



VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

GENERAL STUDIES - 1

Civil Services (Main)

Examination, 2023

Model Answers

Q.1) Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India.**(10 Marks, 150 Words)**

Answer: Geographical features played a pivotal role in shaping the development of Ancient India. It profoundly influenced human economic and technological activities and trade interaction with distant regions from the Harappa to the Satavahanas period.

Geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India

- **Rivers:** Rivers have been central to the establishment of various civilisations and some of the mighty empires.
 - **Indus Valley civilisation** was based on the Indus and its tributaries.
 - Vedas mention ancient rivers like **Saraswati and Ganga**. Vedic civilisation flourished around the rivers of Punjab and later shifted eastwards along the Ganga-Yamuna river system.
 - The fertile plains of the **Ganga River System** led to a surplus of agriculture, which led to social, political and economic developments.
 - The rivers were used for transportation as well, making them useful for the mobilisation of the army and economic goods. **For example**, Pataliputra was known as **Jaladurga** (water fort) due to transportation through rivers.
 - In later periods also, rivers proved to be important in trade and transportation.
- **Mountains:**
 - The mountain ranges, such as the Himalayas, acted as natural barriers for **foreign invasions** as well as a natural cultural divide.
 - According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, the mountain systems were used for extraction of resources.
 - The Vindhyas acted as a natural cultural divide between the North and South which led to a flourishing culture in both the areas.
- **Land and Sea trade routes:**
 - Trade routes such as **Uttarapatha** and **Dakshinapatha** facilitated economic as well as cultural contacts.
 - The vast oceans connected the ports, thus influencing trade and economic, cultural, and political contacts.
 - These land and sea routes also paved the way for the spread of various ideas, philosophies, and religions.
 - **For example, Buddhism** spread through silk routes to Central Asia and China, and to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia through sea trade routes.
- **Forests:** The forest system provided vast timber, which was used in the construction of palaces, leading to political growth.
- **Passes:** There are some important passes through which interaction with western, central and northern Asia has been maintained since time immemorial.
 - These passes facilitated the foreign invasions into India, especially from Northwest India.
 - **Examples: Persians, Graeco-Romans, etc.**
- **Monsoon:** The monsoon helped in establishing trade relations with Arabs and the Graeco-Romans.
 - The trade, in turn, helped in developing cultural relations as well.



Thus, we can say that the Indian subcontinent, with its well-defined natural barriers, exemplifies how geography influenced the evolution of this ancient civilisation.

Q.2) What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer: Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, two prominent figures in India's struggle for independence, brought distinct perspectives to the fields of education and nationalism. Their unique approaches had a profound impact on the shaping of modern India.

Approach towards Education:

Mahatma Gandhi:

- **Basic education:** Gandhi advocated and emphasised the **idea of basic education**, emphasising skills that would be directly useful to the masses, such as farming and handicrafts. One of his notable contributions in this regard was the promotion of the **Nai Talim** or **Basic Education System**.
- **Values:** He advocated for an education system that drew from Indian cultural and moral values, seeking to reconnect Indians with their rich heritage. He emphasised on character-building.
- **Self-reliance:** Gandhi advocated for education as a means to make people self-reliant and self-sufficient. **For instance**, he popularised the spinning wheel as a symbol of self-sufficiency and economic empowerment during the freedom struggle.

Rabindranath Tagore:

- **Internationalism:** Tagore's perspective on education was cosmopolitan and focused on nurturing a global outlook. He founded **Visva-Bharati University** to combine Indian traditions with international values.
- **Holistic development:** Tagore encouraged self-expression, creativity, and individualism, fostering an environment that celebrated freedom of thought and expression. For instance, he promoted exploring arts, literature, and nature. He founded schools and a university in Santiniketan, which aimed to focus on holistic educational development and intercultural understanding.

Approach towards Nationalism:

Mahatma Gandhi:

- **Non-violence:** Gandhi's nationalism was centred on non-violence and satyagraha, advocating for India's independence without resorting to violence. Gandhi believed that non-violence was the most effective way to achieve Indian independence. He led several mass movements against the British, including the Non-Cooperation movement and the Quit India Movement.
- **Inclusive:** Gandhi emphasised the inclusion of all sections of society, including the marginalised, in the nationalist movement. For greater mass participation, he promoted Hindu-Muslim unity and upliftment of Dalits through his constructive programme.

Rabindranath Tagore:

- **Humanistic approach:** Tagore's approach to nationalism was more **cosmopolitan and humanistic**. He criticised narrow nationalism, which he believed could lead to intolerance and chauvinism. His contribution to nationalism is reflected in his composition of national anthems for both India and Bangladesh.
- **Global perspective:** He believed that nationalism should be inclusive and should respect the diversity of cultures and religions. Tagore's internationalist perspective advocated global cooperation and understanding.

Both Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore had differing approaches to education and nationalism. These differing perspectives enriched India's intellectual and cultural heritage and continue to influence the nation to this day, reflecting the diversity of thought within the independence movement.

Q.3) Bring about the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer: Railways were introduced in the early 19th century in Britain, as a product of the Industrial revolution. Later, it was expanded in other regions such as the rest of Europe, North America and their colonies including India. This introduction brought about both the economic and social effects, depending on the nature of state and economy.

Economic effect:

- **Economic growth and development:** Railway encouraged economic growth and development by extending geographical reach of markets and labour mobility thereby **catalysing Industrialisation**.
 - **For Example**, the United Kingdom during the Industrial Revolution.
- The rapid expansion of railways transformed the economy by enabling the **efficient transport of coal, raw materials, and finished goods**.
- Advances in travel and transport helped **drive settlement** in the western regions of North America and were integral to the **nation's industrialization**.
- It also facilitated the **enhanced mobility** between industrial regions. **For example**, railway in Canada gained more economic significance when it connected the Quebec-Montreal Industrial Region with the wheat belt of the Prairie Region and the coniferous forest region in the north.
- Railway itself is a great venture, **offering employment** to millions of people across the world.
- By connecting human settlements across the wider stretch of railway, the service stimulated urban-suburban linkages. For example, **Trans-Siberian Railway** is a major rail route of Russia that runs from St. Petersburg in the west to Vladivostok on the Pacific Coast. It has helped in opening up **its Asian region to West European markets**.

Social effect:

- **Cultural diffusion:** High mobility enabled by railway offered swift propagation of ideas and culture.
- **Acted as a catalyst in the freedom movement:**
 - Introduction of railways in different colonies including India acted as a catalysing force of nationalistic feelings.
 - **Mahatma Gandhi** once observed that the Indian railway brought people of diverse cultures together to contribute to India's freedom struggle.
- **Urbanisation:** Enhanced economic activities enabled by railway gave rise to many urban centres.
- **Information carrier:** Railways decrease the information gap between various regions by carrying newspaper and other print media to remote regions.
- **Impacting dietary pattern:**
 - The railways offered cost efficient transportation, which in turn lowered the costs of goods.
 - The distribution and sale of **perishable goods** such as meat, milk and vegetables were transformed, giving rise to far greater variety in people's diets.
- **Enabling Migration:** Ease of mobility enabled access to new settlements and humanisation of new regions.

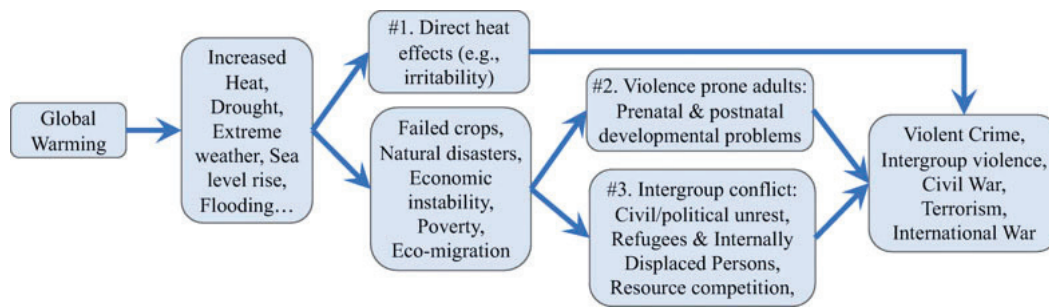
Hence introduction of railways transformed socioeconomic and cultural aspects of not just India but also shaped the socio-economic landscape of the world.

Q.4) Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries.**(10 Marks, 150 Words)**

Answer: According to IFPRI's Global Food Policy Report 2022, around 70 million people are at risk due to climate change-induced hunger, with 28 million people will be from regions like Eastern and Southern Africa.

Impact of Climate Change on Food Security in Tropical Countries:

- **Forest degradation:** Rising temperatures and reduced rainfall lead to more forest fires in tropical forests like the Amazon. This damages the forest, making future fires more likely, creating a destructive cycle of degradation and permanently changing into shrubland. This impacts the livelihood of the people dependent on these forests.
- **Double Vulnerability: Smallholder Farmers and High Population Density :** Smallholder farmers in tropical regions, coupled with high population density, face amplified challenges from climate change. They often lack resources and technology needed to adapt, magnifying the impact on food security.
 - According to World Bank, 80% of those most vulnerable to climate-induced hunger and crop failures reside in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, exacerbating the vulnerability of the poor.
- **Complex interdependencies among climate change, political instability, and poverty:** Tropical areas like Africa are already grappled with these complexities. Climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, leading to food and water scarcity, displacement, and economic setbacks.



- **Decline in Crop Yields:**

- Rising temperatures and increased evaporation in the tropical areas, decreases the soil moisture which impacts the crop productivity
 - » According to IPCC 2nd AR, one-third of the land is already degraded and by 2050, Rice and maize production will be reduced upto 20-30%.
- Nations like India, Nigeria, Brazil, Indonesia will face slowed agricultural growth, raising food availability concerns.

- **Loss of Arable Land:**

- **Sea-level rise, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion and flooding** makes agricultural lands unusable in tropical coastal areas and small islands.
- Countries like Bangladesh, Philippines, Fiji etc. with large coastal populations face risks of **permanent loss** of fertile lands and freshwater sources.
- **Migration and loss of livelihood** for farmers accelerates food insecurity for the poor who have limited alternate means of income generation.

- **Changing Growing Seasons:** A rise in global temperatures is causing trees and plants to produce fruit earlier or later than before — throwing off the species that feed on them, including humans.

- **Reduced water availability and soil degradation:**

- **Increased rainfall variability**, shrinking glaciers and reduced river flows due to higher evaporation decrease water availability for irrigation in tropical countries.
- Water scarcity will directly limit crop production in tropical agricultural zones which often lack developed irrigation infrastructure.
 - » **For example**, rain-fed agriculture employs 60% of India's farmers.

- **Increased Pests and Diseases:** According to the FAO, upto 40 percent of food crops are lost to plant pests and diseases each year. Pests thrive in warm and humid tropical climate, impact the food security of the region.

- The recent invasion of desert locusts throughout the horn of Africa, shows the vulnerability of crops to pests.

- **Threats to Fisheries:**

- **Ocean warming and acidification** harm fish breeding, habitats, and stock distribution. This hits tropical countries like India, Indonesia, and Malaysia dependent on marine fisheries.
- Impacts **nutrition security** as they are the source of **micronutrients** and **protein** for the poor.

The UNFCCC-COP27 recognized that safeguarding food security and ending hunger is a **fundamental priority**. It also focused on **nature-based solutions**, such as restoring forests and wetlands, in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Q.5) Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer: The demand for freshwater is far higher than the current availability of water in the very large population of the world. According to the UN SDG 2022, about 2 billion people worldwide don't have access to safe drinking water today.

Reasons for the crisis of availability and access to freshwater resources:

- **Climate Change:** Changed weather and water patterns around the world, leading to the droughts in some regions and floods in others, reduced water availability.
 - **For example: Rising sea levels and storm surges** caused by intensifying tropical cyclones result in saline intrusion in coastal areas, further diminishing freshwater resources.

- **Growing Population:** The world's population, now at 7.5 billion, is projected to add 2.3 billion more people by 2050, creates more water stressed conditions.
 - **For example:** According to the United Nations World Water Development Report 2023, around 80% of people living under water stress lived in Asia.
- **Overexploitation of groundwater:** It has reduced the level of groundwater due to rapid urban agglomeration and industrial development and also leads to seawater intrusion into coastal districts, damaging the quality of groundwater.
 - **For example:** In 2050, India's per capita water availability will only be 22% of the current level if the present rate of groundwater depletion persists.
- **Deforestation:** Deforestation reduces water infiltration, and increases erosion, which raises sediment levels and turbidity, leading to poorer water quality and higher drinking water treatment costs.
 - **For example:** Over the past 50 years, 17% of Amazon rainforests have been lost due to deforestation, causing the ecosystem to reach an irreversible tipping point.
- **Pollution:** Pollution makes water unfit for various uses and decreases the availability of freshwater.
 - **For example:** Delhi generates approximately 76% of the total pollution load in the river Yamuna, which turns the river into a 'sewage drain'.
- **Agriculture:**
 - Monoculture practices due to focus on input intensive crops (wheat, rice & sugarcane).
 - **Poor agro-ecological planning** i.e. wrong set of crops being promoted in different regions e.g sugarcane and rice in water-scarce areas.
 - **Virtual Water export:** Skewed focus on water guzzling crops like rice, wheat, sugarcane etc. despite water scarcity.

Way forward:

- **Sustainable water management by** improving water infrastructure, solar desalination, and smart irrigation systems.
- **Pollution control & better sewage** treatment practices should be considered.
- **Rainwater harvesting and recycling of wastewater** will help reduce scarcity and ease pressures on groundwater.
- **AWARe (Action on Water Adaptation or Resilience) initiative at COP27:** To foster inclusive cooperation in addressing **water-related challenges and climate change adaptation solutions.**

Q.6) How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer:

A fjord is a long, narrow valley with steep sides filled with seawater. These are geomorphic features developed at or near the coast where marine waters enter inland through over-steeped glacial valleys with high-walled rocks. They are found mainly in Norway, Greenland, Chile, New Zealand, Canada, and the U.S. state of Alaska.

Formation of Fjords

- A fjord is created where glaciers cut into a previously created river valley (often V-shaped) or a glacier-shaped valley (usually U-shaped).
- Many such valleys were formed by ice age glaciers when the sea level was significantly lower than today because large amounts of water were tied up in the large ice masses on land.
- Towards the end of each ice age, the climate warmed and the glaciers melted back.
- When the glaciers melted at the end of the last ice age, the sea level rose considerably. This caused the valleys to fill with water and create fjords.

Factors that Contribute to Fjords' Picturesque Nature

- **Stunning Scenery:** Fjords are hidden gems that offer visitors serene scenery and landscapes.
 - For example: The UNESCO-listed Geirangerfjord of Norway, is characterised by towering cliffs carpeted

with vegetation and features several waterfalls.

- **Reflection of light:** The interplay of light and shadow across the tranquil waters creates an enchanting atmosphere.
- **Biodiversity:** The fjords are in a rich biodiverse region with large flora and fauna, thus increasing their beauty.
 - **For example:** The Chilean fjords contain diverse benthic ecosystems of corals and other invertebrates.
- **Support Wildlife:** Fjords provide a habitat for thousands of nesting seabirds and smaller marine mammals such as sea otters, harbour seals, and sea lions.
- **Adventurous activities:** Howe Sound is North America's Fjord which offers a playground for sailing, fishing, diving, camping, and a host of other recreational activities.
- **Little change in landscape:** More specifically, fjords are most often remote and unspoiled which means that the landscape has changed very little since the very first people settled in these areas.

Fjords are places of amazing beauty and access to land and sea for humans and animals. They are economically and socially important for aquaculture, tourism, recreational fisheries, transportation, and coastal development. They are also experiencing many changes due to climate and human influence. In order to maintain healthy and productive fjord ecosystems, there needs to be a better understanding of changes to fjord ecosystems at the global level and more interactions between different relevant stakeholder groups.

Q.7) Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in the Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?

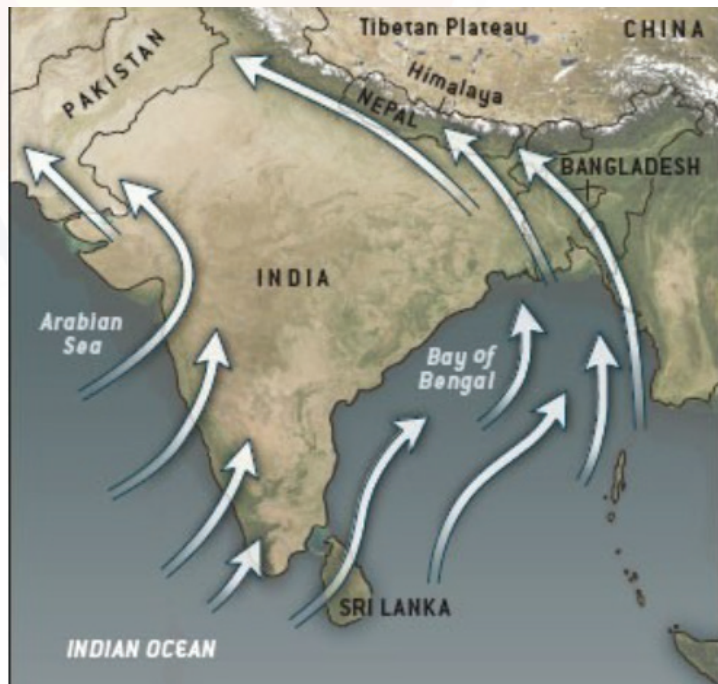
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer:

The Southwest Monsoon is a seasonal wind system that brings rain to the Indian subcontinent. It is driven by a difference in temperature and pressure between the Indian Ocean and the Indian subcontinent. It blows from the southwest direction from June to September. It is also referred to as 'Purvaiya' or easterly in the Bhojpur region due to its unique local characteristics and influence on the region's climate and culture.

Reasons for name of South-West Monsoon as Purvaiya

- The Bhojpur region is located in eastern India and northern Bihar. The South-West monsoon is called 'Purvaiya' (Easterly) in the Bhojpur region because of the direction from which winds enter.
- As South West monsoon winds are divided into Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal branch, the latter branch moves towards the Purvanchal Himalayas.
- When these winds encounter the orographic barrier, they change direction and move in western direction as seen in the map.
- Because of the direction from which they enter the Bhojpur region, they are called Purvaiya or the eastern winds.



Influence of the southwest monsoon on the cultural ethos of the Bhojpur Region

Agriculture and economy:

- Being the region mainly dependent on agriculture, the 'Purvaiya' brings much-needed rainfall to the region, which is essential for crop cultivation. The cultivation of staple crops such as rice and wheat is largely dependent

on the monsoon rains.

- Farmers in the area have developed a thorough understanding of the Purvaiya and its patterns, which they use to guide their farming practices.

Cultural festivals:

- The arrival of the 'Purvaiya' and the onset of the monsoon season is celebrated with enthusiasm in the region. It marks the beginning of various cultural festivals.
- Festivals such as Chhat and Madhushravani Puja reflect the cultural significance of the arrival of Purvaiya.

Traditional practices:

- Traditional practices and rituals related to rain deities in the region are closely linked to agriculture and the monsoon.
- Folk songs and dances, such as the Kajari and Bidesia, are performed during the monsoon, reflecting the cultural connection to agriculture and the changing seasons.

Cuisine:

- The local cuisine in the Bhojpur region reflects the agricultural dependence on the monsoon. The popularity of dishes such as Ghugni, and Dahi chura increases during the monsoon season.

'Purvaiya' is a crucial seasonal wind system that influences the region's agricultural practices, economy, cultural festivals, and way of life. The dependence on monsoon rains has shaped the cultural ethos of the region, with deeply rooted traditions and celebrations.

Q.8) Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in modern India?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer:

Modern liberal values have impacted Indian society and marriage institution is no such exception. It has evolved its very core and essence in modern India due to the impact of globalisation and westernisation.

Marriage is Losing its value in Indian society:

- **Individualism:** Family or community value has degraded over particularly in the urban sphere. Individual seeking his own space and extra freedom to pursue his/her interests, working on his/her hobbies.
- **Live-in relationship culture:** Influence of globalisation and spread of western culture can be strongly felt in the urban sphere. Youngsters particularly in urban areas choose to **Live-in relationships as an alternative to marriage.**
- **Legal Sanction of values:** Recently, Supreme Court of India upheld liberal interpretation and granted legal and constitutional sanction to many values like Right to privacy, same-sex marriage, inter-religious marriage etc.
- **Adoption practices:** The idea of adopting a child is not new in India. However, **adoption of children is openly discussed and becoming** more popular. The Central Adoption Resource Authority made the adoption process more simplified and further allowed adoption for **single parents.**
- **Marriage treated as a burden:** Marriage as an institution is slowly losing its roots. Usually, marriage has been seen as a burden rather than the adorable bond it used to be. Increasing divorce rate also reflects such change in value.
- **Career orientation:** Marriage is considered as a responsibility, as an independent and strong individual bounded towards career and personal growth.

Marriage is still preserved value in Indian society

- **Religious sanction:** Marriage is still considered as sacrosanct in India particularly in rural and town areas. Religious practices govern **marriage**, inheritance etc.
- **Social sanction of marriage:** An arranged marriage is based on the powerful idea that love comes after marriage and not before. And since **marriage is a social sanction**, love too has to be **socially sanctioned.**
- **Family is still a celebrated institution:** Marriage is fundamental to having and sustaining family. The International Day of Families is observed every year on May 15th and serves as an opportunity to celebrate the unique bond and love that families share.

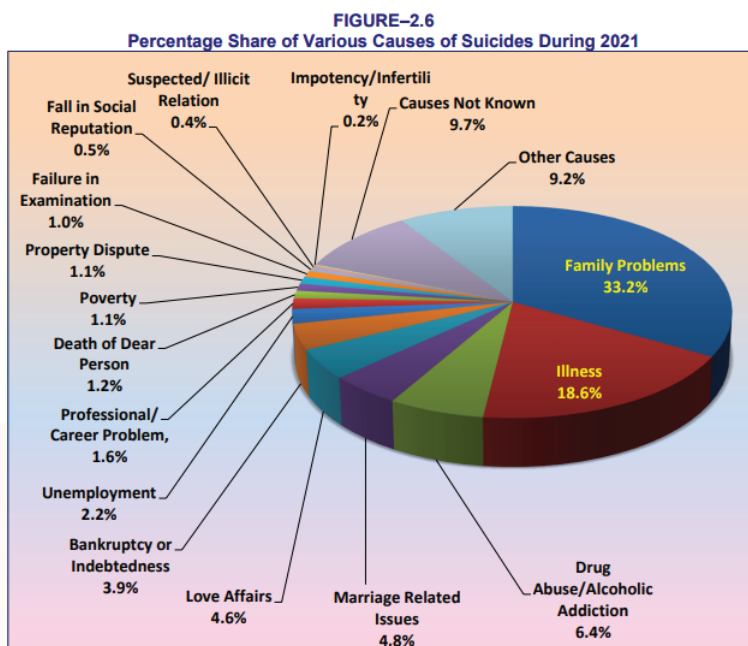
Hence, the forces of globalisation and westernisation have diluted marriage as an institution in India, however its extent is limited to cosmopolitan cities. Marriage still remains a sacred celebrated value in India, particularly in rural India.

Q.9) Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society.**(10 Marks, 150 Words)****Answer:**

Every hour, **one** Indian woman of age 15-39 years takes her own life. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the suicide rate for young Indian women has risen from 12.7 per 1,00,000 in 2011 to **17.5** per 1,00,000 in 2021. This trend calls for urgent action as we seem to be losing the battle to protect the mental health and well-being of our future generation.

Factors causing the rise of suicides among young women in India

- **Feeling of Relative Deprivation:** Increased education and empowerment of young women are clashing with rigid societal norms, causing conflict and suicidal tendencies.
 - For example, in South India, despite high female literacy, there is a clash with traditional norms, leading to attempt of suicide.
- **Impact of modernity on marriage:** The rise of love marriages, particularly inter-caste and inter-faith marriages, and live-in relationships has led to individualism but also has increased loneliness in young aspirational women, raising the risk of suicide.
- **Change in Family System:** A decrease in joint families makes young housewives more vulnerable to mental health issues and suicide. Over 50% of female suicides are housewives.
- **Sustained Patriarchy and Gender Discrimination:** Indian society has remained largely patriarchal with systemic discrimination against women starting from birth.
 - For instance, compulsory marriage, subsequent domestic violence, marital rape and dowry harassment are still prevalent in the Indian society.
- **Domestic Violence:** As per NFHS-5 data, 31% of married women faced spousal violence. The trauma of physical, emotional and sexual abuse in marital homes leads to mental health issues and suicidal tendencies.
- **Vulnerability of young women:** Due to their age group (15-39), young women are comparatively more vulnerable to the social customs and traditions due to their female sexual identity.
 - For example, over 60% of rape victims are aged 18-30 years. Stigma and lack of support aggravate psychological distress.
- **Early Marriage:** Child marriage remains widespread with 23.3% of Indian women aged 20-24 married before age 18 (NFHS-5). Early marriage truncates education and exposes young girls to abusive marital relationships.
 - For instance, suicide is the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 in India (UNICEF).
- **Limited Opportunities:** Lack of social and financial independence coupled with restrictions on movement outside homes increases hopelessness among young women.
 - For example, in 2021, unemployment was cited as a cause of 5% of total suicides by women as per NCRB data.
- **Technology:** While connecting young people, excessive social media use leads to unrealistic comparisons, cyberbullying and isolation - increasing depression and suicidal tendencies.



Combating India's rising female suicide rate requires a multi-pronged approach - gender sensitization programs, expanding counselling services and women's helplines, along systemic efforts to promote education, financial independence and social liberty for women. Collective efforts from family members, health planners, policymakers, and NGOs are essential to prevent these suicides.

Q.10) Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialisation of children. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer:

Socialisation is the process of learning to behave in a way that is acceptable to society. Child cuddling is one way to improve the socialisation of children.

Reasons for replacing child cuddling by mobile phones

- **Working parents:** In modern society, especially urban society, both parents are working, thus giving less attention to a child, and the child gains attention from mobile phones.
- **Parents themselves are addicted to mobiles:** The child imitates the parents; as the parents are busy with their mobile phones, the child is likely behaving.
- **Changed responsibility:** Play schools are taking responsibility for the primary socialisation of children, which historically was the parent's.

Impact of Mobile Phones on the Socialisation of Children

- **Virtual socialisation:** The use of mobile phones creates virtual socialisation instead of physical socialisation, which is very important in the real world.
- **Cognitive and comprehension skills:** The continuous learning from mobile devices through videos hampers the imaginative abilities of a child. Thus, affecting cognitive skills which are important for both personality development as well as socialisation.
- **Anxiety and communication:** Doctors say there are proven facts that smartphone addiction in children develops anxiety and low self-esteem. In a few cases, very young children, i.e., ages from 2 years to 6 years develop communication problems.
 - As communication skills are not formed, a child is unable to express, which affects his/her emotional intelligence, largely affecting socialisation capabilities like making new friends
- **Other serious issues:** Serious issues other than communication and unresponsiveness are behavioural problems, addiction, sleep disturbances, eye problems etc, which hinders socialisation.
- **Social values:** The use of mobile phones leads to less development of social values but more of digital values.

We can say that at the family level, parents need to understand the importance of child cuddling. At the societal level, child healthcare through Anganwadi institutions and preschool education as prescribed in the new education policy should be promoted.

Q.11) What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Answer: The Vedic Civilisation, also known as the Vedic culture or the Vedic period, was a complex and varied civilisation that arose in ancient India between 1500 and 600 BCE. It was distinguished by the practice of Vedic religion and the composition of the Vedas, a collection of sacred texts that serve as the foundation of Hinduism.

Main Features of Vedic Society

- **Family:** The family was the basic unit of the Rigvedic society. It was patriarchal in nature. The family structure was too large to be called a joint family.
- **Varna System:** Towards the end of Vedic civilisation, Vedic society was divided into four varnas, i.e., Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
- **Marriage:** Monogamous marriages were preferred in the Vedic Society.
- **Language:** Sanskrit was mainly used in Vedic Society.
- **Importance of the Vedas:** Vedic Society gave a large importance to Vedic literature.
- **Nature:** Vedic society was pastoral in nature, which later on transformed into agriculturists.
- **Property Rights:** Vedic Society did not believe in private property but in community ownership.
- **Occupation:** The division of social groups was based on occupation alone and one's occupation did not depend on birth.

Main features of Vedic Religion

- **Source of religious practices:** Vedas were the primary source of religious practices.
- **Naturalistic polytheism:** Vedic Society believed in naturalistic gods. Thus, there were as many gods as natural phenomena.
 - **For example,** Indra was the god of rain and thunder. There arose a number of Rigvedic Gods like Rudra, Soma, Varuna, Vishnu etc.
- **Rituals and sacrifices:** Sacrifices were an important part of rituals.
 - For the sacrifices, Yajnas were performed for which hymns and prayers were recited.
 - Yajnas were typically performed by priests.
 - Important yajnas included ashvamedha, vajapeya, and rajasuya.

Vedic features which still prevail in Indian society

- **Patriarchy:** Though Indian society is marching towards modernisation, the patriarchy still persists, especially in religious and cultural matters.
- **Polytheism:** Vedic society believed in a number of Gods like Indra, Rudra, Varuna, Soma and Vishnu. The belief in these Gods is still prevalent in modern Indian society.
- **Agriculture:** A large portion of Indian society is still agriculturist similar to the Vedic people.
- **Family:** Indian society still follows the joint family structure.
- **Marriage:** Like Vedic Society monogamous marriages are still prevalent in Indian society.

As Vedic society and religion still hold importance in modern Indian society, some ideal features of the Vedic society like no to idol worship, respectable position of women etc. should be adopted while shedding the negative features of it.

Q.12) What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Answer:

The Sultanate period in India, also known as the Delhi Sultanate was started in 1206 AD by Qutubuddin Aibak and lasted till 1526 AD. The period saw several significant technological changes ranging from agriculture to architecture and urban planning, which influenced Indian society in various ways.

Major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period

- **Agriculture:**
 - The introduction of the **Persian wheel** revolutionised irrigation in India, allowing farmers to cultivate crops in areas that were previously arid.
 - A land measuring instrument known as '**gaz-i-sikandari**' was introduced during this period which improved the efficiency of tax collection.
- **Architecture:**
 - The Sultanate period saw the development of a new style of Indo-Islamic architecture.
 - Islamic architecture introduced the use of **pointed arches and domes**, which became distinctive features of Indian buildings. Notable examples include the Qutub Minar in Delhi and the Alai Darwaza.
 - For the plastering of buildings, new materials like lime paste and gypsum were used.
- **Industry:**
 - The textile industry flourished during this period. New techniques of dyeing were introduced, resulting in the production of high-quality textiles. **Pit loom** was also introduced during this period, resulting in increased weaving efficiency.
 - It was during this period that the **papermaking industry flourished**, which later saw significant growth after the introduction of printing technology by the Portuguese.
- **Military:** Significant advancements in military technology during the Sultanate period included the use of firearms, cannons, and matchlock muskets. This helped them to expand their territory.
- **Cultural:**
 - Apart from the technological advancements, this period witnessed the growth of the **Persian** language and literature. **Tabaqat-i-Nasari** written by Minhaj-us-Siraj is a significant example.
 - During this time, new musical instruments like the **sarangi and the rabab** were introduced.

Influence of technological advancements on Indian society

- **Architectural advancements:** The Indo-Islamic architectural style left a lasting legacy in India, influencing subsequent architectural traditions. These advancements reflect the blend of Indian architectural style with Persian elements. The construction of forts, mosques, and palaces led to the emergence of new cities such as Siri, Tughlaqabad etc.
- **Economic growth:** Technological advancements in agriculture and manufacturing led to increased economic productivity and trade, contributing to the prosperity of Indian society. The increased agricultural productivity led to surplus food production and improved living standards for many people. The textile revolution made Indian textiles more competitive in the global market and led to the growth of new trading centres such as Surat and Ahmedabad.
- **Intellectual advancement:** The introduction of paper and book production techniques fostered intellectual growth and the preservation of knowledge, contributing to the development of Indian scholarship. Indian languages and culture were enriched by Persian literature and poetry's influence on Indian literary traditions.
- **Cultural exchange:** The period facilitated cultural exchanges between different regions and communities, leading to the assimilation of various elements into Indian society and culture. Religious tolerance was also maintained during the Sultanate period as a result of Hinduism and Islam coexisting.

While technological advancements contributed to economic growth, they also accentuated social disparities. The benefits of these changes were not equally distributed, leading to disparities in wealth and living conditions. The architectural developments also marginalised the indigenous traditions.

Overall, the technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period in India had a multifaceted impact on society, influencing architecture, agriculture, manufacturing, and knowledge preservation. These advancements not only improved living standards but also contributed to the rich cultural tapestry of India.

Q.13) How did colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to colonial oppression? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Answer:

Colonial rule affected almost all sections of society in India and tribals were no exception. With the pursuance of increasing economic interest of the British government led to introduction of various policy measures in tribal regions which affected their very existence.

How did colonial rule affected tribals

- **Effect of land revenue policy:**
 - Introduction of **permanent settlement (1793)** in tribal areas in Bengal abolished the traditional practices of collective and traditional ownership of lands (Khutkutti system).
 - A major portion of the tribal subsistence went into the private hands (zamindars) in undivided Bengal.
 - **Colonial land revenue settlements** posed a heavy burden of new taxes as well as evictions from their traditional dwellings.
 - Exploitation by the outsiders (Dikus) such as police, traders, and moneylenders aggravated the tribals' sufferings.
 - The British introduced a cash-based market economy in tribal regions, which accentuated the role of middlemans (moneylenders and others).
 - They also introduced a new legal system in place of the traditional way of justice followed by tribals.
- **Forest policy:**
 - The British government declared the forest to be under the **exclusive ownership of the state** with the coming of the **Indian Forest Act 1865 and forest policy 1884**.
 - Thus, the government **extended its control over the forest** areas and forest produce.
 - This **all led to** erosion of the customary tribal rights over land and forest.
- **Advent of Christian missionaries:** The missionaries perceived as representatives of the alien rule by the tribals as they interfered with the traditional customs of the tribals.

Tribal resistance to colonial oppression

Resistance against colonial power was region specific. These movements were launched under the leadership of their respective chiefs.

- **Kol Mutiny (1831):**
 - The Kols resented large-scale transfers of land from Kol headmen to outsiders (Diku) like Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim farmers and moneylender.
 - Under the leadership of Buddho Bhagat, the Kol rebels killed or burnt about a thousand outside
- **Santhal Revolt of 1855:**
 - It was led by Sidhu and Kanhu against the colonial agents- Dikus.
 - Thousands of Santhals marched armed with their **traditional weapons** - bows, arrows, axes etc.
 - The Santhal rebellion forced the government to change its policy towards them. Around 5000 sq. miles were carved out as **“Non-Regulation” districts (Santhal Parganas)**.
- **Birsa Munda Revolt In the 1890s:**
 - Munda tribals rose in revolt under Birsa Munda. The objective was to attain **religious and political independence and establishment of Birsa Raj- free from all exploitation.**
 - The revolt broke out in December 1899 and was directed **against the Dikus and missionary activities.** Birsa was arrested in 1900 and died of illness. Many rebels who were arrested were imprisoned and sentenced to death.
 - Finally the government passed the Tenancy Act of 1903 which recognised the Mundari Khuntkatti system. The ' Government 'also passed the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908.

Consequently, tribal issues were acknowledged by the British government as well as mainstream Indian political parties. After independence Indian policy makers adopted a path of tribal integration while respecting their cultural spaces.

Q.14) Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Answer: India has a coastline of 7,517 km, including the mainland and island territories. This offers immense opportunities for livelihoods and economic development through the sustainable harnessing of coastal and marine resources.

Resource potentials of coastal regions

- **Food Resources:**
 - **Fisheries:** Coastal areas are rich in fisheries resources, providing a significant portion of the world's seafood supply that contribute to global protein intake. 25% of total production comes from Marine fisheries (includes Coastal & Deep sea fishing).
- **Energy Resources:**
 - Offshore oil and gas exploration in **Krishna-Godavari** and **Mumbai High basins** contribute substantially to energy needs.
 - India has also made advances in offshore wind energy, with a potential capacity of 70 GW.
 - Coastal regions are also suitable for solar, tidal and wave energy projects.
 - » Khambhat coast is the largest tidal energy-producing area in India.
- **Mineral Resources:** India's 2.37 million sq km (**EEZ**) has significant mineral potential including placers, aggregates, phosphates and hydrocarbons.
- **Trade:** Multiple ports that handle over 95% of India's external trade by volume and 70% by value.
 - The **Sagarmala project** aims to double coastal shipping and port capacity by 2025. This can reduce logistics costs and boost exports.
- **Tourism:** India's beaches, backwaters, marine parks, coastal heritage etc. attract both domestic and foreign tourists.
 - As per the CII report, Coastal tourism contributed about 1.8% of India's GDP.
 - The coastal circuit under the **Swadesh Darshan** scheme focuses on developing theme-based infrastructure in India's coastal areas.
- **Natural Barrier and Climate Regulation**
 - Soft Protection Structures like coastal green belts with mangroves, **protects from coastal erosion**
 - Coastal ecosystems act as carbon sinks, helping in climate regulation.
 - **Rich biodiversity and marine ecosystems, providing valuable ecological services:** Coastal ecosystems facilitate nutrient cycling, supporting marine food webs.

- **Salt Production:** India is the **3rd largest** salt producer globally, after China and USA.
 - **Gujarat** produces over 70% of India's annual production of about 30 million tonnes.
 - The coastline provides ideal conditions for salt farming which supports livelihoods.

However, coastal areas are also prone to natural hazards like cyclones, storms, floods and erosion.

Status of Natural Hazard Preparedness

- **Cyclones:**
 - Cyclones are a major natural hazard faced by India's coastal areas, especially the east coast. Around 10% of the world's tropical cyclones occur in the northern Indian Ocean.
 - Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are especially vulnerable. Major cyclone events like the **Odisha Super Cyclone (1999)** and **Cyclone Phailin (2013)** caused severe damages.
 - Advance cyclone warning systems are in place now with the **IMD** and INCOIS using technology like Doppler radars, automated weather stations, cyclone detection radars etc.
 - Odisha has developed detailed disaster management plans and shelters/evacuation systems which greatly reduced casualties during Cyclone Fani (2019). Other states are also working on improving preparedness.
- **Floods:**
 - Coastal states like West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. routinely face flood disasters in the monsoon season due to low lying coastal terrain.
 - Early warning systems for storm surges, real-time inundation models and community preparedness efforts are still works in progress.
 - **Mangrove restoration** and **shelterbelt plantations** are being promoted as bio-shields to reduce impact of surges and saline ingress.
- **Coastal Erosion:**
 - Due to natural factors like wave action, sea level rise and human activities like ports, dams etc. significant coastal erosion is happening in Puducherry, Kerala, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh etc.
 - Steps like **beach nourishment** through sand bypassing, planting shelterbelt species like casuarina etc. are being taken but a comprehensive shoreline management plan is still pending.
 - There is a need to regulate activities like groundwater extraction and dam construction which accelerate erosion.
- **Tsunami Preparedness:**
 - After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, India has improved its tsunami warning systems and disaster response.

» Example: The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) in Hyderabad issues timely alerts

Thus, while the seas and coasts provide bountiful opportunities for sustaining India's growth across fisheries, ports, energy, tourism and livelihoods, the heightened risks from natural disasters and climate change also underscore the need for '**blue economy**' planning that balances economic utilisation with conservation, community participation and disaster preparedness. Integrated coastal zone management is imperative for India to leverage the full potential of its coasts in a sustainable manner.

Q.15) Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of Natural Vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

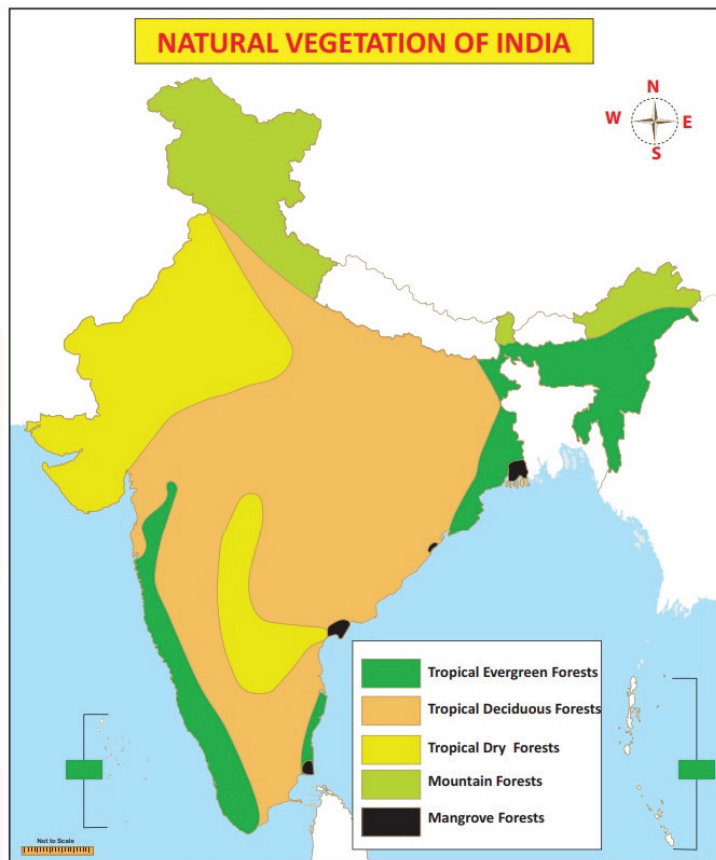
Answer: A plant community that has grown naturally over time and without human intervention is referred to as "natural vegetation." India is one of the 12 mega biodiversity countries of the world. With 6% of the world's flowering plant species, India ranks tenth in the world and fourth in Asia in terms of plant diversity.

Factors responsible for the diversity of Natural Vegetation in India

- **Geographical extent and Topography:**
 - India's vast geographical expanse encompasses a wide range of topographical features, including mountains, plateaus, plains, and coastal areas. Each of these regions supports distinct types of vegetation adapt-

ed to their specific environmental conditions.

- Topography influences climatic conditions, soil formation, runoff, erosion, and seed migration all of which contribute to the distribution of vegetation.
- **Climatic variations:** There is diversity in vegetation due to varied climatic conditions like different rainfall patterns, temperature, and humidity, etc. India experiences a diverse range of climates, from the tropical climate in the south to the alpine climate in the Himalayan region.
- **Monsoon Influence:** The seasonal monsoon winds bring heavy rainfall to various parts of India significantly impacting the distribution and growth of vegetation.
 - Because of the southwest monsoon rains, tropical evergreen forests grow rapidly on the western slopes of the Western Ghats, but not on the eastern slopes.
- **Temperature gradients:** It depends on latitude, altitude, season, and duration of the sunlight. Due to the longer duration of sunlight, trees grow faster in summer.
 - Example, On the slopes of the Himalayas, the fall in the temperature affects the type of vegetation and its growth and changes it from tropical to subtropical, temperate, and alpine vegetation.
- **Soil composition:** Soil factors vary across locations, as different types of soil support different types of vegetation and plants.
 - **For example:** Thar Desert's sandy soils support drought-tolerant plants, while the Ganga-Brahmaputra plains' alluvial fertile soils support a wide variety of crops.
- **Anthropological interventions:** Over using the resources of a particular vegetation by humans can change its feature, hence they play an important role in deciding the diversity of a region.
 - For example, some less dense forests in India have been changed to grasslands due to excessive grazing.
- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** India is home to several globally recognized biodiversity hotspots, including the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalayas. These regions are characterized by high species endemism and contribute significantly to the overall diversity of natural vegetation.



Significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India

- **Rainforest conservation against the developmental aspects:** Degradation, destruction and fragmentation due to development needs, and conversion of land for agricultural/commercial purposes are the major three threats that rainforests face today as in the case of amazon rainforests. So, to safeguard the precious ecosystems and diverse wildlife therein, it is imperative that we establish national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Biodiversity in the rainforest regions is very high therefore, wildlife sanctuaries in these regions provide a safe haven for endemic and endangered species, protecting them from poaching, habitat loss, and other threats.
 - For example: Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam is home to various animals like the Asian Elephants, and Bengal Tiger.
- **Cultural preservation:** Indigenous peoples residing in rainforests, shaped their civilizations and cultures based on their living environment. Wildlife sanctuaries aid in the preservation of these traditions.

- **Provide Local Economic benefits and Ecotourism:** Many protected areas are hotspots for ecotourism, bringing new revenue that directly benefits communities through employment in the protected area or within an industry supporting tourism.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Tropical rainforests in wildlife sanctuaries are also important because they sequester carbon dioxide, which is critical for world's climate regulation, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

The natural vegetation and wildlife sanctuaries have helped maintain the forest cover of India and the rich biodiversity of the rainforest is incredibly important for the well-being of our planet. India's natural vegetation conservation is crucial for preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services, requiring the reduction of deforestation, protection of protected areas, and promotion of sustainable forest management practices.

Q.16) Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Answer: Human development is defined as the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. As per IMF's predictions, India is very much on target to become the **third-largest economy** in the world by 2030. However, India ranked **132nd among 191 countries and territories on the 2021 Human Development Index (HDI)**. This shows the gap between human development and economic development in India.

Reasons that human development failed to keep pace with economic development in India

- **Gaps in education:** India's literacy rate continues to rise but according to the education ministry, over 1.2 million students are out of school, most of them at the elementary level in 2022-23. This is due to a lack of quality education, inadequate infrastructure, gender gap, etc.
- **Income Disparities:** Income is considered as a proxy for command over resources since access to health and education with other capabilities depends on income.
- **Social Inequality:** India's caste and communal differences have not led to proper social cohesion which is required for all sections of the society to progress.
- **Gender Inequality:** Gender disparities persist in India, affecting women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Gender-based discrimination and cultural norms continue to hinder women's full participation in society.
- **Lack of Skill Development:** There has been inadequate investment in skill development and vocational training programs, leading to a skills gap and reduced employability for many Indians.
- **Population:** Rapid population growth in India strains resources and makes it challenging to improve human development indicators.
- **Low public expenditure:** Government expenditure on health and education stands at around 2.1% and 2.9% of GDP which is very low as compared to developed nations.
- **Last mile connectivity:** Better infrastructure saves time and money. With lack of infrastructure, both digital and physical, it has been hard to connect with marginalised and downtrodden.
- **Focus on top-down approach:** Since independence, India has focussed on policies to percolate from central government to state to local. But the corruption and time it took to reach the last man was so big. It resulted in poor human development.
- **Resource curse:** Though some states like Jharkhand have been bestowed with mineral wealth, they have been unsuccessful in utilising the resources for human development.
- **Lack of health infrastructure:** Health being an integral part of human development was given less importance, resource crunch being one of the reasons.

Measures need to be taken to fast-track human development:

- Appropriate **investments in human capital(health, education and skill development)** can accelerate, inclusive, and long-lasting growth while maximising the effects of India's economy's structural changes.
- **Good Governance:** There is a need to strengthen institutions, reduce corruption, and ensure transparency in government programs.
- **Reduce Income Inequality:** Implement progressive tax policies and social safety nets to reduce income disparities along with creating job opportunities and promoting fair wages, especially for low-skilled and informal workers.

Addressing human development in India is of vital importance since a large portion of the population is living below the

poverty line and income inequalities are rising by the day. Though India has attained great economic growth since LPG reforms, to nurture and promote more equitable and sustained growth, more economic and governance reforms as well as further human development in education and skills are required.

Q.17) From being net food importer in the 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Answer: Once heavily dependent on food imports and aid, India has remarkably transformed into a major agricultural exporter. Through sustained enhancements in irrigation, infrastructure, crop diversification, supportive policies and export promotion over decades, India became a leading agri-exporter. (In 2021-22, farm exports touched USD 50 billion, rising 19.92% driven by production gains, reforms and export growth.)

Crop	Production in 1960-61 (million tonnes)	Production in 2021-22 (million tonnes)
Wheat	10	106.84
Rice	35	130.29

Reasons for India’s transition from a net food importer to a net food exporter

- **Green Revolution:** The Green Revolution, which started in the late 1960s, led to a significant increase in food grain production through the adoption of **high-yielding variety seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides and better irrigation facilities.**
 - This technological upgrade in agriculture led to a significant increase in food grain production, turning India from a food-deficient nation into one with a surplus. Punjab, Haryana and western UP were the major beneficiaries.

- **Increased Irrigation cover:**

Time-Period	Area under irrigation (million hectares)
In 1950-51	22.6
In 2021-22	115

- Irrigation cover through projects like dams, canals etc., has been increased from 18% of cropped area in 1950-51 to 48% in recent times.
- This has lowered the dependency on monsoon and also, ensured water availability in drought-prone regions.
- **Better Farming Techniques:**
 - **Mechanisation of agriculture** such as the use of tractors, power tillers, harvesters etc. improved farm productivity.
 - Better **agronomic practices** and **extension services** have helped disseminate advanced techniques among farmers.
 - This has enabled us to shift focus from traditional crops like cereals to high-value crops like fruits, vegetables, spices etc. which generate higher incomes.
- **Crop Diversification:** Indian agriculture has diversified from staple cereals to high-value commercial crops like cotton, jute, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, dairy, poultry etc. in response to rising domestic and export demand.
- **Government Policy Support:** Government initiatives like subsidies on seeds, power and fertilisers, crop insurance, and minimum support prices have incentivised farmers and boosted production.
- **Food Processing and Exports:** Government schemes like PMKSY, SAMPADA, and Mega Food Parks have promoted food processing, value addition and exports.

Sustained productivity growth through technology, investments, diversification and supportive policies has enabled India’s remarkable transition to a leading agricultural exporter. However, challenges like smallholdings, overdependence on rain, infrastructure gaps and income disparities persist. Further efforts on irrigation, market reforms, high-value crops and farmer welfare are imperative to maintain competitiveness.

Q.18) Does urbanisation lead to more segregation and/or marginalisation of the poor in Indian metropolises? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Answer:

Segregation of populace in Indian cities, particularly metropolises, is a common phenomenon due to the spin-off effect of rapid urbanisation. The most common process of segregation is through the in-migration of poor into their community neighbourhoods and/or the out-migration of richer households into their communities. This segregation and consequently, marginalisation of the poor among urban population is due to many socio-economic and even political factors.

Urbanisation leading to segregation of the poor in India

Economic factor of segregation:

- **Challenges of livelihood:** Urban centres particularly metropolitan cities attract rural poor in terms of job opportunity. But **lack of skills** often compelle them to work in informal sectors.
- **Informal sectors :** Informal sectors do not offer a better work environment and job security. Thus, they are forced to do low income menial work like manual scavenging.
- **Urban poverty and inequality:** According to the United Nations-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022, India's urban population is estimated to stand at 675 million in 2035. Report further highlighted the poverty and inequality measure challenge confronting Indian cities.

Social factors of segregation:

- **Ghettoised community:** People of common religion or region often forms community within urban sphere.
- **Residential segregation:** India has a population of 65.49 million people living in 13.7 million slum households across the country. Nearly 65 percent of Indian cities have adjoining slums where people live in small houses adjacent to each other.

Political factors of segregation of urban sphere:

- Dominating migrated groups in certain pockets often try to establish political identity in the urban sphere. Over the time segregated groups emerge as a vote bank and reaffirm their political inclination towards particular political parties.

Urbanisation leading to marginalisation of the poor in India

- **Unplanned urban space:** Cities in India often lack infrastructure and support systems to cater the influx of rural people. Such conditions lead to Informal settlements on the edge of urban jurisdictions are vulnerable to eviction due to unclear regulatory frameworks, as was demonstrated by a recent large-scale eviction.
- **Overcrowded urban space:** A survey conducted in Delhi under the 69th National Service Scheme round (2012) revealed that the capital had approximately 6,343 slums with more than a million households where 52 per cent of its total population resided.
- **Lack of basic amenities:** Delhi is the sixth-largest metropolis in the world. And yet, a third of its residences are part of the slums with no basic resources like clean drinking water, hygiene etc.

How to make urban spaces an inclusive place

- **Inclusive and equitable urban space:** Tackling urban poverty and inequality is one of the key priorities for building inclusive and equitable urban futures. **Rajasthan Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023** to provide institutionalised support to gig and platform workers.
- **Planned urban space:** Built back differently to cater the need of transportation system, infrastructure, affordable housing to low income group people and interest subvention for housing facilities.
- **Social safety net:** Social protection measures on the line of MGNREGA in urban areas to employment guarantee.
- **Skill development program and regulatory measures:** Targeted skills development program to slum dwellers and low income group poor with strong monitoring mechanism.
- **Participatory urban governance:** Marginalised section constitutes a major chunk of urban population therefore their voice must be included in governance.

Hence policy makers should focus on **reducing dichotomy** prevailing in urban cities between the rich and the poor and **promote equitable**, inclusive and sustainable growth of urban space that provides dignity and a decent quality of life to all residents.

Q.19) Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?**(15 Marks, 250 Words)****Answer:**

Caste identity involves the positioning of one's caste group within a social hierarchy. Caste identity in India is complex and characterised by its dual nature of being both fluid and static. On the one hand, there is evidence of social mobility and caste change, while on the other hand, caste-based discrimination and inequality persist.

Factors responsible for fluidity in caste identity

- **Education and urbanisation:** Education and urbanisation have led to social mobility and a change in caste identity, loosening of traditional caste ties.
 - For example, the enrolment of SC students in higher education has increased to 58.95 Lakh from 46.06 Lakh in 2014-15. (AISHE Survey 2020-21)
- **Sanskritisation:** Through the process of Sanskritization, lower-caste groups have adopted the rituals, customs, and lifestyles of upper-caste groups in order to improve their social status.
- **Inter-caste marriages:** There is an increasing trend in inter-caste marriages. According to the India Human Development Survey, the percentage of intercaste marriages increased from 5% to 6% between 1970 and 2012.
- **Division of labour:** Over the years, there has been an increase in occupational shifts in the lives of the people. Now, one can excel in one's career in any stream without the need for caste identity.
- **Government policies:** Policies such as reservations in education and government jobs have helped to improve the lives of lower-caste people and have made it easier for them to move up the social ladder.
- **Religious conversions:** Post-independence, many lower-class people have converted to Buddhism and Christianity in order to circumvent the restrictions posed by the prevalent caste system.

Factors responsible for static elements in caste identity

- **Endogamy:** Despite some mobility, endogamy (marriage within one's caste) remains a prevalent social norm in many Indian communities. As data from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) shows, just over 5% of urban Indian marriages are outside of caste.
- **Caste-based discrimination:** Caste-based discrimination is still prevalent in Indian society. Thus making it difficult for lower-caste people to access education, employment, and other opportunities. As per the NCRB report, atrocities/crimes against Scheduled Castes have increased by 1.2% in 2021 over 2020.
- **Occupational identities:** In many areas, occupations are still primarily based on caste. According to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment around 97% of people involved in manual scavenging who were surveyed, belonged to the Scheduled Castes.
- **Social stigma:** Discrimination and prejudice against certain castes persist, even in urban areas. The deep-rooted biases and stereotypes associated with caste can limit opportunities and social interactions for individuals from marginalised communities.
- **Caste-based political mobilisation:** Caste-based political parties and identity politics continue to shape Indian politics. Many times, this has resulted in the demands for reservation based on castes. For example, Jats in Haryana and Patidars in Gujarat are demanding caste-based reservations.

Caste identity in India is a complex interplay of historical legacies, socio-economic factors, and cultural norms. While there is evidence of fluidity and change in caste identities, deeply ingrained social norms, political interests, and discrimination still contribute to the static aspects of caste identity.

Q.20) Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.**(15 Marks, 250 Words)****Answer:**

Post liberal economy is an economy where private participation is increased and there is a rollback of the State in economic activities. It is generally referred to as liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.

Ethnic identity refers to a person's social identity within a larger context based on membership in a cultural or social group. In India most of the ethnic groups are tribals.

Communalism is a strong sense of loyalty to the interests of one particular group (religious, ethnic, etc.) rather than to society as a whole, which can lead to extreme behaviour or violence towards others

Impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity

Positive impacts:

- **Exposure to culture:** Post liberal economy has made all types of connectivity fast, thus the ethnic culture is getting known to others and other cultures are impacting them.
 - Migration is another factor responsible for cultural inter-mixing
- **Revival of traditional art:** The liberal economy has made it possible to sell artwork all over the world. It has given impetus to dying traditional local art.
- **Economic importance:** Some ethnic people, like Punjabis, are prosperous, which has created their unique identity. Punjabis have gained economic importance as consumers.
- **Propagation of language:** With or without intermixing, the post liberal economy has propagated different languages by means of trade, travel, tourism, etc.

Negative impacts:

- **Dilution of ethnic identity:** Because of migration for economic opportunities, ethnic identities have been largely diluted.
- **Ethnic conflicts and security threats:** Post liberal economy, through black markets or smuggling, has made it possible to gather arms.
 - The ethnic people have used these arms to prove their ethnic dominance in their respective regions. For example, recent Manipur violence.
 - It has also resulted in separatist tendencies among some ethnicities.

Impact of post-liberalism on communalism

- **Focus on economic development:** LPG reforms have opened ways for economic development and prosperity of all communities.
- **Fraternity:** Economic development has created inter-dependence, leading to fraternity among communities.
- **Confidence building:** The rise of fraternity and continuous interaction work as confidence building measures among various communities.
- **Spread of culture:** The spread of cultural traditions has been made helpful by the post liberal economy.
 - For example: the cultural practice of Yoga is renowned now.
- **Resource competition:** According to the Sacchar report, liberalisation has led to extraction of resources, which has led to competition for them on communal lines, which has led to communal tensions.
- **Inequality:** The LPG reforms have benefited some communities more than others. It has created inequalities.
- **Rise of communal identities:** In rural regions and somewhat in urban areas as well, economic rise of one community has led to its dominance over others, fracturing communal harmony.

Though the post liberal economy has led to prosperous society on both ethnic lines and communal lines, it's largely limited to urban areas. There are societies in rural areas which are marginalised and have not benefited from a post liberal economy. Therefore, the administration shall take steps to address the marginalisation.

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