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COMPILATION

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Q1. What are the key features and themes of Sangam literature? Discuss. In the context of Sangam literature, what do you understand by 'akam' and 'puram'?

Approach

Students are expected to write about sangam literature first and then it's key features and themes. And also highlight upon what is Akam and Puram in sangam literature.

Introduction

Sangam period is the period in the history of ancient southern India (known as the Tamilakam) spanning from c. 3rd century BC to c. 4th century AD. It is named after the famous Sangam academies of poets and scholars centered in the city of Madurai. Sangam literature is the name given to the earliest available Tamil literature. It is dated between 400 BCE and 300 CE, although most of the work is believed to have been composed between 100 CE and 250 CE. The word 'Sangam' literally means association. Here, it implies an association of Tamil poets that flourished in ancient southern India.

Body

Key features of sangam literature:

- Sangam literature which combines idealism with realism and classic grace with indigenous industry and strength is rightly regarded as constituting the Augustan age of Tamil literature. It deals with secular matter relating to public and social activity like government, war charity, trade, worship, agriculture etc.
- The earliest script that the Tamils used was the Brahmi script. It was only from the late ancient and early medieval period, that they started evolving a new angular script, called the Grantha script, from which the modern Tamil is derived.
- Some of the contents of the Sangam literature are corroborated by the writings of some Greek and Roman classical writers of the first and second century A. D, leading us to fix the period of Sangam age roughly between third century B.C. to third century A.D. So, most of the Sangam literature also must have been produced during this period. The Sangam literature was finally compiled in its present form in circa A.D. 300-600.
- Sangam writings are possibly unique in early Indian literature, which is almost entirely religious. Many of the poems, especially on heroism, display great freshness and vigor and are singularly free from the literary conceits of much of the other early and medieval literatures of India.
- The Sangam literature themes includes:

- Tolkappiyam authored by Tolkappiyar is the earliest of the Tamil literature. It is a work on Tamil grammar but it provides information on the political and socio-economic conditions of the Sangam period.
- The Ettutogai or Eight Anthologies consist of eight works – Aingurunooru, Narrinai, Aganaooru, Purananooru, Kuruntogai, Kalittogai, Paripadal and Padirruppattu.
- The Pattuppattu or Ten Idylls consist of ten works – Thirumurugarruppadai, Porunararruppadai, Sirupanarruppadai, Perumpanarruppadai, Mullaippattu, Nedunalvadai, Maduraikkanji, Kurinjippatttu, Pattinappalai and Malaipadukadam.
- Pathinenkilkanakku contains eighteen works mostly dealing with ethics and morals. The most important among them is Tirukkural authored by Thiruvalluvar.
- Silappathigaram written by Elango Adigal and Manimegalai by Sittalai Sattanar also provides valuable information on the Sangam polity and society.
- Both Ettutogai and Pattuppattu were divided into two main groups – Aham and Puram.
- Akam (Inner and love): Abstract discussion on human aspects such as love, sexual relations, etc. Akam deals purely with the subjective emotions of the lover.

Puram (outer and valour): Human experiences such as heroism, customs, social life, ethics, philanthropy, etc. Puram deals with all kinds of emotions, mainly the valour and glory of kings, and about good and evil.

Conclusion

Thus, the Sangam Literature can also be regarded as a source of history of kings and culture of the period during which it was created. The claims mentioned in Sangam literature are highly exaggerated specially about the kings and should be used as a source of information with caution. However, the sangam literature is very valuable with respect to the social and cultural life of the people at that time.

Q2. India's ancient sculpture leaves many clues to understand the social and economic status of women? Do you agree? Substantiate with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Candidate is required to give a brief overview of architectural diversity across India and connect that with the knowledge it offers of that period. Making a comment on status of women with the help of examples answer can be concluded.

Introduction

An understanding of culture in its broadest sense is indispensable in comprehending the development processes of a society, culture is the quality of mind, life, and civilization. Our ancient monuments represent our culture and rich heritage. Also, they tell us a condition of society in ancient India and in a way status of a women.

Body

One of the earliest examples of sculpture of women is Mohenjo-Daro dancing girl where her pose portray confidence and self-contentment rather than being a timid product of suppression

Some of the earliest sculptures show women as yogini i.e. female master practitioner of yoga. Depiction of female as divine aspect related to mythology and spirituality.

In mauryan period worship of Yaksha and mother goddess was prominent. Yakshini figure of Didargunj reflects elegance and shows sensitivity towards human physique.

In ancient times primary social role of a women in reproductive qualities was highlighted in characters like "lajjagauri" and "dugdhadharini" but they were not reduced to reproductive functions only, she had equal access to resources

In ellora caves sculpture of shiva and parvati represents "Purush" and "prakriti" where she is seated on lap of Shiva and taking part in daily proceedings at shiva's court, this tells us that parvati is equally important when it comes to consultation on various matters.

Ardhanarishwara sculpture of elephanta caves represents highest ideal of conjugal attachment. This form of shiva is considered most sacred because he is incomplete without parvati.

Khajuraho complex of temples is yet another excellent example of sculptures representing women in different roles. For example on Kandariya laxmana temple we can see a women with a purse in hand purchasing stuff from market showcases economic independence and her ability to make choice.

Also Khajuraho is famous for erotic sculptures, where we can see women are supremely confident when it comes to exploring their sexuality. Practice of polyandry is evident on temple walls

In Assam, Kamakhya temple architecture reproductive parts of goddess are worshipped, genital parts are shown as symbol of fertility and menstrual cycle is not considered as impure.

Above examples gives us a glimpse of societal and economic condition of women where they were not subjected to taboos and stigmas of modern day society. They were empowered enough to take their decisions and their role extended beyond clutches of household.

Conclusion

Sculptures are gateway to comprehensive understanding of particular period. From ancient times, modern day gendered constructs of Indian women can be seen challenged in these sculptures. From sexuality to concepts of beauty are confidently portrayed in this art form and they tell us a story of women free from stigmas and taboos.

Q3. In terms of themes and style, what are the main differences between the paintings of north and south India? Illustrate.

Approach

As the derivative is illustrate therefore the answer will generally involve the use of many examples, such as tables, figures, graphs, or concrete research statistics and evidence. The aim is to use these examples to demonstrate knowledge of the subject of the question and to further explain or clarify your answer.

Introduction

India had always been known as the land that portrayed cultural and traditional vibrancy through its conventional arts and crafts. The 35 states and union territories sprawled across the country have their own distinct cultural and traditional identities, and are displayed through various forms of art prevalent there. Every region in India has its own style and pattern of art, which is known as folk art. Painting is one such form of folk art. Depending on the medium on which the art is done, paintings are of different types. Paintings that are done on walls and ceilings are called murals. While the ones that are done on wet plaster are called fresco. Paintings that can be easily carried around and are made on canvas, paper or wood are called miniature paintings. Every region in India can be associated with a particular form of art, ranging from Mithila paintings of North to Tanjore paintings of the South.

Body

Main differences between the theme of paintings of north and south India

Paintings of North India	Paintings of South India
The themes of paintings of north India are famous for portrayal of landscapes, natural scenes, animal and birds on wood. The earliest miniature paintings in India were found on palm leaves. Example: These early miniatures, regarded as Pala and Jain, were followed later by different schools of art such as Rajasthani, Mughal, Pahari and Deccan miniatures, each of which have their own characteristic style and uniqueness.	The paintings of south India are famous for their mythological themes, especially the depiction of episodes from Hindu Puranas, Sthala-Puranas and other religious texts. Example: Tanjore style of painting which is a colourful panel painting done on a wood plank with a deity as the main theme of the composition.
Though the Mughal era is known mostly for the miniatures, the enthralling murals embellished on the walls of forts and palaces of Akbar and Jahangir quietly speaks of the influence of Persian styles.	Murals of south India are present in rich amount as large works executed on the walls of solid structures directly and they mainly depict religious themes of Buddhist, Jain and Hindu.
These paintings successfully depict the religious beliefs of the people of that time as well as it portrays the insights of the social life of the people at the time of medieval period. Therefore, reflecting the deep insights of the life of commoners and royals. Example Rajasthani paintings.	These paintings are famous for the elegant and majestic portrayal of Hindu gods and goddesses. Also, mythological, religious stories and folklore depiction as theme. Example: Mysore painting and PattaChitra painting.
Examples of Hindu painting are hardly known in north India until the late sixteenth century, and then in a quite different guise. Religious painting remained	The themes for most of these paintings are Hindu Gods and Goddesses and scenes from Hindu Mythology. In modern times, these paintings have become a

at a consequently lowly level. Examples include items such as the paintings made for the Nag Panchami festival.	much sought-after souvenir during festive occasions in South India. Example Tanjore painting.
Characterized by Mineral colours, precious stones, conch shells, gold and silver are used in the paintings of north India. Example: The Mughal Miniatures	Characterized by vivacious imagery, bold strokes, and vivid colours. Example: ochre-red, yellow- ochre, bluish- green, white and pure colours are predominantly used in Kerala mural painting.
These paintings are known for strenuous, bold and imaginative artistic skills. Example: Basholi	These paintings are known for strong connect with motifs and use of the stylized animal forms, floral motifs and designs. Example: Kalamkari Paintings
Involve use of fine brushwork, intricacy, detailing and stylization are the unique attributes of miniature painting.	Involve high skill technique. Example: A gilded and gem-set technique, which uses gold leaves and sparkling stones (artificial stones are used today) to highlight specific aspects of the Thanjavur paintings

Conclusion

Traditionally, most of the Indian painting styles existed as wall paintings or murals. In due course of time, urbanization brought these painting forms on paper, canvas, and cloth etc. Indian painting styles are not just a reflection of the indigenous lifestyle but a perfect example of artistic expression through simple yet distinct compositions. These simple art forms can transport you back in time and leave you in awe and admiration of their rustic charm.

Q4. India is going to have a new parliament. Where does the proposed design of the building take inspiration from? Discuss.

Approach

As the directive here is discuss it is necessary to write in detail all aspects of the proposed design of the new parliament building also there should be a brief mention of the importance of the parliament in a democracy like India and the role parliament has played in making a largest successful democracy of the world also how this new building will fulfil country's aspirations.

Introduction

Parliament is a central feature of a successful democracy. It is a place where people's aspirations are given a shape. Old parliament building gave India a direction where millions were taken out of poverty and rights and dignity was ensured. Old Parliament building gave a new direction to India after independence. New building will be a witness to building of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Body

Need for a new parliamentary building:

The idea of a new structure for Parliament is not a recent one — two former Speakers highlighted this need as the number of parliamentary staff, security personnel, media visitors, and parliamentary activities have seen a steep rise. During a Joint Session, the Central Hall is jam-packed and a few MPs have to sit on additionally-arranged chairs.

Since Parliament is a heritage building, there are severe limitations to the structural repair, alteration and modifications that can be made. The existing Parliament building lacks several safety features such as earthquake-proofing, a standard fireproofing system and also has inadequate office space.

Article 81 of the Indian Constitution provides for the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies. Since the last delimitation exercise was conducted based on the 1971 census, the ongoing freeze on increasing the state-wise distribution of seats will end in 2026. Subsequently, the number of MPs will undoubtedly increase, which poses an urgent demand for appropriate arrangements for the upcoming legislators

Proposed design and inspiration:

Under the Central Vista redevelopment project, the new Parliament building is an indigenous design compared to the old building which was designed by Edwin Lutyens and Hebert Baker who were both British.

The new parliament building will have a triangular shape to reflect the importance of triangles being a sacred geometry in various religions signifying India's multireligious and secular traditions.

The interiors will have three national symbols as their main themes-Lotus, peacock, and Banyan tree.

The ceiling of the parliament has fresco paintings like that in Rashtrapati Bhawan taking inspiration from the traditional temples and designs.

The interior walls will have shlokas inspired from the old parliament building.

Dholpur stone will be used which again oozes traditional design along with the artistry of our multicultural society.

Also, the new building will be a state-of-the-art structural design with all the new technological features which will withstand the aspirations for another 150 years.

The new building will be environment friendly with 30% its energy needs to be fulfilled from renewable sources.

Concerns:

Central Vista has been accorded the highest Grade 1 heritage status by the Unified Building Bye-Laws of Delhi. Grade 1 classified buildings cannot be changed, and "no intervention can be made unless it is in the interest of strengthening and prolonging the life of the buildings."

The Opposition, environmentalists, architects and citizens have raised many concerns even before the pandemic brought in extra issues. They have questioned the lack of studies to ascertain the need for the project and its impact on the environment, traffic and pollution. But, several key approvals for the proposed Parliament building have been pushed during the lockdown. This led to allegations of a lack of transparency.

They have questioned the lack of studies to ascertain the need for the project and its impact on the environment, traffic and pollution.

Conclusion

India has imbibed democratic values and these are a part of our cultural ethos —be it the 12th-century Anubhava Mandapa of Bhagwan Basava or Buddhism from the sixth century BCE onwards, which taught liberty, equality and fraternity to the world. B R Ambedkar, chairman of the Constitution's draft committee, lucidly elaborated these facts during the Constituent Assembly debates. The US's present parliamentary building was constructed within 25 years of its independence; it took 70 years to build its parliament. In 1988, Australia proudly dedicated its new parliament building in Canberra. Thus, it is imperative to undertake this historical exercise to develop our post-colonial people's Parliament. This glorious project will depict India's democratic tradition and represent India as the mother of democracy in a real sense.

Q5. Do you agree with the assertion that building heritage is an ongoing process? In this context, share your views on the proposal to build statues of historical personalities like Shivaji Maharaj.

Approach

You need to provide your view with regards to efforts for building heritage as being an ongoing process in the first part while in the second part, you need to share your views on the proposals to build statues of historical personalities like Shivaji Maharaj. Also, views should be properly substantiated rather than just being comments.

Introduction

The Indian sub-continent is endowed with the richest and the most diverse stock of cultural and architectural heritage, with a significant proportion of them constituting living monuments. Traditional construction materials and practices are still used in renovation of heritage structures along with a recent focus towards constructing

new heritage structure's to fulfil the needs and aspirations of present times, some of which are reflected in construction of grand statues.

Body

Yes, building heritage is an ongoing process as –

The modern understanding of heritage is fluid and dynamic. At its core, it represents a holistic understanding that perceives heritage as "a social and political construct encompassing all those places, artefacts and cultural expressions inherited from the past."

They are seen to reflect and validate our identity as nations, communities, families and even individuals, and thus are worthy of respect and protection as well as new efforts towards rejuvenating these ideas.

Today heritage is perceived far more broadly than was the case by previous generations —including the pioneers of the preservation movement — as is its protection and safeguarding for future generations which also necessitates new heritage structures for the future generations to highlight our age.

Further, building heritage doesn't necessarily mean they won't serve public utility or be a wasteful expenditure as every heritage structure of past served some practical function in its days and same will be the case in present times with aesthetic considerations of its times.

Every society decides what is and isn't heritage. Since every collective decision involves politics, the construction of heritage too is deeply political. Political considerations also involve prioritising competing interests, which need to be balanced, where –

Limited resources need to be allotted to safeguard and conserve present heritage structures rather than constructing new ones.

Socio-economic condition of vast section of our population in present times also raises questions on allocation function in terms of monetary costs for building new heritage.

In this context, the proposal to build statues of historical personalities like Shivaji Maharaj can be understood from the following points –

People care for heritage like statues because it contributes to and enhances our collective self-understanding. Further, it helps in focusing on personalities which embody our civilizational heritage as well as virtuous human conduct.

Statues affirm our collective identity, is a source of pride. It is that part of history which is continuously brought to life by artefacts, integrated with our lived collective experience. And because it directly touches identity, it evokes strong feelings.

Statue construction involves ethics too. It is the valued past of societies: intangible, preserved say, in narratives, music or performances but also tangible, materially embodied in statues where a grander scale helps in identifying with the noble virtues of the historical personality involved.

Integral to the construction of statue then is an assessment of what must be remembered and forgotten, what calls for respect and celebration and what is a 'stain' remembered only to be prevented in future. Raj Ghat is not only a place where we remember Gandhi but also where we mourn his assassination by one of his own countrymen.

Heritage is a way of addressing and rectifying past wrongs. The Holocaust memorial in Berlin and Washington's Vietnam memorial are both gestures towards reparation, monuments of public apology.

But at the same time, there are multiple concerns with regards to recent spree of announcements to build statues across India, some of these concerns are –

The major problem is recouping the investment from tourism. The Taj Mahal, India's most famous moment, draws in millions of dollars in revenue each year, but even should the Shivaji Maharaj statue achieve the same benchmark, it will take decades to break even.

Aside from the cost of construction, the expenditure for ongoing maintenance will be a vacuum on government revenue. Funding for the project will aggravate the already troubled debt situation.

Public display of the heritage of only a few is a source of profound estrangement and exclusion for others. Heritage is often linked to cultural domination that invites resistance. It follows that heritage is that which brings comfort or unease, to which people are either attracted or repulsed.

In societies where caste hierarchies abound, the continual denial of public recognition to Dalit symbols leads to demands of greater inclusion of their heritage. And when after struggles for recognition, Ambedkar's statues finally make their way into public spaces, many see vandalism during times of social tension.

With one of the largest stocks of heritage structures in the world, lack of adequate quality and quantity of manpower is a serious bottleneck in India in addressing the task of understanding and protecting heritage structures from natural hazards, ageing and weathering effects. Thus, focus should be on conservation of existing heritage structures and statues.

Also, our persistent obsession with political power, begs the question of why is there no movement to erect statues of M.S. Subbulakshmi, Kumar Gandharva, or Begum Akhtar for their massive contribution to our cultural heritage?

Conclusion

People must have the first priority in cultural heritage, not objects. A holistic understanding of the heritage is at stake, where the complexity of heritage should be taken into account and a balance should be brought in public discourse to ensure effective utilization of public funds as well as highlight the role of historical figures through appropriate means.

Q6. What are the key features of the Hindustani music? What are the most recurring themes in this style? Discuss.

Approach

Students are expected to write about Hindustani classic music and also write about its features. And highlight upon most recurring themes in the Hindustani style of music.

Introduction

Historically roots of the Hindustani music belong to the Bharata's Natyasastra, it diverged in the 14th century. The Hindustani branch of music focuses more on the musical structure and the possibilities of improvisation in it. The Hindustani music has elements of ancient Hindu tradition, Vedic philosophy and Persian tradition as well.

Body

Key features of Hindustani music:

Elements: The Hindustani classical has ancient Hindu tradition, Vedic philosophy and Persian tradition as its main elements. It has been influenced by various elements such as Arab, Persian and Afghan elements which have added a new dimension to Hindustani music. In ancient times, it has been passed from one to another through the Guru-Shishya Parampara.

Hindustani Music Gharanas: A Gharana is a system of social organisation linking musicians or dancers by lineage or apprenticeship, and by adherence to a particular musical style.

Based on the Raga system: The Raga is a melodic scale comprising basic seven notes. The Hindustani branch adopted a scale of Shudha Swara Saptaka or the 'Octave of Natural notes'. It is based on the Raga system.

Vocal-centric: Hindustani Music is vocal-centric. The major vocal forms associated with Hindustani classical music are the khayal, Ghazal, dhrupad, dhammar, Tarana and thumri.

Association with dance: Every music show was accompanied by dance performance. For example, kathak with Hindustani music.

Praising of king in royal courts: All the music compositions were made to express the bravery of king's .For example in Akbar court, poets praised him by singing songs. Most of the Hindustani musicians trace their descent to Tansen.

Praising of god: Most of the music compositions were in deep reverence to god almighty. For example, the songs on lord Krishna and radha, Goddess durga, etc.

Musical instruments used: Are Tabla, Sarangi, Sitar, Santoor, Flute and violin.

Most recurring themes in the Hindustani style of music:

Dhrupad: One of the oldest and grandest forms of Hindustani classical music. Finds mention even in Natyashastra (200 BC–200 AD). Reached its zenith in the court of Emperor Akbar. He employed and patronised musical masters like Baba Gopal Das, Swami Haridas and Tansen, who was considered to be one of the Navaratna or nine gems of the Mughal court. The exposition preceding the composed verses is called alap and is usually the longest portion of the performance. Dhrupad singing can be further divided into four forms on the basis of vanis or banis such Dagari gharana, Dharbhanga gharana, Bettiah gharana and Talwandi gharana.

Khayal: Word 'Khayal' is derived from Persian and means "idea or imagination".Origin of this style was attributed to Amir Khusrau. Is popular amongst the artists as this provides greater scope for improvisation. Based on the repertoire of short songs ranging from two to eight lines. Is also referred to as a 'Bandish'. Major gharanas in khayal: Gwalior, Kirana, Patiala, Agra, and Bhendibazaar Gharana.

Tarana Style: In this style the rhythm plays a very crucial role. The structure consists of melody. It uses many words that are sung at a fast tempo. It focuses on producing rhythmic matters and hence, the singers need specialised training and skills in rhythmic manipulation.

Thumri: Originated in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, mainly in Lucknow & Benares, around 18th century. A romantic & erotic style of singing; also called "the lyric of Indian classical music". Compositions are mostly on love, separation and devotion.

Tappa: In this style the rhythm plays a very important role as the compositions are based on fast, subtle and knotty constructions. Developed in the late 18th Century AD from the folk songs of camel riders of North-West India. Great use of very quick turn of phrases.

Ghazal: A poetic expression of both the pain of loss or separation and the beauty of love in spite of that pain. Spread in South Asia in the 12th century due to the influence of Sufi mystics and the courts of the new Islamic Sultanate. Reached its zenith in the Mughal period.Amir Khusrau was one of the first expounders of the art of making Ghazal. Some of the famous persons associated with Ghazals: Muhammad Iqbal, Mirza Ghalib, Rumi (13th century), Hafez (14th century), Kazi Nazrul Islam, etc.

Conclusion

Hindustani music played an important role in uniting Indians by generating the feeling of oneness and nationalism during national movement. Even today it is practiced during festivals, as a stage performance, in cinema's and bringing fame for Indian culture by reaching wider in western world.

Q7. Examine the contribution of Satyajit Ray to Indian cinema.

Approach

Question is straight forward on importance of Satyajit Ray to Indian cinema. In the introduction factual details of life of Ray can be given followed by detailed analysis of his work in body with examples.

Introduction

Born on May 2, 1921 in a family of litterateurs in Bengal, Satyajit ray was a product of a Bengal renaissance. With a family background in religious and social movements in nineteenth century Bengal he completed his education in prestigious presidency college of Calcutta, he went on to develop interest in fine arts.

Body

Second half of twentieth century was a time of social and political churning. In this period new form of Indian cinema was emerging which saw aesthetic in daily struggles of people.

How Satyajit ray changed Indian cinema?

He brought new approach in dealing with subjects of cinema. He was inspired by Italian cinema in which Italian wave of neo realism and national film movement used to portray struggles of working class and poor people.

He was particularly inspired by film bicycle thief. Ray used non-professional actors and shot on location technique. His skilful representation of characters earned him a spot as the best filmmaker in the world.

Young Ray was inclined towards writing and storytelling. He adopted Bibhutibhushan bandopadhyay's Pather Panchali in Apu triology.

Apu film portrays life of a young boy who lives in a poverty in a small village. Apu's journey is reflected in trilogy covering his childhood to manhood.

In the initial years of his career he faced many challenges. Because of his unconventional methods producers were sceptical about his work and sincerity but he sold his personal savings and went ahead with the pather panchali which proved to be a massive success.

Pather panchali got award in cannes film festival in 1956 with it Indian cinema got world-wide recognition. Apu trilogy received praise and appreciation for its arts and aesthetics.

After the success of Apu trilogy Ray gave India its first detective series of Feluda, our very own rendition of sherlock holmes.

Why cinema of Satyajit was important?

In the times of social churning he portrayed universal feelings, universal relations, emotions and characters which crossed the barriers and reach out to others

In his film Ashani Sanket he depicted severity of Bengal famine captured this disaster which took lives of five million people

In "Charulata" he sensitively portrayed adultery, which was a taboo subject when it comes to cinema

In "Jalsaghar" he brilliantly commented on zamindari system, its exploitative nature and inequalities which was a hot topic in newly independent India

Satyajit ray introduced parallel cinema to India, his movies were rooted in reality and warranted discourse over things that matter. He came up with a great cinema while being commercially successful.

His skilful representation of characters earned him a spot as the best filmmakers in the world.

Music in his films was an important tool he composed natural yet dramatic tones which brought with it the element of humanism. Subtle and thought provoking nature of his craft made him extraordinary.

In all he directed 36 films, got various 32 national awards for them (which is a record in itself). He received Dadasaheb Phalke award in 1984 for his contribution to Indian cinema also honoured with Bharat Ratna in 1992

Conclusion

Satyajit ray is not just a director but an institute in itself. He was a pioneer in various new experiments in cinema world. He was a writer director, music composer, cinematographer, editor. A man with multiple talents yet grounded. For his contribution to world of cinema he was awarded with honorary award by academy of motion pictures.

Q8. Comment upon the socio-economic significance of fairs in the context of India's past.

Approach

As the derivative is comment so you have to pick out the main points on a subject and give your opinion, reinforcing your point of view using logic and reference to relevant evidence, including any wider reading you have done.

Introduction

India is the land of celebrations. Fairs are the cultural heritage and sprit of Indian society. It had always been known as the land that portrayed cultural and traditional vibrancy through its conventional arts and crafts. Fairs have always made an immense contribution to the social and economic development of a region.

Body

The socio-economic significance of fairs in the context of India's past includes:

They brought more awareness and economic value to the regions where they were celebrated and hosted.

With fairs, communities were engaged in livelihoods and hence there was more social bonding and strengthening of ties between people.

They helped in reinforcing the cultural roots and values by enabling communities to preserve their traditions too.

Enable local communities to ensure continuity of their cultural beliefs and traditions.

There was a positive economic impact on the local community, as fairs add economic vitality during the periods when they were organized.

Protected the interests of local sellers to prevent economic leakages, and the related sense of irritation by the local community.

It acted as a self-reliant framework integrated with regional economy and satisfaction of socio-cultural and economic requirements in the local community.

Helped in keeping alive the rich heritage of our country and introduce the young generation with great historical culture and values.

They promoted diversity, increased creativity, offered opportunities for civic pride, and made the society a better place to live.

Conclusion

Fairs are part of the intrinsic cultural fabric of our society as well as a continuation of our heritage. India is not merely a land of diversities but these diversities make India an epitome of cultural abundance. Different cultures have different traditions and celebrations that are celebrated in form of fairs and festivals.While the potential of fairs and festivals as drivers of cultural and economic value is clear, there is evidence that they have not been leveraged adequately today. The key challenges are the deficiencies in infrastructure elements, lack of funding for facilities and service enhancements and, lastly, non-integrated stakeholder engagement to manage the fairs and festivals in a manner that protects cultural authenticity. We need to work on overcoming these challenges to make use of fairs just like they were used in India's past.

Q9. Do you think unbridled freedom on social media platforms can undermine democracy? Critically comment.

Approach

As the directive in the question is critically comment it is necessary to mention both positive and negative aspects of freedom on social media undermining democracy. Also answer should depict multi dimensionality of points covering all aspects the way social media impacts democracy in both positive and negative ways.

Introduction

Public participation is the bedrock of a successful and vibrant democracy. Debates, discussions and a healthy exchange of ideas go a long way in strengthening the foundations of democratic systems. Countries across the globe took to newer modes of public communication even as their democracies kept evolving.

Social media has been the new tool in the hands of people it has played a big role in changing the way democracies used to function earlier by giving access to every individual to have his say and change the discourse.

Body

Is unbridled freedom on social media undermining democracy?

Arguments in favour –

The rise of polarizing and divisive content has been a defining moment of modern politics, which is fed by fake news propagation through social media channels.

Further, dissemination of fake news through social media, among populations with low-to-no levels of critical digital literacy is a big challenge.

In India, the spread of fake news has occurred mostly with relation to political and religious matters. However, misinformation related to COVID-19 pandemic was also widely circulated.

Fake news spread through social media in the country has become a serious problem, with the potential of it resulting in mob violence

Social media has enabled a style of populist politics, which on the negative side allows hate speech and extreme speech to thrive in digital spaces that are unregulated, particularly in regional languages

The impact social media platforms are having on influencing elections in the US are also evident. In addition to social media posts, many voters have reported receiving text messages and emails that are nothing but disinformation campaigns about the presidential candidates and what they stand for.

Recent incidents of disinformation campaign against the Agriculture reform laws and citizenship amendment act, on social media understated the real objectives behind such reforms.

Arguments against –

Democratization of Expression: Social media has made Indian politics more inclusive by allowing citizens, who were traditionally excluded from politics due to geography and demography, to gain direct entry into the political process.

It has also allowed for a diversity of viewpoints and public engagement on an unprecedented scale

Making political communication people-centric: Social media has been increasingly used by Indian political actors for routine political communication between elections to provide unmediated and direct communication to connect citizenry.

Social media can be used for greater political participation, The Election Commission of India recently launched an app to encourage voter mobilisation.

Increasing access to political information through the mass media may enable citizens to monitor incumbents' behaviour, and use this information in voting decisions. Exposure to debates improve voters' political knowledge and the alignment between voters' reported policy positions and those of the candidates they voted for.

Conclusion

In recent years internet has expanded exponentially to every corner of the world. With rise in social media and its penetration, a wave of 'mediatisation' of Indian politics i.e., the media's ability to set political agendas has expanded, and elections have been transformed into an image contest between prominent personalities. As media and politics grow ever more intertwined, media exposure has impacted voting behaviours and opinions. This Demand strong measures and regulation by the government.

Q10. **What role does a predictable tax policy play in ease of doing business? Discuss. In this light, examine the critical issues affecting the sentiments of investors and businesses in India.**

Approach

The question can be addressed in two parts where the first part should discuss the role of predictable tax policy in ease of doing business while the second part should examine important issues affecting the sentiments of investors and businesses in India.

Introduction

To foster economic growth and development governments need sustainable sources of funding for social programs and public investments. To achieve the common goal of a prosperous, functional and orderly society, taxation is not only for public goods and services; it is also a key ingredient in the social contract between citizens and the economy, where a predictable taxation policy helps in overall improvement in compliance.

Body

The ease of doing business in any country is influenced by a number of factors. A material consideration among these is the stability and predictability of a country's taxation system, together with the ease of discharging a taxpayer's tax obligations.

Over the years, the Indian taxation landscape has been characterized by ambiguous legislation posing interpretational challenges, an aggressive revenue administration that has sought to interpret taxation provisions in a manner prejudicial to the taxpayer. For example, recent verdicts in favour of multinationals like Vodafone and Cairn Energy are cases in point.

The uncertainty regarding retrospective taxation is an issue on the minds of investors and there is a real danger it will undermine the message that India is open for investment. It is imperative for India to have a non-adversarial tax administration which is both investor and assesse friendly.

Governments must provide a fiscal climate within which electronic commerce can flourish, weighed against the obligation to operate a fair and predictable taxation system that provides the revenue required to meet the legitimate expectations of citizens for publicly provided services.

Rules that enhance the predictability of economic interactions and provide contractual partners with essential protections against arbitrariness and abuse.

Such rules are much more effective in shaping the incentives of economic agents in ways that promote growth and development where they are reasonably efficient in design, are transparent and accessible to those for whom they are intended and can be implemented at a reasonable cost.

The quality of the rules also has a crucial bearing on how societies distribute the benefits and finance the costs of development strategies and policies

Although the current government has attempted to convey to investors across the world that theirs is a government where the decisions will be fair, transparent and within the four corners of the law, there are many issues which are affecting the sentiments of investors and businesses in India, some of these are –

In a recently conducted USISPF survey of CEOs of MNCs to gauge investment sentiments of businesses in India, unanimously listed good governance, transparency, predictable tax policy framework, ease of doing business, infrastructure and cost advantage as reasons for choosing alternate countries for their investments.

Delayed Administrative Mechanisms: A study mentions that in India, it takes over 250-254 hours annually to complete tax procedures for businesses. Another bottleneck faced by the Indian economy has been the lack of uniform policies amongst Indian states.

Dispute Resolution: Similarly, delays in dispute resolution which take up to 1445 days to be resolved as opposed to only 164 days to resolve a dispute in Singapore, have also dampened India's attractiveness for MNCs.

Quality infrastructure is critical for the sound functioning of an economy because it plays such a central role in determining the location of economic activity and the kinds of sectors that can develop. India lacks quality infrastructure, except few regions.

Productivity of capital: Long-term changes in technology can influence the attractiveness of investment. In the late nineteenth century, new technologies meant firms had a strong incentive to invest in this new technology because it was much more efficient than previous technology. If there is a slowdown in the rate of technological progress, firms will cut back investment as there are lower returns on the investment.

A healthy workforce is vital to an economy's competitiveness and productivity—investing in the provision of health services is essential for both economic and moral reasons. In this regard, the Global Hunger Index necessitates India improve vastly.

Basic education increases the efficiency of each worker, and good-quality higher education and training allow economies to move up the value chain beyond simple production processes and products.

Conclusion

Recent times have seen improvement in India's overall efforts towards facilitating investors and businesses, which is evident from WTO's Trade Policy Review (TPR) which appreciated India's goods and services tax, reforms on taxation, trade facilitation and improving the ease of doing business, and liberalised regimes for FDI and intellectual property rights.

Q11 .Examine the factors that led to the deterioration of agrarian life during British rule in India.

Approach

Students are expected to write about agrarian life in the British era. And examine the factors that led to the deterioration of agrarian life during British rule in the India.

Introduction

A major characteristic of British rule in India, and the net result of British economic policies, was the prevalence of extreme poverty among its people. The drain of wealth to Britain and a backward agrarian structure leading to the stagnation of agriculture and the exploitation of the poor peasants by the zamindars, landlords, princes, moneylenders, merchants and the state gradually reduced the Indian people to extreme poverty and prevented them from progressing.

Body

Factors that led to the deterioration of the agrarian life during British rule in India:

Land tenure system: This system strengthened feudalism in upper sections and slavery in lower sections of society. Due to fixation of land revenue, the income of government through land revenue could not increase even if the cost of agricultural land and production increased. Most of the zamindars had their focus on collection of maximum revenue rather than focusing on betterment of agricultural land which degraded the condition of farmers.

Overcrowding in agriculture: The loss and overcrowding of land caused by de-industrialisation and lack of modern industry compelled the landless peasants and ruined artisans and handicraftsmen to become either tenants of the moneylenders and zamindars by paying rack-rent or agricultural labourers at starvation wages. The overcrowding in agriculture and increase in subinfeudation led to subdivision and fragmentation of land into small holdings most of which could not maintain their cultivators.

Impoverishment of the Peasantry: Permanently and the Temporarily Settled Zamindari areas, the lot of the peasants remained unenviable. They were left to the mercies of the zamindars who raised rents to unbearable limits, compelled them to pay illegal dues and to perform forced labour or beggar and oppressed them in diverse other ways.

Development of New Agrarian Relations: The new agrarian relationships stabilized the government revenues but, however, reduced the farmers to miserable poverty. Now, land became saleable, alienable and mortgageable which weaken the

framework of the rustic society. Due increase in number of intermediaries i.e. Government, creditors and zamindar, the farmers turned out to be the ultimate victim.

Exploitation by moneylenders: More often the inability to pay revenue drove the peasant to borrow money at high rates of interest from the moneylender. He preferred getting into debt by mortgaging his land to a moneylender or to a rich peasant neighbour to losing it outright. He was also forced to go to the moneylender whenever he found it impossible to make both ends meet.

Spread of landlordism: A remarkable feature of the spread of landlordism was the growth of subinfeudation or intermediaries. Since the cultivating tenants were generally unprotected and the overcrowding of land led the tenants to compete with one another to acquire land, the rent of land went on increasing.

Growth of plantation industries: This led to commercialisations of agriculture in India. Apart from machine-based industries, the nineteenth century also witnessed the growth of plantation industries such as indigo, tea and coffee. Indigo planters gained notoriety for their oppression over the peasants who were compelled by them to cultivate indigo. This oppression was vividly portrayed by the famous Bengali writer Dinbandhu Mitra in his play Neel Darpan in 1860. Moreover, conditions of near-slavery prevailed in the plantations.

Indebtedness and Alienation of Land: There was an increase in cultivation of cash crops such as indigo, opium and jute, during British rule. However, it contributed to the growth of rural indebtedness. Indebtedness of the peasants resulted in distress sale of land holdings and such sales increased in number over the years. Indebtedness and certain other factors converted the peasants into agricultural labourers.

Conclusion

Thus, the British rule in India proved harmful to the Indian agriculture and to peasantry in different spheres. In-fact whatever harm the British had done to India was to safeguard their own interest and whatever advantage the Indians received from the British rule was the outcome of the efforts made by various agrarian and peasant movements, which later helped the leaders to form larger consensus and transform it into national movement.

Q12. Discuss evolution of British policies on education in India. How did it affect society and politics? Examine.

Approach

As the directive is to examine it is necessary to cover various angles of the issue. In the beginning evolution of education policies can be discussed and in later half effects it had on the societal and political spectrum can be highlighted.

Introduction

British came as traders with intention of increasing profit of their trade. After establishing their rule in various provinces they were successful in introduction of modern education. In this effort not just government but Christian missionaries and large number of enlightened Indians played role.

Body

Evolution of education –

In 1781 Warren Hastings set up the Calcutta madrassa for the teaching of Muslim law and related subjects. In 1791, Jonathan Duncan started Sanskrit college at Varanasi, where he was resident for study of Hindu law and philosophy.

Both these institutions were designed to supply of qualified Indians to help administration of law in the court of company.

Missionaries and their supporters began to exert their pressure to promote modern education in India. Many Indians also believed that modern education would be remedy for the social and economic ills of the country.

A humble beginning was made in 1813 when charter act incorporated principle of encouraging learned Indians and promoting knowledge of modern science. Act directed company to spend sum of one lakh rupees but this amount was made available only in 1823.

In later years controversy over medium of direction in education raged. Vernaculars advocated use of Indian languages while anglicist recommended use of English.

Controversy was settled in 1835 when government decided to devote resources to the teaching of western sciences and literature through medium of English only. Lord Macaulay who was a law member of governor general's council argued in a famous minute that Indian languages are not sufficiently developed for the purpose

Government acted quickly on this policy but opened very few schools and colleges instead of large elementary school. It was decided to spend money educating few Indians from upper and middle class who were expected to assume task of educating masses. This ''downward filtration theory'' failed to a large extent.

In 1854 the wood's dispatch named after Charles wood, was another important step in development of education. Dispatch asked the government to assume responsibility for education of masses, repudiated downward filtration theory. As a result universities were set up in 1857 at Calcutta, Bombay and madras.

East India company and later under the crown did not take any serious interest in spreading western learning or any learning at all in India. Sole intention was to get cheap supply of educated Indians to man large number of increasing administration.

Effect on society and politics –

Bethune College was set up for the education of girls, it proved to be impacting lives of women. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay became first graduate from Calcutta University, and with it new batch of Indian scholars emerged.

With knowledge of English literature and new ideas generation, of Indians became aware of exploitation administration was doing. From pamphlets to active political efforts of congress party masses became aware of the evil nature of raj.

Another motive behind education policy was Indians will help expand the market for British goods in India. Education policy glorified rule but Indian leaders turned the table by exposing truth.

Mahatma Gandhi came up with alternative education policy of Wardha scheme on principle of learning through activity.

Education policy made Indians aware of ill practices of tradition and opened new doors for global ideas, also on the other hand new literature of glorified past created a space for debate.

Conclusion

Education policies of British raj came with its own limitations and prejudices but it did helped to Indians understand the poor state of traditional form of education. Education created new minds with modern ideas and gave new vigour to fight injustice and suppression. Mass education enlightened our social discourse and made fabric of India more robust.

Q13. What contribution did Swami Vivekananda make in awakening the spirit of nationalism in India? Discuss.

Approach

As the derivative is discuss so it typically requires an in-depth answer that takes into account all aspects of the debate concerning the topic. You must demonstrate reasoning skills with this type of question, by using evidence to make a case for or against a research topic/argument.

Introduction

Swami Vivekananda was a Hindu monk from Calcutta who dedicated his life to awaken in the people of this country the spirit of nationalism along with the sense of human dignity and worth. Something that was missing after centuries of oppression. He was a nationalist who, through his speeches ignited the spark of nationalism that was flickering within everyone that time.

Body

Contribution of Swami Vivekananda in awakening the spirit of nationalism in India

In Rabindranath Tagore's words, "If you want to know India, study Vivekananda. In him everything is positive and nothing negative". His contribution in awakening the spirit of nationalism includes:

He was the greatest architects of modern nationalism in India, without any parallel. He did not visualize India as merely a geographical entity or a heaven of opportunity for the elite.

His life-long mission was: Upliftment of the masses, development of their physical and moral strength, and creating in them a consciousness of the pride in the ancient glory and greatness of India. Patriotism means love of the country and country means its masses. Only Vivekananda arrived at this road through religion.

He emphasized that a nation is composed of individuals. And individuals must be spiritually, mentally, physically strong. Only then, we could dream of India being a strong nation.

Vivekananda stressed that noble virtues like manliness, a sense of human dignity and honour should be cultivated by all individuals. These individualistic qualities had to be supplemented with a positive sense of love for the neighbour.

Without deep sense of selfless services, it was mere prattle to talk about national cohesion and fraternity. It was essential to identify one's ego with the ego of country and the nation. As a theorist and teacher Vivekananda has given to the country the idea of fearlessness and strength.

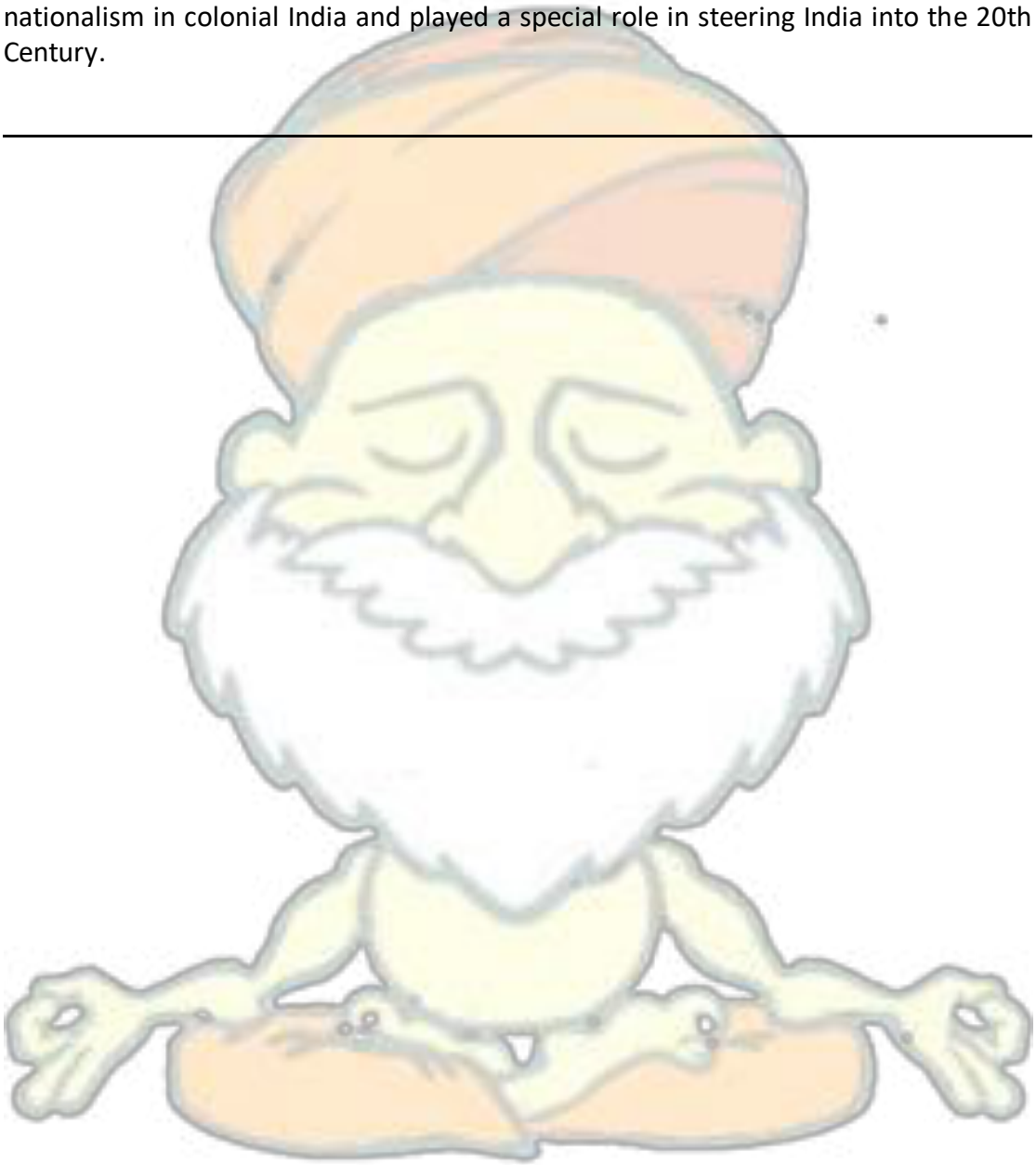
His nationalism is based on Humanism and Universalism, the two cardinal features of Indian spiritual culture. He taught people to get rid first of self-inflicted bondages and resultant miseries.

The nature of his nationalism is not materialistic but purely spiritual, which is considered to be the source of all strength of Indian life. Unlike western nationalism which is secular in nature, Swami Vivekananda's nationalism is based on religion which is life blood of the Indian people.

What many failed to realize was the fact that religion and spirituality are in the veins of Indians. Vivekananda acknowledged this fact, and worked for India's unification through awakening the force of religion and spirituality.

Conclusion

Swami Vivekananda's nationalism is deeply rooted in Indian spirituality and morality. His nationalism is associated with spiritualism. He linked India's regeneration to her age-old tradition of spiritual goal. He said, "Each nation has a destiny to fulfil, each nation has a message to deliver, each nation has a mission to accomplish. Therefore, we must have to understand the mission of our own race, the destiny it has to fulfil, the place it has to occupy in the march of nations, and the role which it has to contribute to the harmony of races". He contributed immensely to the concept of nationalism in colonial India and played a special role in steering India into the 20th Century.



Q14. How did British policies lead to severe famines in different parts of India? What was the response of Indian nationalists to these policies? Discuss.

Approach

A straight forward question where in you need to mention about the policies of British which lead to famines and how did Indian nationalists responded, also give a brief account of the response of British to the demands of Indian nationalists, mention the severity of the famines and how they impacted Indian society at large.

Introduction

Prior to the mid-18th century, famine was seen as a natural calamity from which many European countries suffered. Only after the expansion of commercial and industrial activities was the problem of famines gradually removed in Europe and since the second half of the 19th century, Europe has not witnessed any major famine. However, in a number of Asian and African countries, especially under colonialism, famines have frequently taken place with great intensity. This was the direct result of colonial policy, which led to increased misery and a rise in the incidence of famines.

Notable famines in India-

Bengal Famine of 1943

Chalisa Famine of 1783

Great Bengal Famine of 1770

Skull Famine of 1791

Orissa Famine of 1866

Deccan Famine of 1630

Bihar Famine of 1873

Agra Famine of 1837

Body

Famine, while no stranger to the subcontinent, increased in frequency and deadliness with the advent of British colonial rule. The EIC helped kill off India's once-robust textile industries, pushing more and more people into agriculture. This, in turn, made the Indian economy much more dependent on the whims of seasonal monsoons.

Under British pressure, the government in India allowed unrestricted exports of foodgrains even during times of famine. The government made sure that food grain prices were determined by the market forces of supply and demand.

The British government abandoned pre-colonial policies to combat natural calamities and food scarcity in India. They were more interested in the implementation of non-interference in the market. Adam Smith's laissez-faire approach, i.e., the principle of non-intervention, was firmly laid down as a part of state policy and therefore was strictly implemented in all subsequent famines.

As a result of high revenue demand, the peasants were not left with any surplus to help them or to provide any insurance in the lean harvest years. Therefore, the land revenue policy of the government was the root cause of poverty, indebtedness, famines and mass deaths in India.

Inadequate transportation and the government's inaction regarding taking concrete policy measures to end it. The money and resources required to combat famines in

the second half of the 19th century were being diverted towards activities like paying for the British imperial war efforts in Afghanistan and in East Asia.

Response of Indian nationalists to these policies-

The nationalists in the first half of 19th century supported British rule under the impression that it would modernise the country based on latest technology and capitalist economic organization.

After 1860s disillusionment started to set in among the politically conscious and they began to probe into the reality of British rule and their policies which created conditions of famine in India. The foremost among these were Dadabhai Naoroji, Romesh Chandra Dutt, Gopal Krishna Gokhale exposed the policies of British and highlighted issues among the masses.

The nationalist agitation on economic issues served to undermine the ideological hegemony of alien rulers over Indian minds that the foreign rule was in the interest of Indians, thus exposing the myth of its moral foundations.

Nationalist response reached its peak during Bengal famine in 1943 which led rise of large-scale response against British through Quit India movement. It was felt that rather than the policies it is the colonial structure as a whole responsible for the deaths of millions during the famines.

Colonial response to the famines in India-

While the British authorities devoted significant effort and money to their attempts to relieve famines in India, the relief efforts were often insufficient, and frequently faced obstacles from natural or cultural systems on the ground.

With rising resentment of the Indian nationalists towards the British various Famine commissions were constituted to find the causes and measure to deal with them also a Famine code in 1880s was established which provided general guidelines as a response to the famines in India.

Conclusion

Famine had been perennial feature of Indian sub-continent during British Raj. The agrarian system as evolved from the British had a built-in system of destruction of agriculture. Apart from the traditional reasons of famine like a monsoon failure, natural calamities etc. the Economic Policy of British created a situation so that scarcity of food and recurrent famines became very frequent in India. The magnitude of famines that struck India during the colonial rule throws sufficient light on the fact that these famines were a man-made phenomenon.

Q15. Do you agree with the assertion that the development of railways by the British brought economic prosperity in India? Critically examine.

Approach

A straightforward question where in you need to critically examine the assertion that development of railways by the British brought economic prosperity in India while also giving your view with regards to it i.e. whether you agree to the assertion or do not agree to it.

Introduction

Starting its career on 16 April 1853, when the first railway passenger train was opened, India's railway system expanded rapidly to become, by 1910, the fourth largest in the world. This huge railway network altered India's transport system resulting in increase in interconnectedness in all aspects of Indian society.

Body

Railways were the most important infrastructure development in India from 1850 to 1947. In terms of the economy, railways played a major role in integrating markets and increasing trade. The development of railways by the British did bring economic prosperity in India, which is evident from the following points:

Railways united the entire Indian economy as one part of India depended on movement of goods and services of other parts.

It helped in movement of Indian goods and provided market for Indian producers. It integrated the markets and increased the trade. As an example, before the construction of railways, India exported no wheat at all, but, by 1886, she was supplying 23 p.c. of Britain's imports of wheat.

The railway system in India became the forerunner of limited industrial development. This, in its turn, brought about a social revolution. It brought "social advancement of the people" of India.

The necessity of fuel for railways made coal industry a growing industry. Railways not only created demand for Indian coal (by 1900 roughly 30% of the coal produced was used by railways) but also made coal available in the far-flung areas of the country.

Railways made possible the establishment of a well-knit market. Railways, by establishing these links, had an impact throughout the economy. Karl Marx observed that the railway system in India would become "truly the forerunner of modern industry".

It provided employment and helped several subsectors like mining, construction and so on. For example, market position of handloom cloth was actually strengthened by the railways due to the availability of low-priced factory-made yarns and that the number of weavers did not decline.

Not only did the railway network lead to a rise in income levels and a decline in the uncertainty in income, recent evidence suggests that the intensity of famines lessened as the railway network increased.

Domestic and international economic trends shaped the pace of railway construction where it can be seen that the development of railways by the British did not necessarily bring economic prosperity in India, which is evident from the following points –

Railways had never been thought of as a promoter of industries by the British authorities. Rather, its expansion would ease supply of raw materials to England and help the marketing of British manufactures in India.

The expansion of Indian railways undoubtedly created demand for steel, engines and wagons, etc. But since these were in the country's import list there were very little or no linkage effects in India. Thus the rapid explosion of Indian railways failed to create an environment for 'take-off of the Indian economy'.

One of the injurious effects of railway expansion was the destruction of local indigenous industries. Many argue that railways led to the flooding of the Indian market with foreign machine-made goods at prices lower than local weavers charged. This forced many to crowd into the agricultural sector.

The occupational pattern did show almost a stationary growth despite expansion in railways and India remained predominantly an agricultural country. Thus one sees the absence of basic structural changes of the Indian economy partly due to the lack

of linkages—both forward and backward—that resulted from the way the railways were built and operated.

The Government of India had a strong influence on railways from the beginning, but the Government's role increased over time. Fares and freight charges exhibit similar patterns, declining from 1850 to 1919 and then rising somewhat until 1940 as government's role increased.

Nationalists pointed out that the spread effects of railway expansion or the benefits of railway construction in terms of encouragement to the iron and steel industry and to capital investment—or the so-called backward and forward linkages—had been garnered by Britain and not India.

Railway expansion helped increase in the drain of wealth from India since Indian railways were built with foreign capital and administered by foreign employees. Thus, the potential benefits of railways were far from actual benefits due to increased drain of wealth.

Conclusion

The economic legacy of the British Raj is far more complex than what many would have us believe where though railways had its drawbacks as illustrated above but with the advent of railways – regional specialization began to occur and trade flourished which varied from region to region thus leading to the skewed regional growth, whose effects can still be felt.

Q16. How did internal rivalries lead to early British expansion and control in India? Discuss.

Approach

Students are expected to write about internal rivalries in India. And how internal rivalries lead to British expansion and control in India.

Introduction

There was a vacuum of power in India after the Mughal Empire got fractured falling under its own weight. Its various governors and rebel commanders established their superiority at different places and started fighting against each other. Even though there were powerful Indian states like Punjab, Mysore and the Marathas that ruled Indian subcontinent during the mid-19th century, many of them were fighting with each other for different reasons. They failed to perceive the danger arising from the East India Company and could not unite against a common foreign enemy.

Body

Internal rivalries lead to early British expansion and control in India:

Carnatic Wars: It was the succession disputes in both the Carnatic and Hyderabad that opened the gates for the British and the French to play the roles of middlemen and thus in order to grind their axe both European powers had a golden opportunity for intervention in support of various rival Indian claimants. Later French were checked by British forces under Robert Clive in 1751 AD. Robert Clive changed the course of the war. And gained control over region.

Battle of Plassey: The battle was hardly important from the military point of view. It was a mere skirmish. The English army didn't show military superiority. It was desertion in the Nawab's camp and treason that resulted in the victory of Clive. Clive excelled in the game of diplomacy and used Jagat Seth and Mir Jafar to win without fighting. It gave the British the access to the rich resources of Bengal. These were used to win the wars in Deccan including defeating the French in the Third Carnatic war, and also to extend influence overNorthern India.

Anglo Mysore War: The Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas launched an invasion from the north. The British won a decisive victory at the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799. Tipu was killed during the defence of the city. Much of the remaining Mysorean territory was annexed by the British, the Nizam and the Marathas.

Lack of Maratha unity: "The Maratha unity was artificial and fortuitous, and therefore uncertain". It was this basic weakness that stood against the Maratha Power and it did neither acquire real strength nor permanence. After the death of Madhav Rao the Marathas were caught in the meshes of mutual hostilities and

machinations; the result was that the Marathas could not put up that unity, sense of purpose, strength and patriotism which were necessary to meet the English.

Anglo Sikh War: The immediate cause for the English Company's invasion of the Punjab was the revolt of Mulraj, the Governor of Multan. The final and decisive battle at Gujrat near Chenab was won by the English in 1849. This war resulted in the annexation of Punjab. In March 1849, Lord Dalhousie annexed Punjab under the Treaty of Lahore and pensioned off Dalip Singh to England along with his mother Rani Jindan. The second Anglo Sikh War ended with British conquest of Punjab.

Annexation of Sindh: Many people helped the British in the conquest of Sindh, including a Hindu government minister of Sindh, Mirs of Khairpur, Chandio Tribesmen, and Khosa Tribesmen. Then, Charles Napier hired Khosa Baloch tribesman. Chandio Baloch Sardar brought a cavalry of 10,000 to support Charles Napier in the Miani war, but did not participate in the actual war, and his armies stood on reserve to attack in case Charles Napier lost the war. For his role, Chandio sardar got Chandka (present day Larakana, Qambar- Shahdadkot districts) as Jagir.

Other factors lead to British expansion in India were:

Nationalist Pride: An economically thriving British people believing in material advancement and proud of their national glory faced the 'weak, divided-amongst-themselves Indians' bereft of a sense of unified political nationalism.

Civil Discipline and Fair Selection System: The Company officers and troops were given charge on the basis of their reliability and skill and not on hereditary or caste and clan ties.

Better Military Discipline and Regular Salary: A regular system of payment of salaries and a strict regime of discipline were the means by which the English Company ensured that the officers and the troops were loyal.

Strong Financial Backup: The income of the Company was adequate enough to pay its shareholders handsome dividends as also to finance the English wars in India.

Conclusion

By the middle of the nineteenth century AD, the British had firmly established their position in India. A large part of the country was under direct British rule. The areas that remained independent were indirectly under British influence. India was subjugated politically as well as economically. The economic exploitation of India was a result of its political subjugation.

Q17. Comment upon the role of peasants during initial phase of freedom struggle

Approach

Question is straight forward. Demand of question is factual in the first half and analytical in second half. Stressing on the importance of peasants in freedom struggle its impact on post independent India ca be underlined in conclusion.

Introduction

Indian peasants suffered from high rents, illegal levies, arbitrary eviction and unpaid labour in zamindari areas. The peasants often resisted the exploitation and realised that their real enemy is colonial state. Desperate peasants took to crime to come out of intolerable conditions. These included robbery, dacoity and social banditry.

Body

What are the reasons of impoverishment of Indian peasantry under colonial rule?

Colonial economic policies

Ruin of handcrafts industry led to overcrowding in agriculture

New land revenue system

Colonial administrative and judicial system

High rents, illegal levies, arbitrary evictions, unpaid labour in zamindari areas.

Peasant movements in nineteenth century

Indigo revolt (1859-60) In Bengal European indigo planters exploited local peasants by forcing peasants to grow indigo on their land instead of rice or other profit making crops. Anger of peasants exploded in 1859 when under Digambar biswas of nadia district they decided not to grow indigo and resist physical pressure from planters. Bengali intelligentsia played significant role in this cause through campaigns and mass meetings. Government appointed indigo commission and issued a notification that ryots could not be compelled to grow indigo.

Pabna agrarian league- oppressive practices of zamindars in eastern Bengal caused unrest. Rents beyond legal limits prevented tenants from acquiring occupancy rights under act X of 1859. As a result to fight back pabna agrarian league was constituted. The form of struggle was that of a legal resistance there was little violence. Government to protect tenants from oppression passed Bengal tenancy act of 1885.

Deccan riots- Ryots of deccan suffered heavy taxation under ryotwari system. Peasants found themselves trapped in vicious network of moneylenders. Most of them were outsider's marwaris or gujratis. Crash in cotton prices due to American civil war worsened situation. Growing tension between moneylenders and peasants resulted on social boycott movement against outsiders in villages of Pune, Ahmednagar and satara. As a conciliary measure Deccan agriculturist relief act was passed in 1879.

Weaknesses of 19th century movements –

They lacked adequate understanding of colonialism

They did not possess new ideology or new social, economic or political programme

Militant struggles occurred within old societal order lacking a positive conception of an alternative society

Outcomes of early peasant movements –

Peasants emerged as main force in agrarian movements fighting directly for their demands

Their demands were concentrated on economic issues.

There was no continuity of struggle or long term organisation

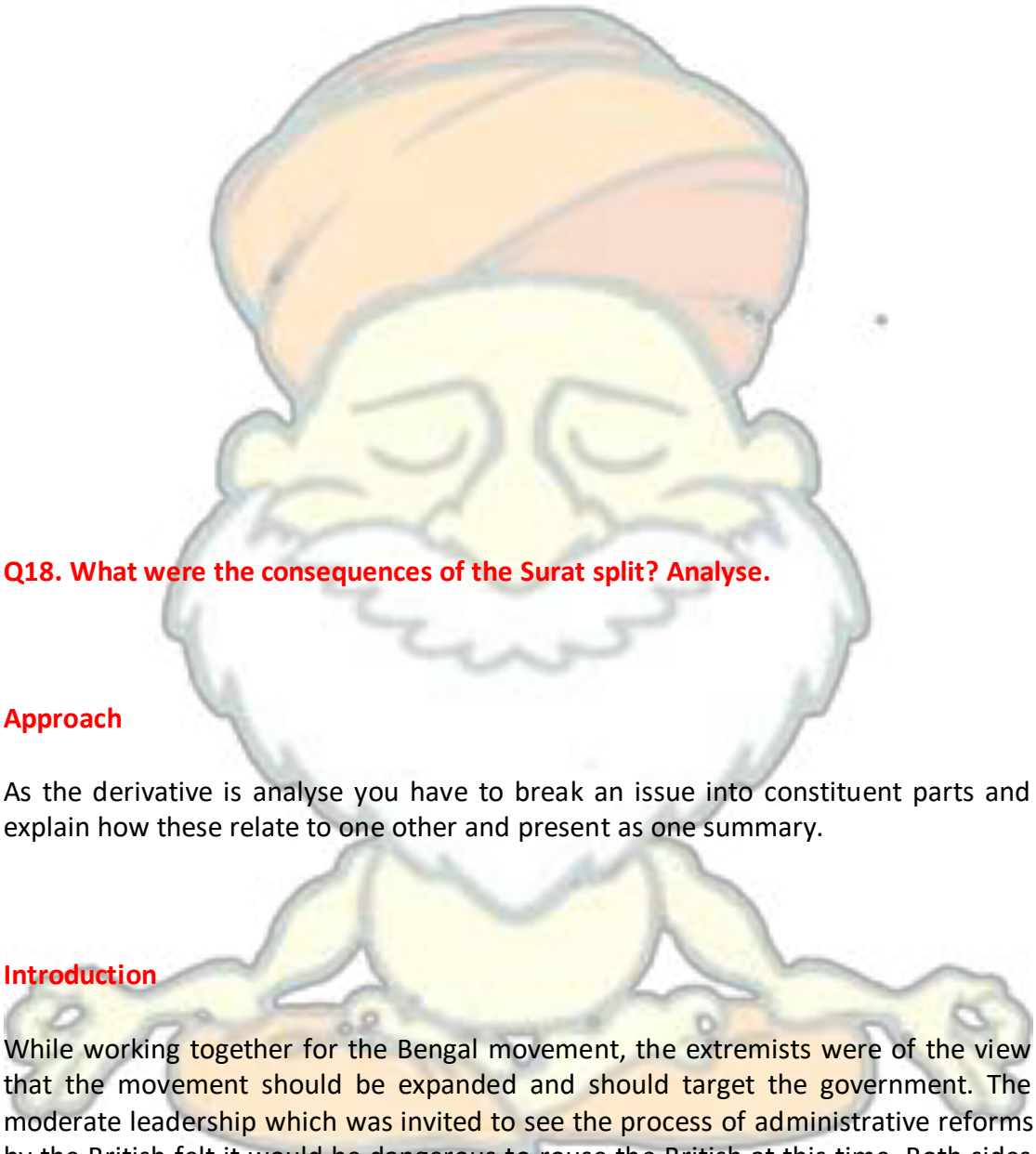
Peasants developed a strong awareness of their political and legal rights and asserted them in and outside the courts.

Objective of these movements was not to end subordination or exploitation of peasants as their struggle was directed against the immediate neighbour of zamindars and moneylenders.

Later in the 20th century peasant movements were influenced by national freedom struggle. Kisan sabha movement, Eka movement, Mappila revolt, bardoli satyagraha, champaran satyagraha are some examples which contributed immensely to the freedom struggle.

Conclusion

In the initial phase of freedom struggle, mass movements did not made much of a impact. But peasants in organised form recognised enemy and their mode of exploitation thereby contributing to greater cause of awareness among masses. Hinterland and countryside was cut off from the freedom struggle, with these movements freedom fighters penetrated in these spaces making them aware of their rights and also advocated their cause in front of the government. This resulted in India taking post-independence land reforms and agriculture revolution.



Q18. What were the consequences of the Surat split? Analyse.

Approach

As the derivative is analyse you have to break an issue into constituent parts and explain how these relate to one other and present as one summary.

Introduction

While working together for the Bengal movement, the extremists were of the view that the movement should be expanded and should target the government. The moderate leadership which was invited to see the process of administrative reforms by the British felt it would be dangerous to rouse the British at this time. Both sides thus viewed each other as the enemy. The extremist leader Tilak and moderate leader Gokhale wanted to avoid split as they knew that divided congress could be easily subdued by the British. But they had to kneel before the other leaders of their factions. Finally, on 1907 under president ship of Rash Bihari Ghosh the party split in Surat.

Body

The Consequences of the Surat Split

Immediately after the split the leaders of the extremists were repressed by the government and the faction was left leaderless. Tilak was imprisoned in Burma; Aurobindo Ghosh gave up politics for religion. Pal retired from politics and Lala Lajpat Rai went abroad for an extended stay.

The moderates too were fooled and no concessions were given by the Morley Minto reforms. Instead, it sowed the seeds of communal representation and which finally led to the partition of India. They lost their credibility and support. The period from 1907-1914 was a dark period for the congress.

The efforts by the eminent person like Ravindra Nath Tagore to bring Extremist and Moderates together in the aftermath of the Surat split, were in vain and further in the 1908 Allahabad convention, the adoption of resolutions by the Moderates for permanently disqualifying the Extremist section of the Congress led to the significant decline of nationalism in India.

Extremism was confined mainly to Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab, where outbreak of terrorism allowed the government to unleash repression. With extremist leaders like Tilak in prison, the moderate-dominated Congress was immersed in total inactivity.

The moderates after the Surat Split in 1907 demanded colonial self-government, as against the extremist demand of complete independence.

The British Government followed the policy of divide and Rule' and in order to curb and isolate the militant nationalists and suppress them they tried to win over moderate nationalist opinion.

In 1909 the Separate electorates were granted to the Muslims and congress was at its low. The most critical and vocal elements were not a part of the INC. Thus, the British had taken absolute advantage over the INC.

The Minto-Morley Reform of 1909 can be said to be the direct outcome of the Surat Split 1907. The split also greatly weakens both the parties.

The constitutional politics of the moderates had failed to impress the British government and that was amply reflected in the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909.As a result, the moderate leaders had lost touch with the younger generation of nationalists who wanted to see the results and this was also the major cause of emergence of revolutionaries.

The Extremists were hounded by official repression and liberals were abandoned by their own people. It was here that the revolutionary terrorism raised its head. The youth of Bengal was not interested in the petition politics of the moderates.

The Surat Split 1907 was a turning point in the history of Nationalist Movement in India. It meant a victory of the Extremists over the Moderates it also marked a change in the policy and attitude of the Government towards the nationalist moderates to the government side

Conclusion

British policy of Divide and Rule, saw a major victory in form of Surat Split and the British believed that they were in control of the affairs of the INC after significant period of time. While the leadership of the Congress remained in the hands of the Moderates for some time more, as the Extremists worked separately till 1916. Later both groups reunited at Lucknow session of Congress in 1916 due to the efforts of the leaders of Home Rule movement.

Q19. Examine the philosophical basis of the Swadeshi movement. How did it affect the views and perspectives of average Indian back then? Discuss.

Approach

The question demands thorough explanation of Swadeshi movement from philosophical basis and how it changed the perspective of average Indian that time. A fair explanation of how swadeshi movement changed the course of freedom struggle and enabled Indian masses to be part of it is also required.

Introduction

The Swadeshi movement was part of the Indian independence movement and contributed to the development of Indian nationalism. The movement, begun in 1906 by Indian nationals opposed to the Bengal partition, was one of the most successful movements against British rule.

There were however multiple other reasons that led to discontent amongst Indians like, Growing awareness about the economic exploitation by Britishers of Indian masses through drain of wealth theory.Diverting fund for railways and police instead of education and famines.Passing of Indian university commission Act 1904 which increased the official control over universities by increasing the nominated elements over the elected ones.Punjab land alienation Act of 1900 which prohibited any sale or purchase of land for 15 years by non-peasants.

Body

Philosophical basis-

Originally, Indian social structure was divided and purely based on duties performed by different sections of people. The concept ensured true division of labour and mass production. This improved the workmanship, perfection and speed of work.

The Swadeshi movement was an economic strategy aimed at removing the British Empire from power and improving economic conditions in India. The application of swadeshi in politics calls for the revival of the indigenous institutions and strengthening them to overcome some of its defects.

The ideological inspiration for this new politics came from the new regional literature, which provided a discursive field for defining the Indian nation in terms of its distinct cultural heritage or civilisation. This was also a response to gendered discourse of colonialism that had established the philosophical connection between musculanity and political domination, stereotyping the colonised society as having un-manly characters and therefore unfit for rule.

Concept of swadeshi later became the basis of all the anti-British movements and became fundamental in Gandhian philosophy. Gandhi described swadeshi as 'law of laws' ingrained in the basic nature of human being. It is a universal law. Like nature's law it needs no enacting. It is self-acting one. When one neglects or disobeys it due to ignorance or other reasons, the law takes its own course to restore to the original position like the laws of nature.

Change in views and perspectives of Indian people –

The Marathas, Rajputs and Sikhs stereotyped in colonial ethnography as Martial Races were now placed in the Aryan tradition and appropriated as national heroes. Leaders were idolised as champions of national glory.

The Indian political leaders also looked back to ancient Indo-Aryan political traditions as alternatives to colonial political systems. The Indian tradition was described as more democratic with strong emphasis village self-government.

The movement was a turning point in modern Indian history. It proved to be a "leap forward" in more ways than one. The previously untouched sections like students, women, and workers, some sections of the urban and rural population participated.

The trend of the national movement moved from conservative moderation to political extremism, from revolutionary activities to incipient socialism, from petitions and prayers to passive resistance and non-cooperation, emerged during the Swadeshi Movement.

The anti-partition agitation paved the way for the development of indigenous industries, for example, Acharya PC Ray's Bengal Chemical Stores. This inculcated a feeling of self-reliance by reducing the dependence on foreign goods.

The movement also increased the demand for national education and numerous national schools and colleges came up in various parts of the country.

Samitis mobilized people at mass level by engaging in various types of activities such social work during famines festivals, preaching swadeshi message, organizing crafts, setting up arbitration. Various samitis came up in many parts of Bengal such as Swadesh Bandhab Samiti, Dacca Anushilan courts.

Moreover the movement gave confidence to the masses to fight the british with more energy and vigour, Also It led to building of self-reliance or Atma Shakti asserting on national dignity, honor and confidence. Swadeshi movement led the people to learn to challenge and disobey the British government explicitly without fearing the atrocities of the police and imprisonment.

Conclusion

Though he Swadeshi Movement was not successful in reaching its immediate goals but it provided a platform for the national freedom struggle. Later it showed the way to nationalist leaders to prepare the masses for the next phase of struggle under Gandhiji's leadership.

Q20. What were the key achievements of the moderates? What were the limitations of their means and methods? Discuss.

Approach

A Straightforward question which is divided into two parts where the first part should explain what the key achievements of the moderates were while the second part should discuss the limitations of their means and methods to fulfil the overall demand of the question.

Introduction

The Moderates were the ones who dominated the affairs of the Indian National Congress from 1885-1905 who believed in patience, steadiness, conciliation and union. They were called moderates because they appeal through petitions, speeches and articles loudly professing loyalty to the British Raj.

Body

The leader of the first phase of the National Movement were A.O. Hume, W.C. Banerjee, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Dadabhai Naoroji, Feroze Shah Mehta, etc. who were staunch believers in liberalism and moderate politics . The key achievements of moderates can be seen from the following points:

They were the architect of first all India political forum. They build up a political platform which became the focal point of national mainstream movement in the years to come.

They represented the most aggressive forces of the time which transform the Indian political notion. They were able to create anti-colonial ideology and political awakening and consciousness among the public.

The moderate nationalism promoted the national consciousness and national identity. They laid the foundation for the growth of feeling of India as a nation. They fostered a sense of political unity, spirit of togetherness and unity of purpose.

They were able to expose the myth of benevolent despotism of British rule in India. Through their economic critique and criticism of British policies etc., they uncovered the exploitative nature of British rule in India.

They exposed the true nature of the colonial rule and elements associated with it – that Indian poverty was result of colonial exploitation. They could corrode much of the popular belief in benevolence and good will of imperial rule.

In order to create public opinion in England, the Moderates arranged lectures in different parts of England. Moderates used different types of newspaper and chronicles to criticise the government policies through newspaper like Bengali newspaper, Bombay chronicle, Hindustan Times, Induprakash, Rast Goftar and a weekly journal India.

They also began process of inculcating national sentiments among the people in organised manner. They strengthened democratic conception popularised the idea of representative institutions and elective principles.

Some of the other major achievements of moderates included passing of Indian Council's Act of 1882, formation of Welby commission on Indian expenditure in 1895 and passing of resolution in House of commons for simultaneous examinations in 1893.

However, the moderates also suffered from some limitations in terms of their means and methods, which can be seen from the points given below –

The moderate phase leaders were criticized for the methods they used i.e. 3 P's - prayers, petitions and protests. These methods were criticized as being inadequate for challenging the British might in India.

Further the lack of participation of masses in the movement has been criticized as the major drawback as the leaders were mainly educated middle class professionals like lawyers, teachers, journalist and civil servants etc. The masses mainly played a passive role during the moderate phase of national movement. Thus, it had a limited social appeal.

They were geared towards rectifying the un-Britishness of the British rule in India. The moderates expected the British to guide India, help her conquer the cultural and social backwardness and then transform into progressive country which would lead to establishment of representative government. For them the interests of the British and Indians were similar rather than opposites.

Contrary to its claim as representing all communities, an important limitation was that majority of the moderates were Hindus. Between the period of 1892-1909, Hindus comprised 90% of the delegates attending the Congress.

As moderates started to become more assertive, the British became unfriendly, and began to encourage Muslims to stay away from the Congress. Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan and other prominent Muslim leaders feared that INC's demand for 'elected council'

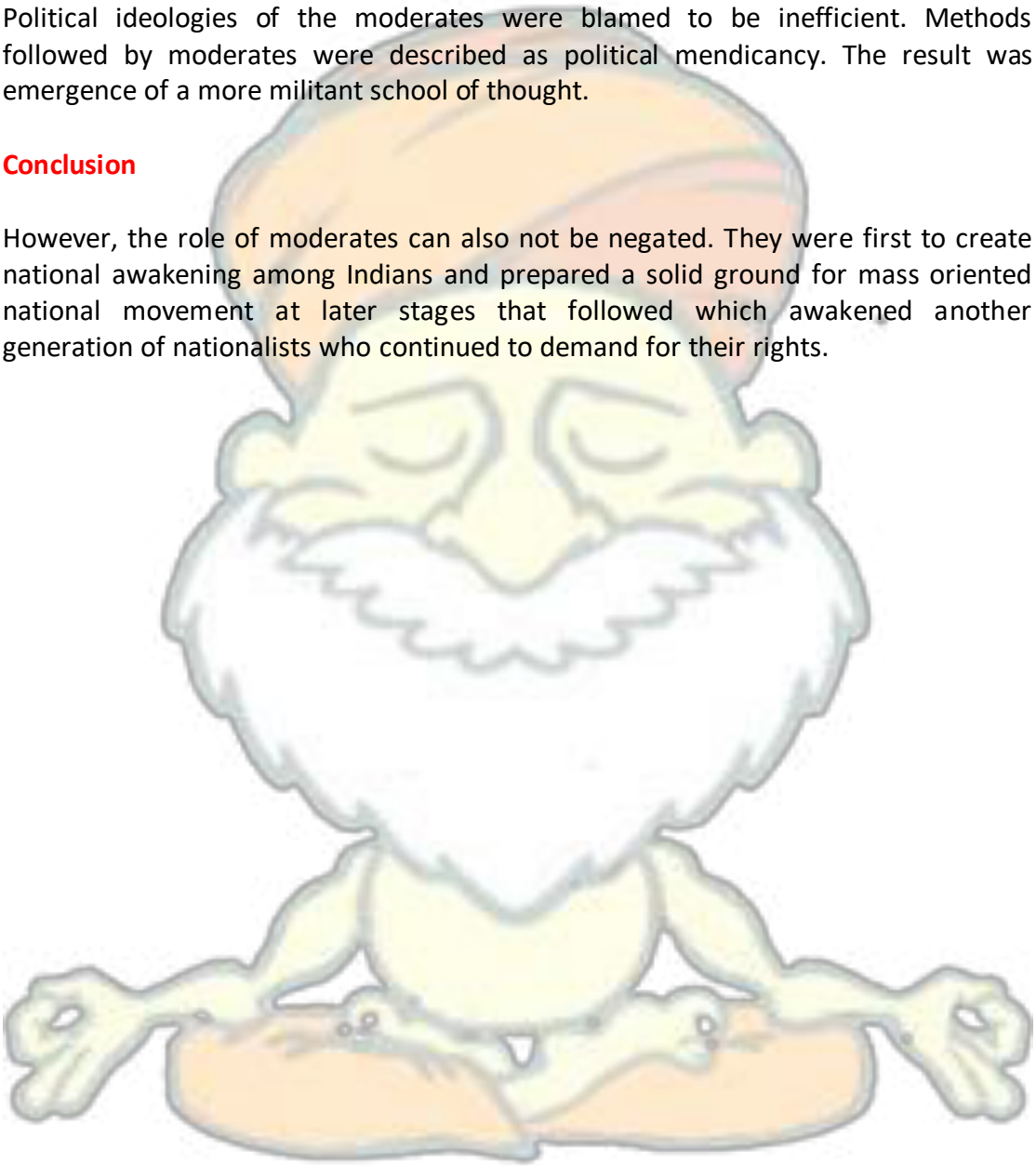
would mean Hindu majority rule. End result was formation of separate Muslim league (in 1906).

Moderates could have gained following among the women and mill workers, but it did not champion the mining, factory and labour reform bills in Bombay, due to lobbying from its industrialists members and donors

Political ideologies of the moderates were blamed to be inefficient. Methods followed by moderates were described as political mendicancy. The result was emergence of a more militant school of thought.

Conclusion

However, the role of moderates can also not be negated. They were first to create national awakening among Indians and prepared a solid ground for mass oriented national movement at later stages that followed which awakened another generation of nationalists who continued to demand for their rights.



21. With the help of suitable examples, comment upon the characteristics of tribal movements during British rule in India.

Approach

A straightforward question where in you need to dwell upon the characteristics of tribal movements during British rule in India with the help of some relevant examples.

Introduction

The tribals of India, like other social groups, participated in the anti-colonial movement where the important tribes involved in revolt in the colonial period were Mizos (1810), Kols (1795 and 1831), Mundas (1889), Daflas (1875), Khasi and Garo (1829), Kacharis (1839), Santhals (1853), Muria Gonds (1886), Nagas (1844 and 1879), Bhuiyas (1868) and Kondhas (1817), etc.

Body

The tribal groups were an important and integral part of Indian life. Before their annexation and subsequent incorporation in the British territories, they had their own social and economic systems. These systems were traditional in nature and satisfied the needs of the tribals.

The British policies proved harmful to the tribal society. This destroyed their relatively self-sufficient economy and communities. The tribal groups of different regions revolted against the Britishers. Their movements were anti-colonial in nature because they were directed against the colonial administration.

In this regard, the characteristics of tribal movements during British rule in India can be understood from the following points –

The tribal anti-colonial movements were of two types – 1. The movements against their oppressors i.e., landlords, money-lenders, traders, thekedars (contractors), government officials and Christian missionaries and 2. The movements which were linked to and merged with the Indian National movement.

The first type of movements can be termed as anti-colonial because these movements were directed against those classes which were the creation of British

colonialism and who collaborated with the tribals. These classes were considered outsiders by the tribals.

When tribals were unable to pay their loan or the interest thereon, money-lenders and landlords usurped their lands. The tribals thus became tenants on their own land and sometimes even bonded labourers. The police and the revenue officers never helped them.

The courts were not only ignorant of the tribal agrarian system and customs but also were unaware of the plight of the tribals. All these factors of land alienation, usurpation, forced labour, minimum wages, and land grabbing compelled many tribes like Munda, Santhals, Kol, Bhils, Warli, etc., in many regions like Assam, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra to revolt.

They launched movements against their oppressors in their respective regions. Their agitations against the outsiders could be called anti-colonial. For example, Birsa Munda identified their enemies in the outsiders (dikus) – landlords, money-lenders, thekedars and missionaries and European government officials while promising a golden age to his tribe after removing the outsiders from their land.

On the whole, these movements had social and religious overtone but they were directed against the issues related to their existence. For example, the Jatra Bhagat and Tana Bhagat Movement (1914), started by Jatra Bhagat. It was a movement for monotheism, abstention from meat, liquor and tribal dance. The Jatra Bhagat and Tana Bhagat movements stressed both anti-colonialism and internal reforms.

The management of forests also led some tribes to revolt, as forests in some regions are the main sources of their livelihood. The rules not only deprived the tribals of several forest products but also made them victims of harassment by the forest officials. This led tribes in Andhra Pradesh and some other areas to launch movements. For example, Rampa rebellion under Alluri Sitaramaraju.

These ‘movements were launched under the leadership of their respective chiefs. Although the movements initially began on social and religious issues and against the oppression of outsiders, in course of time, they merged with the National movement and with the no-tax campaign.

The tribals fought against their enemies with their traditional weapons i.e., bows, arrows, lathis and axe. Their movement often took a violent turn resulting in the murder of oppress and the burning of their houses. For example, the revolt of the Ramoshi’s in the areas surrounding Bombay.

Most of the movements were ruthlessly suppressed by the government. The tribals had to comply with British policies which were detrimental to their interests. But after these setbacks, the government introduced protective administration in tribal

areas. The government passed I Scheduled District Act (1874) and categorised the tribal areas as excluded areas the Govt. of India Act of 1935.

Conclusion

Tribals formed part of the exploited social groups during the colonial period. As a result of the annexation and subsequent incorporation of tribal areas in the British territories, the tribal movements in India remained confined to some regions only but nonetheless they formed part of the larger national struggle against imperialist powers.

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22. Examine the contribution of Bengal in India's freedom struggle.

Approach

Students are expected to write about the contribution of Bengal in India's freedom struggle.

Introduction

Bengal, as West Bengal is popularly known, enjoys eminence for its immense contribution to Indian Independence Movement. In the early 20th-century, Bengal emerged as a hotbed of the Indian independence movement, as well as the epicentre of the Bengali Renaissance. Revolutionary nationalism emerged as a

potent political force in Bengal in the wake of the Swadeshi Movement in the first decade of the 20th century The Swadeshi Movement was the expression of the outrage triggered in Bengal by the partition of the province of Bengal in 1905.

Body

Contributions of Bengal in India's freedom struggle:

From 1763 to 1800 we witnessed the Sanyasi rebellion in Bengal. It was basically a peasant rebellion starting from Dhaka (now the capital of Bangladesh), and spread up to Bihar the number of the rebels reached up to fifty thousand.

The Indigo revolt was largely non-violent and it acted as a precursor to Gandhiji's non-violent satyagraha in later years. The revolt was made immensely popular by its portrayal in the play Nil Darpan and also in many other works of prose and poetry. This led to the revolt taking centre stage in the political consciousness of Bengal and impacted many later movements in Indian freedom struggle.

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee raised nationalism to the level of religion by identifying the Motherland with the Mother-Goddess. It was in Anandamath, he wrote the poem 'Vande Mataram'.

Bengal Renaissance created many journal houses and associated with many newspapers, journalistic publications like Tattwabadhini Patrika, samprakash, sarbashubhankarr Patrika and Hindu patriot to bring social and educational reforms with regards to the women. This gave the larger social base to Indian national movement.

Bengal rose into national consciousness on the back of Swadeshi movement and also further became the hub of leftist, socialist elements predominantly the Bengal Intelligentsia (The Bhadralok).

The leftists under MN Roy also influenced the development of Democratic, civic libertarian polity with socialist policy that the Indian state finally developed itself into.

Farmers also became the key stake holders in the freedom struggle as the National Movement took upon itself the ideology of Radical Agrarian Reform as one of its core principles which was also influenced by the Communist struggles in Bengal.

Movements in support of Bengal's unity and the swadeshi and boycott agitation were organised in many parts of the country. Tilak, who played a leading role in the spread of the movement outside Bengal, saw in this the ushering in of a new chapter in the history of the national movement. He realised that here was a challenge and

an opportunity to organise popular mass struggle against the British rule to unite the country in a bond of common sympathy.

Bengal School of Art promoted a distinctly Indian modernism which blossomed throughout India during the British Raj of the early 20th century. By synthesizing folk art, Indian painting traditions, Hindu imagery, indigenous materials and depictions of contemporary rural life, artists of the Bengal School of Art celebrate humanism and bring a dynamic voice to Indian identity, freedom, and liberation.

The Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar would serve as the two main organisations that would mark what was termed as the "Agni Yug" (the era of fire). Underground cells sprung up to train Indians in weapons and bomb-making. Assassinations of anti-Swadeshi officials, who brutally crushed protests, became commonplace. Such tactics and their success would subsequently inspire revolutionaries all across the nation from Bhagat Singh in Punjab to Surya Sen in Chittagong and, of course, later Subhas Chandra Bose.

The revolutionary activity emerged as the most substantial legacy of swadeshi Bengal which had an impact on educated youth for a generation or more. Moreover, it encouraged quixotic heroism. No involvement of the masses was envisaged, which, coupled with the narrow upper caste social base of the movement in Bengal, severely limited the scope of the revolutionary activity.

However, Lord Curzon had perfected his divide and rule policy by providing a substantial sum of money to Nawab Salim Ullah, one of the founders of the Muslim League, not to participate in the boycott. The rise of separatism and discontent among Muslims would later be promoted through separate electorates and often Muslim League leaders would not cooperate with the Indian National Congress as seen during the Quit India Movement of 1942.

It can be fairly concluded that the events of 1905 contained the seeds that shaped the future of the subcontinent for years to come in terms of nationalism, economic policy and educational reforms. Unfortunately, it also sowed the seeds of division, which culminated in the Partition of the country in 1947.

Conclusion

Bengal's contribution to the freedom movement has been immense starting from Battle of Plassey in 1757, up to the strike of 700000 workers in Calcutta in solidarity with the revolt of Indian navy in February 1946. India's struggle for freedom against British Imperialism is incomplete without mentioning the pivotal role of Bengal.

23. How did Jallianwala Bagh massacre change the perception towards British rule in India? Discuss.

Approach

Candidate is expected to give a brief summary of incidents that led to Jallianwala Bagh massacre in the first half and in the second half its effects on Indian psyche and overall perception about British rule can be given.

Introduction

On April 13, 1919, Gen Reginald Dyer led a group of British soldiers to Jallianwala Bagh, a walled public garden in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. Several thousand unarmed civilians, including women and children had gathered to celebrate Sikh new year. Viewing the gathering as a violation of the prohibitory orders on public assembly, Gen dyer ordered his troops to open fire without warning.

Body

What led to Jallianwala Bagh massacre?

In 1859, the British Crown assumed direct control of the colony. Forever fearful of sedition and conspiracies, the colonial government used the opportunity offered by the First World War to introduce the Defence of India Act in 1915. The wartime legislation gave the government extraordinary powers of preventive detention, to lock up people without trial and to restrict speech, writing and movement.

In March 1919, it introduced the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, popularly known as the Rowlatt Act, which extended its wartime emergency powers into peacetime.

Not long after the war began, Gandhi had returned to India after 21 years in South Africa. Gandhi was loyal to the British Empire and supported Britain in the First World War. Upon his return to India, he spent the first few years leading nonviolent struggles on local grievances.

The news of the impending Rowlatt legislation became public, Gandhi immediately expressed his opposition and called for a nationwide general strike on April 6, 1919.

He asked people to engage in nonviolent struggle, or satyagraha: Observe a daylong fast and hold meetings to demand the repeal of the legislation.

Punjab was already heating up. The unrest was of particular concern to the British because Punjab was a vital economic and military asset. By World War I, soldiers from Punjab constituted three-fifths of the British Indian Army, which was extensively deployed in the war.

To restore normalcy to the region, dispatched to Amritsar, General Dyer took control from the civil authorities on April 11. He issued a proclamation prohibiting public assembly and warning that such gatherings would be dispersed by force.

On April 13, several thousand gathered in Jallianwala Bagh in defiance of General Dyer's orders.

General dire fired upon unarmed civilians. Shooting continued for ten minutes. The government estimate was 379 dead, other estimates were considerably higher.

Effects of Jallianwala Bagh massacre

The brutality of massacre stunned entire nation. Gandhiji overwhelmed by atmosphere of violence withdrew movement on April 18. Mahatma Gandhi gave up the title of Kaiser-i-Hind, bestowed by the British for his work during the Boer War.

Rabindranath Tagore, the poet and Nobel laureate, returned his knighthood in protest. Winston Churchill condemned the shooting as "monstrous."

Jallianwala Bagh also shook faith in British justice. Hunter commission committee formed by the government on India on October 14, 1919 to inquire the events at Punjab

The purpose of the commission was to investigate the disturbances in Punjab, find the cause and bring measures to cope with the effects

According to the report submitted by the commission the action of General dyer was strongly condemned but no action was taken against him.

Jallianwala Bagh massacre marked the beginning of the resistance against the exceptional laws of colonial governance.

It marked a turning point in India's modern history, in that it left a permanent scar on Indo-British relations and was the prelude to Mahatma Gandhi's full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.

In December 1919, the congress session was held at Amritsar. It was attended by a large number of people, including peasants. It was clear that the brutalities had only

added fuel to the fire and made the people's determination stronger to fight for their freedom and against oppression.

Conclusion

Jallianwala Bagh massacre marks a turn for revolutionary violent resistance against British raj. Series of new revolutionary leaders justified violence and started new organizations for the execution of the same. A new beginning in the freedom struggle can be witnessed in the incidents of April 1919.

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24. What was the source of philosophical guidance for India's freedom fighters against the British rule? Explain.

Approach

As the derivative is explain you have to give a clear account as to How/Why something happens. You are expected to clarify with relevant facts and implications.

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Rani Laxmi Bai, Bhagat Singh and Sarojini Naidu; these brave men and women of India's freedom struggle may have represented differing philosophies, espoused, at times, contradicting ideologies. They all however came to a common point wherein principals they stood for and philosophical source they had, were the same.

Body

THE SOURCE OF PHILOSOPHICAL GUIDANCE FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS AGAINST THE BRITISH RULE

STANDING FOR THEIR BELIEFS

From Gandhi protesting being unfairly disembarked from a Train, to atrocities of civil rights at the hands of the British that poetess Sarojini Naidu wrote about, to discriminatory treatment meted out by the imperialists that Bhagat Singh & Subhash Chandra Bose fought against, to the entirely forced and hostile advances of the British army to usurp Rani Laxmi Bai's kingdom – each of these brave men and women, when confronted with a moral dilemma, took it on, head on, and took a brave, bold, unafraid stance irrespective of the situation.

TEAM-WORK

On Examining any of the freedom fighter's individual lives one will find that each worked purposefully to construct a team of trustworthy, loyal, devoted and philosophically aligned men and women, who fought and furthered their causes right alongside them. Be it generals and friends in the armies of Bhagat Singh, Laxmi Bai and Bose, or an intellectual coterie of guides and advisors always with Gandhi & Naidu. The power of team-work was evidently important to each of them.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

From Gandhi's well-attended speeches to Bhagat Singh and Bose's surreptitious networks of pan-India soldiers. From the power of the written word to the power of the spoken word, as practiced by Naidu & Laxmi Bai respectively. Each was using communication skills to their best efficacy, a vital lesson for children of today, who have a plethora of communication tools at their disposal, to use, correctly, rather than go astray and abuse these resources.

STEADFAST

Steadfastness of purpose is yet another element that unites our group of freedom fighters. They might have begun their individual battles, fought for the common cause of liberating India from the clutches of British tyranny. But had they NOT been steadfast, stubborn, with a dogged persuasion and self-motivation, they would have fallen by the wayside, having list sight of their goal.

SELF SACRIFICE

What is also painfully clear is that all freedom fighters believed in a purpose far bigger and greater than themselves. That they willingly sacrificed their own lives, families, careers, safety, security; putting everything on the line for the greater good, the good of a nation in distress, inspires us with their courage of conviction and their do-good nature. If they hadn't bothered, who knows we might still have been an English colony, and not the free nation we so assume to be our birth right.

FIERCELY PATRIOTIC

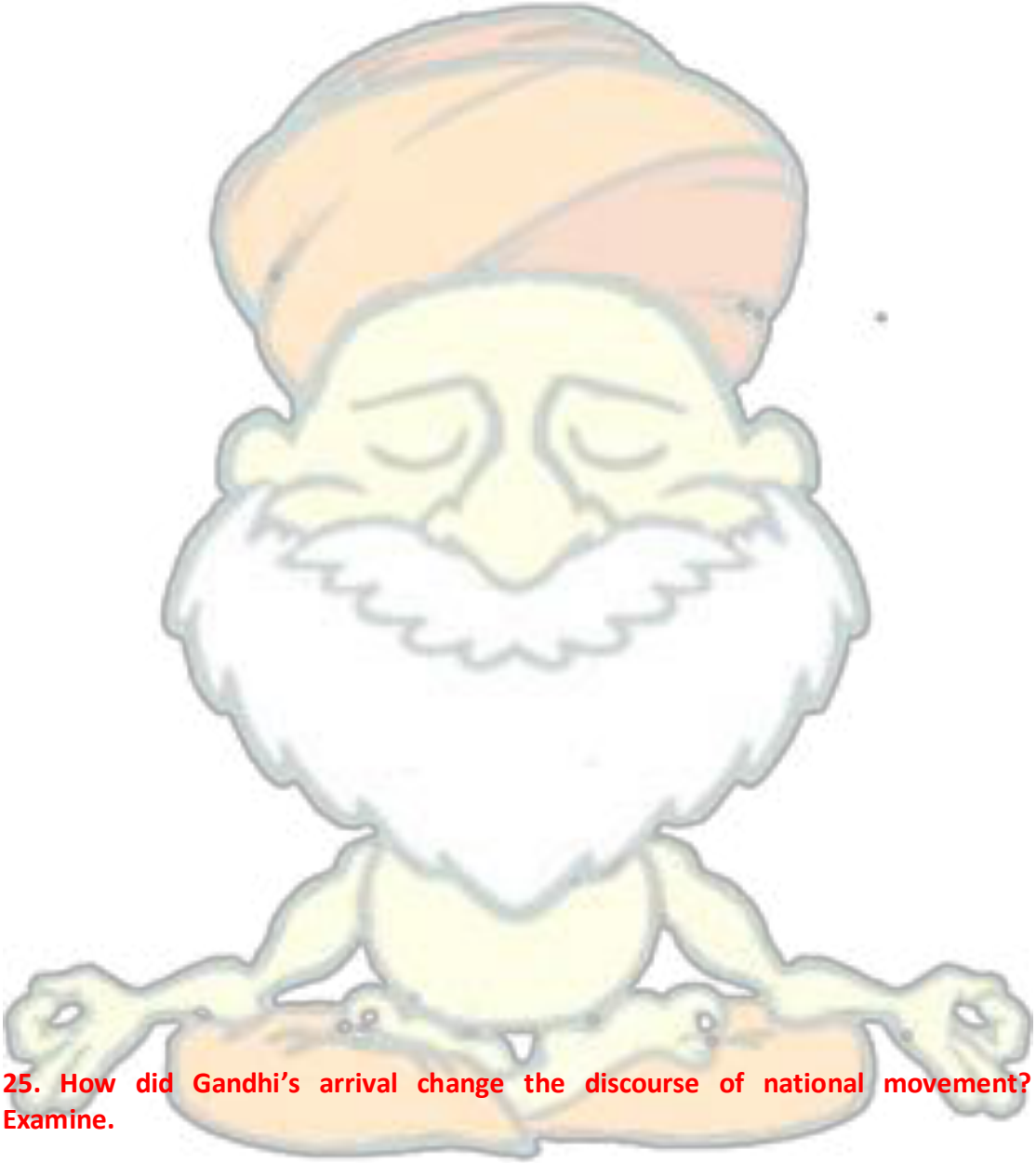
The philosophy we ought to clearly see reflected in the lives of Gandhi, Laxmi Bai, Naidu, Bhagat Singh and Bose is their intense and immense patriotism. If it wasn't for their overarching sense of belongingness to the country and motherland, few amongst them would have gone to the extent that each of them did, fighting for the cause of freedom. It was this sense that NOTHING, not even their own lives, was bigger or greater than Country, which made each of them garner the strength and resolve to fight against all odds.

ACTION-ORIENTED

The freedom fighters believed that plans they drew up in their lives, they had the courage, the will, the strength, and the sheer guts, to execute them.

Conclusion

It wasn't only brute force of stubbornness of purpose that drive each of these five freedom fighters to achieve their goals. It was, in each individual's case, a well thought out, well considered, guiding light – a principled philosophy that each of them believed in, that made them be successful freedom fighters. It was this philosophy of" fighting for what was rightfully their own" that united them into a common mission, although their methods or means to that common end might have been different from each other's.



25. How did Gandhi's arrival change the discourse of national movement? Examine.

Approach

As the directive in the question is examine, it demands thorough understanding of the nature of Indian national movement before and how Gandhi's arrival changed

discourse, what changes were made and strategies adopted by Gandhiji and how it finally led to freedom.

Introduction:

In the history of nationalism, a single individual is often identified with the making of a nation. Thus, for example, Garibaldi is associated with the making of Italy, George Washington with the American War of Independence, and Ho Chi Minh with the struggle to free Vietnam from colonial rule. In the same manner, Mahatma Gandhi has been regarded as the 'Father' of the Indian nation. In so far as Gandhiji was the most influential and revered of all the leaders who participated in the freedom struggle, that characterisation is not misplaced. However, like Washington or Ho Chi-Minh, Mahatma Gandhi's political career was shaped and constrained by the society in which he lived. For individuals, even great ones, are made by history even as they make history.

Body:

National movement before Gandhi's arrival in India-

Nationalist movement in India before the arrival of mahatma Gandhi has been described by Judith Brown as "politics of studied limitations" and by Ravinder Kumar as "movement representing classes" as opposed to the masses. These descriptions essentially imply that nationalist politics until this time was participated only by a limited group of western educated professionals.

The early congress politics was also limited in goals and rather unspectacular in achievements. The moderates after the Surat split in 1907 demanded colonial self-government, as against the extremist demand of complete independence. Their organisations were seemingly based on personality networks woven around prominent leaders like S N Banerjee, P M Mehta, G K Gokhale Bipin Chandra Pal, B G Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai.

The constitutional politics of British had failed to impress the British which was amply reflect in the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909. Whereas Extremism was confined mainly to Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab.

Age of Gandhian politics, how it changed the discourse of freedom movement–

Gandhi arrived in India with his background of a successful encounter with the British in south Africa. Gandhi's novel political ideology, as Judith Brown has argued "appealed to few wholly, but to many partially", as everyone could find in it something to identify with. He was fully aware of Indian pluralism and took care not

to alienate any of the communities or classes. He talked about swaraj as his political goal, inclusivism became identified as Gandhi's unique style of politics.

Gandhi believed that English have not taken India; we have given it to them his remedy was that India must eschew greed and lust for consumption and revert to village-based self-sufficiency of economy.

Gandhi succeeded in uniting both moderates and extremists on a common platform he effectively claims for himself a centrist position without alienating anybody.

Gandhi appealed directly to Indian peasantry and tap the vast reservoir of popular support among masses already afflicted with dislocations of war.

With his idea of satyagraha and non-violence Gandhi immediately found success in the movements he started in Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda.

Other significant movements–

Khilafat Movement-

Gandhi's influence on the Muslim population was remarkable. This was evident in his involvement in the Khilafat Movement. After the first World War, the Muslims feared for the safety of their Caliph or religious leader and a worldwide protest was being organised to fight against the collapsing status of the Caliph.

Gandhi became a prominent spokesperson of the All-India Muslim Conference and returned the medals he had received from the Empire during his Indian Ambulance Corps days in South Africa. His role in the Khilafat made him a national leader in no time.

Non-cooperation Movement-

Gandhi had realised that the British had been able to be in India only because of the co-operation they received from the Indians. Keeping this in mind, he called for a non-cooperation movement.

Salt March-

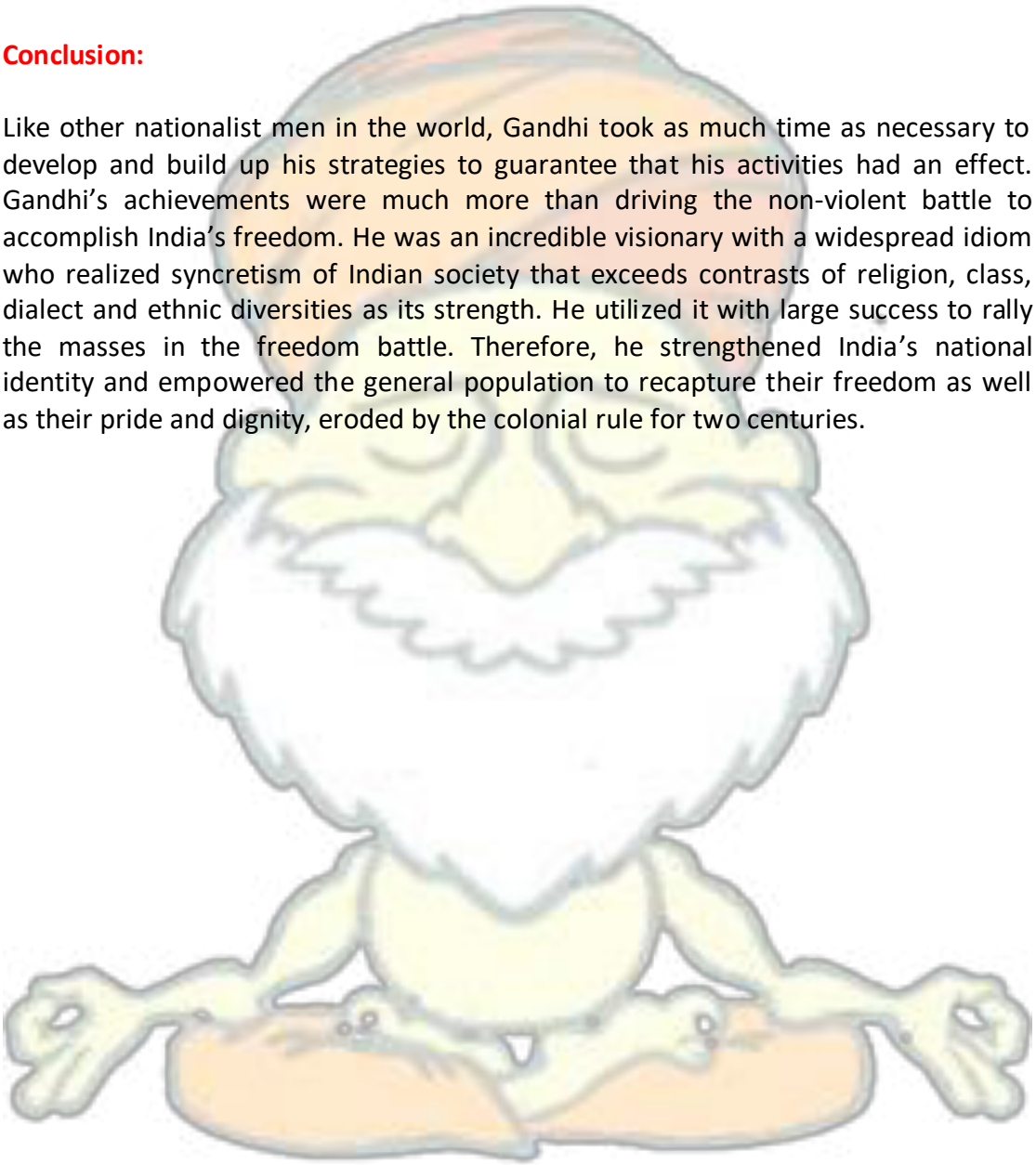
Also known as the Dandi Movement, Gandhi's Salt March is considered to be a pivotal incident in the history of freedom struggle. At the Calcutta Congress of 1928, Gandhi declared that the British must grant India dominion status or the country will erupt into a revolution for complete independence

Quit India Movement-

During the Second World War, Gandhi was determined to strike the British Empire with a definitive blow that would secure their exit from India. This happened when the British started recruiting Indians for the war. Gandhi protested strongly and said that the Indians cannot be involved in a war that is in favour of democratic purposes when India itself is not a free country.

Conclusion:

Like other nationalist men in the world, Gandhi took as much time as necessary to develop and build up his strategies to guarantee that his activities had an effect. Gandhi's achievements were much more than driving the non-violent battle to accomplish India's freedom. He was an incredible visionary with a widespread idiom who realized syncretism of Indian society that exceeds contrasts of religion, class, dialect and ethnic diversities as its strength. He utilized it with large success to rally the masses in the freedom battle. Therefore, he strengthened India's national identity and empowered the general population to recapture their freedom as well as their pride and dignity, eroded by the colonial rule for two centuries.



26. How did India manage to tackle the food crisis after independence? What were the key long term reforms undertaken by the government then? Discuss.

Approach-

candidate is required to give brief analysis of the situation prevalent at the time of independence. In the next half, reforms like green revolution to irrigation infrastructure can be given and its long term impact on India's food security can be stated.

Introduction

Independent India was born in hunger, hunger lay at the roots of much of its public policy in its early years, and over 70 years later, we are still a hungry nation. The nature may have shifted a bit malnourishment rather than stark famine is the real problem today, but at a basic level, this is still a country that struggles to feed its people adequately.

Body

Food security after independence.

Food security concerns can be traced back to the experience of the Bengal Famine in 1943 during British colonial rule, during which about 2 million to 3 million people perished due to starvation.

Since attaining independence, an initial rush to industrialize while ignoring agriculture, two successive droughts in the mid-1960s, and dependence on food aid from the United States exposed India's vulnerability to several shocks on the food security front.

The country went through a Green Revolution in the late 1960s and early 1970s, enabling it to overcome productivity stagnation and to significantly improve food grain production.

Despite its success, the Green Revolution is often criticized for being focused on only two cereals, wheat and rice; being confined to a few resource abundant regions in the north western and southern parts of the country that benefited mostly rich farmers; and putting too much stress on the ecology of these regions, especially soil and water.

The Green Revolution was followed by the White Revolution, which was initiated by Operation Flood during the 1970s and 1980s. This national initiative has revolutionized liquid milk production and marketing in India, making it the largest producer of milk.

Of late, especially during the post-2000 period, hybrid maize for poultry and industrial use and Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) cotton have shown great strides in production, leading to sizeable exports of cotton, which made India the second largest exporter of cotton in 2007–2008.
Some major steps taken by government.
Green revolution with high yielding crops and efficient irrigation system in northern parts of India especially in Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. proved to be effective in providing necessary staple diet for growing population in the short period of time. This was an important event accompanied with land reforms made India an example of success story overcoming hunger.
In the mid-1970s, the Government of India launched three important food intervention programmes for food security. They include Public Distribution System (PDS) for food grains; Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (introduced on an experimental basis) and Food-for-Work (FFW). Over the years, several new programmes have been launched and some have been restructured with the growing experience of administering the programmes.
The food procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section of the society. This is called the Public Distribution System (PDS). This is the most important step taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security.
The Government of India introduced Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in 1,700 blocks in the country in 1992. The target was to provide the benefits of PDS to remote and backward areas. From June 1997, in a renewed attempt, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to adopt the principle of targeting the poor in all areas.
With a five-fold increase in food grain production from 50 million tonnes in 1950-51 to about 250 million tonnes in 2014-15, India has moved away from dependence on food aid to become a net food exporter.
Since 1980's there was an increasing acknowledgement that physical and financial access to food had a determining role in achieving food security in the country. Further, Amartya Sen's Nobile Prize winning theory (Poverty and famine, 1998) highlighted that hunger and starvation result from some people not having access to enough food – what he called entitlement. This implied inspite enough food being available in the country people suffered from hunger and starvation because they were physically or financially unable to reach to food. The approach shifted from food production to access to food and from charity to a rights-based approach.

Conclusion

Food security of a nation is ensured if all of its citizens have enough nutritious food available, all persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality and there is no barrier on access to food. The right to food is a well established principle of international human rights law. Though India crossed many barriers, road is just half travelled. India is still home to largest number of malnourished children, our record on hunger index is poor. A fulfilled diet for our population will drive us toward realising full potential of our dividend.

27. Examine the issues that affected the integrity of India's social fabric post-independence. What was the response of the leadership to those challenges?

Approach
Since question is asking you to examine, it necessitates you to probe deeper.

Introduction
15th August 1947 marked the end of colonial rule in India and the country found itself standing on the threshold of a new era wherein the task was to build a strong nation. While India found itself independent from the British, it was still to find independence from social, economic and political problems that had started to become a rock in the way of its growth.

Body
THE ISSUES THAT AFFECTED THE INTEGRITY OF INDIA'S SOCIAL FABRIC POST- INDEPENDENCE
Boundaries of the British Indian provinces had been drawn and redrawn in a haphazard manner without any thought to cultural and linguistic cohesion. Most provinces were multilingual and multicultural and after independence, many former princely states were absorbed into them. There was a demand for linguistically homogeneous provinces.
When India gained Independence, its population numbered about 340 million. The literacy level then was just 12% or about 41 million.
The partition of India gave way to the refugee problem. By mid-1948 about 5.5 million non-Muslims had moved into India and a very large number of Muslims had left India for Pakistan.
At the time of Independence, the incidence of poverty in India was about 80% or about 250 million. Famines and hunger pushed India to take external help for its food security.
The Naxalite Movement was a revolutionary movement that was started by the Naxalbari in Bengal another group of Maoist themed activity in Andra Pradesh the Andra Naxalitess were mainly active in two regions Telangana and Srikakulam bordering Odisha in both the regions the area of dispute was land and forest. The main victims were the tribal and the peasants.
The oil crisis of the mid 70's had also contributed to the crisis and all of these developments together led to riots and large-scale unrest and strikes and erosion of support for the Congress from the poor and the middle class.
There was violence between Hindus and Muslims. The difference in ideologies paralyzed the government both at the centre and the states.
The terrorist movement led by Bhindranwale and Amrik Singh was started by the murder of the head of the Nirankari sect.
THE RESPONSE OF THE LEADERSHIP TO THE SOCIAL CHALLENGES POST-INDEPENDENCE

The Indian Constituent Assembly adopts Article 370 of the Constitution, ensuring special status and internal autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir.
Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru introduces India's first five-year plan, which defines the Nehruvian model of centralized economic planning and development. The Soviet-style five-year plan also creates a typically Indian model of mixed economy and big government.
States of India were reorganized in 1955 on the basis of the recommendations made by the States Reorganization Commission. Since this was done on the basis of the language spoken by the people, each state has some cultural cohesiveness.
The government abolished such patrimonial feudalism, and subsequently also abolished the privy purses and compensations granted to the rajas.
Education has promoted migration of people from villages to towns and cities. There is an increased emphasis on Hindi and other national languages. The policy of learning three languages at the school level has been implemented in all the states of the Union of India.
The Community Development Programmes (CDPs) were started on 2 October 1952 for the uplift of the rural people. To overcome some of the impediments in the implementation of these schemes, the Panchayati Raj scheme was introduced on 2 October 1959″, initially in the states of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.
The elected leaders of the rural people at three levels, viz., the village, the block and the district, were given the responsibility of implementing the developmental schemes in view of the 'felt needs' of the rural classes.
Several schemes were executed for the welfare of the urban people and of those working in industries.
The Government of India passed the Hindu Marriage Act in 1955 and the Hindu Succession Act in 1956. Legislation also was enacted to discourage child labour.

Conclusion

It is to be noted that, Indian constitutional principles of secularism and federalism are the foundational keystone of Indian democracy. Indian democracy is a heterogeneous model with a vast socio-religious and cultural diversity. It was predicted by western political analysts that the Indian model of democracy would not last long. However, it was due to India's strong commitment to its constitutional principles that led India to not only survive as a nation but also to emerge as the leader of the newly independent countries.

28. How did insurgency develop in the state of Punjab? How was the insurgency tackled? Discuss.

Approach:
Approach is very straight forward and simple, students are expected to write about how insurgency developed in Punjab stating the reasons and how it tackled mentioning reasons in a detailed manner and conclude by mentioning the changes happened in Punjab thereafter.

Introduction:
Post independent India stood up as a united nation in the face of extreme diversity and forces stretching her indifferent directions. One of the strongest movements for "self-determination" was the Khalistan movement in the late 20th century to carve out an independent state from the erstwhile India and some parts of Pakistan with predominant Sikh population. Punjab insurgency was overtly and covertly supported by Pakistan, however the ground was laid by certain other factors like Punjabi speaking feeling neglected, Sikh demanding a separate state and other issues like Satluj Yamuna Link issue and chandigarh as a capital of Punjab only.

Body:
Factors which led to emergence of insurgency in Punjab-
1947 Partition of India –Independence of India was not a joyful event for Sikhs, partition left Sikhs in a lot of discontentment with regard to their traditional lands being lost to Pakistan.
The fight for a separate Sikh state owes its origins to the Punjabi Suba Movement. The Akali Dal – a Sikh-dominated political party – sought to create a separate Sikh Suba or Province.
When the States Reorganization Commission, constituted to assess the demand for separate states by linguistic groups, made its recommendations, it rejected the Akali Dal's demand.But after a series of violent protests, the Indira Gandhi government relented in 1966.
The state was trifurcated into Punjabi-majority Punjab, Hindi-majority Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Some hilly regions of the state were merged into Himachal Pradesh.
However, the Anadpur Sahib resolution reignited the passion of Sikhs and sowed the seeds of Khalistan movement. The resolution demanded autonomy for the state of Punjab, identified regions that would be part of a separate state, and sought the right to frame its own internal constitution. This was the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. the Anandpur Sahib resolution found an admirer in Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale – a religious scholar who'd been travelling across Punjab advocating a return to the Khalsa or a more orthodox form of Sikhism.
Initially, the movement helmed by Akali leader Sant Harchand Singh Longowal and party chief Parkash Singh Badal adhered to the principle of non-violence. But gradually, as the talks lingered without any breakthrough, radicals led by Bhindranwale started dominating the agitation.
Demands for separate nation-hood for Punjab was carried out through violent protests and killings of high profile persons in Indian government.
Finally, the spiral of violence led to Operation Blue Star that was launched to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in June 1984. Bhindranwale was killed in the

operation. Four months later, Indira Gandhi was shot dead by two of her Sikh bodyguards to avenge the operation.
How this violent insurgency was tackled-
The first phase of insurgency was treated as a law and order situation by both union and the state government, until 1984 they refused to entertain the idea of a rising Sikh insurgency. This stage saw low violence low base situation which calls for pre-emptive multi-pronged initiatives employing various elements of national power failing which its progression is a possibility. The political leaders from both Akali and Congress jostled for political supremacy, blaming each other for the woes of people and failed to address the political, economic or social causes of the dissent.The dynamic created a political void which was filled by Sikh religious extremists.
In the second phase Strengthening of the counter insurgency measures took place at a larger scale police apparatus in Punjab was strengthened and focus on border areas was increased to counter cross border movement and supply of weapons, also diplomatic measures were initiated to counter any external support to terrorists.
But with the increasing violence and terrorists occupying the golden temple operation bluestar was initiated to flush out the terrorists and curb the increasing violence. In 1984 Army was given a go ahead to enter the temple which neutralized the terrorists inside but the collateral damage was huge with large number of civillians were killed in the operation and the Akhal Takht was also damaged, this alienated the sikhs further which resulted in massive demonstrations against the government which culminated in the assassination of Prime inister Indhira Gandhi by her two sikh bodyguards and subsequently violence against sikhs took place at a large scale in and around Delhi.
Later Rajiv-Longowal accord was signed which set the base for peace but all the promises coud not be fulfilled due to the disagreements which led to the assassination of longowal by the sikh militant groups.
Violence continued till 1995 when chief minister Beant singh was killed in a suicide bombing,with increasing public support security forces effectively eliminated anti-state combatants through intelligence based operations thus paved the way for peaceful Punjab.

Conclusion:

India continues to fight a lone, painfully slow, but successful battle against terrorism that is funded and supported by Pakistan. The Indian Security Forces, with their vast experience, have developed new counter insurgrncy techniques. Nowhere are the results of these techniques more visible than in the spectacular peace dividend in the State of Punjab. The Punjab campaign stands out among the most recent, successful and victorious counter insurgency campaigns in the world. This was largely made possible by a coherent grand strategy and tactical innovations on the ground.Sikh masses played an important role in helping to curb the violence in the state and in later times Punjab emerged as one of the most prosperous states in India.

29. What were the key provisions of the Shimla agreement after the 1971 Indo-Pak war? Was it a lost opportunity for India? Critically comment.

Approach

We need to list down key provisions of Shimla agreement and comment on whether it was a lost opportunity or not. We have to present both sides of argument.

Introduction

The Shimla Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan on 2nd July 1972 in the aftermath of the 1971 Indo-Pak War. It was much more than a peace treaty and intended to establish peaceful Indo-Pak and regional relationship in the long run.

Body

The Shimla Agreement contains following guiding provisions, mutually agreed to by India and Pakistan, which both sides would adhere to while managing relations with each other:

A mutual commitment to the peaceful resolution of all issues through direct bilateral approaches.

To build the foundations of a cooperative relationship with special focus on people to people contacts

To uphold the inviolability of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, which is the most important confidence building measure (CBM) between India and Pakistan, and a key to durable peace.

To always respect each other's national unity, territorial integrity, political independence and sovereign equality;

To take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other and to encourage the dissemination of such information as would promote the development of friendly relations between them.

Progressively restore and normalize relations between the two countries by resuming communications, promote economic and trade relations.

However, Shimla agreement is claimed to be a lost opportunity for India due to following reasons:

Recently, Pakistan unilaterally made Gilgit-Baltistan its 5th province, which was a grave violation of Shimla agreement.

Wars and Terrorist attacks: Kargil War (1999), Mumbai 9/11, Pathankot, Uri, Pulwama, etc. Pakistani state sponsored terrorist attacks continue to cause escalations and casualties.

The Shimla Agreement, and the subsequent Delhi Agreement, gave Pakistan everything it wanted: the territory it lost to India in the war (15000 sq. km.) and the safe return of all its soldiers (93000) without anyone of them being held responsible for the genocidal campaign unleashed in what is now Bangladesh.

India missed a golden opportunity to resolve the Kashmir issue: Captured territory and soldiers could have been used to resolve Kashmir dispute.

Nothing in the Agreement pinned Pakistan down to future good behaviour, which led to continued violations of agreement.

Ceasefire violations: According to security officials, there were 5,100 instances of ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir, the highest in nearly 18 years that claimed 36 lives and left more than 130 people injured.

Pakistan-China nexus: India today faces a possibility of two front war on its western and eastern borders.

Radicalization and Propaganda: It is misguiding Indian youth especially Kashmiri youth and causing violence, radicalism and disharmony in the Kashmir valley.
Internationalization of Kashmir issue: Pakistan continues to raise Kashmir issue at various international forums like UN General Assembly, SAARC, etc. which is against agreed provision of 'resolution via direct bilateral approaches'.
Bangladeshi migrant issue was neglected and today the migrant issue continues to disturb India's social and security fabric. E.g.: Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, etc.
Disturbed and Least Integrated region: South Asia hosts a 25% of world's population but accounts only around 4% of the global economy.
Restricted Connectivity: Continuing tensions have restricted India's as well as South Asia's connectivity with West and Central Asia.
Still, Shimla agreement is an important milestone in Indo-Pak relations as following opportunities were or can be seized:
Pakistan recognized Bangladesh, as a newly independent democratic country which today forms a vital component in India's 'Act East Policy'.
Isolating Pakistan at global forums: India reiterates provisions of Shimla Agreement to maintain bilateral nature of the issue and highlights Pakistan's non-adherence to mutually agreed treaty.
Prevented internationalization of Kashmir issue by Pakistan to some extent.
It continues to be comprehensive blue print for good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan, which can be adopted to revive peaceful bilateral resolution of pending issues.

Conclusion

India has faithfully observed the Shimla Agreement in the conduct of its relations with Pakistan and expects same form Pakistan. India is firm on its stand of 'talks and terror cannot go together', so Pakistan has to create an enabling environment for talks and both countries need to work towards the establishment of durable peace, friendship and cooperation.

30. India's journey towards the status of a responsible nuclear power was full of challenges and roadblocks. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Students are expected to write about India's nuclear power and highlight on challenges of India as a responsible nuclear power with substantiating your view.

Introduction

India has a largely indigenous nuclear power programme.The Indian government is committed to growing its nuclear power capacity as part of its massive infrastructure development programme. Because India is outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty due to its weapons programme, it was for 34 years largely excluded from trade in nuclear plant and materials, which hampered its development of civil nuclear energy until 2009.

Body

Challenges and roadblocks for India towards its status of responsible nuclear power:
The NSG was created in response to India's first nuclear test 'Smiling Buddha' (Pokharan-I) in 1974. The NSG first met in November 1975 in London, thus popularly referred to as the "London Club".

India was left outside the international nuclear order, which forced India to develop its own resources for each stage of the nuclear fuel cycle and power generation, including next generation reactors such as fast breeder reactors and thorium breeder reactors.

As India is not a signatory of NPT and NSG, nuclear supply is severely contained by sanctioned against India. This situation has changed after 2009 waiver and bilateral civil nuclear energy agreements with many countries.

To address the issue of nuclear liability, India has ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage and set up an insurance pool of Rs.1,500 crore ($225 million) for liability risks that may arise from the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in the country.

It is uncertain, however, if this amount will effectively assuage supplier concerns. Just as an example, after the Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984, the Indian government claimed $3.3 billion in damages. The proposed insurance pool is measly in comparison.

Land acquisition and selection of location for Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) is also major problem in the country. NPP's like kudankulam in Tamil Nadu and Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh have met with several delays due to the land acquisition related challenges.

Genuine problems of Nuclear technology includes safety and waste management. Incidents like Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, Fukushima are serious case of concern.

The idea of no-first-use (NFU) of nuclear weapons has been rejected by some nuclear weapons states and accepted only at the declaratory level by most, if not by all of the others. Nuclear weapons are often seen as an antidote to conventional inferiority as the inferior party will seek to deter conventional attack by threatening a nuclear response.

India has low reserves of uranium. But this changed a bit recently with the discovery of the Tummalapalle uranium mine in Andhra Pradesh, which has the potential to be among the largest uranium mines in the world. India has also entered into uranium supply agreements with various countries such as Russia, France and Kazakhstan to import the majority of its uranium needs.

Regulatory challenges with respect to AERB as noted by the parliamentary Public Affairs Committee (PAC) report on the AERB, regulatory oversight too faces a huge manpower shortage.

In Human resource India currently faces a shortfall in nuclear scientists and engineers. In 2006, Department of Atomic Energy stated that it would be necessary to train and recruit about 700 scientists and engineers every year in R&D units.

It is the duty of the Governments to ensure the safety and security of using nuclear power as a source to meet growing energy challenges. Nuclear technology suffers from genuine problems of safety and waste management.

Conclusion

India is blessed with aplenty of sunshine and a nearly inexhaustible resource of Thorium. Our future depends on how efficiently these two resources are utilised. With India's entry into international nuclear cooperation, the opportunity for a rapid growth in the installed capacity helps in accumulating fissile inventory at a faster pace. In the meantime, several enabling indigenous technologies have been developed for thorium utilization. Focused developments in solar and Thorium energy can lead to a stage when India do not have to look onwards for meeting its energy demands for several centuries, in harmony with environment.

31. What were the key philosophical ideals rooted in the American Revolution? Discuss.

Approach
Candidate are expected to write about American Revolution and discuss about key philosophical ideals rooted in the American Revolution.

Introduction
The American Revolution, which took place between 1765 and 1783, was a political upheaval during which colonists in the Thirteen North American Colonies of Great Britain rejected the British monarchy, overthrew the authority of Great Britain, won political independence and went on to form the United States of America. The American Revolution was the result of a series of social, political, and intellectual transformations in American society, government and ways of thinking.

Body
Key philosophical ideals rooted in American Revolution –
Some of the leaders of the American Revolution were influenced by Enlightenment ideas which are, freedom of speech, equality, freedom of press, and religious tolerance. American colonists did not have these rights, in result, they rebelled against England for independence. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote about American's natural rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These ideas came from the Enlightenment, the ideals led towards the American Revolution soon after.
John Locke was one of the most important and influential philosophers in the history of the world. He devoted a lot of his time into writing about philosophy and political thought. The founding fathers of the American Revolution drew heavily on his ideals. John Locke argued "The power of any king or government is derived from people

who contract to obey their rules in exchange for law and security. Individuals have a natural right to hold property and this can never be taken from them without their own consent. If a ruler infringes the terms of the contract that empowers him or seizes property without consent, the people can resist and depose him" (John Locke).
Around 1750, many Thinkers were challenging the status-quo and demanding freedom & liberty for the people. They placed before the people idea of a democratic form of governance. They helped in development of ideas of Republicanism and Liberalism that militated against colonialism.
Many leading colonists, most notably Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, followed the doctrines of deism, a religious outgrowth of the Enlightenment. Deists relied on the reasoning power of science rather than on faith. The best way to improve society, deists argued, was to rely on reason. The Enlightenment embraced the concept of natural rights as a rational ideology, which fostered the Patriots' yearning for liberty and a democratic government that protected their freedoms.
As the leaders of the American colonies fought for independence from Great Britain, the focus of attention broadened to include social reforms. Political representatives tackled several key issues, including voting rights, slavery, religion, and women's rights.
No Taxation without Representation called by Colonial lawyers they argued that the stamp tax violated colonists' natural rights, and they accused the government of "taxation without representation." In Britain, citizens consented to taxes through their representatives in Parliament. The colonists, however, had no representation in Parliament. Thus, they argued they could not be taxed.
Ideas that were once just abstract thoughts such as popular sovereignty, natural rights, constitutional checks and balances and separation of powers were now part of an actual political system that worked.

Conclusion

The American Revolution had a profound impact on the history of the modern world. It provided a template through which modern ideas could defeat oppressive regimes. The subsequent success of the USA in world arena is a testimony to how powerful is the idea of liberal democracy and emancipation of the populace. This model was successfully emulated by many countries (especially in Europe) post World War II. India also has learned a lot from the American experience and adopted many of these democratic principles, adding to our own democratic socialist principles.

32. With the help of suitable examples, explain the concepts of mercantilism and imperialism.

Approach

Question is straight forward in nature. Candidate can give evolution of mercantilism and imperialism in brief and then complement it with suitable examples.

Introduction

Mercantilism was dominant in modernized parts of Europe, and some areas in Africa from the 16th to the 19th centuries, a period of proto-industrialization. It promotes imperialism, colonialism, tariffs and subsidies on traded goods to achieve that goal.

Body

What is mercantilism?

The Mercantilism theory states that there is a finite amount of wealth in the world and that it is in a nation's best interest to accumulate this finite wealth.

A country achieves wealth by producing and exporting more goods than it imports. These goods must be sold at a profit for wealth to accumulate. Profits are large when a country spends a small amount of money on raw materials needed to create a product and sells the finished product for a high price. Then, Mercantilism was meant to serve the interests of the only empire, not the colony. Colonies existed for the benefit of the home country.

A nation's wealth is measured by the amount of precious metals (Bullion) it has accumulated rather than by its productivity. Sometimes, mercantilism is also known as bullionism.

A favourable balance of trade is required to increase the wealth of the nation. To achieve this, domestic industry should be protected. Exports should be encouraged even at the cost of rival economies and imports should be curbed.

Strategies of Mercantilism –

Aggressively exploit natural resources abroad. Build colonies to extract wealth.

Maximize the export-to-import ratios and build up trade surpluses with other countries. The strategies to do so were as follows:

Raise protective tariffs or quotas or both on foreign imports.

Erect non-tariff barriers on foreign imports.

Dump exports on foreign markets by pricing them below cost so as to drive foreign companies out of their own domestic markets.

Prevent other states from obtaining wealth. This could be done by Create exclusive trading relationships with weaker states so as to deny more powerful states access to their resources.

Examples of mercantilism –

Mercantilist ideas were the dominant economic ideology of all of Europe in the early modern period. It began in France in early 16th century when an important decree of 1539 banned the import of woollen goods from Spain and some other parts. In 1540, France banned the export of bullion.

In England, the mercantilism reached its peak in 17th century particularly between 1640 to 1660. A major contrast between French mercantilism and British mercantilism was that in Britain, the focus remained in international trade rather than the domestic control.

The nation aggressively sought colonies and once under British control, regulations were imposed that allowed the colony to only produce raw materials and to only trade with Britain. mercantilist policies were one of the major causes of the American Revolution.

Imperialism –

Imperialism is the ideology and policy of extending the rule or authority of a country over that of another and its people either through military, economic or political means.

Although the earliest examples of imperialism can be traced back to the third millennium BC empires of Assyria and Babylon, the modern concept of imperialism arose in the 17th century with the rise in European colonialism.

The word 'Imperialism' comes from the Latin word "imperium", which means 'sovereign power' or simply 'rule'.

the main focus of imperialism has always been power projection and economic growth for the country carrying it out. Keeping the focus of European imperialism in mind, territorial expansion was largely focused on economic growth by collecting resources from subjugated territories and maintaining control either through military or political means. The British colonisation of India can be regarded as an example.

Types and examples of imperialism –

Colony: A region our country governed directly by a foreign power. The example of this is British control of India and French control of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Protectorate: Where a country or a part of its territory has its own government but is under the control or 'protection' of a foreign power. The British protectorate of the Niger River delta was an example of a protectorate.

Sphere of influence: An area where an external power claims exclusive rights and privileges for trade and investment. Central Asian nations were under the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union through the duration of the Cold War.

Economic Imperialism: Independent but less-developed nations controlled by private businesses rather than by foreign governments. For example, American fruit-based companies had a monopoly on fruit production, particularly bananas, in the Caribbean region and some parts of Latin America. As these nations were dependent on the trade of banana for the survival of their economy, they were at the mercy of the whims and fancies of these American fruit companies leading to the coining of the term 'banana republics'.

Walter Rodney, a Guyanese economist, in his 1972 classic How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, proposes the idea that imperialism is a phase of capitalism which stated that "Western European capitalist countries, the US, and Japan

established political, economic, military and cultural hegemony over other parts of the world which were initially at a lower level and therefore could not resist domination."

Conclusion

Mercantilism, in a way, was both the cause as well as the effect of imperialism. Mercantile economic policies were definitely an impetus for the start of colonization. But subsequently, the benefits due to colonial exploitation further reinforced the ideology of mercantile capitalism and augmented its spread across Europe. As a result these countries saw very rapid increase in trade volume while colonies suffered proportionally.

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33. How did nationalism evolve as an important political strand in the 19th century?
How did it impact the world? Analyse.

Approach

The question is asking you to analyse so it means to look at or think about the different parts or details of something carefully in order to understand or explain it.

Introduction

A nation is a group of people speaking a common language, sharing a common culture, a sense of a common destiny, and sharing a common history. So, nationalism is also a term to describe the common bonds that hold people together within a nation, creating a new type of community. Tied to this is the idea that individuals' loyalty should be focused on the nation and that each nation should be able to determine its own future—an idea known as self-determination. So, nationalism is also the idea that the nation should have that right to govern itself and the right to self-determination.

Body

EVOLUTION OF NATIONALISM AS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL STRAND IN THE 19TH CENTURY –

Nationalism is not very old. Before the very end of the eighteenth century (1700s), nationalism didn't even exist as a widespread cultural or political ideology.

The French revolutionary era had great importance in the development and spread of nationalism as an ideology. As napoleon expanded and his armies occupied many other European countries, those other countries all agreed national self-determination was the way to go. Uniting against the French regime created a sense of common destiny—a sense of nationalism.

There were many other trends occurring at the same time including the growth in literacy, urban areas, and print culture (communicating through printed words and images). With the enlightenment, education and literacy and the many forms of print

were crucial to the spread of ideas. Common bonds formed between intellectuals and the reading public within countries.
The most devoted nationalists in the early nineteenth century were actually secondary students and university students in urban areas.
While nationalism has much to do with unity, its development often comes through the defining of differences.
IMPACT OF THE NATIONALISM ON THE WORLD –
The rise and spread of nationalism gave people a new sense of identity and also led to an increased sense of competition among nation-states.
After the downfall of Napoleon in 1815, the Congress of Vienna met mainly to redistribute the territories occupied by the French. The makers of the Vienna Settlement tried to prevent the spread of the ideas of democracy and nationalism. Despite their efforts, liberal ideas were gaining ground.
Italy had been divided into small kingdoms and principalities. Napoleon, through his conquests, brought the country under a single administrative unit.
The fall of Napoleon again led to the disintegration of Italy but later, Venetia was ceded to Italy by Austria in 1866 when Austria was weakened by the Prussian War. When Prussia attacked France in 1870, the Italian army occupied Rome. The unification of Italy was complete; Rome became the capital of united Italy.
The German victory led to the political unification of Germany. The Prussian king, William I, was proclaimed Emperor of Germany. The spirit of nationalism brought about the unification of Germany. Within a short time, a united Germany emerged as a powerful force in European polity.

Conclusion

Over the following century several revolutions across Europe would remove these royals from power. New constitutional governments led by citizens of these nation-states would take their place. These nations would then compete for colonies across the world in Africa, Eastern Asia, and Southeast Asia by the end of the nineteenth century. At the beginning of the twentieth century, however, nationalism would play a major role in the competition between nations. It was an extremely bloody competition that we now call World War I.

34. Examine the factors that led to the early success of Industrial Revolution in Europe.

Approach

Question is very simple and straight forward in its approachstudents are expected to mention the factors that led to the success of industrial revolution in Europe in a detailed manner.

Introduction

Industrial Revolution, in modern history, the process of change from an agrarian and handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacturing. This process began in Britain in the 18th century and from there spread to other parts of the world. Goods that had once been painstakingly crafted by hand started to be produced in mass quantities by machines in factories, thanks to the introduction of new machines and techniques in textiles, iron making and other industries. Fueled by the game-changing use of steam power, the Industrial Revolution began in Britain and spread to the rest of the world, including the United States, by the 1830s and '40s. Modern historians often refer to this period as the First Industrial Revolution, to set it apart from a second period of industrialization that took place from the late 19th to early 20th centuries and saw rapid advances in the steel, electric and automobile industries.

Body

Factors that led to early success of Industrial Revolution in Europe –

It is established that some historians visualized the Revolution as a consequence of social and institutional changes brought by the end of feudalism in Britain after the English Civil War in the 17th century. As national border controls became more effective and it also prevent in transmission of various deadly disease. The percentage of children who lived past infancy rose significantly and it resulted in creating huge workforce.

The Enclosure movement and the British Agricultural Revolution made food production more effective and less labour-intensive, forcing the excess population who could no longer find employment in agriculture into cottage industry. The colonial expansion of the 17th century with the associated development of international trade, creation of financial markets and accumulation of capital are also mentioned as factors, as is the scientific revolution of the 17th century.

Primary reason for the early success of industrial revolution is the population's increase. Since the XVIII century, epidemics of plague were vanishing and the

development of agriculture allowed the growth of food production and then there was a decline in catastrophic mortality (hunger, wars and epidemics). In addition, population's increase augmented demand for goods and services. It promoted technical innovations that increased production and profits. Several technological invention also led to the industrial revolution and major enabling technology was the invention and development of the steam engine. These inventions began in England in the textile sector, at the beginning they were very simple inventions, they were built of wood and made by artisans and people without scientific preparation, but after that, this technological development in the industry made possible the emergence of factory. It is a place where a high production is achieved through the division of labour because each worker takes charge of only in a portion of the process.

The foreign trade led to get inexpensive and plentiful raw materials and achieved broad market for industrial products. So, people generated revenues through reducing of production costs and expanding of their market, take advantage of that opportunity was unquestionably the best option. Although primarily the countries of northern Europe had organized a global trade for their benefit and their privileged status was delaying the industrialization of the rest of the world, the discovery of the optimization of profits through the purchase of raw materials in other markets led to countries realized that it was essential to establish stable relations with markets elsewhere in the world.

Historians stated that the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain was due to abundant natural or financial resources that Britain received from its many foreign colonies or that profits from the British slave trade between Africa and the Caribbean assisted fuel industrial investment. It has been designated that bondage provided only 5% of the British national income during the years of the Industrial Revolution. A major cause for the Industrial Revolution was the huge spurt of population growth in England. Alongside the fast growth in population, medical systems had also enhanced, thus there was a reduction in the number of epidemics that spread resulting in less of a death toll through lack of medical knowledge.

In the beginning, the Industrial Revolution was closely related to a small number of innovations, made in the second half of the 18th century: Textiles: The progression of the textile industry was major development in Britain's industrialization. Steam power-The enhanced steam engine developed by James Watt which was mainly used for pumping out mines, but from the 1780s, it was applied to power machines. This permitted rapid development of efficient semi-automated factories on an earlier unimaginable scale in places where waterpower was not available. Iron founding- In the Iron industry, coke was finally applied to all stages of iron smelting, replacing charcoal. This had been attained much earlier for lead and copper as well as for producing pig iron in a blast furnace, but the second stage in the production of bar iron depended on the use of potting and stamping.

Disappearance of serfdom (a person who is bound to the land and owned by the feudal lord) and 'enclosure movement' provided huge surplus agricultural labour which looked for employment and became source of cheap labour. Britain was rich with natural resources. Iron and coal proved twin pillars of Industrial Revolution and Britain was lucky to have them in close proximity. If not then their colonial policy fulfil their need of resources.

The emergence of British power would spawn the third major advance in management, the Industrial Revolution. As the British Empire's power grew, so did opportunities for trade. The 18th century saw the emergence of various international

corporations, such as the Hudson's Bay Company which conducted business globally. The Hudson's Bay Company orchestrated fur trade in Canada where pelts were produced and then shipped to England for trade in any part of the globe. This further development of trade led to the establishment of the marketplace as a dominant means of organizing the exchange of goods. The market would coordinate the actions and activities of various participants, thus allowing resources to flow to their most efficient uses. One of the major intellectual leaders of this period was the economist and moral philosopher Adam Smith.

Adam Smith proposed the idea of specialization and coordination within corporations as a source of economic growth. Specialization and division of labor were Smith's major contributions to management thought. The division of labor meant that a worker specialized in performing one task that was part of a larger series of tasks, at the end of which a product would be produced. The idea of specialization of labor had several important outcomes. Firstly, specialization drastically reduced the cost of goods. Secondly, it drastically reduced the need for training. Instead of learning every aspect of a task, workers needed to learn one portion of it. Thirdly, the need to coordinate all these different tasks required a greater emphasis on management.

Conclusion

Many people around the world today enjoy the benefits of industrialization. With so much more energy flowing through human systems than ever before, many of us must do much less hard physical labor than earlier generations did. People today are able to feed more babies and bring them to adulthood. Many people vote and participate in modern states, which provide education, social security, and health benefits. Large numbers of people enjoy levels of wealth, health, education, travel, and life expectancy unimagined before industrialization.The benefits of industrialization, however, have come at great cost. For one thing, the rate of change (acceleration) is now so rapid that individuals and social systems struggle to keep up. And strong arguments can be made about depersonalization in the age of mass production. The increased complexity of the industrial system has also brought increased fragility. Industrialization depends on the interaction of many diverse components, any one of which could fail.

35. The French Revolution was a watershed in European history. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Approach
We have to mention features that made the French Revolution as a watershed in European history. We can also put arguments to claim that it was not a watershed movement. We need to give examples for our arguments.

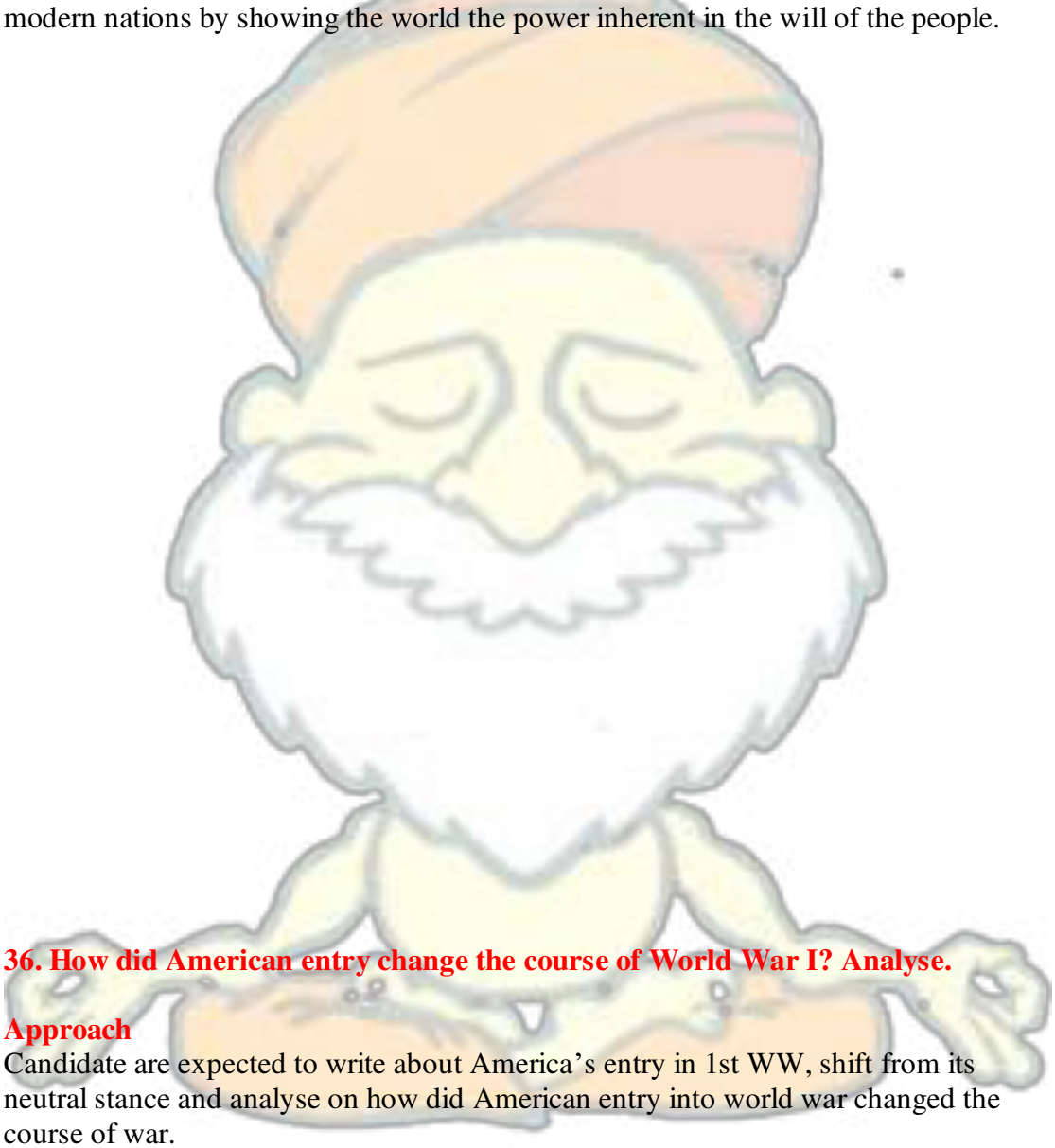
Introduction
The French Revolution was a watershed event in modern European history that began in 1789 and ended in the late 1790s with the ascent of Napoleon Bonaparte. During this period, French citizens razed and redesigned not only their country's political landscape but also of Europe.

Body
The French Revolution was a watershed in European history in following ways –
Political Upheaval: Uprooting of centuries-old institutions such as absolute monarchy and the feudal system. Political systems like constitutional monarchy, republic were tried and tested.
"Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen": The document proclaimed the commitment to replace the ancient régime with a system based on equal opportunity, freedom of speech, popular sovereignty and representative government.
Propagation of Modern Ideas: Liberty, Fraternity, Equality become core ideas of Europe.
Religious reforms: Privileges of clergy, church were abolished. It was subordinated to state and it gave rise to concept of secularism in Europe.
Rise of middle and worker class: Though bourgeois played crucial role in initiating revolution, the worker class strengthened and sustained the revolution. Socialism, Chartist Movement, Marxism, etc. had genesis in French revolution.
Nationalist Forces: It gave impetus to Italian and German integration, which were based on principle of nationalism.
Structural changes in European economy: Mercantilism, Capitalism, Laissez-faire like concept got more currency. Private ownership of land was considered as a fundamental right.
Role of Philosophers: Philosophers like Rousseau, Montesquieu, Voltaire, etc. played crucial role in reforming not only France but also Europe and World at large. They exposed existing degenerating system but at the same time put forward the vision of better future. Montesquieu emphasized on virtues of constitutional monarchy, Rousseau in his 'Social Contract' laid foundations for 'State' and Democracy.
Napoleon – The child of French Revolution: He took ideas of French Revolution to other parts of Europe like Spain, Italy, Germany, etc. He caused many administrative reforms like Napoleonic Code of 1804 formed basis for Civil and Criminal justice system in Europe and many other parts of the world including India.
However, it had following issues that prevented it from being a watershed movement –
American Revolution, 1765-83: It can be said to be a real watershed movement, as it was first successful revolution and successfully implemented modern ideas. It was also one of the reasons to cause French revolution.

Lack of concern to women and their rights: Voting rights, equal status, economic rights, etc. were not the core part of French revolution.
Reign of Terror, 1793-94: Caused apprehension about revolution in Europe and caused set to revolutionary ideas not only in France but also Europe.
Destabilized Europe: Revolutions caused rise of Napoleon, European Coalitions, and set stage for wars which eventually caused world wars.

Conclusion

Although French Revolution failed to achieve all of its goals and at times degenerated into a chaotic bloodbath, the French Revolution played a critical role in shaping modern nations by showing the world the power inherent in the will of the people.



36. How did American entry change the course of World War I? Analyse.

Approach

Candidate are expected to write about America's entry in 1st WW, shift from its neutral stance and analyse on how did American entry into world war changed the course of war.

Introduction

America entered World War One on April 6th, 1917. Up to that date, America had tried to keep out of World War One though she had traded with nations involved in the war but unrestricted submarine warfare, introduced by the Germans on January 9th, 1917, was the primary issue that caused Woodrow Wilson to ask Congress to

declare war on Germany on April 2nd. Four days later, America joined World War One on the side of the Allies.

Body

In 1914, when war was declared in Europe, America adopted a policy of neutrality and isolation. That neutrality extended to a policy of 'fairness' – whereby American bankers could lend money to both sides in the war.

However, public opinion about neutrality started to change after the sinking of the British ocean liner Lusitania by a German U-boat in 1915; almost 2,000 people perished, including 128 Americans. Along with news of the Zimmerman telegram threatening an alliance between Germany and Mexico, Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany. The U.S. officially entered the conflict on April 6, 1917.

American entry into World War One changed the course of the war –

By the time the United States joined the Allies, the war had been raging for nearly three years. In those three years, Europe had lost more men in battle than in all the wars of the previous three centuries. The war had claimed the lives of millions and had changed countless lives forever. The Great War, as the conflict came to be known, affected everyone. It touched not only the soldiers in the trenches but civilians as well.

After supplying humanitarian relief to faraway countries during the early part of the war, the United States proceeded to act further on a moral imperative, offering the commitment of the entire nation in the name of peace and freedom.

The U.S. Navy was the second largest in the world when America entered the war in 1917. The Navy soon abandoned its plans for the construction of battleships and instead concentrated on building the destroyers and submarine chasers so desperately needed to protect Allied shipping from the U-boats.

The entry of the United States was the turning point of the war, because it made the eventual defeat of Germany possible. It had been foreseen in 1916 that if the United States went to war, the Allies' military effort against Germany would be upheld by U.S. supplies and by enormous extensions of credit.

As one of the first total wars, USA mobilized women in unprecedented numbers on all sides. The vast majority were drafted into the civilian workforce to replace conscripted men, taking traditionally male jobs working on factory assembly lines producing tanks, trucks, and munitions.

The experience of American army helped in formation of innovative strategies against Central Power.

Entry of American troops was the greatest physical and morale booster for the tired and exhausted armies of the Allied powers.

America helped in the Second battle of Marne and defeated Germany marking the end of final attempt at victory.

The Central Powers' moral decreased because they knew they had to face the world's most powerful economy. America's involvement in the war fed up Germany's chances of winning, which leads them to signing the armistice in November 11, 1918.

Looking at 1918 in this new way, restoring the enormous impact of the U.S. military to its proper scale and significance, achieves two important things. First, it fundamentally revises the history of the First World War.

Second, it brings out the thrilling suspense of 1918, when the fate of the world hung in the balance, and the revivifying power of the Americans saved the Allies, defeated Germany, and established the United States as the greatest of the great powers.

Conclusion

The U.S., which had won the war but had not experienced the conflict on its territory, became a first world power. However, USA call "war to end all wars" turned out to be the opposite. By ensuring Germany's economic ruin and political humiliation through the Treaty of Versatile, the post-war settlement provided fertile ground for World War II.

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37. How did the global economy shape up during the interwar period? Discuss.

Approach

Candidate is required to give socio economic conditions of Europe and America and the effects it had on the global economy, leading to Second World War.

Introduction

During World War I, some 10 million Europeans were killed, about 7 million were permanently disabled, and 15 million seriously wounded, mostly young men of working age and middle class backgrounds. This loss, combined with the destruction of land and property, led to a European situation of grave pessimism and poverty for many.

Body

Socio-economic conditions during interwar period –

Living conditions declined dramatically at the close of the war, the infant mortality rate skyrocketed, and life was quite difficult for Europeans of the period. The widespread material destruction totalled billions of dollars of damage in Europe.
The war's prosecution had cost the nations of Europe six and one-half times as much as the total national debt of the entire world during the years from 1800 to 1914.
The Allies bore the brunt of the debt, and material damages, France especially. But the Central Powers were punished severely by the war's concluding treaties. Germany lost 15 percent of its pre-war capacity, all of its foreign investments, and 90 percent of its mercantile fleet. The Treaty of Versailles imposed reparations payments which were generally considered intolerable and impossible.
By 1920, prices in Hungary were 23,000 times what they had been before the war, and in Russia the multiplier was 4 million. A sharp depression in 1920 and 1921 corrected prices to some extent.
Meanwhile, the European Allies had their own financial problems. They ended the war deeply indebted to the United States. The United States demanded payment in gold and dollars, which the Allies borrowed from creditor nations, creating even greater debt elsewhere.
From 1925 to 1929, Europe entered a period of relative prosperity and stability. However, unemployment remained high, and population growth outstripped economic growth. During this time, world trade increased and speculative investment increased as the result of better economic times. US creditors, flush with capital coming in from Europe, led this speculative movement.
As the Great Depression that had struck the United States in 1929 began to set in throughout Europe in the early 30s, banks began to collapse. Despite international loans, Germany, and Europe as a whole, plunged into depression, during which currencies collapsed and all hope of stability was dashed.
While Europe struggled to rebuild during the 1920s, the United States prospered as the major creditor of the Allied nations. Collapse of foreign currencies, so US demanded payment in dollars and gold. US financial institutions benefited greatly from this influx of capital, and sought ways in which to invest it, driving up the US stock market by speculation, and often sending capital back to Europe in the form of loans.
American financial experts favoured massive international loans as a means of increasing American exports, increasing employment, and strengthening the already mighty dollar.
This period of outward prosperity belied the problems beneath. There was no international agreement on currency stabilization, so it was carried out haphazardly, in a varied, unsynchronized fashion by the nations of Europe, pushing America in great depression.
Effects of depression –
The worldwide economic depression of the 1930s took its toll in different ways in Europe and Asia.
In Europe, political power shifted to totalitarian and imperialist governments in several countries, including Germany, Italy, and Spain.
In Asia, a resource-starved Japan began to expand aggressively, invading China and manoeuvring to control a sphere of influence in the Pacific.
High unemployment in industrial countries of Europe and elsewhere.
Bank failures and collapse of credit from US and other major financial giants.
Collapse of prices in world trade

Nazi Party's growing importance in Germany; Nazi Party's blame of European Jews for economic collapse.
Due to the global crisis, there was a drastic fall in agricultural prices, the mainstay of India's economy, and a severe credit contraction occurred as colonial policymakers refused to devalue the rupee.
The decline of agricultural prices, which was aggravated by British financial policy in India, made substantial sections of the peasantry rise in protest and this protest was articulated by members of the National Congress.
At the time of the Great Depression, the United States was the only industrialised nations with no form of employment protection or social security. In 1935, the United States Government passed the Social Security Act, which provided Americans with insurance and pensions for old age.
The New Deal –
In 1933, a new government led by Franklin D Roosevelt introduced the New Deal. It included financial support for farmers and a construction programmer to create more jobs, Banks were more closely regulated and savings were better protected.
One of the programs what aided in recovery from the Great Depression was a new set of construction projects that built dams and hydroelectric projects. And the Works Progress Administration (WPS), a permanent jobs program that employed 8.5 million people from 1935 to 1943.

Conclusion

Although the US Congress had adopted a policy of neutrality upon the outbreak of World War II in 1939, it was inevitable that the United States would not sit on the side-lines for too long. In preparation, defence manufacturing geared up, producing more and more private-sector jobs, hence reducing unemployment. This expanding industrial production, as well as widespread conscription beginning in 1942, reduced the unemployment rate to below its pre-Depression level. The Great Depression had ended at last, and the United States turned its attention to the global conflict of World War II.

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38. With what objectives did Japan enter World War II? What were the consequences of its defeat? Discuss.

Approach

The question is asking you to discuss which necessitates a debate where reasoning is backed up with evidence to make a case for and against an argument and finally arriving at a conclusion. In simple terms an examiner expects one to discuss various perspectives and present a logical argument.

Introduction

Hirohito (1901-1989) was emperor of Japan from 1926 until his death in 1989. He took over at a time of rising democratic sentiment, but his country soon turned toward ultra-nationalism and militarism. During World War II (1939-45), Japan attacked nearly all of its Asian neighbours, allied itself with Nazi Germany and launched a surprise assault on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbour.

Body

WITH WHAT OBJECTIVES DID JAPAN ENTER WORLD WAR II?

In September 1940, Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, in which they agreed to assist one another should any of them be attacked by a country not already involved in the war.

Japan sent troops to occupy French Indochina that same month, and the United States responded with economic sanctions, including an embargo on oil and steel.

To Japan, war with the United States had become to seem inevitable, in order to defend its status as a major world power. Because the odds were stacked against them, their only chance was the element of surprise.

A little over a year later, Hirohito consented to the decision of his government to battle the Americans.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombarded the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbour near Honolulu, Hawaii, destroying or crippling 18 ships and killing almost 2,500 men. The United States declared war one day later.

WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS DEFEAT?

Atomic bombs largely destroyed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively. On August 8 the Soviet Union declared war and the next day marched into Manchuria, where the Kwantung Army could offer only token resistance.

The Japanese government attempted to gain as its sole condition for surrender a qualification for the preservation of the imperial institution; after the Allies agreed to respect the will of the Japanese people, the emperor insisted on surrender.

The Pacific war came to an end on August 14 (August 15 in Japan). The formal surrender was signed on September 2 in Tokyo Bay aboard the battleship USS Missouri.

Aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan formally surrenders to the Allies, bringing an end to World War II.

By the summer of 1945, the defeat of Japan was a foregone conclusion. The Japanese navy and air force were destroyed. The Allied naval blockade of Japan and intensive bombing of Japanese cities had left the country and its economy devastated.

By the end of the war, Japan's cities were destroyed, its stockpiles exhausted, and its industrial capacity gutted. The government stood without prestige or respect. An alarming shortage of food and rising inflation threatened what remained of national strength.

Conclusion

Post-war investigators concluded that neither the atomic bombs nor the Soviet entry into the war was central to the decision to surrender, although they probably helped to advance the date. It was determined that submarine blockade of the Japanese islands had brought economic defeat by preventing exploitation of Japan's new colonies, sinking merchant tonnage, and convincing Japanese leaders of the hopelessness of the war while the bombing brought the consciousness of defeat to the people.

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39. Examine the forces that created the platform for Cold War.

Approach

Student should write down the reasons responsible for Cold-War in the post-WW2 world. The question is very simple and the student is expected to write the main forces and events that unfolded resulting in the Cold-War between erstwhile USSR and USA, culminating in the bipolar world for nearly 45 years.

Introduction

Cold War, the open yet restricted rivalry that developed after World War II, between USA and USSR and their respective allies. The Cold War was waged on the political,e economic and propaganda fronts and had only limited recourse to weapons. The term was first used by the English writer George Orwell in an article published in 1945 to refer to what he predicted would be a nuclear stalemate between "two or three monstrous super-states, each possessed of a weapon by which millions of people can be wiped out in a few seconds."

Body

Forces that created the platform for Cold War –

End of World War II and the Conferences of Yalta and Potsdam: The Yalta Conference, along with the Potsdam Conference, was an important event for the end stages of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War. The purpose of the conference was for the three Allied powers to begin discussing how to reorganize Europe once Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany were defeated. While, World War II in Europe was not over yet, the Allies could see that the end of the war was near and that Germany would soon be defeated. However, it highlighted the divide between Stalin and the other two leaders. Neither side trusted the other and Joseph Stalin was resentful of the other two believing that they delayed the Normandy Invasion and Allied invasion of Italy to cause the Soviet army to struggle alone against Nazi Germany. This divide would be further highlighted at the later Potsdam Conference.

The purpose of the Potsdam conference was for the three Allied powers to begin discussing how to handle the defeat of Nazi Germany, which had occurred just recently. Other goals focused on how the world would carry on after the war. While, World War II in the Pacific was not over yet, the Allies could see that the end of the war was near and that Japan would soon be defeated. It deepened the divide between the two superpowers- USA and USSR. As well, it is at the Potsdam Conference that Truman made Stalin aware of the American atomic weapons program (Manhattan

Project) and that the Americans had developed the world's first atomic bomb. It was also at this conference that a deep divide was created between the United States and the Soviet Union specifically. In general terms, the seeds of the Cold War were planted at the Potsdam Conference. The United States would bomb Hiroshima just days after the conference ended and World War II would be over in the just a few weeks, while the Cold War was just beginning. As such, Yalta and Potsdam Conferences as the start of the Cold War since they highlighted the growing mistrust and tensions between USA and USSR.

Nuclear Arms Race: The next major cause of the Cold War was the emergence of nuclear weapons at the end of World War II. With the atomic bombing of Japan, the United States had begun the era of nuclear weapons and the nuclear arms race. On August 29th, 1949, the Soviet Union performed a test of their first atomic bomb codenamed 'First Lighting'. These early years were important to the growing tensions and anger between the two superpowers. Because of the development of nuclear weapons, the two nations did not trust each other. As a result, they each spent the first few decades of the Cold War developing large arsenals of nuclear weapons. By the 1950's each country had developed enough nuclear weapons to destroy the other. This development was an important aspect of the Cold War, as the stockpiles of nuclear weapons acted as a means of defense.

Ideological Conflict: The third main cause of the Cold War was the ideological conflict that existed between the United States and Soviet Union. At the time, the Soviet Union was a communist nation that was based on the principles of collectivism or socialism, while the United States was a modern liberal democracy nation based primarily on the principles of individualism. This means that the Soviet Union was positioned on the far-left side of the economic spectrum, while the United States was position on the right side. This difference in ideology was a major source of the conflict between the two nations because throughout the Cold War, the Soviet Union sought to expand communism to other regions and the United States sought to stop it with its policy of containment.

Spread of Communism: The United States, led by Harry S. Truman feared that communism as an ideology would spread throughout Europe and the rest of the world. For example, after World War II both Greece and Turkey were facing financial crisis. Due to their proximity to Soviet territory and the rise of communism in recent decades it was feared that the two countries might fall into the Soviet sphere of influence and become communist. Essentially, the Truman Doctrine was the idea that the United States should attempt to contain the Soviet sphere of influence and the spread of communism. This foreign policy caused the United States to enter into conflict with the Soviet Union as it attempted to thwart Soviet expansionism in events such as: Berlin Blockade, Korean War, Vietnam War, etc. As such, many historians view this as a cause of the Cold War because it increased tensions between the two superpowers and led to several conflicts between the two superpowers.

Conclusion

The 1970s saw an easing of Cold War tensions as evinced in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) that led to the SALT I and II agreements of 1972 and 1979, respectively, in which the two superpowers set limits on their antiballistic missiles and on their strategic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons. That was followed by a period of renewed Cold War tensions in the early 1980s as the two

superpowers continued their massive arms build-up and competed for influence in the Third World. But the Cold War began to break down in the late 1980s during the administration of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev. He dismantled the totalitarian aspects of the Soviet system and began efforts to democratize the Soviet political system. When communist regimes in the Soviet-bloc countries of Eastern Europe collapsed in 1989–90, Gorbachev acquiesced in their fall. Gorbachev's internal reforms had meanwhile weakened his own Communist Party and allowed power to shift to Russia and the other constituent republics of the Soviet Union. In late 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed and 15 newly independent nations were born from its corpse, including a Russia with a democratically elected, anti-Communist leader. The Cold War had come to an end.

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40. What were the long-term consequences of decolonisation in the African continent? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

We need to define decolonisation and further mention both positive and negative consequences of decolonisation process in the African continent. We have to focus on long term perspective while listing down consequences.

Introduction

Decolonization is a process in which colonies become independent of the colonizing country. Decolonization was gradual and peaceful for some colonies largely settled by expatriates but violent for others, where native rebellions were energized by nationalism.

Body

After World War II, European countries generally lacked the wealth and political support necessary to suppress faraway revolts; they also faced opposition from the new superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, both of which had taken positions against colonialism. After World War II, only four countries on the African continent were independent: Ethiopia (Abyssinia), Egypt, Liberia and the Union of South Africa. All the rest was under the rule of the colonial European powers.

Positive long-term consequences of decolonisation in the African continent –

Newly independent nations post-decolonization changed the balance of power within United Nations (UN), World Trade Organisation (WTO), etc.

Political Awareness among Africans: Nelson Mandela caused removal of Apartheid and new beginning in South Africa, removal of Zimbabwe's dictator Mugabe (2017), etc. highlight increased political awareness of erstwhile colonised African people.

Adopting liberal ideas from colonizers: Democracy, constitutionalism, liberty, fraternity, etc. guided reforms in African countries.

Integration of African nations with Global markets and gaining from benefits of Globalization.

Progress and rapid urbanisation: Countries like South Africa, Nigeria, etc. are some of the bright spots that highlight innate potential of African countries.

Formation of African Development Bank, African Union, etc. mark organized effort of African countries to eliminated socio-economic issues.
Negative long-term consequences of decolonisation in the African continent –
Unnatural borders: They were plotted arbitrarily by the colonial powers in the nineteenth century and completely bypassed local ethnic structure. This has resulted in a number of ethnic and religious conflicts. Mali, Somalia, Northern Nigeria, Sudan, etc. Conflicts continue to disturb peace in African Continent.
Neo-colonialism: Loans from abroad left African countries heavily in debt, and as they concentrated on increasing exports to pay for the loans. This made African nations heavily dependent on western European countries and the USA for both markets and investment and enabled those countries to exert control over African governments. France still interferes too much in political matters of its ex-colonies in Africa and keeps them dependent for its own benefits. Recently China has been involved in neo-colonialism in Africa.
Instability of the post-colonial political systems: The weakness, lack of experience and lack of qualified personnel, etc. of state institutions contributed to the growth of corruption and frequent political upheavals, leading to the authoritarian rule of the often violent nature. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to many of the world's longest-ruling heads of state. Some postcolonial leaders in the 1960s and 1970s sought to become "president for life". Example: Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo in Equatorial Guinea, Paul Biya in Cameroon, and Yoweri Museveni in Uganda.
Deep economic problems: Most African states had very little industry; this had been a deliberate policy by the colonial powers, so that Africans would have to buy manufactured goods from Europe or the USA. They often depended on only one or two commodities for export, making them vulnerable to global market price fluctuations. Nigeria, for example, relied heavily on its oil exports, Ghana and Cameroon (cocoa), Zambia (copper), Mozambique, Egypt and Sudan (cotton) and Ivory Coast, Zaire and Ethiopia (coffee). It
Social consequences: 25 of the world's bottom poor countries are in Africa, a child dies every 45 seconds of malaria, Africa accounts for more than a 25% of global burden of HIV/AIDS.

Conclusion

Decolonisation caused transition of sovereignty from coloniser to the colonised; it initiated a new chapter in post-World War-II world history. However, for African continent it was a mixed blessing and even today African countries continue to suffer and benefit from the aftermath of decolonization process.

41. What are the different strands of socialism? Discuss. How did socialism evolve as a politico-economic philosophy? Examine.

Approach

Candidate are expected to write about socialism and its various strands. Question also demands to examine on how socialism evolved as a political economic philosophy.

Introduction

Socialism refers to a set of political ideas that emerged as a response to the inequalities present in, and reproduced by, the industrial capitalist economy. The main concern of Socialism is how to minimise existing inequality and distribute resources justly. Although advocates of socialism are not entirely opposed to the market, they favour some kind of government regulation, planning and control over certain key areas such as education and health care.

Body

Different strands of socialism –

Utopian Socialism: One of the earliest forms of socialism founded by the Welsh Spiritualist philosopher Robert Owen. In contrast to later socialist schools of thought which would advocate violent revolution, the Utopians believed that capitalists could be convinced to become socialists purely through rational persuasion

Democratic Socialism: Democratic Socialists are arguably the most pragmatic socialists in that instead of demanding immediate market abolition like Marxist-Leninists, Trotskyists and some Libertarian Socialists, they work within the market system from below in order to gently nudge employers to give workers fairer wages.

Revolutionary Socialism: Revolutionary socialism is the socialist doctrine that social revolution is necessary in order to bring about structural changes to society. More specifically, it is the view that revolution is a necessary precondition for a transition from capitalism to socialism.

Libertarian Socialism: Libertarian Socialism seeks the dismantling of all in just social and economic hierarchies. They generally agree that early attempts at creating socialist societies failed due to their statist nature, viewing statism as a contradiction to the egalitarian values of socialism on the basis that states promote social stratification and class disparities.

Fabian Socialism: The Fabians constructed a model of socialism which they claimed could be achieved through a programme of nationalisation and delivery of welfare services directed by national government, with some tasks delegated to local municipalities elected by the people, but with effective control in the hands of those who knew best, the professional classes.

Marxism, Leninism, and Maoism: Marxism-Leninism, as the Soviet version of communism is often called, held that urban workers should form the revolutionary vanguard. Mao Zedong, on the other hand, believed that Communist revolutions should gestate among the rural peasantry, who would later join with their proletariat comrades in the cities to form classless paradises.

Green socialism: Green socialism is protective of natural resources. Large corporations in a green socialistic society are owned and run by the public. In addition, green socialism promotes the development and use of public transit, as well as the processing and sale of locally grown food. Moreover, the public is guaranteed a sustainable wage.

Emergence of socialism as a political economic philosophy –

Industrialisation and capitalism brought benefits as well as hardship to man unemployment, smoky, crowded cities, unhealthy living and working conditions, rivalry and conflict between nations.
The-wide gap between the aims of the French Revolution and the actual conditions in France after the revolution created serious discontent among the people. It led to an attempt to overthrow the existing government in France with a view to building a society based on socialist ideas. This attempt, known as Babeufs Conspiracy, is an important event in the history of socialism.
Greatest challenge to laissez faire, & to capitalism itself, has come from the idea of socialism, which grew in beginning as a reaction against the evils of capitalism. Ideas of socialism arose as political economic philosophy while recognising the importance of Machines & making them even better, aimed at solving the problems created by capitalism, by building a new social order.
The First Communist Manifesto appeared in German in February 1848. The influence of this document in the history of the socialist movement is without a rival. Pioneers Marx and Engels worked in the socialist movement and through their numerous writings, they gave a new direction to socialist ideology and movement. It pointed out that socialism was not merely desirable, but also inevitable.
The Second International decided that the socialists should utilise the "economic and political crisis created by the war, to rouse the masses and thereby to hasten the downfall of capitalist rule". The socialists in many countries had resolved to call for a general strike to prevent their countries from participating in wars.
The idea appealed particularly to workers. Through their struggles, they were able to achieve much improvement in their living conditions. Laissez faire doctrine was opposed by many people. Gradually, almost all the countries came to accept the idea that the state has a legitimate right and duty to regulate the economy. This started crystallisation of socialism as political economic philosophy.
The idea grew that, capitalism itself is evil and needs to be replaced by a different kind and economic system in which the means a production would be owned by the society as a whole and not by a few individuals.

Conclusion

Though the socialist movement did not succeed in bringing about a socialist revolution in any country in the 19th century, it brought about widespread awareness of the problems created by capitalism and the inadequacies of democracy. It also emerged as a powerful political movement in a number of countries. It was to play an increasingly important role in the coming years all over the world, making socialism, along with democracy and nationalism, the dominating factor in the history of the world in the 20th century.

42. Examine the factors that led to the expansion of communism in Europe.

Approach

Question is straight forward in nature. Candidate can give timeline of events and factors that led to rise of communism in Europe concluding with disintegration of USSR.

Introduction

During the latter half of the 19th century, various left-wing organisations across Europe continued to campaign against the many autocratic right-wing regimes that were then in power.

Body

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels joined the German Social-Democratic Party which had been created in 1875, but which was outlawed in 1879 by the German government, then led by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who deemed it to be a political threat due to its revolutionary nature and increasing number of supporters. This was a start of communism in Europe.

Factors responsible for rise of communism –

At the time, Marxism took off not only in Germany, but it also gained popularity in Hungary, the Habsburg Monarchy and the Netherlands, although it did not achieve such success in other European nations like the United Kingdom, where Marx and Engels had been based.

the new political ideology had gained sufficient support that an organisation was founded known as the Second International to unite the various Marxist groups around the world.

The devastation of the war resulted in a massive recovery program involving the rebuilding of industrial plants, housing and transportation as well as the demobilization and migration of millions of soldiers and civilians. In the midst of this turmoil during the winter of 1946–1947, the Soviet Union experienced the worst natural famine in the 20th century.

Relations with the United States and Britain went from friendly to hostile, as they denounced Stalin's political controls over Eastern Europe and his blockade of Berlin. By 1947, the Cold War had begun. Stalin himself believed that capitalism was a hollow shell and would crumble under increased non-military pressure exerted through proxies in countries like Italy.

The military success of the Red Army in Central and Eastern Europe led to a consolidation of power in communist hands. In some cases, such as Czechoslovakia, this led to enthusiastic support for socialism inspired by the Communist Party and a Social Democratic Party willing to fuse.

In other cases, such as Poland or Hungary, the fusion of the Communist Party with the Social Democratic Party was forcible and accomplished through undemocratic means. In many cases, the communist parties of Central Europe were faced with a population initially quite willing to reign in market forces, institute limited nationalisation of industry and supporting the development of intensive social welfare states, whereas broadly the population largely supported socialism.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a major challenge to Moscow's control of Eastern Europe. This revolution saw general strikes, the formation of independent workers councils, and the restoration of the Social Democratic Party as a party for revolutionary communism of a non-Soviet variety. This flowering of dissenting communism was crushed by a combination of a military invasion supported by heavy artillery and airstrikes; mass arrests

West Germany and West Berlin were centres of East–West conflict during the Cold War and numerous communist fronts were established. East Germany worked as a front of communist ideology.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party began an ambitious reform agenda. The plan to limit central control and make the economy more independent of the party threatened

bedrock beliefs. On 20 August 1968, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev ordered a massive military invasion by Warsaw Pact forces that destroyed the threat of internal liberalization.
An important trend in several countries in Western Europe from the late 1960s into the 1980s was Eurocommunism. It was strongest in Spain's PCE, Finland's party and especially in Italy's PCI, where it drew on the ideas of Antonio Gramsci.
End of eastern bloc –
Social resistance to the policies of communist regimes in Eastern Europe accelerated in strength with the rise of the Solidarity, the first non-communist controlled trade union in the Warsaw Pact that was formed in the People's Republic of Poland in 1980.
Eastern European communist states politically deteriorated in response to the success of the Polish Solidarity movement and the possibility of Gorbachev-style political liberalisation.
The Soviet Union itself collapsed between 1990 and 1991, with a rise of secessionist nationalism and a political power dispute between Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, the new leader of the Russian Federation.

Conclusion

Communism in Europe was at its peak after the end of world war second and during the cold war. But the failed economic and social policies gave rise to new spring of reforms with ideas of liberal west dominating public sphere. After 1980's communism started declining in Europe and with the fall of berlin wall eventually died its own death.

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43. Capitalism has been the primary force shaping the global economy in the post-cold war period. Illustrate.

Approach

The question is asking you to illustrate it means it asks you to exemplify or to provide examples.

Introduction

Capitalism is often thought of as an economic system in which private actors own and control property in accord with their interests, and demand and supply freely set prices in markets in a way that can serve the best interests of society.
The political and economic systems of the capitalist USA and communist USSR were incompatible. Both sides wanted countries to conform to their adopted ideologies for their own gains. The Cold War was a political, economic, and military confrontation between capitalism and communism that lasted from 1945 to 1991, but it continues to

influence our lives today. The so-called collapse of communism reinforced powerful North American- and Western-European-centred visions which continue to see 'Western' models of development or capitalism as the key to modernization world-wide.

Body

CAPITALISM HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY FORCE SHAPING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IN THE POST COLD WAR PERIOD –

The global expansion of capital Post-Cold War Era has had varied effects on the global economy and state relations on a global scale. Undoubtedly the world has experienced significant lowering of trade barriers that historically inhibited cross border transactions.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the end of the Cold War in 1991, the world became more interconnected. This is because the communist bloc countries, which had previously been intentionally isolated from the capitalist West, began to integrate into the global market economy.

Trade and investment increased, while barriers to migration and to cultural exchange were lowered.

The People's Republic of China, already having moved towards capitalism starting in the late 1970s and facing public anger after the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 in Beijing, moved even more quickly towards free market economics in the 1990s. McDonald's and Pizza Hut both entered the country in the second half of 1990, the first American chains in China aside from Kentucky Fried Chicken which had entered 3 years earlier in 1987.

Stock markets were established in Shenzhen and Shanghai late in 1990 as well. The restrictions on car ownership were loosened in the early 1990s, causing the bicycle to decline as a form of transport by 2000.

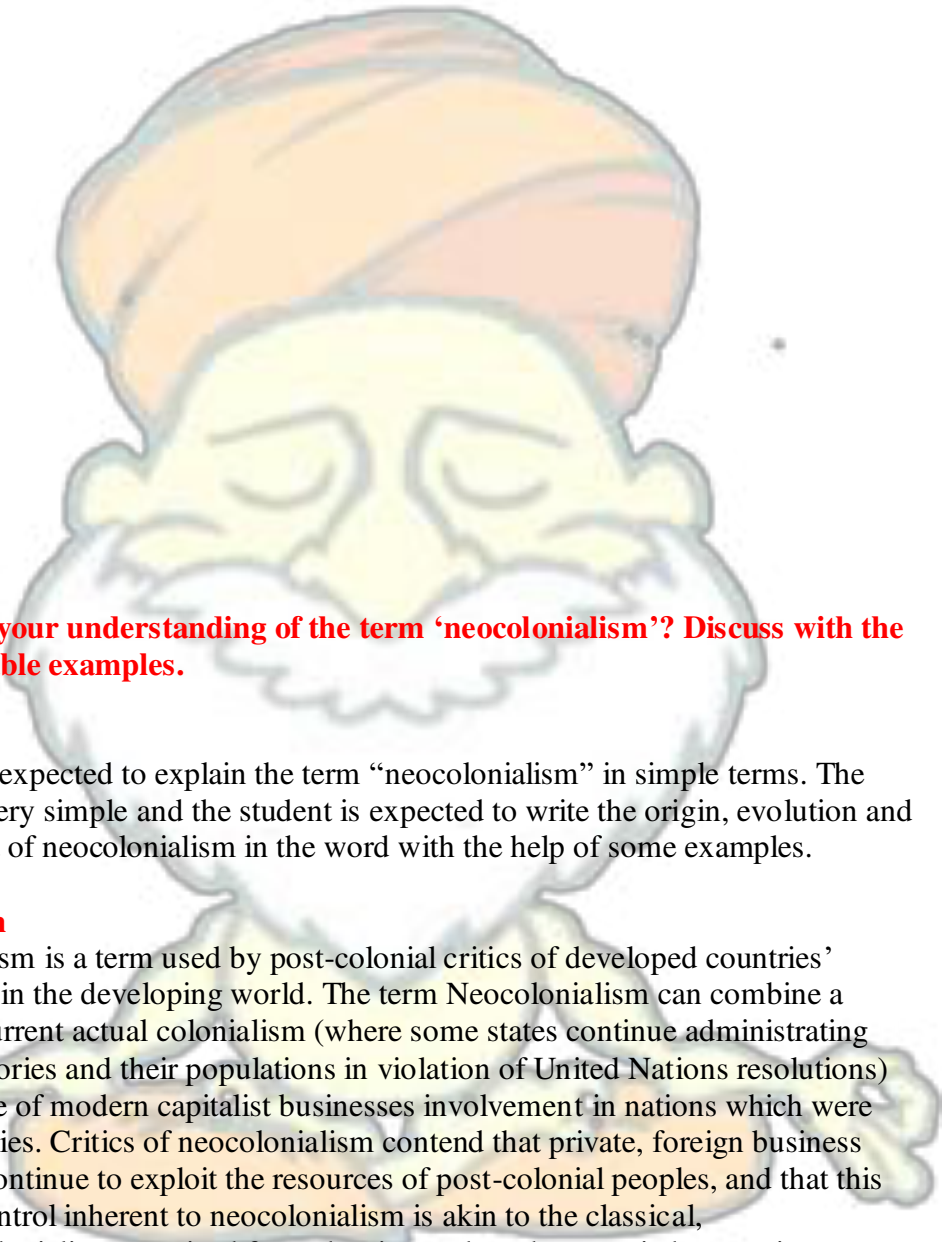
The move to capitalism has increased the economic prosperity of China, but many people still live-in poor conditions, working for companies for very small pay and in dangerous and poor conditions.

After the end of the Cold War, Communism would also end in Mongolia, Congo, Albania, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Angola. Today there are only 4 remaining countries in the world ruled by communist single parties: China, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam.

At the same time, economic recovery in the capitalist world, combined with increasingly globalized telecommunications, advertised the West's advantages far more effectively than any propaganda. It was capitalism's ability to outpace Soviet growth at key junctures that made ideological victory possible.

Conclusion

When the Soviet Union collapsed 26 years ago, it was generally agreed that the West had won the Cold War. This was affirmed by the prosperity and possibilities awaiting citizens of Western countries, as opposed to the political and economic stagnation experienced by those in Communist states. A natural conclusion, much repeated at the time, was that capitalism had finally defeated communism.



44. What is your understanding of the term 'neocolonialism'? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Students are expected to explain the term "neocolonialism" in simple terms. The question is very simple and the student is expected to write the origin, evolution and development of neocolonialism in the word with the help of some examples.

Introduction

Neocolonialism is a term used by post-colonial critics of developed countries' involvement in the developing world. The term Neocolonialism can combine a critique of current actual colonialism (where some states continue administrating foreign territories and their populations in violation of United Nations resolutions) and a critique of modern capitalist businesses involvement in nations which were former colonies. Critics of neocolonialism contend that private, foreign business companies continue to exploit the resources of post-colonial peoples, and that this economic control inherent to neocolonialism is akin to the classical, European colonialism practiced from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries.

Body

Definition and Context –

Neocolonialism can be described as the subtle propagation of socio-economic and political activity by former colonial rulers aimed at reinforcing capitalism, neo-liberal globalization, and cultural subjugation of their former colonies. In a neocolonial state, the former colonial masters ensure that the newly independent colonies remain

dependent on them for economic and political direction. The dependency and exploitation of the socio-economic and political lives of the now independent colonies are carried out for the economic, political, ideological, cultural, and military benefits of the colonial masters' home states. This is usually carried out through indirect control of the economic and political practices of the newly independent states instead of through direct military control as was the case in the colonial era.

Neocolonialism- The origin and Development –

The term neocolonialism first saw widespread use, particularly in reference to Africa, soon after the process of decolonization which followed a struggle by many national independence movements in the colonies following World War II. Upon gaining independence, some national leaders and opposition groups argued that their countries were being subjected to a new form of colonialism, waged by the former colonial powers and other developed nations. Kwame Nkrumah, who in 1957 became leader of newly independent Ghana, expounded this idea in his Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism, in 1965. Jean Paul Sartre's Colonialism and Neocolonialism (1964) contains the first recorded use of the term neocolonialism. The term has become an essential theme in African Philosophy, most especially in African political philosophy. In the book, Sartre argued for the immediate disengagement of France's grip upon its ex-colonies and for total emancipation from the continued influence of French policies on those colonies, particularly Algeria.

Spread of Neocolonialism –

The heavy dependence on foreign aid and the apparent activities of the multinational corporations in Africa reveal that Africa at the beginning of the 21st century is still in a neocolonial stage of development. The activities of the corporations in Africa, particularly those from Europe and America reveal nothing short of economic exploitation and cultural domination. Early 21st century Africa is witnessing neocolonialism from different fronts, from the influences of trans-national corporations from Europe and America to the form of a new imperial China, which many African governments now seem obligated to. The establishment of the multinational corporations, and more recently Chinese interests in Africa through Chinese companies, appear mainly to exist for the benefits of the home economies of the neocolonialists than to infuse local African economies with cash to stimulate growth and increase local capacity.

Those who argue that neocolonialism historically supplemented (and later supplanted) colonialism, point to the fact that Africa today pays more money every year in debt service payments to the IMF and World Bank than it receives in loans from them, thereby often depriving the inhabitants of those countries from actual necessities. This dependency, they maintain, allows the International Monetory Fund and World Bank to impose Structural Adjustment Plans upon these nations. Adjustments largely consisting of privatization programs which they say result in deteriorating health, education, an inability to develop infrastructure, and in general, lower living standards.

In recent years, the People's Republic of China has built increasingly stronger ties with African nations. China is currently Africa's third largest trading partner, after the United States and former colonial power France. As of August 2007, there were an estimated 750,000 Chinese nationals working or living for extended periods in different African countries. China is picking up natural resources—oil, precious minerals—to feed its expanding economy and new markets for its burgeoning enterprises. In 2006, two-way trade had increased to $50 billion.

Neocolonialism is also used within other theoretical frameworks.One variant of neocolonialism theory suggests the existence of cultural colonialism, the alleged desire of wealthy nations to control other nations' values and perceptions through cultural means, such as media, language, education, and religion, purportedly ultimately for economic reasons. One element of this is a critique of "Colonial Mentality" which writers have traced well beyond the legacy of 19th century colonial empires. These critics argue that people, once subject to colonial or imperial rule, latch onto physical and cultural differences between the foreigners and themselves, leading some to associate power and success with the foreigners' ways. This eventually leads to the foreigners' ways being regarded as the better way and being held in a higher esteem than previous indigenous ways.
Even the aid, relief and development efforts carried out both by government of the rich North in the poorer South attracts criticism for furthering the agendas of the powerful. For instance, the humanitarian aid in South Sudan, Yemen.

Conclusion

As a theme of African philosophy, the term neocolonialism became widespread in use—particularly in reference to Africa—immediately the process of decolonization began in Africa. The widespread use of the term neocolonialism began when Africans realized that even after independence their countries were still being subjected to a new form of colonialism. The Chinese have not come to Africa to replace the European/U.S neo-colonialists and their neo-liberal economic model of engagement, but rather to offer Africa an alternative model in the form of the so called "Beijing Consensus". China has found pragmatic ways to legitimize neo-colonialism through multilateralism and cooperation in order to navigate an international regime of norms and institutions that guards statehood and sovereignty. Thus, it has turned to trade and bilateral arrangements in order to enter Africa instead of entering via the barrel of the gun as the Europeans did. Thus, China's rise to global power requires a correct interpretation of its motivations and methods. The motivations are similar to those of European colonialism, but its methods are strategically different, as trade advantage has been masked by aggressive multilateralism, disguised as mutually beneficially economic cooperation in a pragmatic attempt to navigate a norm driven international system and institutionalized world community.

45. Examine the concept of 'internationalism'? Why is it important in the current global context?

Approach
We need to define the concept of 'internationalism'. Further we have to mention the importance of 'internationalism' in the current global context.

Introduction
Internationalism is a political principle based on a belief that countries can achieve more advantages by working together and trying to understand each other than by arguing and fighting wars with each other.

Body
Supporters of internationalism are known as internationalists and generally believe that humans should unite across national, political, cultural, racial, or class boundaries to advance their common interests, or that governments should cooperate because their mutual long-term interests are of greater importance than their short-term disputes.
Internationalism is an important component of socialist political theory, based on the principle that working-class people of all countries must unite across national boundaries and actively oppose nationalism and war in order to overthrow capitalism
Most challenges confronting the world and likely to confront it in the future are cross-national in character. They respect no national boundaries and are not amenable to national solutions.
Thus, Internationalism is important in the current global context due to following reasons –
COVID-19 pandemic: Global Covid death toll crossed 2.43 million still, there is virtually no coordination at the international level to tackle covid pandemic. Addressing UNSC, India urged the international community to stop vaccine nationalism and actively encourage internationalism, underlining that hoarding superfluous doses will defeat global efforts to attain collective health security and combat the pandemic.
Economic Revival: The World Bank (WB) baseline forecast envisions a 5.2% contraction in global GDP in 2020, the deepest global recession in decades due to covid pandemic. Recent protectionist tendencies reflected via USA-China, Indo-China trade conflicts and sanctions on Iran, Russia, etc. deepens economic fractures. Internationalism effort like G-20 summit was born in response to the global financial and economic crisis of 2008 and provided a coordinated response that prevented catastrophic damage to the global economy. Such similar effort is needed to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic V-shaped recovery.

Climate Conservation: Sea levels are rising, glaciers are melting and precipitation patterns are changing. Extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent. Through comprehensive communication and co-operation we can mitigate ill effects of climate change.
Global Peace: Tensions between nuclear powered nations like US, China, Russia, North Korea, India, Pakistan, etc. put world in the brink of mass destruction. Terrorism with its complex and wide spread operations threaten the world peace. Wars in West Asia, Gulf, etc. need a global solution through inclusive and peaceful dialogue.
Global Governance: Institutions such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization which are already marginalised may become increasingly irrelevant. United Nation currently works on an outdated global understanding where only five permanent members of UN Security Council (UNSC) wield power to veto crucial decisions. U.N. as the only truly inclusive global platform enjoying international legitimacy despite its failing's needs reforms to make it more democratic and in line with current global realities.
Appreciation to global cultural diversity: Fear of loss of identity due to overriding influence of western culture and influence of other cultures on western culture has caused hate and conflicts. Islam phobia, White Supremacy, etc. highlight divides among the global community. Thus an environment of global solidarity and tolerance can be achieved through internationalism.
Technological advances and privacy concerns: Artificial Intelligence, Crypto-currency, big data etc. have caused concerns related to data sovereignty and privacy. Solarwind hack, Zhenhua Data leak, etc. highlight misuse of technology. Thus, a global consensus based agreement is need to safeguard sovereignty on nations and privacy of citizens.
Following are recent initiatives that highlight adherence to the principle of internationalism –
Indian initiative in convening leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation nations for a regional collaborative effort on COVID-19 and providing Covid-19 vaccine to global community. India has shipped Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines to around 25 nations.
COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.
Paris Climate deal including intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) and efforts to finalise framework for its working and implementation show a cooperative resolve to tackle climate change.

Conclusion

At the recent The Economic Times Global Business Summit, Indian Prime Minister claimed that the world today is "inter-connected, inter-related and also interdependent" but it has not been able to come on a single platform or frame a Global Agenda, a global goal of how to overcome world poverty, how to end terrorism, how to handle Climate Change issues. Thus internationalism can make us capable to face these challenges together and make us all victorious in near common future

46. What are the historical factors responsible for the prevalence of inequalities in the Indian society? Discuss.

Approach:

Question is asking you to discuss so you have to discuss in detail and cover all dimensions comprehensively.

Introduction:

At the national level, inequality is broadly found to have risen in India between 1983–2012, particularly in the early 2000s. However, this has happened at differing degrees depending on the dimension being considered and the measurement method employed. The Cambridge dictionary describes inequality as "the unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, etc. than other people". The united nation describes it even more simply as "the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities". While the term itself is quite vast and has various interpretations, for the purpose of simplicity, the two large umbrellas under which we can classify inequality would be economic inequality and social inequality. Both these categories are deeply intertwined and inequality in one often affects the inequality in another.

Body:

THE HISTORICAL FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREVALENCE OF INEQUALITIES IN THE INDIAN SOCIETY

- There was a perceptible increase in inter- and intra-regional inequality in India during the reform period. This inequality was evident, not only in income terms, but also in terms of health and access to education. This section discusses some historical factors which might be responsible for the increase in inequality in India:
- Historically, the caste system classified people by their occupation and status. Every caste was associated with an occupation, which meant that persons born into a particular caste were also 'born into' the occupation associated with their caste – they had no choice.
- Inequality, discrimination and exclusion mean were brought home to even the most privileged Indians at the hands of the British colonial state. Such experiences were, of course, common to the various socially discriminated groups such as women, Dalits and other oppressed castes and tribes.

- An important element of the economic reform process adopted in India was the belief that a high fiscal deficit level was responsible for the 1991 crisis, and the deficit should therefore be brought down to a certain pre-determined target. However, over the 1990s, many policies which had contributed to this rural development were reversed. Central government expenditure on rural development schemes like agricultural programs, rural employment programs and anti-poverty schemes were cut. This had a negative effect on rural poverty and employment generation during the 1990s. All these created a sharp rise in inequality.
- Prolonged experience of discriminatory or insulting behaviour often produces a reaction on the part of the excluded who then stop trying for inclusion. For example, 'upper' caste Hindu communities have often denied entry into temples for the 'lower' castes and specially the Dalits.
- One of the reasons behind the increased income inequality observed in India in the post-reform period has been the stagnation of employment generation in both rural and urban areas across the states. Open unemployment increased in most parts of the country, and the rate of growth of rural employment hit an all-time low.
- A number of policies adopted during the reform period essentially increased the level of inequality in India. Liberalization of trade helped some sectors where India was internationally competitive, but it also negatively affected the other sectors.
- Opening up the economy and financial sector liberalization also had major negative consequences for weaker sections of the population. Th e introduction of prudential norms for private and public sector banks and the Basle NPA benchmark made wary banks avoid lending to borrowers in agriculture and to small enterprises. As a result, credit flows to agriculture and to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) went down drastically in recent years. Th is reinforced the problems faced by these sectors due to trade liberalization and the complete removal of quantitative restrictions on imports.

Conclusion:

The Coronavirus pandemic has been the world's worst public health crisis in a hundred years. It triggered an economic crisis comparable in scale only with the Great Depression of the 1930s. India introduced one of the earliest and most stringent lockdowns in the face of the pandemic; the enforcement of the lockdown brought the economy to a standstill triggering unemployment, hunger, distress migration and untold hardship in its wake. The rich were able to escape the pandemic's worst impact; and while the white- collar workers isolated themselves and worked from home, a majority of the not-so-fortunate Indians lost their livelihood hence India needs to grow first before it can distribute. Otherwise, it can get stuck in a low-income equilibrium.

47. How are social media platforms changing societal norms and values? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach:

Question is very straight forward in its approach students are expected to write about role of social media platforms in changing societal norms and values and explanation with appropriate use of examples as demanded by the question explicitly.

Introduction:

Social norms are the rules governing acceptable behaviour within a group. Society is governed by social norms, however, the law has yet to catch up to the speed at which the Internet—and particularly social media—has developed. Prior research suggests that social media influences through two effects: the individual or direct effect (private) or the social or indirect effect (public). In the individual effect, media information about new norms may persuade individuals to accept them. In the social effect, the information creates common knowledge of a norm and enhances social coordination as individuals more readily accept the information if they believe others have also accepted it. Platforms like facebook, twitter,watsapp Instagram etc have played a big role in influencing individuals and groups in order to bring a change in the collective as well as individual behaviour.

Body:

HOW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS CHANGE SOCIETAL NORMS AND VALUES-

- The traditional social norm of Privacy is completely changed, people aren't worrying to post confidential Information because of the LIKE-Hunger or Peer pressure or both. Also values of empathy and compassion have become redundant eg filming road accident victims rather than helping them has been one of the most ill effects of social media platforms. Recently a fight between two groups in Bagpat uttarpradesh was filmed by people watching them rather than helping them to end fight this incident was highlighted by

every media group all around the world. This shows lack of good samaritanship and role of social media in it.

- Soocial norm of face to face meetings have been completely changed people prefer texting and virtual meetings rather than face to face meetings thus creating overall change in the values of weness, brotherhood etc found mostly among young people.
- Social media has created a new breed of 'influencers' – social media users with established credibility in a specific industry,These influencers typically have a larger audience and often persuade others through their content. It is through these influencer profiles, a recentralization of corporate influence was discovered. Companies are investing in influencers to generate content that can shift social norms.
- Social movements have been tied to the Internet as a space for launching or reinforcing their activities and interactions, and the Internet has been found in many cases to be useful to achieve their objectives, especially emphasizes the potential influence of people coming together in digital social networks and forming against government and corporations which formerly controlled channels of communication. These networked social movements born in the digital age have power because they are autonomous, free from institutional control, and operate in different venues, such as online as well as offline social networks and public space. Yellow vest movements in France, recent toolkit case in India.
- Social media has altered the way people generally vote or buy. The recent Cambridge Analytica scandal of 2016 US elections is the best example. Recent Hook-up apps are changing the whole fabric of relationship norms like the way they meet, the course of relation, etc.
- Parents generally spend some time on their children's academics and growth. Now both of them are busy on social media, leading to neglect of child behaviour in crucial formative years.
- According to a survey an individual was willing to give a wrong answer just to conform to the majority view. This explains the impact of fake news online, which contributes to a polarised society. People are lacking Pure judgments, trying to imitate the group leading to a severe value crisis in the society. The trolling of women has brought to the fore the disturbing reality of online violence and abuse women face in India. Exposure of hatred to children at a young age because of cyber bully in New ethical issues are emerging because of privacy concerns, social injustice and ignorance, effects on family values etc.

Conclusion:

Social media is an open road, with bumps and turns all in our way. Its use is inevitable in this digital world, so protecting oneself from its Negativity and focussing more on real-life than our social life is the best way ahead.

48. What role have caste based political parties played in Indian politics? Have their activities and movements led to real upliftment and empowerment of the caste groups represented by them? Critically examine.

Approach

The candidate needs to discuss the role of caste based political parties in Indian politics in the first part of the answer while in the second part, the candidate should critically examine the real effect of these parties on the upliftment and empowerment of the caste groups they represent.

Introduction

The caste system is a predominant aspect of the social and political structure in India. Caste is a major factor in the structures and functions of the Indian political system. Indian politics is caste-ridden politics where caste determines the nature, organization, and working of political parties leading to prevention of the true working of Parliamentary democracy.

Body

- Many of the regional parties, which now represent half of the Indian voters, are associated with a single caste and/or religious community – and this is also true of some state units of national parties. In this regard, the role of such caste based political parties in Indian politics can be seen from the following points –
- Different caste groups have their loyalties behind different political parties and their ideologies. 'Caste values' and caste interests influence a person's socialisation and consequently his political thinking, awareness and participation.

- One banks upon caste solidarity for occupying and performing a leadership role. Caste influences the process of leadership recruitment. This is particularly true of highly 'caste conscious' people of some states like Haryana, Bihar, UP, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- In India, there are so many caste-based political parties which try to promote and protect the interest of a particular caste. The regional political parties, in particular, stand predominantly influenced by the caste factor.
- Strengthen democracy as these party's encourage people's political participation. Voice to marginalised sections as they cannot be ignored in the first-past-the-post electoral system.
- All political parties in India use caste as a means for securing votes in elections. BSP banks upon the support of Scheduled Castes while the BJP largely banks upon its popularity among caste Hindu and the trading community.
- Caste acts both as a divisive and cohesive force in Indian politics. It provides a basis for the emergence of several interest groups in the Indian system each of which competes with every other group in the struggle for power. At times it leads to unhealthy struggle for power and acts as a divisive force.
- At the same time, it is also a source of unity among the members of various groups and acts as a cohesive force like in the case of OBC's across the nation.
- Caste based Political parties and real upliftment of people –
- Caste based political parties being a form of identity politics, it important to know that identity politics is an inevitability in democracies. The existence of identity politics is an indicator of the health of a democracy because it means that marginalised sections are making an active bid for a share of power.
- Caste-based parties acquired their political and electoral strength by opposing the 'politics of equal recognition.' Politics of equal recognition promised equal rights and equality between citizens. It was rejected by Dalits and OBCs in favour of the 'politics of difference.'
- The politics of equal recognition was seen as being 'difference blind' and attesting one hegemonic culture whereas the politics of difference recognised the particularities of each social group and the non-assimilation of group identity.
- Over the years, legislative measures like the quota for SC/STs in jobs and Parliament have empowered Dalits or at least a section of them. The caste-based politics for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) may not have ended casteism, but it has led to efforts of empowerment like reservation policies.
- The caste factor is an important determinant of electoral politics in India. While nominating their candidates from different constituencies the political parties keep in mind the caste of candidate and caste of the voters in that particular constituency. As a result of this candidate is sure to get the votes of voters of his caste. This leads to disenchantment with constitutional principles and individual identity.
- The role of caste in the working of Panchayat Raj and other institutions of local self-government has been recognized reality. Caste based factionalism

in rural areas of India has been the most major hindering factor in the organization and effective working of Panchayat Raj.

- Caste-based violence often finds its way into politics. The traditional differences between higher and lower castes become vigorous and have turned into a violent and fierce struggle for power in society. The growing terrorization of the lower castes by the higher or even intermediary castes has been becoming a part of rural India's political reality.
- Fragmentation of society and enhanced caste consciousness: Creation of favours in own interests and animosity between different sections of people. E.g. – Lingayat Sect in Karnataka wanting a separate religious denomination tag.

Way Forward –

- The education system should be remodelled on secular lines. All schools must encourage community living by organizing community meals and all students should be included in it.
- School textbooks should be carefully revised. The study material should teach the students that the caste system is made by man.
- By promoting Inter-caste Marriage and by providing special offers for people who do inter-caste marriage can bring changes in the next generation.

Conclusion

There is a close relationship between caste and politics in India as both influence each other. Casteism is the biggest challenge for Indian democracy. Democracy and Casteism are opposed to each other. India has adopted the liberal democratic system based on equality while caste system stands for inequality based on birth. Thus, the eradication of the caste system is the only solution to overcome caste-politics.

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49. Is embracing western culture detrimental to India's rich social diversity? Critically comment.

Approach

Candidates are expected first to write about western culture and then critically comment on how embracing western culture is detrimental to India's rich social diversity.

Introduction

Westernization is defined as incorporation of the norms, values and culture of the west into our culture. Western Culture derives most of its customs and traditions from the European culture. With the conquest of European powers and subsequent British rule in India has had a profound effect of western culture on Indian society. Western culture has made its presence in various forms.

Body

- Indian Culture, which is one of the oldest & richest cultures in the world with varied languages, customs, beliefs, ideas, taboos, codes, instructions, works of art, architecture, rituals, ceremonies etc.
- Let us understand how western culture greatly affected our diversity by homogenisation of traditions, customs, family, respect and love for others
- The interaction in present generation is highly diplomatic considering the financial status and wealth. Indian culture which teaches to be a part of each other Joys and Sorrows to celebrate the moments together and share the grief together maintain and nurture the diversity. But slowly all our value for which India has the pride is vanishing & western culture is taking its place. With homogenisation effect.
- Marriage used to be considered as bonding of the souls which will be linked even after the death; but today marriage is like a professional bond or a so-called commitment to share life without compromising their self-interests. It has reduced to a just procedure whereas days back it was a show of a cultural diversity.
- In India different state have their own tradition in which food and clothes shows various variety and importance. But with the popularity of junk food

which cause the health disorder in country hampers the food diversity of local cuisine.

- Globalisation had led to shrinking of Indian culture. People are influenced by western culture even in day to day activities like dressing style, food habits, music etc. The 'McDonaldization of Society' is a case in point.
- The institution of joint family has received very rude shock. The concept of joint families is decreasing the India's diverse festival and rituals.
- Subjugation of the local culture, loss of world diversity, conflict between core and peripheral values etc. For example, harassment against women is blamed on westernization, diseases due to adoption of lifestyles or eating habits that are not supported by the local climatic conditions.
- The fate of traditional material culture and styles of tribes were to be 'preserved' as museum specimens. Attempts were made to synthesise the customary and the modern laws. In all these efforts, the focus was on modernising the tribals.
- Rationalism and scientific education, that fuel modernisation, have their origin in western culture and westernisation is often perceived as a sub-process of modernisation which has benefited Indian and helped in maintaining Indian rich social diversity:
- Modern values like humanism, egalitarianism, secularism have entered Indian value systems. Our criminal law has been reformed. Evil customs like sati ended , Untouchability abolished.
- Concept of welfare state was introduced and thus Governmental activities on welfare measures have expanded.
- Far reaching reforms in Hindu society through social reform movements like the Brahmo samaj etc. under inspiration from the Western educated middle class in India.
- Spread of mass education. Emergence of a educated middle class as the vanguard of the freedom movement.
- The political system, which developed during the British rule, gave increasing opportunities for political articulation to the people of India, especially those who acquired western education.
- We find that the traditional social organisation exemplified by the caste system has undergone several changes yet continues to exist in Indian society performing some old and some new functions.
- Due to western culture influence, sanitation and public health has improved greatly in India. Many western doctors have immigrated into India and have made medicines which have helped reduce sicknesses, diseases in large parts because health care has become accessible.
- Western culture has brought media as well in India. For example, 'Bollywood' which came from Hollywood in America. Bollywood's films now traditionally feature India, its culture, tradition and religion. It helps to interact with each other know each other better and preserve our rich social diversity.

Conclusion

Western culture is not altogether bad, although it has made our life faster but enhanced the technology has also made our life easier and comfortable. We need to give importance to our Indian culture which taught us to live in peace and harmony with other by the way of increasing our tolerance and patience. Many people of other countries are realizing the importance of Indian heritage and are adapting the goodness of Indian culture such as practice of Yoga and meditation, wisdom and teachings passed by the ancient saint etc. The knowledge of Indian wisdom helps human being of any race to enrich their life.

50.Comment on the tribal diversity of India. Is it possible to modernise tribal societies without affecting their traditional values and customs? Discuss.

Approach-

Candidate can give some data about tribal population across regions, their significance and issues they are facing. In second part, way forward can be given by suggesting measures to enable tribal societies to be modern in true sense.

Introduction

Tribals constitute 8.6 percent of India's total population, about 104 million people according to the 2011 census (68 million people according to the 1991 census). This is the largest population of the tribal people in the world. The so called "tribal belt" embraces central and northeast India, which extends across the centre of India from Pakistan in the west to Bangladesh and Myanmar in the east. The belt is home to 81 million indigenous people, whose ancestors may have inhabited India before Aryan invaders, the ancestors of Hindus, arrived around 1500 B.C.

Body

Tribal diversity of India

- Home to the largest tribal population in the world, India has the privilege of hosting a variety of truly colourful, indigenous, equally vibrant and culturally rich tribal people whose lifestyles, culture, religious beliefs, traditions, rituals, dressing, food, language are so diverse that they represent an anthropological wealth of heritage.
- They comprise a substantial minority population of India, making up 104.2 million people, according to the 2011 census. Adivasi societies are particularly prominent in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand,

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, and Northeast India, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- The Scheduled Tribes are notified in 30 States/UTs under article 342 of constitution and the number of individual ethnic groups, etc. notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705.
- 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas. The decadal population growth of the tribals from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66%. The sex ratio for the general population is 940 females per 1000 males and that of Scheduled Tribes 990 females per thousand males.
- The Gond comprise the largest tribal group of India with a population exceeding 12 million. Linguistically, the Gond belong to the Gondi–Manda subgroup of the South Central branch of the Dravidian language family.

What are the main issues facing tribals?

- Education- Language The medium of instruction in schools is one of the most important obstacle.
- Economic condition prevents the parents from sending their children to school, parents prefer their children to help them in their work and supplement their income. Availability of teachers in remote tribal areas is a big recurring problem.
- Location of villages – The schools located in villages is a barrier for tribal students who live in far flung areas with absolutely no access to transportation.
- Many of the tribal areas are facing security concerns like LWE and Insurgency.
- The influx of outsiders has created tensions. The RIIN of Nagaland is a case in point.
- Due to exploitation of middlemen may tribes are abandoning their handicrafts e.g. weaver tribes of Andhra Pradesh.
- Companies Indian and foreign are often found in violation of the Benefit sharing clauses of Biodiversity Act.
- What can be done?
- Economy and Entrepreneurships:
- Their knowledge of ancient herbs, plants and other natural products is tantamount to that of an expert. These skills that were once a part of their tradition have now become a means for not only their livelihood but an active contribution to furthering India's economic growth.
- Mendha Lekha, a tribal village situated in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra, has a successful bamboo economy. The entire village, comprising 450 people belonging mainly to the Gond tribe, works together in cultivating bamboo as raw material for the paper industry. The villagers make profits in crores, and are using the money for several development and social welfare
- In Kerala, tribes have been collecting and selling wild honey for years. According to a report by Agriculture Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) 38, 177.08 metric tonnes of honey, worth 705.87 crores was exported in 2015-2016. This can be increased to other areas also.
- Art and Culture:

- Tribal handicrafts are coveted around the world, for the precision, and effort with which each piece is created. Their age-old traditions have cultivated a generation of artisans who have honed their craft to contribute not only to the domestic market but India's exports as well.
- Dhokra Damar tribes of West Bengal and Odisha are the creators of Dhokra technique, which has been used to create metal artefacts. Each year, handicrafts are exported to at least 100 countries around the world.
- Knowledge of medicinal plants:
- Tribals from Maharashtra collect medicinal plants and process them to sell in domestic and international markets. Tribes india, website of tribal ministry, earns in crores by selling online products.

Conclusion

India is blessed with such a tribal diversity that it is an asset of our cultural heritage. Our so called concepts of modernity cannot be justified to make their lives better. For example tribal sex ratio is way better that general population, this shows they are way more progressive in their thought and actions. The efforts has to be in direction to create such an environment where no person from tribal background miss on any opportunity and make them capable enough so that they can reap optimum benefits from it.

51. What are the key challenges faced by women in workspace? Discuss. What measures should be taken to make workspace more equitable and safer for women?

Approach:

Question is asking you to discuss so you have to discuss in detail and cover all dimensions comprehensively.

Introduction:

It will take 257 years to reach gender equality in economic participation and opportunity, according to the WEF's 2020 global gender gap report. In fact, the report shows that while other metrics of gender equality have improved (education attainment and health are close to parity, for example), the economic participation and opportunity metric has regressed to 57.8%.

Body:

THE KEY CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN WORKSPACE

- Disproportionate earnings: As of today, women earn $0.81 for every $1 a man makes, resulting in far lower take-home income and associated financial security. In India too, the fight for equal wages continues. The Labour Bureau in India has found that in rural areas in the agricultural sector, the daily wage for men is ₹264.05 and ₹205.32 for women. In non-agricultural sects, the average daily wage rate for men is ₹271.17, while for women it is ₹205.90.
- Lack of community and support: The old adage "It's lonely at the top" can certainly be true for the women who do make it to senior roles within their organizations.
- Shortage of professional opportunities: 42% of women in the workplace say they've experienced gender-based discrimination, including being passed up for important assignments, experiencing repeated, small slights, and being

treated as though they weren't competent. This makes women almost twice as likely to experience these grievances compared to men (22%).

- Representation of Women: Women continue to remain underrepresented at every level, starting from entry level jobs to C-suite roles. What's interesting to see is that the number of women and men leaving their companies is almost the same. Therefore, attrition can't be blamed for this inequality and misogyny.
- Unemployment Penalty: During child rearing years, the unemployment penalty for women is longer. What this means is that when women take longer leaves, they have a much harder time to get rehired.
- Increased risk of workplace harassment: Women are far more likely to experience sexual harassment in the workplace, whether they are in a position of power or not.
- MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MAKE WORKSPACE MORE EQUITABLE AND SAFER FOR WOMEN
- There are plenty of steps that can and must be taken to improve gender equality in the workplace. These includes:
- Put an end to salary secrecy: Increased transparency around salaries and remuneration is one definitive step any organization can make.
- Dismantle the glass ceiling: Lack of female representation in senior, high-paying positions only seeks to reinforce the gender pay gap. As such, this must be addressed head-on within each organization.
- Remove barriers for flexible working: Lack of flexibility, or stigma, related to varied working hours can be a barrier to progression for many female workers, as women tend to take on more active parenting duties.
- Women make up about half the global population; representing a huge pool of talent, resources, and potential innovation. Hiring, training and investing in women makes good business sense, as well as being morally imperative.

Conclusion:

Gender inequality can be an entrenched issue in the office. It reveals itself in pay grade differences, lack of representation at senior level, and sometimes incredibly minimal intervention against gross misconduct. Reaching gender equality requires radical action in organizations. The world talks about progression and creating an environment where all people are treated equally. But, why does it stop when it comes to women? While there are men who have come forward to support women in all their endeavours, why is the word "feminism" branded with so much hatred and contempt? It's time we shatter toxic masculinity and make people understand that feminism's goal is to reduce gender gaps and achieve political, economic, personal, and social gender equality.

52. Certain political parties have floated the idea of giving remuneration to women homemakers. What are your views on this? Discuss.

Approach:

Question is straight forward in its approach students are expected to express their views about the idea of renumeration to women by the political parties by giving a detailed explanation with examples as well.

Introduction:

The expanding role of freebies in Indian Politics in the last decade has become an intriguing question in the Indian political economy. Freebies have become a strategy to woo voters latel. The Election Commission, earlier 2019, has revealed an analytical emphasis on the distribution of freebies and attractions to voters by almost all the political parties. Recent announcement by a political party of giving renumeration to homemakers is an election freebie promise but it has a larger perspective through ideological and economic aspects as well.

Body:

- Renumeration to homemakers has been advocated by feminist groups from a long time. It involves paying homemaker against the work done in home such as cooking, looking after the elderly, washing clothes etc. so as to bring them in parity with those working outside home and giving recognition to their efforts as well. In these times where societies are largely patriarchical efforts of homemakers usually go unnoticed and is not considered work at all.
- Idea of giving renumeration to homemakers is a drastic step towards change in following ways-

- One extremely significant dimension that has gone largely ignored in the purview of the measurement of economic activity – is household unpaid work by women. This is the flip side of women's low labour force participation, which is among the lowest in the world in India. Women who are not in the workforce are not sitting at home enjoying leisure time – they're engaged in child and parent care, cooking, cleaning and performing other household chores. The fact that women's household work is unpaid and therefore goes unrecorded as part of the GDP understates women's contribution to the economy. According to research by the International Monetary Fund, raising women's participation in the labour force to the same level as men can boost India's GDP by 27 percent. One way to do this is by giving homemakers, the majority of whom are women, a salary.
- As a matter of public policy, schemes targeted at economically vulnerable households can and should be fine-tuned by recording the value of women's work. Finally, as a matter of macroeconomics, capturing women's unpaid labour would give a truer picture of GDP and, therefore, a more realistic assessment of the size of the economy and of economic growth.
- This will help shatter the stereotypical image of Indian women who are portrayed as domestic and social parasites living on their husbands' earnings and contributing nothing.
- A large number of women live with domestic violence and cruelty because they are economically dependent on others, mainly their husbands. Time-use data from 2019 gathered by the National Sample Survey Organisation revealed that only about a quarter of men and boys above six years engaged in unpaid household chores, compared to over four-fifths of women paying renumeration to homemakers will ensure their financial independence to a large extent and is thus an inclusionary measure as well.
- Supreme court also advocated that value of the work of homemaker must be at par with the office going individual and fixing renumeration and recognising the value of the labour of homemaker is the acceptance of the idea that these activities contribute to the economic condition of the family in a real way.
- Once recognised as work, this arena of unpaid domestic labour that is dominated almost entirely by women can become one where women can demand some degree of parity in terms of the time and energy expended on it.
- It moves us towards a more holistic understanding of labour: Labour isn't purely tied to the exchange value of a service on the market, and recognises an extremely intimate form of labour that has proved essential to keeping the unit of the family intact and functional
- However there are some challenges as well which are as follows-
- Paying home-makers would disincentivize even the educated women to stay indoors and receive some sort of salary. This would impact the overall LFPR of women which is already low.

- In rural areas, where patriarchal mindset exists women would serve as proxies to their husbands. The amount they would receive would directly be spent by their husbands leaving them disempowered (financially).
- Identifying the beneficiaries would be a herculean task for the government, as too much of arbitrariness exists.
- It would burden the already curtailed fiscal space of the state governments which are currently reeling under the high fiscal deficit in the post-Covid scenario and would therefore have far-reaching impact on the state-exchequer.

Conclusion:

Needless to say, women constitute almost half the population and their needs and issues have to be addressed. A homemaker doesn't need any favours. She is already contributing to the economy. A salary for her work at home would be a tool towards her empowerment, give her a life of dignity. Idea of renumeration isn't new it needs a serious thought on part of policy makers to bring equality in the society which has been marred by discrimination from quite a long time now.

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53. Why is it important to have more women in politics? What will be achieved by greater participation of women in matters of politics and governance? Put forward your views with the help of suitable arguments.

Approach

The candidate needs to bring out the importance of having more women in politics in the first part of answer while in the second part, the candidate needs to put forward his/her views regarding the positive effects of greater participation of women in politics and governance.

Introduction

Despite women constituting half the world's population, they account for less than a quarter of the membership of national parliaments globally. Such descriptive or numerical under-representation can have consequences for substantive representation of women's interests as well as overall societal interests, which clearly highlights the importance of women's participation in politics.

Body

Importance of having more women in politics –

- In the Beijing Platform for Action, stemming from the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995, the prioritization of women's leadership was considered vastly important. Two decades later, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscored the need and urgency to achieve gender parity in leadership through SDG Target 5.5.
- The full and active participation of women in legislatures, equal to men, is not just a goal in itself, but central to building and sustaining democracies. The equal presence of women, their leadership and their perspective in parliaments is essential to ensure greater responsiveness to citizens' needs.
- For political institutions to be democratically legitimate and responsive to all citizens, they must be inclusive of the plurality of groups that exist within the population. This requires greater representation of women in national parliaments and broader diversity.
- People's interests and priorities are often shaped by their respective social, economic and ethnic differences. Female legislators belonging to various backgrounds can therefore bring a wide array of issues to the table.
- Furthermore, any democratic system benefits from having people from diverse backgrounds and life experiences represented in its political institutions. It enables us to draw on the full array of capacity and skills in the population in shaping policies for the advancement of all.
- The meaningful participation of women in national, local, and community leadership roles has become an important focus on global development policy. In this regard, following can be some of the achievements through greater participation of women in matters of politics and governance –
- Women's political participation results in tangible gains for democracy, including greater responsiveness to citizen needs, increased cooperation across party and ethnic lines, and a more sustainable future.
- Research has shown that women in government tend to work in more collaborative and bipartisan ways and employ a more democratic leadership style compared to men's more autocratic style. Women are also more effective at building coalitions and reaching consensus.
- Women's participation in politics helps advance gender equality and affects both the range of policy issues that get considered and the types of solutions that are proposed. There is also strong evidence that as more women are elected to office, there is a corollary increase in policy making that emphasizes quality of life and reflects the priorities of families, women, and ethnic and racial minorities.
- For example, in Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found.
- Women's parliamentary presence could also have a role model effect. A 2012 study conducted in India explained that the increased proportion of women village leaders had closed the "aspiration gap" between girls and boys by nearly 25 percentage points and had eventually erased or reversed the gender gap in educational outcomes.

- Further, in many instances, greater political participation by women does result in policy choices more attuned to women's needs and concerns. Moreover, having more women in elected office has been shown to lead to broader societal benefits such as better infant mortality rates, better education outcomes in urban areas and lower corruption.
- For example, research on panchayats (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led councils was 62 per cent higher than in those with men-led councils.
- Moreover, not every woman elected to parliament or another legislative body will place women's issues or rights at the forefront of her own agenda. Clearly, women's representation is not the only factor, but it is a critical factor for the development of inclusive, responsive, and transparent democracies.

Measures to Empower Women –

- Creating a gender-responsive policy environment.
- Support women's leadership development programmes.
- Enact legislated candidate quotas and reserved seats.
- Create enabling environment for voluntary party quotas.

Conclusion

The positive impact of women in politics and governance is undeniable where the world can't afford wasting a precious resource through the dramatic underrepresentation of women in leadership positions which clearly brings out the need for male and female legislators to work together in order to solve the myriad of problems in the world to meet worldwide development goals and build strong, sustainable democracies.

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54. Discuss the role of women self help groups in uplifting the rural economy.

Approach

Candidates are expected first to write about self help group. And then highlight the role of Self help group in uplifting the rural economy.

Introduction

The origin of SHGs in India can be traced back to the establishment of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in 1972. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. It can be defined as self governed, peer controlled

information group of people with similar socio-economic background and having a desire to collectively perform common purpose.

Body

Role of self help group in uplifting the rural economy:

- Financial Inclusion: Priority Sector Lending norms and assurance of returns incentivize banks to lend to SHGs. The SHG-Bank linkage programme pioneered by NABARD has made access to credit easier and reduced the dependence on traditional money lenders and other non-institutional sources.
- Alternate source of employment: It eases dependency on agriculture by providing support in setting up micro-enterprises e.g. personalised business ventures like tailoring, grocery, and tool repair shops. For example Kudumbashree in Kerala has helped in providing skill training and poverty eradication of women.
- Banking literacy: It encourages and motivates its members to save and act as a conduit for formal banking services to reach them.
- Credit availability: Bank credits are not easily accessible to individual poor, but by forming a SHG, there are make better prospects for bank credits. (often without collateral). Under the SHG-Bank linkage programme, many SHGs have become institutions of micro-credit.
- The need to solve problems at the ground level: India is a country that has diverse culture, traditions, historical backgrounds, etc. Therefore, it is difficult for the government to solve the socio-economic problems by itself. Thus, bringing together the people who face similar problems may be a game-changer for the Indian economy.
- Rural poverty: SHGs have become a vehicle to lift people from below poverty line, generate awareness about welfare and developmental schemes of government, monitor its implementation etc. For example SHGs like SEWA, Lizzat papad promotes entreprenurial culture among women.
- Positive correlation between SHGs and poverty can be inferred from the fact that southern states with high number of SHGs (71%) have average poverty rate at 9% as against nation's average of 21%.
- Need based service enhance economy: Commercial Banks and NABARD in collaboration with the State Government continuously innovated and designed new financial products for these groups. For example Community managed resource centre (CMRC) under MAVIM was launched to provide financial and livelihood services to SHGs. CMRC is self-sustaining and provides need-based services.
- Easier access to government schemes: The government schemes are mostly meant for the marginalised sections of the society. The inclusion and identification of these people are highly difficult. If they are grouped together, it is easier for the government to identify those who are in need of assistance quickly and efficiently. It also prevents the exploitation and corruption of the government at the ground level.

- Challenges faced by SHG:
- There are about 1.2 lakh branches of banks in rural areas as opposed to 6 lakh villages in the country. There is a need to expand banking amenities further.
- Patriarchal mindset, primitive thinking and social obligations discourages women from participating in SHGs thus limiting their economic avenues.
- Measures to Make SHGs Effective:
- Extension of Self-Help Groups to Urban/Peri-Urban Areas efforts should be made to increase income generation abilities of the urban poor as there has been a rapid rise in urbanisation and many people remain financially excluded.
- Need to establish a separate SHG monitoring cell in every state. The cell should have direct links with district and block level monitoring system. The cell should collect both quantitative and qualitative information.

Conclusion

SHG approach is an enabling, empowering, and bottom-up approach for rural development that has provided considerable economic and non-economic externalities to low-income households in developing countries. SHG approach is being hailed as a sustainable tool to combat poverty, combining a for-profit approach that is self-sustaining, and a poverty alleviation focus that empowers low-income households.

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56. What is your notion of true women empowerment? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach-

Candidate is required to define women empowerment by the empirical observation and elaborate further with suitable examples of empowered women around us in day to day life.

Introduction

Women's empowerment can be defined to promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others.

Body

What is women empowerment?

- It is closely aligned with female empowerment – a fundamental human right that's also key to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous world.
- Gender equality is a basic human right, and it is also fundamental to having a peaceful, prosperous world.
- But girls and women continue to face significant challenges all around the world. Women are typically underrepresented in power and decision-making roles. They receive unequal pay for equal work, and they often face legal and other barriers that affect their opportunities at work.
- In the India, girls and women are often seen as less valuable than boys. Instead of being sent to school, they are often made to do domestic work at home or are married off for a dowry before they are adults. As many as 12 million underage girls are married every year.

Why is it important to empower girl or women?

- Empowering women is essential to the health and social development of families, communities and countries.
- A key part of this empowerment is through education. Girls who are educated can pursue meaningful work and contribute to their country's economy later in life. They are also four times less likely to get married young when they have eight years of education, meaning that they and their families are healthier.
- The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself.
- The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of the household.
- In all parts of the world, women are facing threats to their lives, health and well- being as a result of being overburdened with work and of their lack of power and influence.
- In most regions of the world, women receive less formal education than men, and at the same time, women's own knowledge, abilities and coping mechanisms often go unrecognized. The power relations that impede

women's attainment of healthy and fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society, from the most personal to the highly public.

What are some examples?

- Popularly known as the 'padwoman of India', Maya Vishwakarma calls herself the 'standing example' of the dire repercussions caused to the girls and women. Born to a family of agricultural labourers in a village in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh, Maya did not have access to sanitary napkins until she was 26. This caused her to face many health issues later in life, thus triggering her ambition to remedy the situation. At the age of 36, she quit her job and started the Sukarma Foundation in 2016, to create awareness around menstruation, promote the importance of using sanitary napkins and busting the stigma and myths around it. the foundation also manufactures affordable sanitary napkins which are given to the women in the remotest areas of the country.
- Almost 200 kilometres from Pune, the town of Mhaswad in Satara district of Maharashtra has a unique bank that provides loans as low as Rs 15 to rural women! The Mann Deshi Bank, established by Mumbai-based Chetna Sinha in 1997, provides financial aid to rural women, making them truly empowered. So far, the bank and its eight branches have empowered more than 3,00,000 women through 140 field facilitators.
- In 2017, a Mumbai-based non-profit organization, 'SheSays' led by Trisha Shetty, began a campaign, #LahuKaLagaan, which called to abolish tax on sanitary napkins. As the campaign went viral across the country, other organisations picked up the cause. Eventually, in 2018, the 12 per cent tax on sanitary napkins was scrapped by the government.
- Dr Rani Bang in naxalism hit district of gadchiroli in Maharashtra is working relentlessly for last thirty five years to provide basic healthcare to tribal women who face complications in pregnancy. A gold medalist from John Hopkins university, she chose to serve and empower fellow women and make them independent when it comes to health.

Conclusion

Women empowerment is multifaceted. Empowerment starts from home, by dividing responsibilities, by taking important decisions together, by making women financially more literate, by respecting their choices of employment and by listening to the unheard desires. Giving them a new voice, showing them a right path and providing her a right platform to express her fully so that she can realise her deep true self is the real empowerment. As a society we have to travel a long road to empowerment but we have to start from ourselves first.

57. Discuss the contribution of Sufi and Bhakti movements in the philosophical awakening of the masses.

Approach-

Question is straight forward. Student can give account of bhakti and sufi movements from medieval times and their impact on masses in the spiritual awakening.

Introduction

In medieval period, we see intense devotion or love of God of various kinds of bhakti and Sufi movements that have evolved since the eighth century. The idea of bhakti became so popular that even Buddhists and Jain adopted these beliefs.

Body

Bhakti movement

- Bhakti was accepted as a means to attain moksha along with jnana and karma. The development of this cult took place in South India when the Nayanars and Alwars moved against the austerities propagated by the Buddhist and Jain schools and professed that ultimate devotion to god was the means to salvation.
- People were no longer satisfied with a religion which emphasized only ceremonies. The cult is the combined result of the teachings of various saints, through the then times.
- Each of them had their own views, but the ultimate basis of the cult was a general awakening against useless religious practices and unnecessary strictness. The cult also emerged as a strong platform against casteism.
- Some of the important leaders of bhakti movement
- Namadeva and Ramananda (Maharashtra and Allahabad) – Both of them taught the concept of bhakti to all the four varnas and disregarded the ban on people of different castes cooking together and sharing meals.
- Sankara and Ramanuja – The propounders of Advaita (non-duality) and vishishta adwaitha (qualified non-duality)
- Vallabhacharya – propounder of shuddha adwaitha or pure non-duality.
- Chaitanya (Bengal) – relied on the use of music, dance and bhajans to get in touch with God.
- Kabir – was a disciple of Ramananda, and was raised by a Muslim weaver. He stood for doing away with all the unnecessary customs and rituals in both religions and bringing union between these religions.
- Nimbakacharya – founder of the Radha-Krishna cult. He expressed this relation to substantiate the importance of marriage.

- In South India 7th to 9th centuries saw the emergence of new religious movements, led by the Nayanars (saints devoted to Shiva) and Alvars (saints devoted to Vishnu) who came from all castes including those considered "untouchable" like the Pulaiyar and the Panars.

Sufi movement

- In the early centuries of Islam a group of religious minded people called sufis turned to asceticism and mysticism in protest against the growing materialism of the Caliphate as a religious and political institution. They were critical of the dogmatic definitions and scholastic methods of interpreting the Qur'an and sunna (traditions of the Prophet) adopted by theologians.
- Instead, they laid emphasis on seeking salvation through intense devotion and love for God by following His commands.
- By the eleventh century Sufism evolved into a well developed movement with a body of literature on Quranic studies and sufi practices.
- Of the groups of sufis who migrated to India in the late twelfth century, the Chishtis were the most influential. This was because they adapted successfully to the local environment and adopted several features of Indian devotional traditions.
- Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi, Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki, Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya are some of the prominent sufi saints.
- Pilgrimage, called ziyarat, to tombs of sufi saints is prevalent all over the Muslim world. This practice is an occasion for seeking the sufi's spiritual grace (barakat).
- Spiritual awakening
- Shankaraharya, from Kerala in the 8th century, salvation .was an advocate of Advaita or the doctrine of the oneness of the individual soul and the Supreme God which is the Ultimate Reality.
- Basavanna's virshaivism movement began in Karnataka in the 12th century which argued for the equality of all human beings and against Brahmanical ideas about caste and the treatment of women.
- From Maharashtra Janeshwar, Namdev, Eknath and Tukaram as well as women like Sakkubai and the family of Chokhamela, who belonged to the "untouchable" Mahar caste. This regional tradition of bhakti focused on the Vitthala (a form of Vishnu) temple in Pandharpur, as well as on the notion of a personal god residing in the hearts of all people.
- For baba guru nanak the message is spelt out in his hymns and teachings. These suggest that he advocated a form of nirguna bhakti. He firmly repudiated the external practices of the religions he saw around him. He rejected sacrifices, ritual baths, image worship, austerities and the scriptures of both Hindus and Muslims.
- From the tradition and hierarchy ridden society this message of unity in diversity gave new impetus to the lower castes and a new form of awakening took place against the redundant traditions.

Conclusion

Bhakti and sufi movements gave rise to new Indian consciousness. Indian society became spiritually awakened with the new philosophical ideas instilling new sense of identity among lower castes seeking spiritual salvation and philosophical awakening.

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58. Why is Rumi, the 13th century poet so famous? Can you discuss some of ideas and philosophies about life and love?

Approach:

Question is asking you to discuss, it requires you to write a debate where one has to use your skill at reasoning, backed up by deliberately selected evidence to make a case for and against an argument.

Introduction:

Rumi was 37, a traditional Muslim preacher and scholar, as his father and grandfather had been, He was this compelling figure in all cultures whose tomb draws reverent followers and heads of state each year for a whirling dervish ceremony on 17 December, the anniversary of his death.

Body:

RUMI'S IDEAS AND PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT LIFE AND LOVE

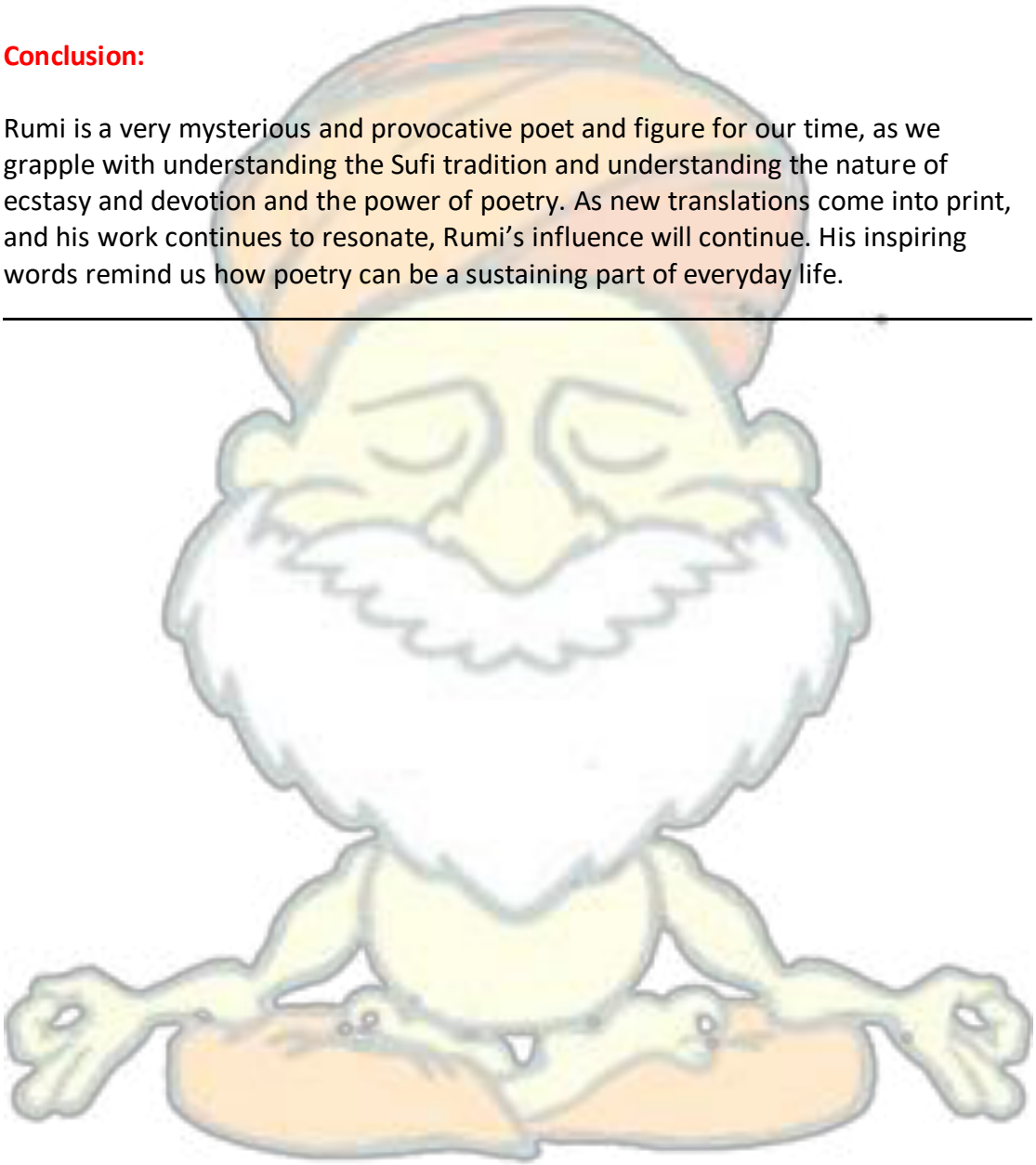
- Rumi believed passionately in the use of music, poetry and dance as a path to reach God. It was from these ideas that the practice of whirling dervishes developed into a ritual form.
- Rumi believed that all lives were sacred: Taa'shif nifaak b'astz sang (Even a seemingly lifeless stone has a degree of consciousness; respect it).
- He believed that all religions are only one religion.
  because all praises are directed towards God's Light.
- He believed in THE SILENCE OF LOVE and that Love is the astrolabe of God's mysteries. A lover may hanker after this love or that love, but at the last he is drawn to the KING of Love. However, much we describe and explain Love, when we fall in love, we are ashamed of our words. Explanation by the tongue makes most things clear, But Love unexplained is better.
- Rumi was a jurist and religion teacher until the age of 37, when he met a wandering dervish named Shams Tabrizi. He soon became Rumi's spiritual mentor and intimate friend and eventually changed the course of his life.
- Rumi's poetry is a series of mystical experiences – a reflection on nature's beauty, a song, a dance, an idea, a feeling… anything that makes us human,

everything we're able to see with our eyes open or shut. Below you will find a lot of Rumi love quotes that prove how spiritual and intense his poems are.

- Rumi's work continues to resonate and today, his tomb draws dervish followers and heads of state each year for a ceremony that marks the anniversary of his death.
- He is among the poets that show us the importance of every experience, be it good or bad.

Conclusion:

Rumi is a very mysterious and provocative poet and figure for our time, as we grapple with understanding the Sufi tradition and understanding the nature of ecstasy and devotion and the power of poetry. As new translations come into print, and his work continues to resonate, Rumi's influence will continue. His inspiring words remind us how poetry can be a sustaining part of everyday life.



59. "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." Comment on this quote of Robert Frost.

Approach:

Question is straight forward in its approach, students are expected to explain the meaning of the quote in introduction then explain the quote using relevant examples.

Introduction:

The given statement emphasizes on the essence of education that it cultivates spirit of tolerance and boost self confidence. Education provides ability to take criticisms in a constructive manner. A well educated person develops a temperament of critical thinking and knows how to deal with success and failure properly. As such, an educated person, when confronted with conflicting views, will not lose temper. He/she will rather try to analyse others' views, try to learn from others; and thereafter come up with an appropriate response/strategy. Also, an educated person doesn't lose self-confidence easily, for he/she is aware of own limits and is confident of own abilities. 'Volatire' says that i don't agree with you but I respect your right to disagree with me . To make this statement his education could be inclusive, diverse, tolerant.

Body:

- Education is manifestation of perfection already in men so a Person it helps person to make his mind strong, educated mind listen to all without any reaction. In the diverse country like India, Civil servants must possess ability to deal with diverse interests, political pressures and criticisms. Such ability can be cultivated through proper education. Issue of corruption among government officials is also a manifestation of lack of self confidence and character building ability of present status of education system.

- For example, Pame Armstrong, IAS wanted to build a road in Tamenglong, Manipur out of empathy for the local people. He tried to get it done through State projects but he faced hindrances. Later, he took to crowd-financing and built it, by mobilizing the public for the cause, without Government financing. His confidence, empathy and patience emanate from his education.
- Peace and Harmony can be brought only if we have tolerance in the society. Different culture and different ideas lead towards higher development goals. For example- American society is an amalgamation of different views, religions, culture and rights of individual freedom and thereby it has achieved a position of being a global destination. Whereas an intolerance to others may lead to downfall as happened with Myanmar at international forum.
- Mahatma Gandhi showed tolerance towards the agitated public when he withdrew non cooperation movement because he had true education of Freedom and how to achieve it. He had differences of opinion with Ambedkar, Subhas chandra Bose but have never show or spoken anything intolerant.
- Education in form of awareness , information related to health and hygiene helped in behavioural change among the society towards building toilets in houses who were earlier resisting to such changes siting religious reasons.
- As it is said “mind once enlightened can not go dark again”. Such enlightenment can only be achieved through proper value education and concept based learning. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam also emphasized the importance of value education in his quote “Real education enhances the dignity of a human being and increases his or her self-respect. If only the real sense of education could be realized by each individual and carried forward in every field of human activity, the world will be so much a better place to live in.”meaning importance of education in overall development of human beings which includes respect, tolerance and dignity of individual.
- A well educated person develops a temperament of critical thinking and knows how to deal with success and failure properly. eg. Mahatma Gandhi was imprisoned several times and also accused by many communities as being anti – Hindu, still he continued to work for independence and upliftment of all sections of society.
- In present times, where there is intolerance over religious ,castes, racial issues etc education holds key importance to make the society more tolerant and more inclusive

Conclusion:

As Arthur C Clarke said “Civilization will reach maturity only when it learns to value diversity of character and idea”. We must always be ready to learn and respect the diversity and educate ourselves. The peaceful coexistence and mutual trust would promote humanity and development of nation. An educated mind always accepts diversity prevalent and entertains the thought/view of others with/without accepting it. Tolerance is not built within a day, but is gradual of all the learning and education that we receive.

60. Truth can be stated in a thousand different ways, yet each one can be true. Elucidate.

Approach

The candidate needs to dwell upon the given statement and bring out its meaning through the help of different examples, which makes the understanding of 'Truth' more substantial.

Introduction

The above quote by Swami Vivekananda clearly demonstrates the nature of 'Truth' and the ideal way of understanding it in human society where in the present polarised times, truth can be seen from different perspectives which would help in healing the society.

Body

- Truth is multi-faceted. Truth remains true from the point of view of an observer but may be seemingly false from other's point of view. There has been a perpetual fight of perspectives and will always be as long as truth is concerned. There is no black or white but shades of grey.
- Proclaiming something as one absolute truth would be a recipe for disaster in matters where the outcomes can be subjective or unknown to humans. Here, Swami Vivekananda emphasized that truth can have different perspectives.
- In this light, the Rig Veda states, 'E-kam sad viprah bahudha vadanti' i.e. the truth is one but is called by many names. Thus, it brings home the point that we need not quarrel over each and every difference of opinion in life. Different opinions must co-exist for the sake of a free world.
- Further, this is the basis for development of Indian way of thinking where all religions are considered as true and rightful approach to reach the almighty. Thus, theological discussions can go a long way in present times, if everyone considers the above approach.
- Also, each religion teaches its followers to be truthful and non-violent. However, the ways of saying the same is different for different religions.
- Leaders can't lead without followers and unfortunately, some of the most passionate ideas die an early death because the leader is ineffective. To be

able to take people along, inspire them with your vision, you need to know that there are a thousand sides to the same story.

- This is even true for leaders in corporate sector, where if you can't respect the diversity in your teams, you cannot establish a culture of tolerance and respect which could hamper improved performance by the team.
- What other person is saying may seem us to be false but when seen from his/her perspective can be true. Understanding this would help us solve issues in amicable ways. It helps us not be prejudiced against others' opinions.
- Understanding the other side of the story and other faces of a situation/practice/thought is required before reaching to any conclusion.
- At the same time, it is important to understand that objective truths have no place for variations under the present discussions where the scientific truths are an example. The Earth is round and not flat is an objective truth, such facts can't be under scrutiny through the argument of different perspectives.
- In the present age of fake news, such a differentiation becomes important to understand where facts and objective truths need to be upheld at all costs, where the facts and objective truths have been arrived at through rigorous academic scrutiny.
- But on a more theological and subjective levels, there must be scope for incorporating the variations of truth. Here, perspectives are different from truths where many people conflate perspectives with truths in present times.

Conclusion

Thus, we need not quarrel over each and every difference of opinion in life. Different opinions can co-exist for the development of a free world and for ensuring global peace where competing political ideologies are making the world an unsafe place. In this light, people must strive towards the goal of reaching the eternal truth of human brotherhood and feelings of oneness.

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61. What is your view on the following quote by Venkataraman Ramakrishnan: We are all human beings, and our nationality is simply an accident of birth.

Approach:

Candidates are expected to provide the context of the quote and explain the quote by Venkataraman Ramakrishna. And then express the personal view on the quote.

Introduction

Just when Nobel laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan flooded with goodwill emails from India on winning Nobel prize and many were taking pride of him being a Indian origin. He said "We are all human beings, and our nationality is simply an accident of birth," it doesn't matter much as per Venkataraman on belonging to particular country.

Body

Nationality is not simply with accident of birth:

- Birth is not just a random momentary thing. It involves your parents. And they already had a nationality too.
- Nationality is a shared group identity in the significance of a geographical and sometimes demographic region seeking independence for its culture and/or ethnicity that holds that group together. This can be expressed as a belief or political ideology that involves an individual identifying with or becoming attached to one's nation.
- With identity of nationality the feelings of the high and low and cateism are banished from the minds of the people, and social unity is achieved. The nationalist leaders make the people understand with full force that our nation can progress and can have a prestigious place in the world only, when all disparities are removed.
- Nationality transforms into the nationalism. Nationalism as a ideology built on feeling of togetherness and belongingness of community but try to exclude those who are different from them. It has characteristics of heterogeneity whereas humanity is based on homogenous characteristics and try to be more inclusive rather than exclusive.
- Nationality brings people together with the same mindset. Whereas humanism bring everyone to live together with or without the same mindset:

- Economically, nationality may give everyone equal rights to trade, practice profession or work, etc. Humanism is about fulfilling basic needs of an individual.
- India, as the birthplace of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ideal and long-honored for its multiplicity of wisdom traditions and paths, is primed to become a model to lead a way out of this crisis. It is thus imperative that moral, spiritual and civil leaders work together to articulate universal ethical principles and values that can form the basis for social cohesion, shared agreements and lasting peace.
- Environmentally, nationalism and nationality cares about the environment related issues in their nation. They don't care about the environmental issues of other countries. Humanism cares about the environment at global level. They know that humans can exist only at those places where environment is proper to live and carry out other activities. For example Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was criticised by all conservationist cross the world.
- Adherence to human values and humanity such as love and compassion is required in today's world which is affected by many nationality based conflicts such as civil wars, refugee crises and terrorism.
- It is with humanity and human values that one becomes truly able to put into practice his/her ethical values, such as justice, integrity, refusal of violence and ban to kill even in a crisis situation.
- Humanity convey a positive and affective surge, which reinforces the rationale of moral values. Humanity is value that permit us to live together in harmony and personally contribute to peace. Human values are a tool to manage human relations and a tool for peace when the tension is high.
- National citizenship is an accident of birth; global citizenship is different. It is a voluntary association with a concept that signifies "ways of thinking and living within multiple cross-cutting communities cities, regions, states, nations, and international collectives.
- It generates Cultural of empathy helps people see questions from multiple perspectives and move deftly among cultures sometimes navigating their own multiple cultural identities, sometimes moving out to experience unfamiliar cultures.
- When forces of Nationality and Patriotism try to take the front seat, there is a kind of hostility, protectionist feelings generated among the people of different countries. Therefore, Humanity should be always at a higher pedestal than other such values.

Conclusion

Since ancient times, the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is one family, has stood as an ideal of Indian civilization. This inclusive and compassionate spirituality recognizes that "the truth is one, sages call it variously"; this has allowed for groundbreaking advances in philosophical inquiry and civilizational advances throughout world history.

62. Discuss the geopolitics of the Suez Canal during the aftermath of WWII.

Approach:

Question is straight forward in its approach students are expected to write about Suez canal and geopolitics arising out of it during the aftermath of WWII. Also it is important to give a brief about geography of Suez canal in the introduction of the answer.

Introduction:

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. The canal separates the African continent from Asia, and it provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans. It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes. The canal is extensively used by modern ships , as it is the fastest crossing from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean .Tolls paid by the vessels represent an important source of income for the Egyptian government. The Canal runs between Port Said harbor and the Gulf of Suez , through soils which vary according to the region. At Port Said and the surrounding area, the soil is composed over thousands of years of silt and clay sedimentations deposited by the Nile waters drifted by Damietta branch.

Body:

Geopolitics of Suez canal during the aftermath of WWII-

- Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, one of the participants at the conference of non-aligned African and Asian countries held in Bandung in 1955, was seeking to unify the Arab world around Egypt, of which he became President in June 1956. In order to stimulate the economic and agricultural transformation of the country, he planned the construction of a huge dam at Aswan, but the United States, despite seeing Nasser as a preferable alternative to communism, refused to contribute to the enormous building costs. So on 26 July 1956, Nasser announced his intention to nationalise the Suez Canal

Company. The majority of shareholders in this internationally vital waterway were French and British, and their concession was not due to expire until 1968. For Nasser, the revenue from operating the canal was necessary to allow Egypt to finance the building of the Aswan Dam.

- France, angered by the aid given by Egypt to the Algerian rebels, and Britain, which wanted to maintain its control over the strategically important Suez passage, decided to launch a joint military attack with a view to regaining control over the administration of the canal. They were supported militarily by Israel — a state that since its creation in 1948 had felt directly threatened by any hint of Arab expansionism or reinforcement. Moreover, Nasser had never stopped proclaiming his desire to destroy Israel. On 29 October 1956, Israeli forces took the Sinai Peninsula, a vital area for the protection of the Jewish state. One week later, Anglo-French troops disembarked in Port Said. The operation was entirely successful — the Egyptian army was defeated in a few days, even though Nasser had ordered the sinking of some forty ships in order to block the Suez Canal completely.
- However, the world powers did not appreciate the actions of France and Britain in the slightest. The Soviet Union, which was in the process of forcibly putting down the insurrection in Hungary, threatened Paris and London with nuclear reprisals. For their part, the United States, despite being traditional allies of the European powers, complained that they had not been consulted beforehand. They did not appreciate this kind of neo-colonial gunboat diplomacy at all, and exerted enormous financial pressure on the United Kingdom through the United Nations — so much so that the Anglo-French force had to withdraw despite its military success. Israel also evacuated Sinai. The UN took on the task of repairing the Suez Canal, which was reopened to shipping in April 1957. In the meantime, Nasser had ordered the destruction of several oil pipelines, meaning that Western European countries faced their first cuts in fuel supplies.
- The upshot of all this was that Nasser, boosted by his political and diplomatic victory, enjoyed immense prestige in the Arab world. He exploited to the full his image as the victim of an imperialist plot. The European powers were forced to recognise once and for all that they were not world powers and that their role on the international stage could not be more than that of supporting the United States. Indeed, it became difficult for them to pursue an independent policy on the world stage. Their influence in the Middle East became almost non-existent. The Suez Crisis therefore ended in a moral defeat and a diplomatic fiasco for the former colonial powers, while Colonel Nasser consolidated his position as defender of the Arab cause and champion of decolonisation.
- Today, nearly a decade on from the beginning of the Arab Spring, things have changed. It has become necessary for states across the region to reassert themselves and seek to restore stability and economic development. Key to this process will be economic cooperation within the bounds of power politics in two leading geographical areas of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region: the Red Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean.

- Both "Saudi Vision 2030" and "Egyptian Vision 2030" place great emphasis on the optimum economic utilization of the Red Sea area, inclusive of the Red Sea's waters, coastlines, and islands, with all the touristic and mineral resources the sea offers and its potential to serve as a multidimensional bridge between the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt. In fact, Saudi Vision 2030 views the bridge as a means to bolster the Saudi geo-strategic position by extending it to the Eastern Mediterranean via the Suez Canal. It was no coincidence that the agreements signed during the visit by the Saudi monarch to Cairo in April 2016 included a $1.5 billion Sinai development project and a plan to build a King Salman Mosque in Ras Sudr on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Suez.

Conclusion:

About 12% of world trade passes through the canal each year, everything from crude oil to grains to instant coffee. Without Suez, a supertanker carrying Mideast crude oil to Europe would have to travel an extra 6,000 miles around Africa's Cape of Good Hope, adding some $300,000 in fuel costs (although there would be savings from avoiding the Suez passage tolls, which can run hundreds of thousands of dollars.) Because it has no locks, it can even handle aircraft carriers. With this the geostrategic importance of Suez canal has become even more significant which the world powers has realised since the Suez crisis of 1956.

63. What are the effects of globalization on India's medium scale enterprises? Examine.

Approach:

Question is straight forward; the student is expected to write the impact of globalization on Medium Scale Enterprise in India. The student should focus on the economic as well as the regulating changes happened after the LPG reforms particularly.

Introduction:

The process of globalization is an inevitable phenomenon in human history which has been bringing the world closer since the time of early trade and e xploration, through the exchange of goods, products, information, jobs, knowledge and culture. Globalization is the process of integration of the world into one huge market. It provides several things to several people with removal of all trade barriers among countries. Globalization happens through three channels: trade in goods & services, movement of capital and flow of finance. Globalization in India is generall y taken to mean 'integrating' the economy of the country with the world economy. The real thrust to the globalization process was provided by the new economic policy introduced by the Government of India in July 1991 at the behest of the IMF and the World Bank.

Body:

Indian small scale industry is playing an imperative role in the economic expansion of the country and have vast approaching for employment generatio n Increasing small scale sector units also results in decentralized industrial development, better distribution of wealth and investment and entrepreunial talent. The government has init iated several policies for the growth and development of small scale in dustries. Post liberalization economic conditions have created immense growth prospect for t he small scale industries. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in India are acting as power and spirit of economic growth in the 21st century.

Positive Impact:

Invasion of foreign investment and technology. The SSIs in India suffer from outdated technology and sub-optimal scale of operation. Many foreign companies have ed up with Indian SSIs and helped them to use better technology, managerial skill etc.

Opportunities to enter the world markets: Globalization has opened up the economy and integrated it with the world economy. The SSIs enjoy the benefits of selling their

products and services to the world market rather than being confined into domestic market. The free economy ushers inaccessibility to bigger markets, greater linkages for SMEs with larger companies and marketing outfits, improved manufacturing techniques and processes.

Expanding the areas of business: SSIs have been able to identity many uncommon but highly promising business areas like outsourcing, medical transcription, clinical research trials, sub-contracting, ancillarization and many new technologies like biotechnology, nanotechnology etc which are attractive for the new generation SSI entrepreneurs.

Free flow of capital: In a liberalized economy, banks would try to find out new avenues of giving credits to increase their profitability. Thus, supply of funds may be easier. Development in money market would initiate development in capital market

Less procedural problem: As the economy is mainly market driven; there is less Govt. intervention, red tapes, less control on import and export etc. The SSIs would be allowed to work in a free environment.

Increased Customer Satisfaction: As the domestic market gets competitive, small and medium firms try to satisfy the consumers in every possible way. They try to produce products as per the needs and preferences of the consumers anti satisfy the customers in best possible way.

Opportunities for generation of employment: Being labour-intensive in nature, the SSIs make significant contribution in employment generation and expanding industrial network in rural areas. This sector nurtures the traditional skills and knowledge based small and cottage industries.

Regional disparity Removal: People from remote areas have the tendency to migrate to urban areas in search of jobs. This creates excessive pressure on urban areas and initiates social and personal problems. This problem can be addressed by sethng up a network of micro, small and medium enterprises in economically backward areas.

Negative impact

Though there are many benefits derived from the process of Globalisation, it has resulted in some serious constraints on the growth of SSIs in India High level competition. The SSIs face ruthless competition from the large domestic firms and multinationals armed with improved technology, managerial ability, skilled workers, marketing skills, better product quality, and wide range of products. The small firms find it difficult to maintain their existence as the cases of merger and acquisition are continuously increasing.

Problems related to finance: Financing has always been a major problem for the small and medium industries in India. The SSIs mostly depend on internal sources of finance (personal savings, loan from relatives, and loan from local money lenders) than that of institutional financing by banks and other financing institutions.

Poor Technology Base: There exists considerable heterogeneity among the SSIs in India. A small percentage of firms operate with sophisticated technology base whereas majority of firms use outdated technology. They suffer from low productivity and poor product quality. Due to their small size, they cannot enjoy large-scale production economies.

Delayed payments: The small firms find it difficult to recover their dues from the large firms and even from Government Departments due to complex payment procedure and corruption. Due to lack of funds, they cannot employ credit collection

machineries (like factoring services). The large firms force them to offer long credit period and even pay advance to ensure timely supply of materials
Inadequate infrastructure facility: Infrastructural lacking includes inadequate power supply, transportation, water supply etc. Small firms cannot bear the cost of setting up independent power supply unit. They have to depend on irregular power supply from the electricity boards. Inadequate transportation system increases cost of production.
Shortage of Skilled workers Though India has no shortage of human resource, most of them are unskilled workers. Large firms pay higher remuneration and employ skilled workers. The SSIs have to operate with unskilled or semi-skilled workers. Thus, the SSIs suffer from low managerial capabilities.
Problems of Marketing and Distribution: Marketing is probably the most neglected and less explored problem for Micro and Small firms. Most of them do not have any well formulated marketing strategy, market research programmes, innovative advertisement techniques etc. Most of the SSIs do not have adequate monetary support to develop marketing section and many are not aware of modern low-cost marketing techniques (blogging, sending mails, developing web site for the company).

Conclusion:

Small industry in India finds itself in an intensely competitive environment since 1991, Thanks to globalization, domestic economic liberalization and dilution of sector specific protective measures. As a result, its growth in terms of units, employment, output and exports has come down. This has resulted in less impressive growth in its contribution to national income and exports though not in terms of employment in the 90s. Lack of reliable and stable economic infrastructure, reduced growth of credit inflow and technological obsolescence, which together would have led to inferior quality and low productivity are the major banes of small industry in India. But at the same time, international and national policy changes have thrown open new opportunities and markets to Indian small industry. Technological upgradation and in house technological innovations and promotion of inter-firm linkages need to be encouraged consciously and consistently. Financial infrastructure need to be broadened and adequate inflow of credit to the sector be ensured taking into consideration the growing investment demand including the requirements of technological transformation. Small industry should be allowed to come up only in designated industrial areas for better monitoring and periodic surveys through DICs should enable policy corrections from time to time. A technologically vibrant; internationally competitive small industry should be encouraged to emerge, to make a sustainable contribution to national income, employment and exports.

64. Has globalisation led to deterioration of societal values? Critically examine.

Approach

The candidate needs to examine whether globalisation has led to deterioration of societal values and also provide counter views, while also substantiating with proper examples.

Introduction

Social values refer to wider notions of collective identity like religious values, attitudes towards materialism, moral beliefs, and a sense of collective awareness and are a broader and more encompassing concept than social capital where a more globalized world both changes and interacts with nationally based value systems.

Body

Globalization is a combination of economic, technological, sociocultural and political forces and it refers in general to the worldwide integration of humanity and the compression of both the temporal and spatial dimensions of planet-wide human interaction.

Broadly speaking, the process of globalization has two aspects. The first refers to those factors – such as trade, investment, technology, cross-border production systems, flows of information and communication – which bring societies and citizens closer together.

The social dimension of globalization refers to the impact of globalization on the life and work of people, on their families, and their societies. Beyond the world of work, the social dimension encompasses security, culture and identity, inclusion or exclusion and the cohesiveness of families and communities.

Like the two faces of Janus, globalization at times has been inclusive and integrating and at other times disintegrating and exclusivist. Here, Globalisation and its deteriorating effects on globalisation can be seen from the following points –

Nuclear Families: The western influence of individualism has led to an aspirational generation of youth. Concepts of national identity, family, job and tradition are changing rapidly and significantly.

Old Age Vulnerability: The rise of nuclear families has reduced the social security that the joint family provided. This has led to greater economic, health and emotional vulnerability of old age individuals.

Pervasive Media: Foreign media houses have increased their presence in India. India is part of the global launch of Hollywood movies which is very well received here. It has a psychological, social and cultural influence on our society.

McDonaldization: A term denoting the increasing rationalization of the routine tasks of everyday life. It becomes manifested when a culture adopts the characteristics of a fast-food restaurant. These effect traditional sources of livelihood as well as societal norms.

The penetration of global music has resulted in the marginalisation of traditional music among different cultures of the world. Today, pop music and its local variations can be heard in all social settings from weddings to religious festivals and birthday celebrations.

One of the most vehement criticisms of globalization is that it threatens to create one homogeneous worldwide culture in which all children grow up wanting to be like the latest pop music star, eat Big Macs, vacation at Disney World, and wear blue jeans, and Nikes.

But at the same time, globalisation also has its benefits in terms of societal values, which is evident from the following points –

Globalization promotes the integration of socio-cultural, political and economic systems of nations into global ones. Sociologists consider this process as cultural and intellectual assimilation.

Under the influence of globalization, openness, information coming from the media, and contact with other cultures, traditional values are changing.
Access to education – On one hand globalisation has aided in the explosion of information on the web that has helped in greater awareness among people. It has also led to greater need for specialisation and promotion of higher education in the country.
The Global Village/ Global Consciousness – This means that more and more people have a more 'global outlook' and increasingly identify with a global audience – for example, television reporting of natural disasters in developing countries result in people in wealthier countries donating money to charities such as Oxfam to assist with relief efforts.
As globalization may lead to one single world culture or a homogenized culture, it is also likely to lead to new permutations, new combinations, new options and new cultures.

Conclusion

Globalization has made the world as a small village, and it tends to go further, like wiping all borders among countries where societal values are changing under its influence but they do not change simultaneously, giving rise to the phenomenon of 'glocalisation'.

65. How does globalisation differ from westernisation? In the Indian context, what has been more profound of the two? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about globalisation and westernisation first. And explain how both differ from each other. Also discuss in Indian context which one has profound impact.

Introduction

Globalisation and Westernisation are two sides of the same coin. Globalisation is a phenomenon that has born since the human race first made it to this world and Westernisation is an ever occurring phenomenon that has existed since the 19th century when the Ottoman Empire began modernising from the powerful, industrialised Western civilisations.

Body

Globalisation and westernisation:
Globalisation refers to the growing interdependence between different people, regions and countries in the world as social and economic relationships come to stretch world-wide.
Westernisation is the changes brought about in Indian society and culture as a result of over 150 years of British rule, the term subsuming changes occurring at different levels of technology, institutions, ideology and values.
Difference between globalisation and westernisation:
Globalisation is neither a purely economic process nor is related to communications only. It is a broad process of increasing socio-economic-industrial-trade-cultural relations among the people living in all parts of the globe.
Whereas emphasis on humanitarianism and rationalism is a part of westernisation which led to a series of institutional and social reforms in India. The evil institutions

of sati, untouchability and purdah got condemnation from the spread of the notions of equalitarianism and secularisation.
Globalisation accepts and advocates the value of free world trade, freedom of access to world markets and a free flow of investments across borders. It stands for integration and democratisation of the world's culture, economy and infrastructure through global investments.
Establishment of scientific, technological and educational institutions, rise of nationalism, new political culture and leadership in the country, are all by-products of westernisation.
As a matter of fact, both the processes go hand in hand. It is found that sometimes increase in westernisation also boosts the process of globalisation and vice versa. Both highly influenced the Indian society let us study which process has profound impact.
It was with 1991 reforms in India led to greater economic liberalisation which has in turn increased India's interaction with the rest of the world. Globalisation have facilitated the world in becoming a "global village". Increasing interaction between people of different countries has led to internationalisation of food habits, dress habits, lifestyle and views.
Impact of westernisation starts in India with interaction of European powers and it has profound impact then globalisation. In contemporary India, when we talk about westernisation, a tremendous change has come in rural India where most of India resides.
The European missionaries worked in the different parts of the country, particularly in those which were backward and inhabited by tribals and untouchables. This brought the weaker sections closer to westernisation.
Westernisation also introduced science and technology in Indian society. This brought railways, steam engines and technology. As a result of this, the Indian society moved towards industrialisation. This also gave encouragement to urban development and Migration from village to town and cities also increased.
Due to British rule freedom struggle gave the Constitution of India it introduced new value of secularisation. Secular India is conceived as a nation charged by the idiom of a rational and bureaucratic society.
The impact of five year plans a western idea has brought the village people in the wider network of communication and modernisation. The democratic institutions such as Panchayati Raj and massive spread of education have brought the villagers to come closer to westernisation.
Also science and technology came as a setback to village industries and local arts and artefacts, Subjugation of the local culture, loss of world diversity, conflict between core and peripheral values etc. For example, harassment against women is blamed on westernisation, diseases due to adoption of lifestyles or eating habits that are not supported by the local climatic conditions.

Conclusion

We cannot say that the impact of globalisation and westernisation has been totally positive or totally negative. It has been both and are still associated as in modern times, rationalism and scientific education, that fuel modernisation, have their origin in globalisation and westernisation is often perceived as a sub-process of modernisation.

66. What are your views on the process of de-globalisation? How will it affect the countries of the world in general and India in particular?

Approach- Candidate is expected to define de-globalisation and outline the effects of the process on advanced economies and developing world including India. Answer can be concluded by stating importance of globalisation in modern world.

Introduction

The term de-globalisation is used by economic and market commentators to highlight the trend of several countries wanting to go back to economic and trade policies that put their national interests first. These policies often take the form of tariffs or quantitative barriers that impede free movement of people, products and services among countries. The idea behind all this protectionism is to shield local manufacturing by making imports costlier.

Body

Globalisation

Globalization refers to the economic, social, and political integration of nations. It entails the spread of products, technology, information, and jobs across national borders and cultures. In economic terms, it describes an interdependence of nations around the globe, fostered through free trade.

De-globalisation

It is the process of diminishing interdependence and integration between the nations. It is characterised by the decline in economic trade and investment between countries.

Effects of de-globalisation

Trade Protectionism: The recent trade war between the US and China indicates a change in attitude of AEs in protecting their interests at the cost of developing countries.

Trade is not growing as quickly as before the Great Financial Crisis of 2008 that may be the consequence of decreased investment in technological innovation.

Immigration Control: Instances of immigration control by US, UK and other European countries have been dominant in past one decade.

Brexit Movement: Brexit and 'Make America Great Again' are symptoms of underlying processes of de-globalization that have already generated significant trade and investment uncertainty. This has had a concrete impact on trade & investment flows as firms and consumers are adjusting behaviour in anticipation of further trade shocks.

Flow of Capital: Cross-border financial flows have been reduced due to uncertainty in the global policy making and increased protectionism by Advance economies.

Labour Market Loss: The major hurdle faced by the AEs is the death of relatively low skilled sectors like textile and the support economies that grew around it. There are varying estimates of the job losses caused by cheaper imports from China and other emerging economies.

Growing Inequality: The slow pace of technological change in AEs had resulted in the stagnation of blue collar incomes which seems to be the major cause of rising inequality in the AEs.

Impact of de-globalisation on India

Economic impact-It will lead to protectionism with reduced cooperation among countries that will hurt Indian trade and exports. It will destroy employment opportunities because as it will prevent outflow of skilled people due to protectionist measures like visa regulations. This will impact their employability and remittance to the nation.
It may lead to increased import costs due to lesser choice and options and manufacturers and producers would have to pay more for equipment, commodities, and intermediate products from foreign markets.
Political impact: It would affect polity leading to instability in political framework of nations due to rise in prices and cost of living may lead to civil Uprisings.
Impact on technology: These tendencies limit technological advancement of the world as whole and of developing countries in particular. Limited knowledge sharing, lack of flow of technology to developing countries limit advancement in science.
Impact on Environmental conversation: Due to non-cooperation among nations it will impact environment conservation efforts in India. It will reduce required funding and would jeopardise efforts to conserve environment and tackle environment change. It would lead to lack of coordination at international organisations.
Impact on security: Due to lack of coordination among various nations, security around the world along with India would impact. It will not only increase economic risks, but would provide an opportunity for terrorists to carry out violence due to lack of coordination among various law enforcement agencies.

Conclusion

De-globalisation erodes the advances made by globalisation. Integrated world economy as a one family enables not just free flow of goods and services but also free flow of people, ideas, cultures and strengthens the spirit of humanity. Beyond economy it hampers the speed of our new evolution in global direction. Rise of hatred, intolerance, racism and suspicion are the result of our narrow outlook. We have to embrace the spirit of globalisation minimizing its ill effects.

67. What measures have been initiated by the government to make Indian enterprises more competitive in the global market? Discuss.

Approach

Since the question is asking you to discuss, it necessitates a debate where reasoning is backed up with evidence to make a case for and against an argument and finally arriving at a conclusion. In simple terms an examiner expects one to discuss various perspectives and present a logical argument.

Introduction

Manufacturing in India was high-cost and not really competitive. If there is strong competition, you will make all efforts to improve your products, reduce your costs. That has not happened. Only a few sectors such as telecom and auto became competitive, and that has led to products in India being world class, but those are very limited sectors.

Body

The government is taking a series of measures to make India highly competitive in the global economy. These includes:

The government announced Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 10 key sectors to spur growth in manufacturing in a big way.
This (PLI scheme) is one of the biggest schemes that the government has come out with to support the private sector in manufacturing with objective to provide a major impetus to manufacturing and exports. It is a $26-billion scheme, which provides production-linked incentives in 10 champion sectors and this five years of support should spur growth in manufacturing in a big way.
And, the PLI scheme for other sectors is going through the process of approval.
In the auto industry, there is a lot of push from the government on domestic manufacturing.
There is effort from the government in creating an assured demand visible to investors in the future.
Indian government has adopted "Make in India" as a core policy initiative to encourage and accelerate growth in manufacturing sector and make Indian market highly competitive in global economy.
Indian government is trying to make smart investments in asset productivity in order to increase the manufacturing productivity such as efficient line balancing, lean plant layout, and process de-bottlenecking.
In order to enable itself to expand economic hubs beyond tier 1 cities, the government is trying to develop localized services and local networks across the country.

Conclusion

Indian manufacturing, for decades, has been operating at a growth rate of 6-8% a year. The government is trying to get back to it by the end of this year. But the real issue is that it is not enough, as the finance minister said in the budget speech. A double-digit growth in manufacturing is required if the $5 trillion economy target is to be met. The Union Budget is an important milestone. It's a forward-looking growth centric, capacity building and debt-funded budget aimed at securing long-term economic growth and global competitiveness.

68. What are the key traits of a socially empowered community? Illustrate.

Approach:

Question is straight forward in its approach students are expected to write about the traits of socially empowered communities in India also it is important to mention examples aas well.

Introduction:

Social Empowerment means all the sections of society in India, have equal control over their lives, are able to take important decisions in their lives, and have equal opportunities. Without empowering all sections of society equally, a nation can never have a good growth trajectory. It is understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude poor people and keep them in poverty.

Body:

Perceptions of being empowered vary across time, culture, and domains of a person's life-

A low-caste person feels empowered when he/she is given a fair hearing in a public meeting, which is comprised of men and women from the different social and economic group.
A woman from a conservative household feels empowered if she's allowed to go out alone without being escorted by a male from her house.
A transgender feels empowered when she's given employment.
The need for Social Empowerment-
Social empowerment leads one to take the right job and hence reduce the incidence of unemployment and under-employment.
Social empowerment leads to a decrease in social violence engineered against the deprived section of the society. If one is empowered socially, they know the rights they enjoy and the duties they serve.
Social empowerment is also advantageous in case of corruption as people tend to understand the exploitive class and restrain from giving any bribe which ultimately reduces corruption.
Social empowerment is one approach to reduce poverty. When people are empowered, they tend to use the knowledge in the right direction and somehow reduce their poverty which is so important for national growth also.
The main advantage of empowerment is that their will be an overall and inclusive development of the society. The money that people earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also helps develop the society.
Traits of socially empowered communities in India-
Communities like Jains, Parsis, Baniyas fair better in social indicators like health, education, nutrition, social status etc compared to other religious communities like muslims and socially disadvantaged groups like Dalits.
They also have better economic opportunities and standard of living compared to other communities in India.
These communities have high nutrition levels compared to other religious communities in India.
Social empowerment has led to increased political opportunities as well Parsi community has been one of the most politically conscious community which has made them aware of their rights and duties towards the state.
Political decisions like 73rd and 74th amendments has led to political empowerment of people at village and ward level this directly empowered people socially as well many of the women have taken part in the grassroot democratic process and thus have become the agents of change themselves.
Reservation has become an important tool in the hands of government to allow marginalised sections like SCs,STs,women etc to take part in the governance system and allow equal opportunities for all sections of the society.
Other important traits of empowered communities are tolerance, Fraternity, brotherhood, sense of justice, incorruptible attitude and proper work ethic which make them to excel in all walks of life.

Conclusion:

Social empowerment is necessary to fulfil the constitutional obligations like providing equal opportunities for all the sections of the society in India and for that Education is one such powerful tool to break all odds faced by socially vulnerable people, and it is the best available tool to empower them. Needed measures must

be taken to eliminate discrimination based on any factor, through the universalization of education. It is important to include sex education, a secular curriculum, and the art of intolerance through schools and university syllabus which not only bring awareness but also help to mobilize a large section of people to voice for the vulnerable section of the society to provide livelihood opportunities for those people identified as vulnerable. Because the present society demands people to be economically empowered to be socially empowered.

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69. Do you think communalism feeds on India's highly polarised electoral politics? Critically comment.

Approach

The candidate needs to comment on the aspect of communalism feeding on India's highly polarised electoral politics and also giving counter arguments to it with proper substantiation.

Introduction

Communalism, in a broad sense means a strong attachment to one's own community. In popular discourse in India, it is understood as unhealthy attachment to one's own religion. It has permeated into the electoral politics in India to a great extent in recent times.

Body

India is pigeonholed by more ethnic and religious groups as compared to other countries of the world. Religion has great influence on political pattern in Indian society. Politicians use religion as their loopholes.

In India, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism are major religions practised by the people. Numerically, the Hindus have the majority. This initiates contestations that have often resulted in communal uprisings.

Religion in Indian politics can be linked to the country since pre-independence periods. It is supposed that the British, who ruled India for more than 100 years around the 19th century, pitched one community against the other to decline the freedom struggle.

Post-independence, the nation saw partition in the initial period, which led to widespread communal riots across the borders. Partition also left a permanent imprint on the national conscience and has been exploited by political parties till date.

The period till 1980's also saw multiple incidences of communalism, which were exploited by political parties. The Bangladeshi refugee's influx also led to growing polarisation in north east as well as eastern India, where a humanitarian tragedy was converted into a pitched religious issue.

It is evident from the above examples that communalism developed in society due to multitude of factors and has its effect on electoral politics but this situation changed in 1980's.

Shah Bano case and the subsequent events led to charges of minority appeasement, which transformed into full-fledged assertion of majority communalism which revived the dormant Ram Mandir Movement.

Here, electoral politics started the initiation of communalising tendencies in society instead of the earlier phenomenon. The Babri Masjid demolition not only encouraged communal violence in several parts of the country, in which many

people died, but also separated people along religious lines. Consequently, the BJP emerged as a major party.
But at the same time, it is important to note that polarised electoral politics has multiple other factors, some of which are –
Caste politics in the last three decades have been marked by the desire for power on the caste-lines rather than a substantial agenda for social reform of the downtrodden.
Criminalisation of Politics: It refers to a situation in which the anti-social elements enter the electoral process by contesting elections, getting elected to the legislature, and consequently occupying public offices.
Further, Communalism is also prevalent due to many other factors, some of which are –
Economic Causes – Uneven development, class divisions, poverty and unemployment aggravates insecurity in the common men which make them vulnerable to political manipulation.
Administrative Failure – A weak law and order is one of the causes of communal violence.
Psychological Factors – The lack of inter-personal trust and mutual understanding between two communities often result in perception of threat, harassment, etc.
Role of Media – It is often accused of sensationalism and disseminates rumours as "news" which sometimes resulted into further tension and riots between two rival religious groups.
Social media has also emerged as a powerful medium to spread messages relating to communal tension or riot in any part of the country.
Way Forward –
Establishment of Peace committees that mediate in times of volatile situations.
Regulation of Media, especially social media so that rumours and fake news are not spread.
Check on Communal Agenda and politicization by way of strict implementation of law like on speeches during electioneering.

Conclusion

It can be evaluated that in the Indian culture, religion has significant role. Therefore, Gandhiji's preaching of brotherhood among the different religious groups needs to revived and secular traditions, rooted in our cultural ethos must be propagated where separation of religion from politics needs to be emphasised and implemented across the length and breadth of the country.

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70. Do you think lack of development creates the breeding ground for regionalism? Substantiate.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about regionalism and then substantiate how lack of development creates regionalism.

Introduction

The roots of regional consciousness in India can be found in the colonial policies. Differential attitudes and treatment by the British towards princely states and those of the presidencies developed regionalist tendencies among them. British

exploitative economic policies and later successive governments completely neglected some regions, giving way to economic disparities and regional imbalances.

Body

Regionalism:

Regionalism is the expression of a common sense of identity and purpose by people within a specific geographical region, united by its unique language, culture, language, etc.

Regionalism has been interpreted as extreme loyalty or love to a particular region which may undermine the interest of the nation or the state of which the region is a part. There is always a natural tenancy towards the primacy of regionalistic over nationalistic.

Lack of development led to regionalism:

In the present times, uneven developments in different parts of the country can be construed as the prime reason for regionalism and separatism.

There are certain regions in the country where industries and factories have been concentrated, educational and health facilities are sufficiently provided, communication net work has been developed, rapid agricultural development has been made possible.

But there are also certain areas where the worth of independence is yet to be realized in terms of socio-economic development.

Of course, the British administration may be held responsible for causing such wide regional variations due to their suitability for the purpose of administration, trade and commerce.

It should be noted that roots of disparity in two regions was in colonial rule. Andhra was under direct rule of crown while Telangana was ruled by Nizam of Hyderabad, who was not so efficient ruler. So over time Andhra got more developed in comparison to Telangana.

But in the post-Independence era, efforts should have been made for regional balance in matters of industrial, agricultural and above all, economic development. This disparity has caused the feeling of relative deprivation among the inhabitants of economically neglected regions. It has manifested itself in the demand for separate states such as Bodoland or Jharkhand land, Uttarakhand, etc.

This is source of tension and gives birth to sub-regional movements for separate states. Jarkhand, Chattisgarh, Uttrakhand and recently Telangana are result of these failure only. Many such demands are in pipeline such as- Vidarbha, Saurashtra, Darjeeling and Bodoland, etc. These failures also weakens the confidence of private players and do not attract investors in the states.

One of the basic reason Assam agitations is because of the expansion of education, particularly higher education, but not industrialization and other job creating institutions is increasing the army of educated youths in the backward regions. The Bodo agitation is led by the Assam Bodo Students Union which is demanding a separate state and has resorted to wide scale violence and series of crippling bandhs to pursue their demand.

The existence of relative deprivation is one of the most important aspects in constructing the argument for regionalism. For example, Gorkha Nationalist Liberation Forum (GNLF) started its movement in the Darjeeling. In the view of GNLF,

Darjeeling was the most underdeveloped region in comparison to the southern part of West Bengal.
These frustrated young men are allured by the movements of regionalism against the inflow of people from other countries and states. On the other hand these unemployed youths are also attracted by the caste, communal and other sectional agitations fighting for the protection of rights on sectarian lines.
Wayforward:
Formation of the NITI Aayog has been a positive step to enhance co-operative federalism by fostering the involvement of the State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.
Schemes like "Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat" have been launched by the GOI to celebrate unity in diversity culture of the nation and to strengthen sentiment for National Unity between the citizens of states, is a welcomed step.
Introducing a system of national education through NEP that would help people to overcome regional feelings and develop an attachment towards the nation can act as a long-term solution to the problem of sub-nationalism.

Conclusion

The need of the hour is to develop each region of India, through devolution of power to local governments and empowering people for their participation in decision-making. The governments need to find out the alternative source of employment for local people, use of technology in governance, planning and for agriculture development for Faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth.

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71. What are the recent debates surrounding the concept and practice of secularism in India? What are your views on the same?

Approach- Candidate is expected to define Indian secularism and give a brief evolution while citing judgements of S.C. Underlining recent debates on secularism answer can be concluded by commenting on future of secularism in India.

Introduction

The concept of secularism is multifaceted as well as flexible. The classical "Western" theories have emphasized on the "Wall of Separation" model of secularism. This model was best summarized by Donald Eugene Smith as encompassing three relationships between the individual and religion (freedom of religion), the state and the individual (citizenship) and the state and religion (separation of church and state).

Body

Indian secularism
Indian Constitution guarantees to its citizens six fundamental rights, one of which is the right to freedom of religion. Article 25 of the Indian Constitution gives each citizen:
Freedom of Conscience
Right to Profess any religion
Right to Practice any religion
Right to Propagate any religion
Article 25 covers not only religious beliefs (doctrines) but also religious practices (rituals). Moreover, these rights are available to all persons—citizens as well as non-citizens. However, there are reasonable restrictions on the fundamental rights of the

citizens and central government/state government, in time of need, can interfere with the religious affairs of the citizens.
There has been question mark on the status of India as a secular state. D.E. Smith held that India has a few features of secular state and not all. He held that there are three features of secular state
Freedom of religion
Universal citizenship and right to equality
Separation between religion and state.
In Indian context third feature is missing. So India is a secular state only in partial sense. In Indian context minorities are natural custodians of secular state, hence nature of indian state as secular state will depend in large extent on minorities. If they're organised and conscious about their rights, India will remain secular.
But Indian secularism with western lens is unjustified as every country has its unique model. Indian secularism emerged as a response to muslim league's demand for separate state for muslims in the subcontinent. From this lens we can outline some of the prominent features of secularism
State is not identified with any particular religion, but it not averts to use of religion.
No strict boundary rather porous boundary.
No active hostility towards religion, nor indifference
Different religions are in the foundation of state
There is no overarching idea.
Politically negotiated model.
In S. R. Bommai case, Supreme court held that India has both positive and negative secularism. Positive secularism means state shall regulate religion by law and negative secularism means state will not patronise any religion.
S.C. also highlighted that religious tolerance and the idea of fraternity is the basic feature of Indian secularism.
Threats to Indian secularism
Misusing for Electoral benefits: Opportunistic distance (engagement or disengagement), mainly opportunistic alliance with religious communities, particularly for the sake of immediate electoral benefit
Neglecting the Core Idea of Indian Secularism: Political parties have bizarrely interpreted 'respect' to mean cutting deals with aggressive or orthodox sections of religious groups at times igniting communal violence.
Victimization of Communities: Principled intervention by State in one religion is viewed as discriminatory treatment by fringe sections of society leading to
Politicisation of Secularism
Politicisation of any one religious group leads to the competitive politicisation of other groups, thereby resulting in inter-religious conflict.
Requires Continuous Civic Participation: India's constitutional secularism cannot be sustained by governments alone but requires collective commitment from an impartial judiciary, a scrupulous media, civil society activists, and an alert citizenry.
Way ahead
In Sabrimala case verdict S.C. gave decision in favour of women entering temple, but this has triggered larger issue of what exactly is principled distance means in context of Indian secularism.

Views of justice Indu Malhotra and constitution of larger bench to decide on the same is indicative of new emerging debate in India on secularism.

Conclusion

Indian secularism is not an end in itself but a means to address religious plurality and sought to achieve peaceful coexistence of different religions. There is need to shift focus from a politically-led Secularism project to a socially-driven movement for justice.

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72. What factors can be attributed for the failure in containing the spread of COVID-19? What measures would you suggest to curb the surge?

Approach

Mention the factors attributed for the failure in containing the spread of COVID-19. Also mention measures to curb the surge.

Introduction

Amid the COVID-19, the system that has been developed to provide a global response to epidemics and pandemics failed miserably. Covid-19 spread all over the world, shutting down entire countries. Governments, and even subnational governments competed fiercely for scarce medical stocks and critical supply chains disrupted due to governmental export restrictions.

Body

Factors attributing for the failure in containing the spread of COVID-19

The WHO was simply not fit for this purpose. This stems from its subservience to major funding states, which dates back to the 1970s.

Today, the WHO's total annual budget is around $5.6 billion. By comparison, the Australian federal health budget for 2019–20 was $120 billion, and even bigger if the states' budget is included.

Unsurprisingly, this has had the effect of limiting the WHO's capacity, as well as making it highly responsive to its main funding states, thus jeopardizing its independence.

A second important aspect of global health governance pre-Covid-19 was its operation through domestic state institutions. The underlying assumption was that infectious diseases are likely to emerge in developing countries, due to their poor sanitation and governance capacities, then spread to other parts of the world. Although very limited financial support was available to help developing countries build up their domestic health systems, they were subjected to ongoing surveillance by the WHO and developed countries.

When disease outbreaks occurred, developed countries provided funding and intervened temporarily to address the immediate problem. This funding would eventually dry out as the outbreak was deemed to have been brought under control. Other than such intermittent interventions, which did little to build up primary health capacity in their recipient states, countries were largely supposed to use their own resources towards pandemic preparedness. Thus, very limited collective capacities had emerged, even within the European Union.

These factors combined to create a spectacular global health governance failure after the emergence of Covid-19.

Measures to curb the surge

Broad lockdown is the simplest, most blunt tool to break the chain of transmission, which reduces the probability of people getting infected and lightens the load on the health care system.
Mask mandates is another measure to curb the surge of the COVID virus.
We should certainly shut down restaurants and bars first before anything else. Also curfews and limiting the gathering will keep a check on the surge too.

Conclusion

While these measures work short term, if they aren't implemented for a long enough time to truly decrease transmission, once they are relaxed there will be a rebound of cases. With the virus spreading at record speed, it's still far from clear that even data-driven, tailored approaches will work, given the enormous reach of the virus and the coming holiday travel season. Ultimately it's like there's a fire raging, but you're only able to douse the spot fires and wait for help.

73. Discuss the unique flora and fauna of Australia. What are the geographical factors that impart this uniqueness?

Approach:

Question is straight forward in its approach students are expected to discuss the unique geographical features of Australia and how it impacts the distribution of flora and fauna of the country cum continent.

Introduction:

Australia's geographic isolation has meant that much of its flora and fauna is very different from species in other parts of the world. Most are found nowhere else. However, some closely related species are found on the continents which once made up the ancient southern supercontinent Gondwana. Covered in rainforest and ferns 300 million years ago, Gondwana included South America, Africa, India and Antarctica. Most of Australia's flora and fauna have their origins in Gondwana, which broke up about 140 million years ago.
Australia separated from Antarctica 50 million years ago. As it drifted away from the southern polar region, its climate became warmer and drier and new species of plants and animals evolved and came to dominate the landscape.

Body:

Flora

Australia has a huge diversity of plants (27 700 plant species according to the last studies), due to the fact that the country is huge and the climate is different from one region to another. From the rainforests of the North Queensland to the dry vegetation of the Red Centre, from the temperate plains of the NSW to the forests of Tasmania, diversity seems to have no limit.
Even in the most arid parts of the country, sudden rainfalls can turn a desperate landscape into a field of wildflowers. Among Australia's thousands of plant species, some are more emblematic than others. One of the best known Australian tree is the Eucalyptus. More than 2 500 species of Eucalyptus are represented in Australia! On warm days, eucalyptus forests are sometimes shrouded in a smog-like haze.

The Blue Mountains, 70kms west of Sydney, take their name from this haze. Australia also has around 1 000 species of acacia, that they call "wattles.
Located in North Queensland, this forest is the oldest tropical rainforest on earth, dating back 135 million years! Since 2015, most of the forest is listed as a UNESCO world natural site. The Kakadu National Park and its wetlands (also called billabongs) are another must-do for nature lovers. The Kakadu is not only Australia's largest National Park, it is also a UNESCO world natural and heritage site.
The fauna of Australia consists of a huge variety of animals. Did you know that more than 80% of mammals, nearly 90% of reptiles and more than 90% of amphibians that inhabit the continent are endemic to Australia? Mammals:
Marsupials: They are certainly the most famous Australian animals! A distinctive characteristic is that most of the young are carried in a pouch. That is of course the case of kangaroos. There are in fact many species of kangaroos: Eastern grey kangaroos, Red kangaroos, Western grey kangaroos, Tree kangaroos… You might also see wallabies, which are smaller than kangaroos, and wallaroos, which are even smaller! Another emblematic species of marsupials is koalas.
Monotremes: They are probably the most exotic animals of Australia, a transitory group between mammals and reptils! You have certainly heard about the platypus, this crazy mammal with a duck beak. They are the only mammal that lay eggs instead of giving birth! The platipus is the animal emblem of the state of New South Wales.
Placentals: As stated before, there are only a few native placental mammals in Australia. Dingoes are one of them. For many Australians, the dingo is a cultural icon. They play a prominent role in the Aboriginal culture. Dingoes are the largest terrestrial predator in Australia. They play an important role as an apex predator. However, they are seen as a pest by farmers, due to attacks on animals.
Reptils and Batracians:Australia is home to 140 species of snakes. Uniquely, Australia has more venomous than non-venomous species of snakes! The most dangerous are the inland taipan, the tiger snake and the common death adder. Fortunately, the snakes are shy animals that flee contact with humans. Casualties are therefore really rare. Crocodiles: Saltwater crocodiles can be find along the Northern coast of Australia. They are the largest of all living reptiles. Males can reach sizes up to 6.30m! The saltwater crocodiles are carnivorous predators, that are dangerous for humans. Signs have been displayed to inform people that crocodiles live around, but do no hesitate to ask locals for more details. Freshwater crocodiles are much smaller (2-3 meters) and are not known as man-eaters. However, they might bite if you disturb them.
Fish and marine animals: About 25% of the world's species of fish can be found in the Australian waters. The Great Barrier Reef is listed as a UNESCO world natural site since 1981. Australia is home to 1700 species of corals, and is therefore a paradise for divers and snorkelers! Those that want to watch whales will also find happiness in Australia. Humback whales are the most common species.
Birds: There are over 800 species of birds in Australia. Half of them are endemic. The best spots to watch them are the Broome Bird Observatory and the Kakadu National Park. Some species are really unusual. The emus, the second-largest living bird by height, are able to run as fast as horses… but cannot fly!
Unique Geographical Features of Australia

Australia is a relatively low-lying island with low relief. It is the flattest of all the continents. The various highland ranges are pronounced, but are not high in elevation. The Great Dividing Range is a mountain chain extending from Melbourne in the south to Cape York in the north. This low-lying range of highlands averages about four thousand feet and reaches an elevation of just over seven thousand feet at its highest peaks in the south. The largest river in Australia is the Darling-Murray River system that starts in the highland of the Great Dividing Range and flows inward through New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia.

The great interior of the country is home to the massive outback. Extending west from the Great Dividing Range, the outback encompasses most of the interior. This region receives less rainfall than along the coast and its terrain consists of deserts and semiarid plateaus with rough grasses and scrublands. The outback is sparsely populated, but is home to a number of aboriginal groups. Many of the school-age children in the outback have traditionally received their school lessons through television or radio broadcasts because of their isolation. Mining and some agricultural activities can be found in the outback. Alice Springs is located in the center of the continent and has been given the designation of the middle of nowhere, or the center of everything.

The deserts of Australia's interior make up a large portion of the continent. Western Australia has three large deserts: the Gibson Desert, Great Victoria Desert, and Great Sandy Desert. The Simpson Desert is located in the border region between the Northern Territory, Queensland, and South Australia. These deserts are not all sand; course grasses and various species of spinifex, a short plant that grows in sandy soil, also grow in the deserts. The Great Artesian Basin on the western edge of the Great Dividing Range receives very little rainfall. It would be classified as a desert but for its underground water resources, which support extensive farming operations. Large livestock businesses exist in Australia's interior with massive herds of cattle and sheep. The grassy plateaus and scrublands provide grazing for domesticated livestock and even wild camels. The Great Barrier Reef, the largest barrier reef in the world, extends for 1,600 miles off the northeastern coast of Australia. It is home to a host of sea creatures and fish that draw millions of tourists each year.

Conclusion:

Australia is both the flattest continent and, except for Antarctica, the driest. Seen from the air, its vast plains, sometimes the colour of dried blood, more often tawny like a lion's skin, may seem to be one huge desert. One can fly the roughly 2,000 miles (3,200 km) to Sydney from Darwin in the north or to Sydney from Perth in the west without seeing a town or anything but the most scattered and minute signs of human habitation for vast stretches. A good deal of the central depression and western plateau is indeed desert. Yet appearances can be deceptive. The red and black soil plains of Queensland and New South Wales have long supported the world's greatest wool industry, and some of the most arid and forbidding areas of Australia conceal great mineral wealth.

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74. What is an air mass? With the help of suitable examples, illustrate the impact of air mass on weather conditions.

Approach

The candidate needs to explain what is an air mass in the first part of the answer and then elaborate upon the impact of air mass on weather conditions, with the help of proper examples for substantiation.

Introduction

An air mass is a large volume of air in the atmosphere that is mostly uniform in temperature and moisture. Air masses can extend thousands of kilometres across the surface of the Earth, and can reach from ground level to the stratosphere into the atmosphere.

Body

Air masses form over large surfaces with uniform temperatures and humidity, called source regions. When winds move air masses, they carry their weather conditions 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. This can create a severe storm.

The warm air masses form over the equator or desert areas where the solar radiation is maximum. In clear, almost cloudless days, the heat is reflected back to the atmosphere. The air becomes light and spreads.

Cold air masses form near the poles where solar radiation is at a minimum. On cloudless days, the snow cover near the Poles, reflect sunlight away, preventing the earth to warm up. When this persists for a long period of time, cold air masses form over a large area.

Impact of Air mass on weather conditions –

In a particular area, the occurrence of particular air masses helps to ascertain the climate of that region. This in turn decides the type of flora and fauna as well as the type of crops that can be grown. For instance –

Precipitation: E.g. the maritime-tropical air over Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea is a major reason for precipitation east of Rocky Mountains. It is also the cause of persistent humidity in the summer season.

Temperature: Maritime polar air affects the coastal temperature in subtropical and arctic regions.

Cyclones and anti-cyclones: Stormy cyclones form near the air-mass fronts. The mixing of air masses will result in rising air feeding the cyclone formations in the subtropical cyclone. Similarly, the warm maritime tropical air mass will provide the energy for tropical cyclones.

Drought: they are the result of hot, dry air mass. This can destroy natural vegetation and kill trees. These regions have the increase risk of devastating wildfires. E.g. California wild fires.

At the boundaries between air masses, the clash of masses of air with different characteristics can lead to dynamic weather like hail, tornadoes, high winds or ice storms. E.g. tropical cyclones formed in East China Sea.

Air masses can control the weather for a relatively long time period: from a period of days, to months. Most weather occurs along the periphery of these air masses at boundaries called fronts.

Conclusion

Air masses spread across massive region, extending up to hundreds of kilometres and they exercise a considerable influence on the climatic conditions of the region over which they lodge and carry with them distinctive climatic features of their

source region. This demonstrates their importance and the need to understand the phenomenon in a more holistic way.

75. Discuss the formation of ocean currents and their impact on coastal climate.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about ocean currents and then discuss how there formation impact the coastal climate.

Introduction

The term "current" describes the motion of the ocean. Ocean currents are driven by wind, water density differences, and tides. Oceanic currents describe the movement of water from one location to another.

Body

Formation of ocean currents due to:

Salinity: Waters of low salinity have lower density enabling them to flow on the surface of waters of high salinity while waters of high salinity flow at the bottom.

Landmass: A land mass obstructs the direction of flow of ocean current and divides the ocean current to flow in a different direction.

Influence of insolation: Heating by solar energy causes the water to expand. That is why, near the equator the ocean water is about 8 cm higher in level than in the middle latitudes. This causes a very slight gradient and water tends to flow down the slope. The flow is normally from east to west.

Influence of gravity: Gravity tends to pull the water down to pile and create gradient variation.

Influence of Coriolis force: The Coriolis force intervenes and causes the water to move to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere. These large accumulations of water and the flow around them are called Gyres. These produce large circular currents in all the ocean basins. One such circular current is the Sargasso Sea.

Planetary winds: The planetary winds are permanent winds Trade winds, Westerlies and Polar Easterlies that blow from one pressure belt to the other. The oceanic circulation pattern roughly corresponds to the earth's atmospheric circulation pattern. There is a change in the direction of ocean currents with a change in direction of the monsoon winds in the Indian Ocean.

Currents affect the Earth's climate by driving warm water from the Equator and cold water from the poles around the Earth. It has various impact on the coastal climate:

Desert formation: Cold ocean currents have a direct effect on desert formation in west coast regions of the tropical and subtropical continents. There is fog and most of the areas are arid due to desiccating effect (loss of moisture).

Rains: Warm ocean currents bring rain to coastal areas and even interiors. Example: Summer Rainfall in British Type climate. Warm currents flow parallel to the east coasts of the continents in tropical and subtropical latitudes. This results in warm and rainy climates. These areas lie in the western margins of the subtropical anti-cyclones.

Moderating effect: They are responsible for moderate temperatures at coasts. North Atlantic Drift brings warmness to England. Canary cold current brings cooling effect to Spain, Portugal etc.

Drizzle: Mixing of cold and warm ocean currents create foggy weather where precipitation occurs in the form of drizzle [Newfoundland].

Climate: Results in Warm and rainy climates in tropical and subtropical latitudes [Florida, Natal etc.], Cold and dry climates on the western margins in the sub-tropics due to desiccating effect, Foggy weather and drizzle in the mixing zones, Moderate clime along the western costs in the sub-tropics.
Tropical cyclones: They pile up warm waters in tropics and this warm water is the major force behind tropical cyclones.
Navigation: Currents are referred to by their "drift". Usually, the currents are strongest near the surface and may attain speeds over five knots (1 knot = ~1.8 km). [At depths, currents are generally slow with speeds less than 0.5 knots]. Ships usually follow routes which are aided by ocean currents and winds. Example: If a ship wants to travel from Mexico to Philippines, it can use the route along the North Equatorial Drift which flows from east to west.
Fishing: Mixing of cold and warm ocean currents bear richest fishing grounds in the world. Example: Grand Banks around Newfoundland, Canada and North-Eastern Coast of Japan. The mixing of warm and cold currents help to replenish the oxygen and favor the growth of planktons, the primary food for fish population. The best fishing grounds of the world exist mainly in these mixing zones.

Conclusion

Ocean currents and mixing by winds and waves can transport and redistribute heat to deeper ocean layers. Ocean currents acts to neutralise the temperature difference between different areas in the oceans just like the winds do on land. Currents are also important in marine ecosystems because they redistribute water, heat, nutrients, and oxygen about the ocean.

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76. How does geomorphology of a region shape the economy? Illustrate.

Approach- Question is straight forward. Candidate is expected to define geomorphology and explain how it shapes economy of a particular region with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction

Geomorphology is the study of landforms, their processes, form and sediments at the surface of the Earth (and sometimes on other planets). Study includes looking at landscapes to work out how the earth surface processes, such as air, water and ice, can mould the landscape. The different climatic environments produce different suites of landforms. The landforms of deserts, such as sand dunes and ergs, are a world apart from the glacial and periglacial features found in polar and sub-polar regions.

Body

How geomorphology shapes economy of the region?
Minerals: Areas with mineral deposits attract industries. Mining and industrial activities generate employment. So, skilled and semi–skilled workers move to these areas and make them densely populated. Katanga Zambia copper belt in Africa is one such good example.
Landforms: People prefer living on flat plains and gentle slopes. This is because such areas are favourable for the production of crops and to build roads and industries. The mountainous and hilly areas hinder the development of transport network and hence initially do not favour agricultural and industrial development. So, these areas tend to be less populated. The Ganga plains are among the most densely populated

areas of the world while the mountains zones in the Himalayas are scarcely populated.
Soils: Fertile soils are important for agricultural and allied activities. Therefore, areas which have fertile loamy soils have more people living on them as these can support intensive agriculture.
Availability of water: It is the most important factor for life. So, people prefer to live in areas where fresh water is easily available. Water is used for drinking, bathing and cooking – and also for cattle, crops, industries and navigation. It is because of this that river valleys are among the most densely populated areas of the world.
Geomorphological factors influence industrial activities. Industrialisation: Industrial belts provide job opportunities and attract large numbers of people. These include not just factory workers but also transport operators, shopkeepers, bank employees, doctors, teachers and other service providers. The Kobe-Osaka region of Japan is thickly populated because of the presence of a number of industries.
Urbanisation: Cities offer better employment opportunities, educational and medical facilities, better means of transport and communication. Good civic amenities and the attraction of city life draw people to the cities. It leads to rural to urban migration and cities grow in size. Mega cities of the world continue to attract large number of migrants every year.
Transport and communication-Demand for transport is influenced by the size of population. The larger the population size, the greater is the demand for transport. Routes depend on: location of cities, towns, villages, industrial centres and raw materials, pattern of trade between them, nature of the landscape between them, type of climate, and funds available for overcoming obstacles along the length of the route.

Conclusion

Geomorphological factors play central role in determining the sort of economic activities that will play out in the region. These factors determine the location of particular industry, raw material for production and place of marketing. Economy revolves around these factors and shape economy in the long run.

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77. How are coral reefs formed? Discuss. What are the most potent threats to coral reefs?

Approach

Discuss necessitates a debate where reasoning is backed up with evidence to make a case for and against an argument and finally arriving at a conclusion. So discuss the formation of coral reefs and then mention the most potent threats to them.

Introduction

A coral reef is an underwater ecosystem characterized by reef-building corals. Reefs are formed of colonies of coral polyps held together by calcium carbonate.

Body

How are the coral reefs formed:
Coral reefs begin to form when free-swimming coral larvae attach to submerged rocks or other hard surfaces along the edges of islands or continents. As the corals grow and expand, reefs take on one of three major characteristic structures — fringing, barrier or atoll.

Classic coral reef formation change through time. They begin with a brand new tropical island (produced by an oceanic hot spot or at a plate boundary) and gradually change through thousands of years from a fringing reef, to a barrier reef, to an atoll, and finally to an extinct reef as a seamount or guyot.
A fringing reef forms along the shoreline of most new tropical islands. This is because the reef building coral animal is one of the few marine organisms that can survive in the warm, nutrient-poor surface tropical waters.
A barrier reef forms as the oceanic island begins to sink into Earth's crust due to the absence of volcanic island building forces, the added weight of the coral reef, and erosion at the surface of the island.
An Atoll forms when the oceanic island sinks below the surface of the ocean but the coral reef continues to grow upward.
The most potent threats to coral reefs
Coral reefs face numerous threats. Weather-related damage to reefs occurs frequently. Large and powerful waves from hurricanes and cyclones can break apart or flatten large coral heads, scattering their fragments.
Reefs also are threatened by tidal emersions. Long periods of exceptionally low tides leave shallow water coral heads exposed, damaging reefs.
The amount of damage depends on the time of day and the weather conditions. Corals exposed during daylight hours are subjected to the most ultraviolet radiation, which can overheat and dry out the coral's tissues.
Corals may become so physiologically stressed that they begin to expel their symbiotic zooxanthelle.
Increased sea surface temperatures, decreased sea level and increased salinity from altered rainfall can all result from weather patterns such as El Niño. Together these conditions can have devastating effects on a coral's physiology.
In addition to weather, corals are vulnerable to predation. Fish, marine worms, barnacles, crabs, snails and sea stars all prey on the soft inner tissues of coral polyps. In extreme cases, entire reefs can be devastated if predator populations become too high.

Conclusion

Coral reefs may recover from periodic traumas caused by weather or other natural occurrences. If, however, corals are subjected to numerous and sustained stresses including those imposed by people, the strain may be too much for them to endure, and they will perish. Although corals can survive a bleaching event, they will eventually die if they are under repeated stress. Outbreaks of coral disease typically follow bleaching events since stressed corals are more susceptible to infection.

78. Discuss the locational factors for the pharmaceutical industry. Examine the challenges posed to the pharmaceutical sector during the COVID pandemic.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about location factors related to pharmaceutical industry explain with Indian examples. Also examine the challenges posed to the pharmaceutical sector during COVID pandemic.

Introduction

India is the largest provider of generic drugs globally. Indian pharmaceutical sector supplies over 50% of global demand for various vaccines, 40% of generic demand in the US and 25% of all medicine in the UK. India enjoys an important position in the global pharmaceuticals sector.

Body

Pharmaceutical industry: The pharmaceutical industry discovers, develops, produces, and markets drugs or pharmaceutical drugs for use as medications to be administered (or self-administered) to patients, with the aim to cure them, vaccinate them, or alleviate the symptoms. Location factors for the pharmaceutical industry –

Supply of labour: Labour is one of the most important inputs in any industrial enterprise. India has a regular and cheap supply of labour, specifically the skilled labour. Also, as there is adequate supply of local labour/unskilled labour, then naturally it will be available at cheaper rates.

Suitability of land and climate: Climatic conditions viz humidity, temperature and other atmospheric conditions are favourable for the pharma industry. For example, humid atmosphere is not suitable for the formation of pharmaceuticals.

Stable growth in domestic market consumption: Despite recent headwinds, the Pharmaceutical industry in India has grown rapidly. India is likely to become one of the top 3 Pharmaceutical industries by 2030.

Large pool of scientists and engineers with a potential to steer the industry ahead to greater heights. Presently, over 80% of the antiretroviral drugs used globally to combat AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) are supplied by Indian pharmaceutical firms.

And within India, if there is one destination that all of them are making a beeline for it is Hyderabad. The city has the capacity to churn out well over a third of the global vaccine supply. Be it India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine candidate Covaxin or Russia's Sputnik V, Johnson & Johnson's Ad26. Cov2.S, FluGen's CoroFlu or even Sanofi's under development vaccine candidates, all have a Hyderabad connect. Whether a successful Covid-19 vaccine is developed in India or not, a vaccine developed anywhere in the world will be churned out of Hyderabad and Pune.

The city-based pharma companies are actively involved in manufacturing lifesaving Covid-19 drugs including Remdesivir, Hydroxychloroquine, Favipiravir, etc Three more pharma companies from Hyderabad are actively engaged in the efforts to develop and manufacture Covid-19 vaccine.

One of the first ICMR approved RT-PCR kits in India was from Hyderabad and Pune since then, a number of companies have developed PCR kits, rapid test kits, viral transport mediums, reagents, tech-based diagnostics solutions etc.

There is no doubt that Hyderabad and Pune has played a critical role in the Indian pharmaceutical revolution which made the country not only self-sufficient in the medicine manufacture but also made it as the pharmacy capital of the world.

Challenges to the pharmaceutical industry in COVID pandemic –

Disrupted Supply Chain: Over the globe, supply chains have been broken, disrupted, and some have even come to a grinding halt because of the nation-wide lockdowns, closed borders, and halted air travel.

Need for Agility and Transparency: With the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been immense interest in the Pharma sector's workings by almost all social hierarchies.

There is an increased need for faster, accurate, and transparent operations across the board.
Workforce optimisation and Controls: During COVID-19, Pharma manufacturing companies made many adjustments to modus operandi. That includes accommodating remote workforce, social distancing when in person, wearing masks and gloves, and avoiding any possibility of spreading the coronavirus.
Humongous Data Collation and Analysis: The research and clinical trials for potential drug treatments and vaccines for coronavirus worldwide generate unprecedented amounts of data and information. Paramedical experts and scientists in the Pharma industry look at agile tools to collate and manage data while generating insights.

Conclusion

While these changes and concerns are bound to affect the pharmaceutical industry's workings, proper management, technology, and software to navigate these challenging times will enable the pharmaceutical sector to rise to the occasion. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought forward existing and new challenges for the Pharma sector. However, it has given a chance to create opportunities and get transformations that can have a positive impact on the pharmaceutical industry.

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79. Discuss the challenges being faced by India's civil aviation sector. What measures have been taken recently to address those? Discuss.

Approach

Candidate can give brief facts about aviation industry and its potential in the introduction and state challenges faced by the sector. With the help of new government schemes and initiatives, way ahead can be given.

Introduction

The civil aviation industry in India has emerged as one of the fastest growing industries in the country during the last three years. India has become the third largest domestic aviation market in the world and is expected to overtake UK to become the third largest air passenger market by 2024.

Body

Size of Indian aviation industry –
India had the world's third-largest civil aviation market in 2017, with the number of passengers growing at an average annual rate of 16.3% between 2000 and 2015. It recorded an air traffic of 131 million passengers in 2016. Despite this growth, much of the country's aviation potential remains untapped.
The Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for civilian aviation, through regulatory oversight by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
Challenges faced by the sector –
Paramount amongst all issues is the one of air safety. In the past few years, there have been a number of fatal accidents snuffing out hundreds of innocent lives. Many of these accidents could have been avoided if as the planners, managers and regulators had a better understanding of the dynamics of the man-machine interface.
The airspace in India is going to see an increase in the number of aircraft flying. Hence, flying operations, air space management, arrivals and departures at airports, must be made more efficient for safe operations.

The next most important issue is one of finance. We at times are hesitant to acknowledge that financial viability is essential for all concerned. Once this is accepted, optimisation of resources will become the normal way of life, as would competence and efficiency.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is one of the important sections of the industry. Indian government didn't not reduce the jet fuel prices in proportion to the fall in international crude oil prices. But, when there is a rise in crude prices, it increases in the fuel cost would eventually increase the operation of the airline.

Frequent government intervention is proving to a great obstacle for the growth of Aviation industry. Several aviation experts have pointed out that India government should follows aviation industry free from policy hurdles like regulating airfares and slash taxes, including jet fuel.

High Airport (aeronautical) Charges levied by Airport Authority of India are higher. These charges payable at the International airports are higher than those payable at the airports designated as Domestic airports. As a result, the domestic airlines in India are incurring additional costs at the international designated airports without deriving any extra facilities.

There is a cut throat competition faced by the top airline due to ticket pricing. Established Airlines are threatened by low cost carriers, which are eating up their market share.

Measures taken to address these issues –

There is a need to complete the ongoing projects under the UDAN initiative in a time-bound manner. In addition, the existing capacity of international airports should be augmented under the International UDAN initiative.

Government intention to make India a global hub for Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services will result in saving costs and creating liquidity for airline companies.

National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 and National Civil Aviation programme 2018 can help India to become a major civil aviation market in the world.

The development of more airports under the PPP model with a view to improving the aviation infrastructure without the government having to pump in additional funds.

With 100% FDI allowed under automatic route, aviation sector is likely to witness US$15 billion worth of investment in the next five years.

New airports like Jewar Airport in Uttar Pradesh are being built under the NABH Nirman initiative based on (1) fair and equitable land acquisition, (2) long-term master plan for airport and regional development and (3) balanced economics for all stakeholders. This leads to growth in housing and real estate sector, construction, building materials, tourism, etc.

With a new terms and conditions to divest Air India, government is trying to give positive signal making level playing field for small players.

Conclusion

Pandemic brought the aviation sector worldwide to a standstill. Industry witnessed many big players filing for bankruptcy after hitting a blow. Indian aviation sector is still booming and is expected to be third largest in the world by 2024. India needs relaxation in some harsh regulatory measures and liberalisation policy for exit of an

airline. With more private sector investment, tier II and tier III cities will also see new infrastructure development as envisaged in civil aviation policy of 2016.

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80. Why do certain pockets in South India have high concentration of the automobile and ancillary industries? Examine.

Approach

Since the question is asking you to examine so you have to probe deeper into the topic and understand the topic in detail.

Introduction

Auto and its ancillary industry is one of the key sectors in the Indian economy. The auto industry can be broadly divided in four sub sectors: (a) Four Wheelers (4W) (b) Two wheelers or 2Ws (c) Commercial vehicles and (d) Three wheelers (3W). The Automobile Industry, due to its very nature, has grown in clusters.

Body

WHY CERTAIN POCKETS IN SOUTH INDIA HAVE HIGH CONCENTRATION OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES: Out of the registered Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEMs) many are located in the southern states of the country. Almost one third of the concentration of the auto industries in India is in the four Southern states only.

The certain pockets in South India have high concentration of the automobile and ancillary industries due to following reasons –

The well-developed port facilities in the Tamil Nadu State encourage the industries to tap the export markets.

The key raw material—rubber—can be sourced from Kerala and Kanyakumari or imported.

These places offer transparency and good governance for automotive companies, such as during recalls on certain vehicles, etc.

Availability of reliable and reasonably priced utilities in these areas is another reason.

These southern state's Site access confirm acceptable ingress and egress for employees, inbound raw materials and outbound finished product.

These southern pockets offer Size, shape, topography and room for future expansion.

These sites act as buffer that provide protection from residential and commercial neighbours.

Presence of Industrial parks often provide good locations for multiple users with similar buffer and utility requirements.

Conclusion

The automobile industry is supported by various factors such as availability of skilled labour at low cost, robust R&D centres, and low-cost steel production. The auto industry was already facing financial headwinds before the pandemic, and the impact of COVID-19 has only accelerated many of those concerns. In the short-term, the automotive companies like those in other industries fear the unforeseen effects of the second wave of COVID-19. The industry will require more government help in the form of reforms and incentives.

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81. With the help of suitable examples, discuss the evolving global trends for the location of tertiary sector?

Approach

Question is straight forward in its approach students are expected to write about evolving global trends for the location of tertiary sector with suitable examples.

Introduction

Industrial locations are complex in nature. These are influenced by the availability of many factors. Some of them are: raw material, land, water, labour, capital, power, transport, and market. Tertiary sector refers to the commercial services that support the production and distribution process, e.g. insurance, transport, advertising, warehousing and other services such as teaching and health care. The chain of production shows interdependence: firms rely on other businesses in different sectors for raw materials, components or distribution.

Body

Evolving trends for the location of tertiary sector –

Tertiary sector was mainly focussed on Information technology and other services industries like transportation etc. location of the same industries was mainly based on availability of cheap and skilled labour through business process outsourcing e.g. in India Information Technology reached to its peak through the process of business outsourcing.

Outsourcing has witnessed a massive boom over the past few decades, with the number of service providing companies increasing every year. The year 2018 is going to be no different when it comes to keeping up with this exponential growth in the outsourcing trend. IT outsourcing trends, this year, have seen a constant growth and this trend will continue to grow in the coming years.

Technological advancement will become a main factor in the location of tertiary sector in coming times. Robotic process automation and intelligent automation will continue to flourish in the coming years. This is expected to disrupt the existing commercial outsourcing model and drive down costs considerably, resulting in supplier margin expansion. Furthermore, enterprise buyers will also have opportunities to save more, as the supplier margins expand.

With the use of self-service tools and automated chat-bots becoming highly prevalent among many companies, the demand for call centers is expected to decrease drastically. As virtual agents can work on numerous clients at the same time, these automated contact centers will be able to handle higher volumes with less number of agents. Therefore, we will see various tech-enabled contact centers replacing the traditional call centers, few years down the line.

Companies are expected to look out for service providers who add value to their business rather than those who just provide services at lower costs. Therefore, outsourcing companies will partner with service providers who offer innovative services, equipped with best infrastructure and thorough industry knowledge. This will become a disrupting factor in the already existing pattern of location of tertiary sector.

With covid-19 pandemic making a broad based change Telecommuting is one trend which has changed the way outsourcing companies operate over the years and this trend is here to stay. Companies find it very easy to interact with other team

members and integrate seamlessly through remote meetings and use different types of real-time monitoring tools to deliver quality services.
Analysts are predicting that the industry will continue to fight short-term cost pressures, and that there will be pressure on service providers for more flexible pricing contracts. Many small alliances, focused on increased operational efficiencies, better quality control and reduced back office costs, are being set up. This trend is going to continue.
Brazil and Russia will make their presence felt in the global outsourcing market and China will continue to move ahead.

Conclusion

India continues to be the major destination for outsourcing because it has been able to evolve with changing needs. NASSCOM, (National Association of Software & Service Companies) the apex body of India's premier IT software and service (IT & BPO) companies, reported that India's share in the global outsourcing market rose from 51% in 2009 to 55% in 2010. India still stands out for its customer service and efficiency, so its future is bright. Today, customers are not only looking at cost-effective solutions for their outsourced business but also for skilled staff, enhanced productivity, service quality and business process excellence. India, with its large population and multiple-skilled people, would continue to be preferred for both back-end and front-end outsourcing.

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82. Discuss the factors responsible for the location of agribusinesses. Why is the agribusiness sector underdeveloped in India?

Approach

The candidate needs to address the question in two parts where the first part discusses the factors responsible for the location of agribusinesses while in the second part, the reasons for agribusiness sector's underdevelopment in India are elaborated upon.

Introduction

Agribusiness is a combination of the words "agriculture" and "business" and refers to any business related to farming and farming-related commercial activities where agribusiness involves all the steps required to send an agricultural good to market, namely production, processing, and distribution.

Body

Agribusiness involves all the steps required to send an agricultural good to market, namely production, processing, and distribution. This industry is an important component of the economy in countries with arable land since agricultural products can be exported. In this regard, the factors responsible for the location of agribusinesses include –
Raw Materials: The moisture requirements of the plant vary according to the heat received, rich soil in plant food is the chief requirement of successful agriculture, and topography affects agriculture as it relates to soil erosion, difficulty of tillage and poor transportation facilities.
Market: Relation to market generally determines the character of agribusiness, for the cost of transport to the market will generally affect the competitive power of the agribusiness output. Places away from the market will generally grow such things which can afford cost of transport to market.

Labour: Labour supply determines the character of agribusiness. Agribusiness is essentially labour-intensive and exemplifies the human pressure.
Capital: The modern mechanised agribusiness has become capital-intensive to a large extent. The entrepreneur has to invest large amount of capital in agriculture because he has to buy machinery.
Social Factors: Social factors affect farming in a number of ways. The type of agribusiness practiced is always related to regional social structure. Social factors can also affect the type of crops that are grown, thus affecting the raw material supply. Changes in consumer taste alter what products are grown and raised. For example, a shift in consumer tastes away from red meat may cause demand—and therefore prices—for beef to fall, while increased demand for produce may shift the mix of fruits and vegetables that farmers raise.
Climate change has placed intensifying pressure on many companies in the agribusiness industry to remain relevant, and profitable, while adapting to the threats posed by large-scale shifts in weather patterns.
Reasons for Underdevelopment of Agribusiness sector in India include –
Shortage of material and power: There is acute shortage of basic raw materials required by agro units. Agro industries are face shortage of power due to this problem; they are unable to make full utilization of plant capacity.
Lack of adequate finance: All business firms require sufficient funds to meet their fixed capital and working capital requirements. Credit facilities for agri business organizations are inadequate.
Outdated technology: Majority of the agro based units uses old techniques of production and outdated machinery or equipment's. They cannot afford new latest and costly machines and equipment's due to lack of poor financial conditions and unknown about technological aspects.
Inadequate marketing facilities: An agri business unit has to face several difficulties in the marketing and distribution of agricultural products because they have not their own marketing network.
Weak organization and management: Agri business firms are generally managed by the owner who does not have professional qualification and required skills for efficient management of enterprises. There is lack of proper division of work and specializations.
Lack of trained personnel: Agro business firms find it too difficult to recruit, retain, and motivate to the managerial and technical skilled personnel in the organization as they look for better opportunities.
Research and development: Lack of research and development in agribusiness sector are a major problem in successful running and development of agro based industries in India. There is also lack of research about consumer habits, demands and what they prefer in consumption.
Lack of infrastructure facilities: Lack of transportation, communication, warehouses and other essentials facilities are common hurdles in the path of development of agribusiness sector in India. Agricultural produce such as fruits and vegetables are wasted about 30 per cent of total production per annum due to perishable nature and lack of proper transportation.

Seasonality of products: Most of agricultural produce are seasonal in nature. Due to this nature there is no continuous and stability in the supply of primary raw materials, which are necessary for industrial production process.

Conclusion

Improving agribusiness can increase added value of raw materials, strengthening local rural economies, food security, and improving the quality of life in many homes at risk of exclusion and vulnerability. Policies, incentives and regulatory frameworks that safeguard and promote agro-industries need to be focussed upon for lifting rural populations out of poverty in India.

83. Discuss the natural resource endowment of Russia. How does it shape Russia's worldview? Examine.

Approach:

Question is asking you to discuss, it requires you to write a debate where one has to use your skill at reasoning, backed up by deliberately selected evidence to make a case for and against an argument. Also, you have to examine (dig deep) how natural resource endowment of Russia shape Russia's worldview.

Introduction:

Russia is the largest country in the world; it covers a vast amount of topographically varied territory, including much that is inaccessible by conventional modes of transportation. Natural resources remain a crucial part of Russia's economy and play a role in its projection of power abroad and account 10.7% of India's GDP.

Body:

THE NATURAL RESOURCE ENDOWMENT OF RUSSIA

Russia is probably richer in natural resources than any other country in the world. It has abundant supplies of oil, natural gas, timber and valuable minerals, such as copper, diamonds, lead, zinc, bauxite, nickel, tin, mercury, gold and silver— most of which are located in Siberia and the Far East. The value of Russia's resources is huge. Russia's resources are not just oil and gas. Russia also has major deposits of metals and minerals, timber supplies, and vast amounts of land.Many of Russia's natural resources are located far from industrial processing centers.

The fuel resources that supported development of industrial centres in European Russia have been depleted, necessitating reliance on coal, natural gas, and petroleum from Siberian deposits. However, Russia still has an estimated 6 percent of the world's oil deposits and one-third of the world's natural gas deposits, making it a major exporter of both commodities.

Russia possesses rich reserves of iron ore, manganese, chromium, nickel, platinum, titanium, copper, tin, lead, tungsten, diamonds, phosphates and gold. Its diverse mineral resources have given many of its products a strong position in world markets.

There is a large uranium mine near Krasnokamensk, in the Altai region about 25 miles from where the Russian, Mongolian and Chinese borders all come together. It is a gigantic hole, nearly mile long, three quarters of a mile wide and 330 yards deep. are-earth producing countries include Russia, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. As of the mid 2000s, ninety-five percent of the world's rare earths came from China.

HOW DOES IT SHAPE RUSSIA'S WORLDVIEW?

Russia's raw materials provide significant inputs for an industrial economy. The abundance of oil and natural gas has made Russia virtually self-sufficient in energy and a large-scale exporter of fuels. Oil and gas were primary hard-currency earners for the Soviet Union, and they remain so for the Russian Federation.
Russia also is self-sufficient in nearly all major industrial raw materials and has at least some reserves of every industrially valuable nonfuel mineral–even after the productive mines of Ukraine, Kazakstan, and Uzbekistan no longer were directly accessible.
Tin, tungsten, bauxite, and mercury were among the few natural materials imported in the Soviet period. The forests of Siberia contain an estimated one-fifth of the world's timber, mainly conifers.
Russia's reliance on its resources have made them an obvious target for US sanctions. New deposits have indeed been slow to develop within Russia and sanctions have been cited as a possible cause.

Conclusion:

Russia's role in the global economic system today, and the Soviet Union's in the past, is dominated by the export of natural resources, particularly oil and gas. The rents earned from these exports are both a source of strength and weakness, as they link the fortunes of Russia's domestic economy to the volatility of global resource markets.

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84. What are the emerging frontiers in the field of conventional energy resources? Discuss the key issues surrounding those.

Approach:

The question has two parts students are expected to address each part equally, also it is important to understand the demand of the question in each part and write answer accordingly.

Introduction:

Conventional sources of energy are the natural energy resources which are present in a limited quantity and are being used for a long time. They are called non-renewable sources as once they are depleted; they cannot be generated at the speed which can sustain its consumption rate. They are formed from decaying matter over hundreds of millions of years. These resources have been depleted to a great extent due to their continuous exploitation. It is believed that the deposits of petroleum in our country will be exhausted within few decades and the coal reserves can last for a hundred more years. Some common examples of conventional sources of energy include coal, petroleum, natural gas and electricity.

Body:

Emerging frontiers in the field of conventional energy resource-
The hydrogen industry and the energy industry brushed shoulders at multiple points throughout their history. The first demonstrations of water electrolysis to produce carbon-free hydrogen fuel and fuel cells to convert hydrogen to electricity were engineered in the 1800s. Hydrogen was used to fuel the first internal combustion engines. Green Hydrogen is currently enjoying unprecedented political and corporate interest, at least 24 countries have now drafted policies or are setting up strategies for the hydrogen economy.

Hydrogen is versatile. Hydrogen can be used as a chemical feedstock, fuel, or energy carrier and storage, and has many possible applications across industries, heavy-duty transport, power, and buildings sectors. Multi-sectoral applications provide a conducive environment towards an exponential rise in demand and subsequent benefits of scale.

Hydrogen is uniquely clean. The USP of hydrogen is that it can help to decarbonise industrial processes and economic sectors, where reducing carbon emissions is both urgent and hard to achieve. Fertilisers, oil-refining, heavy industry like steel and heavy-duty transport are some examples of hard sectors that likely will need hydrogen to decarbonise.

Biofuel is the other frontier in the field of conventional energy resource which has been extensively researched over a period of time Biofuels in India are of strategic importance as it augers well with the ongoing initiatives of the Government such as Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill Development and offers great opportunity to integrate with the ambitious targets of doubling of Farmers Income, Import Reduction, Employment Generation, Waste to Wealth Creation.

The Government approved the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 in June 2018. The policy has the objective of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030. Among other things, the policy expands the scope of feedstock for ethanol production and has provided for incentives for production of advanced biofuels.

Molten salt reactors are the new phenomena in the field of nuclear energy. Nevertheless, advocates say one emerging technology, the molten salt reactor, could provide carbon-free electricity with fewer radiation risks than traditional nuclear.

Issues surrounding these new frontiers-

Research in these technologies is still in initial phase barring biofuels it is going to take a long time to get these technologies to show their impact at global level.

making ethanol from grains is the worst possible solution, not only because of its impact on food production, but mostly because of its poor energy yield. In fact, between fertilizers, seeds, harvesting, transportation, and treatment, the amount of energy contained in a litter of ethanol is barely more than that required to obtain it from cereals. Therefore, from an energy standpoint, it is unreasonable to use this type of raw material.

Also, the cost of energy through these new systems is quite high which makes these technologies ineffective in the long run.

Environmental concerns are the other issues that need to be looked into, transition into renewable sources of energy has been in focus from quite a long time now there has been a significant shift from non-renewable to renewable sources of energy throughout the globe.

Conclusion:

Coal will continue to be an abundant, though potentially highly contaminating source, and it is necessary to make advances in its use with the capture and storage of CO_2 but at this time, the most important challenge may well be to encourage renewable energies in order to make them a significant percentage of the total supply. Solar energy is more abundant, but has the problem of dispersion. At some point in the near future, it will have to become the dominant and truly massive, sustainable and unlimited renewable energy source. That will call for the solution of

technological problems that limit its spread and affect its current high price, and will require decisive public support.

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85. What are the key issues related to the extraction and processing of rare earth elements? Discuss.

Approach

The candidate needs to discuss what rare earth elements are, in the initial part and then elaborate upon the key issues related to the extraction and processing of rare earth elements.

Introduction

Rare earth elements are obtained from a group of 15 elements referred to as the lanthanide series in the periodic table of elements. Scandium and yttrium, while not true rare earth elements, are also included. REEs are key components in many electronic devices that we use in our daily lives, as well as in a variety of industrial application.

Body

Rare earth metals comprise seventeen chemical elements — anthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, etc. Despite their classification, most of these elements are not really "rare". One of the Rare Earths, promethium, is radioactive. As essential and functional materials, rare earth elements have been named "The Vitamins of Modern Industry".

According to the Rare Earth Technology Alliance (RETA), the estimated size of the Rare Earth sector is between $10 billion and $15 billion. But at the same time, there are some issues with regards to their extraction and processing, some of which can be seen from the following points –

Low Concentration: Global rare-earth reserves are at more than 130 million metric tons. However, most of those reserves either are too low in concentration to be extracted economically, or they are not readily accessible, such as metals locked away in deep-sea manganese-based nodules or hydrothermal deposits.

Extraction Costs: REMs are found in a variety of minerals, but not all are equally suitable for economic development. REMs are generally found in concentrations below what is economically viable for extraction at current prices using available technology.

Environmental factors: Extraction and mining of rare earth metals involves similar land-use exploitation, environmental damage and ecological burden as any other mining operation. They are mined using extremely energy-intensive processes, spewing carbon emissions into the atmosphere and toxins into the ground.

Recycling: Less than 1% of rare earth elements are currently recycled given the difficulty of separating these elements from existing alloys. This should be seen in the context of skyrocketing demand, which will limit the ability of recycled rare earths to meet the expected short and medium-term needs.

Geopolitical Issues: China is the world's largest producer of REEs, accounting for over 60% of global annual production, estimated at 132,000 tonnes for 2019. It withheld the supply of Rare Earths to Japan after their dispute over Senakaku Islands, which alerted the world to use of rare earths for geopolitical purposes.

Supply Monopoly: China remains virtually the only producer of the valued heavy REMs. China imposed export restrictions on REE between 2010 and 2014, resulting in

dramatic increases in REE prices during those years. This leads to uneconomical trends in other countries for rare earth extraction.
China Factor: China's intents of hegemony, non-solidarity with other nations does not augur well for the environment in general, as well as for geo-politics and global renewable energy usage and scenarios. Its intents on doing the same with its vast rare earth reserves will be detrimental.
The high vulnerability of the EV industry could raise doubts over the feasibility of decarbonisation efforts given the envisaged role of electric vehicles in carbon reduction.
Beyond EVs and wind turbines, these metals are used in strategic sectors such as defence (drones for instance) and digital technologies. The omnipresence of digital technologies could make the world economy even more dependent on these critical metals. Addressing this is a challenge as big as sourcing sustainable energy for the transition to net zero.
Way Forward –
Replacing, reducing or recycling rare earth metals can lower the impact of using these elements. E.g. – Alternatives exist in the wind industry.
Diversifying the supply chain of Rare Earth Metals around the world, especially focusing on the same in India.
Recycling of these rare earth metals for continuous usage for various technologies is a good option that can be considered.

Conclusion

Rare earths have become indispensable and, in many cases, irreplaceable components of materials that are essential in modern life. Thus the usage of these metals, which form a critical part of the renewable energy revolution should be handled with careful, sincere and cleaner measures if the way forward has to be greener and environment-friendly.

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86. What are the major areas of dispute related to water resources between India and its neighbours? Analyse.

Approach

Candidates are expected to first to write about disputes of India over water resources with neighbouring countries. And try to analyse on major areas of disputes related to it.

Introduction

Water dispute is a term describing a conflict between countries, states, or groups over the rights to access water resources. The United Nations recognises that water disputes result from opposing interests of water users, public or private. A wide range of water conflicts appear throughout history, though rarely are traditional wars waged over water alone.

Body

Water dispute in South Asia:
Water remains a politically contested issue in much of South Asia. The region is facing water shortage it will continue to face increasing demands on energy and water with rapid industrialisation. UN reports that by 2030, water demand in India will grow to almost 1.5 trillion cubic situation is further aggravated by the India's water disputes with its neighbours and inter-state river water disputes in India.

Combine these factors with the impact of climate change that's reducing the amount of water in the Brahmaputra and many other basin also changing the patterns of water flow.

Water resources disputes between India and its neighbour:

India-China Water Dispute: As an upstream riparian region, China maintains an advantageous position and can build infrastructure to intentionally prevent water from flowing downstream. China's dam-building and water division plans along the Brahmaputra (called Yarlung Zangbo in China) is a source of tension between the two neighbours, despite the two having signed several MoUs on strengthening communication and strategic trust.

India–Bangladesh water issue: Sharing the waters of the Teesta river, which originates in the Himalayas and flows through Sikkim and West Bengal to merge with the Brahmaputra in Assam and (Jamuna in Bangladesh), is perhaps the most contentious issue between two friendly neighbours, India and Bangladesh.

India–Nepal water issues: Since 1954, when the Kosi Agreement was signed between India and Nepal, talks between the two governments have stalled and water rights issues have not been addressed. The dispute between India and Nepal might seem minor but it gains strategic importance, because the disputed area lies near the Sino-Indian border. Also delimitation of the boundary along the Maha Kali River is matter of dispute.

India–Pakistan Water Dispute: Accord called the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 was carried forward. The Indian Government has more than 40 projects that are either already completed or in the proposal stage on the western rivers. The carrying of such activities within the western rivers has irked Pakistan. The latest dispute is over hydroelectric projects that India is building along the Chenab River.

India–Bhutan water dispute: Initially, the cooperation was based on the development of small-scale hydro projects such as Tala, Chukha and Kurichu. On the other hand, the people of Bhutan raised objections to such projects on their long run effects in the country. For instance, if Bhutan ever decides to construct storage projects, issues will get intense and more problematic when it comes to dealing with India.

Conclusion

Freshwater is a precious commodity and a strategic asset whose importance in geopolitics cannot be underestimated. Under such circumstances, the increasing need for power and stable water levels could prompt reconsideration in bilateral water-sharing treaties in future.

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87. The South China Sea conflict is essentially a manifestation of energy skirmishes. Comment.

Approach- Candidate can explain the geography of the South china sea. With the help of some data and analysis importance of the region for the energy security of the south east Asia can be shown while drawing attention to insecurities of China.

Introduction

South China Sea is an arm of western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia. It is south of China, east & south of Vietnam, west of the Philippines and north of the island of Borneo. It is connected by Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea. It contains numerous shoals, reefs, atolls and islands. The

Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands and the Scarborough Shoal are the most important.

Body

South china sea and energy security

The dispute over the South China Sea is a reflection of increased nationalist sentiment throughout the region, but by virtue of the resources in the disputed area, it also has an important role to play with regards to regional energy security.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that there are "11 billion barrels (bbl) of oil reserves and 190 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas reserves in the South China Sea.

On top of these known and accessible deposits, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that there may be between "5 and 22 billion barrels and between 70 and 290 trillion cubic feet of gas in as-yet undiscovered resources.

These hydrocarbon reserves are not distributed equally across the South China Sea, and there is some uncertainty about how they are distributed. Paracel island territory does not have significant discovered conventional oil and gas fields and thus has no proved or probable reserves.

Spratly islandmay contain significant deposits of undiscovered hydrocarbons…anywhere between 0.8 and 5.4 (mean 2.5) billion barrels of oil and between 7.6 and 55.1 (mean 25.5) Tcf of natural gas in undiscovered resources."

The second way in which the South China Sea is important to regional energy security is as a point of transit. In 2013, China and Japan imported 4.5 and 3.2 million barrels of crude oil per day (MMbbl/d); more than half of the roughly 14 million barrels of crude oil from the Middle East that passed through the South China Sea daily, with much of the remainder going to South Korea.

Of the 6 trillion cubic feet of liquefied natural gas (LNG) that passed through the South China Sea in 2011, roughly 56% went to Japan, 24% went to South Korea, and 19% went to China.

Speaking more generally, roughly 33% of the world's seaborne oil travels through the Strait of Malacca, making it a chokepoint for energy imports, trade, and other shipping headed towards East Asia.

The Asia-Pacific region between 2005 and 2030, energy demand is expected to grow at a rate of 2.4% (as compared to a world average of 1.5%), net imports of fossil fuels are expected to double, and "the region's oil dependency will increase from 57.5% to 66.4%."

This means that countries in East/Southeast Asia will only become more dependent on the sea lines of communication (SLOC) that are responsible for bringing in their energy imports. Japan, for example, already buys "nearly 90% of its oil from the Middle East, making it vulnerable to disruptions of even a few days in the Strait of Hormuz.

Massive energy consumption has allowed for China's sustained economic growth, which in turn has ensured some measure of social stability. Although the Chinese economy has in many ways liberalized, energy is still very much controlled by the central government.

The true importance of the South China Sea with regards to China's energy security comes down to its role as a sea line of communication. China is disproportionately

dependent on the South China Sea; it is "the only major power with a vital strategic interest in Freedom of Navigation in the South China Sea."

Energy skirmishes

China's local rivals are undertaking major military modernization projects, they too could potentially pose a threat to China's sea lines of communication. The Spratlys and Paracels sit astride the most direct route between the Strait of Malacca and the port cities on China's eastern coast.

If the Philippines, Vietnam, or the United States were to take commanding positions atop this sea line, it would be a Sword of Damocles hanging over China's maritime trade routes.

China has sought to reduce its dependency on sea-borne imports via pipeline projects across Eurasia as part of its "One Belt, One Road" initiative, but these projects have met with significant delays.

This is not to say that any of these countries has an interest in doing so, but from the perspective of Chinese strategic planners, the potential risks are very high. Hence the control of south china sea.

Conclusion

South china sea plays major role in ensuring steady flow of oil to the region. Overdependence on the sea routes is causing insecurity dilemma in the minds of strategic thinkers of China. The rise of china has not been peaceful, and the posturing in the SCS is the result of the same and is arising nothing out of but the energy insecurity.

88. Discuss the marine resource endowment of India. What are issues pertaining to the efficient and sustainable extraction of marine resources?

Approach:

Question is asking you to discuss, it requires you to write a debate where one has to use your skill at reasoning, backed up by deliberately selected evidence to make a case for and against an argument.

Introduction:

The third largest and gifted ocean in the world "Indian ocean" surrounds India on three sides. With an exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.02 million sq.km and a long coastline of 8,118 km with rich and diverse marine living resources, the Indian Government is promoting 'Blue Growth Initiative' which focus on utilisation of wealth from the marine and other aquatic resources of the country for improving the lives and livelihoods of fishermen and their families.

Body:

THE MARINE RESOURCE ENDOWMENT OF INDIA

Manganese nodules contain significant concentrations of manganese, iron and copper, nickel, and cobalt all of which have a numerous economic use.

Indian Ocean contain vast amount of minerals, including the cobalt, zinc, manganese and rare earth materials. These minerals are needed for electronic industry to make smart phones, laptops and car components etc. This can help Make in India initiative.

Seawater contains economically useful salts such as gypsum and common salt. Gypsum is useful in various industries.

Marine fisheries wealth around Indian coastline is estimated to have an annual harvestable potential of 4.4 million metric tonnes. It will lead to food security

through fishery sector and other sea food resources. It would also help in reducing malnutrition issue in India as fishes are good source of nutrition.
The main energy resources present in Indian Ocean are petroleum and gas hydrates. Petroleum products mainly includes the oil produced from offshore regions. Gas hydrates are unusually compact chemical structures made of water and natural gas. It will help in diversification of energy resources and will provide new resources for energy e.g., gas hydrates.
Marine resources from Indian Ocean can serve as the backbone of India's economic growth and can help India to become a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2022. Blue economy, through sustainable use of oceans, has great potential for boosting the economic growth.
ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE EXTRACTION OF MARINE RESOURCES
Oil spills are considered to be a major cause of marine pollution. Leakage from tankers during transportation of crude oil, a collision of tankers, rigs operation, pipeline leaks and washing of tankers are major sources of oil spills. Oil spills destroy the fish habitats and alter the ecological conditions of seawater which led to the mass mortality of fish and other organisms.
Extinction of a species affects other species is accelerating the extinction of more species through a chain reaction.
every year tsunamis, cyclones, hurricanes typhoons etc. leave thousands of people stranded and property worth millions destroyed.
Increasing population density, industrial growth and socio-economic development is giving rise to a variety of activities, the collective impact of which is multiplying the pressures on the coastal zone and its resources.
Impact of climate change or the changes in sea temperature, acidity, threaten marine life, habitats, and the communities that depend on them. Burning of fuels, industrialization, urbanization, etc. are major sources of different harmful gases such as CO_2, CH_4, NO and CFCs which led to the production of the greenhouse effect. The heating of earth's surface resulting into melting of ice in glaciers and poles are expected to further raise the sea level in the range of 21–71 cm by the year 2070. This could mean that many fisheries dependent on upwelling will suffer or cease to exist.
Adverse environmental change, especially in spawning habitats, decreases the stock strength of the coastal fish. The lack of a sustainable management regime is accelerating the rate of resource decline further.
Marine pollution in form of excess nutrients from untreated sewerage, agricultural runoff, and marine debris such as plastics
Overexploitation of marine resources like illegal, unreported, and unregulated extraction of marine resources.

Conclusion:

India is poised to emerge as a major maritime and naval power. It has placed the Blue Economy high on its agenda for economic growth. The essential objective is to develop Blue Economy through a robust regulatory framework which contributes to sustainable use of existing natural resources. The Indian government encourages proactive and facilitative governance which supports job creation, encourages innovation, and provides opportunities for knowledge-based businesses in key

maritime sectors, within the framework of the nation's pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India being rich in marine biodiversity, there are opportunities for providing financial benefits to the coastal communities and the profit made should encourage the community to conserve the reckless deteriorating biodiversity.

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89. What are the factors responsible for the high fuel cost in India? How can the government address the rising cost? Suggest.

Approach

Mention the factors responsible for the high fuel cost in India and then suggest how can the government address the rising cost.

Introduction

Petrol is now retailing above Rs 90 per litre in all major cities including Delhi and is on the verge of crossing Rs 100 in major cities. It has already hit a century in some circles. Diesel, too, has climbed to levels never seen before in the country. Experts have said the continuous increase in fuel prices will have a widespread impact on citizens and the overall economy.

Body

THE FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIGH FUEL COST IN INDIA

Firming of international crude oil rates and extremely high taxes levied on the fuel are the key reasons behind the latest round of petrol and diesel price hike in the country.

International crude oil price including the Indian basket of crude, which comprises Oman, Dubai and brent crude. Global crude oil prices have been increasing after organisation of the petroleum exporting countries (OPEC)-plus decided to continue supply curbs.

Crises in countries like Venezuela and Iran are increasing. There is a pressure on oil prices due to decrease in production.

Global currencies have weakened against the US dollar. As the rupee value is depreciating, oil refineries have to pay more rupees to import crude oil. This is also one of the reasons why fuel prices are high.

Being the third-largest importer of oil in the world, the recent firming of international crude oil prices has severely impacted India, where citizens are paying extremely high rates for fuel in comparison to neighboring countries.

The biggest reason behind higher fuel prices in the country is the high rate of central and state taxes. At the moment, Indians pay one of the highest taxes on fuel in the world.

Since India follows a dynamic system for altering fuel rates, oil marketing companies are mostly responsible for the recent hikes and the government has no control over it. However, the government does impose a tax on the base price of fuel.

HOW CAN THE GOVERNMENT ADDRESS THE RISING COST?

Reducing taxes on petroleum products will result in a reduction in costs of transport and thereby reduces the price of many consumer goods. This will result in an increase in markets and economy and also reduces the burden on common people.

Instead of depending on these taxes on petrol & diesel, the Indian government needs to create more revenue sources such as increasing the number of people that pay income tax, recovering bad loans of public sector banks etc.

More and more people are buying their own vehicles, especially after witnessing the pandemic and hence the demand for petrol and diesel is increasing and thereby the pressure on foreign exchange reserves and 'Trade deficit 'are increasing. This will further lower the value of the rupee. To reduce the dependence on crude oil imports, there is a need to invest in the exploration of crude oil reserves in the country.

There is a dire need to encourage people to use electric vehicles and to use renewable energy resources. This will reduce the burden on foreign exchange reserves as well as leads us towards eco-friendly living.

Conclusion

If the crude oil prices are increased in the coming days, there will be a huge burden on people whether they own a vehicle or not. Because high fuel prices increase the cost of transport and thereby increases the price of consumer goods. To avoid that situation, the government needs to work on reforms in petroleum pricing.

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90. Examine the factors responsible for the prevalence of water shortage in different parts of the country. To what extent can river interlinking address this problem? Discuss.

Approach

The candidate needs to examine the factors responsible for prevalence of water shortage in different parts of the country in the first part of the answer while also discussing the extent to which river interlinking can address the problem of water shortage in the second part of the answer.

Introduction

Water touches every aspect of life, and in India uncertainty over access to and the availability of this basic resource is reaching crisis levels, as is evident from NITI Aayog Report, Composite Water Management Index (CWMI), which said India is facing its worst water crisis in the history.

Body

In this light, factors responsible for the prevalence of water shortage in different parts of the country include –

Insufficient water per person: With a population of 1.2 billion according to 2011 census, India has only 1,000 cubic meters of water per person. A nation is water-stressed if it has less than 1,700 cubic meters per person per year.

Rapid Urbanization: India is urbanizing rapidly. This implies heightened water demand from households, industry and agriculture. Concretization also reduces the ground-water replenishment.

Poor water quality: resulting from insufficient and delayed investment in urban water-treatment facilities. Water in most rivers in India is largely not fit for drinking. Despite the Ganga Action Plan, launched in 1984 to clean up the Ganges River, much of the river remains polluted with a high coliform count.

Over-exploitation: In the last four decades, about 85% of the total addition to irrigation has come from groundwater. This is clearly unsustainable resulting in steep depletion of the groundwater table.

Policy Issues: Groundwater is used to cultivate water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane (promoted by Green revolution) in rain deficit states like Punjab and

Maharashtra respectively. State procurement policy and subsidized electricity in Punjab make it profitable for farmers to produce rice.
Mismanagement of Water resources: There are leakages in the water supply systems. India receives an average annual rainfall of 1170 mm but due to poor storage infrastructure, it stores only 6% of rainwater.
No Reliable Data: There is no single water database for the country. In 2016, the standing committee on water resources of the Indian parliament finally recommended having a national groundwater database but there is no progress in this regard.
The National River Linking Project (NRLP) formally known as the National Perspective Plan, envisages the transfer of water from water 'surplus' basins where there is flooding to water 'deficit' basins where there is drought/scarcity, through inter-basin water transfer projects. In this regard, river interlinking can tackle India's water shortage as explained below –
To overcome large variation in rainfall and available water resources in space and time: In a monsoonal climate that is already erratic and highly seasonal in nature. For example, nearly half of India's farms (49%) rely solely on rain for their water. These are hit the hardest by disrupted monsoon rains.
Diversion of water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins/regions: It is the inter-basin water transfer where parched regions of peninsular and water stressed regions will have regular supply of water.
Use of the surplus water which is otherwise flowing into the sea unutilized: The project claims to provide additional irrigation to 35 million hectares (m ha) in the water-scarce western and peninsular regions.
To mitigate likely adverse impact of climate change, short term and long term: Interlinking of rivers will reduce regional imbalances significantly and provide benefits by the way of additional irrigation potential, domestic and industrial water supply, hydropower generation, and transport facilities.
But at the same time, it is necessary to consider the negative effects of river interlinking in India in terms of its overall impact –
The interlinking of river envisages the building of many dams, canals and tunnels with some of them having high lifts up to 120 m. This will lead to a huge social and environmental cost. The recent example is the proposed Ken-Betwa link, which puts in danger over 4,100 hectares of forest land.
Along with the ecological cost, the project will also bring a great human cost in terms of those displaced by it where there exists no estimate to the number of people who will be affected by the river linking project.
Expensive proposition: Interlinking of rivers is a very expensive proposal where initially, more than Rs.5,00,000 crore was estimated as the total project cost.
It will not only add to climate change impact through destruction of forests means destruction of carbon sinks, and reservoirs in tropical climate are known sources of methane and carbon dioxide, but will also reduce our capacity to adapt to climate change.
The interlinking would also require India to enter into agreements with Nepal and Bangladesh, as these countries share the basins of the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems. But both are apprehensive about the project.
Way forward –

River rejuvenation ought to be a policy priority of the Centre and state governments.
There is a need to leverage Information Technology to revamp water-related data systems, which seem to be sorely lacking in coverage, efficiency or robustness.
Sustainable operations and maintenance of irrigation systems must be boosted.
There is a need to follow conservation agriculture i.e. farming practices adapted to the requirements of crops and local conditions.
Decentralised approach, with a key focus on water conservation, source sustainability, storage and reuse wherever possible. A participatory approach is needed in water governance.

Conclusion

The interlinking of rivers project is a major challenge as well as an opportunity to deal with the water related problems where long term strategy to water deficit problem lies in tackling the challenges of interlinking of rivers but short term measures also need to be prioritised for better and early results.

Additional Information:

Under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) prepared by Ministry of Water Resources, NWDA has already identified 14 links under Himalayan Rivers Component and 16 links under Peninsular Rivers Component for inter basin transfer of water based on field surveys and investigation and detailed studies.

Out of these, Feasibility Reports of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have been prepared. Draft Feasibility Reports of 7 link projects (Indian portion) of Himalayan Component have also been completed.

The biggest, cheapest, most benign, possibly fastest and most decentralized storage option for India is the groundwater aquifer.

91. Good governance is the cornerstone of a successful pandemic mitigation strategy. Comment.

Approach

Candidates are expected first to write about the Good governance and its basic characteristics. Then comment on how good governance is the cornerstone of a successful pandemic mitigation strategy with proper substantiation.

Introduction

In times of crisis such as the current COVID-19 pandemic and its economic and social repercussions, public governance matters more than ever. Governance arrangements have played a critical role in countries' immediate responses, and will continue to be crucial both to the recovery and to building a "new normal" once the crisis has passed.

Body

Good governance and its characteristics:

In the 1992 report entitled "Governance and Development", the World Bank set out its definition of Good Governance. It defined Good Governance as "the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development".

Good governance has 8 major characteristics.'It is participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law.

Good governance as a cornerstone of a successful pandemic mitigation strategy:
During the COVID-19 pandemic the challenges have become extraordinarily difficult due to the speed and scale of COVID-19 response programs, work overload on implementing and accountability institutions, including media and civil society, and workforce safety concerns and lockdowns.
The public investment, be it for obtaining necessary health products and supplies, or for providing essential public services is channelled mainly through public procurement. Therefore the impacts of chosen procurement strategies have an immediate effect on the effectiveness of policies and efficiency of administration for dealing with the pandemic and its social and economic consequences.
The trends in policy-making towards a more pro-active approach to building strategies that reduce risk, enhance resilience, and focus on recovery and functionality by Good Governance has been a new Toolkit.
The crisis has created environments that was ripe for corruption and bribery. Identifying and addressing corruption risks thus was crucial to protect trust in public institutions and business, and to galvanise public confidence in the governments' ability to mobilise an effective crisis response.
Issues such as trust in government and trust in expert advice, and the boundary between the experts and the political decision-making interface were brought to the fore by the crisis. Governments faced with the need to synthesise information from multiple sources and actors, and to use it to feed into governments' plans and decision making to tackle crisis.
Maintaining a trusted connection between decision makers and the scientific suppliers of evidence, is essential for effective decision making in an environment faced with very high uncertainty. For example, by including experts from a variety of backgrounds this ensures that decisions are informed by credible, neutral advice.
The consultation of civil society organisations, the private sector, citizens, and international organisations can contribute to the quality of the advice given, as well as add credibility and inclusiveness.
Effective public communication by the central government and Behavioural communication campaigns have played an important role in facilitating the enforcement of regulations, by nudging or instructing wide segments of the population to comply with required measures – from washing their hands, to respecting the provisions of lockdowns and social distancing.
One of the more visible strategy has been Aarogya Setu mobile app, which was rolled as e governance model and uses a combination of bluetooth, global positioning systems (GPS), artificial intelligence (AI)and data analytics for contact-tracking and contact-tracing.
The outbreak of the pandemic has seriously disrupted the functioning of both these institutions which have hitherto been in charge of ensuring executive accountability. However, the present crisis has unfolded a situation where ensuring extraordinary governmental accountability, transparency and responsiveness are crucial like never before.
Unfortunately, however, the lockdowns imposed by governments to contain the virus had also affected the operation of the information regime in many countries, including India. RTI/FOI activities came to a stand-still in these countries in the early

phases of the lockdowns, making it impossible for the public to access critical government information.

Conclusion

The effective functioning of governance is the prime concern of every citizen of the country. The citizens are ready to pay the price for good services offered by the state, but what is required is a transparent, accountable and intelligible governance system absolutely free from bias and prejudices

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92. Discuss the key challenges being faced by infrastructure financing. How can those be addressed?

Approach- Question is straight forward. Candidate can outline the issues faced by the India in financing infrastructure projects. Way forward can be given citing some examples and data.

Introduction

India's infrastructure at the beginning of the century was in need of a total overhaul. It was a drag on the rapid growth of the country's economy and adversely affected the lives of Indian citizens. Before the market liberalisation of the 1990s, "infrastructure projects were typically financed from the limited resources of the public sector, which was characterised by inadequate capacity addition and poor quality of service". The government looked to public-private partnerships to promote investment and revitalise infrastructure sector.

Body

Key challenges in infrastructure financing

In the 1990s, the economy grew rapidly – by 7%-9% a year – and the pressures on infrastructure increased. As a result, infrastructure came to be regarded as a major constraint in sustaining the rapid growth and in attracting investment or doing business in India.

India has been focussing on infrastructure development across various sectors, which demand huge financial resources. However large social welfare expenditure and low tax-to- GDP ratio limits government capacity to fund them.

Fiscal Burden: Almost half of the total investment in the infrastructure sector is done by the Government through budget allocations. But Government funds have competing demands, such as, education, health, employment generation, among others.

Asset-Liability Mismatch of Commercial Banks: Commercial banking sector's ability to extend long-term loans to the infrastructure sector is limited.

Need for an Efficient and Vibrant Corporate Bond Market: The corporate bond market is still a long way to go in providing adequate financing to the infrastructure sector in India.

Insufficiency of User Charges: A large part of the infrastructure sector in India especially irrigation, water supply, urban sanitation, and state road transport is not amenable to commercialisation for various reasons. Government cannot levy user charges.

Legal and Procedural Issues: Issues relating to land acquisition and environmental clearances add uncertainty which affects the risk appetite of investors as well as banks. With financing in long gestation period it becomes difficult to keep continuous flow of capital.

What can be done?

The Economic Survey 2017-18 has assessed India's infrastructure financing needs at $4.5 trillion by 2040. The Vijay Kelkar committee had put out a balanced report in 2015 on overhauling the PPP ecosystem, including governance reform, institutional redesign, and capacity-building.

The government is planning to set up a new Development Finance Institution (DFI) essentially to fill the gap in long-term finance for infrastructure sectors. It will be used to finance both social and economic infrastructure projects identified under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

DFIs provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments spread over a long period and yielding low rates of return. Soon after independence, the institutional framework for development banking began- IFCI (1948), IDBI (1964), IIBI (1972), NABARD and EXIM Bank (1982), SIDBI (1990), etc.

Government should avoid trying to minimise risk to themselves by passing on uncertain elements in a project like the land acquisition risk to the private partner.

Government initiatives

Under UDAY scheme the government has taken steps to improve operational and financial parameters of discoms.

National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) with an initial corpus of Rs 40,000 crore.

With Initiatives such as 'Housing for All' and 'Smart Cities,' the government is working on reducing the bottlenecks that impede growth in the infrastructure sector.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched Masala Bonds in May 2017, for raising capital for funding the infrastructure projects in India.

Relaxation in External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms.

National Infrastructure Pipeline: The National Infrastructure Pipeline is a group of social and economic infrastructure projects in India over a period of five years with a sanctioned amount of ₹102 lakh crore.

Conclusion

India is one of the fastest growing large economy in the world. Combined with aspirations of young population, India needs world class infrastructure to emerge as dominant player on global platform. For the rapid development, seamless supply of capital is the basic necessity. If the policies are made to address the bottlenecks, we are not far away from realising our potential.

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