2021 Q18] Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Population Education covers any or all matters related to population that influence(s) development, standard of living and quality of life. Key points: To develop an understanding of some demographic concepts and processes.; Younger generation an understanding of the most important phenomenon of the modern world viz., rapid growth of population and its causes.; To develop an understanding of the influence of population trends on the several aspects of human life - social, cultural, political and economic.; To develop an

understanding of the close interaction of population growth and the developmental process with particular reference to development programmes for raising the standard of living of people.; To develop an understanding of the evil effects of over-population on the environment and the concomitant dangers from pollution.; To develop an understanding of scientific and medical advancement enabling to get an increasing control over famines, diseases and ultimately death and the imbalance thus created between death rate and birth rate.; To develop an understanding of biological factors and phenomenon of reproduction which are responsible for continuance of the species.; To develop an appreciation of; The small family norm; as proper and desirable.. Overall, to ensure that this enormous population continues to be an advantage, policymakers must embrace Population Education programmes to develop policies and inform the public about them.

184. [2021 Q19] What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

A cryptocurrency, also referred to as a crypto, is a form of encrypted digital money. Key points: Cryptocurrencies deprive governments of the ability to issue currency.; The cost and speed of cryptocurrency transactions are both low.; A new asset class that has emerged is cryptocurrency (alternative of gold).; Like gold, the supply of cryptocurrencies is constrained.; ears, the price of cryptocurrencies has increased more quickly than the price of other financial assets.; The nation that receives the highest remittances is India.; It tends to reduce the cost of generating physical currency, enabling the use of money for societal advancement.; The major investment made in cryptocurrencies by the nation's; outh has led to the emergence of a new crypto society in India.. Overall, cryptocurrency frameworks must be developed, which will require international alliances and cooperative strategies.

185. [2021 Q20] How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Indian Society continues to exist since ancient times. Key points: Family System: Through socialisation, the institution of the family has made sure that traditional values are passed down from one generation to the next.; Festivals: They not only have a religious angle but societal inclination as well.; Gatherings: Social activities, such as parties and bhajan-kirtans, offer a platform for exchanging opinions and values.; Marriages: Indian marriages are more of a community affair than private matters.; Elasticity of Indian culture (Flexibility): Indian culture has traditionally been open to embracing several, even opposing, points of view.; Different values and cultures are assimilated: because of assimilating ability of Indian culture, all the types of races and nationalities are found here.; Religious figures: In several times saints like Buddha, Mahavira, Shankaracharya, Kabir and others continually pushed for spirituality to triumph over materialism and peaceful coexistence over violent dominance.; Increasing Individualism in Society: because of the market economy more and more individuals are earning for themselves and becoming independent.; Nuclear Families: More and more families are becoming nuclear families, and the traditional joint family concept is getting replaced with nuclear families.. Overall, a balance has to be set between both the values where one does not disturb the existence of another, though they may overlap.

186. [2022 Q1] How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Sculptures are small works of art, either handmade or with tools and are more related to aesthetics than engineering and measurements. Key points: The sculptures in Khajuraho Temples depict everyday life, mythical stories, and spiritual values, showcasing activities like women applying makeup, musicians playing music, and people engaged in daily tasks during the medieval era.; The figure of a woman writing a love letter is a charming specimen of the Chandella art of the 11th century.; Sculptures reflect cultural and faith-related aspects.; The Gurjara Pratihara, ruling during the 8th to 10th centuries, witnessed a major cultural renaissance in their vast kingdom spanning Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.; In Rajasthan, sculptural

activity flourished in places like Vasantgarh, Devangarh, Palta, Osian, Dilwara, Chittor, and Mandor.; The Ellora Cave temples demonstrate the coexistence of Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist traditions, with carvings...

187. [2022 Q2] Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the Indian rulers? Give reasons. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Indians were recruited for the British East India Company's army because of their familiarity with Indian conditions and willingness to accept lower wages. Key points: Superior Military Tactics: The British East India Company employed more advanced military tactics and strategies compared to the traditional methods followed by the Indian rulers.; Technological Advancements: The British had access to modern weaponry, including muskets, cannons, and rifles, which provided them with a major technological advantage over the Indian rulers who relied largely on traditional weapons like swords, spears, and bows and arrows.; Well-Organized and Trained Forces: The British East India Company maintained disciplined and professionally trained armies.; Divide and Conquer Strategy: The British employed a policy of exploiting existing divisions and rivalries among the Indian rulers.; Economic and Political Factors: The British East India Company had a strong financial base and...

188. [2022 Q4] Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Primary rocks, also known as igneous rocks, are formed through the solidification of molten material, such as magma or lava. Overall, this knowledge is important for geologists, engineers, and anyone interested in studying the Earth's composition and history.

189. [2022 Q5] Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone-prone areas to inform and alert the public about the potential effect of cyclones. Key points: yellow alert indicates a cyclone with the potential to cause moderate damage.. Overall, they serve as a guide for individuals, communities, and authorities to undertake necessary precautions, mitigate risks, and ensure the safety and well-being of the affected regions.

190. [2022 Q6] Discuss the natural resource potential of the 'Deccan trap'. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

The Deccan Traps, one of the largest igneous provinces globally, are situated in the western part of India. Key points: Eons ago during the Cretaceous period.; Building Materials: The Deccan Traps provide substantial construction materials.; Soil: The weathering of the Deccan Traps results in the formation of rich Black soil, which is particularly suitable for cotton cultivation.; Bauxite: The region is endowed with high-grade bauxite, rich in alumina.; Groundwater: The Deccan Traps' vesicular parts within bedded lavas form excellent aquifers.; yielding considerable supplies of underground water.. Overall, its geological significance underscores the need for sustainable management and protection.

191. [2022 Q7] Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for its limited spatial spread. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

India is the world's fourth-largest wind power producer, possessing immense potential for wind energy production because of its vast coastline and high altitude. Key points: Extensive coastline: India's extensive 7,517 km coastline, particularly the western coastline and parts of the southern coastline, experiences high-speed winds ideal for wind energy generation.; Mountainous regions: The high-altitude regions in India, particularly in the Western Ghats and the Himalayas, are also suitable for harnessing wind energy because of the high wind velocities.; Inconsistent Wind Speeds: Wind energy generation depends on consistent and high wind speeds, which are not available throughout the; This inconsistency reduces the overall efficiency and

reliability of wind power.; High Initial Investment: The installation of wind turbines requires a high initial investment, which can be a deterrent, particularly in regions with other readily available and cheaper sources of...

192. [2022 Q8] Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

The widespread adoption of 'Work From Home' (WFH) during the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued practice in several industries have significantly impacted family relationships. Key points: Strengthened Family Bonding: WFH enables employees to spend more time at home, fostering deeper connections and understanding among family members.; Shared Responsibilities: WFH has blurred the line between professional and personal lives, offering an increased opportunity for shared household tasks, which can promote gender equality in domestic responsibilities.; Care for Dependents: The physical presence at home allows employees to attend promptly to family needs.; Healthy Lifestyle: WFH promotes healthier habits, such as rest and home-cooked meals.; Reduced Commute Stress: The elimination of daily commuting reduces stress and fatigue, fostering a more relaxed and productive work environment.; Work-Life Imbalance: The blurred boundaries between professional and personal life can extend work hours, leading to...

193. [2022 Q9] How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

The evolution of Tier 2 cities in India is interlinked with the rise of a new middle class, marked by an emergent consumption-oriented culture. Key points: Post-liberalization reforms in the early 1990s unlocked new opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment, catalyzing economic growth in Tier 2 cities.; The new middle class exhibited a major shift towards consumerism, supported by economic growth, globalization, and increased digitalization.; Migration to Tier 2 cities gained momentum as overcrowding and high living costs in metropolitan areas pushed people towards these emerging urban centers.; The COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent shift to 'work from home' models triggered a trend of reverse migration.; Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities attracted multinational firms and startups because of benefits like cost- effectiveness, lower land and labour costs, and a rich talent pool.; The Indian government has been actively...

194. [2022 Q10] Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

India's tribal communities, also known as Adivasis or Scheduled Tribes, are highly diverse, comprising approximately 8.6% of India's total population (as of Census 2011) and representing over 700 different tribal groups. Key points: Legal and Constitutional Protection: All tribal communities in India are accorded special protections under the Indian Constitution.; Socio-economic Marginalization: Despite their diversity, many tribal communities share common experiences of socio-economic Marginalization.; Cultural Preservation and Recognition: Tribal communities share a common struggle to preserve their unique cultures, languages, and traditions in the face of rapid modernization and globalization.; Land Rights and Forest Conservation: Most tribal communities in India are traditionally forest- dwelling and have strong cultural and economic ties to their ancestral lands.. Overall, policy and planning should take into account the unique needs and circumstances of individual tribes to ensure their equitable and sustainable development.

195. [2022 Q11] The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories in India has been an ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Overall, the reorganization aims to ensure effective governance, address regional aspirations, and accommodate diverse identities, contributing to the evolving political and administrative landscape of India.

196. [2022 Q12] Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

The Gupta period (c. Overall, the contributions of these periods continue to inspire and shape India's rich cultural legacy, fostering a sense of pride and admiration for their achievements.

197. [2022 Q13] Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

The lion and bull figures hold immense significance in Indian mythology, art, and architecture. Overall, these iconic figures continue to inspire reverence, evoke a sense of awe, and reflect the rich mythological and cultural tapestry of India.

198. [2022 Q14] What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in the fishing industry of the world. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Ocean currents, the continuous movement of ocean water in a definite direction, are mainly influenced by a combination of several forces. Key points: Solar Energy: The heating effect of the sun causes the water at the equator to heat up more than the water at the poles, creating a difference in water temperatures, which results in the formation of currents.; Wind: Wind creates friction on the water's surface and pushes the water in the direction the wind is blowing.; Gravity: Differences in water temperature and salinity create variations in water density.; Coriolis Effect: The rotation of the Earth on its axis affects the path of currents, causing them to move clockwise in the northern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the southern hemisphere.; Salinity: Salinity, or the concentration of salt in seawater, influences ocean currents by affecting the water's density.; Coastlines and Ocean Bottom Topography: The physical shape of coastlines and the underwater landscape can redirect ocean currents.; Nutrient Circulation: Currents help circulate nutrients from the deep sea to the surface waters, a process known as upwelling.; Fish Migration: Many fish species rely on ocean currents for migration and spawning.; Habitat Creation: Ocean currents contribute to the creation of diverse marine habitats, such as coral reefs and kelp forests, which support a wide range of fish species.. Overall, yet, it's essential to note that changes in ocean currents because of climate change...

199. [2022 Q15] Describing the distribution of rubber-producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Rubber, a critical raw material used extensively worldwide, is mainly produced in countries situated in the equatorial region, thanks to the tropical climate that is conducive for rubber tree growth. Key points: Deforestation: One of the major environmental issues related to rubber production is deforestation.; Soil Degradation: Large-scale rubber plantations can lead to soil degradation.; Water Pollution: The use of pesticides and fertilizers in rubber plantations can lead to water pollution if these substances leach into local water bodies.. Overall, this contamination can harm aquatic life and effect the quality of water available for human use.

200. [2022 Q16] Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Straits and isthmuses have always held strategic importance in international trade because of their unique geographical positions. Key points: Gateway to Regions: Some straits function as gateways to specific regions.; Facilitating Canal Construction: Isthmuses have been historically major because of their potential for canal construction.; Connecting Major Markets: Canals across isthmuses can connect major markets, facilitating quicker and more efficient trade.. Overall, thus, international cooperation and agreements are important for maintaining and enhancing their roles as critical junctions of world trade.

201. [2022 Q17] Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How? (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Most of the mass (about 75-80%) of the atmosphere is in the troposphere. Key points: Eighty per cent of the mass and the majority of the water vapour in the atmosphere, which are necessary for the development of clouds and precipitation, are found in the troposphere.; The Earth's surface heats the troposphere, resulting in temperature gradients and convection currents that propel the movement of air and moisture.; The water cycle, which includes water evaporation, condensation, and precipitation, has an effect on the troposphere.; The greenhouse effect, which is the trapping of heat by certain gasses in the atmosphere, has an effect on the troposphere.; Smog, a form of air pollution that impairs health and lowers visibility, is exposed to the troposphere.. Overall, to counteract climate change and its effects, immediate action is required (SDG13 - Climate action).

202. [2022 Q18] Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Introduce the answer with the fact that the sect is a social institution. • • Highlight the Sect and Caste • Highlight the Sect and Region • Highlight the Sect and Religion • Conclude the answer by mentioning that understanding sect dynamics is important for building a pluralistic and inclusive society. Key points: Highlight the Sect and Caste; Highlight the Sect and Region; Highlight the Sect and Religion; Conclude the answer by mentioning that understanding sect dynamics is important for building a pluralistic and inclusive society.; Socioeconomic inequality is frequently maintained by the intersectionality of caste and sect.; Within the upper caste groups, sects form that are not materially poor but feel spiritually deprived.; Indicates that the notion of continual change is fundamental to Indian society today.; It has undergone numerous changes along the way, influenced by both social reform movements within India (Sikhism) and those from outside the country (Islam).; Numerous castes and sects make up Indian society..

203. [2022 Q19] Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Write an introduction about the hindustani way of life. • • Mention a few points about tolerance. • Discuss about assimilation cultures in India. • Discuss the pluralist acceptance of diversity in India. • Conclude the answer by mentioning the tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism continue to be important components of Indian secularism. Key points: Mention a few points about tolerance.; Discuss about assimilation cultures in India.; Discuss the pluralist acceptance of diversity in India.; Conclude the answer by mentioning the tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism continue to be important components of Indian secularism.; Tolerance enables people to coexist peacefully without worrying about prejudice or retaliation.; The Preamble, which describes India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic, pledges tolerance to be the cornerstone of the Indian Constitution.; All people are afforded equality before the law and equal protection under the law under Article; Discrimination on the basis of religion, ethnicity, caste, sex, or place of birth is forbidden by Article; Minorities have access to cultural and educational rights under Articles 29 and.

204. [2022 Q20] Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resource, with special reference to India. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Write an introduction by mentioning the definition given by the WHO. • • Mention the examples of technological globalization • shows the globalization's positive and negative impacts over the world. • Discuss the positive and negative impacts of globalization on India. • Write a suitable conclusion. Key points: Mention the examples of technological globalization; shows the globalization's positive and negative impacts over the world.; Discuss the positive and negative impacts of globalization on India.; Write a suitable conclusion.; It is generally understood to include two interrelated elements: the opening of international borders to increasingly fast flows of goods, services, finance, people and ideas; and the changes in institutions and policies at national and international levels that facilitate or promote such flows." Example of Technological Globalization; Growth of Multinational Technology Corporations:- Liberalization of trade and economic

globalization have facilitated the growth of multinational corporations like Microsoft, Apple and Sony.; Mobile Banking:- Mobile banking has allowed people to access money both at home and around the world at a faster pace than ever.; Mechanization of Manufacturing:- Using machines for manufacturing lowers labor costs which have two competing effects: downward pressure on labor costs (leading to cheaper goods) and loss of traditional manufacturing jobs.; Media Globalization:- One effect of the spread of technologies and technological knowledge (mainly from the developed to the developing world) has been to also globalize the media that is...

205. [2023 Q1] Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Indian subcontinent is marked by diverse geographical features like the Himalayas, Indo- Gangetic plain, Deccan plateau, coastal plains, deserts, and mountain passes. Key points: Indus Valley Civilization (IVC); Fertile alluvial soil of the Indus basin supported agriculture and urbanization.; Initially, Aryans settled in the Punjab region.; Political Development through Geography; Northwest passes (Khyber, Bolan, Gomal) facilitated invasions by Persians, Greeks, Shakas, and Kushans.; Cultural and Artistic Influence. Overall, fertile plains nurtured civilizations, mountain passes determined invasions, coastlines enabled trade, and natural resources enriched cultural expression— together making geography the bedrock of India’s ancient development.

206. [2023 Q2] What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

y Nationalism in the early 20th century was both a unifying and contested idea, shaping India’s freedom struggle. Key points: Saw nationalism as rooted in self-sufficiency and decentralization, with villages as the foundation of nation-building.; Advocated compulsory nationalism, linked to service and sacrifice.; Criticized colonial nationalism as pugnacious, but believed India’s nationalism should remain non-imperialist and people-centric.; Considered nationalism a “Maya” or mirage, dangerous when elevated above humanity, especially after witnessing the First World War.; Opposed any form of compulsory nationalism, seeing it as destructive to universal humanism.; Warned that narrow nationalism could hinder peaceful coexistence with other nations.. Overall, together, their philosophies provided complementary visions—one rooted in grassroots empowerment, the other in cultural and intellectual globalism—strengthening India’s quest for identity and independence.

207. [2023 Q3] Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The introduction of railways in the 19th century marked a watershed in global economic history. Key points: Linked distant markets, reduced price gaps, and facilitated large-scale trade.; Example: Midwest grain to Atlantic ports (USA); wheat from Russian steppe to Europe; cotton and jute from India to Britain.; Stimulated coal, iron, and steel industries through massive demand.; Enabled mass production and distribution of goods; created modern managerial practices.; Example: Ruhr industrialisation in Germany, steel boom in USA.; Encouraged cash crop farming and frontier expansion.. Overall, thus, the legacy of railways lies not merely in steel tracks but in the diverse trajectories of development they enabled— or constrained—across the world.

208. [2023 Q4] Discuss the consequences of climate change on food security in tropical countries. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Climate change means long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, caused by both natural processes and anthropogenic activities. Key points: Decline in agricultural production because of changes in precipitation, prolonged droughts, and land unsuitability.; Shifts in cropping patterns and reduction in productivity in rain-fed areas.; Longer growing seasons increase water demand.; ields push food prices

higher.; Farmers' incomes shrink because of recurrent damages, reducing purchasing power.; Extreme events such as cyclones, floods, and heat waves cause unpredictable disruptions.. Overall, strengthening adaptive capacity while aligning efforts with SDG-2 (Zero Hunger) is vital for ensuring food security and sustainable development in the tropical world.

209. [2023 Q5] Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Freshwater makes up only 3% of the world's total water, of which nearly two-thirds is locked in glaciers or otherwise inaccessible. Key points: Population Growth: Rising population, particularly in developing countries, reduces per capita water availability.; Climate Change: Shifts in precipitation patterns, prolonged droughts, and frequent floods have destabilized water cycles.; Rapid Urbanization: Escalating demand from expanding cities stresses already fragile water systems.; Water Pollution: Industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, and untreated sewage contaminate rivers, lakes, and aquifers.; Over-Extraction and Depletion: Excessive withdrawal of groundwater leads to falling water tables and aquifer depletion.; Ecosystem Degradation: Loss of wetlands, lakes, and forests weakens natural water storage and purification functions.. Overall, aligning policies with SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) will be critical in ensuring water security for present and future generations.

210. [2023 Q6] How are fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A fjord is a long, narrow valley with steep sides that is filled with seawater. Key points: Fjords are formed when a glacier cuts a deep U-shaped valley through processes like ice segregation and abrasion.; As glaciers retreat, these valleys become over- deepened and are later flooded by the sea, forming fjords.; The combination of glacial erosion and marine inundation creates their distinct structure — steep cliffs, narrow inlets, and deep central basins.; Geological Grandeur: Steep cliffs, narrow channels, and dramatic U-shaped valleys create awe-inspiring scenery.; Waterfalls and Rainfall: High precipitation in fjord regions leads to abundant waterfalls cascading into the sea.; Biodiversity: Fjords are rich in marine life because of their sheltered environments, supporting fisheries and ecosystems. cultural ethos of the region? (10 Marks, 150 Words). Overall, preserving these fragile ecosystems is essential to maintain their beauty..

211. [2023 Q7] Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in the Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the

Marriage has traditionally been viewed as a sacred sacrament in India, a social and religious duty, particularly in Hindu philosophy where it forms the Grihastha Ashram. Key points: Career Priorities: Increasing focus on education and career has led to late marriages or the choice to remain unmarried.; Alternative Preferences: Live-in relationships, single parenthood, and same-sex marriages are gaining legitimacy with liberal interpretations of law (e.g., abolition of Section 377, decriminalization of adultery).; Changing Goals: For urban and educated sections, marriage is now a "life domain" for emotional fulfillment rather than an inevitable stage of life.; Rising Divorce Rates: Social stigma around divorce has declined, leading to more separations.; Reduced Family Role: Compatibility between individuals is now prioritized over family approval.; Marital Disharmony: Conflicts over reproduction, dowry harassment, or sexual incompatibility weaken the sanctity of the institution.. Overall, kapadia...

212. [2023 Q9] Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Durkheim defined suicide as an act resulting from the victim's own behaviour, knowing its outcome. Key points: oung women have become a grave concern.; Dowry Harassment: Abuse and torture by husbands and in-laws remain a major trigger.; Mental Health Issues: Depression, anxiety, and other disorders, combined

with lack of awareness and stigma around mental health, heighten risks.; Gender Discrimination: Limited access to education, employment, and autonomy fosters despair and feelings of entrapment.; Societal Expectations: Pressure to conform to traditional roles, marriage, and family duties creates stress and inadequacy.; Abuse and Violence: Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse severely affects psychological well-being.. Overall, to address this crisis, stronger family systems, accessible mental health care, gender- sensitive policies, and societal empathy are imperative.

213. [2023 Q10] Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Cuddling is important in a child's emotional development, fostering a sense of safety, empathy, and love. Key points: Smartphone Addiction: Excessive screen time leads to anxiety, low self-esteem, and poor emotional regulation.; Lack of Social Skills: Reduced face-to-face interaction hampers communication abilities, empathy, and compassion.; Decline in Outdoor Play: Overreliance on devices curtails peer interaction and problem-solving opportunities, affecting health and social bonding.; Cognitive Concerns: Blue light exposure disrupts sleep cycles and cognitive growth.; Weak Social Networking: Limited real-world engagement reduces the ability to form meaningful connections.; Access to Education: During the Covid-19 lockdown, online learning enabled continuity of education.. Overall, balanced parenting, fostering face-to-face bonding along with controlled digital exposure, is essential for the healthy social development of children.

214. [2023 Q11] What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Vedic period (1500 BCE – 600 BCE) was a formative stage in Indian history, laying the foundations of religion, society, polity, and culture. Key points: Worship of Nature: Deities like Indra (rain), Agni (fire), and Surya (sun) were worshipped.; Yajnas: Sacrificial rituals performed in open spaces for prosperity and welfare.; Polytheism leading to Monism: Though polytheistic, the Rig Veda reflects the idea of an underlying supreme reality ("Ekam Sat").; Prayers and Hymns: Recitation of mantras and hymns formed the essence of worship.; Oral Tradition: Vedic knowledge was preserved orally, ensuring continuity.; Varna System: Initially occupation-based (Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras), it later ossified into a rigid caste system, still a reality in Indian society.; Position of Women: Women enjoyed relatively high status in early Vedic society—educated, participated in assemblies, and had freedom in marriage.; Marriage Practices: Predominantly monogamous, though polygyny/polyandry existed.; Kinship and Gotra System: Clan-based identity was strong, evolving into the Gotra tradition, which continues in Hindu marriage norms.. Overall, its legacies—both positive (cultural richness, rituals, philosophy) and negative (caste hierarchies, social stratification)—still resonate, making the Vedic age a living foundation of India's civilizational identity.

215. [2023 Q12] What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526 A.D.) marked a transformative era in Indian history. Key points: of the Arghatta (Persian wheel) revolutionized irrigation.; Expansion of canals, reservoirs, and water management enhanced productivity, enabling population growth and agrarian prosperity.; Spinning wheel (Charkha) introduced, boosting textile production.; Bengal and Kashmir gained fame for fine textiles and shawls, fostering exports.; Techniques like tie-and-dye (bandhana), immersion dyeing, and later block-printing enriched Indian textile traditions.; Proliferation of paper and book binding facilitated widespread documentation, administration, and literature.; Manuscripts, farmans, and accounts became integral to governance, literacy, and culture.; Advances in sword-making, tin coating, and distillation enhanced warfare and crafts.; Coinage reforms introduced by Sultans strengthened trade and economy.. Overall, their legacy continues to reflect in India's craft traditions, architecture, and cultural practices.

216. [2023 Q13] How did colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Colonial rule in India deeply impacted tribal communities by disrupting their socio-economic and cultural fabric. Key points: Displacement and Land Alienation: British land settlements undermined the joint ownership traditions of tribals.; Economic Exploitation: Tribals were forced into labor in plantations, mines, and industries under exploitative conditions.; Social and Cultural Disruption: Tribal chiefs lost authority as British laws weakened traditional governance.; Missionary Activities: Conversion drives and interference in customs disrupted tribal cultural and religious identity.; Paharia Rebellion (1778) – Rajmahal Hills.; Chuar Uprisings (1766–72, 1795–1816) – Midnapore (Sham Ganjan, Durjan Singh).; Nineteenth-Century Major Revolts; Kol Mutiny (1831) – Ranchi, Singhbhum (Buddho Bhagat).; Ho & Munda Uprisings (1820–22, 1831–37, 1899–1900) – led by Birsa Munda.. Overall, tribal struggles thus represent an inseparable part of India's broader freedom movement.

217. [2023 Q14] Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

India's coastline of over 7,500 km and its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) provide vast opportunities for economic growth, marine resources, and global trade. Key points: Fisheries: Marine fishery potential of ~4.4 million metric tonnes annually supports nutrition and livelihoods.; Minerals: Rich in cobalt, manganese, zinc, and rare earth elements critical for electronics and strategic industries.; Manganese Nodules and Crusts: Source of manganese, iron, copper, nickel, and cobalt with vast industrial applications.; Energy Resources: Offshore oilfields (e.g., Ankleshwar, Khambhat) and gas hydrates diversify India's energy mix.; Salt and Chemicals: Seawater provides common salt, gypsum, and other valuable minerals for industries.; Maritime Trade: Major ports handled 795 million tonnes of cargo in FY23, registering 10.4% growth.; Employment & Livelihoods: Fishing, salt production, shipping, and port-led activities sustain millions.; Food Security: Fisheries strengthen protein intake and nutrition security.; Sustainable Growth: Coastal and marine resources can fuel the \$5 trillion economy target if harnessed through a balanced blue economy approach.. Overall, building ecologically sensitive zones, enhancing disaster preparedness, and integrating sustainability with blue economy strategies will ensure that India's coasts remain resilient while contributing to national growth.

218. [2023 Q15] Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

India's natural vegetation shows remarkable diversity ranging from alpine meadows in the Himalayas to tropical rainforests in the Western Ghats and mangroves in the Sundarbans. Key points: Climate: Wide variations in temperature and humidity shape vegetation types—from evergreen forests in Kerala and Andaman to thorn forests in Rajasthan.; Topography: The Himalayas, plateaus, plains, and coasts create unique ecological niches.; Altitude: Elevational gradients in the Himalayas show clear zonation—from subtropical forests to alpine pastures.; Temperature: Warmer, humid lowlands (e.g., Indo-Gangetic plain, coastal areas) favour tropical vegetation, while cooler zones (Himalayan slopes) support temperate vegetation.; Precipitation: Monsoon-driven rainfall leads to dense evergreen forests in heavy-rainfall areas (Western Ghats, North-East) versus sparse scrub vegetation in low-rainfall zones.; Soil Types: Alluvial soils support fertile deciduous forests; lateritic soils sustain scrub vegetation; deltaic soils favour mangroves.; Water Bodies: Proximity to rivers, lakes, and coasts influences vegetation such as mangroves (Sundarbans) and aquatic flora in wetlands.; Biodiversity Hotspots: Rainforest sanctuaries (e.g., Silent Valley, Periyar, Namdapha) preserve rich biodiversity including rare and endemic species.; Endangered Species Protection: Critical habitats for species like lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Asiatic lion, Malabar civet, and hornbills.. Overall, with increasing anthropogenic pressures, strengthening sanctuary management and integrating local communities into conservation are critical for safeguarding these irreplaceable ecosystems.

219. [2023 Q16] Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Human development, as measured by the Human Development Index (HDI), goes beyond GDP growth and includes education, healthcare, and overall well-being. Key points: High Inequality: The top 10% of India's population holds more than 77% of wealth.; Skewed Resource Allocation: Priority to industry, services, and technology, while sectors like health, nutrition, and primary education received underinvestment.; Population Pressure: Gains in health and education are diluted by rapid population growth.; Weak Healthcare and Nutrition: NFHS-5 shows 57% of women (15–49 years) are anemic.; Education Deficits: Wide disparities between rural and urban areas, with high dropout rates among disadvantaged groups.; Gender Inequality: Women's workforce participation remains low (22% as per Global Gender Gap Report 2022).; Socio-Cultural Barriers: Caste discrimination, patriarchy, and social norms hinder inclusive development.; Urban–Rural Divide: Focus on urban centers has left rural areas lagging in health, education, and infrastructure.. Overall, sustainable and inclusive policies are essential to ensure that economic progress uplifts the quality of life for all citizens.

220. [2023 Q17] From being a net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

India's remarkable transformation from a net food importer in the 1960s to a net food exporter in recent years stands as a testament to the country's agricultural resilience and strategic reforms. Key points: Green Revolution: Introduction of high-yielding crop varieties, improved irrigation methods (like the Indira Gandhi canal), and use of fertilizers and pesticides boosted crop yields, enabling food self-sufficiency.; Agricultural Policy Reforms: Price support mechanisms, Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), and procurement systems ensured stability and incentivized higher production.; Infrastructure Development: Investments in irrigation, rural roads, and cold storage reduced post-harvest losses and improved supply chains.; Crop Diversification: Expansion beyond rice and wheat into fruits, vegetables, spices, and cash crops helped meet global market demand.; Trade Liberalization: Export-oriented policies and removal of restrictions enabled farmers and agribusinesses to access international markets.; Commercialization and Technology Adoption: Modern farming equipment, biotechnology, and precision farming improved productivity and efficiency.. Overall, yet, to sustain this achievement, India must adopt environmentally responsible farming practices, strengthen resource management, and adapt to climate change challenges to secure its long-term role as a global food exporter.

221. [2023 Q18] Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Urbanization is the process of population shift from rural to urban areas, accompanied by industrial growth, economic transition, and modernization. Key points: Slum Formation: Unplanned growth leads to large slums with limited access to sanitation, water, and electricity.; Gentrification and Ghettoization: Rising real estate prices displace poorer residents and create socio-economic enclaves.; Infrastructure Gap: Affluent areas receive better facilities, while marginalized neighborhoods remain underserved.; Employment Disparities: Poor populations often remain confined to informal, insecure, and low-wage work.; Limited Social Integration: Distinct socio-economic groups interact minimally, reinforcing stereotypes.; Access to Education & Health: Quality services cluster in rich areas, leaving the poor with inadequate facilities.; Environmental Injustice: Marginalized localities face higher exposure to pollution and poor waste management.; Policy Neglect: Urban policies may prioritize beautification over basic services for the poor.; Civic Participation Gap: Marginalized groups often have limited voice in urban planning.. Overall, the way forward lies in planned and inclusive urbanization aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 11, ensuring “sustainable cities and communities” where growth and equity go hand in hand.

222. [2023 Q19] Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Caste identity in India means the placement of individuals and groups within a hierarchical social order. Key points: Economic Opportunities: Urbanization and industrialization enable movement beyond caste-based occupations.; Migration: Relocation to urban centers dilutes rigid caste distinctions because of diverse interactions.; Education: Modern education fosters meritocracy and enables mobility irrespective of caste.; Inter-caste Marriages: Rising inter-caste unions blend identities and weaken rigid boundaries.; Syncretic Traditions: Shared religious and cultural practices blur caste lines.; Political Mobilization: Caste coalitions during elections merge identities for broader representation.; Globalization and Western Influence: Exposure to global cultures reduces adherence to caste norms, especially among; Social Activism: Anti-discrimination movements promote equality and reduce caste-based barriers.; Historical Legacy: Deep-rooted customs maintain caste hierarchies.. Overall, the challenge lies in ensuring caste does not remain a barrier to development, by building an inclusive and equitable social framework.

223. [2023 Q20] Discuss the impact of the post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The post-liberal economy means the framework that emerged in India after the 1991 economic reforms, marked by liberalization, privatization, and globalization. Key points: Media and Cultural Exposure: Global media inflow diluted some local traditions while also enabling ethnic cultures to showcase themselves worldwide.; Migration: Urbanization led to intermixing of communities, sometimes diluting ethnic distinctions but also fostering hybrid cultural identities.; Commodification: Ethnic symbols and festivals were marketed for tourism and consumerism, preserving them but often in commercialized forms.; Economic Mobility and Aspiration: Rising middle-class aspirations encouraged global lifestyles, reducing emphasis on traditional markers of ethnic identity.; Revival of Traditional Arts: Growing prosperity enabled renewed pride in folk art, craft, and traditions, seen in state-supported cultural festivals.; New Markets and Consumerism: Global brands appropriated ethnic motifs, sparking both cultural pride and concerns of distortion.; Resource Competition: Economic growth created unequal access to jobs and resources, often perceived along communal lines (e.g., Sachar Committee findings on Muslims).; Political Mobilization: Leaders used communal rhetoric to mobilize votes amidst rising inequality and dislocation.; Global Religious Movements: Liberalization increased exposure to transnational religious movements, reshaping communal alignments.. Overall, going forward, inclusive economic structures and equitable social policies are essential to ensure that globalization strengthens pluralism rather than fragmenting society.

224. [2024 Q1] Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. (150 Words 10 Marks)

The transition from the Rig Vedic period to the Later Vedic period marked major shifts in both societal structures and economic practices in ancient India. Key points: Varna System: The Rig Vedic Society was relatively egalitarian with flexible social classes that later evolved into a more rigid and hierarchical society.; Earlier the women had relatively higher social status, as they were allowed to participate in religious rituals and had access to education.; A drastic change is seen in the institution of marriage, where earlier monogamy, polygamy and polyandry was practised which later polygamy became prominent and 8 types of marriage came into existence.; Practice of Niyog and widow remarriage was also seen during the Rig Vedic period.; Also the practice of child marriage, emerged during the Later Vedic period, which was absent in the Rig Vedic society.; Religion...

225. [2024 Q2] Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Pallava art and architecture mark the early development of Dravidian style, which later reached its peak under the Chola Dynasty. Key points: Rock-cut Architecture: This was the initial phase of Pallava architecture

consisting of two groups of monuments - the Mahendra group and the Mamalla group.; Structural Architecture: Temples evolved from rock-cut to structural stone temples, for instance the Kailasanatha Temple in Kanchipuram and the Shore temple in Mamallapuram .; Sculpture: Pallava art is noted for its detailed, naturalistic depiction of gods, humans, and animals.; Role in Fine Arts: They were prominent supporters of the fine arts.; Literature: The Pallavas of Kanchi supported literature in a variety of languages, including Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrit, and Telugu.; Pallavas played a key role in the development of early Tamil literature, particularly the growth of bhakti literature.. Overall, early temple architecture in...

226. [2024 Q3] What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results. (150 Words 10 Marks)

The Quit India Movement was started on 8 August 1942 at Gowalia Tank, Maharashtra, during a time when the Indian freedom struggle was gaining momentum in World War II. Key points: Failure of the Cripps Mission: The British sent Sir Stafford Cripps to India which was expected to give India a constitutional solution but the proposal offered limited self-rule in the form of Dominion Status which disheartened the Indian masses.; Involvement of Indians in World War II: Britain's decision to involve India in World War II without consulting Indian leaders sparked widespread resentment and dissatisfaction among the Indian populace.; Japanese Invasion: The fear of a Japanese invasion during World War II in Southeast Asia caused widespread panic in India, leading many people to flee cities like Madras and Calcutta.; Economic Condition because of the War: The economic conditions...

227. [2024 Q4] What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones? (150 Words 10 Marks)

Sea surface temperature rise means the increase in the average temperature of the ocean's surface, mainly because of global warming and climate change. y Warmer sea surfaces act as a key factor in driving the formation of tropical cyclones, as they provide the heat and moisture necessary to fuel these storms. Key points: Warmer sea surfaces act as a key factor in driving the formation of tropical cyclones, as they provide the heat and moisture necessary to fuel these storms.; 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.; Tropical cyclones originate and intensify over warm tropical oceans.; The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are: (i) Large sea...

228. [2024 Q5] Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries. (150 Words 10 Marks)

Rural-urban migration is important in the economic growth of developing countries by shifting the labour force from less productive agricultural sectors to more dynamic industrial and service sectors in cities. Key points: C – Connectivity: Large cities offer superior connectivity, including well-developed road networks, railways, and air transport.; Example: Cities like Mumbai and Delhi are major transport hubs, attracting migrants with easy access to other regions and opportunities.; I – Infrastructure: Urban centres have advanced infrastructure, such as banking, housing, and healthcare, which make them more appealing to migrants.; Example: Metro systems, flyovers, and smart city initiatives improve urban living standards and make cities attractive destinations for migration.; T – Technology & Opportunities: Cities are often hubs for technological advancements and offer diverse job opportunities in sectors like IT, manufacturing, and finance.; Example: Bengaluru, as India's IT capital...

229. [2024 Q6] What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain. (150 Words 10 Marks)

A cloudburst is an extreme weather event characterised by a sudden and intense downpour, often accompanied by hail and thunder, capable of causing flash floods. Key points: It is caused by strong upward

air currents that prevent condensing raindrops from falling, allowing large amounts of water to accumulate at high altitudes.; When these currents weaken, all the accumulated water falls rapidly in a concentrated area, leading to heavy rainfall.; Cloudbursts are especially common in mountainous regions, where warm air currents tend to follow the slopes upward, contributing to rapid rainfall.; The steep terrain also intensifies the effects, as water flows into valleys and gullies, causing flash floods and major damage.; Example: Cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh (August 2024), Cloudburst near the Amarnath cave in Jammu and Kashmir (2022), Cloudburst in Uttarakhand in 2013 Measures to Mitigate Cloudburst Impacts; Early...

230. [2024 Q7] What is the concept of a ‘demographic Winter’? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate. (150 Words 10 Marks)

The demographic winter means a worldwide decline in birth rates particularly when birth rates fall below the replacement level of approximately 2.1 children per woman. Key points: Declining birth rates and fertility levels below replacement; Increasing median age of the population; A growing proportion of elderly relative to working-age adults effect; Potential labour shortages and economic stagnation; Reduced workforce and shrinking consumer base affect economies.; Strains on pension systems and healthcare. Overall, without major changes in fertility patterns or effective policy interventions, the effects of demographic winter are likely to become more pronounced in the coming decades.

231. [2024 Q8] Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women’s empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation? (150 Words 10 Marks)

y Gender means the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. • This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. • As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time. Key points: This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other.; As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.; Concept where men and women have equal access to opportunities, resources, and rights.; Concept rooted in liberal feminism - egalitarianism (Betty Friedman); More focus on ‘de jure’ equality (sort of equality before law); Example: The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 in India, Article 15 (1)...

232. [2024 Q9] Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss. (150 Words 10 Marks)

y Inter-caste and inter-religious marriages are indicators of social mobility and cultural integration Reason for Improvement in the Rate of Inter-caste Marriages: y Similar economic status reduces caste consciousness. • Dilution of caste-based identities, especially in urban settings. • Modern education and employment lessen caste significance. • Endogamy often persists because of stark economic differences; it gets reduced in cases of economic equality. Key points: Similar economic status reduces caste consciousness.; Dilution of caste-based identities, especially in urban settings.; Modern education and employment lessen caste significance.; Endogamy often persists because of stark economic differences; it gets reduced in cases of economic equality.; Strong barriers exist because of distinct religious identities which are difficult to dilute.; Religion is a key regulator of marriage customs.. Overall, reasons for Relatively less Interreligious Marriages: y Strong barriers exist because of distinct religious...

233. [2024 Q10] In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, and private sector would be most productive? (150 Words 10 Marks)

y Public-private collaboration is important in addressing socio-economic issues of development. • Why: To enhance resource mobilisation, innovation, and implementation capacities. Key points: Why: To enhance resource mobilisation, innovation, and implementation capacities.; Infrastructure Development: Public-

Private Partnerships (PPP) model to fund and manage large-scale infrastructure.; Healthcare: Collaboration in healthcare services, ensuring wider access and quality.; Example: Ayushman Bharat with private hospitals providing insurance coverage to low-income groups.; Education: Partnerships to boost skill development, particularly in vocational education.; Example: Skill India Initiative, with private companies offering skill training programs.. Overall, example: Highway development in India • Healthcare: Collaboration in healthcare services, ensuring wider access and quality. • Example: Ayushman Bharat with private hospitals providing insurance coverage to low-income groups. • Education: Partnerships to boost skill development, particularly in vocational education. • Example: Skill India Initiative, with private companies offering skill...

234. [2024 Q11] “Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture.” Comment. (Answer in 250 words)

The Chola Empire, flourishing from the 9th to 13th centuries in Southern India, was a beacon of artistic and architectural innovation. Key points: Chola Sculptures: They often depicted deities, dancers, musicians, and warriors, with a focus on realism and intricate details.; Chola Paintings: The murals of the Chola age bring out diverse emotions on many faces, a feature rarely seen in contemporary Indian art.; Chola Music: In music, twenty-three pannas were used.; Chola Dance: Bharatanatyam was patronised.; Chola Drama: Rajarajeswara natakam and Rajarajavijayam were most celebrated Dramas.; Cholas used stone as construction material instead of bricks.; Massive, elaborate and decorative Gopuram (larger compared to Pallavas) acted as the main gate to the complex.; Temple complex was designed in Panchayatana style with a principal temple and four subsidiary temples.; Entrance to the temple was decorated with sculptures of Dwarapala, Mithuna and Yakshi.. Overall, their period marked a high point in South Indian culture, with their artistic contributions influencing generations and leaving an enduring legacy in Indian art and architecture.

235. [2024 Q12] How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power? (250 Words 15 Marks)

World War I, also known as the Great War, started in 1914 after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. Key points: By 1900, several European nations had empires across the globe with Britain and France holding the beacon of Imperialism.; Britain wanted to secure the existing Balance of Power by forging alliance with France (erstwhile enemy) against Germany, for as long as Europe was divided, Britain's hegemony was secured.; France was determined to restore its prestige and power and to regain the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, while Germany implemented 'Weltpolitik', i.e., world policy to transform Germany into a global power through aggressive diplomacy and the acquisition of overseas colonies.; “Blank check assurance” between Germany and Austria-Hungary sought military and political assurance for securing the Balkans.; Austria-Hungary wanted Austrian dominance in the Balkans and to teach the Serbs a lesson for supposedly sponsoring Gavrilo Princip and other assassins.; Russia fought to protect its alliance with Serbia and to gain possession of the Bosphorus and thus access to the Mediterranean.; For France, a united Germany was a major threat for its colonial endeavours and it also wanted to regain regions of Alsace and Lorraine.; German unification marked with a strong military combined with the strongest industrial base in Europe led to its desire for a greater share in European expansion.. Overall, this upheaval dismantled the old order, replacing it...

236. [2024 Q13] How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Romesh Chandra Dutt calculated that by 1850, the value of Britain's cotton production had reached 2 billion pounds, while the number of handloom weavers in India fell from 10 million in 1850 to just 2.5 million by 1900. Key points: Transportation of Raw materials like cotton, opium and jute to meet demands of British Industries.; Excessive tariff and conditionalities on Indian goods and thereby compelling Indians to sell raw

materials at cheap rates and buy-back British finished/manufactured goods at high prices.; In matters of quality, Indian weavers could easily hold the dominance but in the matter of price he was hopelessly beaten by the cheap machine made goods churned out in British factories.; India, which contributed 24% to global GDP and whose product embellished the European market in the late 18th Century, was made to import half of European cotton from Manchester by 1830.; Lack of Patronage of local rulers and absence of scientific techniques of production during the later mughals.; Low significance given to the development of the navy resulted in lack of export opportunities for Indian traders.; Excessive dependence on handlooms and low scale family traditional business denied economies of scale.; Frequent recurrence of Famine, plague and epidemics killed artisans in large numbers.; Occupational imbalances leading to rural unemployment and underemployment.. Overall, the shift toward mass production and mechanisation led to major de-industrialization in India, undermining traditional crafts...

237. [2024 Q14] The groundwater potential of the Gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India? (250 Words 15 Marks)

The Gangetic Valley is one of the most fertile and densely populated regions in the country. Key points: High-yielding varieties during the Green Revolution; Inefficient Irrigation Practices; Urbanization and Industrial Use - Consumption Culture; Climate change - Changes in monsoon patterns - affecting natural groundwater recharge Consequences for India's Food Security; Lower groundwater levels - reduced Irrigation Capacity - lower; yields - Lower agricultural productivity in the Gangetic Valley - decrease in the food grain production; Decrease in grain supply - higher food prices - unaffordable basic staples for poor; Mismatch in demand and supply - dependence on imports of food grain; It can limit the cultivation of a variety of crops, reducing dietary diversity.. Overall, addressing the decline in groundwater potential requires a multi-pronged

238. [2024 Q15] What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered? (250 Words 15 Marks)

Aurora australis and aurora borealis are natural light displays in the Earth's upper atmosphere that are caused by solar activity, such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections. • The aurora can be seen in high-latitude regions near the poles of both the northern and southern hemisphere. • In the north the display is known as the aurora borealis often seen in countries like Norway, Sweden, Canada, and Alaska. • In the south it is called the aurora australis visible from Antarctica, New Zealand, and southern parts of Australia.. • Both auroras display similar colours and patterns and are triggered by the same solar phenomena, though they occur at opposite ends of the Earth. Key points: The aurora can be seen in high-latitude regions near the poles of both the northern and southern hemisphere.; In the north the display is known as the aurora borealis often seen in countries like Norway, Sweden, Canada, and Alaska.; In the south it is called the aurora australis visible from Antarctica, New Zealand, and southern parts of Australia..; Both auroras display similar colours and patterns and are triggered by the same solar phenomena, though they occur at opposite ends of the Earth.; Solar Wind and Magnetosphere Interaction; The Sun continuously emits a stream of charged particles, known as solar wind.; During one kind of solar storm called a coronal mass ejection, the Sun...

239. [2024 Q16] What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico? (250 Words 15 Marks)

How Tornadoes Form: Tornadoes form when a thunderstorm has a particular combination of winds. • Air rising in a thunderstorm can begin to spin when it is affected by winds blowing it in different directions. • It starts to rise and is pushed to the side by wind. • Winds moving in different speeds and directions at different altitudes cause the rising air to start spinning. • The key ingredient for tornado formation is wind shear, where winds at different altitudes blow in different directions or speeds, causing a rotation in the lower atmosphere. • Air that spins as it rises is typical in a supercell, the strongest type of thunderstorm, but not all spinning air creates a tornado. • Intense heating of the ground causes strong convection current. • The

upthrust of warm and moist tropical and subtropical air mass by cold polar air mass presents an ideal condition for formation of tornadoes. Key points: Tornadoes form when a thunderstorm has a particular combination of winds.; Air rising in a thunderstorm can begin to spin when it is affected by winds blowing it in different directions.; It starts to rise and is pushed to the side by wind.; Winds moving in different speeds and directions at different altitudes cause the rising air to start spinning.; The key ingredient for tornado formation is wind shear, where winds at different...

240. [2024 Q17] What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India? (250 Words 15 Marks)

y Regional disparity means the uneven distribution of resources, opportunities, and development across different regions. Key points: Per capita income in states like Goa and Delhi is many times higher than that in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, showcasing stark economic inequality.; Urban centres like Mumbai and Bengaluru thrive with technology hubs, while rural areas in central and eastern India struggle with basic amenities, aggravating the regional divide.; This leads to differences in the economic status, the quality of life and social well being.; Regional diversity means the presence of distinct variations and differences in culture, language, traditions, customs, geography, and other aspects of society across different regions within a country or a larger geographical area.; Life expectancy and literacy are markedly higher in southern and western regions compared to northern and eastern states.; States like Delhi, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu attract migrants from poorer states, intensifying regional tensions and contributing to socio- economic issues.; The FDI inflow in some states like Maharashtra, Haryana etc with higher development indicators is high whereas in states like Orissa, Uttar Pradesh etc with poorer development indicators is low.; Finance Commission: Increase finance support from the Central government to backward states.; NITI Aayog: Policy initiatives such as Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and the NITI Forum for the North-East .. Overall, measures taken to reduce Regional Disparities among states: y Finance Commission: Increase finance support from...

241. [2024 Q18] Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment. (250 Words 15 Marks)

Introduction y Affirmative action to promote equity and social justice, many underprivileged sections are yet to fully benefit. • Recently, The Supreme Court ruled that sub- classification of SCs and STs is allowed under Articles 14, 15(4), and 16(4), promoting substantive equality over formal equality. y The Constitution mandates equity and social justice through policies like reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). y Actors such as historical marginalisation, implementation gaps, and societal discrimination contribute to this issue. • The caste system historically marginalised Scheduled Castes, denying them education, resources, and basic rights. • Scheduled Tribes faced social isolation, lack of essential services, and exploitation of land and resources. • Dalit and Adivasi women face compounded disadvantages of caste, class, gender, experiencing exclusion, exploitation, and violence. Key points: Affirmative action to promote equity and social justice, many underprivileged sections are; Recently, The Supreme Court ruled that sub- classification of SCs and STs is allowed under Articles 14, 15(4), and 16(4), promoting substantive equality over formal equality.; The Constitution mandates equity and social justice through policies like reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).; Actors such as historical marginalisation, implementation gaps, and societal discrimination contribute to this issue.; The caste system historically marginalised Scheduled Castes, denying them education, resources, and basic rights.; Scheduled Tribes faced social isolation, lack of...

242. [2024 Q19] Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family? (250 Words 15 Marks)

y Globalisation has influenced urban migration patterns, particularly among young, skilled, unmarried women. Key points: young, skilled, unmarried women.; Urban centres tend to offer more diverse environments where women can pursue careers and personal growth, contributing to shifts in family structures and social norms.; This trend has led to notable changes in personal freedom and family dynamics.; Increased Autonomy: Migration to urban areas provides women with greater opportunities for education and allows them to pursue personal and professional goals previously deemed unattainable.; Financial Independence: Employment in urban settings fosters financial independence.; Individual Choice in Partner Selection: The move from parental choice to individual preference in marriage reflects broader societal changes.; Changing Marriage Dynamics: Many women are delaying marriage to focus on their careers.; Shift from Joint to Nuclear Families: Rural-urban migration is leading to a decline in the traditional joint family system.; Elderly Dependents in Villages: Elderly family members often remain in villages, managing agricultural activities with assistance from hired labourers or. Overall, overall, these trends indicate major changes in both personal freedom for women and the nature of familial relationships in contemporary India.

243. [2024 Q20] Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities. (250 Words 15 Marks)

y India is described as the "Melting pot of Cultures". • Ethnic diversity, Linguistic diversity (over 1600 languages are & dialects are used), Religious diversity (home to major religions of the world), Regional diversity, Socio-economic diversity (as there's stark difference in one's social & economic condition). • In India, socio-economic marginalisation is deeply interrelated with factors like caste, religion, gender, ethnicity, and geography. Key points: Ethnic diversity, Linguistic diversity (over 1600 languages are & dialects are used), Religious diversity (home to major religions of the world), Regional diversity, Socio-economic diversity (as there's stark difference in one's social & economic condition).; In India, socio-economic marginalisation is deeply interrelated with factors like caste, religion, gender, ethnicity, and geography.; Sachar Committee Report (2006): Marginalised groups like SCs, STs, and Muslims face higher poverty, illiteracy, and poor healthcare, reflecting how cultural diversity links to socio-economic marginality.; NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (2023) indicated high incidences of poverty among SC, STs.; Intersecting Identities: Many individuals belong to multiple marginalised groups simultaneously.; Marginalised groups face barriers to quality education, perpetuating low-paying, insecure jobs, and deepening poverty.; Marginalised communities have limited access to healthcare, leading to higher mortality rates and lower life expectancy.; Example: Only 7 women ministers in present Union council of ministers & no Muslim minister in present Union government.; Sachar Committee Report (2006) highlighted underrepresentation of marginalised communities like Muslims in govt jobs.. Overall...

244. [2025 Q1] Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. (Answer in 150 words)

Harappan architecture shows a highly organized urban tradition rather than isolated monument-building. Its cities used grid planning, straight streets, fortified citadels and lower towns. Burnt bricks of standard proportions, covered drains, soak pits and wells indicate mature civic engineering. Houses usually opened into lanes, had courtyards, bathing spaces and private or shared drainage. Public structures such as the Great Bath, granaries, assembly halls and dock-like structures at Lothal suggest collective institutions, storage and trade. The architecture was functional, hygienic and standardized across sites from Harappa and Mohenjodaro to Dholavira and Kalibangan. Dholavira also shows water reservoirs and city divisions adapted to an arid landscape. Unlike Egypt or Mesopotamia, emphasis was not on royal palaces or temples but on civic order, water management, craft production and urban discipline. Thus Harappan architecture reflects technology, social coordination and practical urban governance.

245. [2025 Q2] Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism. (Answer in 150 words)

Akbar's religious syncretism aimed to create political loyalty and social peace in a diverse empire. He abolished discriminatory taxes such as jizya and pilgrimage tax, invited scholars of different faiths to the Ibadat Khana, and encouraged open theological debate. His policy of sulh-i-kul, or peace with all, treated the ruler as a protector of all communities rather than of one sect alone. Akbar patronised translations of Sanskrit works, married Rajput princesses without enforcing conversion and gave high offices to non-Muslim nobles. Din-i-Ilahi was not a mass religion but a small ethical fellowship stressing loyalty, restraint and moral conduct. His approach also changed court culture through Persian, Hindu, Jain, Christian and Sufi influences. Yet it remained largely court-centred and faced orthodox opposition. Overall, Akbar's syncretism was a pragmatic and ethical experiment in imperial integration.

246. [2025 Q3] 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

Chandella art, best represented at Khajuraho, converted stone into a lively world of devotion, beauty and movement. The temples follow the Nagara style with rising shikharas, rich wall projections and finely carved panels. Sculptors portrayed deities, apsaras, musicians, dancers, warriors, couples, animals and everyday scenes with remarkable energy. Their figures are not stiff; they bend, twist and interact, giving the impression of rhythm and living vitality. The celebrated mithuna images are part of a larger vision in which worldly life, fertility, auspiciousness and spiritual ascent coexist. Ornamentation is elaborate, yet the compositions remain balanced. The art also reflects tantric, Shaiva, Vaishnava and Jain influences, showing religious pluralism. By joining sacred architecture with human emotion, sensuality, labour and celebration, Chandella sculptors gave Indian temple art a broad and resilient expression of life.

247. [2025 Q4] How are climate change and the sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations? Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Climate change threatens island nations because their land, freshwater, economy and sovereignty are closely tied to low-lying coasts. Rising seas submerge beaches, settlements and farmland; Maldives, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Marshall Islands face chronic inundation risks. Saltwater enters aquifers and soils, reducing drinking water and crop productivity. Warmer oceans damage coral reefs, fisheries and tourism, which are lifelines for many Small Island Developing States. Stronger cyclones, storm surges and coastal erosion repeatedly destroy housing and public infrastructure. Population displacement creates the problem of climate migrants, while loss of territory may raise unprecedented questions about statehood, exclusive economic zones and cultural survival. Tuvalu's idea of a digital nation shows the gravity of the threat. The issue is deeply unjust, as many islands emit little greenhouse gas but face existential harm. Finance, adaptation, relocation planning and rapid emission cuts are essential.

248. [2025 Q5] What are non-farm primary activities? How are these activities related to physiographic features in India? Discuss with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Non-farm primary activities are direct uses of natural resources other than crop cultivation. They include fishing, forestry, gathering, mining, quarrying, livestock rearing, salt making and plantation-related resource extraction. In India their location is strongly shaped by physiography. Coastal plains and continental shelves favour marine fishing, salt production and aquaculture, as seen in Gujarat, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Forested plateaus and hills support collection of bamboo, lac, tendu leaves, honey and medicinal plants. Mineral-rich plateaus such as Chota Nagpur and Odisha sustain coal, iron ore, bauxite and manganese mining. Himalayan and arid regions encourage sheep, goat and yak rearing, while riverine wetlands support inland fisheries. Thus relief, soil, water, forest cover, minerals and climate determine the nature and intensity of these activities. They diversify rural livelihoods but require ecological safeguards and community rights.

249. [2025 Q6] Explain briefly the ecological and economic benefits of solar energy generation in India with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Solar energy offers India both environmental gains and economic opportunity. Ecologically, it reduces dependence on coal, lowers greenhouse-gas emissions and cuts air pollution. Rooftop systems reduce transmission losses, while solar pumps can replace diesel irrigation if groundwater use is regulated. Solar parks in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka use high insolation zones for clean electricity, and floating solar projects can reduce land pressure and evaporation. Economically, solar power improves energy security by reducing fossil-fuel imports, creates jobs in manufacturing, installation and maintenance, and supports decentralised power for villages, schools and health centres. Cheaper tariffs from competitive bidding have made solar attractive for industries and distribution companies. Schemes such as PM-KUSUM and rooftop solar also help farmers and households. However, land acquisition, storage, recycling and grid integration need attention. Properly planned, solar energy can support growth with lower ecological cost.

250. [2025 Q7] What are Tsunamis? How and where are they formed? What are their consequences? Explain with examples. (Answer in 150 words)

Tsunamis are long, high-energy sea waves produced by sudden displacement of a large volume of ocean water. Most are generated by undersea earthquakes at subduction zones, where one tectonic plate slips beneath another and the sea floor rises or falls abruptly. They may also result from submarine landslides, volcanic eruptions or meteor impacts. In deep oceans they travel very fast with low height, but near coasts the waves slow down, grow taller and strike with destructive force. The Pacific Ring of Fire and the Indian Ocean subduction zones are major tsunami-prone areas. Consequences include coastal flooding, loss of life, destruction of ports, homes and roads, salinisation of soil and aquifers, and long-term trauma. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami devastated Andaman-Nicobar, Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Early warning systems, coastal zoning, mangroves and community drills reduce risk.

251. [2025 Q8] How does smart city in India, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice? (Answer in 150 words)

A smart city can address poverty and distributive justice only when technology is used for inclusion, not merely for beautification. Smart transport, GIS-based service mapping, affordable housing, public Wi-Fi, e-governance and digital grievance systems can improve access for the urban poor. Better water supply, sanitation, street lighting and waste management directly benefit slums and informal workers. Integrated command centres may help emergency response, traffic control and safety for women. Skill centres, vendor zones and digital payments can support livelihoods. However, smart-city projects often prioritise central business districts and infrastructure that may displace the poor. Distributive justice therefore requires participatory planning, social audits, rental housing, universal basic services, and protection of street vendors and informal settlements. When combined with schemes such as PMAY-U and AMRUT, smart cities can reduce exclusion; without equity safeguards they may deepen urban inequality.

252. [2025 Q9] The ethos of civil service in India stand for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness. Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

The Indian civil service was designed to combine administrative competence with commitment to the constitutional idea of India. Professionalism requires neutrality, efficiency, evidence-based decision-making, rule-bound conduct, financial propriety and service delivery. Nationalistic consciousness adds a larger commitment to unity, integrity, democratic values and welfare of all citizens. A civil servant must implement policies without partisan bias, yet remain sensitive to India's diversity, border security, disaster response and inclusive development. During elections, pandemics, floods or welfare delivery, professionalism ensures systems work; national purpose ensures that the weakest and remotest citizens are not ignored. This ethos is rooted in the Constitution, not narrow nationalism. It demands integrity, empathy, public accountability and

respect for fundamental rights. Thus Indian civil service is expected to be technically competent, politically neutral and morally committed to nation-building through justice, equality and fraternity.

253. [2025 Q10] Do you think that globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture? Justify your answer. (Answer in 150 words)

Globalization has certainly promoted aggressive consumer culture through advertising, global brands, fast fashion, credit-driven spending and lifestyle imitation. It often turns identity into consumption and creates ecological stress through overuse of resources. In India, malls, online platforms and celebrity marketing have changed aspirations even in smaller towns. Yet globalization cannot be reduced only to consumerism. It has also enabled knowledge flows, technology transfer, diaspora networks, global civil society, cultural exchange, new jobs and wider access to education and health information. Yoga, Indian cuisine, films and digital services have also travelled outward. Global cooperation on climate change, vaccines and disaster relief shows another side of interdependence. The outcome depends on regulation, cultural confidence and social policy. Therefore globalization produces consumerist pressures, but it also creates opportunities for innovation, pluralism and cooperation when guided by equity and sustainability.

254. [2025 Q11] Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

Mahatma Jotirao Phule widened social reform beyond elite debates and placed the oppressed at the centre of public life. Through the Satyashodhak Samaj, he challenged Brahmanical dominance, caste hierarchy and ritual authority. His writings, especially *Gulamgiri* and *Shetkaryacha Asud*, exposed the exploitation of Shudras, Ati-Shudras, peasants and labouring groups. Phule saw caste and economic oppression as linked; therefore he criticised moneylenders, priestly control and unjust land relations. His work for women was equally important. With Savitribai Phule, he opened schools for girls and lower-caste children, supported widow remarriage, opposed child marriage and created shelter for pregnant widows. He argued that education was the main instrument of liberation for those denied dignity. Phule also gave a historical counter-narrative by celebrating Baliraja and locating moral authority among productive communities rather than hereditary elites. His concern covered peasants, labourers, women, Dalits and other neglected groups. He was not merely a reformer of customs but a critic of social power. His legacy influenced non-Brahmin movements, anti-caste politics and later ideas of social justice. Thus Phule's reforms touched almost every subaltern question: education, caste, patriarchy, agrarian exploitation and human dignity.

255. [2025 Q12] Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations. (Answer in 250 words)

India's early consolidation after independence was a difficult but creative process of building unity, democracy and development amid Partition, poverty and diversity. Politically, integration of princely states, adoption of the Constitution, universal adult franchise, linguistic reorganisation of states and creation of independent institutions gave legitimacy to the Union. The civil services, Election Commission, Supreme Court and Parliament helped stabilise democratic governance. Economically, India chose planned development, public-sector expansion, land reforms, community development and major irrigation and industrial projects. The mixed economy sought self-reliance while avoiding both colonial dependence and extreme *laissez-faire*. In education, emphasis was laid on universities, IITs, scientific research, school expansion and institutions such as UGC, though literacy remained a major challenge. Education was seen as essential for citizenship and modernization. In international relations, India adopted non-alignment, anti-colonial solidarity, support for the UN, peaceful coexistence and independent foreign policy. Relations with neighbours, China and major powers were managed in a world divided by the Cold War. The early phase had limitations, including slow social reform and uneven growth. Yet it established a democratic state,

developmental economy, scientific temper and global voice, forming the foundation for India's later transformation.

256. [2025 Q13] The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. (Answer in 250 words)

The French Revolution remains relevant because it transformed the language of politics from dynastic privilege to popular sovereignty. Its ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity continue to guide democratic constitutions, human rights movements and struggles against oppression. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen asserted that citizens, not monarchs, are the source of authority. Modern ideas of secular citizenship, equality before law, representative institutions and accountable government owe much to this legacy. The Revolution also challenged feudal privileges, hereditary status and clerical dominance, inspiring later reforms across Europe, Latin America and Asia. Nationalism acquired a new meaning as a community of citizens rather than subjects of a king. At the same time, the Reign of Terror and Napoleonic authoritarianism warn that revolutions can devour liberty if institutions and moderation fail. Contemporary debates on social justice, taxation, women's rights, citizenship, protest and state power still echo French revolutionary themes. Movements against racial discrimination, colonialism and economic inequality draw upon similar moral claims. The Revolution's enduring relevance therefore lies both in its promise and its caution: democracy needs equality, rights and citizen participation, but also constitutional restraint and respect for human dignity.

257. [2025 Q14] Give a geographical explanation of the distribution of off-shore oil reserves of the world. How are they different from the on-shore occurrences of oil reserves? (Answer in 250 words)

Off-shore oil reserves occur mainly in continental shelves and passive continental margins where thick marine sediments accumulated over millions of years. Organic matter deposited in low-oxygen conditions was buried, heated and converted into hydrocarbons, later trapped in folded, faulted or porous rock structures. Therefore major off-shore reserves are found in the Persian Gulf, North Sea, Gulf of Mexico, West African margin, Brazil's pre-salt basins, South China Sea and parts of the Arctic shelf. In India, Mumbai High, Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery offshore basins reflect similar sedimentary conditions. Off-shore reserves differ from on-shore reserves in location, technology, cost and risk. On-shore oil occurs beneath land sedimentary basins such as West Asia's deserts, Russia, Texas, Assam and Rajasthan, and is easier to explore, drill and transport. Off-shore extraction requires platforms, subsea pipelines, specialised vessels, deep-water drilling and stronger safety systems. It faces hazards from storms, corrosion, blowouts and marine pollution. Costs are higher, especially in deep and ultra-deep water, but reserves may be large and strategically valuable. On-shore operations create land acquisition and local ecological issues; off-shore operations threaten marine ecosystems and fisheries. Thus both depend on sedimentary geology, but off-shore oil is technologically more demanding and environmentally more complex.

258. [2025 Q15] How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning? (Answer in 250 words)

GIS and remote sensing provide spatial data, while AI and drones add speed, precision and predictive capacity to planning. In locational planning, satellite imagery can identify land use, slope, drainage, vegetation, hazard zones and settlement patterns. GIS layers can then be overlaid to choose suitable sites for roads, schools, hospitals, industries or waste facilities. AI can process large datasets to detect patterns, forecast growth and rank alternative locations. Drones provide high-resolution, real-time images for cadastral mapping, encroachment detection, disaster assessment and infrastructure monitoring. In areal planning, these tools can support watershed management, urban expansion control, crop assessment, forest conservation and climate-risk mapping. For example, flood-prone zones can be mapped through remote sensing, drone surveys can locate breaches, GIS can plan evacuation routes, and AI can predict vulnerable

settlements. Smart cities, PM Gati Shakti and land-record modernization can benefit from such integration. However, data quality, privacy, interoperability, local capacity and ethical use are crucial. Technology should not replace ground consultation. Used responsibly, AI, drones, GIS and RS can make planning more accurate, transparent and inclusive.

259. [2025 Q16] Discuss how the changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins of the planet take place due to tectonic movements of the crustal masses. (Answer in 250 words)

The shape and size of continents and ocean basins change because Earth's lithosphere is divided into moving tectonic plates. At divergent boundaries, plates move apart and magma rises to form new oceanic crust. Mid-ocean ridges in the Atlantic show sea-floor spreading, which widens ocean basins. At convergent boundaries, oceanic crust is subducted beneath continental or oceanic plates, shrinking oceans and creating trenches, volcanic arcs and mountain systems. The Pacific Ocean is bordered by many subduction zones and is gradually being consumed. Continental collision, as between the Indian and Eurasian plates, thickens crust and forms mountains like the Himalayas, altering continental margins and drainage. Transform faults laterally displace crust without creating or destroying it, changing coastlines and basin geometry. Rifting can split continents, as in East Africa, and may eventually create a new ocean. Over geological time, the Wilson cycle explains opening and closing of ocean basins and assembly or breakup of supercontinents such as Pangaea. Erosion and sedimentation modify the surface, but tectonics provides the fundamental force. Thus continents and oceans are not fixed; they are dynamic products of crustal creation, movement, collision and destruction.

260. [2025 Q17] Discuss the distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin with special reference to land, soil and water resources. (Answer in 250 words)

The Ganga River Basin is one of the world's most densely populated regions because it combines fertile land, productive soils and abundant water. The alluvial plains of Uttarakhand foothills, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal provide level terrain suitable for settlement, transport and intensive agriculture. Deep alluvial soils are renewed by river deposits and support rice, wheat, sugarcane, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables. The basin's surface water, groundwater and canal networks enable irrigation and multiple cropping, which historically sustained large rural populations and market towns. High density is especially visible in eastern Uttar Pradesh, north Bihar and the deltaic areas of West Bengal, where fertile soils and water availability support labour-intensive farming. Urban centres such as Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Patna and Kolkata grew along river transport, industry, trade and religious networks. However, distribution is not uniform. Flood-prone, waterlogged, ravine or erosion-affected areas may have stressed settlements, while upper Himalayan zones have lower density due to rugged terrain. Groundwater depletion, pollution, embankment failures and land fragmentation now challenge the basin's carrying capacity. Population pressure is therefore both a result of rich natural resources and a cause of their degradation. Sustainable water use, soil conservation and livelihood diversification are essential.

261. [2025 Q18] How do you account for the growing fast food industries given that there are increased health concerns in modern society? Illustrate your answer with the Indian experience. (Answer in 250 words)

The growth of fast food despite rising health concerns reflects changes in lifestyle, income, urban work patterns and marketing. In India, longer commutes, nuclear families, women's workforce participation, student mobility and platform delivery have increased demand for quick, cheap and predictable meals. Global and domestic chains adapt products to Indian tastes, while social media, discounts and celebrity advertising make fast food aspirational. Malls, multiplexes and online food apps have converted eating into leisure and convenience. Young consumers often value taste, speed and social experience more than long-term health risks. At the same time, health concerns are real: obesity, diabetes, hypertension and childhood nutrition problems are rising, partly due to high salt, sugar, trans fats and ultra-processed foods. The paradox

continues because information alone rarely changes behaviour when time, affordability and urban design favour fast food. In India, street foods and packaged snacks add another layer to the industry. Regulation such as front-of-pack labelling, trans-fat limits, school canteen rules, public nutrition campaigns and promotion of millets and balanced diets can help. The solution is not moral policing but healthier choices, responsible advertising, food safety and urban systems that make nutritious food accessible.

262. [2025 Q19] Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India - Comment. (Answer in 250 words)

In India, environmental protection and poor people's immediate needs can sometimes appear to conflict. Restrictions on forest use may affect tribal livelihoods; closure of polluting small units may reduce jobs; protected areas may limit grazing or fuelwood; and higher energy prices may burden low-income households. Large conservation projects can become unjust if they ignore people who depend directly on land, water and forests. However, the conflict is not inevitable. Poor communities are also the worst victims of pollution, floods, droughts, heat waves, soil erosion and unsafe water. Environmental degradation deepens poverty by destroying livelihoods and health. Sustainable growth must therefore combine ecological protection with social justice. Examples include joint forest management, community rights under forest laws, clean cooking fuel, decentralised solar energy, watershed development, climate-resilient agriculture, urban public transport and green jobs. Compensation, rehabilitation and livelihood transition are essential where restrictions are unavoidable. Policy must distinguish between luxury emissions and subsistence use. India needs a development model in which the poor are partners in conservation, not victims of it. Thus environmental protection may clash with short-term needs if designed narrowly, but inclusive sustainability can secure both livelihood and ecological security.

263. [2025 Q20] Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion. (Answer in 250 words)

Tribal development in India has often revolved around displacement and rehabilitation because mineral extraction, dams, industries, highways, wildlife reserves and security projects are frequently located in tribal regions. Adivasi communities have lost land, forests, sacred sites and community networks in the name of national development. Rehabilitation packages often focus on cash or housing but fail to restore livelihoods, cultural identity, access to forests and social cohesion. This makes displacement a central tribal question. Yet tribal development cannot be reduced only to these two axes. It also involves self-governance, education, health, nutrition, land rights, forest rights, language, markets, political representation and protection from exploitation. Laws such as PESA and the Forest Rights Act recognise community participation, but implementation remains uneven. Development should move from a welfare-and-compensation model to a rights-based and culturally sensitive model. Free, prior and informed consent, gram sabha empowerment, minor forest produce value chains, local schools, mobile health services, skill development and ecological livelihoods are crucial. Rehabilitation must be fair where displacement is unavoidable, but the first principle should be minimising displacement and respecting tribal autonomy. Therefore displacement and rehabilitation are major axes, but genuine tribal development is broader: dignity, rights, livelihood and self-determined progress.