

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT MAINS TEST SERIES SENIORS 2025

General Studies GS1 - Complete Test- 1 Test Code - VR1221510	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:	SAUMYA MEHRA	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT ID.:		Email:
UPSC ROLL NO.:		Submission Date: 7 th Aug 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 - 11:14 PM.	End Time - 2:30 AM.
Mode of Examination	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>

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



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍

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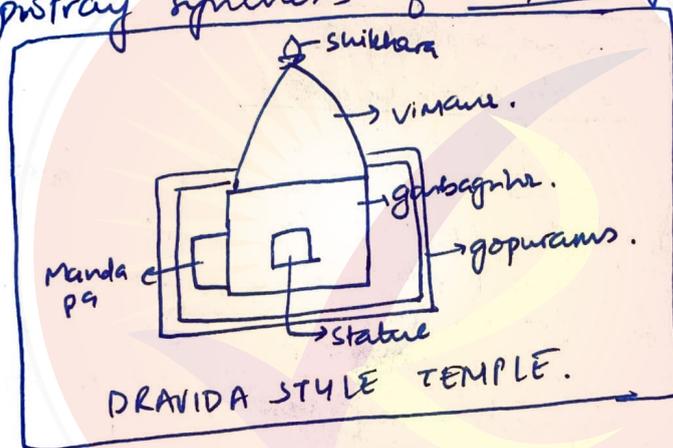
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(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

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 Dravida style temples with the unique gopurams, Nandi statues, gateways represent South Indian temples and portray synthesis of art, religion, polity.

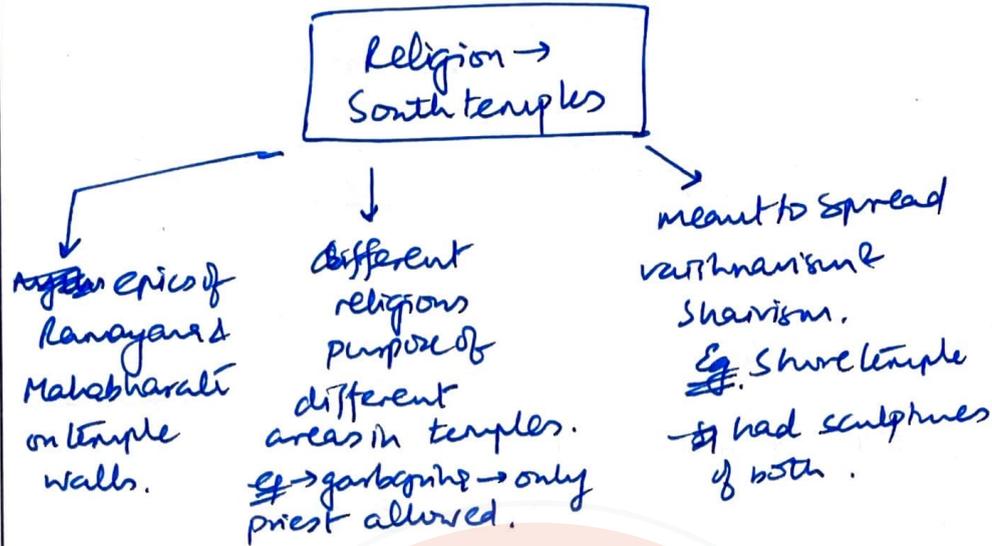


Evolution → art in South Indian temple →

- ①. Intricate sculptures of yakshas, men, women, animals, myth etc.

↳ late stage Bihadshwara temples of Andhra.

- ②. The god statues inside garbhagriha were of sculptural importance.



Thus, the intricacies of South Indian temple reflects much of the synthesis of religion, polity, and art. which becomes all the more the reason to protect them as heritage

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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)

At the time of 6th BC came up many heterodox sects challenging status quo of Hinduism; such as Jainism, Buddhism, Upanishads etc.

Why these new religious ideas came up in 6th century BC.

- ①. Religion reserved for only upper caste due to linguistic exclusivity of Sanskrit.
- ②. Lack of accessibility to religious scriptures created a vacuum filled by such heterodox sects.
- ③. Rise of vaishya middle class spread ideas of non-violence, ahimsa etc that attracted ordinary folk.

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Significant changes to social life

- ① Changes in religious demographic — most of lower castes & classes took up Jainism & Buddhism.
 - ② Sects were developed that didn't mingle with society much — monks
 - ③ Slight decline in Hinduism influence → decline in caste discrimination.
 - ④ Thanks to Ashoka & his edicts → massive empire level change in social life of people.
Eg → not eating non-vegetarian food.
→ not indulging in many celebrations etc.
- however, yet, many things remained same →
- ① Brahmins still had monopoly over scriptures
 - ② & Sanskritisation (MS Smriti) → many lower castes annihilated.

Thus, we see how changes in social life did happen however due to dominant forces & annihilation some aspects remained same.

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

India was brought under the English East-India Company (Battle of Plassey & Buxar) for mainly its profitable reasons, which in 1858, the British government took control of.

Earlier traditional structure of India -

- ①. India's GDP in 1700 even greater than Europe's (around 25% of world)
- ②. handicrafts, cottage industries had far reaching influences (formation of powerful guilds) → also received patronage.
- ③. Extensive trades from its ports like Kozhikode, Tuticorin (West & East Coast) to far off Europe & S.E Asia.
- ④. Traditional village based economy

Monit was reoriented by British

- ①. Imposed ~~tax~~ tariff duties on Indian handicrafts while sold cheap factory made textiles for free. → reduced competitiveness.
- ②. Massively disrupted cropping patterns
Eg. forested lands → now cash crops like indigo for British.
with jhum cultivation
Eg. growing of cotton in Maharashtra, Gujarat.
- ③. Established a vast industrial sector (economy moved from agrarian to industrial)
↳ this was done to mass produce to add to the British exchequer.
- ④. Introduced. Zamindari, Mahalwan, Ryotwari system so now, British middlemen could benefit from severe taxation.
Eg. Cornwallis - Zamindari.
- ⑤. Monopoly in maritime trade by defeating competitors (Dutch, French) by using naval power.

Thus, the British exploited much of India's traditional economy to fit their needs. This is why Gandhi later laid stress on going back to the 'Gramraj' model of economy.

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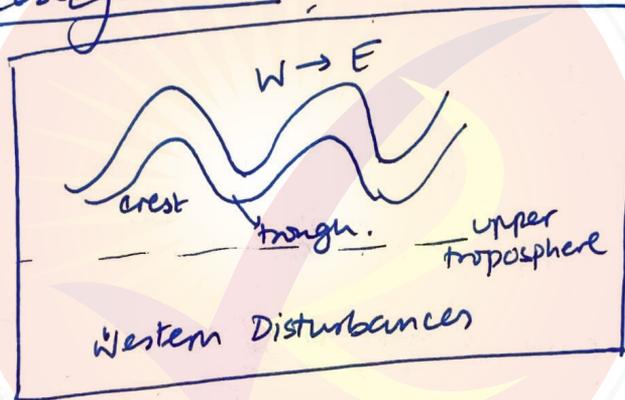
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4. What are Western disturbances? Explain their role in influencing the weather patterns of northern India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Western disturbances are ^{jetstreams} weather meandering ~~swathes~~ ^{of air} that always move from West → East in upper tropospheric layers. They're ~~also~~ called Rossby waves flow above Mediterranean sea in winters.



Formation

Role of Western disturbances → on weather patterns of northern India

- ①. Western disturbances affect North India especially during winters.
- ②. They flow in W → E direction from Mediterranean sea to Northern India.

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③. They gain moisture from Persian Sea etc and finally cause rainfall in North India.

Role of WD → weather patterns

→ Bring rain much needed for kharif crops in Punjab, Haryana.

→ cause sudden drop in temperature and sudden rise just before approaching.

during winters can cause fog, mist & even snow in high latitudes.

Can be accompanied by cyclonic circulations → widespread cloud cover.

Thus, all in all western disturbances cause a marked changes in weather patterns in Northern India during the winters.

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Introduction

Body

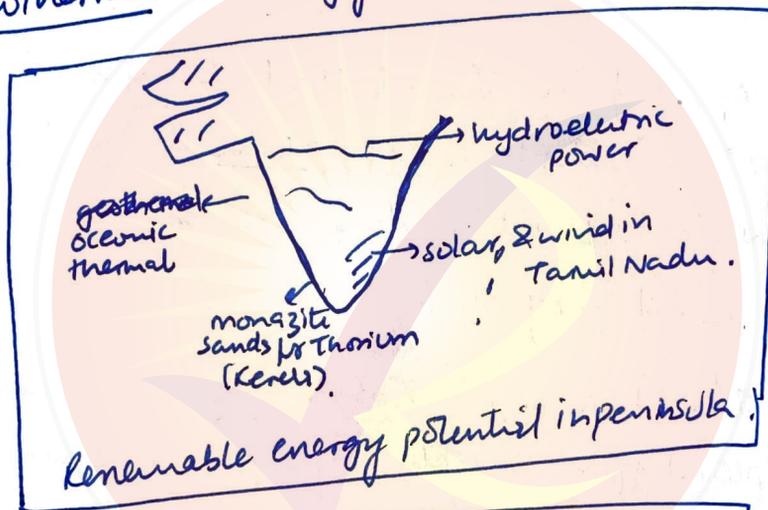
Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

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

Non conventional energy potential of peninsular stretches from ~~sea~~ solar to wind to hydro to even geothermal energy.



Energy potential → peninsular India.

- ①. There is oceanic thermal potential of the coasts (Arabian & ~~Bay~~ Bay of Bengal).
- ②. There are also methyl hydrates found in Godavari, Kaveri delta. It is used as alternative fuel.

③ Monazite sands of the Malabar have potential to make India self sufficient in nuclear fuel (Thorium).

④ has Peninsular India → potential for various HEPs across rivers — Godavari, Kaveri, Krishna etc.

⑤ Apart from Tamil Nadu & Gujarat other states like Karnataka & Andhra ought to be utilised for solar & wind projects.

⑥ Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam nuclear plant offers much potential to become India's 1st fast breeder reactor.

Thus, in a ~~phased~~ gradual manner, India will make use of such resources in peninsular India as a shift towards nonconventional fuels to fulfil NETO Target by 2070 of Panchamrit goals.

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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)

The iron & steel plants of India are mostly located in Eastern & central parts such as Jharkhand (Jharia - oldest), Chhattisgarh, Orissa etc.

Why iron & steel plants → eastern & central parts.

- ①. ~~Area~~ It is the Gondwana land area known for vast lignite & bituminous coal deposits.
- ②. Coal is used as raw material for steel processing hence industries are closer to source for logistics.
- ③. Cheap labour is also available here. (high population density in this region)

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④. ~~Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.~~ Jamshedji Tata envisioned the Jamshedpur city as steel city of India in Jharkhand.

⑤ Also closer to maritime ports →
Ex Kolkata port, Paradip & Vizag

however, lately there has been some diversification.

① opening up of coal blocks in North East India

② Relocating industries of iron & steel to other areas.

Reasons for this → overutilization of mines in these areas.
→ development of areas like North East.

Thus, while Eastern & Central regions have been iron & steel hubs for long, changes must be made wrt. making these industries comply with ~~the~~ pollution rules, waste management rules etc to enhance sustainability.

Introduction

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Presentation

Marks:

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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)

In India now, we see marriage structures changing due to a ~~new~~ new persistence on personal choice above societal obligations.

Why personal choice given weightage

- Globalised values.
- Urbanisation.
- capacity building → leverage to exercise choice.

Socio economic forces → marriage as a personal choice

- ①. Rise in female education + employment → freedom to assert when to marry & who to marry.
- ②. Dilution of caste, class, communal beliefs → personal choice over societal beliefs.
- ③. Transforming ideologies linked to new & contemporary generations

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Eg GenZ's focus more on personal development & consider marriage as optional than an obligation

④. Rapid urbanization → reduces focus on marriage as alliances & inst. important institutions.

⑤. Rising costs of living, lead people to focus more on themselves rather than keeping marriage as a priority.

Potential impact on family structure. -

①. Tilt to neo nuclear families.

②. New & diverse family structures → Double income no kids (DINK), neo nuclear etc.

③. Late marriages,

④. Neo kinship structures: fr. friends living in communal space & taking place of family structures.

Rapid changes especially w/ urbanization & globalisation spur such movements where personal choices triumph societal obligations & change institutions like marriage.

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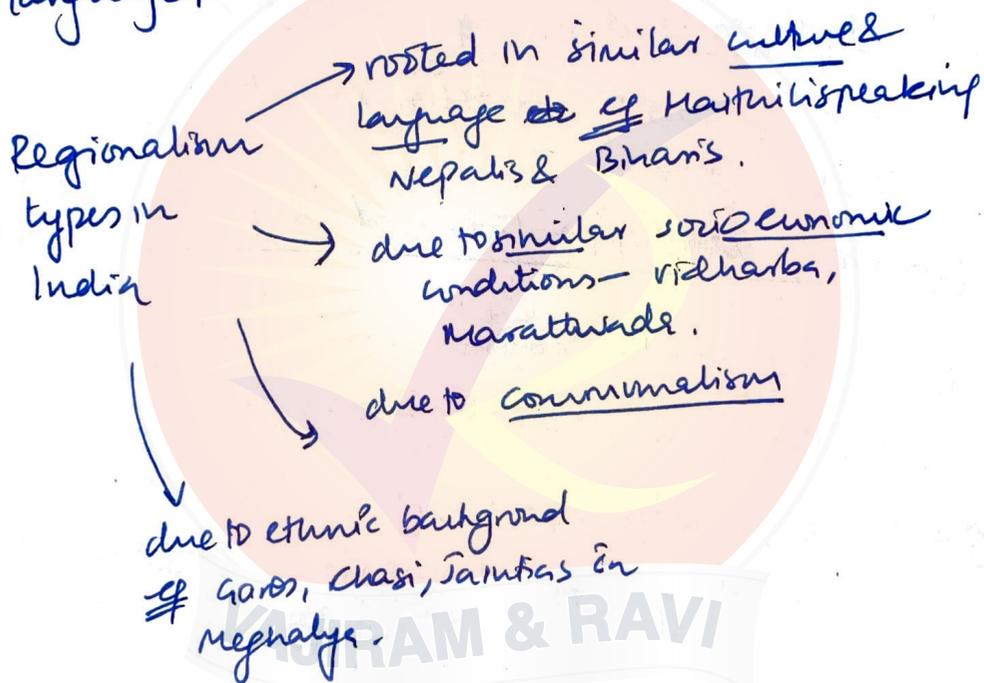
Conclusion

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Marks:

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

Regionalism refers to the coming together of people living in proximity due to common elements → race, language, socio economic conditions etc.



Regionalism → deepening of decentralization in India

- ① leads to increasing asymmetric federalism
eg. customary laws in North East tribal areas.

- ②. Tribal advisory councils, district autonomous council in 5th, 6th schedule areas enforce autonomy, and protect regional rights.
- ③. Rise of regional parties that support interests of regional groups (of caste based, religion based etc → NSCN, etc).
- ④. State govt deciding on reservation for state residents ^{also} decentralization too.
however, the opposite is noted too →
 - ①. President's rule in Manipur following ethnic clashes in Feb 2025.
 - ②. regional groups (especially South India) protesting against hindi imposition.
 - ③. Protests against Bihar's caste census.

A system of checks & balances maintaining principles of quasi federalism is key to both help regionalism in checks as well as to cater to their interests.

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Presentation

Marks:

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

Following the recent census exercised that has been postponed to 2027 due to COVID-19, the caste census issues has raised several questions.

Potential socio political implications -

- ①. Demand for increase in reservations under Article 15 & 16
- ②. Potential questions on increase of 50 % cap of reservations for SCs, STs & OBCs.
- ③. Internal restructuring of caste groups representation in reservation
- ④. Potential following of State of Punjab case 2021 guidelines on creamy layer principle for SCs.

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- ⑤ Change in representation at Panchayats and Urban local bodies.
- ⑥. lead to revised delimitation exercises for redrawing constituencies.
- ⑦. Change massive scale editing & revision of over/under inclusion of beneficiaries (SC, STs) under social welfare schemes.

To address these questions steps can be followed:

- ①. Follow it up with delimitations
- ②. Working on committee to explore reservation benefits (on lines of Mandal Commission)
- ③. Use digital tools like AI to develop accuracy in beneficiary count.

Much of social political doubts and anxieties can be allayed by following strict due process & ensuring transparency & accountability.

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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)

The Lucknow Pact 1916

Came as a result of Hindus, Muslims and Moderates & Extremists coming together after resolving their differences.

Why Lucknow Pact 1916

- Failure of divide & rule
- British indifference to political demands of INC & Muslim League.
- ML's dissatisfaction with re-unification of Bengal.

High point of Hindu Muslim unity

- Muslims banded with INC over dissatisfaction with Britain
- Liberal overtones / influence in ML (Syed Ali Khan).
- INC accepted demand of separate electorate for Muslims in legislative councils.

Harbingers of future communal divisions

① Separate electorates awarded in Government of India Act 1919 → gave Muslims separate identity from rest.

② Rise of sectarian & secessionist demands due to that

③ Pakistan Day on March 23, 1943

④ Insistence on Pakistan with Muslim majority.

The Lichman Part 1926 had a huge butterfly effect on the Indian national movement & its politics which finally commenced as Partition in 1945 of India & Pakistan.

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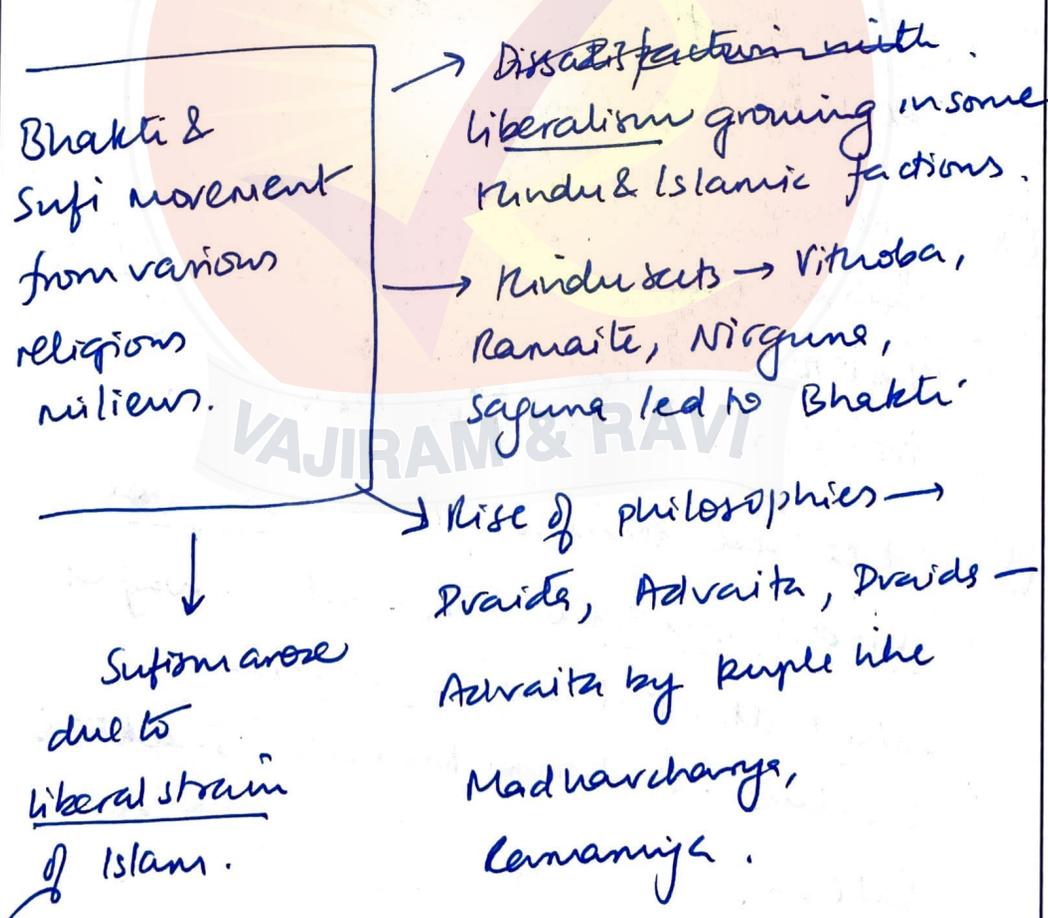
Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

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)

Bhakti & Sufi movements both arose near to 14th & 15th century all over India & found maximum convergence of Indian ideas in Northern India due to various religious milieus.



Convergence → devotion & dissent.

- ①. Extreme devotion exhibited by personalities gave rise to Bhakti.
 - ↳ Nizamuddin Auliya
 - ↳ Mirabai for Krishna.
 - ↳ Namdev, Tukaram → Vaishnavite.
- ②. Rise of religious ecstasy for god as a common factor b/w Sufism & Bhakti.
 - ↳ "Same" and "Kirtanas" devotional songs of Sufism & Shankaradeva evoked ecstasy for god.
- ③. Dissent against dominant, materialistic den. denominations : Islam & Hinduism that revered patronage, parash in traditions, idolatry in Hinduism etc.
- ④. Preached similar ideas of oneness, non discrimination (Tahdat-ul-Wajud) which attracted lower castes from Hinduism & Islam towards Bhakti & Sufism.

Religious significance →

- ①. led to much rise in ~~the~~ harmony between the 2 religions.
- ②. Inspired figures like Arjun to contribute to ~~the~~ convergence of 2 religions (new religion - Din-i-Ilahi).
- ③. Rise to of literary works & historical works → shlokas, ritanams etc that still hold religious significance.
- ④. Decentering from sanskrit towards local regional languages - Avadhi, Brij etc.
- ⑤. Celebration of festivals together.
Eg. Barabakhi ~~is~~ in Nizamuddin Auliya ^{Dargah} by both Hindus & Muslims in Delhi still celebrated.

Thus, much of the convergence of Sufism & Bhaktism happened in the medieval ages the effects of which we still see in this day & age.

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Marks:

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12. Contrast the approaches of Sardar Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru in handling princely states and regional integration. How did their differing visions shape the evolution of the Indian Union? (15 marks, 250 words)

Both Sardar Patel & Nehru had differing ways of consolidating the vast empire of free India post-
15th August 1947.

Sardar Patel →

①. Princely states.

↳ pan India tour → requesting princely states to sign instrument of accession

↳ handling resistant princely states with force.

eg police action in Hyderabad.

↳ dealing with sensitive areas like Kashmir with fact & diplomacy

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②. Regional integration.

↳ equipped a strong civil services with ability to handle regional turmoil.

Jawahar Lal Nehru →

①. ~~Dr.~~ J. Nehru presided over the States Committee (important Major Committee of Constituent Assembly).

②. worked more at a central level strengthening centralising features to establish law & order & control over states & UTs.

③. Created States Reorganisation Commission in 1953 to further consolidate states & regions.

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Differing vision → shape evolution of Indian Union

① Use of soft diplomacy & force:
Strategic tools of Patel helped ~~win~~ create a contiguous India

②. Nehru's centralising political vision → helped establish strong centre.
Truly an Indian Union made of destructible states.

③. Together → worked towards complementing aspects of consolidating India & shaping it.

Thus both Nehru & Patel, the 1st Prime Minister and the 1st Home Minister of India helped consolidate India as ~~destruct~~ an indestructible Union of destructible states.

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

The American Civil War took place between 1861-65 largely between the Northern & Southern states of USA.

Why it emerged -

- ①. Slavery issue (Abolitionists in the North & Non abolitionists in the South).
- ②. Overdependence on slaves of agrarian South → refusal to let go of slavery.
- ③. Refusal

However it was also a political conflict -

- ①. Secessionist tendencies of the South (Confederacy of the South)
- ②. Political tussle on human rights of Black people.

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Clash of two divergent economic systems

- ①. Clash → States too dependent on slavery to sustain agrarian economy
- ②. Industrialisation skewed more towards the north → railroads linked East & West America.
- ③. Tensions & differences on taxes, tariff rates etc.
- ④. North — wanted tax on British imports.
South — tax free trade with Britain.

→ The war then finally broke out with the Northern States proclaiming victory

↓

Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg address

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Impact of American Civil War →

- ① Put an end to slavery as an institution.
↳ though notorious Jim Crow laws in South came through.
- ②. More use of machines — Industrialisation spread.
- ③ Rise of dissatisfied factions like the racist — Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
- ④. Rise of literature movements → writings on slavery (e.g. Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn).
- ⑤. Inspiration to other countries to abolish slavery.

The American Civil War was a necessary evil that didn't just abolish slavery but led to a permanent political & economic restructuring.

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Marks:

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

Marine heatwaves are caused due to sudden heating of marine water bodies (above 27°C) in summers. They impact the weather conditions in peninsular India.

Causes of Increasing frequency of marine heatwaves →

- ①. Climate change & increase in global warming → heating up of oceans & seas.
- ②. Increasing green house gases due to anthropogenic reasons, especially fossil fuels used in maritime trade.
- ③. Erratic cycles of ENMO2 La Nina in the Indian Ocean.

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- ④. Rise in ocean acidification raising temperatures.
- ⑤. Increase in maritime traffic → impacting temperatures.
- ⑥. Erratic outflow of peninsular rivers in Arabian sea & Bay of Bengal impacting temperatures.

how they influence → onset of summer monsoon

- ①. Increase in heatwave intensity → creates higher low pressure →
- ② leads to early onset of monsoons
- ③ changing/erratic frequency of monsoons maritime heatwaves → erratic dry & wet spells of monsoons.
- ④ leads to floods & droughts →
e.g. varanasi - droughts

Other effects of marine heatwaves

- harm to marine life → harms farmer's incomes
- increasing ocean warming → decrease in dissolved oxygen
- increasing acidification.

↓
impact on cyclone formation.

How to curb effect of marine heatwaves

- ①. Shift towards ~~agrees~~ green practices in maritime sector.
Eg Green Tug Transition Programme.
Hait Dhara guidelines.
- ②. Strict enforcement of emission norms on industries.
- ③. Carbon Trading & green credit rules
- ④. Enforce Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines

Marine heatwaves don't just impact land under sea (SDG-14) but has further impacts on the land too (SDG-15).

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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)

Recently, the government in Union Budget announced programme on tribal welfare (DATAUA) in order to improve effectiveness of tribal welfare programmes.

Effectiveness of tribal development programmes

Positives	Negatives
<p>① able to run drives on <u>Anaemia</u> <u>Mukht Bharat</u></p> <p>② Increased awareness wrt digital literacy.</p>	<p>① lack of last mile connectivity.</p> <p>② lack of understanding of unique demands.</p> <p>③ digital illiteracy.</p>

④. Scholarship programmes & reservation under M-138 16 → upliftment of tribals.

④. AI tag to recognise tribal knowledge

④. High prevalence of diseases like HIV, anaemia etc.

⑤. Lack of poor digital connectivity.

Continuance of develop mental setbacks & challenges.

①. Social resistance to changes → digital literacy campaigns etc.

②. Myths, superstitions wrt vaccination drives (anti vax sentiments) → high disease load continues.

③. In areas hit by Naxalite forces increasing burden of lack of connectivity (digital, physical-road, etc) transport -

④. Bureaucratic red tapism & complacency

- Trickle down effect criticism.

④. Corruption & money laundering - lack of devolution of funds to tribal areas.

⑤. Lack of needs based, whole of govt approach → different ~~to~~ ~~schem~~ implementation for different tribal groups.

The Way Forward. -

①. Implementation of PM JANMAN overarching scheme for tribal development.

②. Implement PM-DIJGUA scheme ensuring last mile connectivity.

③. Rapid digital literacy, health awareness programs with whole of govt approach (cope in ~~in~~ NGOs, CSR initiatives)

④. Ensure current tribal generations - access to education, latest digital tools, scholarships etc.

⑤. Celebrate social & cultural festivals & spread awareness (Birsa Munda Diwas)

Tribal welfare is an important tenant of Bharatiya model of Inclusive development.

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Marks:

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 hydrogeopolitics in South Asia. (15 marks, 250 words)

The world's water towers or glaciers are fast melting faster than ever before and can cause risk of water stress.

Melting of glaciers → ↑ water stress →

- ①. Causes floods, cloudbursts etc → interferes with aquifers.
- ②. Overutilization of groundwater → eminent water stress.
- ③. Rise in sea level.
- ④. ~~is~~ Imbalance in groundwater aquifers.

Himalayan glaciers retreat → impact on freshwater availability + hydro politics

① Freshwater availability →

↳ change in water content in perennial rivers of Himalayas (Gange, Yamuna)

↳ cause floods, landslides etc → disturbance in water aquifers

↳ overutilization ^{of irrigation.} in crop growth in

North India → further increase water stress

↳ overconsumption of freshwater also exacerbated by urbanization.

② Hydro politics →

↳ water sharing issues between India & Pakistan

↳ need to revisit Indus Water Treaty 1960

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↳ disputes on Kalapani issue with Nepal
↳ erratic hydroelectric power → issues on
cross country electricity treaties with
Bhutan & Nepal (ARUN BEP).

Way Forward —

- ①. Early warning system using GIS + satellite
- ②. Data sharing with SAARC countries.
- ③. Treaties to be formed similar to Indus Water Treaty
- ④. Fair & equitable sharing of water across borders.

Thus, the need of the hour is both environmental in nature (consent Panchamrit Principles) as well as political (consent Helsinki Principles)

Introduction

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Marks:

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)

Due to urbanization & increase in female literacy, ~~the~~ women's LFPR is rising (~40%) in India especially in professional workforce.

Why increasing participation → professional workforce

- ①. Rise of female literacy, Gross Enrolment ratio, and urbanization.
- ②. Changing family & societal attitudes — from patriarchal to feminist.
- ③. Professional workplaces laying justified emphasis on diversity in workplace — hiring more women.

Presence in top leadership → minimal -

- ①. The presence of women in upper management & CEO roles is diluted.
- ②. Upper management roles require high amount of work experience which in case of women might get disrupted due to maternal leaves etc.
- ③. Unfriendly conditions at workplace of harassment might deter women from continuing working.
- ④. Persistent societal expectations from women to lay emphasis on marriage.
- ⑤. Triple burden of care → dissuades women from leadership roles.
- ⑥. Misogynistic attitudes of male dominated leadership wanting to preserve their roles.

Interplay of structures → societal norms + workplace →

- ①. Sexist- expectations from women regarding

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marriage, child care etc. & deter companies.

- ②. ~~low~~ loose implementation of POSH Act (Prevention of sexual harassment Act).
- ③. ~~lack~~ lack of assistance during night shifts + families dissuading women from doing night shifts
- ④. Unwelcoming attitudes of men in leadership roles towards women & "old boys club" - keeping women out societally.

Way Forward.

- ① Strict implementation of POSH Act, formation of Internal Complaints Committee
- ② Diversity workshops & training to women for top leadership roles
- ③ Assistance to women in night shifts
- ④ Shift in attitudes both within & outside workplaces

Increasing participation of women can raise GDP by ~ 10% if equality in LFPR is achieved.

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Marks:

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)

livability atrophy refers to loss of living standards due of urban residents due to increasing ^{backward} ~~gap between~~ urban expansion. Nearly 40% of income goes towards rent in Tier I cities

Causes of livability atrophy →

- ①. Increasing urban expansion is skewed in India (as per World Bank).
- ②. Leads to skewed quality of life → Good income but bad public infra.
- ③. Industrialization is leading to poor air quality ₹ in Delhi (>1000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in winters).
- ④. Bureaucratic apathy towards public deterioration of public infra due to urban expansion.

Consequences —

- ①. Urban → ~~to~~ Urban migration → moving from Tier 1 to Tier 2, > cities.
e.g. Delhi residents building homes in Dehradun.
- ②. Increase in development of "gated colonies" → these areas are walled off from skewed urban stresses and offer qualitative infra & quality of life
- ③. Change in consumption patterns
↳ increase in AC sales, car purchases, much of economy goes on health towards health.
- ④. Rise in slum areas (~50% of Delhi & Mumbai → urban slums) → scarcity of resources → further push into poverty.
- ⑤. ~~has~~ Decline in Happiness Index → due to compromises in quality of life at the cost of urbanization

Measures → humane + sustainable urban growth

- ①. Implement PM-Awas-U yojana, Sal Sevan Mission, strengthen URBs to reach urban poor areas.
- ②. Encourage electric vehicles, E-rickshaw Blended petrol → ease Air quality.
- ③. Strengthen urban local bodies to manage & maintain robust public infra.
- ④. Deploy IUDX - India's urban data sustainable exchange for policy decisions on urban development.
- ⑤. A responsive, interactive service model of e-governance of CPGRAMS for urban grievance redressal.

Thus, in order to fulfill SDG-11 (Sustainable cities) we must consider the issue of livability city

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Marks:

19. Define transnationalism and examine the factors that have led to the increasing global interconnectedness of diaspora communities. (15 marks, 250 words)

Transnationalism refers to the theory which states that interactions extend beyond borders creating connections b/w individuals, & groups across countries

Factors → increasing global interconnectedness of diaspora communities

- ①. Faster than ever telecom connectivity. 5G deployed & 6G to follow → fosters digital connectivity
- ②. Globalization → blurring borders → people showing interest in cultures of others. Eg Yoga Day celebrated worldwide
- ③. Diaspora communities interacting with homeland communities

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and fostering bonds over shared culture & nostalgia.

- ③. Due to acceptance of diversities → diaspora coming closer to their roots & feeling proud of it
- ④. Programmes like VIBHAV fellowship attracting diaspora back to India.
- ⑤. Niche communities on social media → unite diaspora communities bond over interests (movies, food, culture, religion etc)
- ⑥. ~~Its~~ Administrative changes → Increasing ease of Overseas documentation for Overseas Indian Citizens → increasing mobility & connectedness.

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Transnationalism of this scale finds significance in:

- ① Rising remittances to India. (highest per world bank).
- ② Rise in soft power development of India.
- ③ Lobbying for Indian interests overseas.
- ④ Increasing religious & cultural connectivity of ISKCON groups popular in Western countries.

~~Thus, because India is a follower of rasadharma kutumbakam, the Indian diaspora~~ The increasing interconnectivity of ~~India~~ Diaspora across the world is testament to increasingly peaceful world.

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Marks:

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20. Communalism in India, rooted in historical legacies and socio-economic inequalities, continues to undermine social cohesion and national integration. Discuss with examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

Communalism → rooted in historical legacies & socio economic inequalities makes it difficult to eliminate from the social fabric of India.

Communalism → historical legacies

① Divide & Rule policy of British → communal tensions b/w Hindus & Muslims

② Rise of ~~fund~~ religious fundamentalism & communal based killings post-independence

③ Communalism → socio economic inequalities

①. Unequal development of different religions due to neglect, religious tensions. ≠ ghettoisation in Muslim dominated areas.

②. Social evils → casteism, ~~and~~ resistance to integrate, etc leads to communalism too.

③. Undermine social cohesion + national integration

① lead to communal riots → ↓ social cohesion ≠ Shahmar Bagh riots in 2020.

②. Denying basic right to shelter ≠ Ahmedabad (2025) - denying Muslim doctor home in Hindu dominated area.

③. Sets bad precedent w/ national cohesion - undermines fundamental duty ≠ of brotherhood (Article 51)

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Way forward -

- ①. Value education in school spreading notions of love & peace & tolerance.
- ②. Development of ~~and~~ various religions minorities.
 - ↳ redevelopment of urban areas.
 - ↳ minority educational institutes to preserve their rights.
 - ↳ demand of Article 19 & Article 21, 25, 26 27 etc → freedom to religion.
- ③. Take up case laws & related to minority rights.
 - eg. ongoing Sameer Begum Case vs UOI
 - eliminating
 - Thus communalism is key to social & national cohesion and asserts ~~basic~~ secular values per Preamble.

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Marks: