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Q.1) With the recent government initiative of BHARAT SHRI aimed at digitizing inscriptions, pillars as a source of ancient Indian history have gained prominence.

Not Merely Architectural Marvels

1) Pillars particularly Ashoken pillars serve as source of propogation of Dhamma

2) Provide basis for philosophical and ethical code of conduct eg.) Pillar edict prescribing code for monks

3) Political information eg.> Allahabad's Prayag Prashasti portraying Samudrgupta as "hero of 100 wars"

4) Portrays advancement of science and metallurgy eg.> Gupta Era's

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Mehrauli Pillar

5) Linguistic diversity : Containing Brahmi script, Sanskrit inscriptions shows evolution and diverty.

6) Terrotorial extent of empire eg.) Ashokan pillars in Kharoshti language in North-West India

7) Cultural syncretism eg.) Allahabad pillar bears combined inscriptions from Ashoka, Samudragupta to Jehangir

However, despite the informatic utility, pillars also are architectural marvels:

Art and Cultural

1) Ashokan pillars smooth and tapering; polishing (compared to Archaemedian pillars)

2) sculptural art on top eg.) Lion Stambh

Yoli Stambh (Vijaynagar) music.

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Q. 2) The early nationalists acted as the base on which the edifice of the national movement was built. Their primary contribution is their role in exposing exploitative economic practices/policies of British.

Extent to which they shaped the foundation

1) Exposed the truth of British draining India's wealth eg:> Poverty and UnBritish rule in India

2) Educated masses about the cause behind popular issues of farm distress, handicraft collapse

3) By mapping the economic history of India and portraying erstwhile trade dominance boosted national

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confidence eg.) India contributed ~ 14% to world trade during Mughal rule

4) Gave way to further research and development by writing seminal works eg.) 'Economic History of India', RC Dutt

5) Pioneered press development and thus reached the common people eg.) Rast Gofter. by Nsarji

Limitations

1) Could not reach to the larger masses

2) Followed a prayer-plead - petition model

3) Demands mostly centred on upper middle class concerns eg) administrative, ICS reforms

The contribution is nevertheless vital and formed the necessary basis for the mass movement

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Q.3) The Indian national movement was a sui generis model of fighting for freedom characterised by mass support, non violence and holistic development of national soul. This had wide effects that crosses borders and continents.

Effect on foreign movements

1) It inspired movements like Nelson Mandela's protest against the Apartheid regime in South Africa

2) Links with Indian nationalists and their support helped Burma attain freedom

3) Inspired the non violent struggles in Indonesia

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4) The INA adventures took the cause of Indian freedom to South East Asia inspiring the regio

5) Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru with this Global South advocacy provided moral support to countries like Egypt eg:> Non Aligned Movement

6) The British repression in India and movements like Quit India also fueled movements like Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya.

7) Later, the movement's ideals also inspired civil right movement in North America lead by Martin Luther King.

Therefore, though national, the movement had international influence.

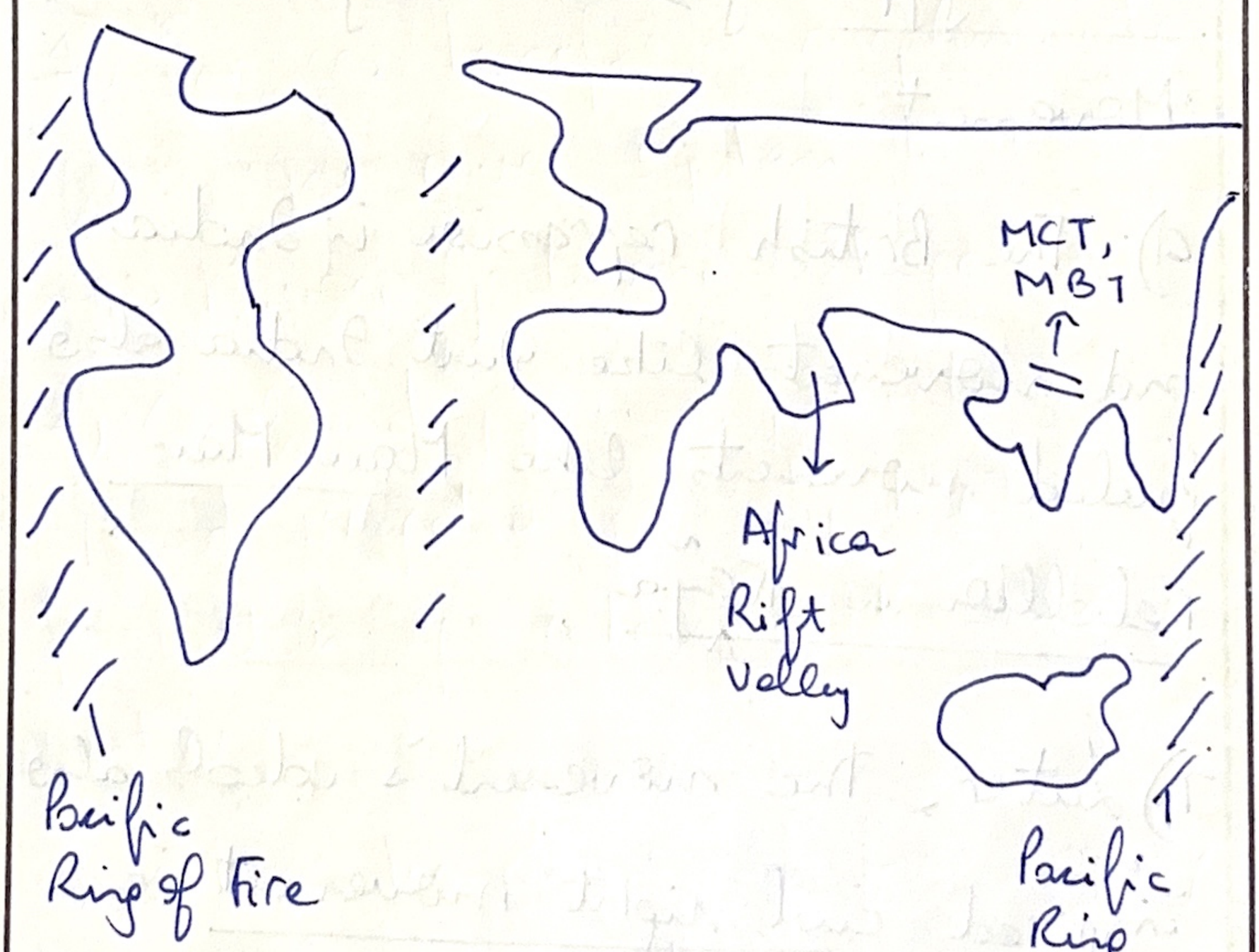
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Q.4) The tectonic plate theory hypothesizes constant movement and adjustment of continental plates over the fluid asthenosphere layer of earth. This movement leads to spatial distribution of earthquakes.



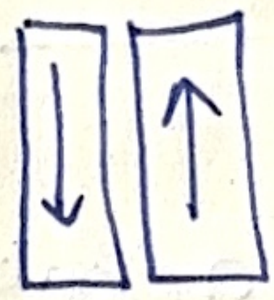
Movement of continental plates and its effect

1) The subducting plate often leads

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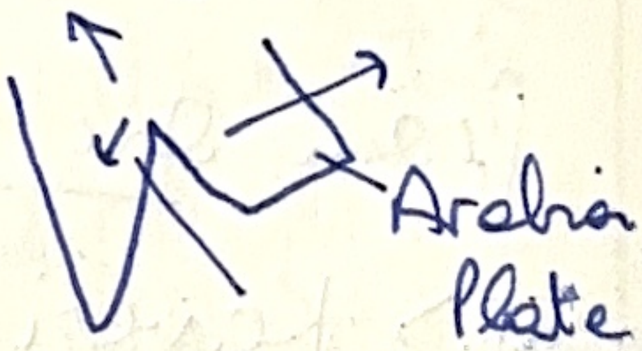
to increased magma pressure giving rise to seismic pressure or well.

2) The transform boundaries by sliding past (~~each~~) each other causes trends eg. San Andreas fault



Transform boundary

3) Diverging plates also lead to distribution of earthquake along such divergences eg. Africa Rift Valley



4) Continental plate subsiding under another continental plate also leads to seismic concentration eg:> Main Boundary Thrust in Indian Himalayas

5) The Pacific Ring of Fire due to its constant divergence and submergence leads to seismic activities eg:> Kamchatka Earthquake (2025).

These lead to earthquakes being concentrated geographically.

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Q.5) River Linking as a concept was introduced in India by Sir Arthur Cotton as the solution to water imbalance in river systems.

As a means to reduce regional water stress and other advantages

1) Ensures transfer of surplus water from one river system to another eg.> Kaveri Godavari linkage

2) Canal and pipelines provide year round irrigation facility boosting production eg.> wheat cultivation in winter

3) Reduces the chances of flooding by diverting excess water eg.> Ken River linkage project

4) Equitable distribution of water eg.> Bundelkhand region by Ken-Betwa

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5) Also promotes equitable water use by reducing wastage eg.> river dogging fields

6) Promotes construction of dams and bunds for better water regulation

Environmental and social implications

1) May lead to disturbance of e-flow of river

2) Biodiversity loss due to disruption of habitat eg.> Ghorial

3) Land submergence eg.> Panna Park to suffer submergence due to Ken-Betwa

4) Dredging and sediment changes impacts the water quality and groundwater pollution

5) Displacement of persons due to large projects eg> tribal lands lost

6) Delta formation and ecotones may get affected eg.> Sunderban delta

River linking thus must be well researche

-d.

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Q.6) Textile industry in India contributes ~ 2% to the GDP employing around 45 million directly and 100 million indirectly.

Localization Factors

1) Cotton cultivation concentrated in basalt-soil rich regions of Gujarat and Maharashtra

2) Silk industry concentrated in coastal/humid regions eg> Tamil Nadu Kanjivaram sarees

3) Being a pure raw material, industry also influenced by demand factor eg.> Punjab for woollen cloth industry

4) Port concentration for export
eg> Gujarat (Bandhani sarees)

5) Coastal states because weaving in dry climate is difficult due to thread

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breakage.

6) Cheap labour and policies like Textile Parks eg. UP Investment Hub

Economic Significance

1) Labour intensive sector (employs ~ 12% of industrial labour)

2) High export potential eg:- 12% to exports

3) Offers leeway into global supply chains eg:- 2.8% garment global market

4) Regional and inclusive development by recognizing local and tribal art eg:- Warli or sarees; Odisha silk

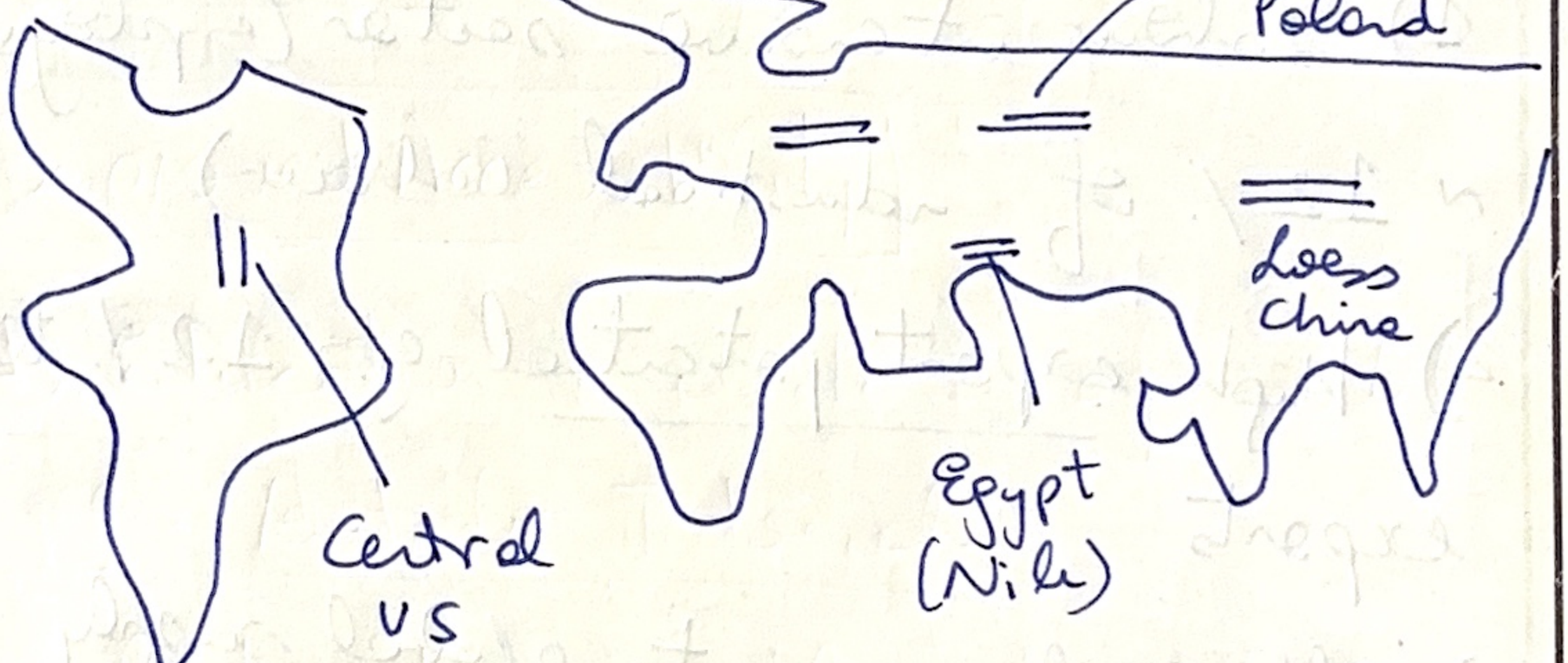
The textile sector holds the key to unlocking greater potential. PM Mitra Park and PLI for Tech-Textiles are new and novel initiatives to tap into this.

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9.7) Does deposits represent vital desert systems that offer invaluable productivity to the underlying soil.



Regions of loess deposition

Loess are fragmented, particles of clay, quartz, mica, feldspar forming a yellow-colored dust. Usually found in major agricultural basins, they are characterized by fine sediments that increase agri

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productivity due to :

1) Presence of essential minerals eg.> mica, quartz

2) Clay provides them greater water absorption, retention strength supporting irrigation

3) Deeper soil profile eg.> over 10m allow root penetration

4) The sediments being fine are easy to plough

5) Usually associated with nearby river systems eg.> Huang He basin further increase their agri productivity

6) The PH is neutral to slight alkaline.

The loess deposits offer great advantage leading to rich cultivation eg.> Wheat in Ukraine

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Q. 8)

Screen based education

V is the use of ICT tools and online medium for dissemination of knowledge eg.> Courses online like SWAYAM Portal.

Improved Accessibility

1) Education a click away model
   eg.> Youtube Tutorials
2) Reduced regional and global disparities eg> Coursera offering courses of world universities like Yale
3) Brought erstwhile neglected population groups into its domain
   eg.> Adult literacy program Ullas
4) Led to edu-tainment i.e. use of entertainment for education eg.> online mathematics puzzles

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Created new behavioural and social challenges

1) Lack of adequate, healthy socialization

2) 'Anxious generation' eg:> NCERT Survey revealed ~ 25% children suffered anxiety

3) Unhealthy practices like doomscro-lling (ES 2023-24)

4) Reduced sensitivity to violence and increased normalization of it eg:> Video games

5) Targetted ads eg:> Snackification of diets

6) Value based education replaced by brute skills based learning.

7) Learning poverty

Thus, regulation is the key to balance the both eg:> Little Kites Program, Kerala.

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Q.7)

The world today is characterized by increasing eco-fragmentation also leading to socio-cultural parochialism.

Why protectionist/xenophobic trends increasing in West against Indians

1) Increased migration especially pst 1991 reforms

2) Slowing down Western economies eg. US growing @ 1.5% giving rise to economic distress

3) Indians occupying top leadership positions in US MNCs eg> Microsoft perceived as foreign dominance

4) STEM skilled and hard working labour from India replacing locals in mid-management jobs

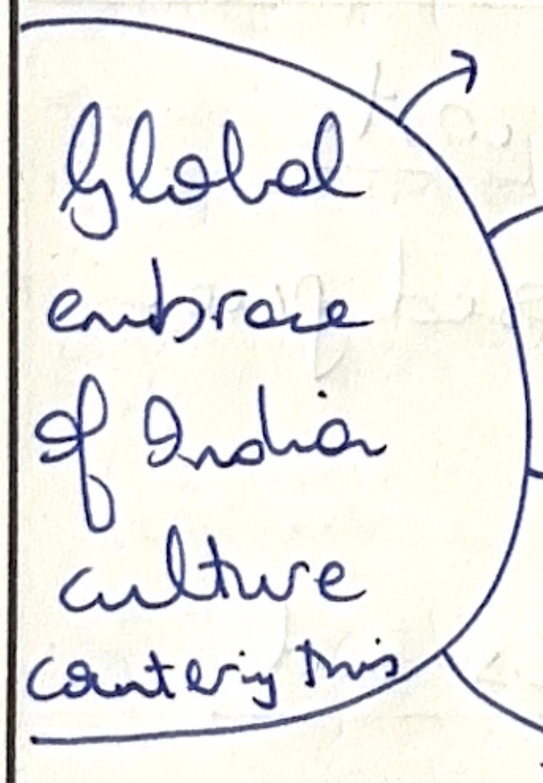
5) Proliferation of Indian service

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experts eg.> BPO centres, GCCs also hurting local industries there

6) Social media and anonymity offers avenues to spread racial content eg.> curry Indians trend

7) Perceived us v them mindset led by far right political parties eg.> ADf Germany, Trump administration



1) Yoga eg.> 21st June
2) Bollywood and Youtube uniting societies
3) Indian cuisine eg.> Annapurna scheme
4) Indian diaspora acting as "living bridges"

The world is undergoing a transformation in form of deglobalization however, India with its philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' is embracing it with strength and strategic autonomy.

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Q.10) The caste system based on the notions of purity and pollution has shown remarkable resilience continuing to be a strong factor in social stratification (Christophe Jeffrelot).

Adapted to modernization and economic liberalization

1) News / New form of caste discrimination eg.> Proposed preen fleets of Zomato

2) Discrimination in MNCs and private sector

3) Caste based economic associations eg.> Milind Kamble's Dalit Chamber of Commerce

4) Justifying caste discrimination by novel / euphemistic grounds eg.>

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deadlines, vegetarianism.

5) Integration of caste into academic discourses and university life eg:> Rohith Vemula case

6) Digitization of caste endogamy in marriage eg:> caste filters on matrimonial sites.

Adapted to urbanization

7) Segregation and ghettoisation eg:> "sweeper ~~colonies~~ colonies".

8) Urban spaces offering little avenues for growth eg:> concentration of Dalits in informal / labour jobs

9) Different utensils for housework

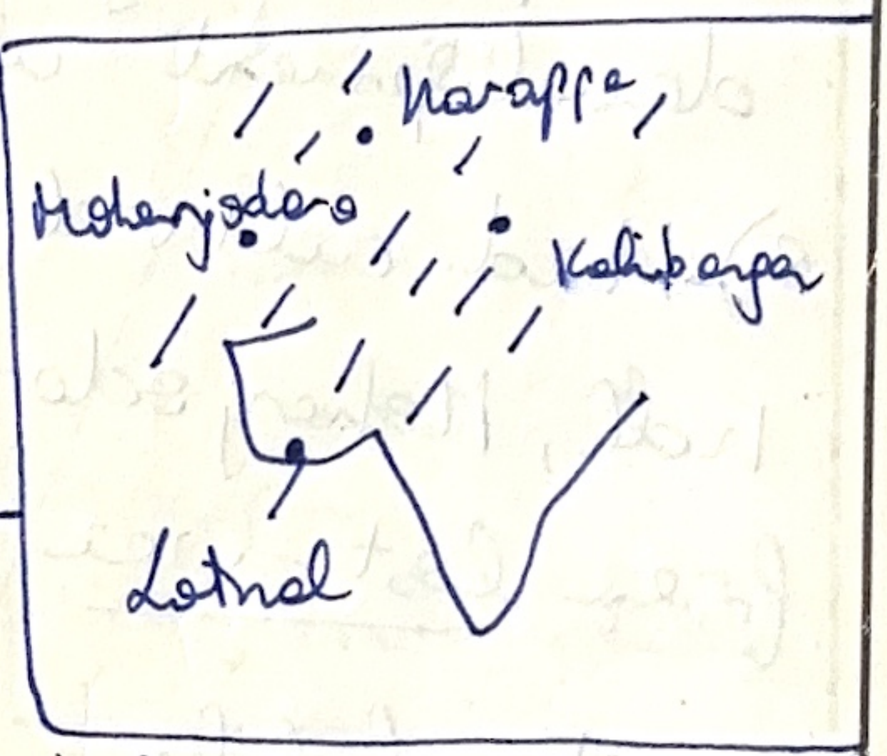
10) & Exclusion of Dalit from 3rd spaces eg:> restaurants etc unless economically well off.

Thus, caste unfortunately continues to act as the force behind divisions of Indian society.

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Q.11) The Harappan Civilization also known as the Bronze-age civilization in India flourished between 2600 - 1900 BCE in the North Western part of the Indian subcontinent.

Social Life of People



1) Well developed society with urban planning eg.> streets cutting at right angles

2) Construction of double storied houses with wells inside show advanced stages of urbanization.

3) Drains on public streets and covering of them show cleanliness as an important social value

4) Community life represented by public / third space eg.> Pillared

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Hall of Mohenjodaro

5) Presence of dance and music eg.) Dancing girl statue

6) Entertainment and toy making eg.) lost wax technique, pinching method

7) Ornamentation via anklets, amulets in both men and women

Economic life of Harappans

1) Presence of ploughed field at Kalibangan — rudimentary level of mechanization

2) Cultivation of crops like rice and cotton

3) Industrial clusters. eg) bead making, bangle & marking at Kalibangan

4) Ship building and port trade evidenced by Lothal dockyard

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5) Economic and social stratification
eg:) Presence of citadel

6) Surplus generated and some form of social security eg:) Granaries at Mohenjodaro

7) International trade eg:) Lapis Lazuli from Afganista

Religious Life

1) Unlike Greece, Mesopotamia, no temples found

2) However, Pashupati Seal, Priest King show some priestly class

3) worship of Mother Goddess and nature

4) Fire Altars and Great Bath (Mohenjodaro) believed to have religious purpose.

The Indus Valley was thus a highly evolved society in every sphere.

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Q.12) The first Prime Minister and Home Minister of Independent India, JL Nehru and Sardar Patel were instrumental in not just the freedom movement but also the nation-building pst 1947.

Differed in their approach

Nehru	Patel
1) Favored diplomacy, agreements and negotiations eg.> Taking Kashmir issue to UN for resolution	1) Employed a mix of diplomacy and strength with former preceding latter eg.> operation Polo, Hyderabad
2) Believed in power of modern science and technology eg.> IIT as temples of	2) Favoured modern education but not at cost or as an alternative to vernacular,

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modern India

swadeshi form of education
eg.) Gujarat Vidhyapeeth

3) Believed and prescribed to the trickle down model of growth
eg.) 2nd FYP on heavy machinery

3) Believed in a bottom up approach to development by empowering masses
eg.) AMUL cooperative

4) Favored a rights based model of social development eg.) A. 15(4), 16(4) providing reservation brought by amendment

4) Favored an empowerment based model with a focus on socio-economic development
eg.) Presided over Karachi session (1931) which laid down certain socio-economic rights.

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5) Placed reliance on planning eg:) Planning Commissio

5) Bureaucracy as steel frame of country ; implementation focus

However, despite the difference in approaches they were also striking similarities that made them fulfill the collective goals:

1) Both were followers of Gandhian thought eg:) Involvement in Bardoli, Kheda

2) Both represented the NG-changers group favouring constructive programs

3) Both favored minority rights and an inclusive, united India state

Thus, both leaders represented the youthful energy in the national movement & culminating into nature, political architects of modern India.

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Q.13) The Swadeshi Movement launched as a protest to the partition of Bengal (1905) marked a decisive shift in the nature of freedom movement.

Decisive / Significant shift

1) Emergence of extremist thought eg:> Lal Bal Pal trio

2) Made it a mass movement with wide participation

3) Formed the base for later Gandhian movements

Strategies

1) Focus on India's cultural past, glory and unity eg:> Shivaji's Tilak's Shivaji Melas

2) Imaginative use of cultural symbols

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and art paintings eg.> Bharat Mata Painting by Tagore

3) Formation of volunter corps or samiti eg.> Ashwini Dutta's Swadesh Bandhav Samiti

4) Use of public events and movements eg.> dips in Ganga

Social 5) Picketing of shops selling foreign goods

Social Impact

Positive : 1) Unity of masses by raising collective spirit eg> singing of Vande Mataram

2) Tapping into energies of youth

3) Liberated women and brought them into political space eg.> picketing by women

4) Social events like marriages also

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affected eg.> Priests refusing to perform rituals if foreign goods involved.

5) Swadeshi education eg.> Bengal Technical Institute

6) Impetus to Indian industry eg.> Lakshmi Bhandars, Bengal Chemical Factory

Limitations 1) The cultural symbols used from exclusively Ancient India led to division of history

2) Isolated Indian Muslims

3) Government repression eg.> Imprisonment of Tilak, Deportation of Ajit Singh

4) Left the youth disillusioned due to lack of a long term objective eg.> Rise of revolutionary phase I.

Therefore, the Swadeshi Movement despite limitations provided the blueprint for future mass movements.

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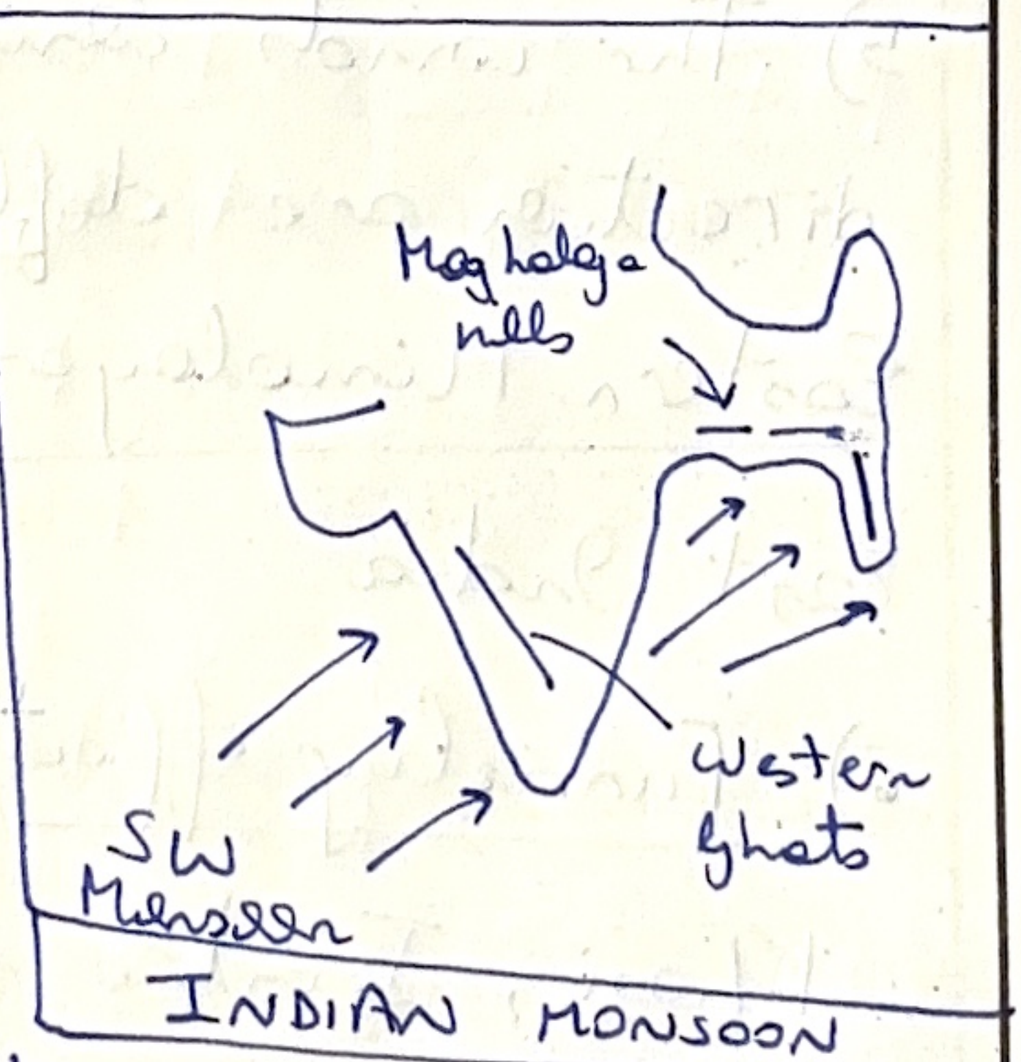
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Q.14) India being a sub-tropical country receives ~85% of its annual rainfall during the monsoon months of June to August. Apart from being temporally concentrated, rains also are concentrated geographically.

Mechanisms Responsible

1) Windward Side: Western Ghats offer a barrier to the incoming South west winds. This leads to heavy rainfall in the windward side



2) Maritime influence due to constant moisture carrying winds from sea

3) Orographic effect: Mountains help in formation of cumulo-nimbus clouds

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further increasing heavy downpour

4) Increased cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea region recently is also bringing some moisture to western Ghat region eg:> Cyclone Tauktae

In the North East

5) The winds coming from SW direction are deflected by the Eastern Himalayas towards North East India

6) Funneling effect due to gorge, Khasi, Jaintia hills also lead to heavy rains eg> Cherapunji

7) Presence of hills and plateau functioning as barriers trapping moisture bearing winds

8) Moisture from River systems like Brahmaputra causing local showers

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Influence on Human Life

Positive effects

1) Help in rich biodiversity and forest cover
2) Tourist attractions eg:> Meghalayas trekking
3) Cultivation of certain plantation crops like rubber requiring rains all year round

Negative

1) Landslides disrupting social life
2) Soil liquefaction causing soil erosion
3) Moisture and humidity can cause discomfort eg. wet bulb temperatures high

The Monsoons though a boon can be a sin if not properly adjusted to.

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Q.15) As per the latest Indian State of Forest Report, India has a ~25% of area under forests.

Forest Cover	Tree Cover	Green Cover
Is land that is registered as a forest in government records. irrespective of ownership.	All patches of land existing outside the recorded forest area covers trees along the side of highways etc.	It is a non technical term usually denoting any vegetation, green coverage or land eg.s lawn garden
Requires minimum canopy density of >10%.	Canopy density of <10%. also included	No set standards or criteria
Land area of atleast 1 hectare	No set limit though usually >0.1 hectare	

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Requires complex ecosystems usually diverse verities of trees Supports large biodiversity and big animals eg:> Elephants in hardee forests	Can involve a mix of trees species or a uniform stand Supports usually terrestial animals eg:> Monkeys, birds	Or more or less uniform or decorative by deliberate intermixing eg:> flowering plants adjacent to trees Biodiversity if any is limited to small insects eg:> grasshopper

Forest Ecosystems : Climate Resilience and sequestration

1) Forests offer climate resilience by being net emitter of O_2 due to photosynthesis

2) Act as carbon sinks eg:> Boreal forests

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3) Ensures cooling and heat deflection via reflecting eg.> dense canopies

4) Eg Evatranspiration helps in rainfall further cooling and supporting vegetation growth

5) Bind soil checking soil erosion

6) Act as complete ecosystems in themselves offering resilience to biodiversity eg.> habitat, food needs

Ways to promote forests
- 1) Miyawaki method
- 2) Indore Forest City Plan
- 3) Implementation of FCA and Forest Act, 1927
- 4) Sustainable Development

Forests are a gift from our ~~(ancest)~~ ancestors and debt from our children and thus must be observed.

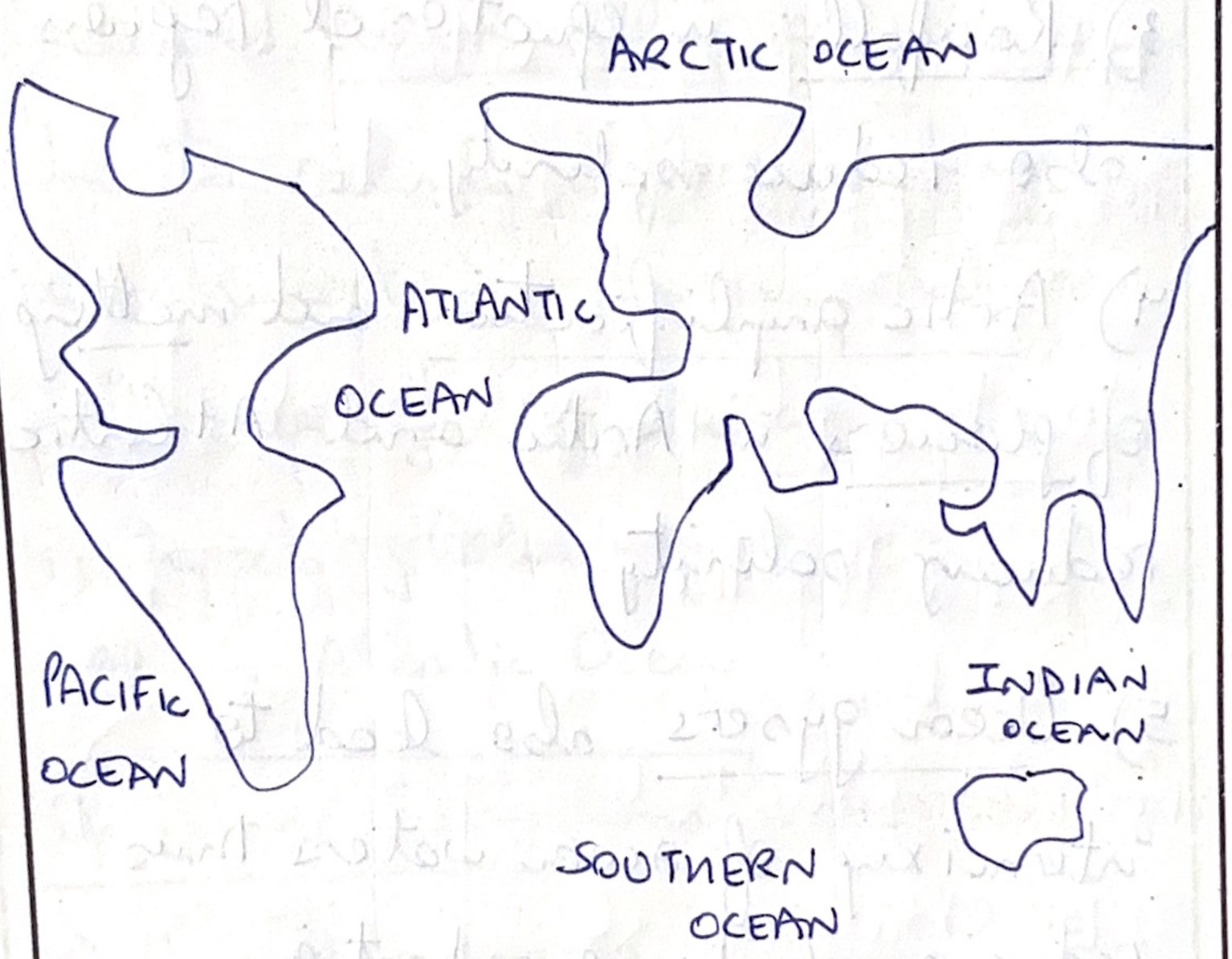
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Q.16) Salinity refers to the presence and concentration of salts in the world's oceans.



Salinity Variations

Factors

1) Temperature : Greater temperatures lead to increasing evaporation of water increasing salinity eg> Ocean waters in tropical regions

2) Water discharge by rivers : Frequent

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discharges dilute ocean waters reducing salinity eg:> rivers draining into Atlatic Ocean

3) Rainfall: in equatorial regions also reduce salinity

4) Artic amplification and melting of glaciers in Artic and Atlatic reducing salinity

5) Ocean gysers also lead to -intermixing of ocean waters thus reducing salinity concentration

6) Topographical factors: Oceans bound-ed by landmass tend to have more concentrations of salinity.

Impact on ocean circulation

1) Drives Atlantic and Arctic Meridion Oscillations responsible for intermixing of waters

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2) Leads to generation of ocean currents due to increased concentrations eg:> Gulf stream

3) Causes downwelling and upwelling due to salinity differences being interconnected with temperature differences eg:> off the coast of Peru

4) Impacts global geyser formation eg:> in Atlantic Ocean

On Marine Ecosystems

5) Upwelling causes fishing stocks to accumulate for feed

6) Concentration of salinity may harm species eg:> Coral Reefs of Australia

7) Tends to impact salinity-sensitive species eg:> Sardines, Tuna

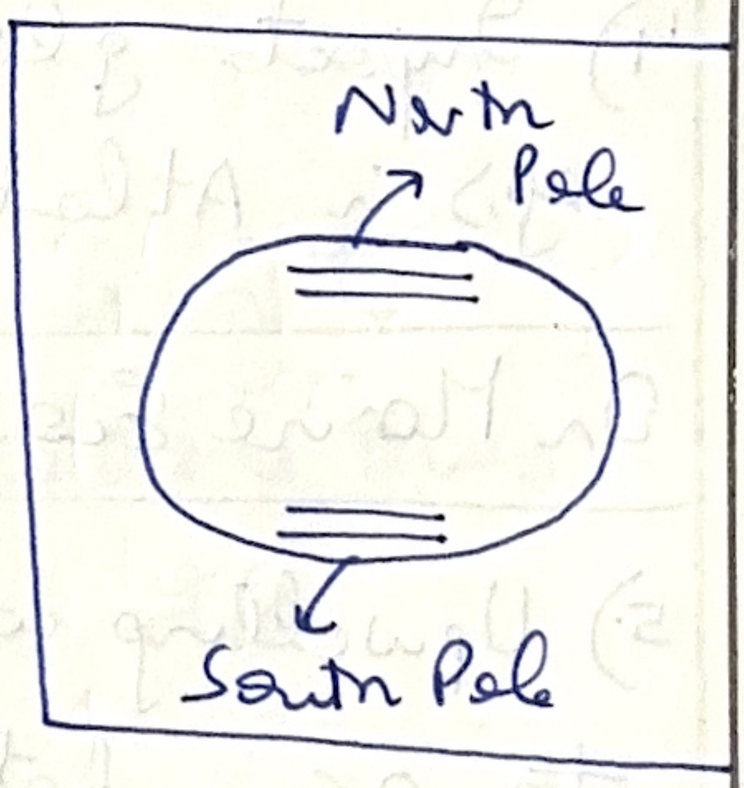
8) The ocean currents formed however cause mixing of waters and act as a conveyer belt aiding migration eg: Leatherback Turtle

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Q. 17) The polar cryosphere refers to the glacial systems present at the two poles i.e. Arctic and Antartica playing vital role in regulating world climate.

How they play a vital role

1) Regulating the feedback mechanism i.e. heat absorbed



2) Maintaing global heat balance by their high albedo effect - reflecting sunlight

3) Are the points of origin and end of global marine currents eg.> AMOC

4) Maintain freshwater resources by holding large reserves

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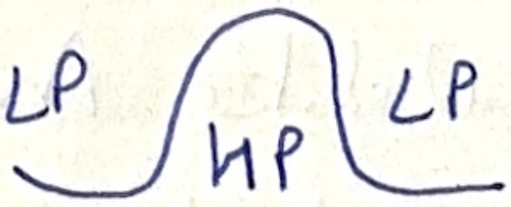
5) Help regulate global salinity of oceans affecting weather systems
eg:) higher salinity causing vertical mixing of water

6) Keep trapped energy resources
eg.> 30% of natural gas in Arctic

7) Carbon sink and methane sink
Thus regulating green house gases.

8) Affect global pattern eg.> Polar Vortex causing coldwaves in North America

9) Meandering of polar vertex also leads to heating by formation of Omega effect



Factors for rapid warming of Arctic

1) Increased GHG emissions eg.> Paris goal of 1.5°c already breached

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2) Arctic amplification due to increased heating (loop system)

3) Black carbon pollution depositing on snow cover reducing albedo

4) Opening up of Arctic due to melting leading to increased anthropogenic activities eg> Exxon's investments.

5) Poor regulation of the region eg:> weak Arctic Council power

6) Arctic scramble leading to nations trying to tap into its energy resources eg> US's claims on Greenland

7) Unlike Antartica, Arctic is more populated and closer to human settlements.

The need of the hour is to treat Arctic too as a "global common heritage" for its primary importance in regulating global ecosystem.

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

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Q. 18) Indian society is characterized by an "inherent cosmopolitanism" wherein diversity is not only tolerated but celebrated.

Religious Pluralism and secularism integral to India's society

1) Historical reasons: Cultural syncretism in history eg.> fusion of Hindu - Mughal architecture

2) Freedom Movement too emphasized on this eg.> Gandhiji's Non Cooperation Movement

3) Part of Basic structure of our Constitution (Kesavanada Bharti)

4) Features in fundamental rights of equality (A. 14 - 17) and freedom to religious thought (A. 25 - 28).

5) Festivals act as social glue (MS Srinivas) eg.> Phoolon ki Sair

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6) Local fairs and traditions embody and perpetuate this eg.> Bada Mangal in Lucknow started Begum of Lucknow continues still

7) Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb

8) Promotion of tribal culture eg.> Sarna religion through protection

9) Government policy eg.> Jugo Parsi

10) Independence Day and other national festivals enforce collectivis-m

11) Economics and festivals intertwi-ned eg.> Muslim sculptors for making Hindu idols

Requires constant negotiation This is due to:

1) Change in aspirations and push for reforms

2) Disparity in development eg.>

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Sachar Committee : 21 % Muslim men employed as vendors.

3) Vote bank politics or religious faultlines creates mistrust

4) Foreign information warfare eg.> Pakistan in Kashmir

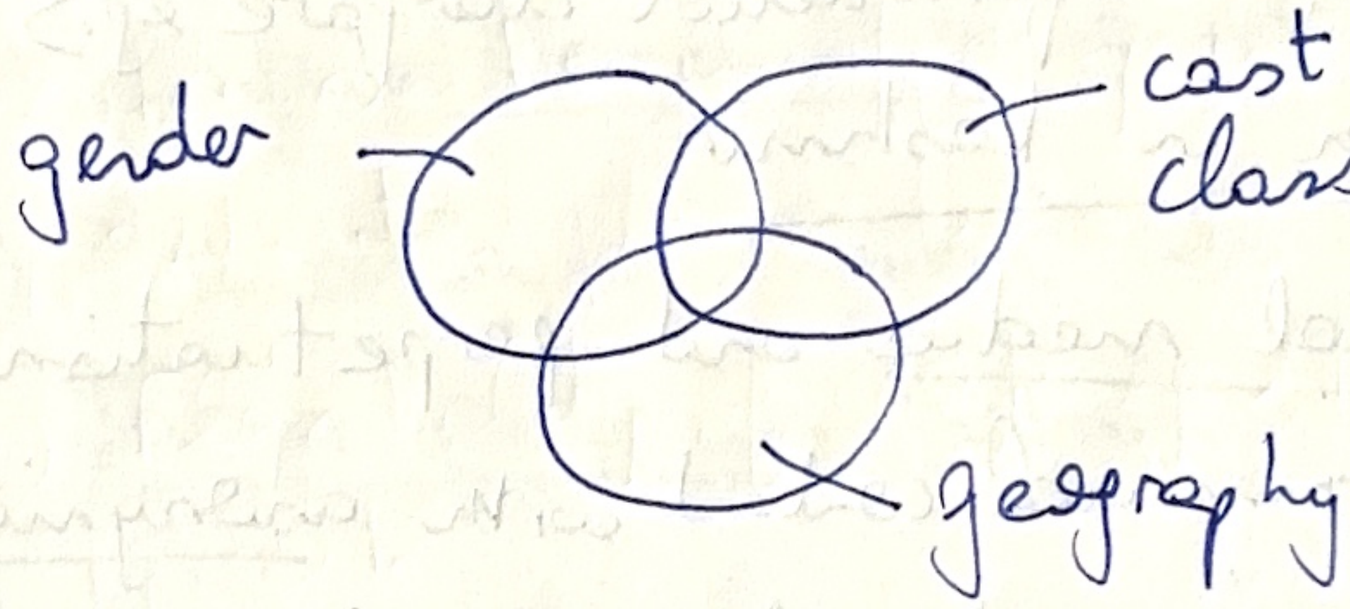
5) Social media and perpetuation of communal content with anonymity

6) To ensure development is constantly informed by diversity eg.> PM Jan Vikas Karyakram

By these measures we can preserve the jewel of religious pluralism.

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Q. 19) Intersectionality of identities is a core concept that determines access to opportunities and status. This is more true in case of women.



Implications of gender

1) Women face challenges with respect to mobility with major migration due to marriage reasons

2) Though the higher education gender parity is at 1.01, women are usually concentrated in arts/ commerce

3) Service sector require english-speaking skills and confidence/personality skills which is not focussed upon in

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urban

4) Digitization of service sector require software skills. However, NFHS 5 state how only 33% women are conversant with it

5) Digital / technology skilling concentrated for men

Implications of class

6) High fees of English schools often lead to families not enrolling daughters

7) Lack of ready access to gadgets

8) Confidence issues and inferiority complex exacerbated.

Implications of geography

9) 70-80% of service sector is concentrated in metros or rising tier 2 centres eg:> Pune, Lucknow

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10) Rural-urban divide eg.> rural women face greater challenges adapting to industry demands.

However, despite the above challenges, service sector is offering increased opportunities for women:

1) Flexibility of work eg.> Platform gig work

2) Increased remuneration eg.> beauty apps like Yes Madam.

3) Digitization allowing women to work remotely (telemigration)

4) Self confidence and agency by offering low-skill entry points eg.> BPO/ Call centres increasing acces.

Thus, service sector, like Claudia Goldin concluded is responsible for bringing women to the workforce. It must however be inclusive and in light of intersectional disparities.

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Q.20)

The economic liberalization was accompanied by a revolution in social values, institutions and practices primarily affecting the institution of marriage and family.

Strong continuity in traditional values

1) Joint family gatherings or close living arrangements
2) Traveling back to ancestral homes for festivals eg:> Diwali
3) Respect and reverence for elders
4) Marriage ceremonies and rituals still intact largely eg:> Kanyadaan
5) Communitarian way of living eg:> pseudo family links in urban spaces

Rising trends

I) of delayed marriage :

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1) Average age of women increased to ~ 23 years while ~ 28 years for men

2) Emphasis on financial independence before marriage especially for women leads to this

3) Increased time taken for education and skilling eg.> Average graduation age is ~ 21 years

4) Aspirations of agency and independence before settling down eg.> romanticization of solo trips

5) Live in relationships replacing marriages

Increasing divorce rates

1) Increased FLFPR (41.7 %) and financial independence

2) Women exiting toxic marriage due to reduced social stigma

3) Legal reforms eg> introduction of grounds like "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" by judiciary under A. 142

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4) Idealized conceptions of love and marriage in popular culture leading to frustation

5) Increased emphasis on agency

6) Fidelity issues exacerbated by dating apps eg:> Tinder, Bumble.

Family Disruption

1) Increased divorce rates leading to family break down

2) Children at the receiving end leading to trauma and hurt emotional growth

3) Constant marital disputes also put elderly at risk eg:> increased trend of abandoned elders

4) Institution of marriage crumbling leading to live in and informal companion-ships

The family system is an important component of Indian society and must be preserved.