

NEXT IAS

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(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : SRISHTI MISHRA

NEXT IAS Roll No.: ECFC23L1020 Date of Examination : 22nd Aug 2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar Bhopal Online

Test Code : TC-055 FLT FLT+

Time Taken : 3 hrs Program : SLT SLT+

MAIN TEST SERIES 2023 (TEST-9)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Question-cum Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 56 pages. Immediately on receipt of the booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.

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Question paper will be provided separately and can be taken by the candidates after conclusion of the exam.

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. :

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Student's Queries for the Evaluator (if any write them below)

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Evaluator's response

Handwritten area for evaluator's response, featuring horizontal dashed lines for writing.

(For filling)

Evaluator

Q.No

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1	1			
2	3			
3	5			
4	7			
5	9			
6	11			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	24			
13	27			
14	30			
15	33			
16	36			
17	39			
18	42			
19	45			
20	48			
Grand Total				

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS



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2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
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5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

1. कई विदेशी यात्रियों ने समय-समय पर विजयनगर साम्राज्य के बारे में अपनी टिप्पणियों को स्पष्ट रूप से प्रलेखित किया है, और इसके इतिहास के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए मूल्यवान स्रोत प्रस्तुत किए हैं। स्पष्ट कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Numerous foreign travellers have vividly documented their observations of the Vijayanagara Empire over time, offering valuable sources for reconstructing its history. Elucidate.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Foreign travellers have often provided a new perspective through which to see a civilization. What goes unseen by the local historians is documented by the foreigners.

Abdullah
Razzak

Muniz

Foreign
Travellers ~~from~~ at
Vijayanagara

Niccolo Conti

Observations of vijayanagara

- * Size of the empire: most travellers recounted vijayanagara to be one of the largest kingdoms by size in the world.

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- * Grandness of architecture and sculpture: monolithic, large sculptures showed the dominance and majesty of the empire. eg: Vithallanarayana, Vihuparkash at Hampi.
- * Influence of Islamic architecture: secular buildings like elephant stables with arches and domes showed Vijayanagara to be an assimilating society.
- * Diverse system with Nayak - led administration. Travellers recorded the increasing power of Nayaks - eventually leading to weakening of Empire and Battle of Talikota.

Foreign travellers provided a layman's view into the socio-political & economic structure of Vijayanagara.

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2.

'आदि शंकराचार्य की विचारों के प्रतीत होने वाले अप्रासंगिक विश्वदृष्टिकोण को एकजुट करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका थी।' इस संदर्भ में उनके दार्शनिक विचार और भारतीय दर्शन पर उसके स्थायी प्रभाव की चर्चा कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

'Adi Shankaracharya had a profound role in uniting seemingly irreconcilable worldviews of thought'. In this context discuss his philosophical thought and its lasting impact on Indian philosophy.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Adi Shankaracharya is often quoted as the originator of the Bhakti movement that revolutionized socio-religious life throughout India in the 12th to 15th centuries.

Philosophical Thought

- ⊙ Shankaracharya was the proponent of the idea of monotheism in the midst of many Hindu gods and goddesses ⇒ Shaiva philosophy.
- ⊙ He believed in true devotion and was strongly against ritualistic excesses in Hinduism.

⊙ Also believed in equality of all humans in the eyes of God - against the orthodox caste system.

⊙ Advaita philosophy which considered "Atman" and "Brahman" as one, i.e. "monoism".

[Impact on Indian Philosophy]

- ⊙ led to other interpretations of the form of the ultimate God
eg: Ramanuja expanded with his "Vishishtha Advaita" or Qualified monoism.
- ⊙ Influenced northern bhakti saints like Rabi Das and Sur Das who further emphasized equality and devotion.

shankaracharya thus set the stage for a more liberal yet depth oriented understanding of religion.

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3. क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि जाति समस्या पर डॉ. बी आर अंबेडकर का दृष्टिकोण सामाजिक से अधिक राजनीतिक था? साथ ही सामाजिक सुधार के उद्देश्य से किए गए उनके प्रयासों पर भी प्रकाश डालिये।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Do you agree that Dr BR Ambedkar's view of the caste problem was more political than social? Also highlight his efforts aimed at social reform. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was one of the most outspoken leaders in the national movement, speaking up against injustice of all kinds, especially in the realm of the caste problem.

Political View of the Caste Problem

① B.R. Ambedkar believed that for any socio-economic change to occur, political change was the first step towards it.

② Demand for separate electorate as part of the Round Table Conference because Ambedkar believed that the demands and needs of the "Untouchables" was entirely different from the "Upper" Caste. Thus representation was required.

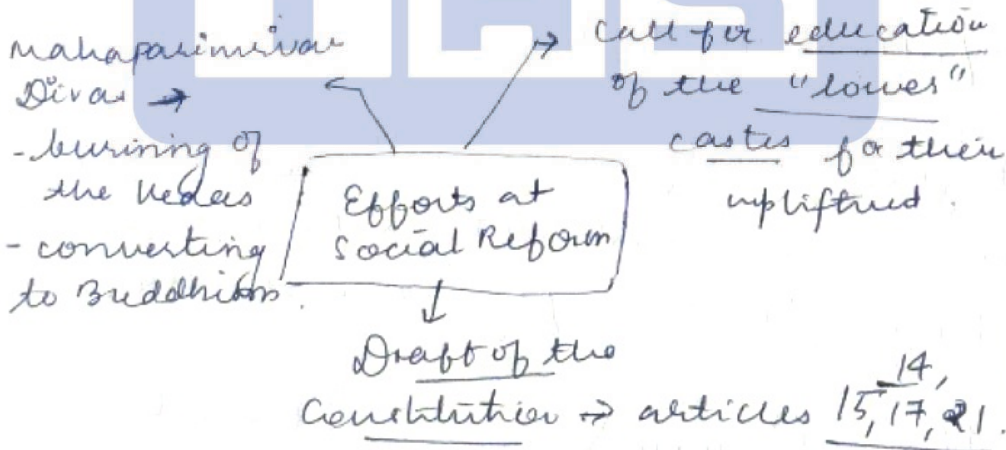
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① Poona Pact (signed by Gandhi & Ambedkar) was reached to resolve the demand for separate electorates (Ambedkar signed it out of pressure)

Social View of Caste Problem

- ② Historical subjugation of the "lower" castes - education restricted to the "upper" caste.
- ③ Sanskritization of the upper-middle classes created a wider divide.
- ④ Division of labour and employment-based identity created a loss of dignity for the "lower" castes.



Right to Equality was essential for a caste-ridden India. For Ambedkar, it was both a social & a political issue but political change was required first to encourage social change.

4. विश्व के महासागरों के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में समुद्री लवणता किस प्रकार भिन्न होती है, और इन विविधताओं में कौन से कारक योगदान देते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
 How does oceanic salinity vary across different regions of the world's oceans, and what factors contribute to these variations? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

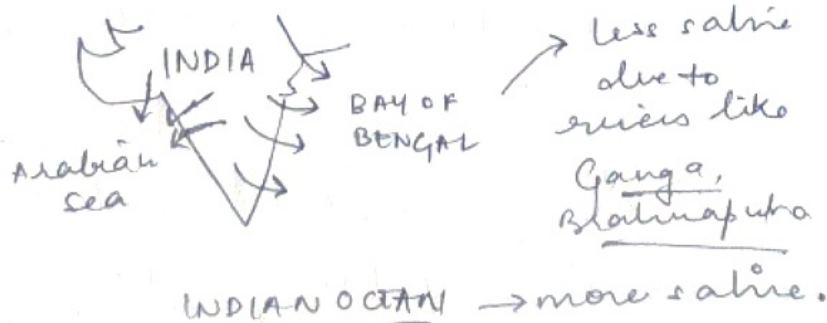
Oceanic salinity varies across the world depending on latitude & depth of the ocean due to factors like precipitation, ocean currents, etc.

Varying oceanic salinity

⊙ oceans are less saline at the surface and more saline at depths below the halocline (a transition phase at which salinity increases very rapidly with depth).

⊙ Higher salinity in middle of oceans, lower near continents, especially low where rivers empty into the sea.

eg:



FACTORS contributing to differential Salinity:

- ① High insolation at equator = high evaporation → high precipitation at equator → lower salinity at surface
 ⇒ 15° North and South are more saline than at the Equator.
- ② Ocean currents move the salinity and distribute concentrations. Saline northern waters come south due to cold currents. Warm currents take less saline water north (Northern Hemisphere).
- ③ Ice melt at poles → reduces salinity.
- ④ Rivers emptying into oceans → reduce salinity.
- ⑤ Geographical features eg: closed bay area - increased salinity (trapped water).

Salinity of Oceans determines

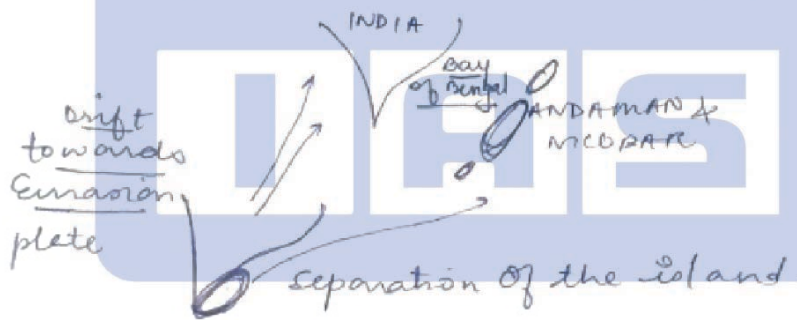
density of water as well as the biological diversity of the region.

5. बंगाल की खाड़ी और हिंद महासागर में भारतीय द्वीपों की उत्पत्ति की व्याख्या कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- Explain the origin of Indian islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Indian islands in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean consist mainly of the Andaman & Nicobar islands.

Origin of the islands

- ① Drift out from Indian continental plate:



- ② formed from basaltic flows, similar to what created the Deccan trap.

- ③ volcanic origin of the islands.
mantle plumes pushed out onto the surface, creating layers of basalt.

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most of the islands today all have similar features to Deccan region i.e. high mineral levels and denudation by natural processes.

Thus, islands in Indian Ocean & Bay of Bengal have volcanic origin and are formed majority of primary igneous rocks.

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6. भारत के भूजल संकट में योगदान देने वाले कारकों और देश में कृषि और जल सुरक्षा पर इसके प्रभाव की जाँच कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- Examine the factors contributing to India's groundwater crisis, and its implications for agriculture and water security in the country.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Recently, South Africa faced a zero-day attack - a case of severe water shortage. Reports claim that India is on a similar path in the near future.

Factors Contributing to India's Groundwater Crisis :-

- ① Agricultural misuse and overexploitation
 - ⊙ 90% of groundwater goes into irrigation for India's agriculture.
- ② Perverse subsidies on electricity allow farmers to overexploit groundwater.
- ③ Inadequate storage / replenishment
eg: Khadins, johads structures have become obsolete, while rain harvesting is low.
- ④ Reduced percolation due to expansion of urbanization and concrete roads leading to run off of rainwater.
- ⑤ Pollution & contamination due to industrial growth.

Implications of Crisis for Agriculture

⊙ negative implications:

- increased stress on water guzzling crops eg: sugarcane, paddy.
- may reduce output of agriculture affecting food security (economic impact)
- may lead to increased dependence on monsoons → farmer suicide, reduced incomes (social impact)

⊙ Positive implications

- increase precision agriculture demand eg: sprinkler irrigation.
- increase demand for millet cropping, sustainable agriculture.

Implications for Water Security

- ⊙ overuse of groundwater will create water shortage.
- ⊙ increased inequality and burden as well as health crisis.

Groundwater rejuvenation through schemes like Shri Jal Yojna and sustainable agriculture can save the country from a water crisis.

7. दुर्लभ खनिज क्या हैं, और वे तकनीकी प्रगति और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं?
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) - 10 अंक
What are critical minerals, and how do they influence technological advancement and national security?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Critical minerals are the essential resources that a nation's economy, industry and energy security depend on. This includes lithium, vanium, plutonium as well as oil, natural gas and coal.

Critical minerals influence technological advancement?

- ① Lithium has introduced the concept of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and semiconductor chip industry → search for superconductors, etc. (eg: UK99, Japan).
- ② Plutonium, vanium and thorium have allowed India (and other nations) to form a 3 step nuclear programme as well as encouraged research in fusion & fusion technology, eg: China's Sun Reactor (fusion).

⑥ Also influenced missions like samudhayan to explore reserves of critical minerals eg: polymetallic nodules.

Critical minerals influence National security :

① oil, coal and natural gas are primary components in Indian economy and industry, contributing to India's energy security. eg: 55% of electricity needs are met by coals.

eg:



India has a total of 12 day reserves of oil in case of national lockdown.

② India's hold on mineral resources can act as deterrent to China's expansion through economic warfare.

③ minerals = economic growth = global power.

④ nuclear power = self defense for India.

Thus, minerals can help India establish itself as a global leader and economic powerhouse.

8. भारतीय समाज के भीतर बहुलवाद को बढ़ावा देना राष्ट्र-निर्माण के प्रयास में कैसे योगदान देता है?
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- How does fostering pluralism within Indian society contribute to the endeavour of nation-building?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Pluralism is the ideal of multiplicity of cultures and traditions coexisting peacefully. Encouraging pluralism can foster nation building.

Existence of Anti-Pluralist Tendency

- ① Increasing polarity and extremism
eg: recent attacks in Nuh, Pravara, Haryana showing Hindu-Muslim discrimination.
- ② Rise in cases of mob lynching, hate speech and cow vigilantism.
- ③ Political polarization and fragmentation [caste based, religion based, etc].
eg: BSP is a "lower" caste-based party.
CPI is communist.
- ④ Lack of tolerance and rising fear of the "other" groups/identities.

Pluralism can Encourage National
Unity :

- ① Celebrating diversity of society in-
stead of separating religious festivals/
tradition.
eg: Diwali, Eid, Navroz can be
celebrated by all.
- ② Increased tolerance through cultural
tourism and exploration creating
curiosity instead of hatred. eg Buddhist
Circuits,
etc.
- ③ Appreciation of culture through secular
pedagogy, instilling unity and
team work in children.

Pluralism is a testimony to
India's age-old custom of
acceptance of diversity and
difference and encouraging it can
foster national unity. v.e. Akhand
Bharat.

9. उभरती गिग अर्थव्यवस्था के कारण श्रमिक वर्ग को जिन समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, उनकी बदलती प्रकृति की चर्चा कीजिये।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
Discuss the changing nature of problems the working class is facing due to the emerging gig economy.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Gig economy, recently defined by the new labour Codes, is all the work that takes place in the platform framework, often informally and on a contractual basis. Almost 50% of all new jobs being created are in the gig economy.

changing nature of Problems of working class :-

- ① Increased informalization of labour.
- ② Reduced social security coverage due to informal employee-employer link.
- ③ Increased flexibility of workforce allowing for multiple jobs and moonlighting - creating tensions with primary employees.
- ④ Increased use of digital media like online platforms for work - scope for data misuse / cyberthreat.

⑤ Gender specific concerns :

① more women than men in gig economy creates inequality and fear of harassment of women.

② Inadequate facilities / zero infrastructure eg: sanitation/toilets/ maternity leave.

③ low skill population, lack of infrastructure for training and upskilling.

④ Case of underemployment as many workers are skilled but have to resort to gig economy due to inadequate jobs in formal economy.

Thus, gig economy can only be turned into an opportunity through adequate coverage, training and women-centric facilities.

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10. वैश्वीकरण के परिणामस्वरूप समरूपीकरण की प्रवृत्ति ने वास्तव में भारत की स्थानीय संस्कृतियों को संरक्षित किया और बढ़ावा दिया है। टिप्पणी कीजिये
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks
- Homogenisation tendencies as a result of globalisation have in fact preserved and promoted the local cultures of India. Comment.

Globalization is the increased cross border movement of people, cultures and ideas, resulting in a global village.

Globalization resulted in homogenising tendencies:

① western influence became widespread

eg: pop culture → clothing, jeans, music, art
mcdonaldization → food chains and habits

② Reduced importance to local/regional uniqueness as youth drifted towards global trends.

However, homogenization also allowed for the preservation & promotion of local cultures.

Preservation of local cultures of India:

① Orthodox elements became more compulsive with their traditions and heritage as a counter-attack against homogenization.

eg: fear of nuclear families pushed some people to work harder to preserve the joint family system.

② Homogenization created a clear contour of the local traditions as a contrast to western ones.

eg: Diwali vs. ~~Christmas~~ Valentine's Day, etc.

Promotion of local culture

① Unique ^{Indian} elements were added to the homogenized industries.

eg: chicken tikka burger
& jeans with kurta

Thus, globalization ^{and homogenization} may have threatened Indian culture, but also promoted it globally.

11. वे कौन सी परिस्थितियाँ थीं जिनके कारण सोवियत संघ का विघटन हुआ और शीत युद्ध की समाप्ति हुई? शीत युद्ध की समाप्ति ने विश्व भर में वैश्वीकरण के प्रसार में किस प्रकार योगदान दिया?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

What are the circumstances that led to the disintegration of the USSR and the end of the Cold War? How did the end of the cold war contribute to the spread of Globalization across the world?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The USSR ended in 1991 under Gorbachev, creating history by ending the infamous Cold War.

Circumstances leading to USSR disintegration:

① Political Conditions:

① Gorbachev was the political head, who had increasing talks with the west, towards peace.

② Political shift away from the hardcore Communist / socialist leadership of Lenin and Stalin.

② Economic Conditions:

① Gorbachev introduced economic reforms:

- ① Perestroika - structural reform through emphasis on capitalist growth.
- ② Glasnost - opening up of the economy.

①. Essential breakdown of the socialist system had caused economic slowdown and stagnant growth.

③ Geopolitical situation:

① The world was wearing out due to an everlasting war

② Arms Race created threat of human destruction
eg: Cuban missile crisis.

③ Non Aligned Movement was gaining strength in its call for peace and national sovereignty.

The end of the Cold war signified an end to political, economic and social rivalries, creating space for expansion and globalization.

End of Cold war Contributed to Spread of Globalization:

- ① Reduced polarity and opened up trade between earlier hostile nations:
eg: US-Russia trade opened up, creating markets and space for transfer of economic and social factors.
- ② Emergence of multipolarity and ~~as~~ a new understanding of the importance of balanced global scenario. This led to rise of regional trade and new bilateral, multi-lateral negotiation.
- ③ Reduced war [eg: Vietnamese war and Korean war] allowed for industry to produce goods & services instead of weapons.
- ④ Spending on economy, R&D and tourism instead of defense.
Peace was thus a harbinger of globalization & cultural amalgamation.

12. हड़प्पा सभ्यता की स्थायी विरासत ने अचानक पतन के बाद भी भारतीय संस्कृति के विकास पर किस प्रकार अपनी छाप छोड़ी?

How did the enduring legacy of the Harappan Civilization leave a mark on the evolution of Indian culture, even after its sudden decline?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The Harappan Civilization, spanning the Indo-Pakistan region, is one of the oldest and grandest cultures, rivalling those of Sumer and Mesopotamia.

Harappa's Sudden Decline:

- ① Unknown nature of end of the culture.
- ② Natural factors could be earthquake, drought or even flash flood wiping out the entire culture.
- ② Anthropocentric factors: migration / Aryan invasion or migration displacing the local culture.

↳ Despite this end, Harappan civilization has left an indelible mark on Indian cultural evolution:

① Religion :

- worship of mother Goddess figurine (made of burnt clay) is seen even today in Hindurism and tribal culture

eg. Goddess Lakshmi,
Saraswati

worship of the Earth,
fertility of the soil.

[eg: Sankthal]

- Pashupati Seal -

a depiction of the worship of Lord Shiva and nature/animals.

eg: lion worshipped as mount of Goddess Shakti.

- diversity in religion - influence seen in Bhakti movement.

② Society :

- The use of dance in devotion as well as secular culture

eg: dancing girl of Mohenjodaro.

~~Same~~ exemplified in devdasi system of Chola period.

- ornamentation : bangles, anklets, necklaces - still worn in tribal communities today.

② Economy & Urbanization

- Agriculture-based society - granaries and red & black pottery for agricultural storage

→ India continues to be an agri-centric society.

eg: harvest festivals like Makarsankranti, Pongal, Bihu, etc.

- Community events like the Great Bath seen in traditions like Chauth Pujā today.

eg: construction of grand buildings to commemorate economic strength also seen in vijayanagara architecture, etc.

Thus Harappan civilization and its imprint was seen throughout the cultural evolution of the Indian subcontinent.

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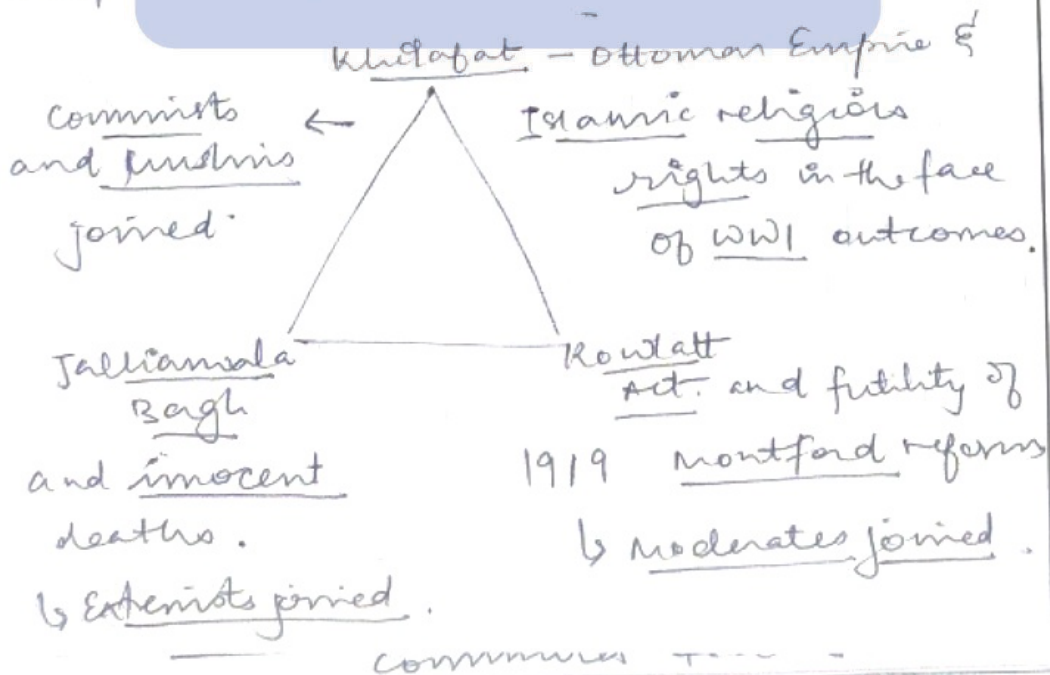
13. खिलाफत आंदोलन में महात्मा गांधी की भागीदारी ने विभिन्न मुद्दों को जोड़ने और विभिन्न समुदायों को एक सामान्य उद्देश्य के लिए एकजुट करने की उनकी क्षमता को कैसे दर्शाया? खिलाफत आंदोलन ने किस हद तक अपना उद्देश्य प्राप्त किया? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How did Mahatma Gandhi's participation in the Khilafat Movement illustrate his ability to connect diverse issues and mobilize different communities towards a common cause? To what extent did the Khilafat movement achieve its objective? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

In 1920s India, the height of Hindu-Muslim unity was witnessed as the country's people came together to fight the colonial powers.

Khilafat movement and mobilizing communities towards common cause:

① Gandhiji put together various issues, thereby calling for the response of diverse communities.



③ Gandhiji showed that all issues were simultaneously a result of colonial apathy, reasoning that this was the common enemy which needed a unified front to be overthrown.

③ participating in Khilafat movement depicted the following

① Gandhi (and therefore future free India) would support Muslim demands → ended the fear of minority subjugation and established the base for secularism.

② It showed that all causes were interlinked and created a basis for Hindu-Muslim unity.

③ furthered the ideal of universal brotherhood as well as national self-determination across the world.

Thus, Gandhiji rattled the foundations of the British empire through the sheer act of combining seemingly different causes under an umbrella enemy.

Objectives of Khilafat Movement
were partially achieved:

(1) Direct goals unachieved:

→ Ottoman Empire fell → Balkan peninsula broke down & Colonial powers looted the region.

(2) However, social and political objectives within India were achieved:

→ Hindu-Muslim unity continued until divide & rule policy led to 2-nation theory.

→ Non Cooperation Movement showed the British the power of the collective Indian masses.

Thus, involvement in the Khilafat movement was a risky but successful political step by M.K. Gandhi in the evolution of India's national movement.

14. ट्रांजिट ओरिएंटेड डेवलपमेंट (टीओडी) एक धारणीय शहरी परिवहन प्रणाली की अवधारणा से किस प्रकार जुड़ा है? नागरिकों के जीवन की समग्र गुणवत्ता में सुधार पर इसके प्रभाव पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How is Transit Oriented Development (TOD) linked to the concept of a sustainable urban transportation system? Discuss its impact on overall enhanced quality of life for citizens.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

refers to a system of planned urbanization that keeps transit and transport at the centre of its organization.

TOD and sustainable urban transport system

- ① TOD ensures that residential spaces do not create an obstacle in transit of workers ^{and from} to their offices/firms.
- ② Reduced waste due to repeated road constructions and reduced logistics costs enhances the efficiency of transport systems.

eg: Metro system in Delhi capitalizes on major routes
eg: Yellow line, G.S.

③ TOD can help create sustainable and profitable linkages in transport.
eg: metro stations can be linked via bus service / roads / bridges construction to make transit efficient.

④ Efficient transit makes the transport sector profitable and likely to attract private investment - reducing public expenditure burden and enhancing sustainability.

TOD & Enhanced Quality of Life

① Reduced transit time =
↳ reduced stress due to traffic
↳ increased productive time → more income → higher wealth.

② Reduced pollution due to traffic - better air quality and health status.

③ Increased use of public transport - Greener lifestyle for Environment (LIFE)

④ Reduced infrastructural breakages/
obstacles

eg: TOD can reduce need for
constant construction/reconstruction
of roads → which were a hurdle
to commuting citizens.

⑤ more green spaces due to planned
development and creation of space
as a result of efficient networking

Thus, TOD can revolutionize
not just urban transport but also
urban lifestyle. SMART Cities
mission and Urban livelihoods
mission must incorporate TOD to
secure actual development of the
urban centres of India.

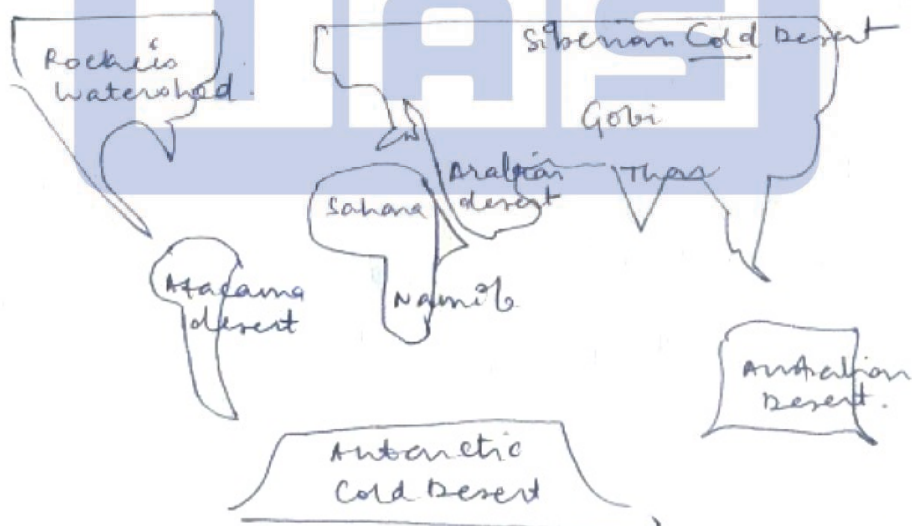
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15. यद्यपि दुनिया भर के मरुस्थलीय भूदृश्य कई समानताएँ दर्शाते हैं, लेकिन मरुस्थलीकरण की प्रक्रिया स्थानीय कारकों से प्रभावित होती है। उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ विस्तारपूर्वक समझाइए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
 Although desert landscapes across the world reflect many similarities the process of desertification is influenced by local factors. Elaborate with suitable examples. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Deserts are a biome characterized by low precipitation and biodiversity.

Desertification is a climatic phenomenon (but influenced by anthropogenic factors) that involves the spread of desert-like features in a region.

Desert Landscapes Similarities



① All deserts show low precipitation year round.

① low vegetation due to inadequate water / nutrients.

② low quality soil with high weathering / erosion. Shid soil. eg: mushroom rocks.

③ very few animals w.e. cold blooded in warm deserts, and warm blooded in cold deserts.

mostly burrowing animals that hibernate to escape harsh conditions.

Desertification is influenced by local factors:-

① overuse / overextraction of groundwater leading to high water scarcity -

② encroachment of water bodies / wetlands creating dry micro-climate.

eg: Hyderabad wetlands are now stump areas.

③ Inadequate rainwater percolation / rainwater harvesting creating large

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~~run-off~~ and inadequate replenishment of local water sources.

As a result, desert-like conditions start to spread. This is being seen in Central African nations as Sahara is spreading to cover most of western Africa and moving southwards.

Similar events are being seen in South Africa, some regions of India (eg: Rajasthan, Gujarat) and Central countries of Coahuila.

Local factors influence desertification & only local change can counteract it. UN Convention to Combat Desertification aims to bring together nations to reduce the threat of expanding desert landscapes due to human folly.

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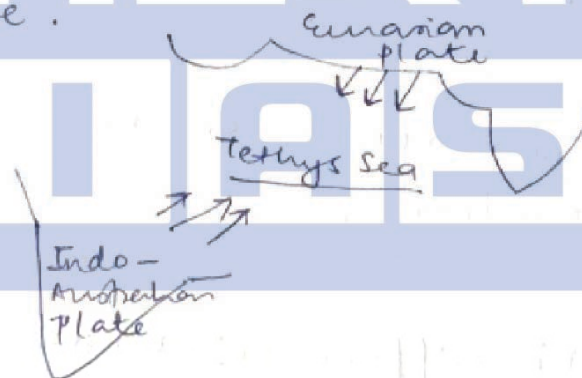
16. वृहत हिमालय के निर्माण के विभिन्न चरणों की व्याख्या कीजिए। पूर्वी हिमालय पश्चिमी हिमालय से किस प्रकार भिन्न है?
 Explain the various stages of the formation of The Great Himalayas. How Eastern Himalayas is different from Western Himalayas?
 (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
 (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

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The Great Himalayas were formed as a result of the convergence of the Indian and Eurasian plates.

Stages of Formation

- ① Continental drift of Indian subcontinent towards Eurasian plate due to convection currents in mantle.



- ② Eventual collision of continental plates creating pressure from both sides.

③ Compression and uplift of land due to equal densities of plates.



Higher compression in the centre → highest mountains found here.

→ Trilateral merger zone in north East India.

④ Continued compression & rising height of mountains leading to mt. Everest becoming highest terrestrial mountain on Earth.

Differences between Eastern & Western Himalayas:

① Climatic difference: Western Himalayas are higher in latitude and altitude - colder conditions, greater snowfall, than Eastern Himalayas.

② Prevalence of glaciers is higher in Western Himalayas and more rivers originate there:

eg: Ganga - Gangotri
Yamuna - Yamunotri
Indus & Bhadrachal.

③ Vegetation and productivity:

Evergreen trees dominate in western Himalayas whereas Eastern has all forms: evergreen, deciduous, etc

eg: Kanchenjunga N.P. Sikkim.

④ Greater diversity of animals in Eastern Himalayas

eg: Flying squirrel, Red Panda, etc.

⑤ Karakoram Anomaly present in western Himalayas, not Eastern.

Thus, Himalayas may be one geographical feature but it is highly diverse within itself as well.

17. पर्यावरण संरक्षण में पारिस्थितिकी-संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों के महत्त्व का वर्णन कीजिए और उदाहरण दीजिए कि उन्हें विभिन्न भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में कैसे अभिहित और प्रबंधित किया जाता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
Describe the significance of eco-sensitive zones in environmental conservation and provide examples of how they are designated and managed in different geographical regions?
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Eco sensitive zones are areas mandated by the Environment Protection Act 1986. These provide protection to areas of high biodiversity and in need of preservation.

Significance of Eco-Sensitive Zones

- ① Protection to biodiversity of flora and fauna.
- ② Legal protection ensures administrative support in regeneration of the region.
- ③ Reduced impact of Economic activities tourist activities leads to lowered habitat fragmentation, pollution and interference with wildlife.

④ designates regions of no-go zones thereby reducing animal-wildlife conflict and zoonotic disease possibilities.

⑤ Geopolitical significance - India is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity and Eco-sensitive zones can help India achieve its goals.

Designation & management of Eco-sensitive zones in different regions.

① Tribal prevalence areas allow tribal-centric management of ESZs.
eg: Santalal forest lands, Bhil forests, etc.

② S.G. has designated at least 1 km ESZ to be given to all protected forests to create buffer zone.

- ③ In industrial regions, ESZ is managed through Forest Administration and local interference is barred.
- ④ In Coastal region, management takes Blue Economy perspective into account and follows local-centre approach.

Thus, ESZs are areas of wildlife preservation through adequate legislation and people-centred management approach to protecting biodiversity.

18. महामारी ने शिक्षा के परिदृश्य को किस प्रकार नया रूप दिया है, और इन परिवर्तनों का शिक्षण विधियों और सीखने के परिणामों पर दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव क्या हो सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
How has the pandemic reshaped the landscape of education, and what long-term effects might these changes have on teaching methods and learning outcomes? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The COVID19 pandemic has revol-
utionized education through both the
consumer (student) end and the
pedagogical (teaching) ends with
many long term impacts.

COVID Reshaped Education

- ① Increased digitization of education
eg: SWAYAM platform
- ② online classes and study-at-home
study-from-home culture introduced.
- ③ Television broadcasting for pedagogy
along with use of intentional
platforms like Zoom, Google Meet.
- ④ Increased use of AI and technology
in classrooms.

Long Term Impacts of COVID on

Teaching methods

- ① Increased use of technology in education.
eg: smart boards
- ② ~~Use of~~ shift from rote learning to experiential & cognitive approaches
- ③ Stronger networking and sharing of best practices
- ④ MSP/TTA programs to train teachers
now requires technical training as well.
- ⑤ Reduced work load through digitization. eg: can check for plagiarism online.

Learning Outcomes

- ① Use of technology for education support
eg: ChatGPT used for homework may reduce the impact of education on students.
- ② Globalized education - connect through the net.
- ③ Tech based learning can make students more curious
eg: 3D printing.
- ④ Student-centric and needs-based approach to learning → enhance outcomes.
- ⑤ Skilled and 4th Industrial Revolution students.

Thus, NEP creates a system to incorporate technology for better learning outcomes through the National Digital Library and a call to modernize education in India to capitalize on our demographic dividend.



19. भारत के संदर्भ में नृजातीय पहचान संघर्ष के उत्थान के पीछे के कारकों का विश्लेषण कीजिए, और देश के सामाजिक ताने-बाने पर उनके निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
 Analyze the factors behind the upsurge of ethnic identity struggle in the context of India, and discuss their implications for the country's social fabric. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently, the state of Manipur has seen an unending stream of riots and violence based on Kuki-Meitei ethnic clashes.

Factors behind Upsurge of Ethnic Identity Struggle:

① Economic factors:

② Inaccessibility to basic resources like land

eg: Meiteis are 80% of Manipur population but most of the state's lands are owned by Kuki tribe.

③ Access to employment is skewed due to poverty.

eg: Some ~~areas~~ historically backward regions suffer from lack of economic prosperity which then becomes their ethnic identity
 → Chotanagpur tribes, etc.

② Political factors

- ① Inadequate representation in local / state bodies.

eg: Kuki tribe fears dominance of Meitei due to high representation in State legislature.

- ② Dominance / Authoritarian rule of one group over another creates fear of subjugation.

eg: Oromo tribe of Ethiopia was in dominant position leading to clashes with minority populations.

③ Cultural factors

- ① Majoritarianism crushes diversity

eg: Sinhalese Buddhist majoritarian cultural dominance led to fears of end of Sri Lankan Tamil culture in Sri Lanka.

All these factors result in violence, hated and instability.

Implications for Country's Social Fabric:

- ⑥ Rise in hate speech, mob lynching and overall hate crime.
- ⑦ women are at greater risk as they are made the target of hatred.
eg: manipur viral tape of 2 women gang raped and paraded naked.
- ⑧ violence, crime and backwardness becomes the norm and also encourages violence in other parts of the nation
eg: Nuh proince, Haryana saw Hindu Muslim violence.
- ⑨ fosters regionalism & secessionism.

Thus, ethnic identity struggle stretches and hurts the social fabric and hence must be resolved at once through legislation and social upliftment.

20. पितृसत्तात्मकता घर की तुलना में कार्यस्थल की गतिशीलता को किस प्रकार भिन्न रूप से प्रभावित करती है?

How does patriarchy differently impact the dynamics of the workplace vis a vis the household?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Patriarchy is an ever-present social condition that is based on the false premise that men are "better" than women and hence must dominate all spheres of life, whether at home or at the workplace.

Although patriarchy affects both the household and the workplace, the impact is differentiated:

① Division of labour is more possible at home than at work.

eg: household chores are left to women at home but such blatant division is not possible at workplace.

② Implicit patriarchy at workplace due to greater application of laws. eg: application of the POSH Act prevent patriarchy

from becoming visible at workplace, but no such legislation applies to the workplace household.

③ Higher violence at home than at workplace due to privacy offered at home and as opposed to action taken at workplace.
eg: domestic violence.

④ Differential private and public morals. eg: A man can be very considerate and empowering at the workplace but the same principles may not apply at home.

⑤ Added advantage of financial empowerment at workplace makes a woman more confident in standing up against it whereas, at home, lack of other opportunities may render a woman powerless to counter-act discrimination.

Thus, patriarchy is a vice in many forms. It must be attacked in all places to truly get rid of this ideological misconception & truly empower the women of India.

