

GENERAL STUDIES

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INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS	
Q.No	Max.Marks	Marks Obtained		
1	10	03	1. Please write your Name, Email, UPSC Roll No. and Mobile number in the answer sheet 2. There are 20 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory 3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it. 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. 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	03		
3	10	04		
4	10	04		
5	10	00		
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8	10	04		
9	10	00	Any specific message from Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Mentor's Remarks:	
10	10	00		
11	10 15	06		
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15	10 15	06		
16	10 15	07		
17	10 15	08		
18	10 15	08		
19	10 15	08	Start Time: 11:55	End Time: 2:55
20	15	04	Mode of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Marks		86	TEST CODE:	Medium of Examination:

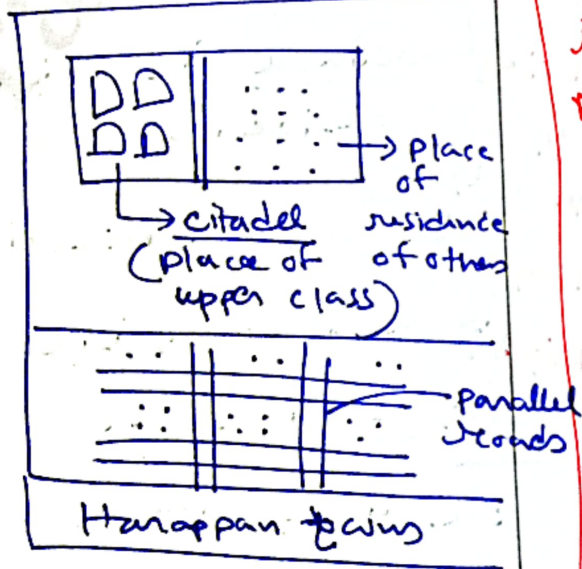
1. Did the mastery over agriculture act as a leverage for the rise of Harappan towns and cities? Discuss: (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The Harappan civilization is one of the oldest civilizations found in Indian ~~subcontinent~~ subcontinent till now. It existed in later bronze age & is known for its meticulous planning of towns & cities.

Good introduction

Mastery over Agriculture:

① They could be ~~be~~ were affluent in agriculture - various items eg - wheat, barley were known to them



This is not required.

② trade of agriculture is evident - from seals

③ surplus in agriculture

presence of great granary in Mohenjodaro

Good example

In the second half of answer, you had to discuss about the contributing of trade, industries etc. In the growth of urban centres.

- Rise of towns
- Planned cities ✓
 - parallel roads cutting at 30° ✓
 - sewage system ✓
 - ~~the~~ double street lines ✓
 - down not facing roads (sense of privacy) ✓
 - great bath & great granary ✓
 - citadel for high class people's residence. ✓

In all civilizations food security is a pre-requisite for flourishing art, culture and all other aspects of life. Hence, It can be said that masters over agriculture gave harappans the privilege to focus on town planning & other tasks.

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)

Many argue Dufferin's 'safety valve theory' as congress's birth. i.e.

A.O. Hume had conceptualised an association like congress so that the collective grievances of

Indians since the start of East India companies' rule in India in 1757 and 1764 more effectively could be vented out ~~by~~ through constitutionally agreed measures like prayer, petition etc.

Just as there is a safety valve in a pressure cooker that prevents its bursting, they say that by establishing congress the long pending grievances of Indians got a way to be vented.

Keep your introduction short in 10 marks.

You can also mention about some pre-logical organisations like Indian Association. Also, you can counter the argument of safety valve with that of lightning conductor of Bipan chandra

through the sessions.

However, there are arguments Against

① A.O. Home was one of the proponents only → others like Solaki,

Dadabhai Naoroji had effectively

worked for India's upliftment

through propositions like 'Drain of Wealth' theory

② Moderates had some achievements like the Council Act of 1892

③ INC was instrumental in India's freedom movement - a safety valve organisation couldn't have been so.

④ It was a starting point for India's freedom struggle.

Hence, It was not only a safety valve mechanism but important proponent of India's freedom.



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)

Just After
Independence India
was living a
Ship-to-mouth
existence based on
US's PL-480 Scheme



Good
description -

So, It was necessary
for India to obtain food security for
its huge population which it gained
through Green revolution in 1960s
and then 1970s through vision of
its leader & scientists like M. S.
Swaminathan

Too
long
introduction.

~~Reason~~ it is ~~visually~~ It was mainly
focused on Punjab, Haryana, UP
regions and so it seems Eastern India
was virtually bypassed. Reasons for
this may be →

Your
answer
starts
here

You can also mention the other dimension. However, Eastern India was not completely bypassed!

- Spike-over effect
- Increase in yield of paddy

- ① large lands in western side whereas Eastern India had fragmented sites
 - ② Green revolution used high yield variety of seeds → Eastern India was relatively poor to afford this
 - ③ partition induced migration & land ceiling laws like barga laws were still being implemented
 - ④ Naxalite movement that started around the same time caused Eastern India to miss out on green revolution (GR)
 - ⑤ GR was mainly focused on wheat but eastern India mostly produced rice
- for these reasons Eastern India missed out on green revolution. However, Now there are concerted efforts to improve agriculture in this area.



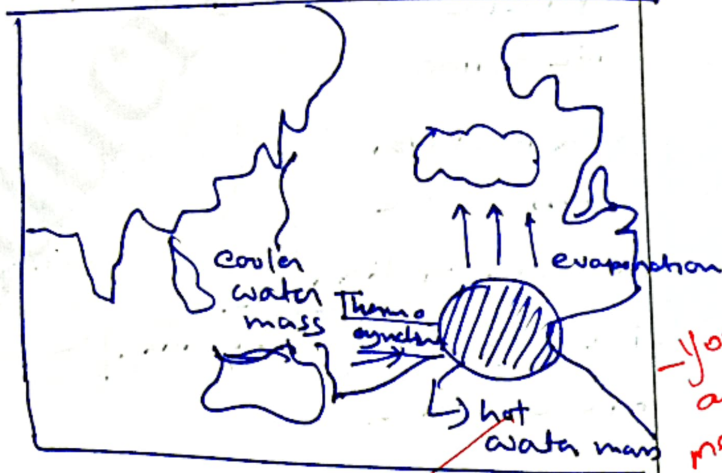
4. Discuss the causes and consequences of El Niño and La Niña, two of the most important geophysical phenomena that affect the global climate. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

EL-niño & La Niña are two most important geophysical phenomena that affect the global climate. Both together are called ENSO or EL-niño southern oscillation (ENSO)

Good introduction

EL niño

① When the trade winds are weak, the hotter water mass in southern Pacific ocean



are shifted toward peru, Humboldt of South America causing disturbances and rainfall there.

This causes high pressure in Indian subcontinent & Australia

You can also mention about weakening of Walker cell
Effects of trade winds etc

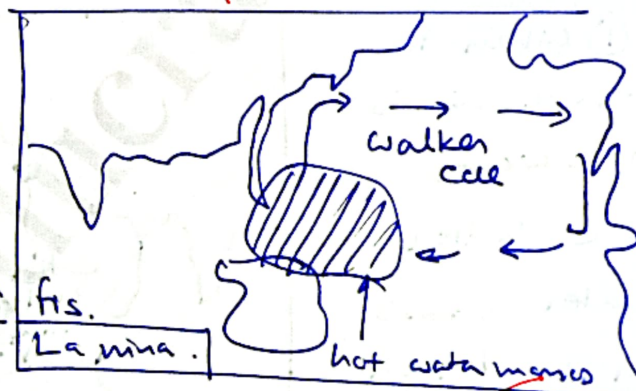
You need to mention more consequences.

causing less rain & drought like condition in India, Australia & Indonesia

This year, there is a scope of EL-nino hampering Indian Agriculture as it is mostly rained.

La-nina

→ opposite of EL-nino
→ hot water masses are at Australian side due to trade winds.

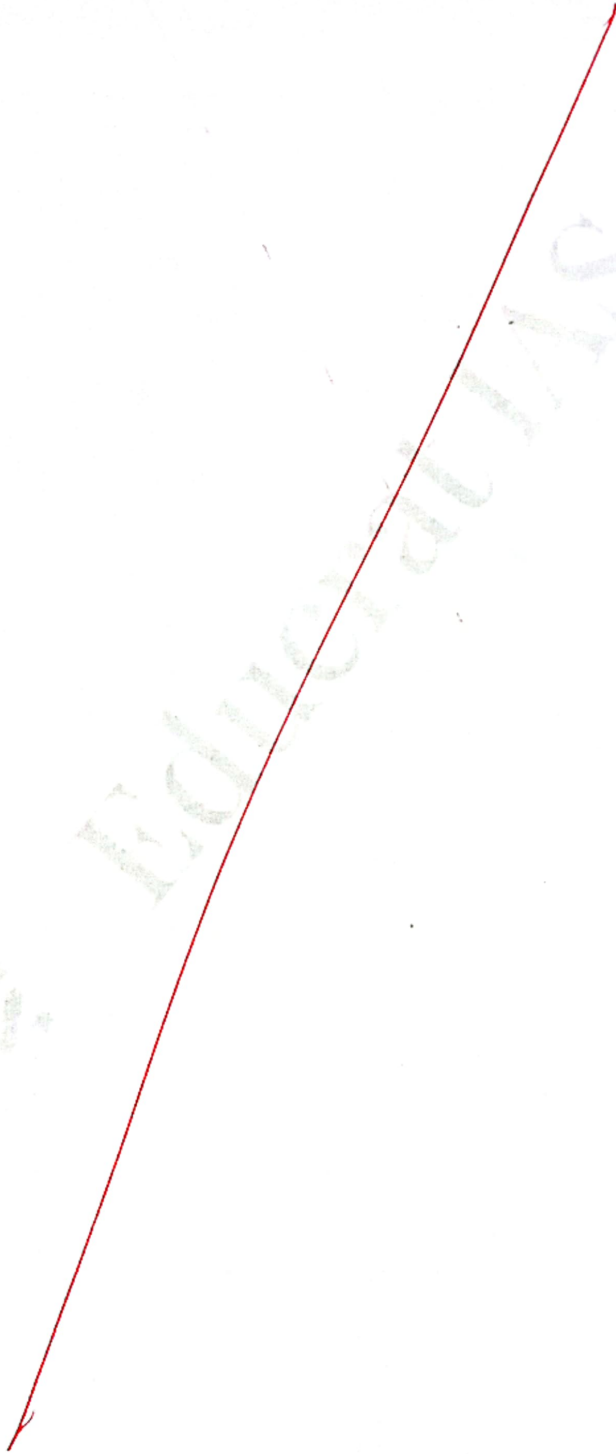


→ low pressure conditions in Indonesia, India & Australia which is good for Indian monsoon.

EL-nino, La-nina & El-nino modoki are events that control climate conditions in southern pacific ocean greatly.



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





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)

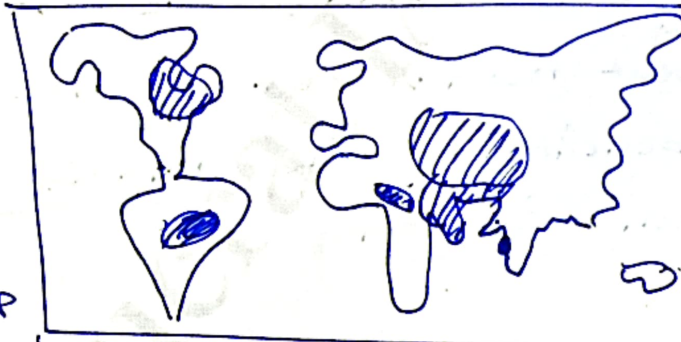
energy costs & government

policies have significant impact on location of oil refineries.

As there is high energy consumption in refinery.

① energy costs

→ need low energy cost for setting up of oil refinery



Location of global oil refineries

② Govt policy

→ Environmental Guidelines

- Ease of doing business
- licence, permit of quarrying
- tax exemptions
- focus on oil centric business Policies (eg. Gulf countries)
- location of strategic storage units
- global geo-politics (Asian additional cost)

Explain the impact of these policies on the location of oil refineries

You have not addressed the other part of question i.e. impact on global oil industry.

these are some of the factors that affect location of oil refineries.

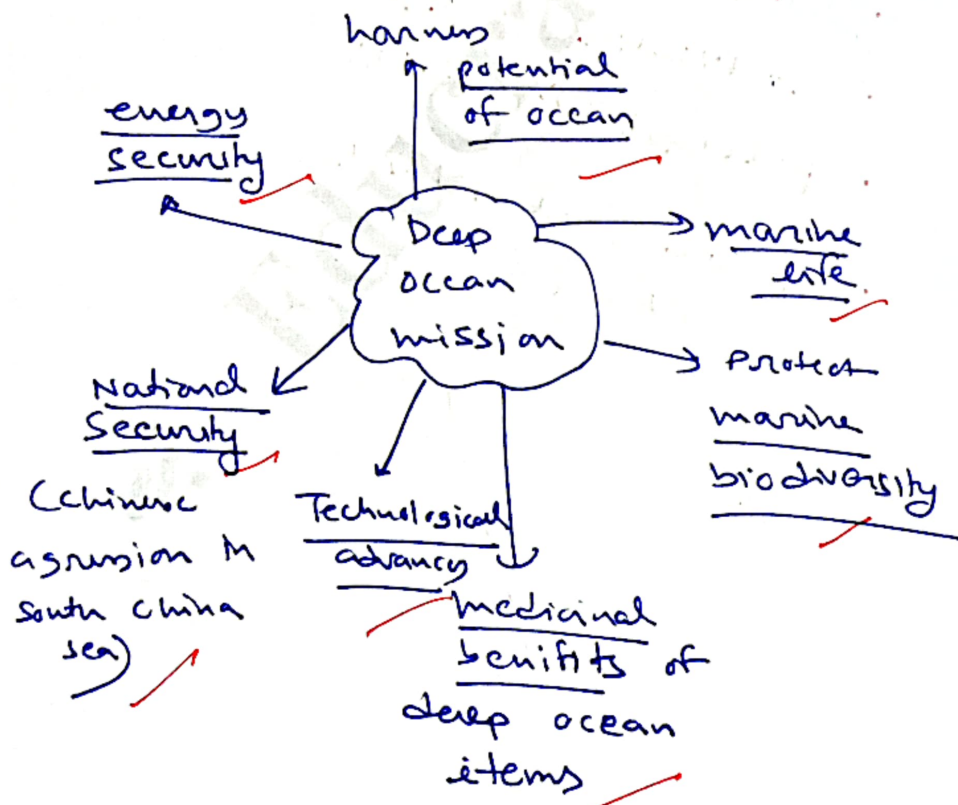
e.g. In Gulf countries since the economy runs majorly on oil economy the govt policies are also sufficiently bent towards providing the maximum benefit to oil companies for ease of their functioning.



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

Deep ocean mission is the mission by government to utilise the resources lying in deep ocean and harness the potential of deep oceans

You can also mention the concerned ministry i.e. Ministry of Earth Sciences



~~have~~ India has almost 7500 km of coastline and a long

Significant exclusive economic zone

Deep ocean mission will help in harnessing potential of oceans and gain technologically, economically & from it. —

Mention about

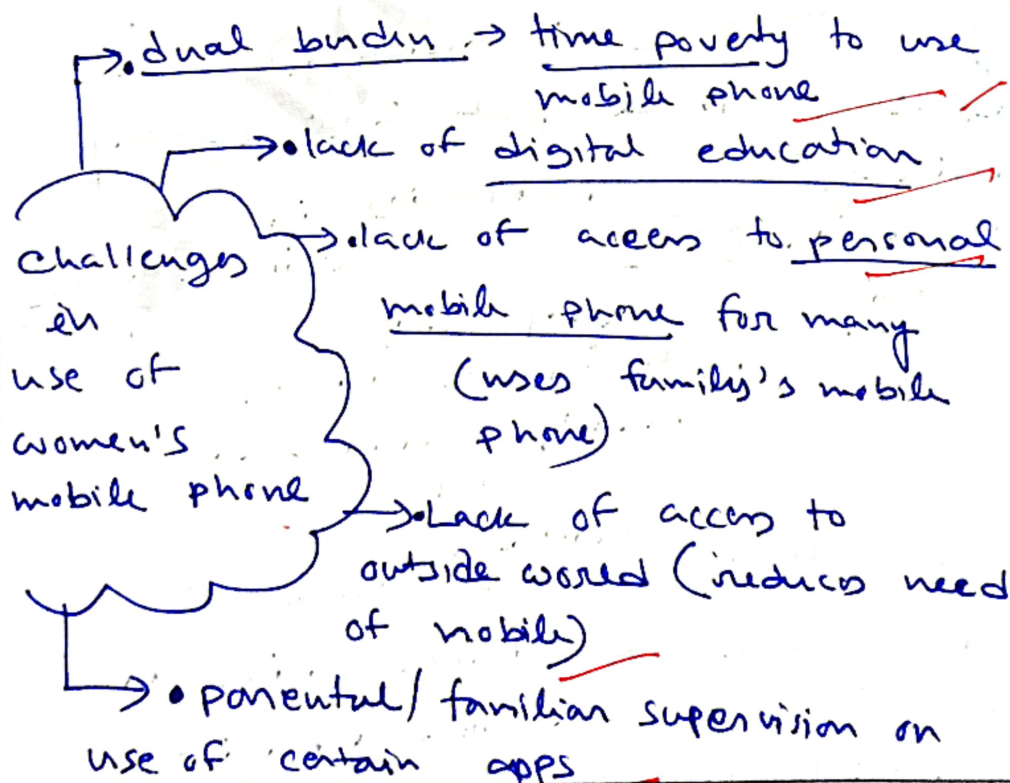
- Submersible vehicles
- Contributions to Blue Economy
- Polymetallic nodules
- Rare Earth materials, etc.



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

Indian society's patriarchal nature hampers progress of women in all sectors of life, even their use of mobile phone. Meity data shows higher digital illiteracy in ~~women~~ women. (Only 60% women have access to their own mobile phone which is 93% for men)

No acronym please



Economic dependency

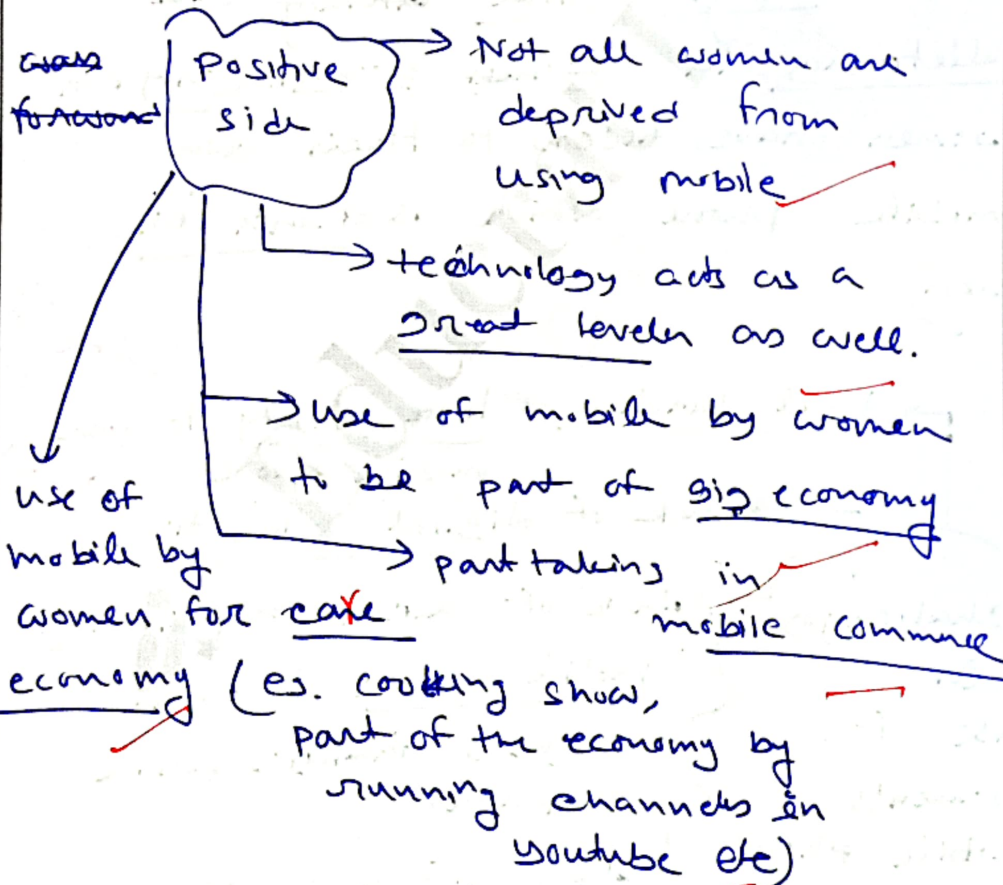
Digital Divide

Use such keywords

Deepfakes
using
AI/ML

Other threats

- ① technology induced gender violence
- ② online abuse / trolling of women
- ③ Apps like sulli bari that harms women dignity



Thus, however, universal access to mobile phones & digital devices is need of the hour with impending Industrial Revolution 4.0



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

Indian society is a multilingual
multicultural



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)

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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)

Indian art & culture has a rich heritage in both metaphysical and pure sciences. Metaphysical things are those which deal with the philosophical questions like existence of god, creation and working of universe etc. Pure sciences are concerned about the materialistic and day-to-day events.

Good introduction

Indulgence in → Metaphysical things

① During IV c → ^{Indus valley civilization} Pashupati seal, Mother goddess, Amulets

② Mauryan period

- a) Ashokan dhamma
- b) idea of Rock cut inscriptions
- c) Stupas, chaityas, viharas for buddhist monks
- d) Yakha, Yakshini (e.g. Didarganj)
- e) Ashokan instructions to the people about

In this part of answer, you have to mention about the schools of philosophy meaning

leading a moral life

from the vedic scriptures

Gupta period

a) Temple architecture in North India - Nagara style

South India - Dravida style of temple architecture

Sufi & Bhakti movement

only this point is relevant
→ reformation of religions
→ focus on love, devotion, purity of soul and acceptance of all castes.

Indulgence in pure sciences

IVC

a) terracotta figurines of other animals and man - not only god

crafts made

↳ Dancing girl of Mohenjodaro

b) Seals - used for trade

knowledge of science behind preserving grains

c) granary - science of building such long lasting structures

d) parallel roads → doors not facing outside → idea of privacy, architecture



Sewage systems

Mauya

- a) building of pillars
- b) lost wax method of bronze casting
- c) science of building sculptures that did not lose lustrous finish after so many years

Knowledge of Metallurgy

Gupta

- a) Kanishka - 'Arthashastra' (Governance)
Arjabhata → invention of zero

- b) Charak, Sushruta → medicinal excellence

Cholas

- a) Build huge navy - knowledge of ship building & warfare

This it would not be right to say that Indians of ancient period focused only on metaphysical things and not sciences.

You can also mention about Arjabhata, Nagarjuna etc. and their contribution in the field of Astronomy, mathematics etc.

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)

You can also make a reference to first civil disobedience first non-cooperation first hunger strike etc.

Gandhiji came to India in 1915 and started his political career in 1919 through Champanan Ahmedabad & Kheda satyagrahas.

'Rise to power' and 'capture' of national leadership

① Gandhiji was attending a meeting at BHU when farmers of Champanan approached him to help them with their struggle.

② Gandhiji found his methods to be effective in the three satyagrahas and travelled vastly across the country to understand the political undercurrent of the country.



③ In 1920, he decided to merge the non-cooperation movement with Khilafat movement to gather huge mass support and involvement of both hindus and muslims in the national struggle. This also ensured huge muslim participation and ~~mass~~

~~However, this~~

④ The moderates, extremists and even revolutionaries revered him and agreed to his leadership.

However though this is Gandhi's period of 'rise to power' i.e. ~~great~~ rise to the leadership of national struggle, this cannot be called the 'capture' of leadership - because he did not ~~put~~ actively push for it - it was the moderates and the

Also, mention about the strategies Pre-Gandhi and Gandhian strategy. It would be better to compare and explain about the rise of MK Gandhi.

Good argument

local people who requested him to help in their fight against the British rule as his methods seem to work in many cases - i.e. in Champaran, Ahmedabad & Kheda.

His rise to leadership was due to his natural ability and not an active desire for power.

Skilful top-level political game?

Good arguments.
Please focus on comparison.

① cannot be called so because if he had the greed for power he could have easily become the chairman of congress in all its events, sessions and garner the post of prime minister post independence - which he did not take.

② His sticking to his ideals of non-violence & truth even in adversities (eg. calling for non-cooperation due to Chauri Chaura) proves he was not up for appeasement and political game.



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)

The United Nations Organisation was established in 1945 after the second world war to maintain peace across countries, avoid instance of such wars in future and development of all nations.

However, its roles in peacekeeping and international mediation have often been criticised.

Role & failure as peacekeeper and in international mediation:

① Non representative

The UN-organisation runs majorly on the ~~old~~ lines of Northern global powers i.e. the developed countries and not the global southern powers i.e. developing countries.

Good introduction

This is to be written later in your answer

(PS - Veto)

Hence there is increased call for
'voice of global south'

In this answer, you have to mention about the positive roles of UN peacekeeping too.

② Risks of forces provided by other countries -

has no separate peacekeeping force and depends on other countries to provide forces. ~~individual member countries~~

③ Donations as the source of funding

④ failure to stop global wars & humanitarian crises like crisis in Sudan, middle east, yemen or recent Russia-Ukraine war

⑤ No power to put sanctions or take pecuniary measures

Role is only discussion based it cannot put sanctions or provide justice to the victims.

In case of Yemen conflict, Humanitarian aid etc.



⑥ Rising polarity in global
Geo-politics - US, China trade wars
turning the world into a bi-polar
one. Even non state actors like
technology giants are now undermining
sovereignty of states. Thus leaving it
not so powerful to handle global
geopolitical situations.

~~These~~ A powerful United
nation organisation would be
good for the countries especially ~~part~~
for those who are part of the global
south. International effort and
consensus is required for this. peace, justice & strong institutions
are needed to attain SDG # 16.

Good
conclusion.

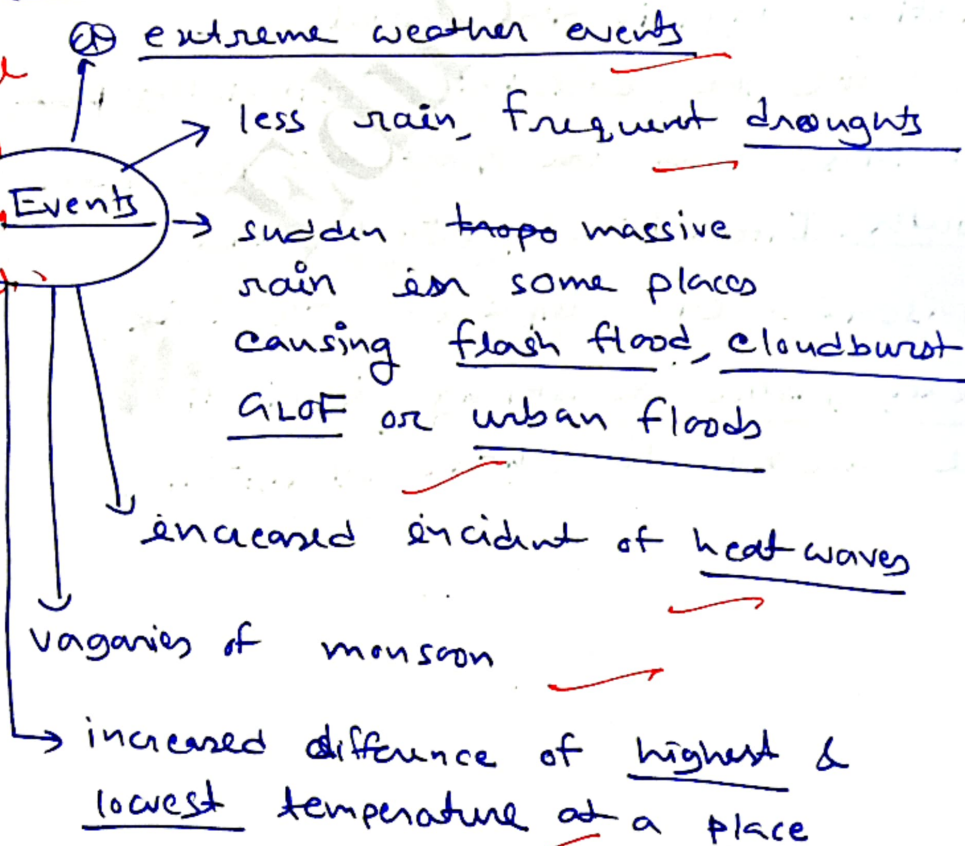
14. Do you think that the pattern of Indian monsoon has changed in past decade? Discuss how it impacts various facets of our lives.
(Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Good
introduction

India is severely dependent on the monsoon for its climate conditions and also food security as ~~so~~ ~~more~~ Indian agriculture is highly rainfed.

Change of pattern in past decade:

- Erratic rainfall
- Skewed distribution of rainfall





Impact of Indian monsoon & its pattern change on various facets of our life :

- ① Temperature → Monsoon controls the temperature of summer & winter
Season - Avg - 18°C summer - 15-40°
winter - 10-30°C (in plains)
- ② Rainfall → appn. 200 cm of annual rainfall
please verify this data
- ③ change of seasons -
 - a) Summer (March-June) - increased temperature, increased day length
→ more extreme weather events
→ heat waves, 'loo' in north India
→ Kalbaisakhi, mango showers
 - b) rainy season (July-September) most of the rain occurs in this time
 - c) Retreating monsoon (October-November)
Dry air takes water molecules from

You can link the vicious cycle of poverty with the changing pattern of monsoon.

Bay of Bengal and it rains in Tamil Nadu region (North eastern monsoon)

4) Winter (December-February) - cold winds in North India - severe drop in temperature
→ decreased day length

Erroneous mistake ↓

5) Agriculture - most of India's ^{agriculture} rainfall is ^{is} rained and depends on monsoon & weather events like El-nino, La-nina, Indian ocean dipole etc.

Less production ↓

Food Inflation ↓

Less consumption purchasing power ↓

6) Vegetation - variety of monsoon & latitude & altitude has led to different vegetation like grass lands, shrubs, evergreen or deciduous forests. Though most vegetation is deciduous (eg - Neem, shesham, sal etc)

Less demand ↓

Unemployment ↓

poverty ↓

7) Festivals → ^{harvesting} ~~celebrating~~ seasonal festivals like Pongal, Bihu, ^{makar} sankranti and dance and culture of people depend on monsoon & climate condition.

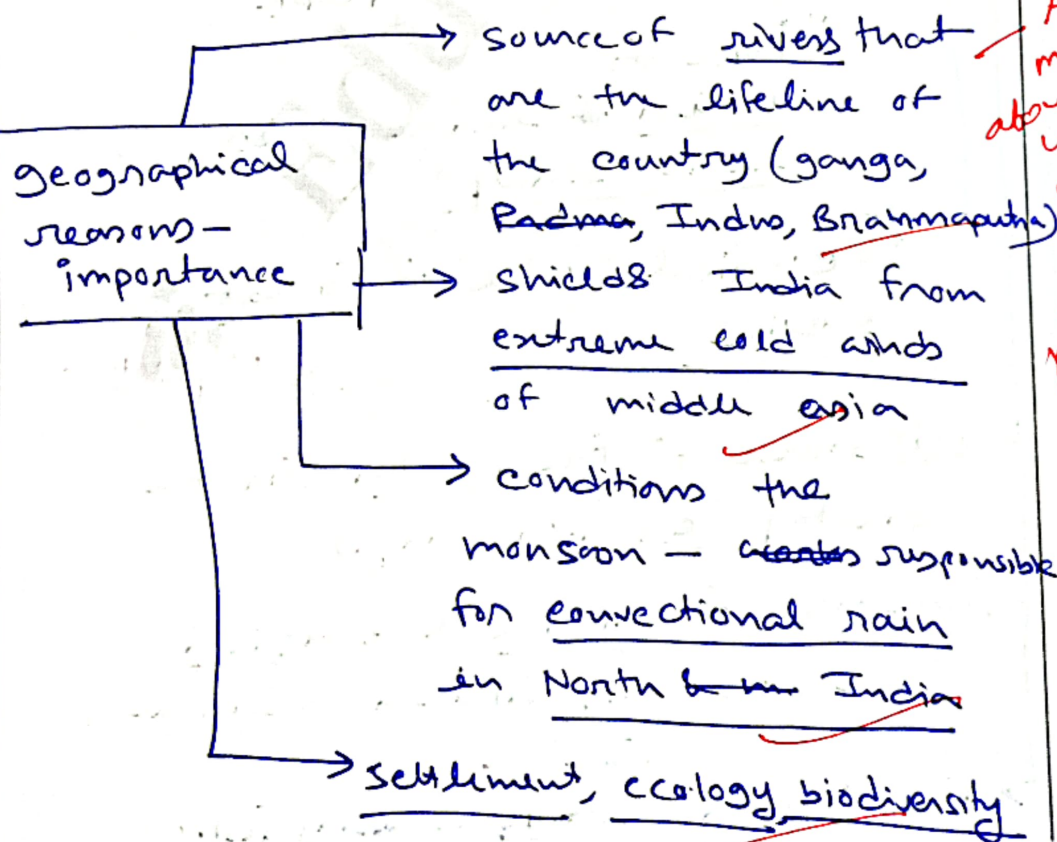
Thus Indian monsoon shapes the lives of India's people in several ways.



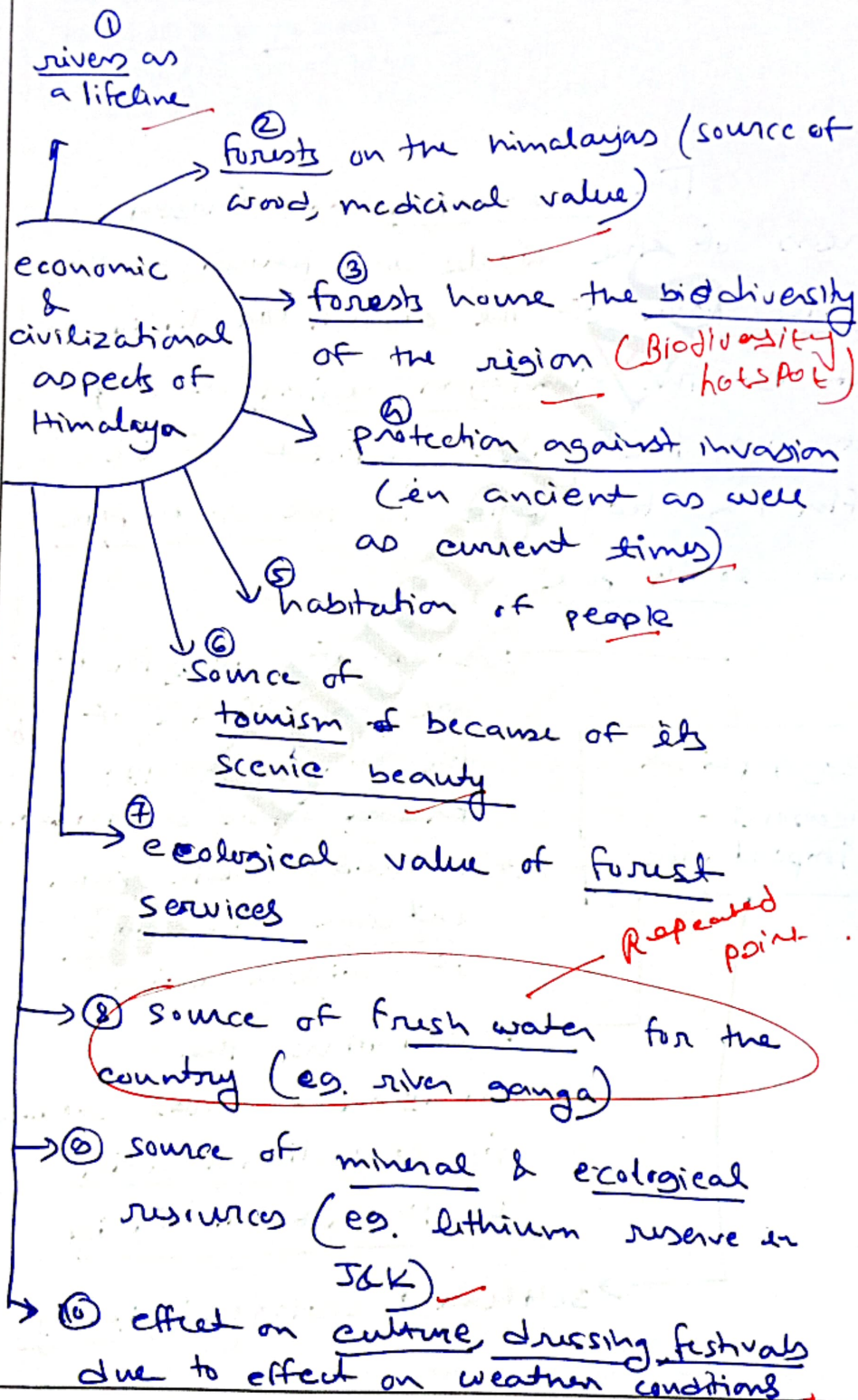
15. The third pole of the earth not only important for geographical reasons but also for economic and civilizational aspects of the Indian Subcontinent. Explaining the importance of the region, examine the consequences of its changing features. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The ice-shields and frozen areas of the world are known as the 'third pole' of the world. For India, it is the himalayan region as ~~they~~ it has the most amount of ice after the two poles i.e. the north pole and south pole.

Good introduction



Also mention about western disturbances and winter rain.



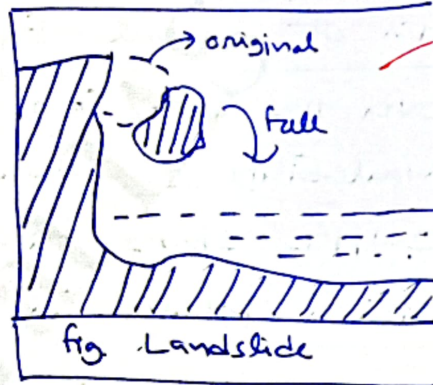


Consequences of its changing feature:-

① Melting of ice → extreme weather events like landslides, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), Avalanche, cloud bursts

(eg. in Uttarakhand's Chamoli in 2013 & in 2022)

↳ loss of life & property



Good depiction.

② Land subsidence → due to anthropogenic causes like construction, unsustainable urbanisation, run-of-river hydropower projects (eg- Joshimath subsidence)

③ polluted rivers → due to melting of ice & global warming

④ India's indiscriminate felling of trees → land erosion, landslides → casualty of life & property

Himalayas are an asset to the country and the world. They should be protected through ~~ext~~ schemes like 'Secure Himalaya' & Public & envt. participation.

Good conclusion.

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

Good introduction with good use of data.

India has 18% of human resources of the world and only 4% of global fresh water resources.

over the last few decades the water availability is decreasing and NITI Aayog's CWMI states that at least 600 million people in India face water scarcity.

Reasons of water scarcity

① ~~deplea~~
depletion of
ground water
table

for agriculture

→ due to over extraction (es in Punjab, Haryana & Eastern UP)

Per capita water availability (cc)

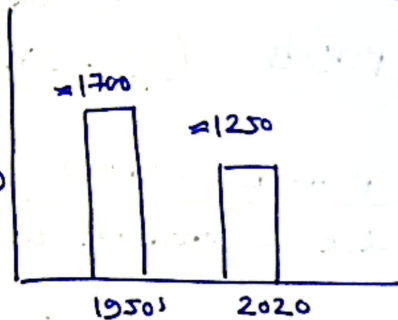


fig. water availability in India

② over dependence ~~less~~ on water guzzling



ops in agriculture

③ Not practising traditional water harvesting methods

④ lack of public awareness about regulated use of water - political will not strong enough to prevent misuse
- eg) free water to agriculture
no tax on residential water use

⑤ Industrial use of water

⑥ Regional variation of water availability

Industrial effluents →

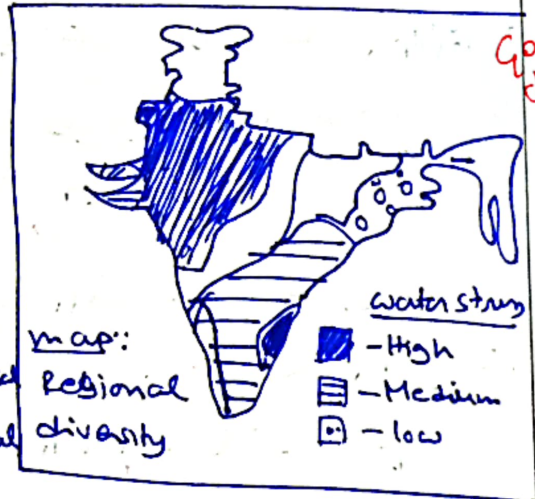
⑦ Contamination of water

eg) - Arsenic contamination in WB, Bihar

⑧ leakage of industrial items or agricultural residue to water bodies

(eg. Acid mine drainage
pesticide contamination)

⑨ Indiscriminate reclaiming of water bodies for construction activities (eg Chennai water crisis in 2010)



Measures to prevent / reduce water scarcity

① public awareness

Treatment and reuse of greywater.

② use of grey water technologies

↳ Indonesia uses this technique

③ Water harvesting, rainwater harvesting

↳ Save rainwater, 'Jal Dhara Jal Bharo' scheme in west Bengal

Good examples

④ Traditional water harvesting methods

↳ Khadin, Bawli, stepwells

⑤ Efficient use of excess flood water

↳ Ahn pynes in Bihar or
Kuhls in Himalayas

⑥ concerted & collaborative approach of government

↳ Jal shakti mission

⑦ River linking projects

↳ 'Telesu ganga' project spreads excess water of Pennar river to AP's drought-prone areas.

Thus a concerted effort of public & government

is needed to fight

water scarcity.



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

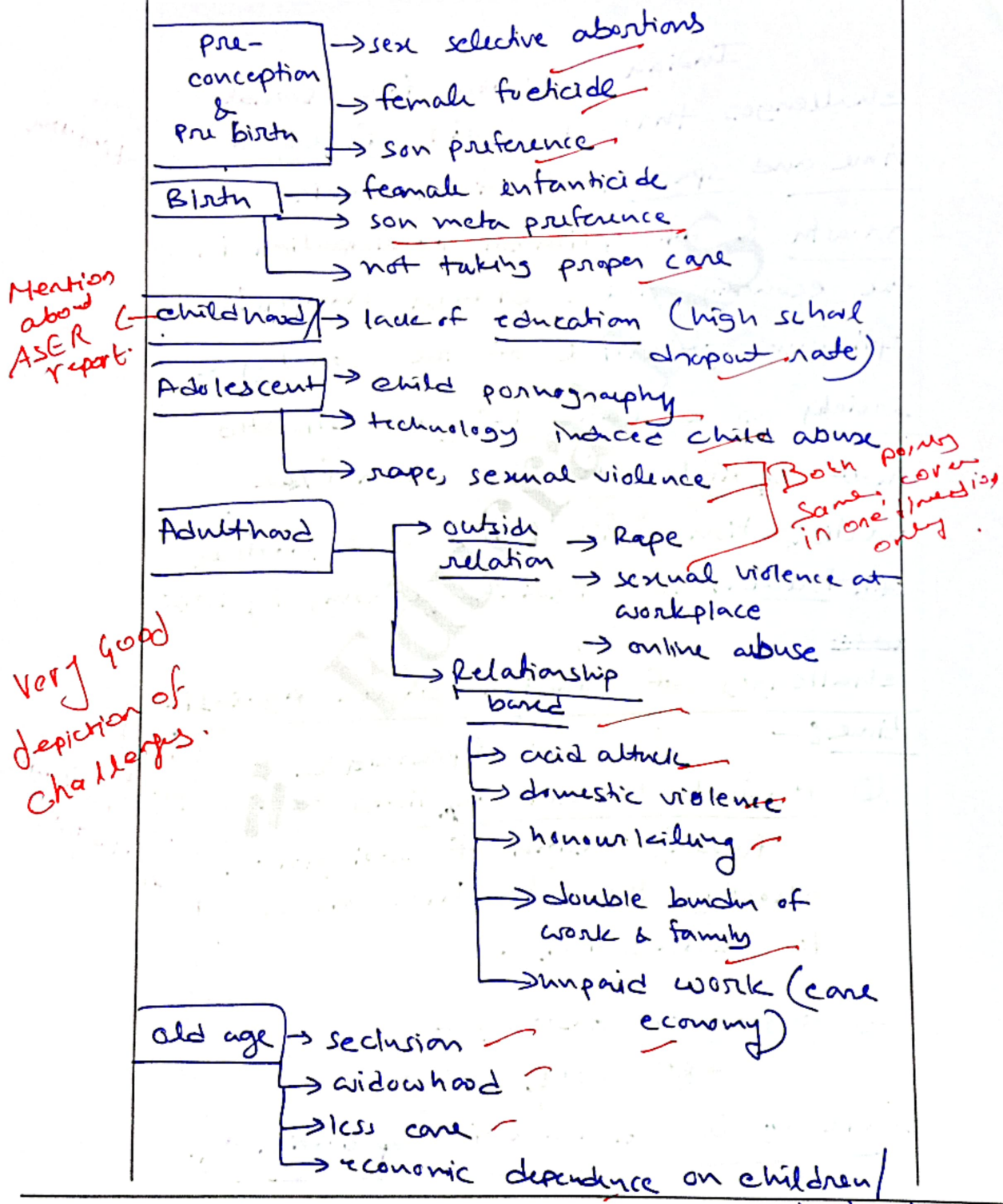
Indian women face several challenges through their lifecycle & time and space that hinder their growth & optimum participation in the economy which in turn hampers the optimum potential of the country & society as a whole. ILO has estimated that equitable female labour force participation will add another \$1 trillion to Indian economy by 2025.

Good introduction.

time :-

- ① Ancient & medieval times :-
Purdah, custom of sati, not allowing them to have access to education.
- ② regressive customs -
→ dowry system.
- ③ Life cycle approach of deprivation :-

Good mention of continuing challenges.



Mention about ASER report.

Very good depiction of challenges.

Both points cover same in one only.

challenges against space

- ① class ceiling - in private sectors
- ② unorganised labours → more than 85%
women are in unorganised sector
- ③ Double burden at home → work &
home related
responsibility
→ societal perception of
(natural caregivers)
- ④ across countries → middle eastern
countries & some other countries
still do not give adequate freedom to
women
(eg - Iran - hijab issue
Afganistan - Talibani reign
does not allow women
education)
- ⑤ less representation in parliament
→ only 16% (as per ECI Report)
→ Sampada pati issue in PRIs

Good example

Do not use awangys.

Thus, making a equitable & free society
for Indian women should be the top priority of government

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)

The constitution of India prevents child labour ~~the~~ through Art - 24 ^{Article} - however, there are still prevalent instances of child labour across the country.

Also mention about data from ministry / ILO.

Incidence of child labour

→ high rate of child labour in some industries

(eg. restaurants)

→ child abuse in entertainment sector (eg. reality shows, films)
- lack of age appropriate content & behaviour

Reasons

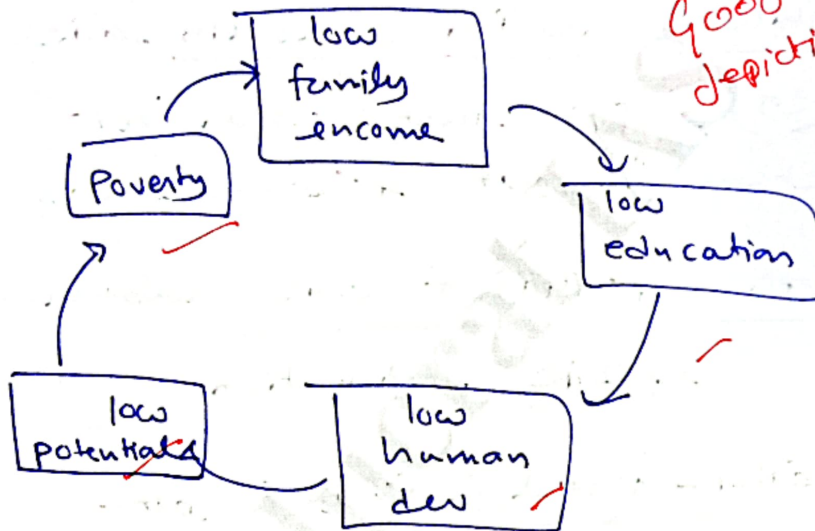
① lack of education → high drop out rates

② Inequality & poverty → Mean ex years



of schooling is only 6 yrs against international Best practice of 12 yrs

③ ~~unawareness of~~ poverty trap



④ low wage of child labours

→ make them easy target for some jobs (eg- in restaurants)

Good points,

⑤ lack of proper implementation of child labour prohibition Act in letter of spirit - 'chalta hai' attitude.

⑥ lack of targeted political will

→ only few governments & few NGOs work for abolition of child labour.

Remedial Measures

① strict punishment for offenders

② proper state intervention for child education & health services

(eg) → TN started breakfast scheme in govt sponsored schools

③ proper reporting of child labour

→ public participation

④ PENCIL portal - efforts of govt

⑤ skill development, skill certification

eg - PMKVY

⑥ awareness of public

(eg) - use of public influencers to raise awareness & garner public support.

Today's children are tomorrow's future. Ensuring a child labour free country is our duty.

Very good examples and mention of initiatives

Good conclusion.

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)

India is a multilingual country with 22 official languages & hundreds of spoken languages with thousands of dialects.

Good introduction

Mention about the debate after you introduce.

Status of vernacular in India

→ ① state support to languages

→ use of local/state specific language permitted in official works or in parliament with prior permission

② classical language status → to old languages to ensure their heritage is maintained.

③ push for education in vernacular languages in New education policy 2020

④ Nation International mother language/ vernacular day → 21st february to remember

language martyrs.

Repetition
of introduction.

⑤ official status to 22 languages
→ sch VIII of Indian
constitution

In-line
with
Gandhian
idea of
education.

⑥ Constitutional safeguard to
linguistic minorities
to establish institutions
& protect language (Part-29)

⑦ Linguistic officer in some states.

⑧ Push for government directives
& governance mandates in
Vernaculars
eg - citizen charter in
Vernaculars.

Benefits of using vernaculars in
education

① easy to grasp for children

② Ease of access to caste
previously deprived children.



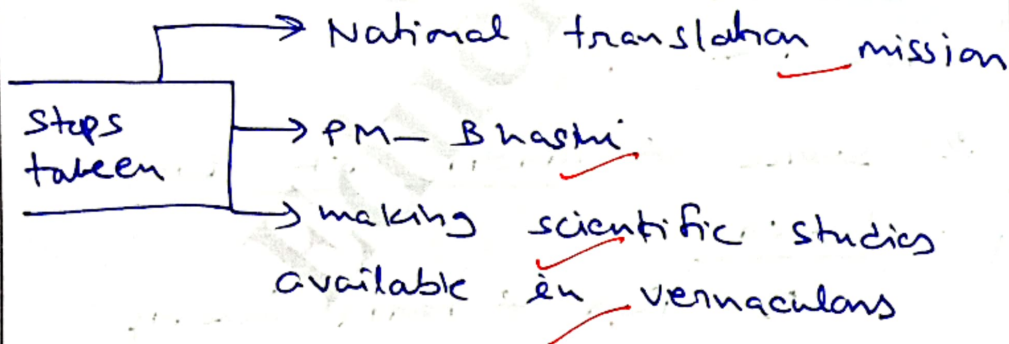
eg - tribals

③ Right to practice own language is a part of identity

(eg - Bangladesh liberation war for linguistic imposition)

④ Improvement of dialectic & subumbain history of literatures

eg Dalit Sahityas



There is need for more concerted effort & public awareness

to preserve own language to stop invasive use of english in daily life in attempt to look modern or westernised. awareness like speaking in vernaculars in malls, restaurants, public places, customer care centres can be one step

Good conclusion

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)

Too short
introduction
↓
After introduction,
you have
to connect
on the
initiative
itself.

Then, you
have to
mention
about the
challenges

Some governments have decided to conduct surveys in madrasas.

challenges

① curriculum not synced with global & local needs & need of the time.

② source of funding not always known

eg- fear of terror funding

③ curriculum is not job ready

eg - lack of industry academia linkage

④ religious instructions in educational institutes

- may breed fundamentalism



Thus, conducting survey in
medium can be a welcome step

Complete your
answer

Educrat IAS