

GENERAL STUDIES

|                       |            |  |          |
|-----------------------|------------|--|----------|
| Name of the Candidate | Salma Khan |  |          |
| Email ID              | [REDACTED] |  | Roll No. |
| Mobile No.            | [REDACTED] |  | Date     |

| INDEX TABLE |           |                | INSTRUCTIONS  |  |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|---|--|
| Q.No        | Max.Marks | Marks Obtained |   |  |
| 1           | 10        | 04             | 1. Please write your Name, Email, UPSC Roll No. and Mobile number in the answer sheet<br>2. There are 20 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory<br>3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it.<br>4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate (English), which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.<br>5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be struck off. |  |
| 2           | 10        | 04             |   |  |
| 3           | 10        | 04             |   |  |
| 4           | 10        | 03             |   |  |
| 5           | 10        | 03             |   |  |
| 6           | 10        | 03             |   |  |
| 7           | 10        | 05             |   |  |
| 8           | 10        | 03             |   |  |
| 9           | 10        | 04             | Any specific message from Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy?<br>Mentor's Remarks:<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....<br>.....  |  |
| 10          | 10        | 05             |   |  |
| 11          | 15        | 07             |   |  |
| 12          | 15        | 06             |   |  |
| 13          | 15        | 06             |   |  |
| 14          | 15        | 06             |   |  |
| 15          | 15        | 07             |   |  |
| 16          | 15        | 05             |   |  |
| 17          | 15        | 07             |   |  |
| 18          | 15        | 07             |   |  |
| 19          | 15        | 07             | Start Time:   | End Time:  |
| 20          | 15        | 07             | Mode of Examination:  | Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Total Marks |           | 103            | TEST CODE:  | Medium of Examination:   |



1. Did the mastery over agriculture act as a leverage for the rise of Harappan towns and cities? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Harappan civilization was spread over the <sup>north-western part of</sup> Indian subcontinent. It was flourishing in trade, culture and agriculture.

Good Introduction

Mastery over agriculture acted as a leverage for growth of towns and cities

1) They knew the art of cultivating crops like rice, barley etc.  
eg: good quality rice in Kothal.

2) These products were exported aiding in growth of economy  
eg: Harappa: 2 rows of 6 granaries, major trade centre

Indicating towards surplus grain production

3) Storage of grains also promoted stability in cities during crisis.

- Relevant Points**
- eg: Great Granary at Harappa.
- 4) Evidence of double ploughing in Kalibangan - advanced technique
  - 5) Fertility of Indus valley soil and irrigation through the river led to growth of cities near river banks  
eg: Lothal, Harappa etc

**Complete the heading**

[Other factors contributed too:]

1) Art: stone and metal sculptures of Harappa were in demand in Mesopotamia

**- Bead making factory (Chanhudaro)**

2) Town planning: use of burnt bricks made their cities resilient to damage

**- Ship Building Dockyard (Lothal)**

3) Pottery: Harappan pottery was in demand abroad → led to economic growth.

**- Harappan Seats in Tigris region**

**Euphrates**

The Indus Valley civilisation had a multiplicity of factors that led to rise of its cities with agriculture being among the most important of them.

Good Conclusion



2. "The 'safety-valve thesis' does not adequately explain the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885." Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The 'safety valve thesis' was propagated to explain the formation of INC. It was based on the documents of William Wedderburn - <sup>in the biography of A.O. Hume</sup>

'Safety valve thesis':

1) INC was formed by A.O. Hume in order to provide a platform to politically motivated nationalists to present their demands.

2) No actions were taken on their demands and it was only a way of allowing them to 'let off their steam' and prevent revolution.

However, it does not adequately explain INC formation.

1) Lightning conductor theory:

You can also mention about pre-congress organisations like Indian Association.

According to Bipin Chandra Pal, the nationalists had manipulated A-O Home to form INC as the 1st step to get political recognition.

- 2) INC took concrete steps rather than just argue eg: Indian Council Act of 1892 led to Moderates protest 'No taxation without representation'
- 2) They were able to ~~use~~ get their demands met eg: Indirect election to legislative council under 1892 Act.

Good conclusion

The Congress did more than just 'let off their steam'. They continued to demand political changes leading to them being called 'a factory of sedition'

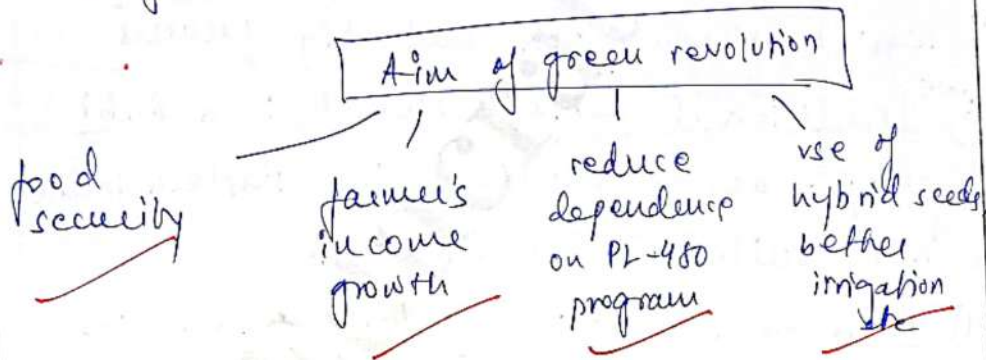
Please Verify



3. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water?  
(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The Green Revolution in India occurred during the 1960s in North western region of Punjab, Haryana etc.

Good explanation of Green Revolution and its aims.



Despite eastern region having fertile soil and water availability, green revolution focused on Punjab and Haryana:

Reasons

↳ Economies of scale: Eastern Indian farmers had small lands and hence

Fragmented  
Landholding

it would be unviable to spend money  
there as productivity will be low.

• Punjab and Haryana had huge farmlands  
making spending on tractors, irrigation etc  
feasible ✓

Availability  
of capital

3) Rich farmers: Green revolution was a  
costly affair - HYV seeds, pumps etc.  
Eastern India had small farmers while  
Western Northern part had big farmers ✓

You can also  
mention the

4) Traditional crops: wheat is a Rabi  
crop, needs winter rain. Eastern India  
not suitable for wheat.

Other dimension  
i.e. it did  
not completely  
By-pass the  
Eastern  
region

5) Risk taking attitude: farmers in Punjab  
more readily accepted the changes  
while Eastern India showed reluctance  
due to communist ideology, Naxals etc ✓

→ Split over  
effect

- Increase in  
yield of  
paddy

Green revolution while shifting  
India from 'flight to farm' to 'farm to  
fork', has caused regional inequalities.

You can  
mention  
about  
Rainbow  
revolution.

It is now time to start a GR 2.0  
in Eastern India for balanced development ✓

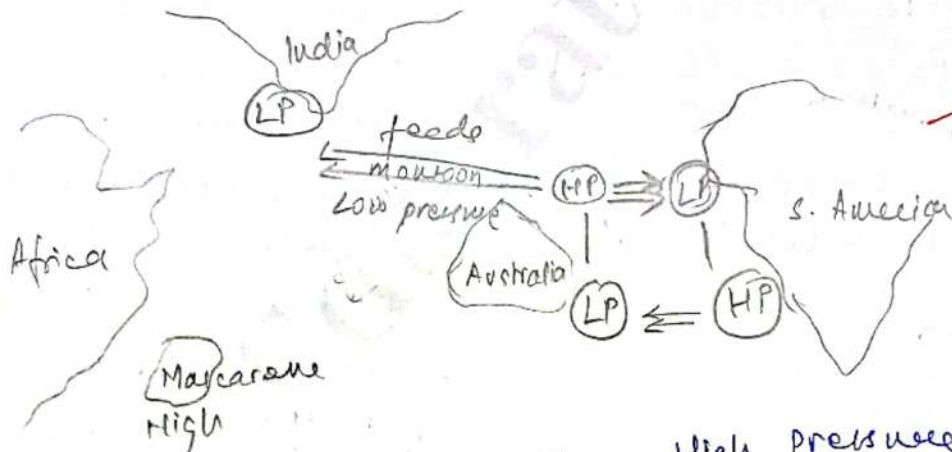
4. Discuss the causes and consequences of El Niño and La Niña, two of the most important geophysical phenomena that affect the global climate. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

El Niño & La Niña are changes in weather pattern due to changes in temperature in Pacific Ocean

Good introduction.

El Niño & La Niña

Normal



Good use of map.

Under Normal situation, High pressure in Mascarene High and Peruvian current support low pressure of Australia, causing rain in India

El Niño: the cold Peruvian current, becomes hot → shifting the zone of high pressure. It attracts wind

Warming of central and eastern Pacific  
Mention about Walker cell.



from Australia, thereby shifting wind directly  
La Nina: cold peruvian current becomes  
more cold, strengthening the normal  
wind system.

Explain the  
impact  
systematically.

e.g: -  
low rainfall

↓  
Impact on  
rainfed agriculture

↓  
Shortage  
grain

↓  
Food inflation

↓  
vicious  
cycle of  
poverty

### Impact

#### El Niño

1) Temperature in  
Peruvian coast increases

2) causes low rainfall  
of in India - weakens  
monsoon

3) Fishing industry is  
affected as warm  
temperature increases  
fishes - less demand  
more supply

4) Leads to drought and  
wildfires in Australia

#### La Nina

1) Temperature in  
Peruvian coast  
decreases

2) causes more rain  
in India - strengthens  
monsoon.

3) Cold water hinders  
growth of planktons  
and leads to less  
fisheries

4) Promotes more  
rain in Australia.

Good  
Conclusion

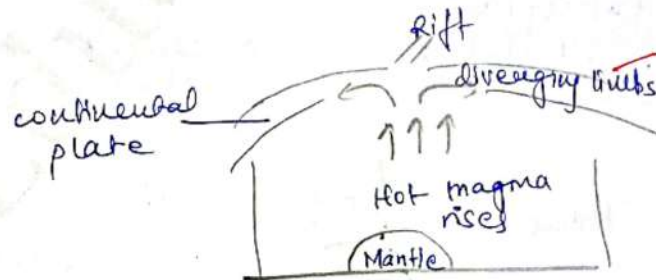
Both El Niño and La Niña  
are important in global climate determination.  
They affect economy, climate and overall  
growth.



5. Explain the process of formation of a rift valley, emphasizing on the Great Rift Valley system. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

A rift valley is a major crack in a landmass. It is caused due to divergence between two continental plates.

It is created at the junction of ascending - rising - diverging lines (RAD) of a continental plate.



Process with respect to Great Rift Valley:

- 1) RAD limb of magma first puts pressure creating upwarping
- 2) It leads to cracks causing formation of a rift.

Good introduction

Divergence of plates creation of rifts through which river flows

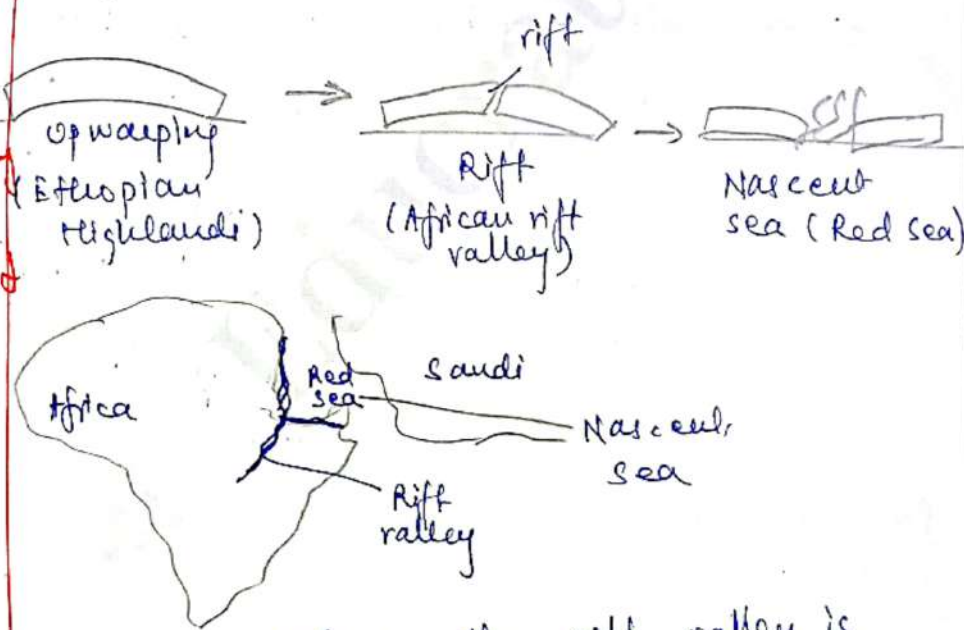
Formation of sea  
Interaction of transform boundaries creates rift valley.

Good points

- 3) Ultimately this rift widens leading to nascent sea.
- 4) Further widening causes separation of rift from mainland → a full fledged ocean.

Diagrammatic representation

Mention about the Great rift valley. Associated lakes and biodiversity in the Eastern and Western African region.



Thus, the rift valley is a creation of divergence caused due to the failed orocrogen.



6. Discuss the impact of energy costs and government policies on the location of oil refineries and how it affects the global oil industry.  
(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Oil refineries are an important source of energy supply to the world. Without it, a collapse of energy economy will occur.

Good introduction.

The location of oil industries is impacted by many factors.

Availability → Technology → Costs → Government Policy.

Energy costs and government policies affecting location of refineries

1) Oil refineries are set up in areas with abundant oil supplies

- Quantity important for economies of scale and profitability

2) Cost of mining is important as well.

Energy cost  
- Energy required continuously.  
↓  
Large amount of power consumption  
↓  
Energy change impacts production cost.

Govt. Policies -

- Subsidy

- Transition to renewables

- Environmental guidelines

eg: On shore oil refineries more than off shore → Saudi oil field.

Govt. policy: low support of government can under oil refineries establishment

eg: even with presence of oil in Himalayan region, refineries are scarce as government has imposed restrictions

4) Shift in government demand -

government encouraging to set up refineries in market places eg: Bina oil refinery

5) Ease of doing business: single licence under H&LP has increased refineries.

Impact

ensuring energy security

Blockage can impact access  
eg: Suez canal blockage

restrictions can cause supply chain disruptions  
eg: Russia-Ukraine war sanctions

Good Conclusion

Oil continues to be the major source of energy in the world. While shifting towards renewables, we continue to rely on it.



7. What is the Deep Ocean Mission? What are its objectives and key features? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Deep Ocean Mission is an initiative of Ministry of Earth Sciences in order to promote Blue economy in India

Good introduction

Key objectives:

strengthen marine ecosystem conservation

ensure energy security for India  
eg: explore rare earth minerals

Project India as a leader in this arena - international reputation

well addressed

Growth of coastal communities - building infrastructure

focus on R & D through collaboration

Key Features:

1. Develop a manned submersible called

Please underline important initiatives  
Resonance

Matsya 6000 capable of carrying 3 people upto a depth of 6000 m

- 2) International collaboration - eg: Sagar Nidhi of India and South Korea to work together
- 3) Mineral exploration: focus on acquiring polymetallic nodules, rare earth minerals etc - 10% extraction can meet India's energy demand for next 100 years
- 4) Marine conservation: understand marine ecosystem, conservation process etc
- 5) Promoting growth of coastal communities through their involvement in developing blue infrastructure, using traditional knowledge etc
- 6) Promote R&D economy: collaboration among fisheries, environment, geology etc

Good Conclusion

while Deep Ocean Mission faces issues like low investment, delays in clearances etc it is a major step to achieve SDG 14 related to life below water.



8. Patriarchal gender norms limit women's use of mobile phones.  
Comment. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

While India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest user of mobile phones in the world, the proportion of women using mobile phones is not even 50%.

One of the major reasons for this is patriarchal gender norms.

1) Stereotypes: women are not capable of using technological gadgets - they are not meant for hard sciences.

2) Mobile phones will 'make women aware' → they will not make good submissive wives. Hence they are denied access to phones.

3) Saving honour: mobile phones are being used for planning 'escape with lovers'. This goes against patriarchal honour where women are the custodian of family honour.

Good introduction

Please make better arguments like:-  
- Digital divide  
- STEM knowledge  
- Economic dependence



*- Deepfake*  
*- Online Harassment*  
4) Accessibility: in poor families, where only one phone can be afforded, it is invariably given to men.

*Cover the other dimension*  
5) Confined within homes: since most women are within boundaries of their homes, mobiles are seen as ~~not~~ irrelevant for them - no urgency for contacting anyone.

*- 46% women online gamers*  
*- Increasing mobile penetration*  
6) Khap panchayats: eg: In UP, khaps ordered girls should not <sup>be</sup> given phones which was followed due to patriarchal gerontocracy.

Way Forward

educating women will make them aware of their rights

attitudinal changes: awareness among families on need of phone for education, skilling etc

Dissolving informal bodies like khaps:

*Good Conclusion*  
While the proportion of women using phones <sup>is</sup> not equal to men, it has increased in recent years and should be encouraged by policy makers.



9. What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture?  
Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Indian society is often called a 'mosaic of various culture'. While incorporating plurality, it has developed a unique culture of its own — Indian culture.

Very good introduction.

Indian society is unique in sustaining its culture

- 1) Diversity is cherished: tolerance for other cultures promotes unity in diversity  
eg: Ahimsa of Jainism.
- 2) Traditionalisation of modernity: India has accepted modernity while maintaining its traditions  
eg: Ancient knowledge being spread in modern education system.
- 3) Perpetuating own culture for resilience  
eg: celebration of <sup>International day</sup> Yoga in UN GA

Points are relevant.  
But, your arguments should stress more upon assimilation of different cultures.

e.g. - celebration of Holi and Rakshabandhan transcending religious barriers.

4) Pros integration over assimilation:  
USA where there is homogeneity follows assimilation. India, on the other hand, promotes integration.

eg: Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas to celebrate tribal culture.

5) Value system of equality, tolerance and plurality eg: Right to religion.

Issues witnessed

Increasing intolerance causing riots eg: Gurugram riot 2023

Westernisation eg: loss of traditional value system

Inadequate support to local culture eg: loss of 'kui' language

Nevertheless, India has managed to sustain its unique identity over centuries. It believed in and continues to believe in Varudhalva Kuhimbakam while protecting its traditions.

Good conclusion:



10. "India's national population policies have failed to achieve their objectives as we remain world's second largest populated country." What are the shortcomings? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

India is the world's second largest populated country and is about to achieve the status of most populated nation very soon

India framed its National Population Policy in order to achieve the following objectives

|                    |                       |   |              |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| Achieve TFR of 2.1 | Decline in birth rate | Decline in maternal and infant mortality rate | 2 child norm |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------|

Despite this, India could not achieve the target significantly

Reasons:

↳ Non binding nature - the 2 child norm is not mandatory and hence

Good to mention the objectives

is ignored.

Combine both the points

- 2) Lack of awareness: contraception is still regarded as a shameful topic preventing its use
- 3) Low facilities for vasectomy and sterilisation - these are not promoted enough and unscientific data prevent its use. *No acronym please*

You can make a reference to low level of female literacy

4) Growing poverty: BPL families have more children - more working hands

5) Patriarchy: women are not given a decisive say on child birth.  
eg: early childhood marriages increase birth rate.

Need of the hour - increasing awareness on sterilisation  
binding conditions eg: Aesam: government offices only for those who have 2 children or less

curbing child marriages  
- increasing women's age to 21: Jaya Jaitley Committee

India needs to curb its population explosion to reap benefits of demographic dividend.



11. How far is it correct to say that the Indians of the ancient period indulged only metaphysical things and not in the development of pure sciences? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ancient India witnessed great philosophers and scientists who developed India's traditional knowledge systems to a great extent.

Good introductory

Indians of ancient period indulging in metaphysical thoughts

1) Development of various schools of thought  
eg: Purva Mimansa by Jaimini - attain salvation through performance of vedic rituals.

Relevant points.

2) Growth of Bhakti and Sufi movement  
eg: Chaitanya Mahaprabhu - Hare Ram Hare Krishna movement - dwell on God's name - this worldly asceticism.

Very good use of examples

Soft of Uchhti order - Aashiq - Maskeeg system.

2) Growth of literature on fables, court life etc - eg: Kalidasa Shaktalam during Gupta period.

4) Excessive focus on salvation:  
eg: Buddhism, Niyati school, Advaita of Shankaracharya etc

However, they also developed scientific thought.

1) Vaishvika school of thought: by Kanada propounded atom theory

2) Sushruta Samhita by Sushruta contains <sup>details of</sup> complex operations including cataract - a testimony to medical advancement

3) Charaka Samhita of Charaka: includes treatment of more than 120 diseases using scientific application of herbs.



- 4) Aryabhattiyam by Aryabhata  
- promoted geocentric theory, calculation of area of triangle, ideal of trigonometry etc.
- 5) Brhad-samhita: contains knowledge about movement of sun and earth — a major boost to astronomy
- 6) Scientific planning of towns:  
seen even in Indus valley civilisation  
eg: grid pattern city

⇒ Engineering  
advancements  
seen in  
various  
architectures/  
Shutvastrs

Even today, scientific knowledge of ancient India is seen and promoted in form of Yoga and AYUSH. Ancient Indians provided both idealistic and scientific knowledge which continues to be vital even today.

Good  
conclusion.



12. How would you explain Gandhiji's 'rise to power' or 'capture' of national leadership in the course of 1919-20? Was it a very skillful top-level political game? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Gandhiji's arrival in India in 1915 led to a drastic change in the course of Indian freedom struggle.

While he 'rose to power' during 1919-20, his earlier efforts aided his capture of national leadership.

↳ Local struggles:

Tested the motto of civil disobedience, hunger strikes and non-co-operation in Indian conditions through strikes

→ 1917 - Champaran Satyagraha: Gandhiji was able to secure a 25% compensation to indigo planters

1918: Ahmedabad mill strike: due to his efforts, plague bonus was increased from 20% to 35%.

→ 1918: Khedda Satyagraha: Gandhiji



ensured suspension of revenue for that year.

All this made him popular among the masses.

2) Decline of Home Rule League:  
Gandhiji organised Satyagraha Sabha among Home rule League members and merged them in his Sabha

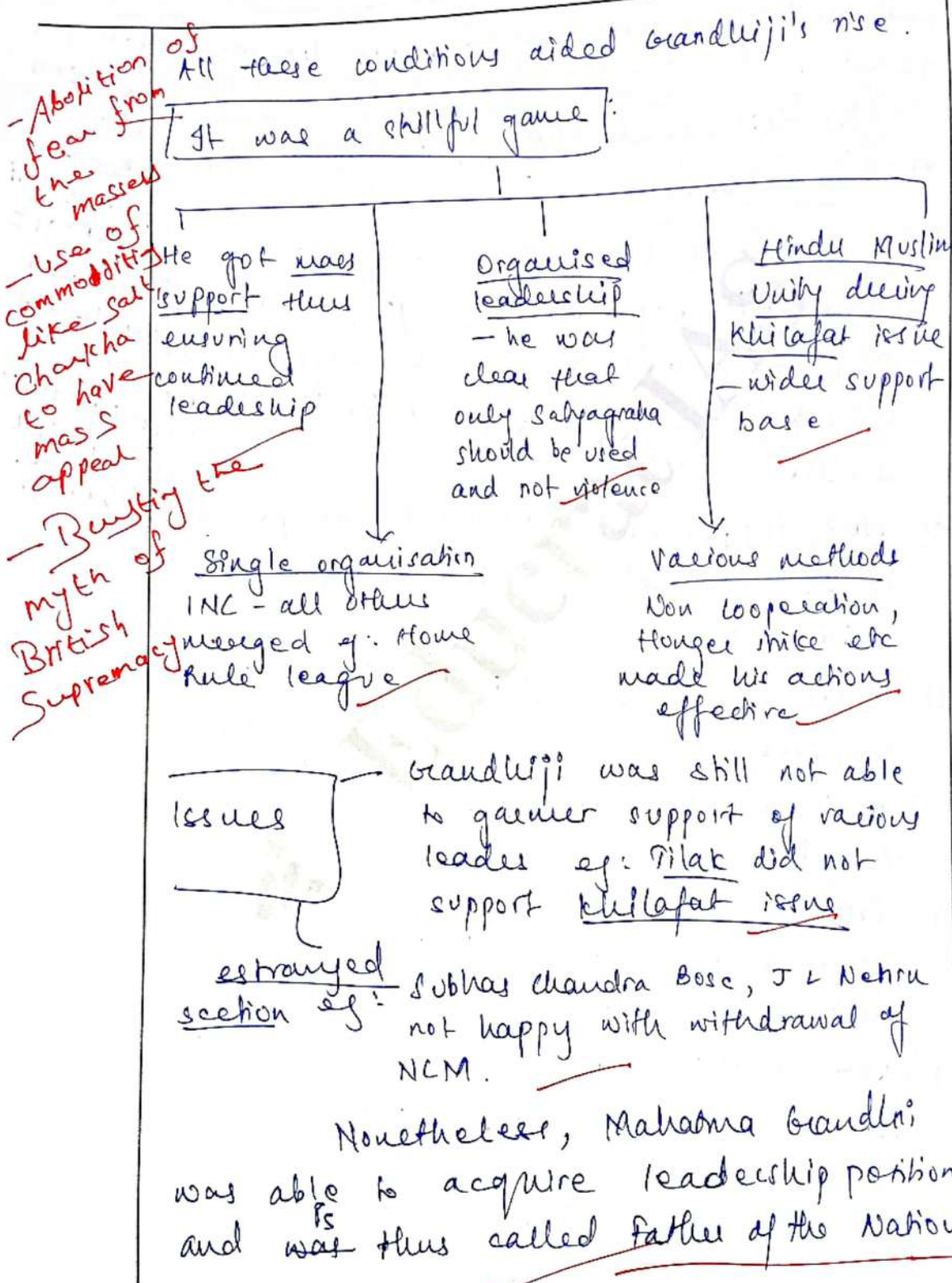
3) Non cooperation movement: he proved to be an effective leader by uniting the masses.

4) Khilafat movement: he got support of Muslims as well when he took up Khilafat issue and headed Khilafat Council.

5) Govt Act 1919 and Rowlatt Act: Gandhiji organised India's ~~new~~ first mass movement against the Black Act.

6) Retr Method of Satyagraha: a unique tool to fight oppression which yielded results.

You can mention about the pre-Gandhi strategies of freedom struggle and how it changed after the arrival of Gandhiji

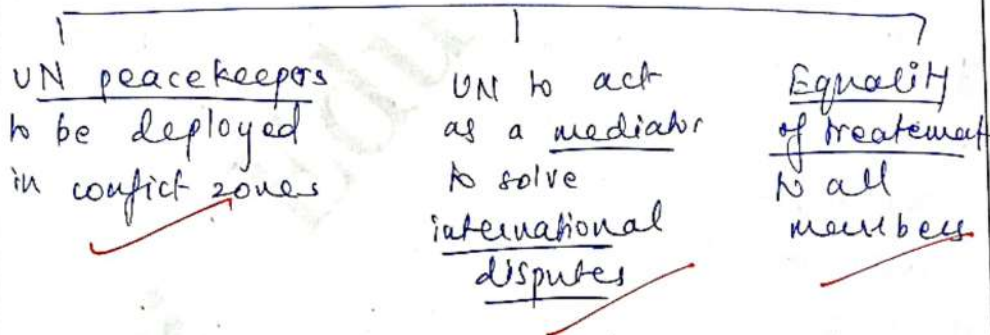




13. "In spite of the careful framing of the charter, the role of UNO as Peacekeeper and international mediator has been somewhat lackluster and muted and that continues to be so even after the end of cold war." Elucidate. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

UNO was formed after the second world war in order to ensure global peace and stability.  
UNO charter was carefully framed in order to meet its objectives.

Good mention of the objectives of UNO.



~~Nonetheless~~ Despite this, UNO's role as a mediator and peacekeeper continues to be muted even after end of both physical and cold war.

Reasons:

Please underline important points.

1) Lack of binding resolutions: UN has no power to impose its decision on its members. Hence, its decisions are ignored.

2) Geographic inequality: UN does not represent emerging geographical realities eg: Latin America and Africa inadequately represented → African conflicts like Niger coup not discussed

Good contemporary example.

3) Veto power to permanent members leads to inaction eg: No sanction against Russia in Russia-Ukraine war due to veto of Russia.

4) Lack of political will: UN does not take decisions on many issues due to vested interests of nations.

eg: Expansion of PS opposed by China

5) Violence against peace keeping forces leads to lower enrolment in this

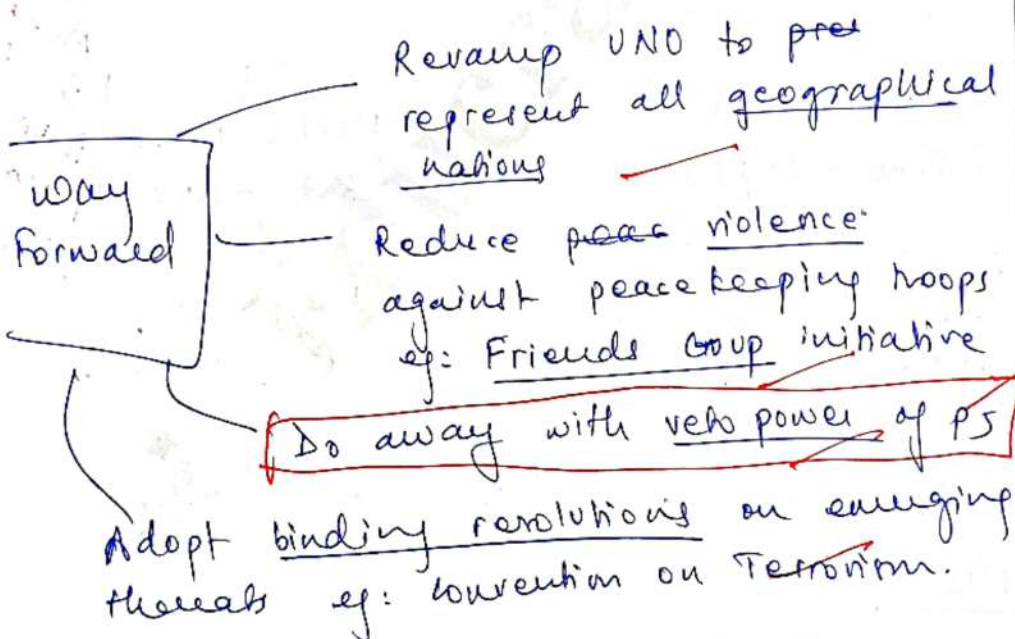


area.

6) Stagnant structure: UN has not changed its structure with changing times eg: Head of UN continues to be predominantly British

7) Emerging issues eg: terrorism, cyber crimes etc - UN not capable of dealing with it alone.

You should also mention about the success of UN peace keeping efforts and impact of humanitarian efforts.



Try to avoid such points.

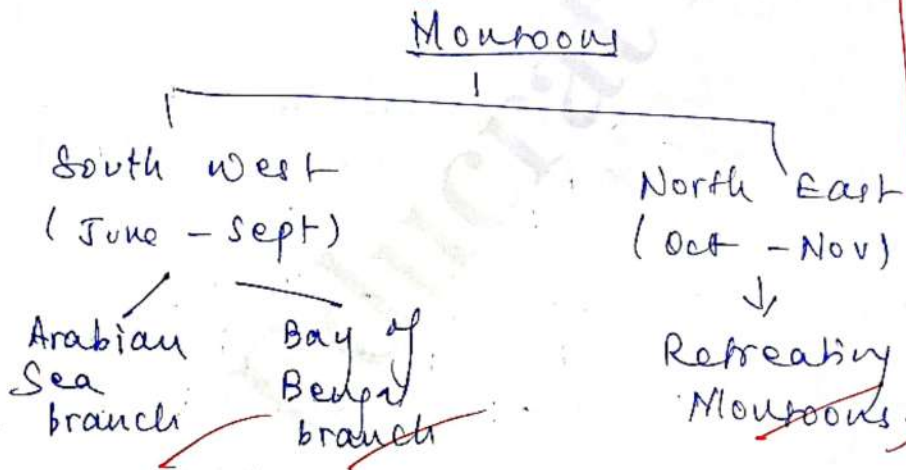
UN is a multilateral organisation representing the global order. It should be revamped and restructured to ensure its effectiveness

Good conclusion.

14. Do you think that the pattern of Indian monsoon has changed in past decade? Discuss how it impacts various facets of our lives.

(Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

India is a monsoon country. It receives rain from two major monsoon winds - South West and North East.



This part can be mentioned in the introduction paragraph itself.

Indian monsoon has changed in the past decade

↳ Delay in arrival of monsoon.

eg: Monsoon is supposed to enter India by 1st June, yet we witness



significant delays now.

- 1) Triple dip La Nina: India has witnessed La Nina causing above average rainfall.
- 2) Break in monsoon: the period of the break has increased in recent times.
- 3) Pre monsoon showers have become erratic eg. Blossom shower delayed.
- 4) Above than normal rain over long period average in past 2-4 years

However, not all aspects have changed. While there is delay and breaks, the monsoon months have remained consistent over the years.

Show how? avg. annual rainfall, time of arrival etc.

### Impact of changed monsoon:

- 1) Crop failure: delay in arrival can cause failure of crops in rain fed areas.
- 2) Distress sale of crops: more than



You can also show how erratic monsoon affects rainfall leading a vicious cycle of poverty.

average rain can cause bumper crops causing increased supply - eg: ~~potatoes~~.

to Disaster  
it can lead to floods eg: Delhi floods

Other impact on various facets of life

Delay in monsoon can cause drought and famines

Diseases  
water borne diseases like cholera increase

Inflation  
supply chain disruptions can cause price rise

Energy security - loss of electricity due to floods. → supply chain disruption

Also, flooding of coal mines. Nearly half of India's energy is fossil-based

Way forward

Using advanced meteorological techniques to prevent monsoons

Reducing GHG emission to reduce impact of climate change on monsoon.

India continues to be dependent on monsoon for food security and climate modification. A predictable analysis can help understand monsoon variations.

Good conclusion.



15. The third pole of the earth not only important for geographical reasons but also for economic and civilizational aspects of the Indian Subcontinent. Explaining the importance of the region, examine the consequences of its changing features. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The Third Pole of the Earth lies in the trans Himalayan region of Karakoram, Hind Kush and the entire stretch of trans Himalayas.

Good introduction.

### Importance of Third Pole

- 1) Geographical: Himalayas protect the cold winds of Tibet from entering India, thus controlling climate
- 2) Climate: the snow deposition in this region leads to increased albedo, thus preventing excessive heating
- 3) Economic: it is important for a) tourism - passes like K2 etc attract tourism. b) Resources - it is also a region of

Good points.

Also, mention about herbs and medicinal plants.

Good coverage of various dimensions

mineral deposits. Sedimentary rocks may have oil trapped in it.

4) Civilizational link: it links us with neighbouring nations like China, Nepal, Afghanistan etc. Also, the block of ice can provide details into deposits over historical ages — need of vertical drilling

5) Security: these places act as a part of national security  
eg: Stachen.

6) Biodiversity: eg: presence of snow leopard.

Impact of changes

1) Increasing pollution: microplastics found in Himalayan regions

2) Climate change: causing melting of ice sheets leading to floods

→ you can reframe the heading as: -  
→ changing features and its consequences.

↑  
It will address the 2nd part of question.



in downstream areas

- 3) Karakoram anomaly: causing reduction of 3rd pole only to Karakoram.
- 4) Increase in diseases due to melting of ice sheets eg: Zombie virus
- 5) Loss of biodiversity: eg: snow leopards continue to be vulnerable
- 6) Disasters eg: earthquakes due to continued slipping of Himalayan plate.

Way Forward

Govt. initiative like SECURE Himalaya  
 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions  
 Involving local community to protect biodiversity  
Environment impact assessment before project approval  
 Special programme for Himalayan Ecosystem.

The Third Pole should be protected for economic and environmental benefits through a multi nation approach.

Good answer

16. India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Unaddressed in answer.

India is a land of multiple rivers and has abundant groundwater.

However, it suffers from water scarcity. India is projected to become a water scarce nation from a water stressed nation.

After Intro. you have to show how India is well endowed with fresh water resources.

Reasons:

- 1) Over exploitation of groundwater  
eg: India uses 25% of world's groundwater
- 2) Pollution of groundwater  
eg: Arsenic contamination in West Bengal.
- 3) climate change ~~causing~~ drying



up of rivers eg: Kuni river

4) Dependence on monsoons:

Southern rivers depend on monsoon for water. Delay in monsoon causes water scarcity

eg: Kaveri river drying

5) Subsidy in agri energy leads to misuse of groundwater use of ground pumps eg: Punjab

for agriculture also decreasing land productivity. ↑ Dual disadvantage.

6) Lack of technology: No proper desalination plants to use sea water

7) Lack of awareness among people eg: using <sup>over-</sup>irrigation instead of drip irrigation.

Increase in salinity of land.

8) Construction of dams - leads to water conflict between regions eg: dispute over Farakka Barrage.

### Need of the hour:

- 1) coordination among various agencies to develop a comprehensive water assessment eg: CWC, Niti Aayog etc should work together
- 2) Focus on deep irrigation eg: sprinkler irrigation
- 3) Making water a tradable commodity to prevent misuse eg: water credits
- 4) Focus on technological development eg: desalination plant in Ladakh
- 5) Promoting awareness among citizens to prevent overexploitation of water eg: Jal sukhi Abhiyan
- 6) Mandating rain water harvesting eg: in Tamil Nadu

Good

Good  
conclusion

Water scarcity should be reduced through a Jal Andolan for Jal Andolan to ensure water security



17. What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Women make up almost 50% of the population in India, yet the continued gender divide hinders their empowerment.

Good  
introductions.

challenges for women in time and space

1) Patriarchy: patriarchal norms prevent women from gaining access to basic rights of: women denied access to education

2) Stereotypes: these restrict access to new fields to women of: women low in STEM due to stereotype that women are not capable of hard sciences.

3) Lack of employment: low

Good  
points.



- Lack of Political representation at the Union and state level.

- Digital illiteracy  
4) Motherhood penalty: women not employed due to issues of pregnancy, menstruation etc

5) Sexual violence: most women have face sexual abuse at least once in their lifetime. It hinders women's participation in society  
eg: Nirbhaya case

6) Demeaning discourse: eg: in Sabara girls continue to be called Nakusha meaning no happiness causing an identity crisis

7) Shadow pandemic: domestic violence, marital rape etc are seen as normal realities eg: 60000 complaints filed of domestic violence in 1st 3 months of covid.

4) son preference: reducing sex ratios in India, selective abortions etc.

7) low education opportunities: female literacy rate only 77%. (while men's literacy rate is at 84%).

*this point in earlier mentioned argument. Alternative heading of Education and mention about Patriarchal norms, gross enrolment ratio, Drop-out rates etc.*

Way Forward

Promote women's employment  
eg: Start up India

Political power to women  
eg: 33% reservation in Parliament

Education facilities to women  
eg: Core initiative

Awareness campaigns  
eg: BBBP

Counter hiring bias by promoting maternity leave

A bird cannot fly with only one wing. Similarly a nation cannot grow without ~~only~~ half its population.

So, an integrated approach is required to strengthen the position of women and gender achieve the goal of SDG 5 i.e. achieving equality and empowerment for all girls.

18. Policy interventions against Child labour in India have failed to provide a way out for child labourers. Highlighting the incidence of child labour in India give the reasons for increase of Child Labour related cases in India and suggest measures to tackle the above menace. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Article

Art 24 of the Constitution

prohibits child labour in India. In order to relieve this, government has taken many policy interventions to counter child labour in India.

→ Incidence of child labour in India: —

In India, child labour

continues to be a major threat.

More than 20% of the children are

involved in child labour (Source?)

• 75% of child labourers are from lower castes

Good use of data. Better to mention about the lower

Reasons

↳ Poverty: poor conditions force children into employment eg. BPL families



- 2) Increase in dropout due to low quality of education
- 3) Profit motive of parents sometimes can push children into labour  
eg: when parents are drug or alcohol abusers
- 4) Short term gains: children join labour force to earn short term monetary gains over long term education
- 5) Trafficking: child trafficking leads to children being pushed into beggary, prostitution etc
- 6) Covid 19: many ~~of~~ orphaned children were pushed into child labour.
- 7) Lack of bureaucratic will: policies are not implemented remaining a paper tiger.

Good points -

- Mention about PENCIL portal for reporting child labour.

Measures to tackle child labour

- Ekshaya Model School in tribal areas

1) Implementation of policies eg: Child Labour Prohibition Act

2) Increased education opportunities

eg: free secondary education

3) Skill development chance in school

eg: Vocational training to school children under NEP

4) Employment to parents to prevent the menace eg: ASHA workers

5) Controlling human trafficking  
eg: using FRT to rehabilitate child beggars

6) Incentive to officers. eg: out of turn promotion to those who solve 50 cases of child labour

7) Involve civil society eg: Bachpan Bachao Andolan. (Kailash Satyarthi)

You can mention about reporting the benefits of demographic dividend

Children are the future and should be educated rather than pushed into labour prematurely.



19. In light of the recent debate on Hindi vs English, examine the status of vernacular in India. What are some benefits of using vernacular in education? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The Hindi vs English debate in India dates back to freedom struggle when Anglicist - Orientalist controversy was common.

Using English is seen as a colonial hangover. While it is a bridge language, it is not the only one language, vernacular in India.

1) The most widely spoken language is Hindi - more than 40% of the population.

2) There are more than 1000 dialects in India.

3) The 8th schedule has 22

Good introduction, you can also mention about the constituent assembly debate.

English is not there in 8th schedule.

languages <sup>in</sup> of which English is only one of the languages.

### Benefits of vernacular education

- 1) Cognitive development: children are better able to understand concepts in own language.
- 2) Decolonisation: using English as the only supreme language shows a colonial mindset.
- 3) Tribal empowerment: tribals if taught in their own language will respond better than a foreign language: eg = NBP 3 language policy.
- 4) Strengthening identity: in India language is an emotion. It is

Good mention of National Education Policy, 2020



linked to identity eg: Punjabi

5) Harmony : it can reduce linguistic conflicts and promote peace

6) Preserving linguistic diversity  
eg: Ho, kui etc are about to become extinct

7) promoting vernacular growth eg:  
new dialects can be created.

You can mention about the endangered languages

Way Forward

Bhashini initiative :

database of all language

strengthening vernacular education eg: Eklavya schools

Promoting Hindi and English as

lingua franca.

Language is an identity for Indians. Promoting vernacular should be encouraged to ensure harmony among various identities.

Also in line with Gandhian philosophy.



20. Comment on the decision to conduct surveys in madrasas by the State Governments. What are the challenges faced by these institutions? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Good introduction

Art 26 of the constitution allows religious institutions to carry out administration of their property according to own rules.

The recent decision to conduct survey in madrasas by state government is seen by some as violating Art 26 while others are welcoming it.

This part should be shortened.

Benefits of survey:

1) Quantifiability: it will provide an exact number of madarasas that are existing.

2) Financial accountability: it can give an idea as to how much



If the money is being spent on education for children's benefit

3) Reduce fiscal burden of state :

Since state give grants to them, survey will help weed out non performing madarasas and reduction in grant.

4) Dependence of children : It can give an accurate data on how many children are dependent on madarasas for education

5) Black money curbed : madarasas can become a hub for black money and radicalisation. Survey will point out such problematic elements.

6) Performance audit : it will allow to understand the learning outcomes of children enrolled here

7) Robt Evidence based policy making fortuned due to surveys.

Mention the challenges faced by such institutions in a separate heading.

Issues: with survey and general

A  
well-  
balanced  
answer.

- 1) Against Art 26 of the Constitution
- 2) Targetted action: such surveys are not conducted in other religious institutions
- 3) Stereotypes promotion: assumption that madarasas will can be a hotbed for radicalisation.
- 4) Communal strife: it can cause anti national sentiments due to survey seen as interference.
- 5) Lack of grants: eg: grant given in recent years reduced.
- 6) Lack of skilled teachers: focus on religious education while neglecting secular education.
- 7) Negative perception regarding religious teachers.

Good  
conclusion

A survey of madarasas is a welcome initiative as it will lead to effective policies. However, it should be objective and value neutral.