

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT MAINS REHEARSAL 2025

General Studies FULL LENGTH TEST (GS - 1) Test Code - VR1051509	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:	<u>Ayush Kumar</u>	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT. ID.:	<input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>
UPSC ROLL NO.:	<u>1210458</u>	Submission Date: <u>9/Aug/2025</u>
MOBILE NO.:	<input type="text"/>	

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only	
Start Time - <u>8:00am</u>	End Time - <u>11:00am</u>
Mode of Examination <u>Online</u>	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

		average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding			
Understanding Demand of Question			
Structure	Introduction		
	Body		
	Conclusion		
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.			
Language and Handwriting			
No. of Questions Attempted			
Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No			

Mentor's Feedback

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



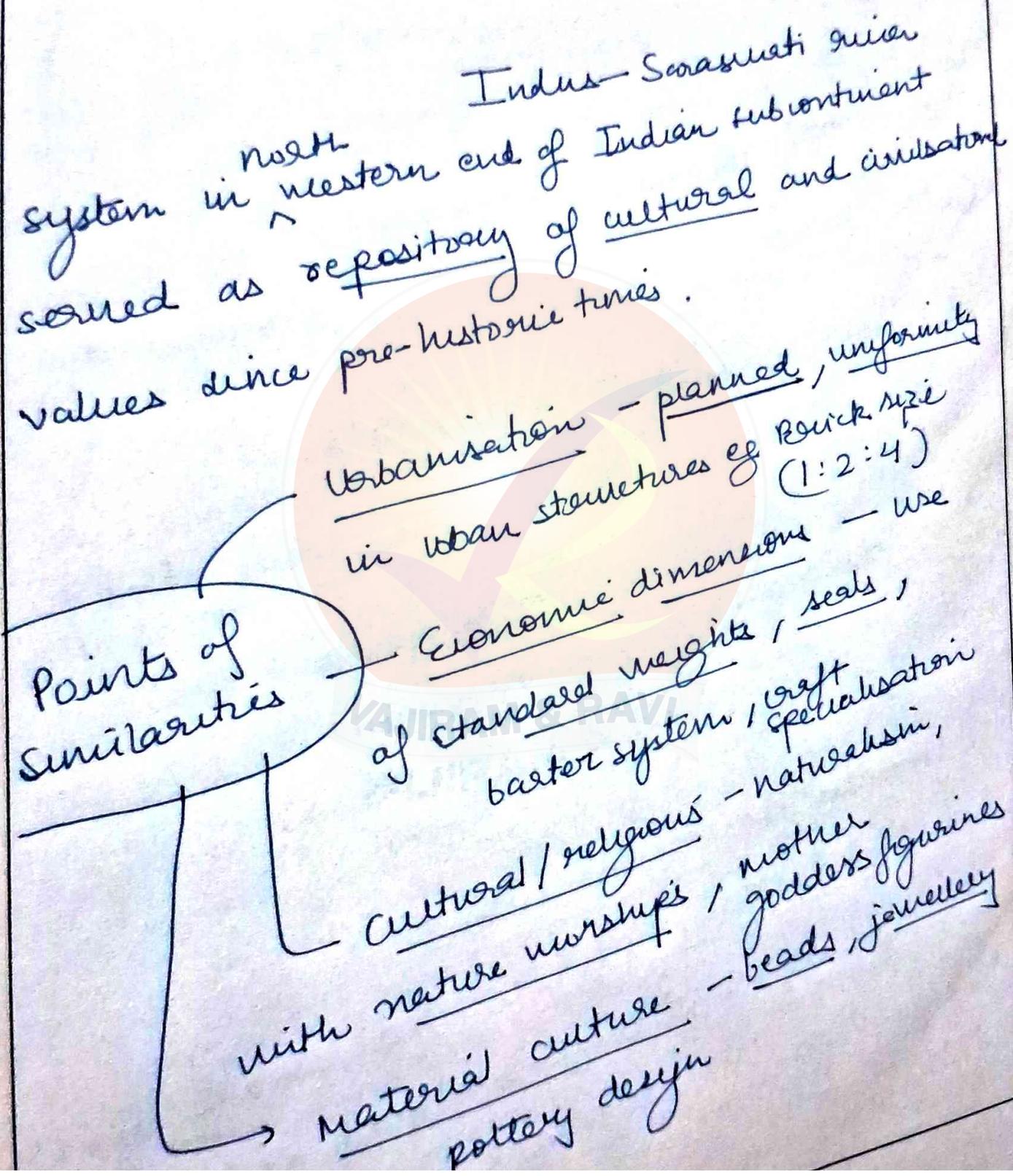
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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. Discuss how the Indus-Saraswati cultural zone simultaneously reflects patterns of similarity and distinctiveness. (10 marks, 150 words)



Way of living - While Saraswati population lived a more permitted lifestyle, Indus was more flourishing in terms of trade and commerce.

City establishment - Saraswati - fortified towns { Lothal, Baranasi }
Indus - monumental layouts (Harappa Mohenjodaro) eg Great Bath.

Points of distinction

Rituals - Difference in religious practices.

Agricultural - Riverine farming in Saraswati Coastal establishment centres in Lothal (Dockyard)

Indus Saraswati cultural Zone shows similarities in civilisation but also marks adaptive diversity shaped by ecology, topology, resources.

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2. Compare and contrast the Mauryan pillars with Achaemenian columns. What do these architectural forms reveal about their respective empires?
(10 marks, 150 words)

The Mauryan pillars and Achaemenian columns symbolise grandest cultural architecture that comes a form of imperial authority.

Points of similarities

- 1) Monolithic structures - Both were grand monoliths with mounted animal motifs and polished structures
- 2) Cultural craftsmanship - symbolises sophisticated craftsmanship and specialisation skills.
- 3) Served as a symbol of authority and influence
eg Ashoka's Sandhi, Sarnath pillars.

Points of contrast

Mauryan

- Use local available sandstone
- Were crafted in parts - pulas, abacus, mounted animal structure (bull, tiger, elephant)
- were source of imperial symbols (Chakras) and inscriptions written in local dialect of Prakrit.

Achaemenian

- Use ^{schist} stone with highly polished structure
- were crafted as a whole monolithic structure from a single stone.
- were structure of support to grand palaces with motifs of floral and designs.

The Mauryan and Achaemenian pillars serves as a start of structural craftsmanship while ^{one} served as a symbol of ethical symbolism the other as cultural grandeur.

3. The Moderates succeeded in creating a national political platform, but failed in achieving concrete political gains. Do you agree? Substantiate.
(10 marks, 150 words)

The Moderates (1885-1905) were national leaders relied on constitutional modes of agitations - prayer, petitions. eg. Peroz Shah Mehta, Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

They were successful in creating a national awakening through -

a) Economic awareness - leaders like Radhakrishna Naoroji, R.C. Dutt put forward 'Drain Theory' exposed Britishers' evil motives.

b) Platform for dissent - demanded freedom of speech, expansion of legislative bodies and representation. These led to Acts like 1891, 1909 etc.

c) Political awakening - popularised ideas of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty.

d) Mobilisation of ^{middle} classes - through public debates, newspapers and magazines eg Indian Mirror, Kesari.

However there were certain limitations

- a) Narrow social base - mainly educated middle class
- b) Over-felt on British sense of justice - Demanded self governance under British imperialism
- c) Slow political outcomes - often ignored by British authorities

However moderates provided the 'groundwork' for further extremist form of nationalism. with many tangible outcomes - Indian Council Act 1892, Age of consent Act 1891, demand for indianisation of higher posts as well as adopting liberal form of governa

4. What is temperature inversion? Discuss conditions which are favourable for its genesis and its implications on urban air quality in Northern India.

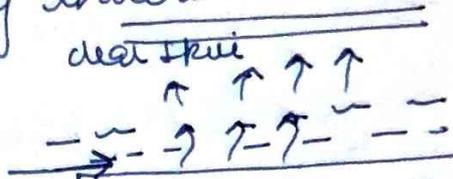
(10 marks, 150 words)

Temperature inversion refers to geographical phenomena where air temperature increases with increase in height, contrary to normal lapse rate (-1°C for 1000 metres)

Conditions which make temperature inversion favourable

- a) Clear skies - allowing for radiative terrestrial heat to expand and rise.
- b) High pressure conditions - which acts like domes of rising hot air
- c) long nights - allowing air above the heated land to get warmer.
- d) Weak wind shear - to prevent any air disturbance.

e) Topography - Valleys trapping cold air, while hills sides are comparatively warmer leading to valley inversion



air gets warm

land - have high specific heat capacity

Implication on air quality in North India

- 1) Source of urban fog - The stable warm air provides a way for particulate matter to sustain in local environment. 25/5
- 2) Platform for secondary pollutants - VOC, tropospheric ozone.
- 3) Healthiness of air - Air quality deteriorate eg stubble burning effects on air quality NCR Delhi
- 4) Reduces visibility

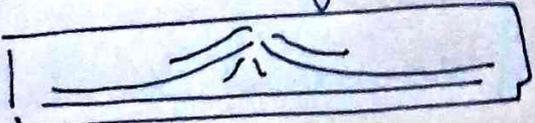
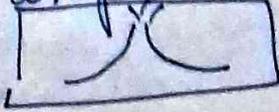
The temperature inversion is complex geological phenomena which has dual effects of calm and stable weather while creating a way for poor air quality.

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5. Differentiate between shield volcanoes and composite volcanoes. What explains the absence of active volcanoes in peninsular India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Volcanoes are geological structures composed of uplifted land - a vent or a fissure on earth's crust which served a conduit for molten rock (magma), gases, ash to reach the surface of earth.

Difference between shield volcanoes and composite volcanoes

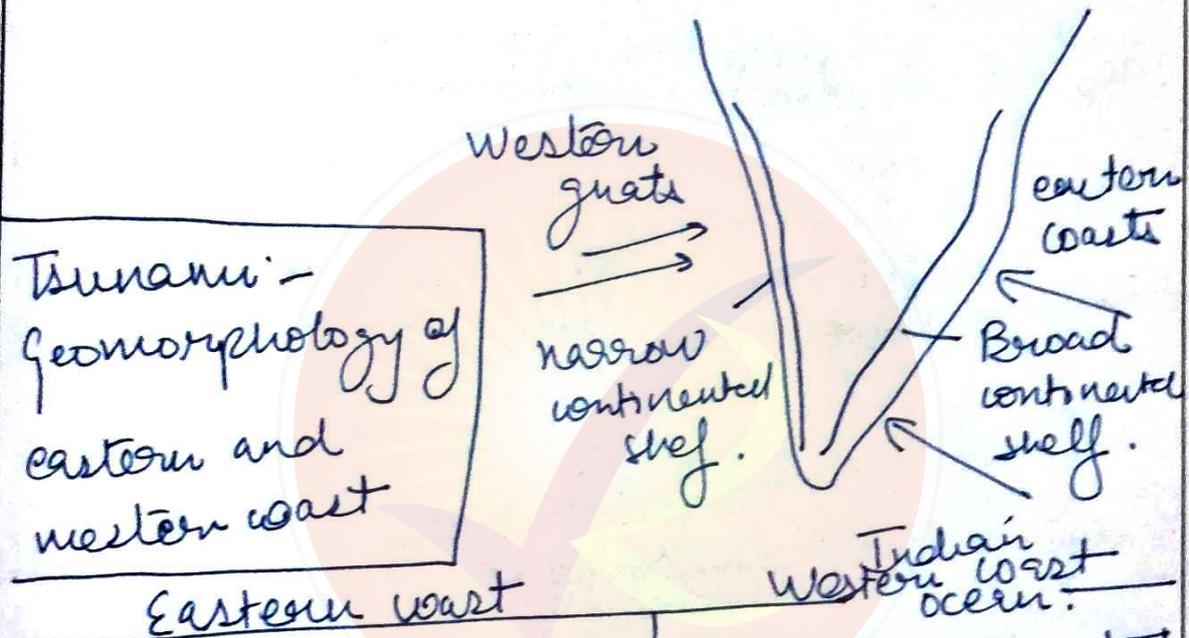
<u>Shield (Hawaii)</u>	<u>Composite (Mt Fuji)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Are less explosive in nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → More explosive with release of vast pyroclastic ^{dense} matters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Releases fluidic basaltic lava - less damaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Releases ^{adlastic} lava - which explodes on itself.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → covers large area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → usually smaller as compared to shield
	

Absence of active volcanoes on peninsular India

- i) Tectonic stability - no active plate boundaries (subduction zones, rift zones) like Pacific's ring of fire.
- ii) No magma source - The Deccan trap erupted because of magma plumes (Reynolds hotspot) source of which lies near Mauritius.
- iii) Lack of orotical weak zones - which prevents any leeway for magma to reach the surface.
Barren Island in Andaman sea is the only such active volcano located along the subduction zone.
Volcanoes are ^{internal} unique topography formed by the interplay of varied and external variabilities.

6. Discuss how the geomorphology of India's eastern and western coasts influences the impact and vulnerability to tsunamis.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Tsunamis impact on India are not just caused by seismic influence but also coastal topography of 7500 km



- Eastern coast
- a) wide continental shelf allows entry of large cum of water
 - b) low and gentle slope
 - c) low lying deltas of

- Western coast
- Narrow continental shelf prevents entry of huge amount of water.
 - b) steep gentle slope.
 - c) rocky cliffs of Malabar, Konkan

Godavari, Krishna provide for inundation risks
) proximity towards the Andaman - Sumatra subduction zone .

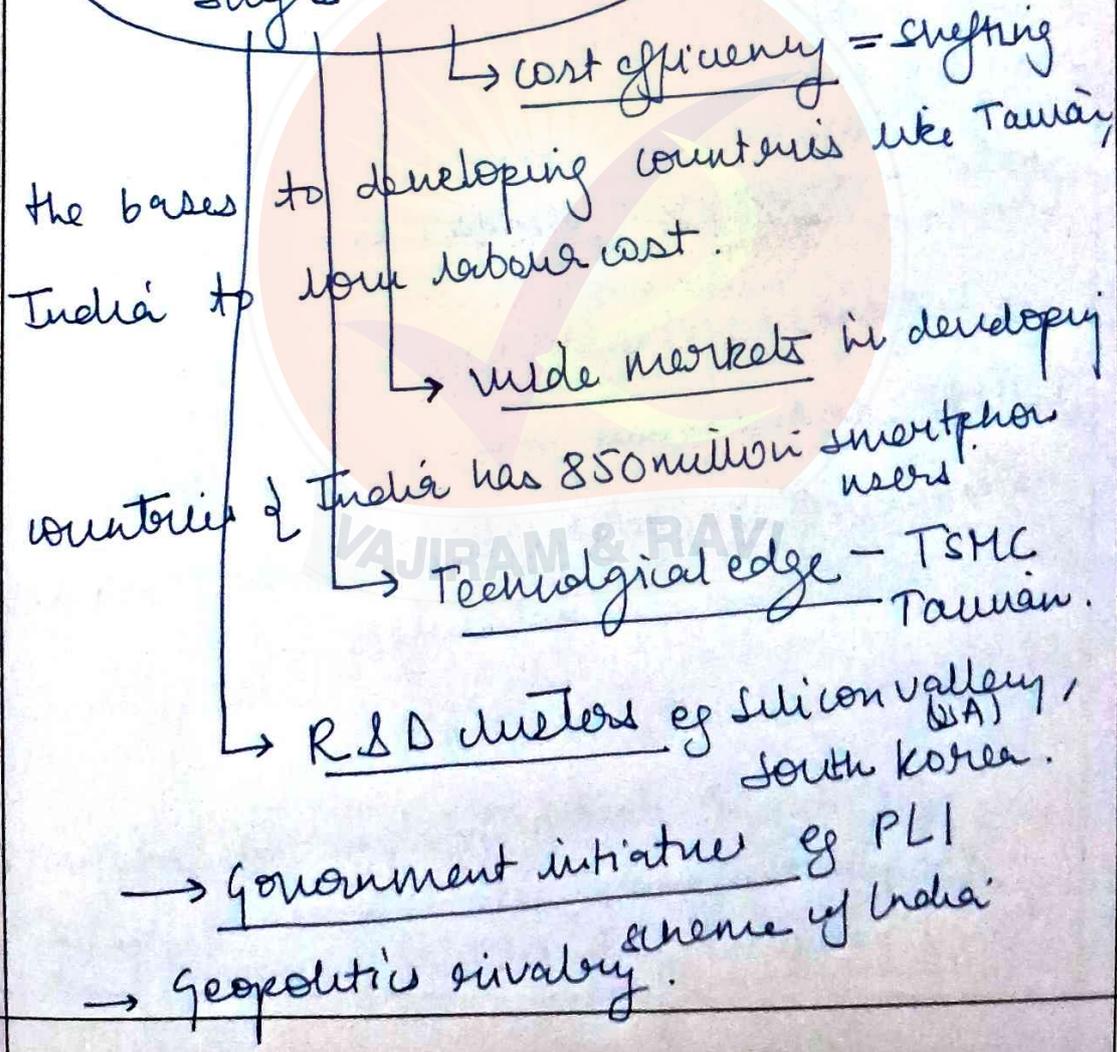
prevents water entry .
 However backwater of Kerala allowed for tsunami effect .
) No such presence of subduction zones except Malabar coast .

The Tsunami of 2004 shows the varied and vulnerable impact of Tsunami along the different coasts due to varied topography
 eastern part - Tamil Nadu, Puducherry saw the brunt of tsunami casualties . while western coast is vulnerable too but the risk associated is location specific .

7. Explain the reasons behind the spatial shifts and the evolving global patterns of semiconductor manufacturing. (10 marks, 150 words)

Semiconductors in modern times serves as a strategic tool for cutting edge technologies and a mode of development.

Reasons behind spatial shifts



Evolving global patterns

→ Multivalued global chain

Design (Silicon valley) → Fabrication
(East Asia) → Assembly (South East
Asia).

→ National/geopolitical dynamics - USA's
Chip Act provides for strategic impetus.

→ Global environment - China's restriction
critical mineral exports, China + I strategy

→ Nature of semiconductor industries -
Footloose in nature hence where skilled,
low cost labour with adequate government
regulation.

Semiconductor has huge
relevance in terms of varied technology -
Meyer, nuclear, chip manufacturing etc.
serving model for Industry 4.0.

8. How can gender-sensitive policies contribute to more inclusive and equitable regional development?
(10 marks, 150 words)

this part)

Gender sensitive policies

encompasses gender empowerment projects with dedicated importance and funds toward women upliftment.

Contribution towards inclusive and equitable regional development

a) Economic empowerment - PM Kaushal yojan boosts skill development leading to workforce participation across regions. eg

b) Social infrastructure - women-centric healthcare scheme (Tanani Suraksha) improve development indices.

c) Capital infrastructure - separate metro booths, compartments; family baltas

ensure ^{safe} mobility across regions.

d) Reducing regional disparities through

NRLM-SHG programmes, lakhpati didi promoting entrepreneurial spirit in rural areas

e) Access to assets - land titles in women's name like National Rural Livelihood Mission / PMAY.

f) skill enhancement - programmes like SEEB-POWER, KIRAN, Vigyan Jyoti enhance their STEM participation

gender sensitive policies form an urgent need to enhance the female labour participation rate (37% PLFS) and reduce gender pay gap to ensure the imperative of Vikshit Bharat is achieved with Pranch Prayan

anything in this part)

Production	
By	
Inclusion	
Representation	

9. Despite awareness around mental health, stigma continues to hinder emotional well-being in Indian youth. In this context, analyse the causes of deteriorating mental health and suggest measures to address them. (10 marks, 150 words)

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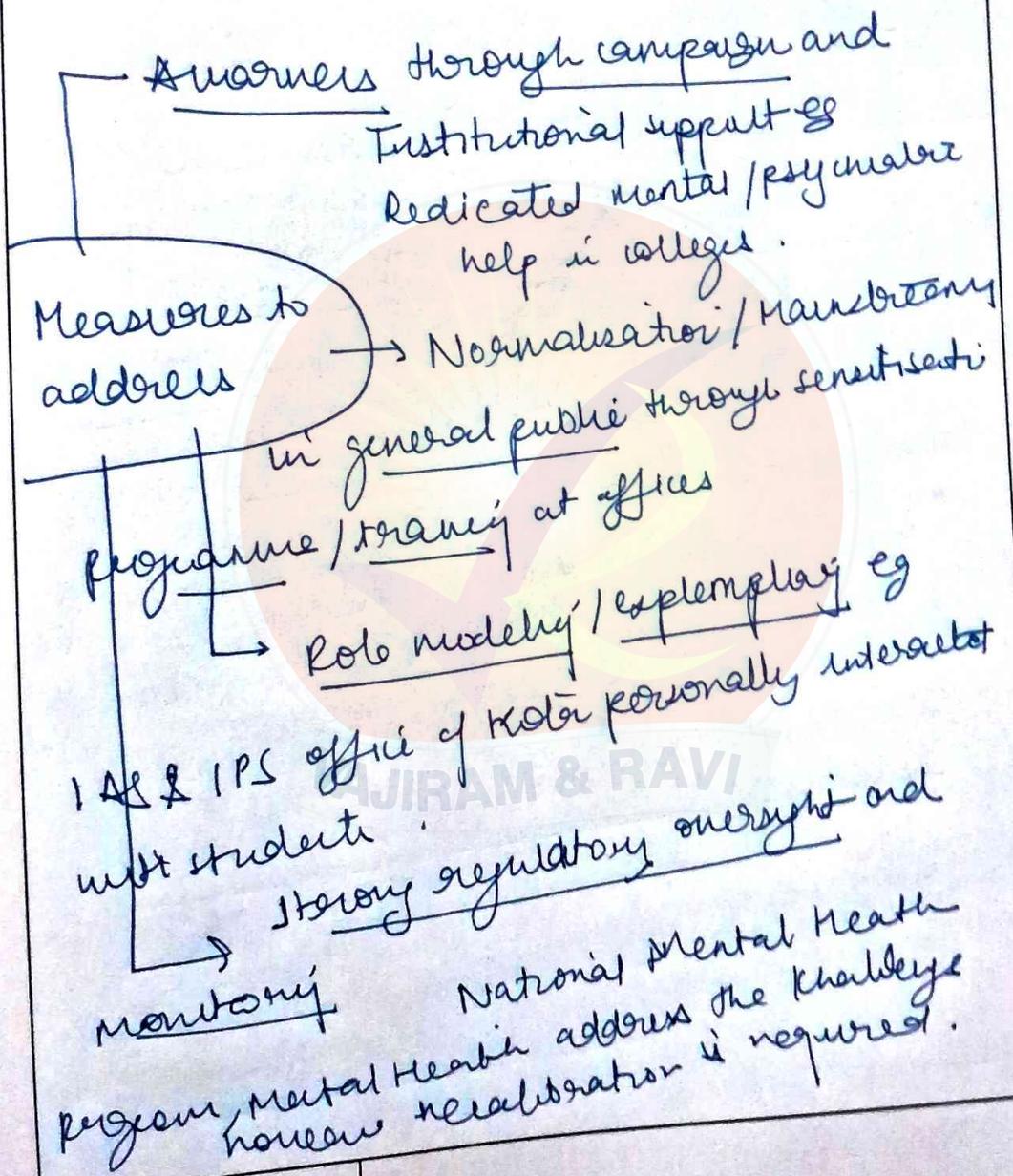
WHO 2022 estimates highlights that 15% of total mental health burden lies in India.

Reasons of deteriorating mental health in India

- a) Rise of virtual reality through social media fosters a culture of comparison and deficit mentality
- b) Rising competition due to supply-demand mismatch of (Depression affects ~ 50 million in India).
- c) Family illness / Terminal health disease
NCRB (2023) illness 18% of Mental Health
- d) Social taboo / Stigma which prevents

effective care and rehabilitation framework.

e) Weak awareness among generation with respect to various government / institutional measures. (Tele-MANAS)



Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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10. Do you agree that communalism in India today is as much an economic response as a religious one? Argue. (10 marks, 150 words)

Communalism is a socio-political ideology that promotes strict adherence to one's religious principles and ideals without tolerance towards others.

Communalism as an economic response

- a) Economic marginalisation - sections of society which are economically deprived are more susceptible to fall for communal tones.
- b) Political mobilisation on economic promises creates further divisions
- c) Urban ghettoisation - further deepens communal fault lines due to spatial segregation

d) Competition for resources - jobs, educational seats & Response/outrage during mandal commission reforms.

Communalism as a region under current

Historical mistrust eg Partition

Propaganda politics

Rise of mob lynching incidents
more suspicion.

Identity based mobilisation

Economic deprivation

provides grounds for communal battles; while further deeping the religious undertone.

Thus communalism in modern times runs as a economic-religious feedback loop.

loop.

11. In light of recent discoveries, critically discuss how Sangam literature enriches our understanding of ancient Indian history and offers an alternative perspectives beyond Indo-Aryan traditions.
(15 marks, 250 words)

The recent Keeladi ^(evanthurai) excavation in Tamil Nadu gives us wide alternative perspective on Sangam way of life.

Keeladi excavation provides a new understand of ancient Indian history

a) Flourishing urbanisation with well structured and planned city development.

b) Flourishing craftsmanship with presence of spindle whorls, iron tools etc

c) New scripts in Brahmi-Tamil depicts consonance with Sangam literature. account of bustling cities

- d) References to specific dynasties (Chola, Chola, Pandya) in inscriptions support historical validation of Sangam texts
- e) No religious symbols found depicts a secular, pre-vedic, non-vedic social structure.

Alternative perspectives

- a) Chronological challenges - depicts urbanised settlements may be before 300 BC period
- b) Literary themes - focus on secular way life - (love) akam, war (puram)
- c) Plurality & Diversity - emphasis

Multicultural, pluralistic traditions distinct from monolithic Vedic society.

d) Religion & culture - Reflects indigenous ideas, goods with minimal Vedic influence.

Sangam period (300CE - 600CE) gives us a flourishing account of religion, political and cultural relevance. However, need re-evaluated examination gives a completely different perspective and parallel alternative narratives on ancient history of India.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	

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anything in this part)

12. How did Gandhiji's methods of protest evolve between Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience? Examine the contextual factors influencing this shift. (15 marks, 250 words)

Mahatma Gandhi's proactive role across national movements was a determining role in India's movement towards freedom (swaraj).

Evolution of methods of Gandhiji between NCM and CDM

NCM	CDM
<p>→ passive resistance</p> <p>→ use of constitutional methods of <u>boycott</u>, <u>swadeshi</u> without direct confrontation</p>	<p>→ More active resistance</p> <p>use of proactive measures like <u>salt marches</u>, <u>stretches</u> willfully disobeying British laws eg salt tax.</p>

low narrow base
consensus of urban
sections mainly

Home based Gandhi
through constructive
programmes and
mass education engaged
active supports of
social communities eg
peasant, working
man etc.

less assertive as it
was a testing bed/
a litmus test of
consensus nationwide
among layers / Bread
of country.

More assertive in
nature calling for
immediate swaraj
challenged British
authority

Contextual factors for Gandhi's shift

- 1) British government indifference
and suppressive policies
- 2) Mass mobilisation - Gandhi

recognized the limitations of NCM in its weak social base.

•) Ideological maturity - understanding civil disobedience as a tool to challenge legitimacy of foreign rule.

•) Halfhearted efforts by Britishers towards self government measures of 1932 August offer, communal Award.

In essence, Gandhi's protest method evolved from boycott based non-cooperation to active, large scale civil disobedience influenced by changing political realities

13. India's intervention in the 1971 Bangladesh crisis marked a turning point in its foreign policy from non-alignment to regional assertiveness. Critically analyse (15 marks, 250 words)

Pakistan using atrocities on East Pakistan led to inflow of huge refugees in India, which ultimately led to India's intervention resulting in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war (Bangladesh liberation war).

A turning point in foreign policy

- a) Assertiveness towards regional security and refugee crisis.
- b) Military strength - 1971 showcase India's military capabilities and inter-force coordination.

c) Leveraging geopolitical sphere -

Russia's support strengthened India's position

d) Scope for mediation - India despite

winning the 1971 war allowed for return of 93000 POW as well as

returning 1300 sq m of property to Pakistan at Shimla Agreement.

e) Showcased India's strategic depth

Despite its international posture of non-alignment.

f) Enhanced confidence - 1971 war

was starting point of India's geopolitical

relevance as sovereign independent power

The 1971 Bangladesh liberation war was India's focus on regional assertions.

to ensure

- state neighbourhood
- fostering partnership with allies e.g. Russia
- strong posture towards Pakistan
- Golden relationship with new Bangladesh.

Thus 1971 war which ultimately led to Shimla Agreement between Zulfikar Bhutto and Indira Gandhi showcased a marked shift between India's non-alignment to assertive politics.

14. The Great Depression not only deepened the economic vulnerability of Indian peasants but also reshaped colonial economic policies and nationalist resistance.
 Comment
 (15 marks, 250 words)

The Great Depression of 1929 sent the waves of economic disruption across globe impacting both imperial and colonies.
 power.

Great Depression impact Indian peasants

- 1) Low demand and inflationary pressure surged their already depleted incomes
- 2) Weak demand for raw material in international market impoverished their situation of cotton & jute
- 3) Increased indebtedness and accentuation of rural poverty

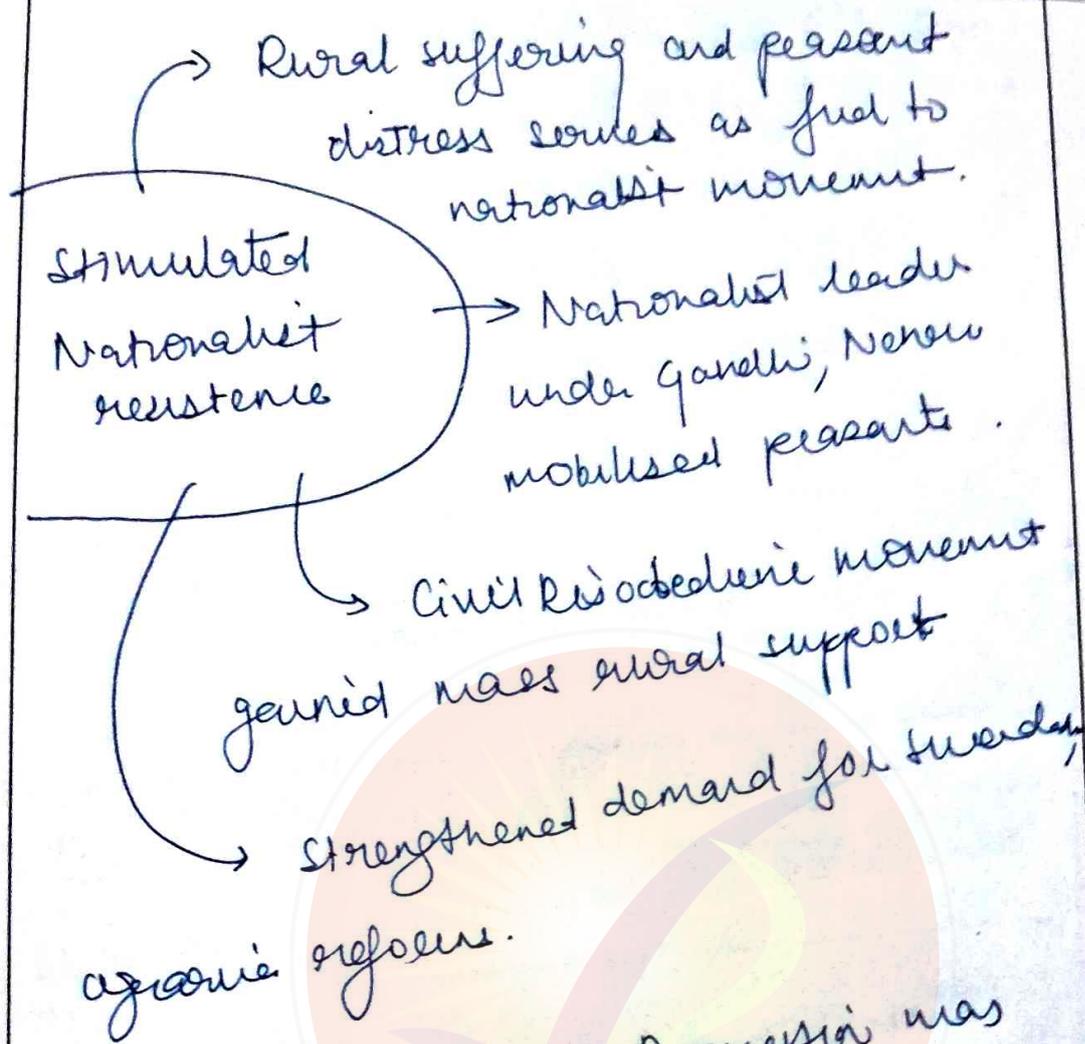
- c) Exploitative land revenue policies to meet revenue demands
- d) Raising incidents of stagnation and rural distress.

Reshaped colonial economic policies

- a) British government imposed protectionist tariffs and excise duties
- b) Policies prioritised imperial interest
- c) Extractive land revenue models
- d) Inadequate relief measures for agrarian crisis
- e) Ignorance towards the famines / starving situation while pouring wealth towards military expansion

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(Don't write anything in this part)



The Great Depression was a boon to real colonial intentions and politics which not only galvanised national movement also raised waves of moral consciousness among leaders across globe.

15. What is the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)? Discuss its role in maintaining global climate stability. What potential effect may it have on the Indian monsoon system?
(15 marks, 250 words)

Atlantic meridional
ocean circulation (AMOC) is a large
system of ocean circulation determined
by thermal and salinity variations
difference
influencing global weather phenomena.

Role in maintaining global climate
stability

a) weather phenomena and climate
stability across atlantic ocean
through moderating influence and
regulation of monsoon

b) Transfer of heat upwards across
atlantic and arctic prevents expansion

of ice sheets

c) Carbon cycle regulation - facilitates

carbon ocean sequestration, mitigating global warming

d) Global ocean circulation links -

Interacts Pacific ocean with Indian ocean systems

Potential effects on Indian ocean

a) Weakened AMOC → less northward

heat transport causes warming of southern Hemisphere oceans causing monsoon variations

b) Impact of ITCZ - causes south

ward movement reducing cross-equatorial monsoon winds to reach India

weak
 c) AMOC causes slow onset of monsoon in India affecting the variability and agricultural output.

d) Modern studies show slow AMOC due to Greenland ice melt could deteriorate India monsoon by 30-40%

AMOC is a critical global climate regulator. If slowdown, driven by global warming, could destabilise India's monsoon affecting livelihood pattern and agricultural output.

16. Discuss the comparative advantages and limitations of traditional weather prediction methods versus AI-enabled forecasting in India. How can Mission Mausam contribute to integrating traditional knowledge with modern techniques?
(15 marks, 250 words)

India's weather forecasting has evolved from traditional models to a more sophisticated AI based surveillance mechanism. & I-FLOWs

Comparative advantages of traditional weather models

- micro-level analysis - grassroot prediction and location specific.
- Nature based solutions - cloud pattern movement, animal behaviour etc.
- Community participation in weather forecasting.

Limitations

- Unable to keep track of irregular/erratic weather phenomena.
- Lack of accurate data and prediction models.
- Haphazardness and may give rise to misinformation / rumors.

Comparative advantage of AI based system

- Accuracy and predictability due to data centre and streaming
- Predicts weather phenomena over large areas and gives quick responses
- use of sophisticated sensors, satellite surveillance give impetus to data security.
- Overcoming erratic behaviour of weathers. eg Russia's weather EWS.

Limitations } lacks new level analysis
 lack community led mitigation, preparedness model.

Pongit Mausam - by IMD, ITT & and National centre for medium range weather

Forecasting
Ami } climate ready weather smart.

Integrating traditional knowledge and modern AI through

→ collecting community led data to guide AI response.

→ sophisticated response through radar, satellite, remote sensing, complimentary traditional knowledge.

→ constant weather forecasting through SMS / instant guidance.

well equipped surveillance network. Mausam ki help ki right direction. India requires a

17. Hybrid work models have blurred the boundaries between public and private spheres. Discuss its impact on gender roles and family life in urban India.
(15 marks, 250 words)

COVID-19 pandemic provided impetus to hybrid model of working environment including both work from home and office requirements.

Impact of hybrid model on gender roles

- a) Shared Responsibilities - Since both male and females ^{work} from home, this gives enough time to segregate household chores.
- b) Empowering women to maintain balance between professional and caring activities.
- c) Impetus to formalisation of women led jobs.

However there are certain challenges

- a) Double Burden on women - Remote work after increases unpaid domestic work
- b) Reinforcement of traditional norms
Cultural conditioning further pushing women towards caregiving roles
- c) Women may face fewer networking opportunities hampering career progression

Impact on family life

- o) Strengthens parent-child bonding
- o) Encourages family cohesion with quality time
- o) Space for recreational activities eg dancing, singing, painting overall

enforcing positive environment.

- o) Focus on Health and fitness -
yoga and indoor exercises.

Certain drawbacks

- o) Rising case of domestic violence -
The Helpline recorded domestic violence cases.

- o) Digital fatigue - increases stress levels for all family members.

- o) Space constraints in small urban home pushes for irritabilities and interpersonal friction.

Hybrid work culture is a mix bag of opportunities and drawbacks. Flexible hours, equal performance evaluation are need of hour.

18. How does the structural failure of education and vocational training in India reinforce inter-generational poverty and inequality? Suggest long-term reform strategies. (15 marks, 250 words)

Despite having the golden bandwidth of demographic dividend (~65% population under 35), India still faces poverty and inequality (~180 million multidimensional poor (Niti Aayog)) due to weak educational and vocational training.

These are due to many reasons

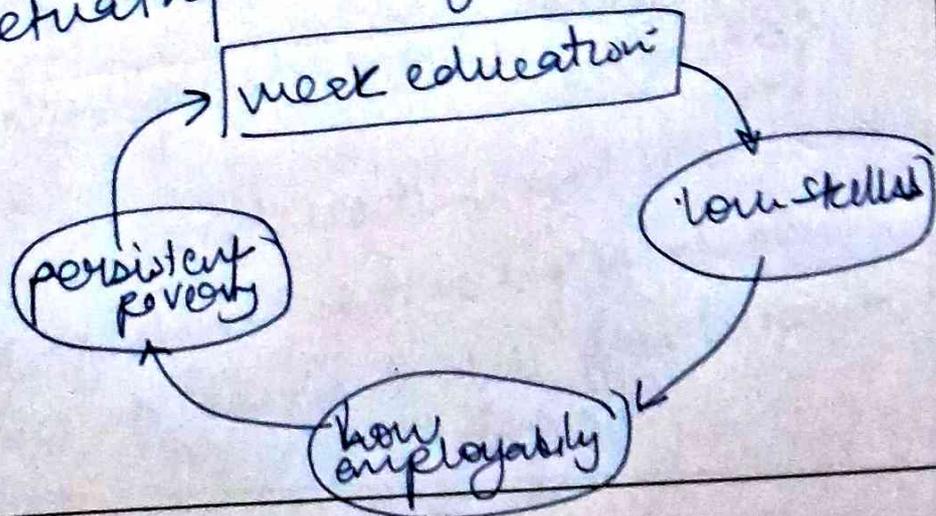
- a) Stagnant curriculum - not dynamic to modern expectations of AI, ML.
- b) Weak infrastructure - insufficient classrooms and hygienic washrooms especially deters girls from any formal education.

c) less focus on practicality - detour
skill development and future
employment prospects. of India
Skill report 2024 ~ 5% of youth skilled.

d) Weak teachers training modules
impacts study outcomes. to per
Pratham ASER report ~ 60% of
student of class 8-10 were not able to
do basic numerical problem.

e) lack of awareness of career paths
opportunities

f) Perpetuating vision of de.



Long term strategies

1) Mandatory vocational training throughout schooling age eg PM Vishwakarma schem.

2) Mandatory regular teachers training eg NISHTHA schem

3) Intersectionality of subjects for multi-dimensional perspective eg NEP 2020 entry exit course.

4) Strong industry-academia programme to enhance internship opportunities eg National Apprenticeship programme.

5) Early Awareness towards STEM careers

eg KIRAN Vigyan Jagati
6) Scholarship scheme eg Ashyodaya Scholarship Scheme

Education and Vocational training needs to water up modern skills to equip India for Viksit Bharat.

19. Quick commerce reflects more than changing consumer habits; it reveals shifting urban priorities. Examine its broader Socio-Economic and spatial impact on the fabric of Indian cities.
(15 marks, 250 words)

Quick commerce deals with instant delivery mechanism to meet rising consumer demands in urban areas eg Instamart, Swiggy, Blinkit.

Quick commerce showcases

- o) Rise in consumerist culture.
- o) Quick delivery shows instant demand reflecting lower tolerance patience level.
- o) Urban priorities shifting towards instant gratification model without delays and glitches.

Broader socio-economic impact

- o) Rising consumerist culture & delivery minimalist lifestyle

6) Impetus to informal economy eg
gig / platform based employment.

7) Expenditure driven model - less

focus on savings

8) Overcoming empty nest syndrome ::
instant delivery during festivals.
to parents/elders.

9) Expanding disparities between
haves and have-nots eg skyscraper
and slum dwellers.

10) Local retail disruption - Threatens

Kiran store

11) waste generation due to over
purchasing, plastic waste.

Spatial impact

Positives

Micro warehousing eg

Rack stores, cluster hubs optimises last mile delivery.

Digital urban integration

strengthens e-commerce infrastructure.

Overcoming challenges of delivery

to Tier-2/Tier-3 centres

Negatives

Traffic congestion and safety issue to timely delivery commitment

land use charges - logistical hubs.

Concentration in urban centres creates regional disparities

Urban policy must balance efficiency, worker welfare and environmental sustainability.

20. Examine how the proliferation of sects within major religions has historically acted both as an instrument of social reform and a source of social fragmentation in India.
(15 marks, 250 words)

this part)

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Sects are offshoots
of cultural or religious arenas which
aim to create a distinct identity among
certain sects of followers.

Sects : Instrument of social reforms

- 1) Challenging traditional hierarchies
eg Bhakti, sufi movements against
rigid caste structures.
- 2) Reformation of Agya samaj
promote education, social upliftment
of women.
- 3) Moral ethical frameworks
revives ethical values once
abandoned.

c) Inclusivity and accessibility —
 provided spiritual space for
 marginalised communities &
stigmatised

As a source of social fragmentation

a) Identity based polarisation

Identity ^{Overemphasis on sect}
 unity _{sometimes weakened}

b) Institutional rivalries — shakhs
 — vashaks

c) Rigid doctrinal boundaries
 deepening intergroup division.

d) Political exploitation — leverage
 sectarian division for control
 of vote bank mobilisation

e) corporatisation / commercialisation
 — profit motives, rise of groupthinkers of scientology

Sects have a dual role in society — a vehicle for social change yet sometimes becoming instrument of internal division; reflecting contradictory nature. The requirement is to have a critical mindset and holistic appraisal towards dealing with sects agenda.

GP 2025

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