

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES 2025

General Studies
Full Length Test
Test - 1 | GS1
Test Code - A21051501

Evaluator Code:
Date of Assignment:
CQ:

NAME:

POONAM

Time allowed: 3 Hours

STUDENT ID.:

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Email:

UPSC ROLL NO.:

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Submission
Date:

17/08/2025

MOBILE NO.:

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 -

End Time -

Mode of Examination

Online

Offline

Receiving date -

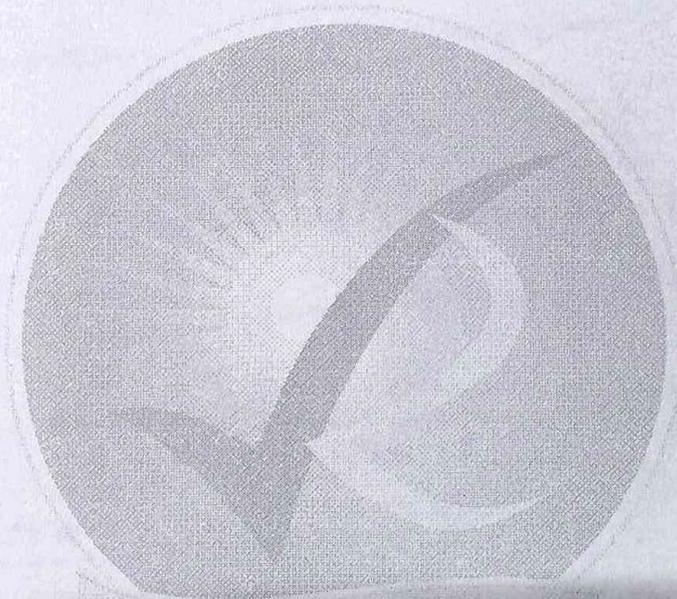
Dispatch date -

Parameters		Good	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

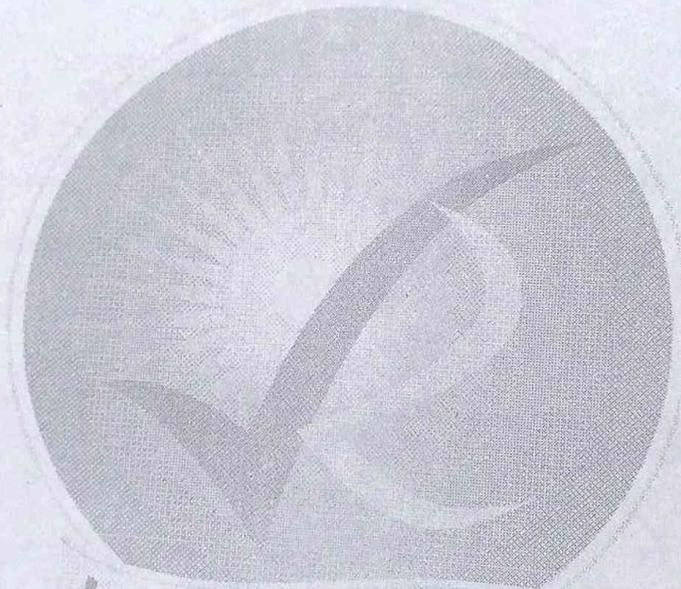
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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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(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. The evolution of temple architecture in India illustrates the synthesis of art, religion, and polity. Illustrate with suitable examples from South India.

(10 marks, 150 words)

The temple architecture in South India began with rock-cut temples and it soon transformed into a synthesis of superior art, regional religion and contemporary politics system.

This synthesis is visible in rock cut monolithic temples of Pallavas to later dynasties like grand temples of Cholas (imperial).

Evolution

- ① Pallava Dynasty (7th century)
-  monolithic
5 shalas
- mahabalipuram
(UNESCO WHS)
- Depicting artistry
- Religion: 5 Pandavas
+ 1 Draupadi temple
- Polity: King patronising
Hinduism → Shiva,
Vaishnavite
etc.
- e.g., shore temple

- ② Cholas (9th-13th century)

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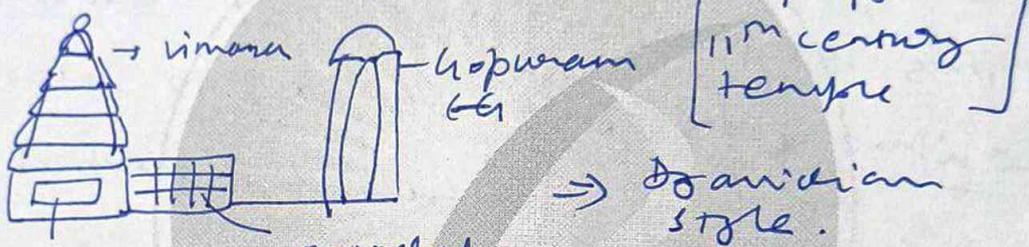
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Features: ① Increasing grandeur - matching with ruler's status.

② Gopurams - high and elaborate sculptures - e.g; 108 postures of Bharatnatyam. e.g., Temple by Rajendra Chola

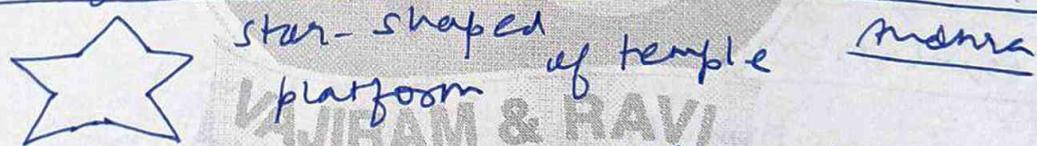
③ Religion → king showing themselves as divine origin - being treated like deity as in paintings on temple walls.

e.g., Temple - Gangaikondacholapuram



Gangavira

④ Hoysala Architecture ⇒ in Karnataka



⑤ Vijayanagar temples ⇒ Meluh Pradesh

- meenakshi temple ⇒ largest + Gopuram
- Elaboration Increased in sculptures.

In same India, temples led to formation of temple towns like Thanjavur and led to flourishing of literature e.g; Silappadikaram, architecture and plenty overlapping with religion.

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2. The rise and development of the new religious ideas in the 6th B.C. India have brought significant changes to contemporary social life. Do you agree? Justify using examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

6th century BC was a transformative stage for Indian social-religious-economic history as during this stage, new ideas like Buddhism and Jainism originated and went beyond Indian borders.

Changes brought by new religions:

① Buddhism:

- (a) Idea of non-violence - even for animals
- thus supporting settled agricultural life.
- (b) Idea of non-idol faith and faith in practices like meditation
- providing a vent for people suffering due to negative effects of brahminical system.

(c) Sangha - organised life - gave way to philanthropy and disciplined life.

(d) Madhyam marg and 8-fold path: brought moderation and ethical conduct to central stage.

② Jainism

- (a) Non-vegetarianism = led to non-killing of animals.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(b) Austerity → harshful conduct - showing discipline and.

(c) Inclusivity → As anyone could join these 2 religions.

(d) Non emphasis on rituals - Thus making it adoptable for commoners.

Buddhism + Jainism

merits

①. Teachings in local language - Pali, Prakrit

② Rejected brahmanical

system - based on ritual - especially for women (Buddhism).

Demerits

① No full inclusivity - e.g. women, slaves could not freely join.

② People in agriculture found it difficult to follow (Jainism).

Both religions in 6th century BC brought a long lasting change seen in Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka but the influence of older system could not be completely cut off. However, ideas like peace, rationality still inspire each one of us.

3. Under colonialism, India's traditional economic structure was reoriented to fit into the economic needs of industrial Britain. Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

During 1700, India contributed to about 25% of world GDP but when British left India it was down to <u>3%</u> of world's GDP. It depicts how flourishing native system was manipulated and reoriented to fit for their needs.

Reorientation

① Jajmani system → abolished by removing patronage and by destroying local cottage industries.

↳ Benefit: surplus labour for commercial agriculture. e.g. Tea plantation, Indigo

② Agriculture → abolished rights of tribes to forest land.

→ used clearing for expansion
e.g. Animals (hoe vs plough)

Benefit: expansion of raw materials for export - e.g. Indigo cultivation, cotton cultivation.

③ Zamindari - land reforms: For extraction of tax from farmers.

④ Introduction of railways - e.g.

by Dalhousie → to integrate supply chain of extraction.

⑤ using intermediates and local rulers = e.g.; patronising mem with seats / nominations in legislature.

Benefit: suppression of protests with their help.

However, some persistency of old systems was still there:

- ① Dependency on agriculture → rural economy being major source of employment.
- ② Urbanization still not expanding.
- ③ No modernization of industries - e.g.; 37. ~~was~~ metal plough (1951).
- ④ Indigenous system - based on loan from relatives, money lenders, etc.
- ⑤ Artisans → adopting new technologies.

British period of Indian history was a period of exploitation, exhaustion and economically - challenging for Indian traditional economy.

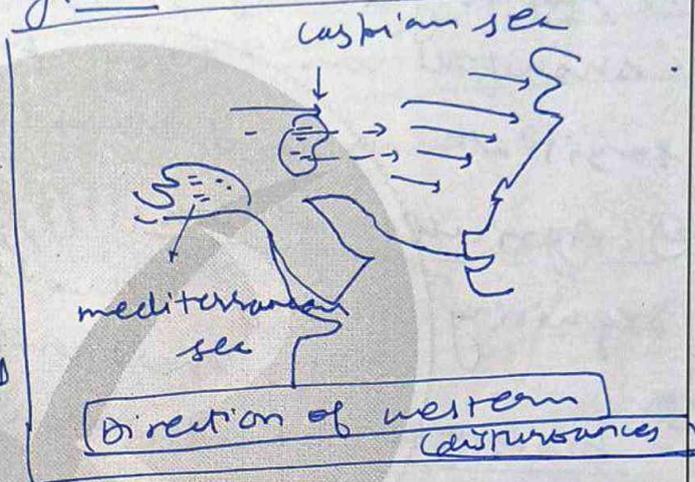
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4. What are Western disturbances? Explain their role in influencing the weather patterns of northern India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Western disturbances are moisture filled wind that enter north-western and northern parts of India during winter from Mediterranean region. This may bring an untimely rain to and help in certain crops yield.

Origin: Because of cold-hot air interactions.

Cold polar air and sub-tropical air mass interact.



Impact on weather patterns of north-India:

① Source of water - since precipitation in arid, semi-arid parts of North India. e.g., J&K, Kashmir, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal.

② Moderation of temperature: Reduction and causing lesser differences in day and night temperature.

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③ Agriculture: Beneficial for arid soil as they get moisture.

④ Snowfall in western Himalayas - leading to water increase.

However some with harmful impacts can also be there:

① Flooding - e.g., extreme rainfall, snowfall in topographically sensitive areas of Himalayas.

② Agricultural loss - e.g., crops requiring a dry period - cold period. - e.g., wheat crop - fruit orchards

③ Disasters like landslides - causing casualties.

④ Disturbance of local climate:

Fog, rain etc causing inefficiency in transport, daily life.

Western disturbances are critical winds that influence Indian north-western parts and it

ought to play an important role in coming times when unpredictability using sophisticated tools need to be combat.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Remarks:	

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5. Discuss the non-conventional energy potential of peninsular India with relevant examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Under its NDC at COP (UNFCCC), India aims to achieve its net zero goal by 2070 and harness renewable energy to reach 50% (by 2030) of its energy capacity.

Peninsular India could be a major player in this endeavour as follows:

Peninsular India:

Peninsular India

① A ~~sub~~ tropical area:

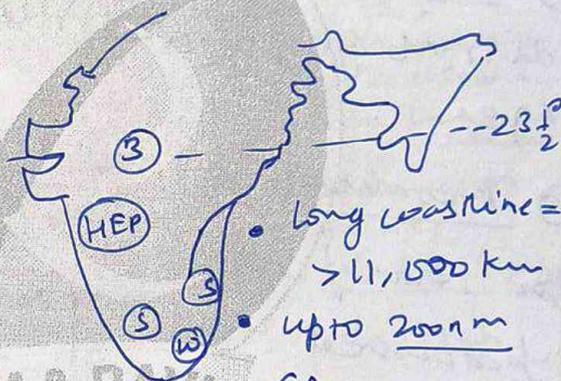
- rich in solar energy e.g., Tamil Nadu

② Coastal → on 3 sides:

- rich in wind energy. e.g., Gujarat, ~~Andhra~~ Tamil Nadu

③ Coastline - offshore farms possible for wind etc.

④ Tidal energy - especially western coast. e.g., Gulf of Kutch, Kambhat



④ HEP projects

③ Bio CNG plants

⑤ Biogas energy - e.g., Bangalore

⑥ Geothermal energy - in some parts like Karnataka.

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However, challenges lie in full-fledged use of the potential:

- ① Non-consistency of solar, wind, tidal energy: Good integration could solve but require huge cost.
- ② Technology advancement - for infrastructural and transmission challenges.
- ③ Energy like geothermal - could disturb geophysical harmony of an area.
- ④ Resource constraint - lithium for solar plants etc not produced/procured in India.
- ⑤ Land problem - for plants - requiring a large area = it is a state subject - can cause delays.

Thus non-conventional energy is the key to achieve not only goals of NDUs but also SDGs and DPSP, fr where there is right to clean environment - a fundamental right.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

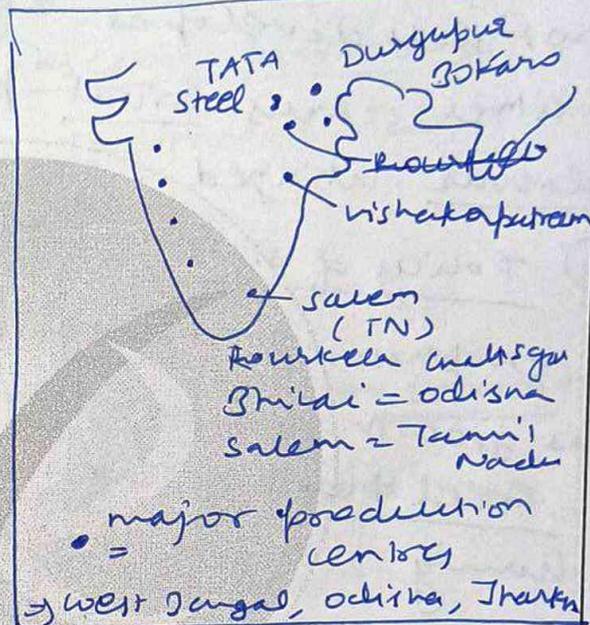
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6. Why are most of India's iron and steel plants concentrated in the eastern and central parts of the country? Illustrate with examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

India aims to achieve goal of 25% GDP from its manufacturing sector. Steel & Iron and steel are foundations on which this dream and others can be fulfilled.

Steel and iron industry is mainly concentrated in Chhota Nagpur plateau, eastern, central India due to reasons as follows:



① Topo-geographical factors: Area rich in minerals → thus industry present near to source of ores (raw materials).
- e.g., B plants like Bhilai - close to Rajhara mine.

② Availability of energy: e.g., coal mines like Jharia of Jharkhand nearby.

③ Water availability: Rivers of like Mahanadi, Sabarnarekha, Damodar - valleys of his rivers = rich in water.

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④ Infrastructural support: rail network well developed for transport. ports like Kolkata, Paradip, Vishakhapatnam.

⑤ Cheap labour: since eastern parts not well developed agriculturally either - thus tribal population as labour utilized.

⑥ Policy of state: 2nd five year plan - emphasised heavy industrialisation as growth driver. e.g., Durgapur steel plant of west Bengal set up during 2nd five year plan (1951-1956).

Currently, western parts like Maharashtra, Karnataka, it are also seeing a growth along with other parts like Salem in Tamil Nadu.

It shows, that regional disparities in steel and iron industries are going to improve with more focus on tribal rights (district mineral fund) and expansion of modernization.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Antation

7. In contemporary India, marriage is increasingly perceived as a personal choice rather than a societal obligation. Enumerate the (socio-economic forces) behind this transformation and assess its potential impact on family structure.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Marriage is a socially approved sexual union between two individuals. However, the modern times are redefining the meaning of marriage in ways like digital connections, asexual partnerships, and dismantling the traditional view of marriage.

Socio-economic factors

- 1) Improved economic status of women:

→ where $>40\%$ [PLFS] : indicates their independence - financially.

- 2) Exposure to western culture due to increased connections (globalization) - e.g., focus on individualism - self over

community norms. 1990s → serials like 'friends' made 1990s generations more aware of western culture.

- (3) Role of social media and digital connectivity :

→ where people make 'friends' or just involve content based relations.

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(4) Enhancing rights of LGBTQ+ : provides opportunities to ~~do~~ make marriage a personal choice. e.g; 30+ countries have legalized same sex marriage (Pew research, ~~2023~~ 2023).

(5) Redefined 'social contract' concept : where it is a marriage of 2 families and not just 2 individuals.

- About 50% of Indian families are nuclear up from <40% in 2008.

However, social norms still play a key role in India.

① Early marriage : 23% of women aged 20-24 reported being married before 18 (NFHS5).

② Arranged marriage : majority ~ 68% in rural areas, marriage is arranged.

③ Intercaste marriage : # About 5% only a minor increase only.

④ Divorce rate : still being low compared to western countries.

Indian society being at a constant war between modernity and traditionalism is balancing individual choice and

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8. Analyse to what extent does regionalism contribute to the deepening of decentralization in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Regionalism is an ideology where people of a region promote their regional identity which is due to shared language, or culture or even ethnicity.

Regionalism contributes positively to decentralisation in following ways:

- (1) 'upheld Justice' as enshrined in Preamble:
- e.g., political empowerment through regional parties e.g., DMK, etc.
- (2) Preserve autonomy and culture - e.g., Bodoland accord (2020).
- (3) Decentralized Planning - e.g., Ladakh fighting for inclusion in VI schedule.
- (4) 'voice for local': through coalition government in union.
e.g., Demand for special package by Bihar. several initiatives like Mahatma board taken.
- (5) Protection of rights of vulnerable sections.
- e.g., Cauvery water issue - farmers' rights strengthened.

(6) Maintaining uniqueness of a region - e.g., free movement regime Interstate disputes for GI tags for similar products. However,

Limitations of Regionalism do exist that affect effective decentralisation.

(1) Politicisation of issues - for vote bank politics. e.g., overemphasis on language in Maharashtra - affecting economic interests.

(2) 'son of soil doctrine' - to discriminate against people people. e.g., "Mumbai for Maharashtrians"

(3) Centre - state conflict: uneven demands like 'Nagaland', 'Khalistan', 'Gorkhaland'.

(4) Affects welfare of people - e.g., Non-implementation of central schemes like PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman, National Education Policy 2020.

Regionalism must strike a balance with regional aspirations and national integration.

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9. Discuss the potential socio-political implications of implementing a nationwide caste census. (10 marks, 150 words)

A last socio-economic census (2011) was a partial caste census. The planned census in 2025 2026 will include all castes.

socio-political implications of nationwide caste census:

Negative implications:

- i) strengthening of caste identities and caste based politics:
 - thus affecting social cohesion. e.g., demand for reservation by Paridar - Gujarat.
- ii) Right to Privacy - might be affected:
 - sensitive social status data being used for surveillance. e.g., Gram Sakshya, 2011 data often used for identification welfare schemes.
- (iii) Increased intra-caste and intercaste rivalries. - e.g., subcategorisation allowed by Supreme court.
- (iv) Lack of transparency and data management - could cause missing of actual beneficiaries. actual benef

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(v) Regionalism strengthened: e.g., Caste based coalition governments formation.

However, there are possible positive implications too:

(i) Justice: social, political, economic {premise} upheld

e.g., comprehensive data allowing categorisation, sub-categorisation for affirmative actions.

(ii) Evidence based policy formulation:

- e.g., Targeted delivery, effective and economically done.

(iii) Accountability of political executives increased; e.g., vote bank politics leading to what fruits of a particular caste-data study.

(iv) Addressing ~~current~~ current demands - e.g., SC status for converts in Islam and Christianity.

(v) Improved decentralized framing: based on socio-economic fabric at micro level.

A nationwide caste census is the approach to tackle issues to make India a viksit india.

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10. The Lucknow Pact of 1916 was both a high point of Hindu-Muslim unity and a harbinger of future communal divisions. Comment (10 marks, 150 words)

Lucknow pact of 1916 was signed between Indian National Congress (INC) and Muslim League (ML) at annual session of INC @ Lucknow to work as a unit in the national struggle against a foreign power.

Lucknow pact led to a high point in Hindu-Muslim unity because:

- ① move against; 'Divide and rule' followed during 1905 - Bengal division.
- ② Convergence of 2 major Indian political parties - e.g., Muslim League supporting INC agenda and also Home rule League during 1917 (Annie Besant).
- ③ Resolution of differences: M. A. Jinnah and Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Home rule) cooperating for a common cause.
- ④ Internal disputes also settled: e.g., moderates vs Extremists conflict but on background due to a major upheaval.

however, full picture - harbinger of communalism

- ① legitimizing demands of segregation
- e.g. INC recognizing ML being a representative of Muslims.
- ② Communal promotion - e.g. acceptance of demands like separate electorates - led to 1919 Act, 1924 expanding such electorates.
- ③ Impetus to 2-nation theory - future Pakistan:
e.g. INC for others but ML for Muslims
- ④ No mass participation - pact signed by few elites and their short-term wisdom.
- ⑤ Lack of foresight continued with Non cooperation movement (1919-1922) combined struggle with Khilafat (a ~~foreign land's issue~~ and religious issue)
Lutnow pact intended to harmonise contemporary politics of that time but ended up being a double-edged sword. However, its importance inspires to mend ties.

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11. "While the Bhakti and Sufi movements emerged from different religious milieus, their convergence lay in the realm of devotion and dissent." Examine the socio-religious significance of their interaction in medieval India. (15 marks, 250 words)

While Bhakti movement arose in south Indian and Sufism in north, they both converged on common themes like devotion and dissent because of common spirit of harmony, peace, love and compassion.

Convergence of Bhakti and Sufi movements:

- ① Spirituality - being verse of devotion - where rituals, reading of scriptures played no central role.
- ② - e.g., Kabisa' dohas', Nanak, mirabai, etc.
- ② Fight against orthodox - through devotion:
e.g., No intermediaries required to connect with Lord / God etc.
- ③ Role of music, poems, songs -
e.g., mirabai writing 'Ram satah dhan banyo'.

Socio-religious significance of :

① Composite culture arose: in north

India, Islam + Hindu = Sufism,
etc e.g., Pir - both Hindu and Muslims
visited e.g. Ajmer Dargah

② challenge to rigidity: e.g.,

use of common language and emphasis
on - individuality.

e.g.; seeing God as one wished.

③ Promotion of syncretic culture and
egalitarian society → where differences
paid less heed.

e.g., Caste played no role in congregations

④ Peace, communal harmony: e.g.,

Guru Nanak, Sikhism teaching
non-violence.

⑤ Challenge to social structure:

e.g.; Kabir, Ravidas - being perhaps
from lower castes.

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however, there were limit to such influences of both movements

- ① limited integration of rigid social elements → orthodoxy continued in one or other form. e.g., caste discrimination persistent.
- ② Dissolution of spiritual teachings:
e.g., New/old next successor did not follow original bhakti ethics. As more and more ritualism followed.
- ③ Self creations - weakening overall movements. e.g., Lingayat in Karnataka, Varkari in Maharashtra.
- ④ Gender inequality: women not easily accepted as spiritual guru.
e.g., Mirabai, and few female.
- ⑤ Hindu-Muslim harmony not long-term.

Bhakti and sufi movements are reminders of syncretic culture and also form the foundation of spiritual movements hereafter still pouring love.

13. The American Civil War was not just a political conflict but a clash of two divergent economic systems. Substantiate (15 marks, 250 words)

American civil war (1860s) was a fight of ideology, rights but also of 2 different economic systems of north (free labor) and south (slavery based) America.

American civil war - a political conflict

Because:

① Questioned the nature of united States polity → where it to be a strong federal or a union with loose federal principles.

② Formation desired to be a new confederation by south:

e.g. due to threatening by north to their economy.

③ elections of 1860 - where President Lincoln and his party in all support to anti-slavery act represented north economy's interests.

however, beyond polity / economic underpinnings were also contributing to civil war :

① 2 Different Economies

North	Free Labour	Not solely depend on agriculture
South	Slavery	major sector - agriculture plantation based - using slaves.

Thus, south - being kind of armadox whereas north diversified its economy.

② Differences in demand and aspirations of north and south:

North	<u>Demand</u> Policy reforms	<u>emphasis on</u> - industries, free labor, - Tariff policy - Trade
South	Slavery Protection	Free trade demand for agricultural products - protect slavery based agricultural economy

③ Eventually south had to give

up. 1

13th Amendment → Abolished slavery
was north's ideology of free labour
winning over south.

⑤ Dominant model - being northern model

After 13th amendment → south required
to follow model of north.

⑥ model of diversification to transform
from agriculture based economy to
a industry based economy.

Within a same country, north and
south were 2 poles with industrial
capitalism in north and slavery
based inhuman ~~total~~ outdated
agricultural economy.

American civil war is a
reminder of fighting for what is
just and an idea whose time has
come.

14. What are marine heatwaves? Examine the causes of the onset of the summer monsoon in India? How do they influence the onset of the summer monsoon in India? (15 marks, 250 words)

marine heatwave is temperature of sea/ocean above than normal at that particular period time in a season for at least 5 days. This occurs in many when difference / rise is about 3-4 °C.

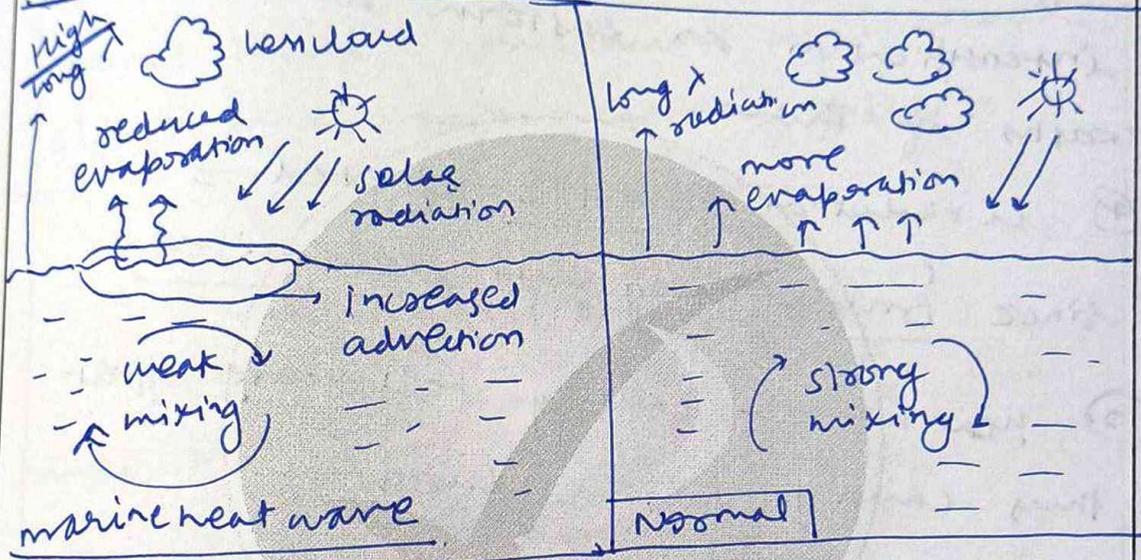
Duration of marine heat wave (MHW) can be from a week to even years causing biodiversity loss and disrupting ocean ecosystem along with global impact.

Causes of marine heat waves:

- ① Increased atmosphere temperature - due to global warming and climate change.
e.g., 2021 = ocean temperature highest ⁱⁿ _{now}.
- ② Global cycle of weather - disturbed
e.g., El Niño (- ENSO cycle), warming period causes less rainfall also.
- ③ Atmospheric stability → because of a high pressure air mass being

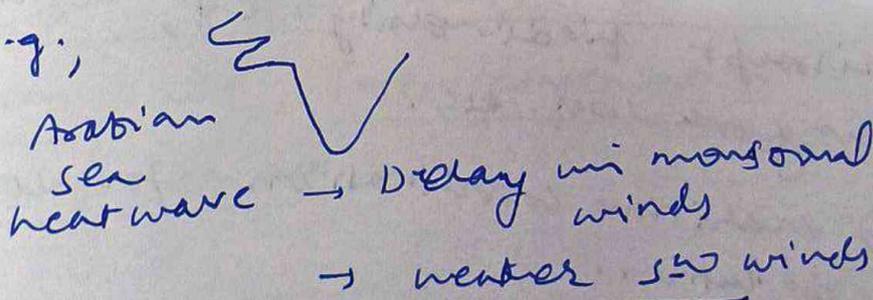
over low pressure air mass.

- ④ Indian ocean dipole (IOD): warmer arabian sea mi - eg; caused coral bleaching in lakshadweep (since 2023).
- ⑤ Inland discharge activities - like warmer industrial waste discharge, etc.



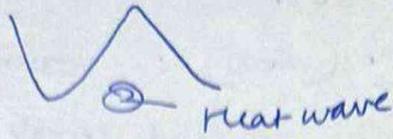
Influence on onset of monsoon {summer July}

- ① marine heat wave area affects temperature gradient required for a normal monsoon onset. e.g;



- ② Erratic rainfall - due to disruption in normal wind direction, pattern and timing.

e.g.,



→ will receive
rainfall in
north-eastern
part from
Bay of Bengal branch

③ may cause disasters -

by macrological - e.g.; cyclone
intensification on eastern and western
coasts of India.

④ circulation of water affected →
since 'troughs' may get desalinated.

⑤ heat wave - causing heat dome effect
thus causing summer disruption.

Way ahead:

① Forecasting: coordinated by WMO, IMD
for

② controlling inlets into oceans - to not
disrupt biodiversity - e.g.; coral bleaching,
mangrove loss, etc.

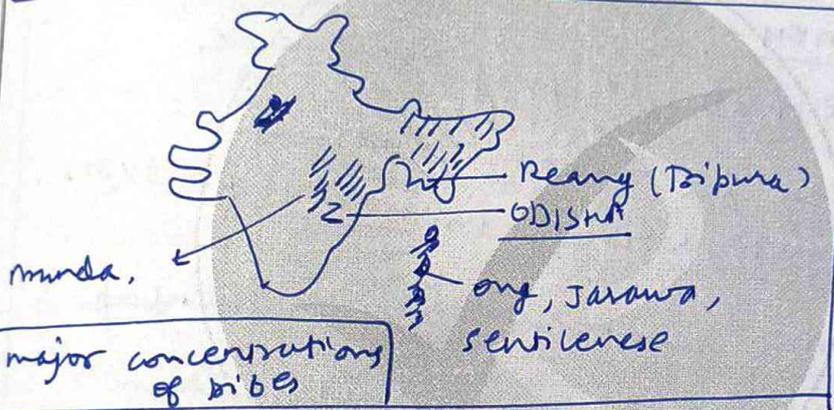
③ Maritime coordination - for controlling
pollution.

India and world need to monitor
the marine ecosystems and work on
their NDGs to avoid climate change's
multiplicities effects like mtw.

Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Reference

15. Assess the effectiveness of tribal development programmes in India. Why do tribal areas continue to experience developmental setbacks, and what are the challenges? (15 marks, 250 words)

After Africa, India has highest tribal population in world (2011 SC = 78% of population), predominantly concentrated in some pockets like central India, Andaman and Nicobar islands and north-eastern parts.



Tribal development programmes and their effectiveness:

① Increased integration with cultural preservation: e.g., Forest conservation act and Forest rights act.

② Improved social outcomes:
e.g., Eklavya schools etc. initiatives improving literacy rate and enrollment.

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③ Reduction in health indicators like ImR and mMR as per latest NPHSS.

④ Improvement in disease treatment and awareness - e.g; 7 crore tribal people screening for Malaria.

⑤ Government schemes for improving business -

e.g; TRIFED helping improve market access for tribal products.
or PM Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJJVM).

⑥ W-ventric schemes: e.g; Standup India, Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMS4) etc.

However, tribal development programmes fail to overcome setbacks prevalent like:

① ST: one of the most economically backward section.

② No strict implementation of FRA 2006 - e.g; recent judgement of 'Rajasthan'

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sacred groves being declared as community forests (bringing under states).

③ Socio-economic indicators: ST usually at last or 2nd last in terms of literacy, health, development, etc.

④ Displacement due to development of infrastructure

e.g; Recent ~~ET~~ FCA → allowing construction for national security projects within 100 km of national borders.

Challenges

- ① Low HDI
- ② Awareness
- ③ Poor FCA, FRA implementation.
- ④ No political willingness to devolve functions to ST tribes, local bodies.
- ⑤ EIA and SIA often failing to bring true picture of impact.
- ⑥ lack of SDGs, ~~EP~~ COP targets along with DPSP + FR of constitution should guide schemes or programmes for tribal development.

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16. "As the world's water towers melt, the risk of water stress increases." Discuss how the Himalayan glaciers' retreat could redefine freshwater availability and regional hydropolitics in South Asia. (15 marks, 250 words)

World's water towers on North pole, South pole, Himalayas and several continental glaciers are melting at a rate where the impact lies beyond regional water availability to global trade, politics and abilities to meet sustainable development goals.

Extent of melting and Impact

- i) 2023 = warmest year
- ii) 33% increase in area of glacial lakes of Himalayas (2011-2021)
- iii) Increased frequency of GLOF in Himalayan region.

Impact of glacial retreat on freshwater availability:

- ① Reduced albedo - causing amplified melting → further loss of glaciers → causing non availability of water.
- ② ↓ Precipitation disturbed.

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Precipitation cycle and distribution making (agriculture, life dependent on rainfall) regional disturbances in water users.

③ Seasonality pronounced → perennial nature of indo-brahmaputra - indian rivers may be affected because of reduced glacial supply.

④ Extreme weathers - causing disasters
e.g.; Extreme snowfall - avalanches, heavy rainfall → cloudburst, etc.

⑤ Ground water exploitation → will enhance and reservoirs may further go to deeper depths.

⑥ Water-related conflicts may further deteriorate situations.

Impact on regional hydro politics

in South Asia:

① Inter country conflicts - over transboundary rivers - e.g.; China building 3-gorge dam, and Brahmaputra water release weaponised.

② International cooperations - e.g.; indus water treaty (IWT) like

agreements.

③ UN conventions - not signed yet
bearing resolutions - a final resort to
some conflict.

④ Hydropower potential - e.g.,
proposed Sushaktini projects may be
frozen etc stalled due to unpredictability
of ~~that~~ weather.

⑤ Way ahead - for water availability

① Nature based solutions - e.g., forestation
to avoid hazards / disasters.

② Water harvesting - a central urban policy.

③ Agriculture reform - ~~water~~ drought
resilient crops.

④ Structural and non-structural measures
for development in LSZ of Himalayas.

For geopolitics

① Diplomacy - Bilateral - e.g., IWT

② Formation of Joint river commissions - e.g., SAARC

③ Information sharing, monitoring,
and preparedness for disasters.
urgent ~~from~~ interstate and intra-state

Cooperation is foundation of saving water
towers.

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17. Despite increasing participation of women in the professional workforce, their presence in top leadership remains minimal. Examine the interplay of societal norms and workplace structures in perpetuating this gender gap.

(15 marks, 250 words)

women workforce which is below 40%. as per Periodic labour force survey faces several socio-political challenges leading to gaps in promotion, pay and performance.

Societal Norms affecting women at workplace.

- i) Education to choice of profession :
e.g., low enrolment in STEM (only 18% women)
- ii) Care economy = employing more women because traditional role of women - ~~care~~ being seen as 'Caring'
- iii) women - suited for creative, soft work - e.g., In human resource department, but sending men on field work.
- iv) women - a burden financially - because - maternity leave, period leave emphasis.
- v) workplace - being male dominated - e.g., very few women CEOs.

(vi) Infrastructure - being male centric -
e.g.; women in Armed forces (e.g.; BSF)
complaining about no women centric
toilets, camps, etc.

(vii) Glass ceiling and glass cliffing:
after women made titular heads or
face where ship is already sinking
sinking.

(viii) Ambitious women being seen as
non-family person:
- e.g.; women delaying marriage or
child birth during their peak of career.

(ix) Successful women stereotyped as
climbing ladder through unfair means -
e.g.; "must have been with boss" remark.
- doubting competence of a woman.

Individual factors that are
due to societal norms:

i) Being a good daughter / wife
- more rewarded than being a
top performer at office.

ii) Am I a bad mother + leaving my child at home → often ~~was~~ making women question their choices.

iii) Society alleging women for any good/bad behaviour of a child e.g., "your mother brought up you well".

iv) Workplace factors - prohibiting women reaching their potential & growth

are:

i) Poor Gender Parity → Gender SDG 5 equal pay for ~~equal~~ men and women denied.

ii) Labour laws or ~~cor~~ corporate laws:

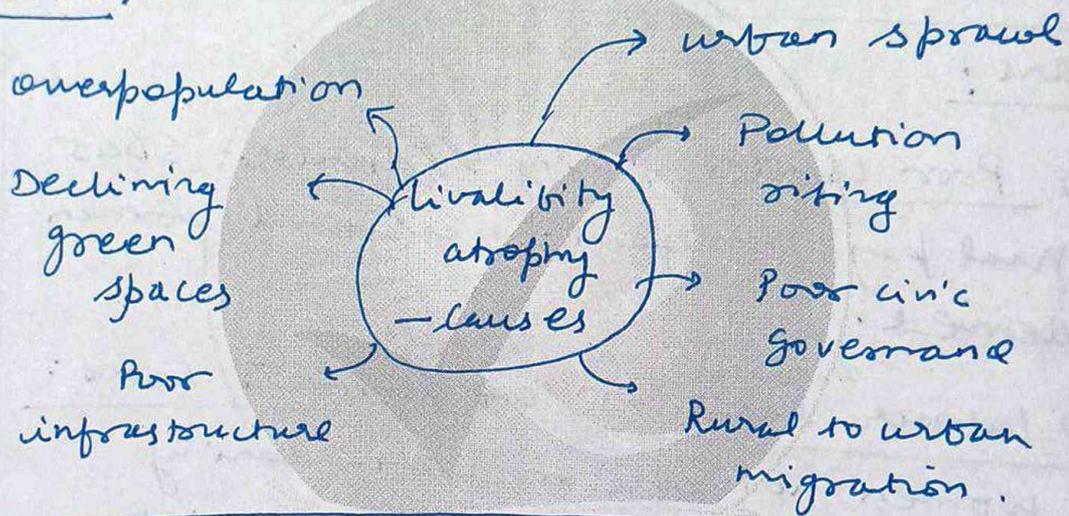
- women not able to work during night. Also, if they work, society making remarks.

iii) No or poor breach facility: Non-implementation of maternity benefit act 2017.

iv) women Bosses - not taken seriously by male colleagues too often, because of patriarchy.
women in professional workforce are a key to propelling India towards inclusivity.

18. The phenomenon of 'livability atrophy' in Indian cities reflects the widening gap between urban expansion and quality of life. Examine the causes and consequences of this trend, and suggest measures to make urban growth more humane and sustainable. (15 marks, 250 words)

8 cities out of 20 most polluted cities are from India, the 7th largest country, world's 3rd largest economy and a country in which by 2050, >50% population will reside in urban areas.



causes of livability atrophy - i.e., reducing livability thus living standards in a city like - poor transportation, housing, drinking water, etc.

- (i) Pollution : AQI of Delhi being 500+ in winters.
- (ii) State migration causing slum formation

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- e.g., 42% of urban Indians live in slums (NSSO, 2018)
- iii) Poor waste management: only 35% of solid waste processed in India.
- iv) Ineffective public transport: only 18 cities having functional metro systems.
- v) Climate change: e.g., ~~2021~~, 2024 heat wave in Delhi.
Flooding in Bengaluru.

Consequences of livability atrophy:

- i) Poor living standards: e.g., Delhi air pollution making lives shorter by 11 years.
- ii) Administrative burdens and complexity arising:
e.g., 7-8 people injured in total municipal overcrowding.
- iii) Poor disaster management:
e.g., Delhi in zone IV of earthquake but lacking for preparedness for it.
- iv) Reducing biodiversity and green spaces - e.g., Ridge forest trees cut in Delhi.

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v) Poor image internationally, affecting tourism, etc.

-e.g; Bryan Johnson living a live podcast in Mumbai due to air pollution.

vi) women safety: → negative impact seen.
e.g; No proper lights, slum around, criminal activities increasing, etc.

Measures to overcome livability atrophy

i) For migration: reforms in agriculture
i.e; PMKSY, PMFBY, PMKISAN
mechanisation, MNREGA, etc.

ii) Focus on Renewable Energy: e.g; PM
Surya Ghar muft bijli yojana, solar
alliance etc.

iii) Innovative solutions for disaster mitigation:
e.g; Miyawaki method for reforestation, flood control, NAP etc.

iv) learn from others for new projects -
e.g; Bulephu city of Bhutan.

v) Use Geospatial, AI, emerging technologies: to map issues and tackle.
-e.g; SMART CITY project, etc.

Turning urban crisis into an opportunity requires union and citizen participation.

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks: