

Test Code: 11033

FIAS – 2018 – GS PAPER 1

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

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Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.</p> <p>3. All questions are compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>5. 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.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p>	
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			ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Innovation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



Q.1) The social conditions in European towns post-Industrial Revolution resemble those existing in Indian cities post liberalization. Critically examine.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Industrialisation is inherently associated with urbanisation with peculiar opportunities and problems associated with the process which more or less follow set pattern:

★ European Towns Vis-à-vis - Indian Cities
★ Social Conditions similarities

1] Increased migration from rural areas to urban centres

2] Increased frequency of slatter, low level colonies around financial hubs

3] Problems of low hygiene and sanitation in these colonies with low social indicators like life expectancy, literacy

4] Environmental challenges - air pollution, water pollution, neglect of rivers and wetlands

5] Increased burden on civic amenities with law and order problems along with ghettoisation

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6] Lack of social security net to the lower class workers

* Differences

1] Most of the Indian towns developed as a historical legacy of colonial times of industrialisation
eg. Presidency towns of Bombay, Madras

2] India skipped industrial phase and jumped towards service oriented economy with cities like Mumbai being deindustrialised in favour of service led growth

3] skew in 'top heavy' form of urbanisation where 53 million plus cities command 80% of population

The schemes like smart cities, AMRUT, are oriented towards making urbanisation in India to achieve sustainable growth as envisaged in New urban agenda

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
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Q.2) Literary accounts of foreign travellers are useful in arriving at an understanding of the socio-cultural life of Indian History. Elucidate.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Most of our historical understanding about particular place in a designated period is supplemented by the accounts of foreign travellers who meticulously recorded their findings.

* Literary Accounts contained

1) Economic life: They described the features of market, trade, occupations of the new places and cities
eg. Ibn Battuta in Tughlaq Delhi

2) Cultural life: They mentioned habits people, their lifestyle, religious and other festivals and involvement of different strata of society
eg. Dasahara festival of Vijayanagara
combine eg. Domingo Paes, Nuniz

3) Social: The information regarding organization of society, customs and tradition, condition of women, lower castes
eg. Fa Hien in Chandragupta II Reign

4] Administration :
 Megasthenes account of
 Mauryan empire elaborates various
 city committees and also administration
 within the army ✓

5] Hiuen Tsang also mentioned about
 the deplorable condition of untouchables
 Ibn Bahuta about sati which points
 out to social deficiencies of the time

6] They noted the conditions of present,
 land relation, detailed character
 of emporium at the time to give
 understanding of entire profile of that
 place eg. Kitab-ul Hind
 Akhla by Ibn Bahuta et.

Traveler account though sometimes
 biased or exaggerated give us prominent
 insight into our understanding of history.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation	
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Q.3) The diffusion of Marxism in India has been significant, but often in synthesis with progressive indigenous philosophies. Comment.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Marxism is the ideological dogma based on thinking of Karl Marx when he gives his own pathway towards achievement of socialism through state control of means of Production

* Diffusion in India

- 1] Dadabhai Naoroji gave his speech in Europe at the conference of worker parties
- 2] Russian Revolution of 1917 was important event leading to spread of communism to other part of world
- 3] Rise of Communist Party of India by MN Roy at Tashkent in 1920
- 4] This was later formalised at Kanpur with prominent leads like S.A. Dange, Nalini Gupta, Minob Masani, Aayaz Patawardhan
- 5] It received bigger setback in the form of Meerut conspiracy case in 1929.

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6) Similarity various revolutionary fervor & activities were influenced by ideal of socialism eg. Bhagat Singh

- 1) The movement largely remained within the overarching guidelines of Indian National Congress during freedom struggle
 - 2) Gandhian ideal of trusteeship, Sarvodaya is blended with the goal of Marxism that is classless society
 - 3) Supreme Court has also committed that our socialism is inclined towards Gandhian type of socialism
 - 4) Movements also aroused local resistance traditions among indigenous tribal population eg. Telangana Movement 1947
- Marxism in India is directed towards spread of socialist family within the confines of constitutional architecture using tools of democratic polity.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.4) Today, when the country seems to be in the grip of various socio-religious forces that aim to divide the society, it is pertinent that we recall the philosophies of Basavanna and his sharana movement. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Divine cultural and religious tradition of India are always vulnerable to the dissipation tendencies and we need to be on constant watch to nip these forces in the bud.

Philosophies of Basavanna

- 1) He popularised the message of devotion towards supreme beings
- 2) He allowed persons from every strata join his movement and did not discriminate against lower castes
- 3) He also gave equal standing to his female disciples and many of them became prominent Kannada poets
- 4) His vachanas are directed towards simplifying the mode of worship signifying complete assimilation with god.

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- 6) Basavanna's sharanra movement popularised the tools of State.
 - 7) It exalted the role of selfless devotion without showing divergent view in bad light.
 - 8) It was directed more towards unifying different viewpoints and going forward together transcending socio, caste, regional divisions.
- Hence Basavanna with his movement strengthened the tradition of tolerance, dialogue and harmony which has been hallmark of Indian society.

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Q.5) Explain giving suitable arguments, why the Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998 were considered to be a paradigm shift in India's post-independence history.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998
script important chapter in our
independent history attesting our emphasis
on strategic autonomy and responsible
democracy devoted to global peace.

Paradigm Shift

1] Domestic Front: 1990s decade was
trial of fractured polity with unstable
coalition governments

2] It showed remarkable political will
on the part of political leadership
to carry out the tests.

3] Also being non-signatory to Non-
proliferation treaty and non-member
of NSG India was constantly presumed
into submission into unilateral disarmament

4] Pokhran tests ushered into new era
with attest to our technological
capabilities and faith in our own
action

- 7] India braved the global sanctions and real fear of being isolated on global platforms
- 6) These tests also sent strong signal to neighbour like China and Pakistan and created strong deterrence
- 7) It ushered into era of precise defence strategies with emphasis on 'minimum credible deterrence'; 'No first use'
- 8) India also reiterated its commitment towards peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Therefore 1998 Pakistan Tests signalled the arrival of strong India with force to reckon with capable of pursuing its goals without being rebuffed to vested interests.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.6) Discuss the role and contribution of the North-East region in India's struggle for Independence. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

North-Eastern India has unique contribution to India's Independence with various tribes and communities ushering into traditions of local resistance

A Role and Contribution

- 1] Ahom revolt: It is one of the early revolt that happened after 11th Anglo-Burmese war
- 2] Also Jhansi and Jaintia revolt of present day Meghalaya for their tribal rights on land and forest
- 3] In state of Manipur - Kuki revolt, Mowky revolt against British policy of divide and rule, favouring one tribe over another, interfering in social customs
- 4] In Tripura resistance was under Raja Pabonrat, Chakma revolt

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- 6] Nagaland: Naga revolt against infusion of outside migrants and settlers
- 6] Also North Eastern tribes put spirited fight against proselytising activities of missionaries in the region
- 7] During civil disobedience movement Rani Gaidinliu played leader was imprisoned who was left only after independence
- 8] Imperial Campaign of Indian National Army had support local population against Britishers
- Despite its cultural distinctness, communication and transportation issues North East evinced unique pathway of resistance towards colonial oppressions.

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Q.7) Giving an account of PVTGs in India, explain how are they different from other tribals of India? Indicate the major efforts taken for their upliftment.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups are those tribal communities which still lead primitive lives and yet to be mainstreamed and brought into developmental discourse

* Difference & identification criteria

- 1] Most of these tribes live in difficult hilly areas with difficulty in communications eg. Jarawas (Andaman)
- 2] Some of these tribes to this day remain hostile to outside contact eg. Sentinelese of Sentinel Island
- 3] Their lifestyle is primitive with reliance on hunting & gathering, foraging, shifting cultivation eg. Uolanaikher in Kerala
- 4] Their demographic and social indicators are poor with high infant mortality, declining population, low life expectancy
- 5] Most of these have their separate language without separate script and hence language is prone to

exclusion eg. 80 language in Andaman

* Effort for upliftment

- 1) Constitutional measures
 - 5th and 6th schedule for special considerations in administration
 - Reservation in education and public employment
 - Reservation in Parliament and state legislature

2) Parliamentary Act:

- Prohibition of Attacks against SC & ST
- Various schemes of government eg. Varadharu kalyan Yojana
- Forest Rights Act 2006

3) Committees & Commissions:

Dhebar Commission, Bhuma Commission, Xena committee → Improving basic amenities like health, education, diversification of livelihood eg. TRIFED

Main goal of government should be to develop without compromising their unique culture, traditions as they are 'anthropological specimens' of rich tribal history

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Q.8) How does the NASA's Parker Solar Probe help to understand aspects of the Sun-Earth system that directly affect life and society?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

NASA has announced the ambitious mission that would probe the Sun for the first time in the history of NASA's space mission.

*** Parker Mission**

- 1) It will try to understand the Sun's atmosphere
- 2) It will try to investigate the as why temperature of corona is more than the surface of Sun
- 3) The exact origin of hydrogen, fusion process and approximate age of Sun
- 4) It will also try to learn Sun specific phenomenon like solar flares, solar sunspots
- 5) Changes in the Sun's energy emission and its correlation with climate change, global warming

- Effect on life & society
- 1) Frequency and intensity of UV radiation with ozone depletion being observed
 - 2) Changing temperature levels with consequent effect on agriculture and food security of globe
 - 3) El Niño cycles which generally occur every 11-13 years affect the security of summer and winter
 - 4) Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) can also lead to increased heat waves
 - 5) Intrusion of harmful ion ionized radiation at upper atmosphere eg. Aurora Borealis + Australia
- Parker solar probe will enhance our understanding of sun and may provide pathway to tackling changing climate crisis

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.9) Present an account of major metallic mineral deposits in India. Why the vast tracts of alluvial plains of India are devoid of minerals of economic use? Give reasons.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Distribution of mineral deposits are particularly determined by the geological upheavals that took place in the Indian sub-continent since the present day.

A] Eastern Indian Complex
 → Chota Nagpur Plateau, Karmur Range is the most richly endowed region with Gondwana coal situated in Godavari & Krishna valley region.
 → It is rich in iron, manganese, copper, mica, and other non-metals e.g. Dighbhum (Iron), Bailadila, Jalli Rayhou (Copper).

B] Central India: Areas of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana → Deccan plateau region - Rich in iron, manganese

C] South Indian Peninsula: This region comprising Goa, Karnataka, TN, Kerala is rich of iron, manganese, mica etc - But devoid of coal except lignite at Neyveli.

* Alluvial plain of India

- * Devoid of mineral due to
- Recent formations in tertiary & quaternary period
- They are formed out of foredeep between Indian peninsula and Himalayas during collision of Indian and Eurasian plate
- They are deposited with massive sedimentation from Himalayas without stratification and no fossil fuels
- The process of upheaval is still not complete and new folding at Himalayan frontal fault occurring now.
- The old Tertiary sea sediments are converted to Himalayan mountain

Therefore Indian geology show denudation where old stable peninsular block being mineral rich where alluvial plain are devoid of meaningful mineral resources

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.10) Bring out the distribution of red-soils in India and their specific use in agriculture.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Red soils are important and most widespread type of soil after alluvial soil found in zones of high temperature and Rainfall

A Distribution

- 1) These soils are most commonly found in the coastal areas of Western India with Konkarn, Karnataka coast and Malabar coast
- 2) They are also present in major areas of states like Tamil Nadu, Southern part of Andhra Pradesh
- 3) In Eastern India the soils are found in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and in areas of laterite soils hilly & mountainous terrain laterite soils are found at high altitudes while red soils at Piedmont region of Chhota Nagpur

1) In North East there are Jaintya hills in region of Garo, Khasi, Jaintya hills which is extension of Peninsula

* Use for agriculture

1] They are devoid of nitrogen, humus, phosphate but rich in potash

2] They can be used to grow cereals like wheat, corn, pulses, oilseeds, Bajra, Jawar after application of irrigation and fertilizers eg. Rice in Tamil Nadu

3] They can also be used for plantation agriculture eg. Tea plantation in North East, spices in South India. Most of the red soil region is hilly areas with good rainfall. Hence application of modern technologies can turn this areas into food baskets of India.

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Q.11) The most important challenge to the decaying Mughal power came from the Maratha Kingdom, however, Marathas not only failed to build up an empire but also became incapable of defending themselves. Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

During the reign of Aurangzeb Marathas emerged as strong power challenging Mughal supremacy first under Shivaji; then Peshwa

★ Strong Challenge

1) Shivaji led the foundation of strong Maratha rule rising revolt against Deccani rules of south and Mughals in North

2) He captured important forts of Marathas and challenged the supremacy of Mughals in Deccan after extinction of Adilshahi.

3) He instigated Aurangzeb which led to his failed Deccan campaign of 27 years which weakened Mughals beyond repair

4) The strong tradition of resistance was carried forward by Peshwa who

ruled from Pune with loose confederacy spread upto Malwa under direct control.

A Causes of Failure

1) Inept leadership: After Shivaji and Bajirao leaders like Raghunath Rawa, Bajirao II were corrupt and incapable

2) loose confederacy → with lot of infighting between territories e.g. Holkar against Surdha

3) Administrative failure: Lack of proper organization, no political steps to sustain absorption of provinces

4) Financial model: Based on war generated revenue, Chauth & Sardashtmuchi from conquered regions

5) Over-reliance on guerrilla tactics which did not work later with British as they had sophisticated arms and disciplined forces

A Trability to defend

- 1) The Anglo Maratha war
 - Gradual weakening
 - signing subsidiary alliance by Bajirao II

2) Modernization of Army: Neglected by Peshwa, no expansion of army after death of Shivaji.

3) Lack of espionage, communication and transport facilities → British outmanouevred them

4) After death of Shivaji the war of 1761 was fought between the Marathas and the British. The British were able to capture Sambhaji.

5) ~~The~~ The movement of Marathas was largely religio-ethnic movement without long term vision which led to their untimely extinction.

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Q.12) "A national movement cannot sustain itself if there is no medium to connect people". In the light of this statement examine the role played by the press in the Indian national movement.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Development of Press in India during British colonial period played role of awareness, propaganda and countering British policies that perpetuated exploitation and subjugation

Role of Press

1) English Press: It was started by various foreigners and then by Indians intellectuals like Dadabhai Naoroji, Phirozshah Mehta to present critique of government policy

2) During the moderate phase of struggle the newspapers were important to spread the economic critique of government

3) Also it published various articles, petitions which were used to spread political message and political education among masses

B) Vernacular Press

→ After success of Vernacular English press the came up with message to arouse the masses

→ Some of them preached revolutionary message eg. Sarathi, Bipoli, Lal, Landhi

→ Role of Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai in spreading this message through the paper was huge eg. Kesari & Mardana by Tilak.

C) Social Reforms

→ Sudharak, by Aggarwal, Dargan
by Lokhitwadi, Tatvatohini
Deendranath Tagore or some of the examples through which message of religious and social reforms was propagated

→ D) Home Rule

→ Propagation idea of home rule through New India & Commonwealth
→ Political activity in rural and backward areas by - Jinnah, Gopal

D) Gandhian Phase: He started Young India, Harijan to spread the message of satyagraha, temperance, swadeshi, National education etc.

* Challenges

- Vernacular Press Act by Lytton with power for confiscation
- Indian press act, Indian response (inherent of offences) act to tackle extent after partition of Bengal
- S. Mr Banerjee, Tilak were arrested and sent to Andaman for their Caste remarks against government

The press led to immense awareness among masses about exploitation character of British rule and busted myth of its invincibility

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Q.13) Highlight the forms of secular architecture that evolved during medieval times? Discuss the significance of these buildings in the socio-cultural lives of people today?
(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Medieval India from the beginning of Delhi Sultanate to advent of British Raj has rich architectural tradition forming India's Cultural Heritage

1) Secular Architecture of Delhi Sultanate

→ Qutub Minar built during the Ilkhani dynasty and later completed & repaired by Firuz Tughlaq.

→ Development of architecture during the reign of Khilji & Tughlaq dynasty with focus on use of red sandstone e.g. Ashrafi Darwaza, Alauddin's Tomb

2) Mughal Dynasty

— Indo-Islamic Architecture reached its peak

→ Construction of Taj Mahal by Shah Jahan

→ Construction of Red Fort by Shah Jahan

→ Also Agra Fort, Shersh Mahal, Jahangir's Mahal, Khatwa Palace etc.

→ Howa Mahal - Jaipur, Buland Darwaza, Fatehpur Sikri

3) Deccani Architecture

- Construction of Gol Gumbaz at Vijapur
- Water conservation works
eg. Panchakki at Aurangabad
Canals at Hyderabad
- Planned city of Hyderabad, Char Minar

4) South India → Vijayanagar Empire

- Construction of secular structures
within temple complexes
eg. Tanks, Courts etc

5) Other areas:

- This included Shiqi architecture
at Jaipur
- Mandu fort in Malwa
- City of Ahmedabad
- Peshwa architecture → Shaniwar wada, Pune

Significance in socio-cultural lives

These places are important cultural
heritage of India

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- 2] Many of them are designated on UNESCO convention eg. Fatehpur Sikri
- 3] They form important tourist attraction not only for domestic but also for foreign tourist
- 4] Symbols of political power eg. In independence day speech from red fort
- 5] They are symbols of syncretic composition of culture of India, Hindu-Muslim unity signifying Ganga-Jamuna Talyb.

Here, Medieval architecture does not hold an important place and takes a marginal place in our rich cultural history.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.14) Institution of family has remained central to Indian society since ancient times. Trace the changes that happened in structure and status of family over a period of time. Also, discuss the effects of globalization on it.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Ever since the advent of Vedic period when people started setting the institution of family has undergone changes without losing its centrality in Indian society

* Central to Indian society

- Strong familial bonds between people with close relations
- Generally large size of family as compared to western counterparts
- United families pursuing unique character
- United work spirit e.g. Agricultural, trade, business
- Collective responsibility, form of insurance during period of contingency
- More or less similar family structure irrespective of class, caste, religion etc.
- Hierarchical comprising Grandparents, Parents, children with common values like respect of elders, common festivals

- A Changes in structure and status
- Change in size with introduction of population and family planning
e.g. Restricted No. of children
 - Separation of families with increased frequency of nuclear families with neglect of parents and maximum two children
 - Increased urban character of the family
 - Change in occupation from agriculture to employment in factories, govt services etc.
 - Increased freedom to women to participate in education, employment
 - Loosening of status of position that bound women to kitchen or children
 - Increased mobility with increased speed of education, spread of modern values
 - Somewhat weakened family bonds with rise of individualism

- Q Effect of globalisation
- 1) From large mural houses with garden balconies to small apartments with key scrapers
 - 2) Increased fragmentation of family due to migration with mobility of young men to cities leaving behind families
 - 3) Increased materialism, individualism, loss of lack of familial support, rise of many overshadowing familial values
 - 4) Distribution of close relatives over the globe with modern ICT acting as force of cohesion through internet, video calls

Even though family as a unit has loosened a bit, Indian society still puts heavy on family-oriented structure of society with various govt programmes for family as unit for the formulation

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.15) Transit Oriented Development is an exciting fast growing idea of creating vibrant, liveable and sustainable cities. Examine its pros and cons in India's context.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Transit Oriented development is the new urban development model emphasised during the execution of New Urban Agenda at Habitat III as per.

* Transit Oriented Development

→ It involves planning urban development with taking into consideration mode of transport and its future expansion

→ Also exhibiting seamless integration of various modes of transport to initiate integrated urban growth

* Positives

1) Planned Growth: It will assist to haphazard growth of urban areas and lead to planned growth

2) It will reduce the problems of congestion, loss of time, low productivity, pollution affecting urban areas

- 3] It will lead to tackling the problem of slums, shanty colonies as land along major transit routes will be developed to accommodate migrants, daily workers
- 4] Creation of built environment in the city to increase the availability and accessibility to affordable transport options
- 5] It will promote use of public transport reducing reliance on private transport
- 6] Use of ICT like intelligent transport system (NITI Aayog strategy) to enhance the experience of traveler & BRTS Ahmedabad
- 7] Focusing on non-motorized transport like pedestrian pathways, separate lanes for bicycles, promotion of electric vehicles
- 8] Developing satellite cities, suburban towns to absorb incoming migrants

- A Com
 D I L will require large amount of private investment or PPP models
- 2] Requirement for devolution of functions, function and decentralisation
 - 3] Financial strengthening of local bodies with power to raise funds
 - 4] 'One size fits all' won't work for Indian cities with diverse needs
 - 5] Affordable housing, regeneration of urban water bodies are other important challenges of urban planning
 - 6] Affordability of electric vehicles is an issue
- Implementation of new urban agenda with focus towards transit oriented approach will lead to systematic urbanisation commensurate with its future needs.

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Q.16) India has made considerable progress in empowering women educationally, economically and politically. But our record on ensuring women's health and survival remains dismal. Substantiate giving examples. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Women form around half the population and no country can boast of progress without taking its women along rather mean of women's progress is indicator of country's growth.

* Women Empowerment

* Education

- The enrollment ratio among male & female in primary level is almost same
- Incentivizing women education through scholarship, waiving of fees
e.g. UDAN for female in IIT
- Sama Shiksha Abhyas with focus availability of separate toilet for girl child
- Women R2D y. ICIRAN

* Economically

- Strengthening women SHG for micro-enterprises, NGO
e.g. Self Employed Women Association

- Credit support, collateral free loan
eg. MUDRA Yojana
Stand UP India
- Availability of Markets
eg. Mahila Haat

* Politically

- Reservation in tier - 3 of government
- Compulsory 33% in UCB, & PCB
with some states providing 50%.
- Cabinet Defence, ministry, external
affair minister, treasurer of Lok Sabha
are held by women
- Reservation of women bill in parliament

* Women's Health and Survival

- 1) Though there is gradual improvement
in sex ratio reaching 940 (census 2011)
the child sex ratio continues to decline
- 2) Son-preference as discussed
in economy survey leading to
unwanted and missing women
due to neglect

2) Global nutrition report showing 48% of women are underweight and 22% are overweight

6) Rising incidence of lifestyle related diseases with increasing cardiovascular, breast cancer, ovarian cancer etc.

5) Child marriage, multiple pregnancy, prevalence of anemia among women in reproductive age group

6) Maternal Mortality Ratio nearly upto 167 per lakh far from the target of 100 per lakh

* Government Measures

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- Mahatya Befit Act
- Ujjwala Yojan - Free LPG connection
- MNREGS Act

Implementation of Draft National Women Policy, and operationalising universal health care through Ayushman Bharat is need of the hour.

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Q.17) Indo-pacific region has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The term Indo-Pacific was first used in 2007 but its next mention in US National Security Strategy emphasises India's growing role in the region.

↳ Geopolitical significance

1] Economic: Place of important sea lane of communication with major energy transport routes

2] Strategic: India's position is in the middle of Indian Ocean, with choke points present on the both sides easy to command y. Strait of Hormuz, Malacca Strait

3] Security: Rising power of China may wills effort to build string of ports around India
eg. Chittagong, Hambantota, Gwadar

6) Foreign Presence: Important military bases belonging to US, France, UK
- Réunion, Diego Garcia, Chagos Archipelago

7) Military Exercise

- Increasing number of bilateral and multilateral military exercise as power projection mechanism

eg. Indian Ocean naval exercises

8) Multilateral Organisations: - like Indian Ocean Rim Association, ASEAN, APEC and its member countries have integrated interests in the region

★ Challenges before India

1) Modernisation of navy
- Country lags in acquisition of technology from abroad eg: US & R

2) Growing net security powers to countries in Indian Ocean region

3) Territorial conflict: South China Sea
Ensuring implementation of UN Convention on sea laws, maintenance of free navigation
right of overflight

9] Efforts neighbourhood to front policy to counter China presence in South like Maldives, Sri Lanka

Way Forward

- 1] Increased interactions along the platforms like IORA, BIMSTEC to counter inefficiencies of SAARC
 - 2] Promote use of groupings like Quad to counter Chinese hegemony
 - 3] Raising issues regarding contact with Seychelles for Andaman Islands, delay in operationalising Chabahar port
 - 4] Tackling non-conventional threats like piracy, smuggling, disaster management and promotion of soft power especially in ASEAN
- India has to groom itself to take the role of major power in Indo-Pacific region with tertiary roadblock in its way hegemony front priority.

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Q.18) How far do you agree that behavior of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to climate change? Give reasons.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Indian monsoon is unique phenomenon responsible for vibrant life on Indian subcontinent. Any change in monsoon due to climate change will have catastrophic effect on Indian subcontinent.

1) Changing behaviour

2) Increased frequency of extreme weather events

→ Increased incidences of drought and flood across the country

3) Increased variability

→ Unpredictable nature of the monsoon is further amplified

→ Areas with less monsoon are affected more due to increased variability e.g. Western Rajasthan, Aravalli range

- 3) Unseasonal Rainfall
- Dury the winter season
or dury pre-monsoon period leading
to loss of crop
- 4) Increased incidence of cyclone
Due to changing sea surface
temperature, acidification of ocean,
landward fresh water discharge in ocean
- 5) EL Nino & La Nina - Disturbed water cycle
→ Increased frequency of occurrence
of EL Nino occurring every 3-4 years
rather than 7-8 years
→ Also La Nina frequency has
increased
- 6) Late onset and early withdrawal
incidence as on time
- 7) Effect like cloudburst, flash floods
or other issues associated

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8] Regional variability

Data seasonal variability has increased with occurrence of flood at one place and drought at another due to at same time

* Observation to the contrary

→ Some areas have observed to increased average annual rainfall
e.g. Gujarat, Odisha

→ Correlation between high temperature and decreasing rainfall is rather weak as observed in Europe survey 2018-19

Climate change is definitely altering the way monsoon functions but we need robust study establishing exact correlation between climate change and monsoon to better prepare for tackling its effect



Q.19) Groundwater shortages have long been predicted but what is concerning is the rapid contamination of groundwater especially with elements such as uranium and nitrate. Analyse the issue while suggesting potential solutions.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Overuse of groundwater due to high reliance of On tube wells, electricity subsidy has led to continuous falling water table levels and need for sustainable use of precious resource

1) Groundwater shortage

1) Agriculture - Over 90% of groundwater is used for agricultural purposes
 → Tube wells have low utilization rates and lead to rapid fall of water table
 → Irregular electricity availability at submersed rate has led to adverse scenario

2) Shortage is particularly seen in areas like Arunachal Pradesh, Western India, Punjab, Haryana with over-irrigated water logged soils

3) Urban areas and industries are also increasingly relying on groundwater due to destruction of surface water bodies and erratic monsoon

B) Contamination of Groundwater

a) Uranium: → Disposal of nuclear waste disposal has to deal prudently with sea release it into Ocean or unsafe underground storage

→ Radioactivity of water can lead to genetic disorder due to bioaccumulation and biomagnification, chromosomal abnormalities, Hereditary disorders

b) Nitrate
 - Mostly due to agricultural runoff
 - Excessive use of fertilizers
 → Can cause blue baby syndrome

c) Other groundwater contamination

→ Marine transgression in coastal areas

→ Mining untreated industrial waste with soil ultimately nearby groundwater

→ Insanitary landfills in urban areas

→ Arsenic contamination in Eastern India

→ Acid rains

→ Fluoride contamination reported in Gujarat, Rajasthan

Solutions to stop contamination

1) Safe disposal nuclear and other hazardous waste
 - Following Basel convention, Stockholm convention and Rotterdam convention

2) Defining liability and responsibility of nuclear plant operator regarding safe disposal of nuclear waste

3) Judicious use of fertilizers with gradual withdrawal of urea subsidy
 - Nutrient based subsidy extended to urea

4) Promote biofertilizers, green manure

5) Sewage treatment plants, scientific solid waste management e.g. sanitary landfills

6) Compulsory treatment of industrial waste before discharge

Promote precision irrigation, rainwater harvesting and focusing on schemes like PM Koshi, Annapurna, Narmada, etc. The need of the hour is to prevent India from becoming a water scarce country

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Q.20) Explain how changes in land-use planning can promote socio-economic development at different levels in the country.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

India with around 328 mn ha. of total area has around 140 ha under cultivation and changing our land-use pattern is necessary to achieve the goal of sustainable development.

* Changes in land use planning

a) Agriculture

→ Change in cropping pattern to develop water yielding crops with drought tolerant plants in dry areas

eg. Sugarcane in Maharashtra → Jowar
B cere

→ Brings and land prone to degradation under sustainable dryland farming
eg. Western Rajasthan

→ Increasing cropping intensity by increasing total cropped area to improve the agricultural production. Currently only 40% area is sown more than once

- b) Horticulture & other plantation
 - Promotion in hilly areas like Himalayan and North East states
- c) Urban Land Use
 - Promote vertical growth of cities to increase availability of residential and communal space
 → Zones of affordable housing, slum rehabilitation
 → Regeneration of wetlands to sustain livelihood of local community
- d) Barren land, wasteland
 → Regeneration of cultivated wasteland bringing under cultivation to increase agri production
 → Afforestation, reforestation according to UN convention on combating desertification
 → Tackling causes of irrigation, waterlogging of land to reclaim salty areas
 eg. Application of Gypsum in case of Indira Gandhi Canal.

⇒ Cluster-based approach

→ Clusters of organic farming

→ Cluster of food processing industry, mega food park
y. PM Sampada Yojana

⇒ Special Areas

→ Special economic zone, CRZ, NIMZ
Export promotion zone to achieve economies of scale and increase exports and trade surplus.

→ This will lead to

→ Increased farm income

→ Sustainable urbanisation

→ Economic growth with equitable distribution

India should use its net land resources to the best of falling per capita availability to me 1.16 ha with a view to bringing more land in production etc.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
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