



**VISIONIAS**  
INSPIRING INNOVATION  
**ABHYAAS MAINS**

**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-I)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-I) (2028)**

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे  
Time Allowed: **Three Hours**

अधिकतम अंक: 250  
Maximum Marks: 250

**सामान्य अनुदेश**

इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका में 55+1 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रश्न-पत्र, क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका के अंत में संलग्न है, जो अलग (वियोज्य) किया जा सकता है और उम्मीदवार परीक्षा के उपरांत अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं।

रफ कार्य के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंत में खाली पृष्ठ दिया गया है।

पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर, कृपया यह जांच कर लें कि इस क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका में कोई कमी न हो, फटा हुआ पृष्ठ न हो अथवा कोई पृष्ठ गायब न हो इत्यादि। यदि ऐसा हो, तो इसके बदले नई क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका प्राप्त कर लें।

**General Instructions**

This Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 55+1 pages. Question Paper in detachable form is available at the end of the QCA Booklet which can be taken away by the candidate after examination.

For rough work, blank page has been provided at the end of this Booklet.

On receipt of the Booklet, please check that this QCA Booklet does not have any shortcomings, torn or missing pages etc. If, so, get it replaced with a fresh QCA Booklet.

(उम्मीदवार द्वारा भरा जाएगा/To be filled by the Candidate)

पंजीकरण सं./Registration No. : 1004873

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : HARSITA AGRAWAL

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी  
Medium: Hindi/English

English

तारीख  
Date

24/08/2024.

**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-I)  
GENERAL STUDIES (Paper I)**

केंद्र  
Centre BJS Public School,  
Karol Bagh.

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर  
Invigilator's Signature

Myad

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश</b></p> <p>उम्मीदवारों को नीचे उल्लिखित निर्देश सावधानी से पढ़ लेने चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर उम्मीदवारों को मिलने वाले अंकों में कटौती, उम्मीदवारी रद्द या आयोग के परवर्ती परीक्षाओं के लिए वर्जित करने इत्यादि के रूप में दण्डित किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Important Instructions</b></p> <p>Candidates should read the undermentioned instructions carefully. Violation of any of the following instructions may entail penalty in the form of deduction of marks, cancellation of candidature, debarment from further Examination of the Commission etc.</p>
1	<p>(क) अपना पंजीकरण सं. एवं अन्य विवरण केवल प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) में उम्मीदवार के लिए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें।</p> <p>(ख) इस पुस्तिका में अन्यत्र कहीं भी अपना नाम, पंजीकरण सं., मोबाइल नं., पता अथवा प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) संख्या न लिखें जिससे आपकी पहचान का खुलासा हो।</p>	<p>(a) Write your Registration Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for candidates.</p> <p>(b) Do not disclose your identity in any manner such as, by writing your Name, Registration number, Mobile number, Address, Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet No. etc. elsewhere in the Booklet</p>
2	<p>अपनी प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तर के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें जैसे कि कोई कविता/दोहा, अभद्र या अपमानजनक अभिव्यक्ति इत्यादि और न ही कोई ऐसा चिन्ह/निशान बनाएं जिसका उत्तर से सम्बन्ध न हो।</p>	<p>Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answer.</p>
3	<p>परीक्षक को प्रत्यक्ष/अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोई भी प्रार्थना/धमकी भरी बातें न लिखें।</p>	<p>Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.</p>
4	<p>उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गंदी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p>Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.</p>
5	<p>उत्तर स्याही में ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें, हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p>Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.</p>
6	<p>प्रवेश पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।</p>	<p>Do not write answers in medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language either i.e. authorize and unauthorized media together for writing answers.</p>
7	<p>प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।</p>	<p>Write answer at the specific space (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified places in the booklet shall not be evaluated.</p>
8	<p>यदि आप अपने किसी उत्तर को रद्द करना चाहते हैं तो उसे पेन से काट दें तथा उस पर "रद्द" लिख दें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p>If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.</p>

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use	कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use
<p>परीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर Signature of Examiner(s)</p>	

**प्राप्तांक के विवरण (परीक्षक द्वारा भरा जाए)/ Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))**

प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks		प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks	
1			11		
2			12		
3			13		
4			14		
5			15		
6			16		
7			17		
8			18		
9			19		
10			20		
उप-योग (A) Subtotal (A)			उप-योग (B) Subtotal (B)		
<b>सकल योग (A+B) / GRAND TOTAL (A+B)</b>					



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**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-I)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-I) (2928)**

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे  
Time Allowed: **Three Hours**

अधिकतम अंक: 250  
Maximum Marks: **250**

**प्रश्न-पत्र संबंधी विशेष अनुदेश**

कृपया प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:

कुल बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं जो हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए नियत अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्न संख्या 1 से 10 तक का उत्तर 150 शब्दों में तथा प्रश्न संख्या 11 से 20 तक का उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए।

प्रश्नों में इंगित शब्द सीमा को ध्यान में रखिए।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए कोई पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।

**QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.*

*There are **TWENTY** questions printed both in **HINDI** and in **ENGLISH**.*

*All questions are compulsory.*

*The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.*

*Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.*

*Answers to Questions No. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions No. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words.*

*Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.*

*Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Questions-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.*

## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**All the Best**

1.

जनजातीय कला किस प्रकार भारतीय जनजातीय समुदायों के सांस्कृतिक परिप्रेक्ष्यों एवं मूल्यों के बारे में मूल्यवान जानकारी प्रदान करती है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

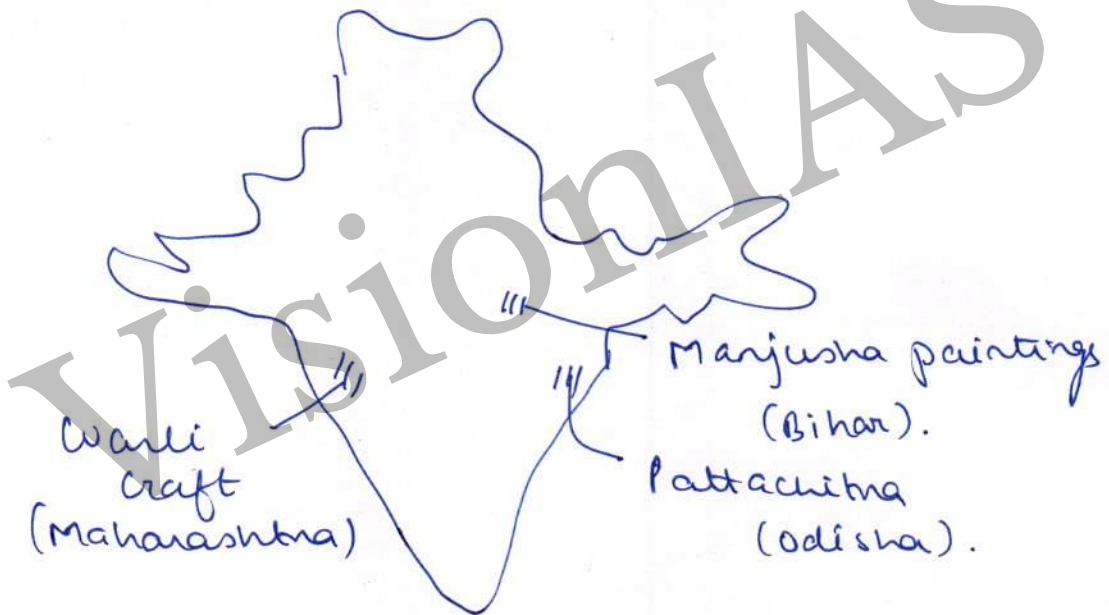
How does tribal art provide valuable insights into the cultural perspectives and values of Indian tribal communities? (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Tribal art holds the key to analysing the tribal culture and history, and is thus the focus of architectural interest.

Fig : Tribal Art.



Valuable insights provided

1) Into cultural perspectives

1) Show religious values, worship of animals, nature

(Eg- Snake motifs in Manjusha art)

- 2) Show community worship, supremacy of jana (tribe) over individual.
- 3) Significance of forests, trees, dependence on these for their livelihood highlighted.

ii) Into values of tribal communities

- 1) Show matrilineal nature of society, significance of women.

Therefore, tribal art needs to be safeguarded and protected, as Mark Twain said, "In art and culture, India is the only millionaire, rest all are paupers."

2.

भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष के प्रति महात्मा गांधी और जवाहरलाल नेहरू के दृष्टिकोणों में समानता एवं अंतर बताइए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Compare and contrast the approach of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru towards the Indian freedom struggle. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

The contributions of both Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru towards our freedom struggle is immense, immeasurable and profound.

### Similarities in their approaches

- 1) Both believed in freedom struggle through peaceful means.
- 2) Both believed in role of masses in mobilising freedom.
- 3) Both subscribed to models of socialism.

### Contrast in their approaches

	<u>Gandhi</u>	<u>Nehru</u>
Ideology	<u>Spiritual</u> freedom-based on heart, soul, mind of masses	<u>Practical</u> - based on self-rule

Methods  
of  
struggle

Non-cooperation,  
Civil disobedience  
with British.

Also believed in  
use of legal  
route wherever  
possible  
(Eg - INA Trials)

Role of  
religion

Appealing to  
religious, moral  
sentiments.

Religion separate  
from politics.

Nature  
of  
Economy

autonomous,  
little republic  
villages - based on  
local production.

Development based  
on industries,  
modernisation.

Type of  
Socialism

Socialism based  
on community  
ownership,  
limited needs.

ownership of  
state, distribution  
role of state.

Despite differences in their  
approaches, Gandhiji became 'father of  
our nation' while Nehru is called

'Architect of modern India' 9

3.

द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के उपरांत वि-औपनिवेशीकरण को तीव्र करने वाले प्रमुख कारक क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

What are the key factors that accelerated decolonization post-World War II? (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्गिए में नही लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Post world-war II period

was marked by movements for freedom and decolonisation across the continents.

Factors behind decolonization post war

1) Economic factors

↳ Colonial powers (like Britain) suffered from economic stresses, → difficult to maintain imperial rule.

↳ large-scale post-war economic crises, famines in colonies accelerated demands for independence.

2) Geo political factors

↳ pressure from USA as it sympathised with colonies.

↳ Cold war era : Russia also supported freedom movements to reduce power of western Europe + ideologically against colonialism (capitalism).

### 3) Domestic factors

↳ Renewed force of freedom struggle

(i) Exposure of weaknesses of colonial powers.

(ii) Erosion of trust due to mis-treatment during war.

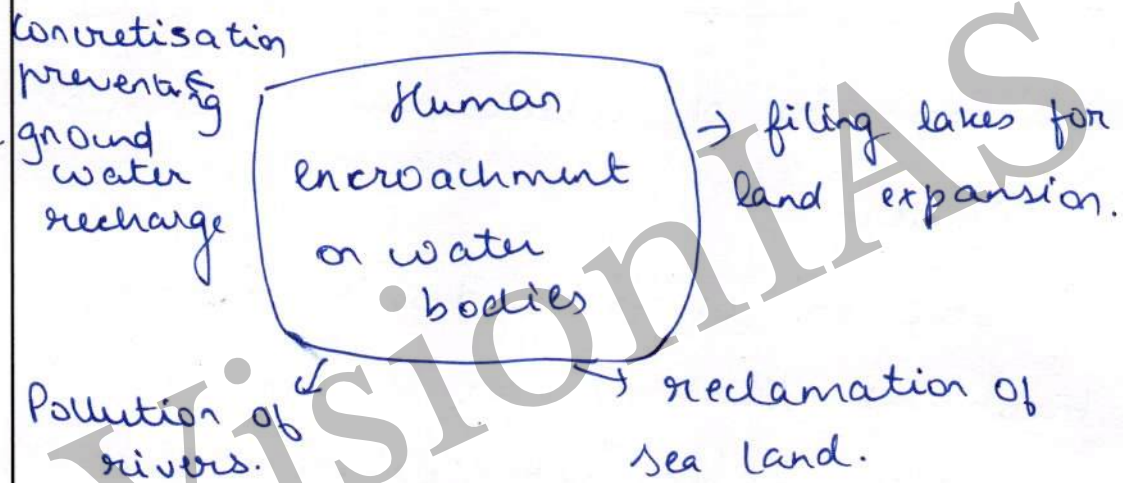
(eg- Britishers did not defend against probable Japanese invasion in India).

↳ Spread of socialism + rise of socialist leaders (like Nehru)..

Therefore, these forces of decolonisation led to a shift in balance of power, ultimately leading to a multipolar world order.

4. मानव अतिक्रमण शहरी क्षेत्रों में जल निकायों को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
How does human encroachment impact water bodies in urban areas? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Recurring water crises, recently seen in Bangalore, highlight the bleak relationship between water management and urban development in India.



### Impact in urban areas

- 1) Ecological integrity of water bodies challenged - Eg- capacity of Yamuna to replenish itself is lost.
- 2) Loss of lakes leading to scarcity of freshwater resources.

- 3) Lowering groundwater - due to concrete pavements - CWC found 14% of assessed units as 'over-exploited'.
- 4) Biodiversity loss - due to chemical, fertilizer pollution, algal blooms, leading to deoxygenation of water bodies.
- 5) Loss of wetlands - eg- expansion of agriculture near Sunderbans mangrove.
- 6) Higher inter-state conflicts - due to rising demands, Eg- between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over lawley.
- 7) Higher sedimentation due to construction of dams, increasing risk of flooding. Eg- Sirakud dam caused flooding in downstream areas.

Water is life's matter and matrix, medium and mother. Therefore, sustainable use of water is essential to achieve SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) <sup>13</sup>

5.

भौतिक भौगोलिक विशेषताएं परिवहन प्रणालियों के विकास और संचालन को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करती हैं?

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How do physical geographical features influence the development and operation of transportation systems? (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

The interdependence between geography and economy is clearly highlighted in the study of transportation systems.

### Physical geography and Transportation

#### 1) Mountains

↳ road construction is difficult

↳ sparse railway networks (eg - in Himalayas, Western Ghats).

↳ new modes - eg -

#### 2) Rivers

↳ allow river linking and inland transportation. (eg - National Waterway 2 - Sadiya - Dhubri along Brahmaputra).

↳ cheaper, faster, environmentally efficient water transport (eg - along mekong).

### 3) Plains

↳ facilitate dense railway networks  
(eg- in Ganga plains).

### 4) Forests

↳ break in mode of transportation to  
conserve biodiversity  
(eg- Darien Gap in Pan-American  
highway).

### 5) Deserts

↳ absence of population density, agriculture  
thus low transport development.

↳ use of traditional means  
(eg- Bactrian camels).

6) Ice caps, Glaciers, snow cover, in  
Arctic, Siberia → accessible only via  
air transportation.

Therefore, the level of infra-  
structure and development are 'Prisoners  
of Geography'.

6.

महासागरीय गर्त किस प्रकार निर्मित होती हैं? इन महासागरीय उच्चावच संरचनाओं की महत्वपूर्ण विशेषताओं का वर्णन कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How are ocean trenches formed? Describe the significant characteristics of these oceanic relief formations. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस ह्रासिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Oceanic trenches are depressions in the oceanic surface formed at the boundary of continental margins.

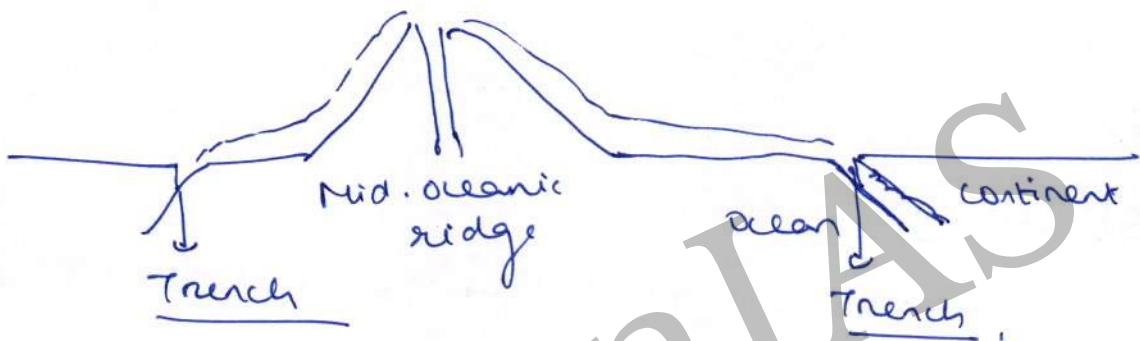


Fig: Oceanic relief and trenches.

### Formation of trenches

1) Trenches are formed when oceanic crusts converge with continental crusts, and causing the oceanic crust to submerge.

2) Eg- Mariana trench is the deepest trench in the world.

## Significant characteristics

- 1) Deep seated earthquakes are formed here.
- 2) Zone of volcanic activity leading to formation of Circum-Pacific Ring of fire.
- 3) Absence of biodiversity at great depths due to low temperatures and high pressures.
- 4) Destruction of oceanic floor takes place here, leading to the young age of the oceanic floor (< 200 million years old).

Therefore, trenches are important features explaining several geomorphological and physical phenomenon.

7.

हाल के समय में संपूर्ण भारत में अत्यधिक वर्षण की घटनाओं की बढ़ती संख्या के पीछे निहित कारणों की पहचान कीजिए। उनके सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रभाव का आकलन कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Identify the reasons behind increasing number of extreme rainfall events throughout India in recent times. Assess their socio-economic impact. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Rainfall in India in recent times has been marked by erratic and extreme events, acting as a reminder of the adverse impact of climate change.

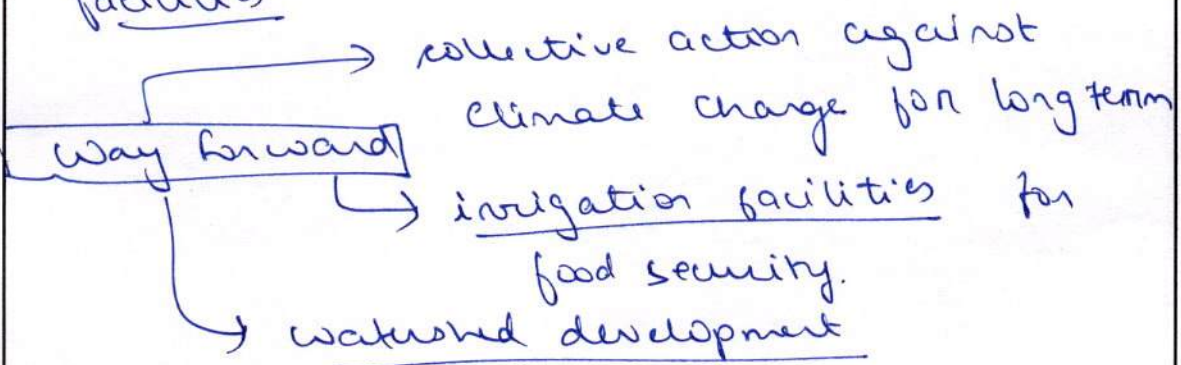
Reasons behind this

- 1) Increasing temperatures due to global warming → higher evaporation leading to severe rainfall.
- 2) Higher intensity of cyclones + increasing cyclones in Arabian Sea leading to extreme rainfall.
- 3) Delays in onset of monsoon due to impacts of climate change.
- 4) Impact of Triple Dip La Niña - has lead to higher precipitation across India.

- 5) Instances of droughts also increasing due to ~~reduced~~ agricultural water insecurity.
- 6) Cloudbursts in Himalayan states is also causing extreme rainfall.

### Socio-economic impact

- 1) Challenge to food security due to extreme rainfall.
- 2) Floods causing loss of life, property, livestock, crops, infrastructure.
- 3) Ease of living is impacted due to pauses in economic activities.
- 4) Vulnerability of Indian cities exposed, due to poor drainage and sewage facilities



Thus, nature-based solutions, such as blue-green infrastructure are required.

8.

वर्ष 2030 तक भारत में विश्व की सबसे बड़ी कामकाजी आयु वाली जनसंख्या होने की संभावना है तथा यह कार्यबल में महिलाओं की कम भागीदारी के जोखिम को अब और अधिक नहीं उठा सकता है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

India is expected to have the largest working-age population in the world by 2030 and it cannot afford low participation of women in the workforce anymore. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Increasing population, along with favourable demographic structure is writing India's growth story. However, we cannot progress by leaving half of our population behind.

We can't afford low participation of women in workforce as-

- 1) Reduced income generation leading to lower economic growth.
- 2) Skewed development - increasing gender inequality and feminisation of poverty.
- 3) Women in care economy - are unpaid, unvalued, unrecognised
- 4) women in agriculture - engaged as family labour, disguised.

unemployment.

5) women in STEM - < 30% of STEM workforce has women, while having > 42% of women in STEM education.

6)

### Measures and way forward

- 1) Promote safety of women in workplace. (recent Kolkata incident)
- 2) skilling of women to develop economic skills (eg - through self help groups under DAY - NRLM).
- 3) Promote women in politics - to ensure gender-sensitive policy making.
- 4) formalisation of economy - to provide for maternal leave, social security, and thus higher participation of women.

Thus, 'women in workforce'

hold the key to achieve India's vision of \$5 trillion economy.

9.

क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि भारत में जाति का प्रगतिशील धर्मनिरपेक्षीकरण हुआ है? प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ अपने विचार का समर्थन कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Do you agree that there has been a progressive secularization of caste in India? Support your view with relevant examples. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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Secularization of caste in India is marked by reducing significance of caste identities from public sphere, marking a shift towards individualism.

Evidence in support of secularization of caste

- 1) Urbanisation - marked by heterogeneous commensality - people from different castes stay together in PUs, hostels, societies.
- 2) Employment - based on merit, skill, instead of occupational prescription of caste.
- 3) Inter-caste marriages are gaining prominence, marriages based on class instead of caste.
- 4) Social mobility in caste structure - due to reservations for SCs, OBCs in public sphere.
- 5) Democratization of religion - decline in

authority of priestly classes, temples now open to all castes.

## Evidences against secularisation of caste

- 1) Caste and Politics - Rajni Kothari has explained how caste associations, caste-based political parties (eg- Bahujan Samaj Party) are popular.
- 2) Demands for reservation by Jats, Marathas is strengthening caste identity.
- 3) Untouchability though illegal, is still practiced in India. Eg- Salit Sarpanch made to sit on the floor in Rajasthan village.
- 4) Khap Panchayats, Honour killings still show evidence of continued relevance of caste in India.

Thus, while caste as a system is disintegrating in India, caste as an identity is gaining prominence.

10.

समग्र निर्धनता में कमी के बावजूद भारत में असमानता क्यों बढ़ती जा रही है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Why is inequality increasing in India despite the fall in overall poverty? (Answer in 150 words)

10

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While poverty levels have decreased from 25% to 12% (World Bank), inequality is increasing (top 1% of Indian population controls 64% of wealth, while Bottom 50% has 6%.)

Reasons for increasing inequality

1) Concentration of prosperity -

a similar pattern is observed in income levels in India.

2) Structural factors

↳ Over-reliance on agriculture (46% of workforce)

↳ stagnant growth of manufacturing sector (17-18% of GDP).

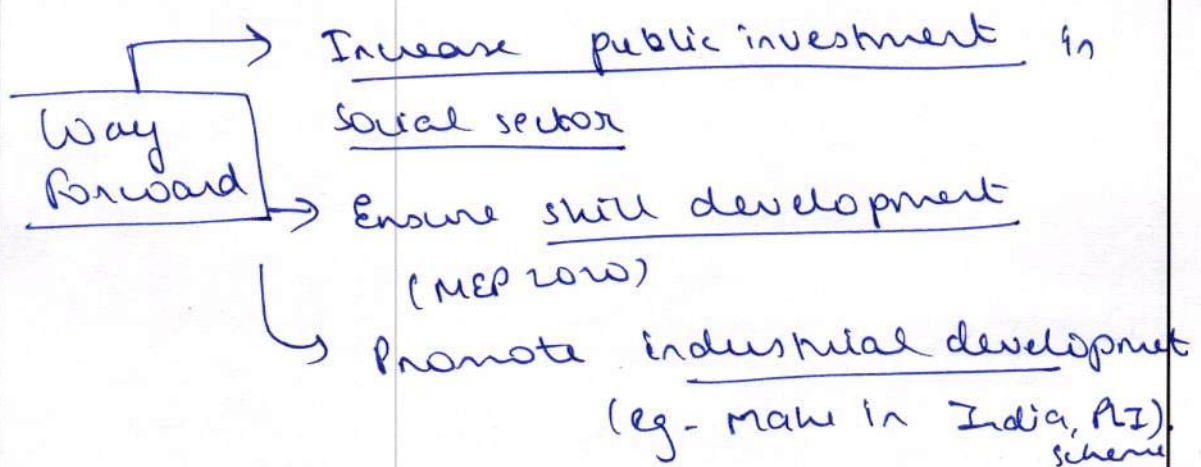
↳ jobless growth (due to technological adaptation).

### 3) Challenges of human capital

- ↳ only 5% of population is skilled.
- ↳ low quality of education - only 50% of graduates are employable.
- ↳ differential access to healthcare across rural and urban areas.
- ↳ malnutrition, stunting, wasting (19%) still prominent problems

### 4) Gender inequality

- ↳ feminisation of poverty
- ↳ rising violence against women
- ↳ wage gap (34% according to WEF).
- ↳ post-covid lower female LFPR.



Thus, reducing inequalities (SDG 10) is critical to ensure an inclusive and resilient development

11.

ब्राह्मणवाद और बौद्ध धर्म के बीच अर्थ, अनुयायियों और विचारधारा को लेकर हुई प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक एवं शत्रुतापूर्ण गतिशीलता ने किस प्रकार बौद्ध धर्म के पतन में भूमिका निभाई? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How did the competitive and hostile dynamic between Brahminism and Buddhism over funding, followers, and ideology mark the decline of Buddhism? (Answer in 250 words)

15

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While Buddhism emerged as a sect challenging to Brahminism in 6th century BC, its decline is also associated with its hostile dynamic with Hinduism, 3rd century AD onwards.

Competitive dynamic → decline of Buddhism

1) Funding

a) Political support to Buddhism declined while Temples, Sanskrit education was promoted by Gupta kings.

(eg - consolidation of Nagara temple architecture).

b) Popular support to Buddhism declined

↳ as Buddhist priests adopted lavish lifestyles, preached in large sanctuaries.

↳ Buddhism adopted complex sacrifices, difficult rituals → moved towards Brahminic traditions.

↳ Internal reforms in Buddh Brahminism due to reducing priestly authority gathered public support.

2) Followers

↳ Brahminism gained followers as Great Tradition supported the same.

↳ Bhakti movements (eg - by Shankaradev, Kabir) - gathered supporters towards Brahminism.

↳ Buddhism became religion of classes - as it adopted Sanskrit, moving away from Pali.

↳ Consolidation of Brahminism - temples provided space for religious expression, social gathering.

### 3) Ideology

a) Spiritualism, equality of all classes, decline in superiority of priestly class marked Brahminism.

b) Buddhism created hierarchy of monks, corruption of Dhamma, strict restrictions on followers.

c) Buddhism also had a militant approach towards caste system, thus not supported by elites.

Thus, the decline of Buddhism was marked by internal changes that led it to adopt measures and flow within the folds of Brahminism.

12.

मध्यकाल में आए यूरोपीय यात्रियों के वृत्तांतों ने भारत के तत्कालीन साम्राज्यों और जनसामान्य के बारे में हमारी समझ को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

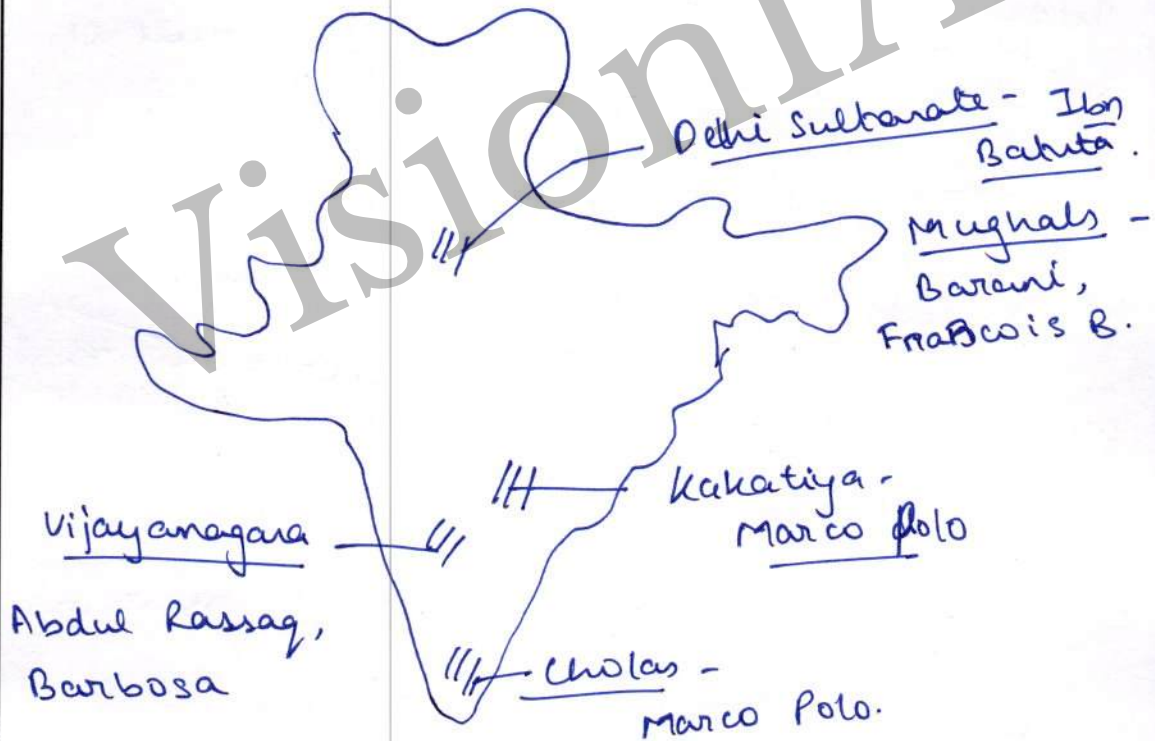
European travellers' accounts in the medieval period have played an important role in shaping our understanding of the empires and people of that period in India. Comment. (Answer in 250 words)

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Travellers' accounts provide a novel and comprehensive source for deconstructing economies, polity, society and thus the history of medieval India.

European travellers in medieval India



How they shaped our understanding

1) OF Empires

- उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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- 1) Nature of sovereignty - accounts explained hierarchy and hereditary rules of kings.
  - 2) Political conflicts - eg - Marco Polo mentions Chola empire's conquests in South East Asia, Sri Lanka.
  - 3) Nature of economy - eg - Ibn Batuta highlights method of land revenue collection, coinage system during rule of Khilji's, Tughlaks.
  - 4) Architectural spirit, sculptures, paintings and other cultural contributions have been documented.
  - 5) Nature of laws - Bareilly mentions Zahardari - secular laws during Delhi Sultanate rule.
  - 6) Social hierarchies - description of caste

system, presence of different classes have been highlighted.

ii) of people

1) Position of women is discussed, eg- how women worked as accountants, warriors in Vijayanagara rule.

2) Social evils like untouchability, sati, etc. are also discussed.

3) Level of production, eg- Textile, ivory, spices production and trade mentioned.

4) Subaltern history i.e. history from the point of view of the locals is provided through these travellers' accounts.

Thus, deconstructing travellers accounts has enabled India to present a reliable account of history, moving away from the colonial description of India as a 'land of snake-charmers'.

13.

1757 में प्लासी के युद्ध में ब्रिटिश विजय ने न केवल भारतीय इतिहास बल्कि विश्व के इतिहास की दिशा भी बदल दी। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The British victory in the Battle of Plassey in 1757 not just changed the course of Indian history but also that of the world. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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Battle of Plassey in 1757 is said to mark a watershed moment in the history of India as well as the world.

How it shaped Indian history

1) Established Britanners as top Economic power - reduced the influence of French, ultimately leading to its defeat in the 3rd Carnatic war.

2) Economic resources - due to zamindari rights over Bengal, Bihar, Odisha - provided resources for further conquest.

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14.

विभाजन के बाद पंजाब की तुलना में पश्चिम बंगाल में शरणार्थियों का पुनर्वास करना अधिक कठिन क्यों था? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Why was it more difficult to rehabilitate refugees in West Bengal as compared to Punjab after partition? (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस इलाक़े में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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The Partition of India led to a huge refugee crisis, and West Bengal and Punjab were the regions to be worst impacted.

It was more difficult to rehabilitate refugees in West Bengal than Punjab as-

- 1) West Bengal had a larger population as compared to Punjab, and influx of refugees exacerbated this problem.
- 2) West Bengal was the hub of communal violence and thus ensuring stability of the region was tougher.
- 3) Institutional measures like refugee camps were more efficiently implemented

In Punjab due to political will.

4) Productive land was received from Pakistan to Punjab - allowing agriculture by refugees → while Bengal suffered from loss of productive jute growing lands, which became a part of East Pakistan.

5) Financial constraints in Bengal made the problem of refugees worse.

Therefore, post-partition relief measures and management of refugees has shaped the present economic models of these two states, and continues to influence their politics and society.

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15.

भारत में कोयले से हरित ऊर्जा की ओर ट्रांजिशन से जुड़ी आर्थिक और सामाजिक लागतों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the economic and social costs associated with the transition from coal to green energy in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्जिन में नही लिखना चाहिए  
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## India's Panchamrita targets

50% of energy from renewable energy by 2030. However, this transition is not as smooth as expected.

### Economic costs with transition

- 1) Over-reliance on coal - over 50% of our energy still derived from coal.
- 2) Large green finance needs - India needs about USD 4-5 trillion to transition (according to WEF).
- 3) Fiscal burden - solar, wind, hydroelectric plants require large investments, creating fiscal burden.
- 4) Challenges with raw materials - eg - India dependent on China for over

70% of inputs required for solar cell production.

5) Critical elements like lithium, cobalt required - which require large costs in mining.

6) Battery storage infrastructure - India will need about 160-170 GW for green economy.

7) Costs of retrofitting - eg - ensuring EVs, flex-fuel vehicles are able to run on green sources.

8) Technological challenges - eg - in ensuring grid connectivity, offshore wind farms, adequate civil nuclear power generation.

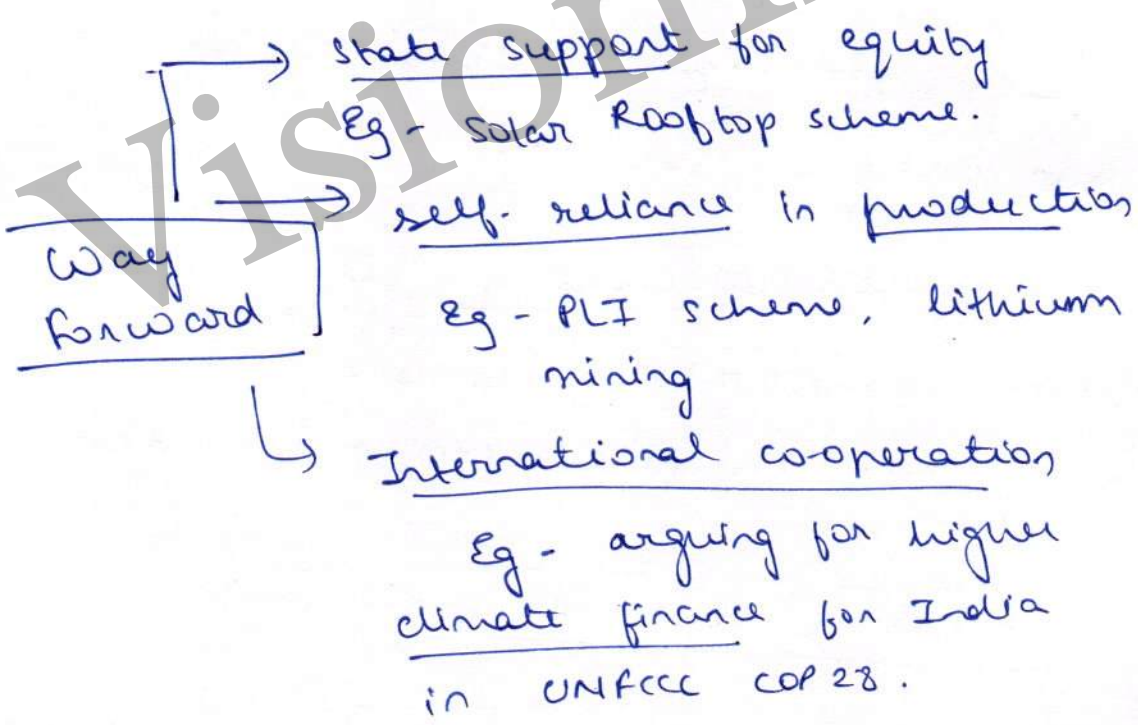
Social costs with transition

1) Impact on populations - eg - noise pollution due to wind farms, river pollution due to electronic waste.

2) Biodiversity loss - eg. Etahin hydropower project in biodiversity Dibang valley.

3) Risks of nuclear power, such as radioactive waste disposal, nuclear threats.

4) Inequitable access - eg. solar energy, EVs are still expensive and inaccessible to all.



Therefore, green energy (SDG 7) holds the future to a Viksit Bharat in Amrit kaal.

16.

ज्वालामुखीय काल्डेरा के निर्माण की प्रक्रिया की व्याख्या कीजिए। ये क्षेत्र की प्राकृतिक सुंदरता में किस प्रकार योगदान करते हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Explain the process of formation of volcanic calderas. How do they contribute to the scenic beauty of the region? (Answer in 250 words)

15

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Volcanic calderas are geographical physical formations when a volcano collapses on itself, forming a giant crater-like structure.

Contribution to scenic beauty

1) formation of crater lakes.

Eg - lake Taal, Philippines.

2) Home to rich biodiversity due to nutrient influx from volcanic eruptions.

3)

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17.

वैश्विक स्तर पर हीट वेव की बढ़ती आवृत्ति और तीव्रता के लिए कौन-से कारण उत्तरदायी हैं? इसका वैश्विक खाद्य सुरक्षा पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

What are the reasons behind the increased frequency and intensity of heat waves globally? How will it impact global food security? (Answer in 250 words) 15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्फ में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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There has been atleast 50% rise in heat waves in last decade, according to WMO, highlighting the threats of heat waves.

Reasons behind increased frequency & intensity

- 1) Global warming - Global temperatures have risen by atleast 1.09°C since 1750s (IPCC).
- 2) Urbanisation - congested cities, high heat absorption, loss of greenery leading to Urban Heat Islands.
- 3) Deforestation reducing the cooling impact of trees, rising concentration of green house gases.
- 4) Marine heatwaves also cause higher intensity heatwaves, eg - as seen in Southern USA.

5) Melting sea ice → reduced albedo  
↓  
heat waves ← higher heat absorption

6) Heat distribution across the globe is slowing down - due to reduced temperature differences leading to weaker jet streams.

7) Higher pollution - prevents inter-mixing of air, methane emissions absorb more heat, black carbon reduces albedo.

### Impact on food security

1) Reduced agricultural productivity as humans' productivity declines.  
(by about 5.5% due to heat waves).

2) Changing crop patterns - temperate crops will not be sown due to higher temperatures.

3) Higher perishability of food products  
due to high temperatures.

4) Threat of droughts and thus crop failures due to heat waves.

5) Higher risk of pests, weeds, invasive species which thrive in higher temperatures.

→ promote drought-resilient crops,  
'crops of the future', eg - millets.

Way forward

→ Cooling Plans should be

decentralised and formulated.  
(eg - Global Cooling Pledge).

→ global action on greenhouse gas emissions (eg - lowering coal subsidies).

→ heat wave action plan based on community action, information, awareness campaigns (eg - NOMA guidelines).

Therefore, as heat waves are one of the cruellest manifestations of climate change, their pre-emptive management can help in adaptation.

18.

घास के मैदान के बायोम की विशेषताओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत में बन्नी घास के मैदानों के समक्ष उत्पन्न खतरों का उल्लेख कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Identifying the characteristics of the grassland biome, mention the threats posed to Banni grasslands in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस क्राशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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Grasslands are ecosystems marked by shrubs and tall grasses, acting as an intermediary between dense forests and lifeless deserts.

### Characteristics of grass lands

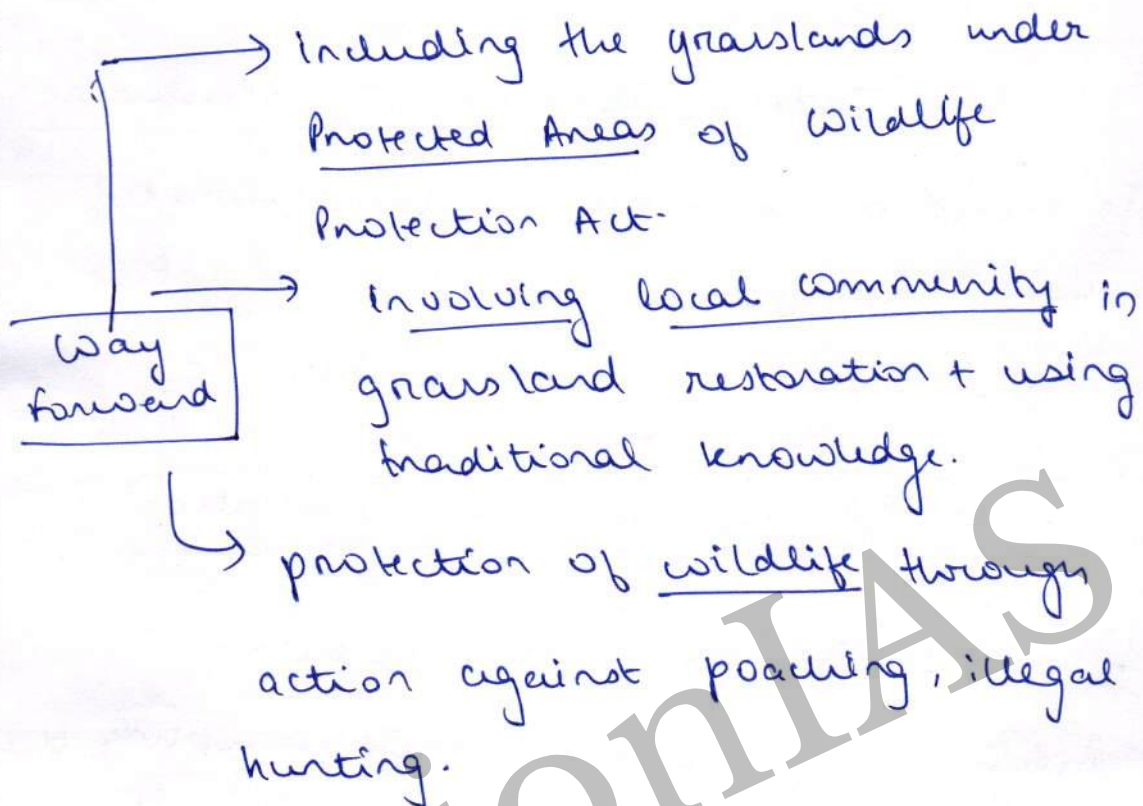
- 1) Flora - marked by tall grasses, sparse trees, non-flowering plants.
- 2) Fauna - biodiversity rich, with presence of big cats like lions, leopards, cheetahs, as well as elephants.
- 3) Distribution - found in centers of continents, ~~in~~ areas of offshore trade winds and low precipitation.
- 4) Temperature is usually high, with low precipitation.

5) Special types - eg- rolling grasslands  
found in high altitudes in western  
Ghats.

### Threats to Banni grassland in India

- 1) Rising temperatures threatening stability of ecosystem.
- 2) Risk of fires is increasing due to global warming.
- 3) Biodiversity loss due to poaching, hunting.
- 4) Invasive species are also spreading, leading to loss of genetic diversity.
- 5) Land degradation and desertification is leading to low ecological productivity.
- 6) Erratic monsoons leading to

alternating of drought and flood conditions.



Therefore, protecting the grasslands is critical to safeguarding a unique and productive biome in India.

19.

धर्मनिरपेक्षता के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण न केवल अंतर-धार्मिक प्रभुत्व को चुनौती देता है, बल्कि अंतरा-धार्मिक प्रभुत्व को भी चुनौती देता है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

India's approach to secularism does not merely challenge inter-religious domination but intra-religious domination as well. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

उम्मीदवारों को इस शीट में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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## India's approach to secularism

is based on principled distance between state and religion, based on essential interdependence between the two.

Challenge inter-religious domination

1) Secular state as proclaimed in Preamble - prevents state adopting the majoritarian religion or evolution of theological state.

2) Freedom of religion - as guaranteed under Articles 25-28 of the constitution - allows people from all religions to practice, profess their religion.

3) Equal rights to religious institutions (under Article 26) to ensure continuity and sacredness of all religions.

4) State promotes all religions equally

- eg - subsidies for Kumbh Mela as well as Hajj pilgrimage.

5) Rights of religious minorities are also protected under Article 29 of the Constitution.

6) Equal access to resources like education, employment as discrimination based on religion is banned (Article 15/16).

7) Special measures for religious minorities like Jiyo Parsi Scheme, Namami Bharat.

Challenge to intra-religious domination

1) State powers for social reform

under Article 25 ensures that intra-religious discriminatory practices can be controlled.

2) Abolition of untouchability under Article

17 is a fundamental right.

3) Special safeguards for the lower castes  
eg- reservation for SCs in education,  
employment, parliament.

4) Controlling powers of religious elites  
by regulating temples, wage boards  
Eg- recent bill on wage Boards.

5) Protection of women who face  
inter-sectional deprivations  
Eg- uniform civil code stressed.

6) Judicial interventions also ensures  
intra-religious equity  
Eg- Sabarimala judgement, abolition of  
triple talaq.

Therefore, Indian secularism  
works for ensuring equity and respect,  
balancing the freedoms of religion with  
welfare of society, and is thus called a  
'Basic feature' of Indian constitution.

क्या आप इस दृष्टिकोण से सहमत हैं कि भारतीय शहर घोर असमानता और सामाजिक बहिष्करण के परिदृश्य में बदलते जा रहे हैं? भारत में शहरी क्षेत्रों को अधिक समतावादी बनाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Do you agree with the view that Indian cities are turning into landscapes of stark inequality and social exclusion? What steps can be taken to make urban areas more egalitarian in India? (Answer in 250 words)

Indian cities are home to over 30% of our population, contributing over 50% to our GDP. However, this urbanisation has challenges of its own.

Positives of Indian cities

- greater employment opportunities (shifting away from agriculture)
- higher women's participation
- relative autonomy - reduced caste-based identities
- ↳ access to quality education and healthcare.

Problems with Indian cities : landscape of stark inequality & social exclusion

1) Proliferation of slums - over 17% of urban population live in slums.

↳ lack of hygiene, access to basic services, WASH facilities

- 2) Gated societies show stark inequality
- ↳ stand tall in contrast to poor living conditions in slums.
  - ↳ different lifts for service workers shows inequality.

3) Economic opportunities - lower classes confined to informal economy, source of cheap labour, act as 'lifeline of misery'.

4) Social status - lower castes still subject to violence, untouchability (eg- not allowed to touch kitchen utensils), according to Justice S. Ravindra Bhatt.

5) Privatisation of education in cities - which are highly expensive and inaccessible to most classes.

6) Infrastructure development - while some areas have proper roads and modern facilities, others suffer from lack of proper drainage, inaccessible roads (eg- flooding in Beethi during rains).

## Steps that can be taken

- 1) Slum redevelopment based on community-participation and agency.  
Eg - Jaga mission of Odisha.
- 2) Empowering municipal bodies - ensure adequate representation across all classes.
- 3) Strict enforcement of laws, like SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.
- 4) Ensure women's safety by creating strong deterrence, police helplines, CCTVs, etc.
- 5) Access to basic services - eg - water through Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT.
- 6) Sustainable development through climate-friendly and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Therefore, sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) forms the backbone of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas in India.

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



VisionIAS