

GENERAL STUDIES

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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	
2	10	04	2. There are 20 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory	
3	10	04	3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it.	
4	10	04	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.	
5	10	04	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.	
6	10	05		
7	10	04		
8	10	05		
9	10	05	Any specific message from Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy?	
10	10	06	Mentor's Remarks:	
11	15	00	
12	15	07	
13	15	08	
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15	15	07	
16	15	07	
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18	15	04		
19	15	04	Start Time: 11:00	End Time: 2:00
20	15	01	Mode of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Marks		95	TEST CODE:	Medium of Examination:



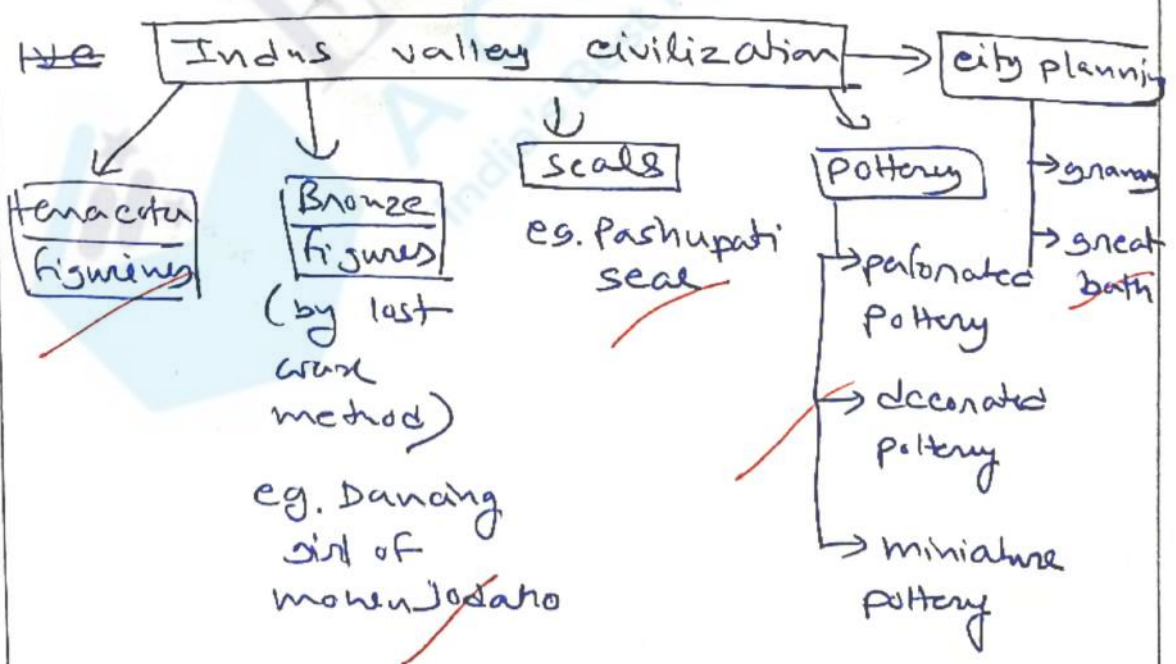
1. Epigraphic sources are the best reflections of ancient Indian art and culture. Comment. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

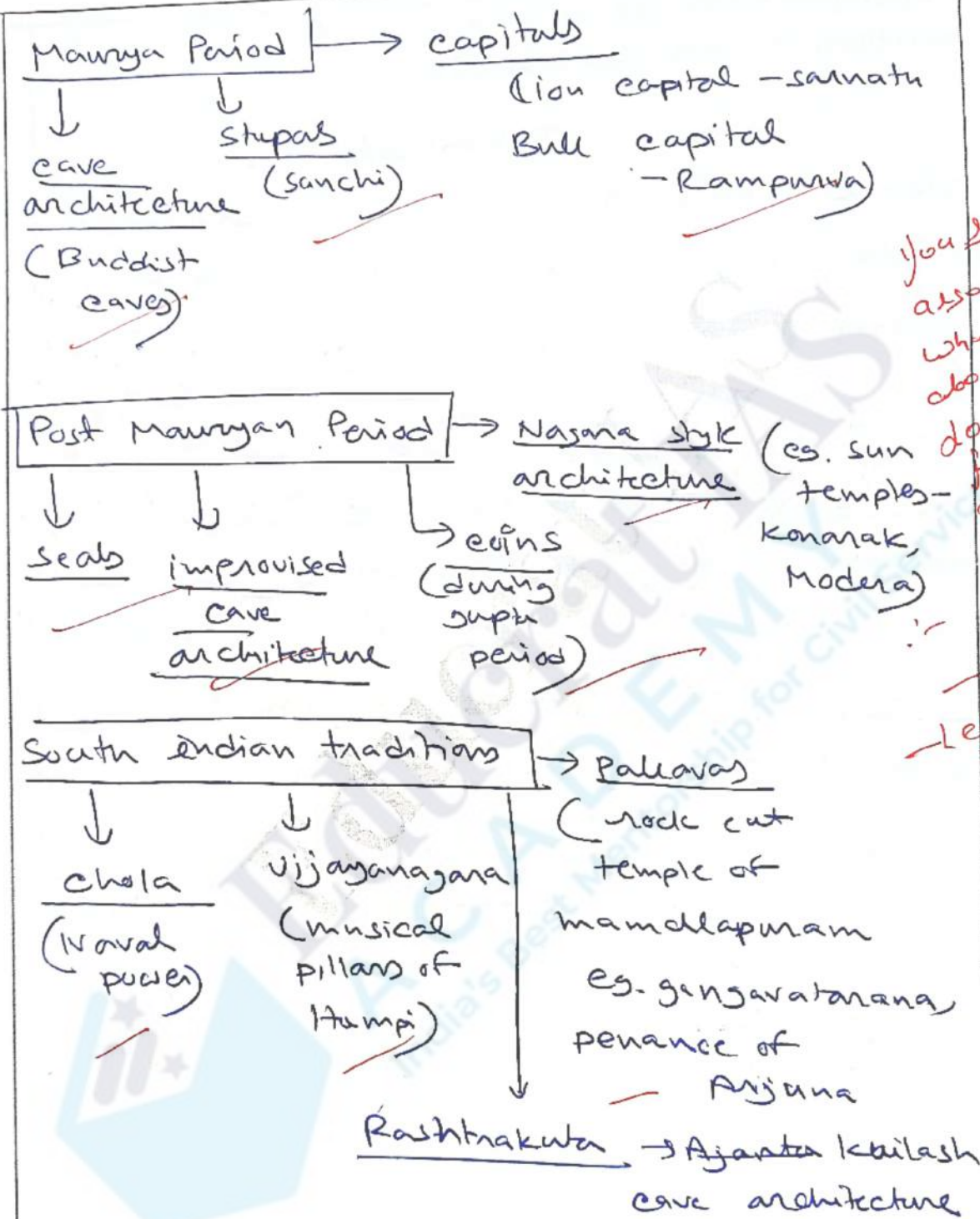
Ancient Indian art and culture have huge epigraphic sources which show the rich, diverse art & cultural traditions of India.

After introduction, you should justify why epigraphic sources are the best reflections. Not subject to distortion bias etc.

Pre historical Age

① Cave paintings → in Bhimbetka, MP & Lakshajun caves, Uttar Pradesh have 500+ caves full of paintings with primary colours, humans depicted in one form, scene of hunters etc.





You should also show what information about society do we get from these epigraphic inscriptions :-
Language
Literature
Leisure activities
etc.

This way, the great heritage of epigraphic evidences of ancient India stands proof of its rich cultural tradition. We should protect it as part of our fundamental duty.

2. Bring out the differences between the architectural tradition of Achaemenid and Mauryan Empire. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Achaemenid tradition is a Greek infrastructural tradition.

Good introduction.

Mauryan architecture is a result of mixture of domestic craft, and western Greek, hellenistic tradition.

Achaemenid Architecture	Mauryan Architecture
<u>origin</u> : in Greece	in India
<u>time of flourish</u> : Earlier than Mauryan empire	post vedic period
<u>Special features</u> : a) pillars in architecture	a) pillars were later incorporated by <u>Achaemenid</u> influence. Initially started with <u>rock-cut architecture</u> and stupas during Ashoka.

Potratal : Anatomy
of
Men of
men was
stressed
upon

Material
used!

wood v/s stones.

Purpose of pillars.

Also, try to bring out
Some similarities.

Area
of : Greece,
influence later
spread to
western part of
Indian subcontinent
and middle Asia.

styles of sandhara,
Mathura was
influenced by ~~Achaemid~~
sculptural techniques.
- Buddha → elongated
ears, half closed
eyes, bindi, 16 super
humanistic signs
incorporated.

All over Malyan
empire. Upper Ganga
valley till middle
parts of India



Achaemid architectural style was
incorporated by domestic craftsmen to
create newer architectural traditions that
exists till this date.

3. South Africa was "the making of the Mahatma". Analyze how the experiences of Gandhi in South Africa paved the way for launch of satyagraha in India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Mahatma Gandhi spent significant years of his life in South Africa where he learned his unique techniques of protest eg. Satyagraha and methods of truth & non violence.

Experiences of Gandhiji in South Africa

a) experience in train - treated as black person by a white

→ he was thrown out of train - later he launched campaigns to uplift untouchables in India and called them 'Harijana'

b) Anulment of marriages due to lack of certificate

→ Gandhiji realised the social construct and plight of oppressed and tried

→ Formation of Natal Indian Congress
→ Inspiration from into his last.
→ Training of Satyagraha in Tolstoy farm.

his methods of peaceful protest which was successful.

① Protest against industrial powers

→ with nonviolence and truth to gain victory.

It is because of his experiences in south Africa where he emerged successful in his endeavours of peaceful protests that upon returning to India in 1915, he took a tour of a country and understood the politico social realities of India before

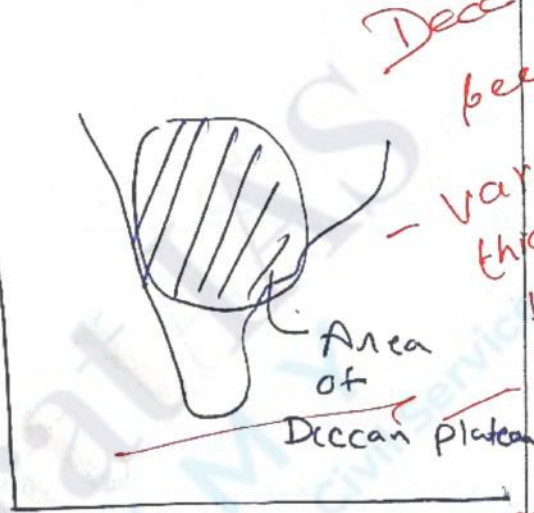
helping ~~the~~ peasants, mill workers in Champanan, Ahmedabad and Khera to in satyagraha.

Thus, it could be rightfully said that the experiences in South Africa was the 'making of Mahatma' and because of that phase he got a powerful leader who later became 'the father of our nation'



4. Briefly explain why the Deccan Plateau is also called as 'Deccan Traps'? Also, give reasons for the availability of black soil in the Deccan Plateau. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The part between western ghats and eastern ghats is a plateau made of basalt, granite and



other igneous rocks. This area has highly rough terrain which has huge deposits of minerals in it. Since

the minerals from earth's core were flown out with magma while

forming the igneous rocks in this area, trapped the mineral resources in

the plateau, this region is called deccan trap.

Availability of Black soil

The area is replete of

Deccan trap because of variation of thickness of crust. continued exposure to agents of erosion. This is why Deccan traps.

black soil which was significantly helped the agriculture and economy of this region. Black soil is important for growing cotton which is raw material for textile industries here.

Relevant Points

Reason for black soil in this region

→ Strong igneous rocks (eg. basalt, granite) get broken down into smaller particles by wind erosion, river erosion etc

↓
these smaller particles further break down by wind and water to form black soil.

↓
It has good water holding capacity because of its texture.

~~These~~ these minerals and black soil in deccan plateau are important economic resources of the country.



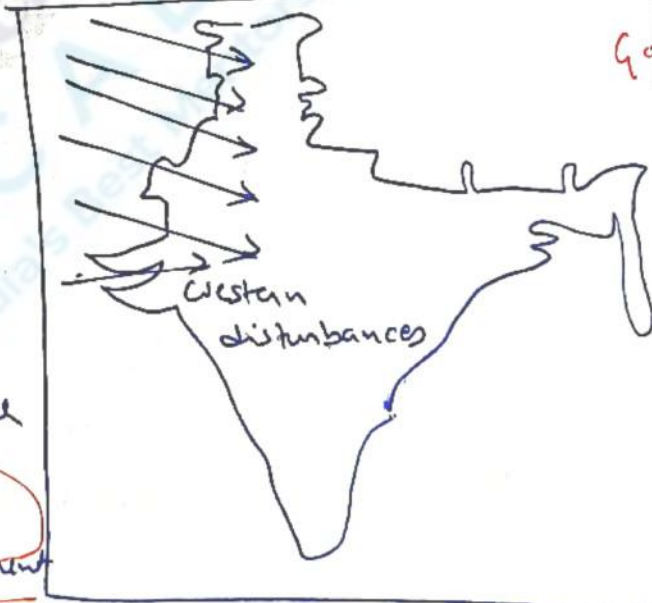
5. What do you understand by the western disturbances? What are the impacts of western disturbances on the climate of northern India? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The Indian climate pattern is called ~~more~~ heavily dependent on the wind patterns and monsoon that comes along with it. Western disturbances are one such phenomena.

In the time period Oct-December, dry winds from the middle asian area flows to the

western part of India. Some of them collect water vapour from Arabian sea to ~~also~~ bring rainfall in western part of Indian subcontinent.

This rainfall and winds during Oct-December is known as Western disturbances.



→ wind from Arabian sea
→ Diversion by Himalaya
→ Subduction of one branch towards north India.
→ formation of orographic clouds.
↓
Rain.
Good depiction

Impact of western disturbances in climate pattern of Northern India

① untimely rainfall

Natural
Calamities like
cloudburst,
glacial Lake
outburst flood
etc.

→ brings locust attack etc
menaces

→ cold waves cause loss
of harvest of Kharif crops

→ helps harvesting sowing
of Rabi crops

② Temperature fall

→ Reduces temperature in
North western India → causes
cold waves

→ Affects culture, dresses,
food habits due to drop
of temperature

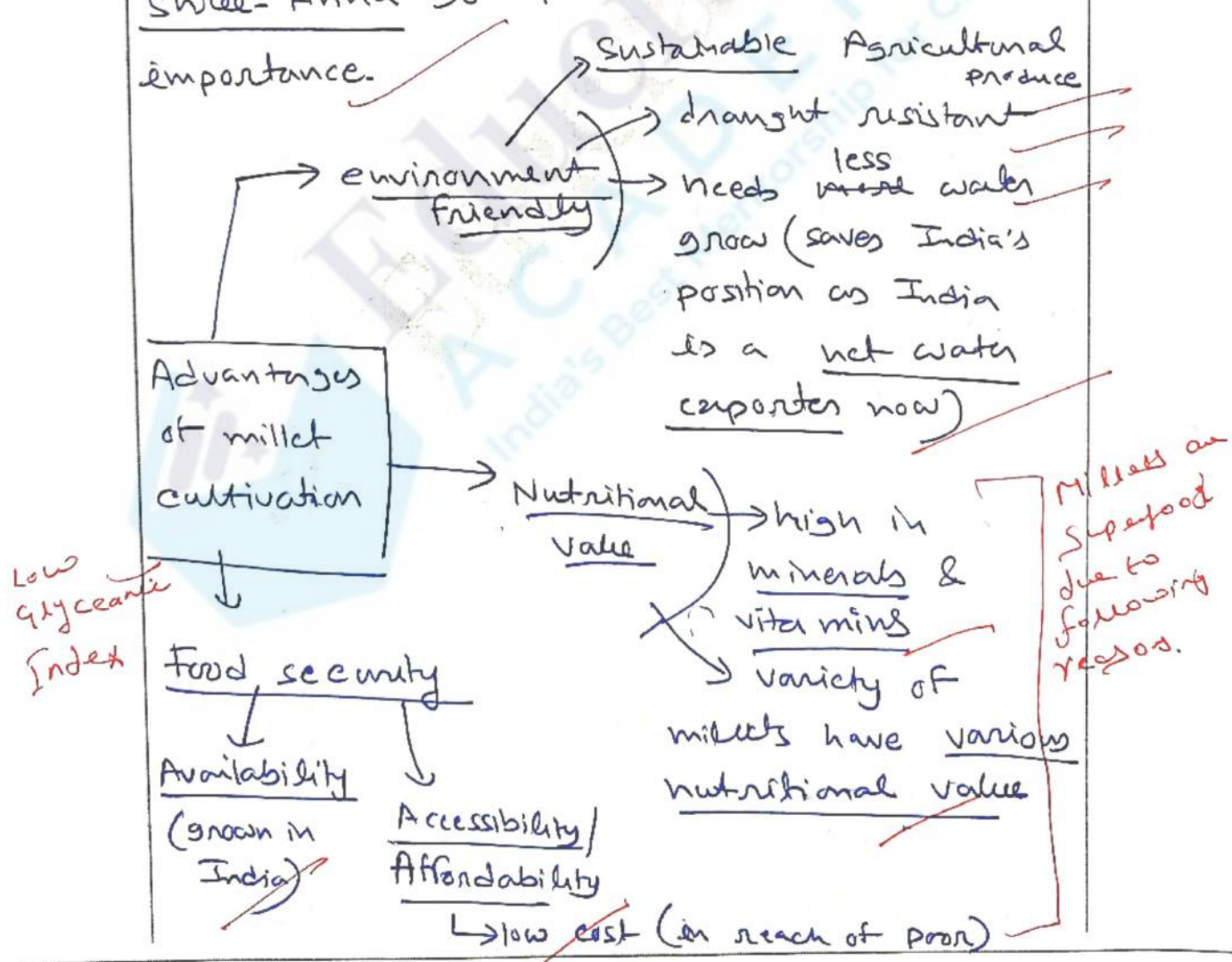
→ Responsible for cold
dry nights in Rajasthan,
Punjab Haryana region

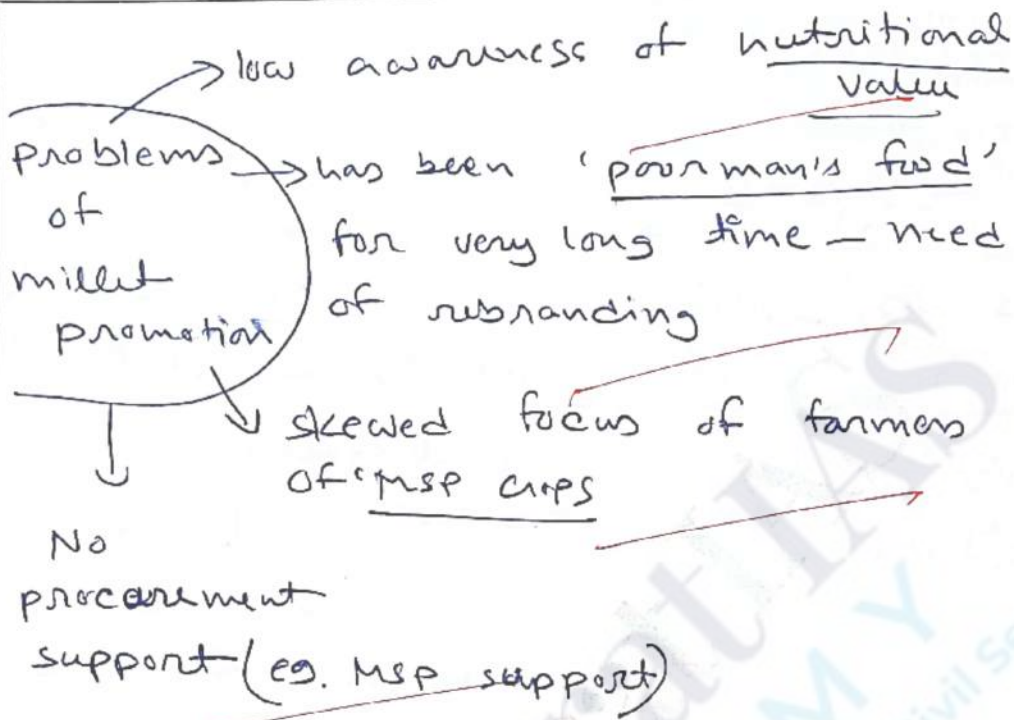
This way western disturbances have
significant impact on North Indian climate.

6. Millets are superfood for the present and future. In this context, mention the advantages of the cultivation of millets as a food crop. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

India has been promoting millets as superfoods. 2018 was celebrated as 'National year of Millets' and due to India's efforts UN has designated 2023 as 'International year of Millets'. Budget 2023 has design named millets as 'Shree-Anna' to point at their nutritional importance.

Good introduction





Steps taken already

Inclusion of coarse grains in PDS

- millet promotion by govt
 - 'Shree Anna'
 - Intl. Year of millet
 - R&D in millet
- Rebranding as 'super food' at international forums
- serving millet based food in parliament canteen
- promotion of millet breakfast in G20 meetings
- millet in mid-day meal

Proper awareness, MSP support, rebranding for global exports and exposure can further millet production & promotion.



7. How far do you agree that sustainable development and rapid urbanization are mutually incompatible? Argue your case with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

'We are the first ~~current~~ generations that can feel the ~~the~~ effect of climate change and the last who can do something about it' — Barack ~~Obama~~ Obama

'sustainable development' means development that does not deplete natural resources and take care of environment so that next generation can benefit from the fruits of development.

Rapid urbanization means fast, indiscriminate destruction of forest & natural resources to build livable spaces and industry for growing human population.

Hence, sustainable development may include urbanisation but it has to be planned and not rapid, and unmindful, indiscriminate urbanisation. Thus 'sustainable development'

In this answer you should cover 3 parts:-
 ① Arguments in favour of urbanization
 ② Arguments against urbanization
 ③ How to ensure urbanization with sustainable development.

is not compatible with rapid 'unplanned' urbanisation but may be compatible with 'sustainable, planned' urbanisation. eg. sponge cities, rainwater harvesting
eg

① sustainable development goals (SDG #9) calls for Infrastructure, Innovation, Industry.

→ SDG #11 calls for sustainable communities, cities and landscapes.

Hence, urbanisation (planned) falls in the ambit of sustainable development.

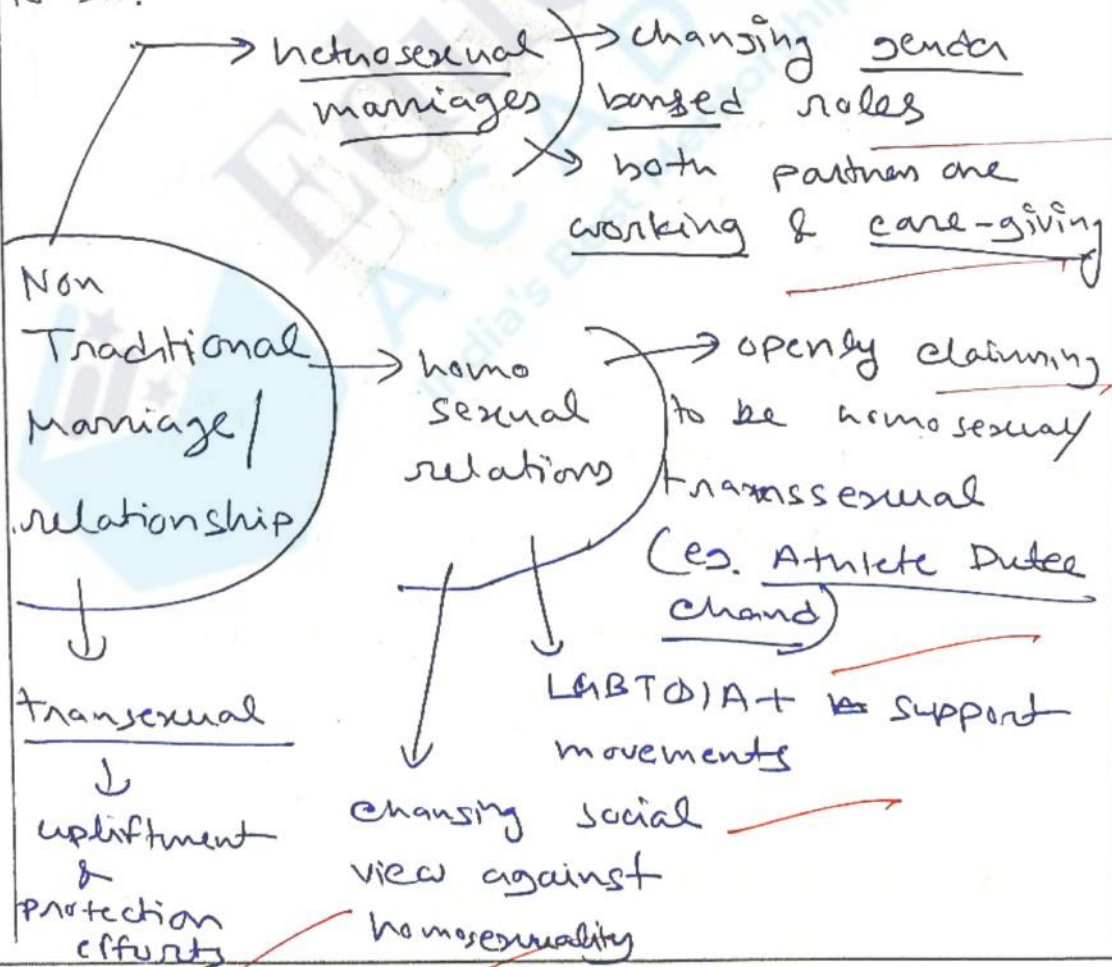


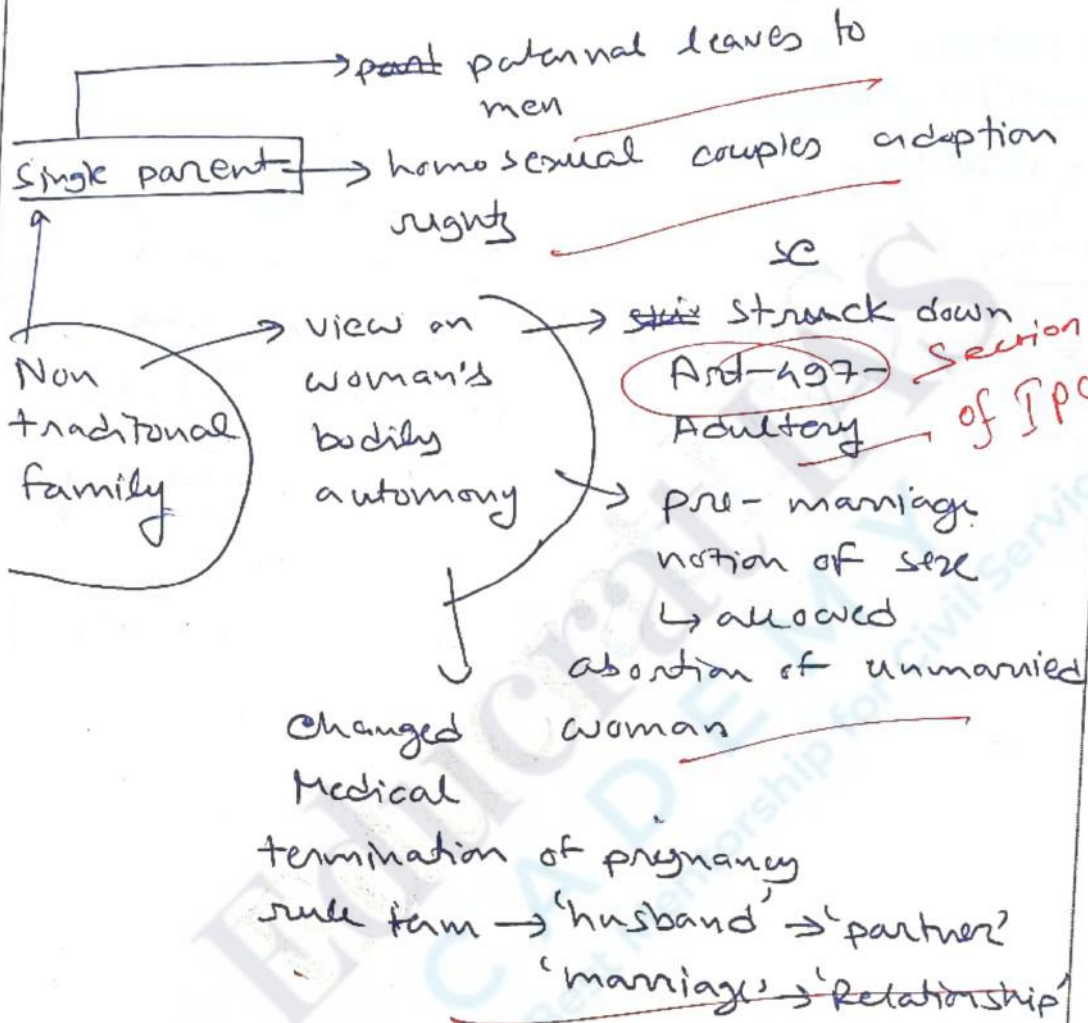
Thus, rapid unplanned urbanisation is incompatible with sustainable development but planned urbanisation is compatible with it.

8. In contemporary Indian society traditional forms of marriage and family are increasingly getting replaced by more fluid arrangements. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Hon'ble Supreme court(s) in Navtej Singh Johar case decriminalised consensual sexual relationship between same sex couples by striking down Article 377 of constitution. It also paved way for non traditional family, marriages and granted acceptability and legality to it.

Section 377 of IPC





SC, in Navtej Singh Johar case said
 constitution is transiting from a
medieval hierarchical set up to a
modern egalitarian ^{one} society. Indian
society is following the same by
accepting more fluid arrangements of
relationship and marriages.



9. What do you mean by the term 'Learning Poverty'? How has pandemic exacerbated the Learning Poverty in India? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) by Pratham NGO has pointed out a significant 'learning poverty' in children during covid pandemic.

Good introduction.

Learning poverty

Means the inability of children to read, write, understand based on their age group and learning standard. eg. children of class V not able to read and understand class III text or do basic mathematical computations.

You can also quote the report of World Bank on Learning Poverty.

Pandemic's role in exacerbating learning poverty

① schools were closed → classroom teaching replaced by digital/online classes → lack of learning opportunity for poor children →

Lack of Access to education

② Affordability of learning

↳ many children shifted to public schools from private schools

↳ due to falling economic conditions of family



Job loss/wage loss of parents

Relevant Points

③ Sustainability of learning

↳ girl child's married off
↳ children dropped out from schools to engage in child labour / reduce expenses of family

④ Lack of conducive environment

↳ due to lockdown
↳ restriction on social contact
↳ Restriction on playing → lack of indulging necessary social skills → loneliness → psychological problems
↳ further issues in learning

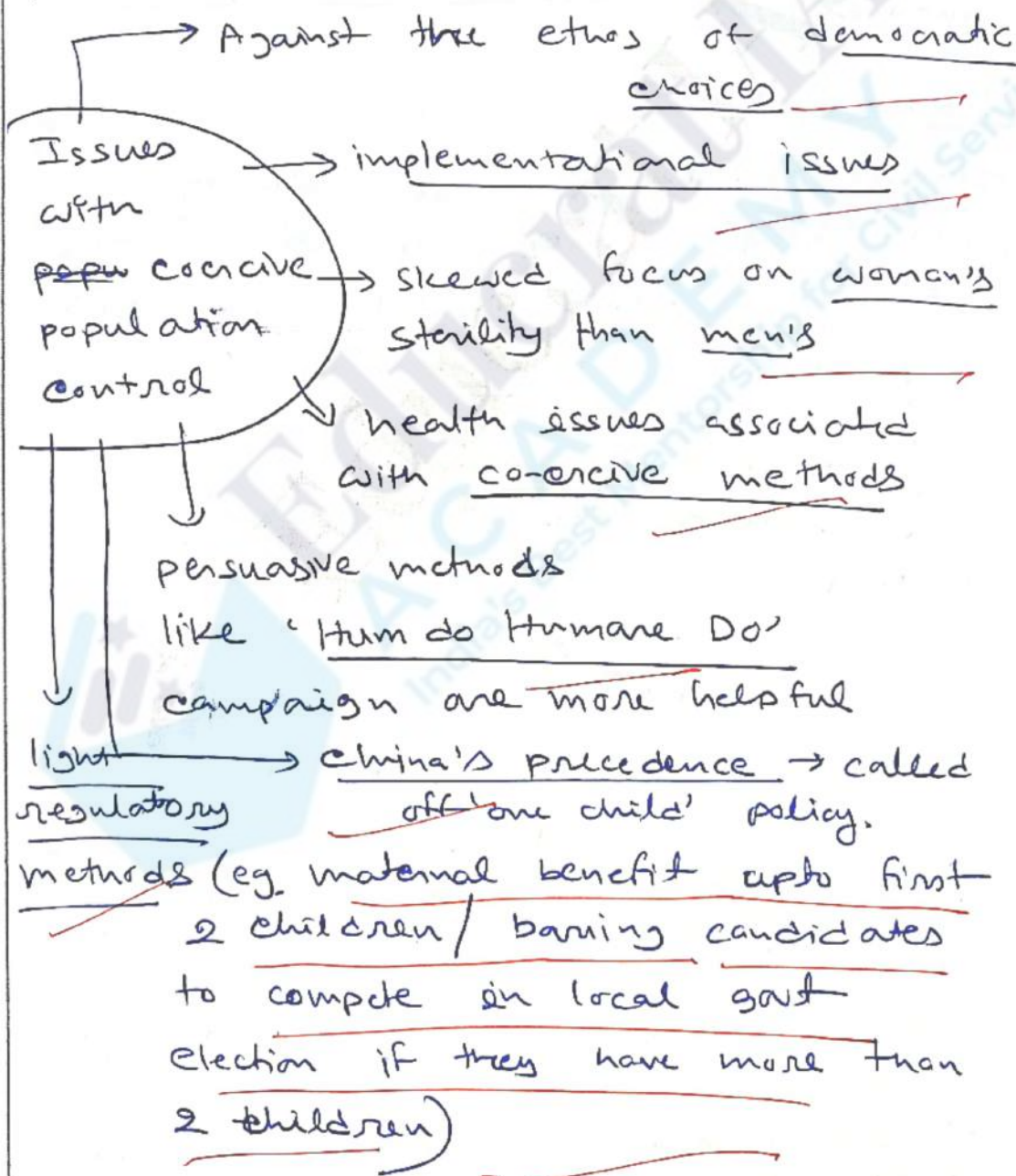
Best Practices

↳ online/mohalla classes in kolkata/odisha
↳ people's efforts in educating dropout children

10. Discuss the issues associated with coercive population control policies. Also, highlight the approaches to manage the population growth in India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

In 2023, India has surpassed China in population as per UN population report. This brings question about population control measures.

Good introductory



11. The aspirants should be aware of this information

Approaches to manage population growth in India :-

Phase 1
1970's

coercive population control

→ India ^{1st} to have a population control plan

Phase 2

liberalisation

Persuasive methods

→ awareness building about population control
→ nudging states to control population

→ ASHA/Anganwadi workers to spread grassroot level awareness

women education
to give them more power in family planning

other methods

→ ensuring safe institutional deliveries & post natal & maternity care (obour room quality)
→ Schemes eg Lakshya, SUMAN (Smakshit Matritva Ashwasan)

target of 2-1 TFR to states

→ Finance Commission grants to states with better population control.

Good Points ✓

This way, population control approaches have seen a significant shift.



11. The aspiration of the proletariat reached its culmination with the formation of the Soviet Union but could not stand the test of time. In this context, bring out the causes and consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

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12. Discuss the cultural impact of India on South East Asia during the ancient period. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Good introduction.

India has been a homeland of cultural & civilizational influences during ancient period which is still helping India in maintaining its soft power in foreign relations due to long civilizational ties. They are as follows:

a)

Buddhism

strongest cultural impact on South east Asia as (SE) Asia.
↳ Name the countries (e.g.:- Tibet practicing Vajrayana Buddhism.)

↳ Indian subcontinent birth place of Santam Buddha

↳ He lived, attained bodhi, ~~did~~ performed 'dhammachakra pravartana' (sermon) ^{preaching} & 'Mahaparinirvana' (passing away) in India

Ashoka's influence

→ sent son & daughter to Sri-Lanka to spread Buddhism

→ Built stupas, caves for Buddhist shrines in outside India as well



Chinese travellers → influenced by Buddhism
travelled to India from far
flung countries
↳ helped spread knowledge,
culture

Also mention about the
james
like chess.

Mahayan, Hinayan & Vajrayan Buddhism → spread in different parts
of south asia based
on cultural traditions

Temple
architecture
e.g. - Angkor
vat.

b) Jainism → though mostly confined in
India, idea of non
violence was appreciated across
SE Asia.

c) Architectural influence → Amaravati, Gandhara,
mathura sculptures

d) tradition of education → Taxila, Nalanda,
Mathaviharas
↳ attracted students from
all SE Asia
↳ cultural assimilation



e) philosophical school of Yoga

↳ now practised world wide
including SE Asia

f) Musical tradition of India

↳ Sangama literature has huge
impact on Sri Lankan & Tamil
music industries

g) People to people connect

↳ Due to trade, cultural,
marital ties, diaspora in
SE Asian countries

h) Culinary tradition

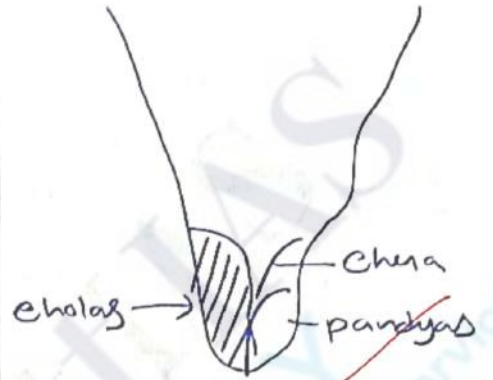
↳ spread because of common
access to sea by India & SE Asian
Countries.

Food
conclusion

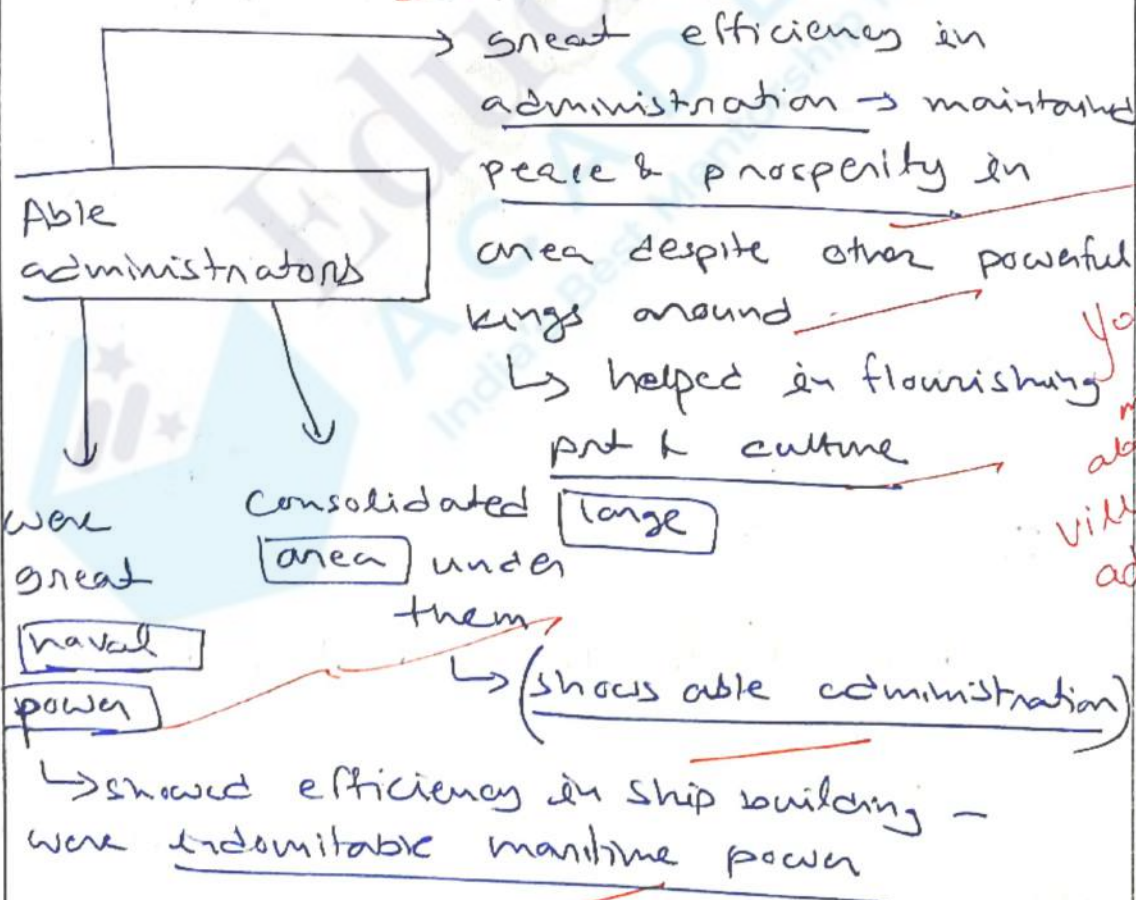
Thus, ancient India has significant
impact of SE Asia in all major
sectors of Indian human cultural
sphere which is still revered for
building 'soft power', relations with
these countries.

13. The Chola rulers were not only able administrators but also great architects. Comment. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The chola rulers ruled in southern India from post Gupta period (6th Century AD) to the beginning of medieval ages. They were great naval power & Architects.



Good introduction.



Relevant Points.

You can also mention about chola's village administration



Architecture

- ① Was great efficient architectural power
- ② special efficiency in temple architecture
- ③ 'Gangai-konda-chola-puram' temple
→ temples by 'Rajendra chola'
stand testimony to their great ability of architectural excellence.
- ④ major improvisation in dravida style temple architecture

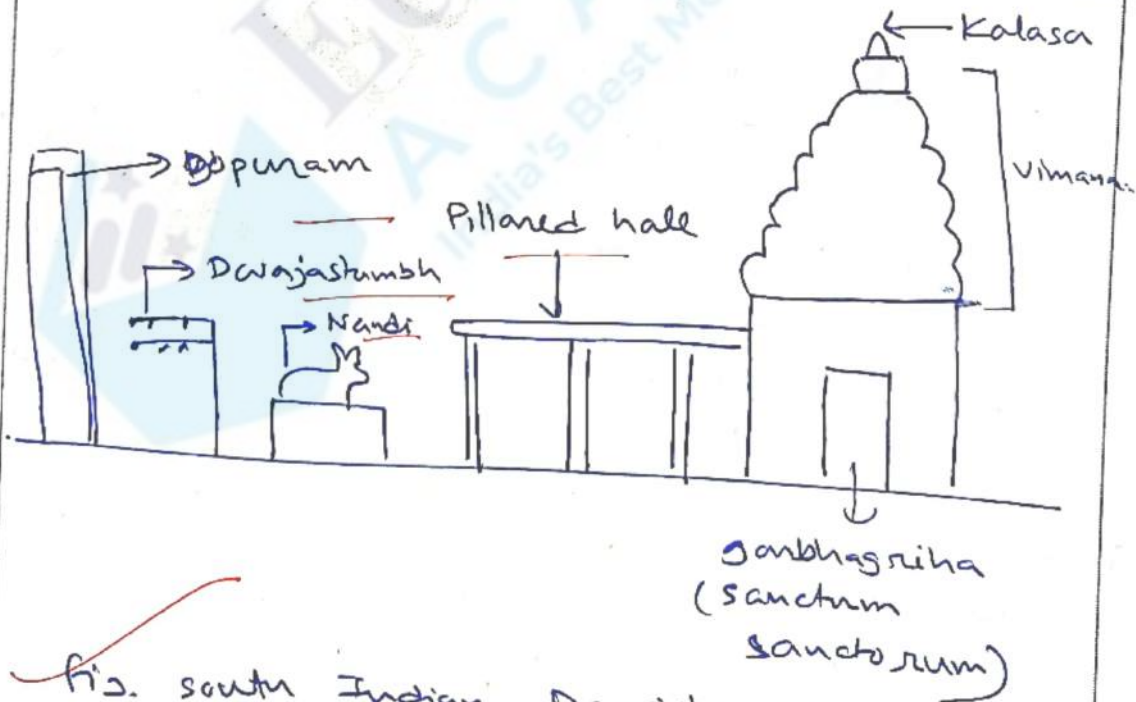


fig. south Indian Dravida Temple architecture



Chola improvisation

- ① They built more gopurams
 - ② idea of temple architecture
 - ↳ god is lying down. His head/
'agnya chakra' is at garbhagriha
 - ↳ feet are at gopuram
 - ③ temples were used as administrative units as well → hence larger area than Nagara temples & boundary walls were present
 - ④ gopurams has intricate carvings & presence of Yaksha/Yakshini
 - ⑤ presence of erotic sculptures
 - ⑥ special shape of vimana and multiple layers of vimanam
 - ⑦ intricate carving inside temples
- This, Cholas showed great efficiency in administration & architecture
The architectural evidences are great heritages and we should endeavor to protect them with schemes like 'Hampi Dhamoka'

and the likes

14. Why is the Quit India Movement called spontaneous revolution? Assess the role of the Quit India Movement in uniting the Indians against British rule. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Good introduction.

Quit India movement occurred in 1942 August. It is also called the August movement.

On the evening of announcement of Quit India movement, most major leaders of Indian freedom struggle including Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru were arrested, rendering the movement technically leaderless. Hence the

Reason for being Spontaneous Revolution

movement took its own spontaneous path

Young Leaders like Aruna Asaf Ali, Sarojini Naidu.

→ People took their own decisions & methods under few leaders like Sarojini Naidu & local leaders and

→ Gandhiji's 'karunge ya marunge' call charged up the common people to sacrifice their lives for their country. This saw great nationalist emotions which



due to lack of channelisation due to absence of national leaders, took spontaneous ways to in culminate.

Outthrowing of British machinery → uprooting trainlines, telegraph posts
 → attack on signs of British Authority — buildings, offices

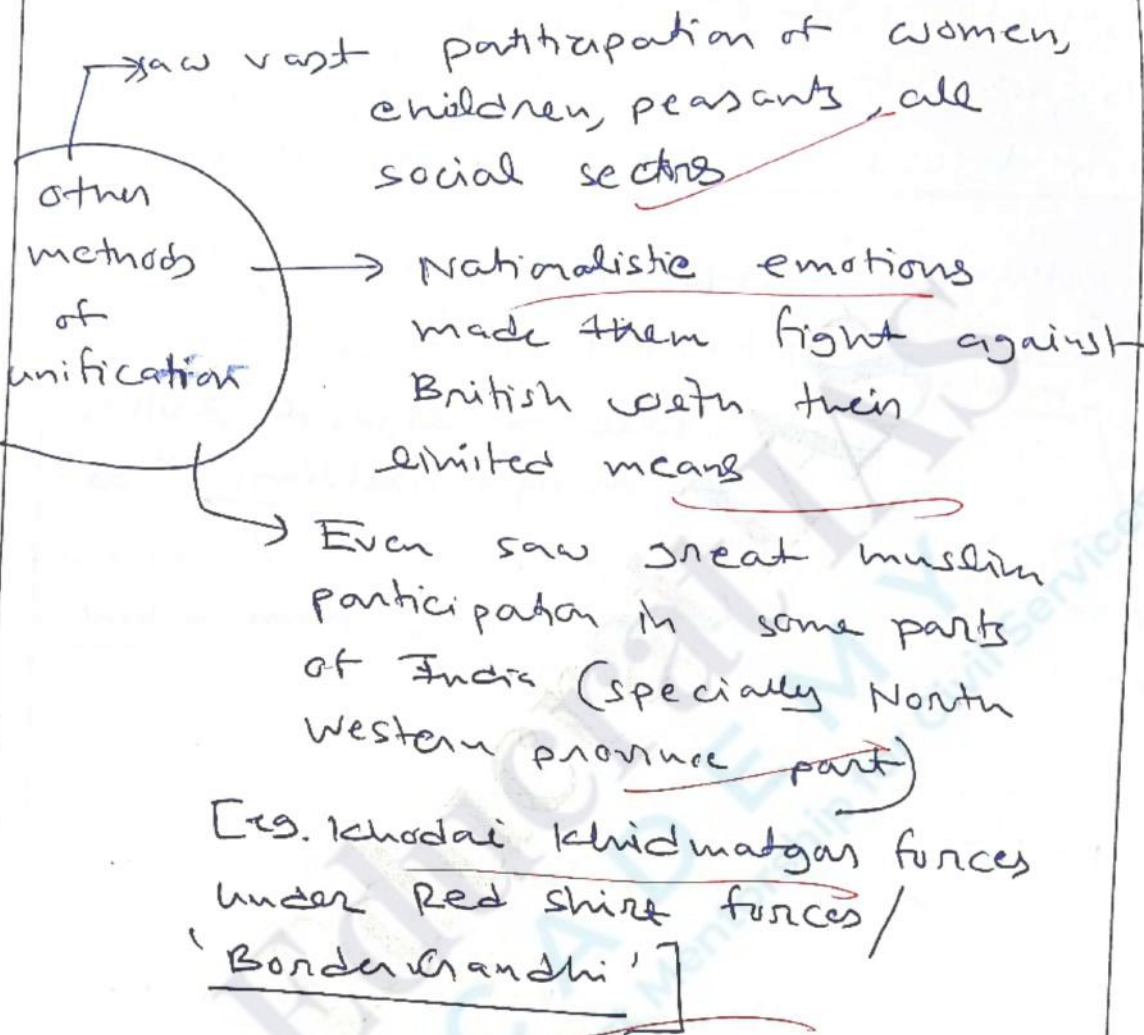
Spontaneous moves (unified by Against local British people) → Self rule mechanism
 → 'Vanan vahini' by small boys
 → 'Manjari vahini' by small girls

powerful
local
leaders
emerged

Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms adopted

Refusal to pay taxes

→ underground broadcasting of radio (Usha Mehta)
 → local people stayed connected at strong
 → small administrative units established in many places



The Quit India movement was the final hit on the foundation on british empire that made them realise it would be impossible to rule Indians without their consent. 2022 marked 80 years of this great revolution and was celebrated country wide to acknowledge the contributions by people in this movement.

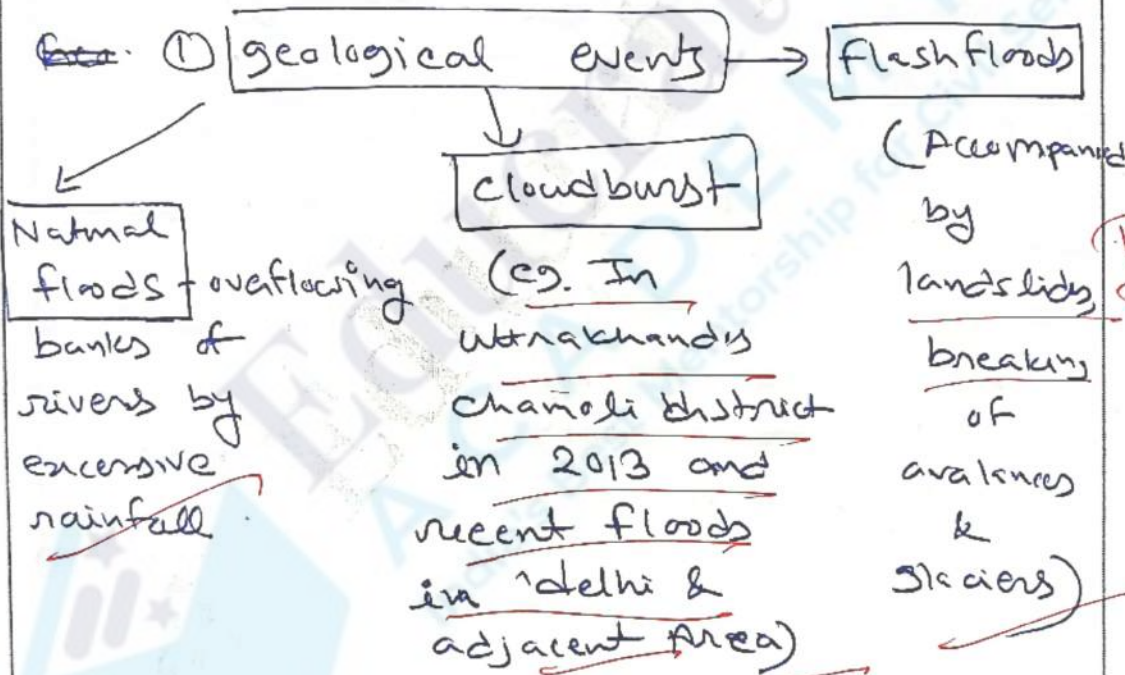
Relevant conclusion.



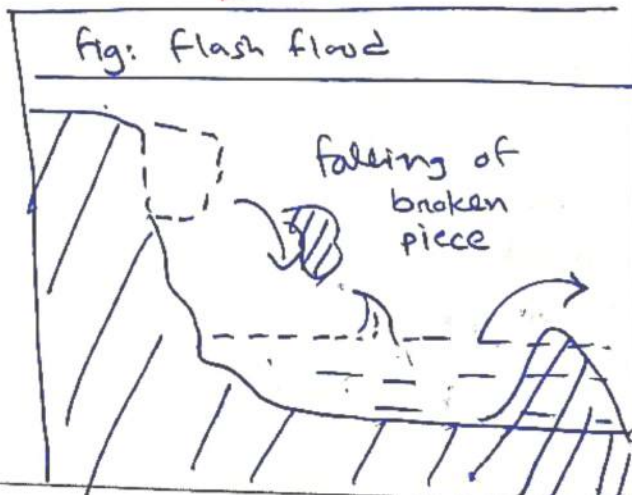
15. The magnitude of floods in the Himalayas is controlled by its geology, orography and meteorology. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The Himalayan ecosystem is fragile and prone to disasters - both natural & anthropogenic - they are controlled by various geological, orographical & meteorological events.

Good introduction.



The increased instances of flash floods in recent times are effect of global warming.



U
② Nat

Global warming

→ Melting of ice-caps
in Himalayan
region

↓
Melting of glaciers

↓
pressure of debris accumulated
at glaciers foothill → flash flood

Geological & meteorological reasons

① Anthropogenic activities: changing
topography of Himalayan landscape

*orographic
factors
would deal
with the
effects
due to
slope*

↓
unsustainable
tourism

↓
Plastic rapid
pollution urbanisation
clogs
sewage, building of
unsust. roads → buildings
agriculture

↓
Indiscriminate
felling
of
trees

↓
soil
erosion

↓
developmental
projects
eg. hydro power
plants
mineral exploration

↓
ecological
destruction
↓
land subsidence
(eg. Jashimath)

↓
Reducing soil & structural
capacity of Himalayan region

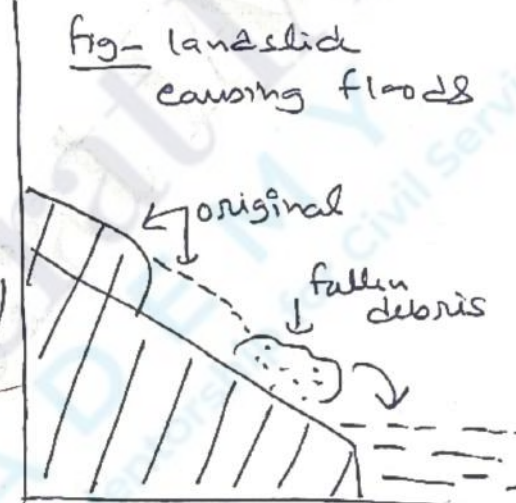
② Natural reason

↳ Himalayas are newer mountains still in developing phase → hence causes earthquake, tremors, landslides

↳ falling of debris in rivers

↳ lower river's carrying capacity over time

↳ causes flashfloods / rapid flood events



Relevant points.

③ changing climate

patterns → intense rainfall over a short area in short time causes cloudburst and then flash floods

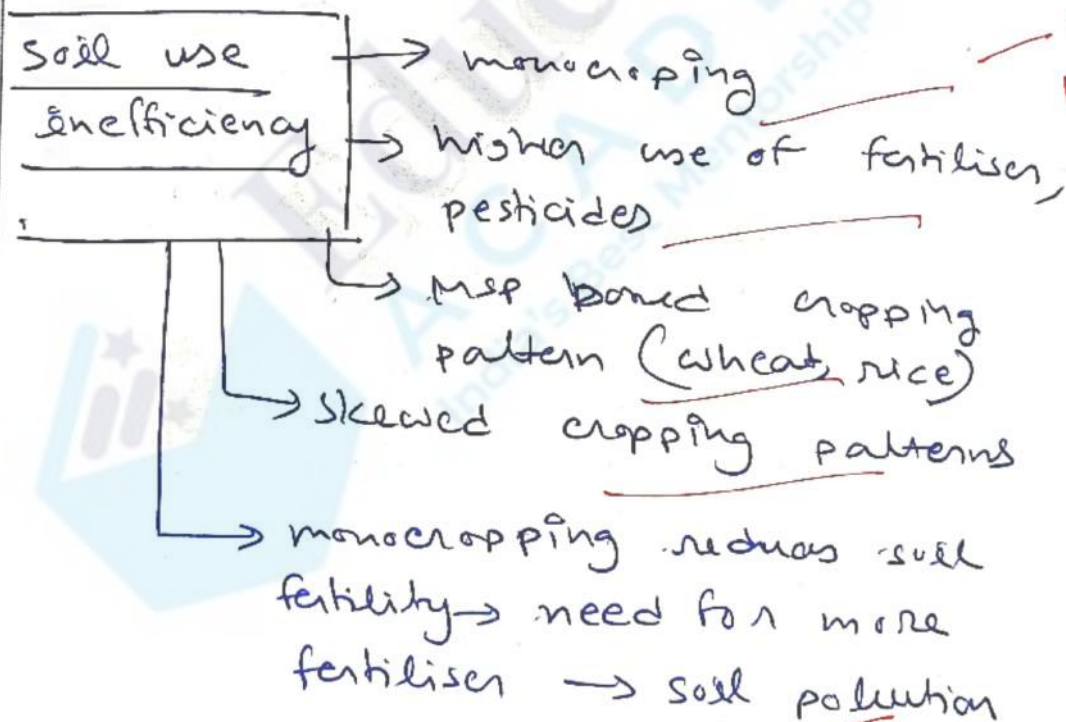
(eg- Delhi incident in July, 23)

Thus, Himalayan ecosystem is prone to frequent floods. Mindful sustainable development, public awareness generation, floodzone mapping & proper rehabilitation plans are required to combat these.

16. Soil and water use efficiency is the first step in bringing long term positive transformation in Indian agriculture. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Indian Agriculture is the most important method of livelihood for 49% population, taking into account the paucity of natural resources like soil & water, their efficient use is of prime importance for sustainable agricultural practices.

Good introduction



Good to show inefficiency of soil use.

→ rainfed agriculture
 water use inefficiency → water guzzling crops (eg. sugarcane, rice)
 → MSP based cropping pattern

→ Net water exporter country

→ Acute water shortage predicted in many Indian cities
 (NITI Aayog's composite water management Index)

Good points.

→ Severely depleted ground water wells.

→ terrace farming / vertical farming
 → sustainable use of soil

→ organic farming practices

Relevant points.

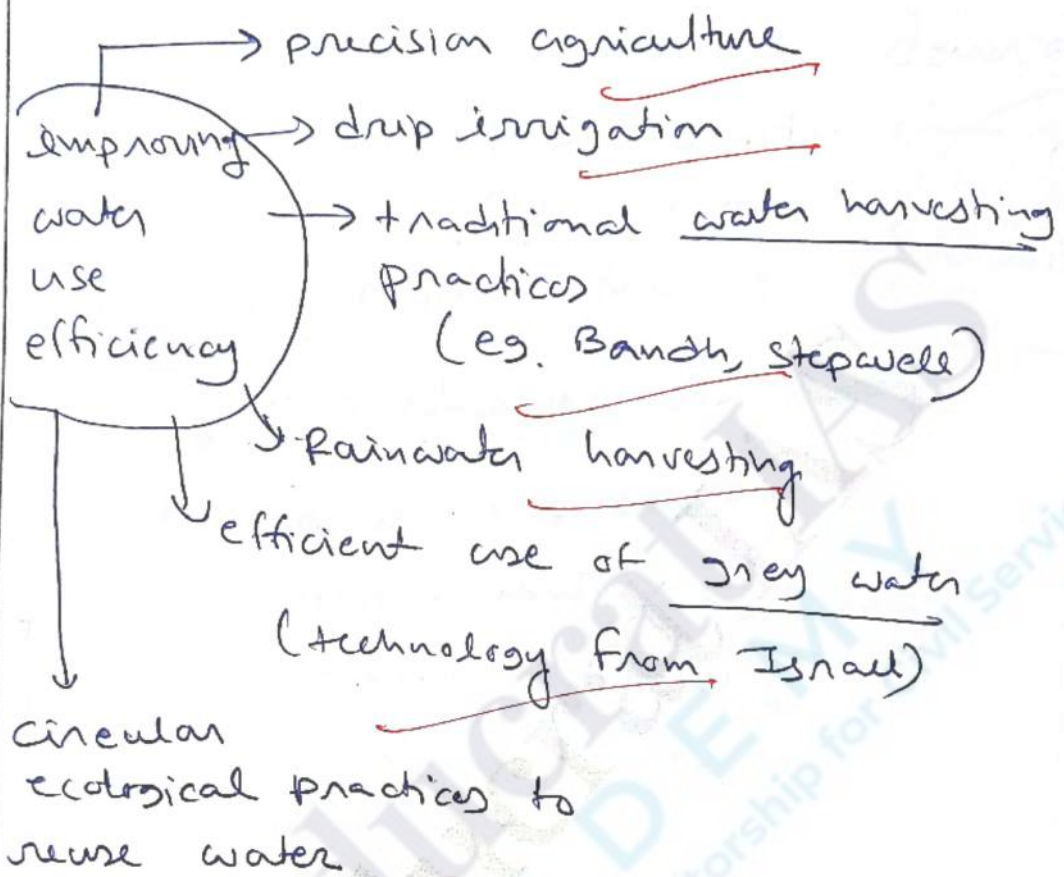
Methods to improve soil efficiency

→ pulses improve soil fertility by nitrogen fixation

(you can mention about legumes in general).

→ rotational cropping

→ soil health card / to assess need of soil.



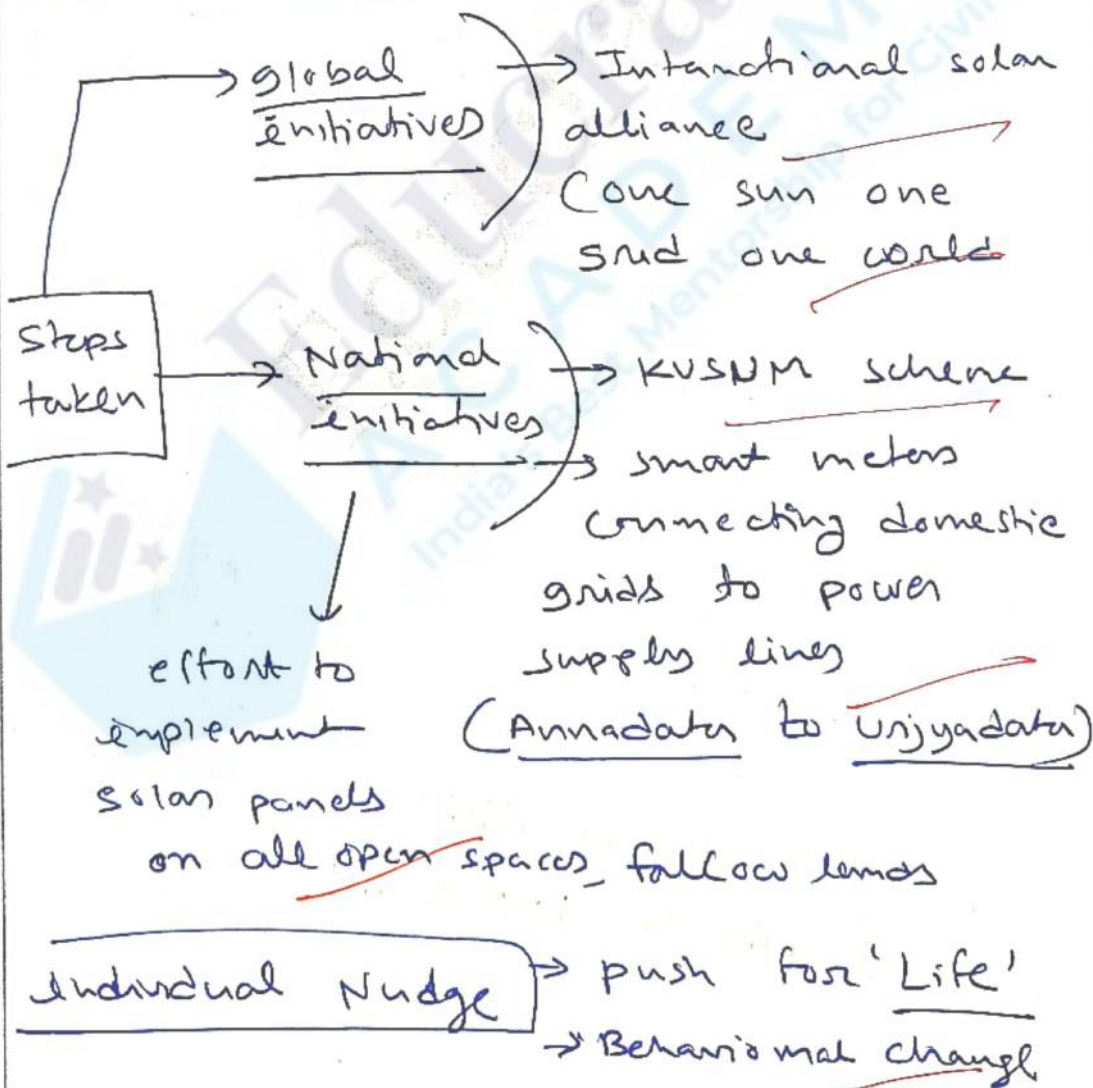
Sustainable water & soil usage practices are important for not only sustainable agricultural but also sustenance of lives on earth
As rightly said, 'we have not inherited earth, we have borrowed it from our future generations'

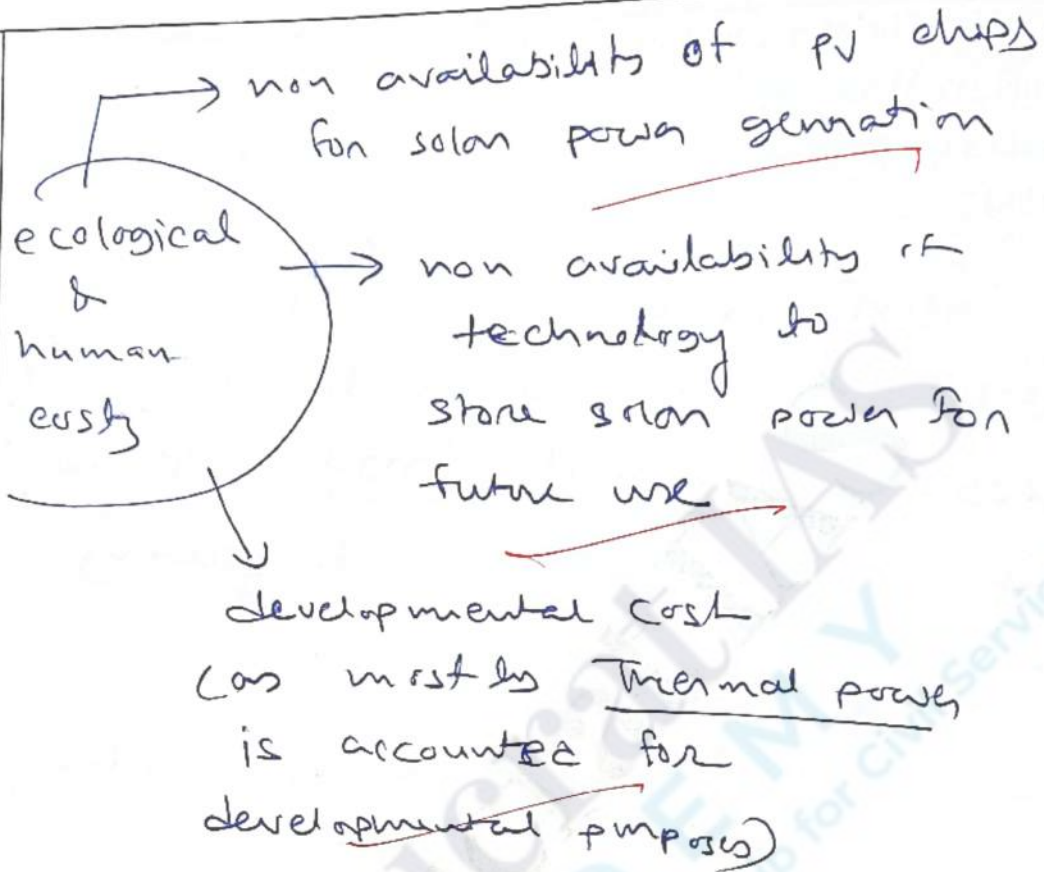
Good conclusion -

17. Provide a brief account of steps taken by India for harnessing solar energy. What are the ecological and human costs associated with India's quest for solar energy expansion? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Solar energy is important renewable energy source to reach India's panchamrit target of 450 GW renewable energy by 2030 & becoming net zero emitter by 2070.

Good Introduction





Thus, solar power is important for India's environmental goal — needs to be pursued.

- Human costs: —
- Loss of grazing land / impact on pastoral communities.
 - Faulty classification of wastelands leading to wrong diversion.



18. Why was erstwhile Bombay the main focal point of development for the cotton textile industry in its incipient stage? How has the locational pattern of the industry changed since then? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

write about -

humid climate

Proximity to sea

Availability of surplus water

capitalist class

Bombay
Reason of localisation

→ availability of raw material (cotton)

→ availability of water

→ favourable climate (strength of cotton thread)

→ market & demand → industrialised areas nearby

→ govt policy support

→ domestic & international demand

→ cluster based industry

→ availability of cheap labour



development
as the
UPSC



- Reason for shift
- mill based production units
 - Govt policy for regional decentralisation
 - Regional efforts by all states to improve industrialisation.

still a major cluster of textile industry is present at Bombay & nearby area.

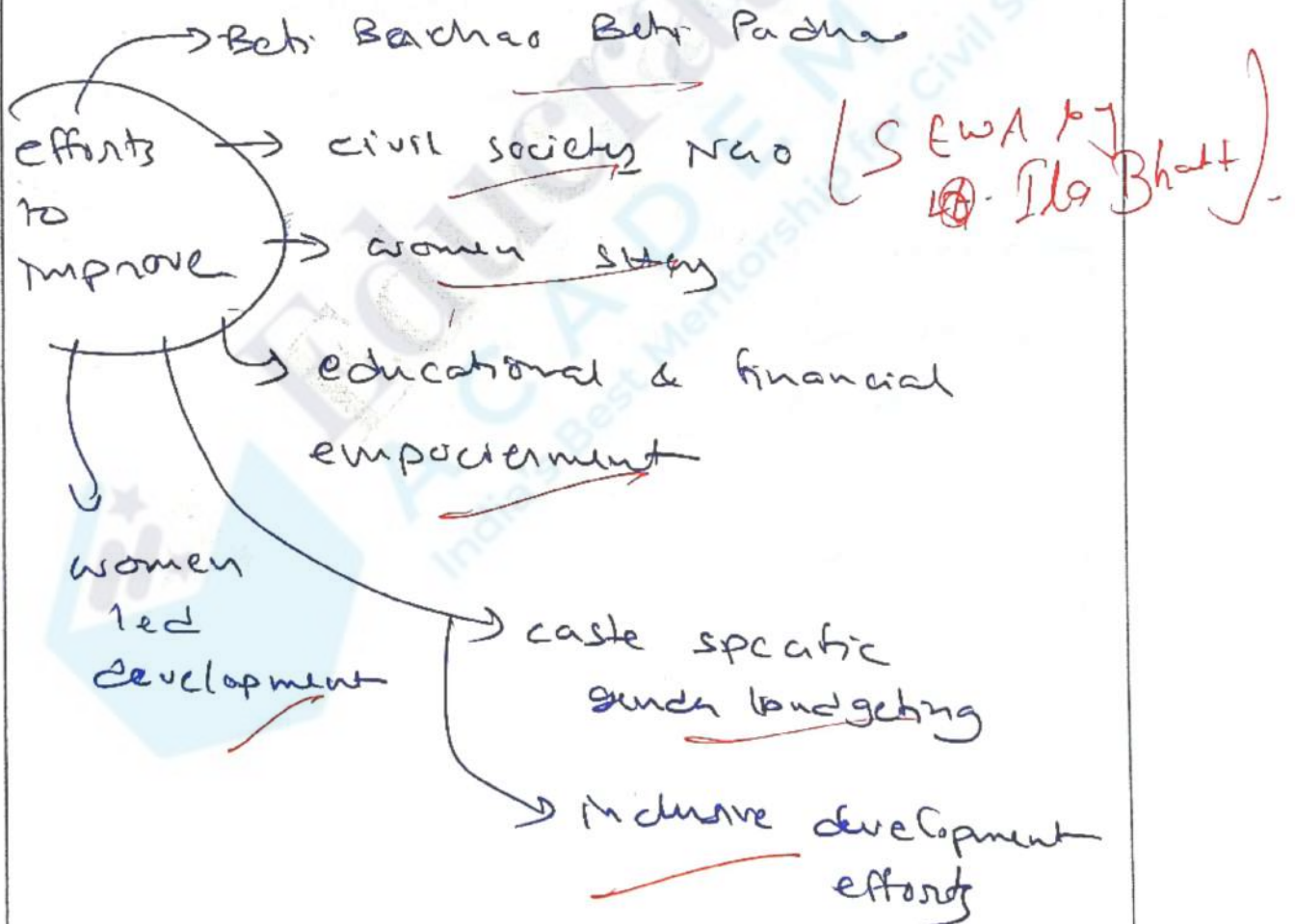
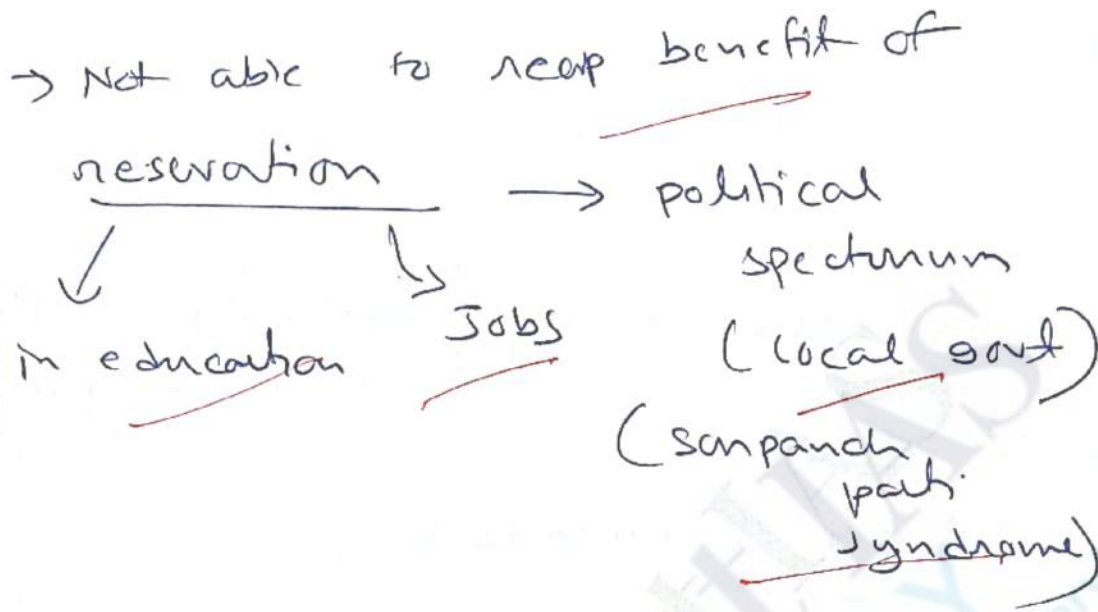


19. Marginalized caste groups such as the Dalits are witnessing some forms of socioeconomic mobility, but women within these groups are experiencing different forms of constraints. Critically examine.
(Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Women Dalits facing socioeconomic mobility issues

- ↳ Patriarchal mind set
- ↳ less educational attainment
- ↳ dual burden of home & work
- ↳ less skill development
- ↳ women engaged in caste based vocations (eg. manual scavenging)
 - ↳ 96% manual scavengers are women
- ↳ Women has less chance of migration
 - ↳ less wage (34% wage gap)
 - ↳ hence prefer for traditional roles

Firstly, show the problems faced by Dalits in general. Then, write about the problems faced by Dalit women in particular.



20. Legislative and judicial steps are reflecting the importance of recognizing minorities of all kinds, not just religious. Evaluate the progress of Indian society in this regard. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

