

# UPPCS MAINS TEST - 11 (SOLUTION)

**Q 1. Temple architecture in ancient India was not merely religious but also socio-economic in character. Explain.**

**Answer-** Temple architecture in ancient India evolved as a multifunctional socio-cultural institution, transcending its ritualistic core. They simultaneously functioned as centres of economy, education, art, polity, and social cohesion.

## Temples as Socio-Economic and cultural Institutions

- Temples accumulated land grants (*devadana*, *brahmadeya*) and became major landholders. Provided employment to artisans, dancers, musicians, priests, accountants, Acted as centres of redistribution of agrarian surplus. Example The **Brihadeeswarar Temple** (c. 1010 CE), built by Rajaraja Chola I, contains over 100 inscriptions detailing donations of land, gold, livestock.
- Integration of Art and Performance- Temples were the primary patrons of the “Fine Arts.” The *Mandapa* (pillared hall) served as a stage for music, dance, and drama. Example **Khajuraho Group of Temple**, these temples depict the everyday life of the Chandela period musicians, hunters, women applying makeup, and soldiers.
- Temples as Centres of Education and Knowledge- Temples often housed, Libraries (*Sarasvati-bhandara*), Schools (*ghatikas*, *agraharas*), Vedic and philosophical learning centres. Example Nalanda and other Buddhist monastic complexes influenced temple-based scholastic culture.
- Integration of Local Traditions and Regional Styles- Temple architecture wasn't a monolith; it absorbed local vernacular styles, making it a reflection of regional geography. Example **The Vesara Style**, Found in the Deccan (e.g., Badami Chalukyas), it combined the Nagara (North) and Dravida (South) styles.

Ancient Indian temples reveal a civilization where religion, polity, economy, and culture were deeply intertwined. Thus, temple architecture was not merely religious in character but represented the **civilizational ethos of ancient India**.

**Q 2. Examine the administrative challenges involved in integrating diverse territories into the Indian Union.**

**Answer-** India had to integrate British Indian provinces, 565 princely states, and later colonial enclaves into a unified constitutional framework. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and V.P. Menon navigated a landscape of disparate legal systems, varying levels of economic development, and deep-seated ethnic identities.

- Administrative challenges involved in integrating diverse territories

- Harmonizing Diverse Administrative Systems- Princely states had Varied revenue systems, Different police and military establishments, Distinct judicial structures. Thus, Transition from monarchy to democratic institutions was a significant challenge. Example Hyderabad under the Nizam had its own currency, railways, and army.
- Economic and Resource Allocation Challenges- Many states were economically self-sufficient or possessed vast treasures, while others were impoverished and debt-ridden. Example **The Privy Purse Issue**, To ensure a smooth transition, the government initially guaranteed “Privy Purses” (payments to former rulers).
- Security and Insurgency Challenges- Certain territories required integration amidst conflict. The accession of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 occurred during invasion by tribal forces supported by Pakistan.
- Managing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity- India's diversity posed a major administrative dilemma: balancing unity with accommodation. Implementation of the States Reorganisation Act (1956), The Act reorganized boundaries based primarily on language, recognizing that **cultural legitimacy enhances administrative stability**.
- While integration succeeded in preserving territorial unity, challenges persist such as Regional identity politics, Insurgencies in Northeast, Federal tensions (e.g., Centre-State disputes).

Thus, territorial integration was not a one-time event but an evolving administrative process balancing **unity with diversity**, sovereignty with federalism, and national integrity with regional aspirations.

**Q 3. The Swadeshi Movement marked a turning point in mass participation in the national movement. Analyse its social and economic impact.**

**Answer-** The Swadeshi Movement (1905–1911), triggered by Lord Curzon's partition of Bengal, was much more than a regional protest, Swadeshi “marked the transition from moderate politics to active mass mobilisation,” laying the foundation for Gandhian mass movements later.

Social Impact: The Birth of Mass Participation

- Community Mobilization and Religious Symbolism- Leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal used religious festivals and folk traditions to bypass British censorship and reach the masses. Example **The Ganpati and Shivaji Festivals**: In Maharashtra, these were transformed into platforms for political propaganda.
- Role of Women and Students- For the first time, women, Picketed liquor and foreign cloth shops, and Promoted

indigenous spinning and weaving. Students were the vanguard of the movement, boycotting government-run schools and colleges, which led to the creation of the **National Council of Education** in 1906.

- Cultural Nationalism and Revival- The movement triggered a cultural renaissance, Rabindranath Tagore wrote *Amar Sonar Bangla*, which later became the national anthem of Bangladesh. Abanindranath Tagore develop a distinct Indian style, famously painting 'Bharat Mata' as a four-armed deity.

### Economic Impact: 'Atmasakti' and Self-Reliance

- Boycott of Foreign Goods- The import of British salt, sugar, and cloth plummeted. Public bonfires of foreign cloth became a common sight in Calcutta and other major cities.
- Promotion of Indigenous Industries- Swadeshi textile mills, soap and match factories, and tanneries were established. The **Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO)** was founded in 1907, symbolizing the peak of Swadeshi industrial ambition.
- Rise of Banking and Insurance- This period saw the rise of the **Punjab National Bank (1894/expansion)** and several indigenous insurance companies to provide capital for Indian entrepreneurs.

Thus, Swadeshi was not merely a protest against partition, but a decisive turning point that redefined the character of Indian nationalism from constitutional agitation to mass mobilization rooted in social and economic self-assertion.

### Q 4. How does rural-urban migration contribute to both growth and stress in Indian cities? Examine.

**Answer-** Rural-urban migration refers to the movement of population from villages to towns and cities in search of better livelihood, education, and social mobility. According to the Census of India 2011, nearly **31% of India's population lives in urban areas**, with migration being a significant driver of urban growth.

### Growth Contributions of Rural-Urban Migration

- Labor Supply and Economic Output- Migrants form the backbone of the informal economy, contributing significantly to the construction, and manufacturing sectors. Cities like **Surat** and **Ludhiana** owe their industrial prowess to migrant labor from Odisha, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Market and Industrial Expansion- Industrial and service-sector hubs attract rural migrants. **Bengaluru** has drawn migrants into IT services, hospitality, and gig economy sectors.
- Contribution to Informal Economy- Urban informal sectors—street vending, recycling, small manufacturing—are sustained by migrants. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that nearly 80–90% of India's workforce is informal, much of it migrant-driven.

### Stress Factors Arising from Rural-Urban Migration

- Pressure on Urban Infrastructure- Proliferation of Slums and poor public transport, When the formal housing market fails to accommodate low-income migrants, informal settlements arise.
- Social Tensions and Identity Politics- "Sons of the soil" narratives often emerge when local populations perceive migrants as competitors for scarce resources and jobs. This has historically manifested in political friction in states like **Maharashtra** and **Karnataka**.
- The "Double Burden" on Women- Migrant women often face the dual stress of precarious informal employment and a lack of social safety nets, such as affordable childcare or safe public transport.
- Environmental Stress- Delhi's air pollution crisis is exacerbated by unplanned growth and vehicular expansion linked to rising population pressures.

Initiatives like Portable Welfare for Ensuring the portability of food security (One Nation One Ration Card) and healthcare benefits for migrants. Rental Housing: Expanding the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) under PMAY-U to provide dignified living conditions.

### Q 5. Distinguish between cultural pluralism and secularism. How do these two concepts together contribute to the cohesion and stability of Indian society?

**Answer-** India is marked by highly heterogeneous traits such as differences in religion, language, ethnicity, and culture. However, the two dominant principles that govern diversity and maintain unity are cultural pluralism and secularism. Cultural pluralism is responsible for acknowledging diversity, while secularism gives an unbiased rule of law for its governance.

### Difference between cultural pluralism and secularism

Basis	Cultural Pluralism	Secularism
Nature	Social Principle	Political-Constitutional Principle
Focus	Recognition of Diversity	State Neutrality towards Religion
Objective	Preserve Cultural Identities	Ensure religious equality
Sphere	Society and Community Life	Governance and Law

Accordingly, cultural pluralism refers to an acceptance of diversity. Similarly, secularism refers to an equitable regulation of diversity.

### Combined Role in Cohesion and Stability

1. **Promotes National Integration:** In any case, pluralism lets communities retain their identity, while secularism prevents dominance by the majority of people following one religion, instilling in themselves a greater sense of security in the State's idea.

2. **It reduces conflict:** Legal safeguards of the rights of the minority reduce the fear of marginalization.
3. **Fosters Democratic Participation:** It follows that all groups share in political and social life on an equal footing.
4. **Support Social Reform:** The secular framework allows for progressive reforms, such as gender justice, without pulling the carpet from under religious freedom.
5. **Strengthens Constitutional Morality:** These tenets reinforce equality, liberty, and fraternity under Article 14. Cultural pluralism is the indispensable social underpinning of India's diversity, and secularism is its constitutional framework. Together, cultural pluralism and secularism have produced a balanced model of diversity that praises diversity but subjects it to the tests of equality and justice. The combination of pluralism and secularism is the ideal solution for holding heterogeneous India together.

**Q 6. LPG reforms have contributed to the emergence of a new middle class in India. Analyse its implications for society and politics.**

**Answer-** Reforms centered around liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG) represented a major transformation for India, steering the nation away from a closed, state-dominated economic model toward a more open, market-driven, and internationally connected economy.

**Implications for Society**

1. **Consumption-driven Economy:** The new middle class drives market expansion in terms of housing, automobiles, education, health care, and digital technologies. The growth in IT hubs in cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Noida represents new opportunities – post-LPG. Smartphone growth and e-commerce expansion in India indicate new aspirations.
2. **Educational and Occupational Mobility:** The expansion of private education, technical institutions, and enhanced employment opportunities across the globe in IT/ITES contributed to upward mobility. The services sector contributes around 55% to the GDP.
3. **Changing Social Values:** Global culture and urbanization result in individualism, nuclear families, and changing gender roles. More service industry and startup employment for women signify gradual social evolution.
4. **Rising Inequality:** Although the middle class has grown, income distribution has widened. Top 10% earners in India capture 58% of national income, bottom 50% get only 15%

**Implications for Politics**

1. **Issue-based Voting:** Governance, infrastructure, corruption-free administration, and growth become increasingly the priority of the middle class. Anti-corruption movements reflect this trend, such as the 2011 movement.
2. **Digital Political Engagement:** High internet penetration enables social media activism and political mobilization to influence the electoral discourse.

3. **Policy Orientation:** It is an ecosystem where the government focuses on urban infrastructure-smart cities, tax reforms-GST, and entrepreneurship-Startup India-in keeping with the aspirations of the middle class. The LPG reforms transformed India into a dynamic, globally integrated economy, driving GDP growth, FDI, and industrial modernization. However, challenges like inequality, regional disparities, and environmental degradation underscore the need for balanced policies by streamline governance to enhance the ease of doing business (Sen, 2000) and addressing these issues, India can sustain LPG's benefits and achieve equitable economic growth.

**Q 7. Raw materials and market proximity have historically determined industrial location in India. Examine with suitable examples.**

**Answer-** Industrial location is the geography of industrial placement with regards to certain factors. The earlier pattern of industrialization in India was mainly attributed to the influence of two significant determinants, i.e., proximity to raw materials and proximity to markets, as these factors were considered most influential on transportation costs. Even though other factors have gained prominence over time, these remain significant.

**1. Raw Material-Oriented**

- The heavy and weight-losing industries usually favor the locations that are near the sources of raw materials.
- The steel plant at Jamshedpur has been established near the iron ore deposits of Singhbhum and the coalfields of eastern India.
- The steel plant at Bhilai is also located near the iron ore deposits of Dalli-Rajhara. The cement industries are located near the areas of limestone deposits, which constitute around 60-65% of the total raw material.
- Even agro-based industries adhere to this principle. Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are situated near the sugarcane cultivation centers because sugarcane is a bulky and perishable crop.
- The cotton textile industry has traditionally prospered in Ahmedabad due to proximity to the cotton-growing centers.

**2. Market-Oriented Industries**

- Industries which produce consumer goods and perishable products generally prefer proximity to large markets.
- The automobile industry in Chennai was developed due to access to domestic markets and port facilities available for exporting.
- Similarly, the knitwear cluster of Tiruppur flourish due to export market linkages and logistical connectivity.
- In recent decades various factors like infrastructure, ports, skilled labor, and government policies have complemented these traditional factors.

Hence, the supply of raw materials and market proximity essentially defined the industrial location of India in the past, mainly for the heavy and agro-based industries. However, the industrial location scenario has undergone a sea change following the liberalization and globalization drive.

**Q 8. Explain the climatic and ecological factors responsible for high biodiversity in tropical regions of the world.**

**Answer-** The tropical belt of the Earth, covering an area of about  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N and  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S latitude, has virtually having a huge diversity of species on earth, while its total land area comprises less than half of that of the earth. The tropical rainforests have an estimated total of more than 50% of earth's total biodiversity.

**Climatic Factors:**

- (a) **High Solar Energy and Temperature:** The tropics have maximum insolation throughout the year. This is the area of maximum mean temperatures with the lowest seasonal variation, which enhances photosynthesis and metabolic activity. For example, NPP above 2000 g/m<sup>2</sup>/year has been recorded in the Amazon Rainforest, among the highest in the world.
- (b) **Heavy Rainfall:** Over 2000 mm annual rainfall in equatorial regions supports heavy vegetation, while the Congo Basin shows large ecosystems of forests because of consistent rainfall.
- (c) **Climatic Stability:** In contrast to temperate regions, which were subject to glaciation, the tropical climates remained relatively constant through geological time and provided continuous opportunity for speciation and lower extinction rates.

**2. Ecological and Evolutionary Factors**

- (a) **High Primary Productivity:** The greater energy supply supports complex food webs with multiple trophic levels.
- (b) **Niche specialization:** Moist forests are stratified vertically with emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor communities. These vertical strata create many microhabitats. On the whole, there are more than 200 tree species per hectare of
- (c) **Intense Biotic Interactions and Co-evolution:** Specialization in pollination and seed dispersal also contributes.
- (d) **Large Habitat Area:** The concept of species-area relationship indicates that large continuous tropical forests may harbor many species.

And hence, high energy input, availability of moisture and climatic stability along with ecological complexity, and long evolutionary history collectively helps explaining the exceptional biodiversity of tropical regions, forming the global "cradle" of life.

**Q 9. Discuss the socio-economic impact of refugee settlements on host communities in India.**

**Answer-** India has hosted millions of refugees, From the Partition of 1947 to the arrival of Tibetans in 1959, Chakmas in the 1960s, Bangladeshis in 1971. While India is not a signatory to the **1951 UN Refugee Convention**, its "open-door" policy has created complex socio-economic dynamics in host regions.

**Economic Impact on Host Communities**

- **Labour Market Effects-** Refugees often enter informal sectors, influencing local labour dynamics. Partition refugees in **Delhi** significantly contributed to the expansion of small-scale industries and trade. Many established markets such as Lajpat Nagar and Rajinder Nagar.
- **Infrastructure and Resource Allocation-** Large refugee influxes strain public infrastructure. The 1971 influx from East Pakistan placed immense pressure on **West Bengal**, Tripura, and Assam.
- **Urban Informality and Housing Stress-** Rohingya refugees in Delhi and Jammu often reside in informal settlements with limited access to sanitation and public services, increasing pressure on already congested urban infrastructure.

**Social Impact on Host Communities**

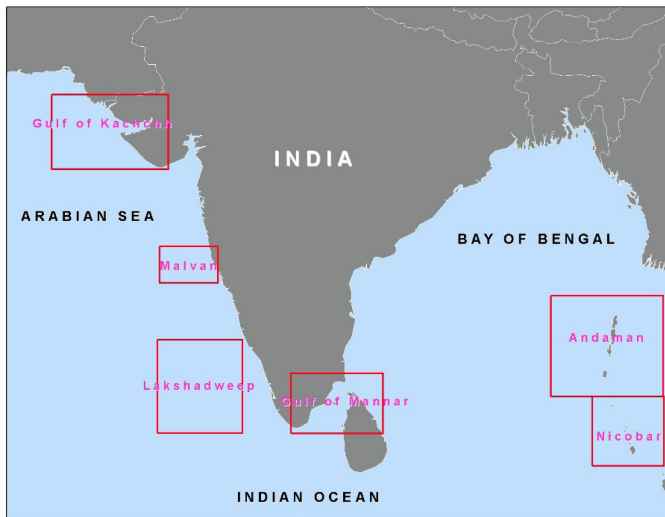
- **Social Cohesion and Identity Politics-** Refugee influx can alter demographic balances. In Assam, migration from East Pakistan/Bangladesh contributed to identity-based agitations such as the Assam Movement (1979–85).
- **Cultural Exchange and Enrichment-** Refugees have also enriched host societies culturally. Tibetan settlements have popularized Buddhist culture, cuisine, and handicrafts.
- **Political and Security Dimensions-** Refugee settlements may raise, Security concerns in border areas. The **Assam Accord (1985)** was a direct political outcome of the social tension caused by the perceived shift in the linguistic and religious profile of the state due to migrations.

A balanced approach transitioning from **charity-based models** to **development-based integration** is essential. Formulating a national refugee law could provide a structured framework to harness the economic potential of refugees while safeguarding the interests and identity of host communities.

**Q 10. Explain the distribution of coral reefs in India and assess their economic and ecological importance.**

**Answer-** Coral reefs are calcareous marine ecosystems formed by colonies of coral polyps in warm, shallow tropical waters (20–30°C). In India, reefs are limited to certain coastal and island regions due to their need for clear water, sunlight penetration, and salinity levels between 27–35 ppt.

## Distribution of Coral Reefs in India



### 1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Largest and most diverse system of reefs in India.
- Situated in the Bay of Bengal.
- Mainly fringing reefs with some barrier-type structures.
- High diversity of species owing to clear water and lack of sedimentation.

### 2. Lakshadweep Islands

- Only atoll-types reefs in India.
- It is located in the Arabian Sea.
- Coral formations surround lagoons.
- Highly susceptible to bleaching and sea-level rise.

### 3. Gulf of Mannar

- Fringing reefs along Tamil Nadu coast.
- Part of the Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve.
- It is a rich area in terms of marine biodiversity, including seagrass and mangroves.

### 4. Gulf of Kachchh

- Fringing reefs in Gujarat.
- In shallow water, turbid.
- Protected under Marine National Park, Gujarat.

## Ecological Importance

1. **Biodiversity Hotspots:** Habitats to fish, molluscs, crustaceans and marine mammals.
2. **Protection of Coasts:** Sometimes act as natural barriers for cyclones and storm surges; for instance, the Andaman region in the 2004 tsunami.
3. **Nursery Grounds:** Provide support for spawning and breeding of commercially important fish.
4. **Nutrient Cycling & Carbon Storage:** Maintaining the ecological balance of the marine ecosystem.

## Economic Importance

1. **Fisheries and Livelihoods:** Support coastal communities in Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu.

2. **Tourism:** Scuba diving and eco-tourism in Andaman and Lakshadweep generate revenue.
3. **Pharmaceutical Resources:** Source of bioactive compounds.
4. **Protection of Coastal Infrastructure:** Mitigation against erosion and protection of ports.

India's Coral Reef System: India's coral reefs are geographically limited, but they are economically invaluable and highly fragile. In fact, the reefs are currently facing immense danger of extinction due to climate change, ocean acidification, and anthropogenic activities. Improving protected areas, regulating activities, and adopting a climate-enhanced management model are vital for reef conservation.

## Q 11. The rise of mass ideologies in the early twentieth century was a response to the crises of liberal democracy. Examine with reference to Socialism, Fascism, and Nazism.

**Answer-** The early twentieth century was a period of major political and economic upheavals, which revealed the structural flaws of the liberal democracy of the nineteenth century. The restricted franchise, economic inequality, imperialism, and the disaster of the First World War provided a breeding ground for mass ideologies like Socialism, Fascism, and Nazism.

### 1. Socialism: Response to Capitalist Inequality

- Socialism, based on the principles of Karl Marx, was critical of liberal democracy for safeguarding the interests of the bourgeoisie but not caring for the exploitation of the working class.
- Crisis Context: Industrial capitalism resulted in extreme levels of inequality, unemployment, and poor working conditions.
- Example: The Russian Revolution, led by Vladimir Lenin, resulted in the overthrow of the Provisional Government, which had failed to respond to the war weariness and economic crisis.
- Appeal: It promised a classless society, workers' control over production, and social justice.
- In this way, socialism became a mass movement in response to the failure of liberal democracy to provide economic equality and social welfare.

### 2. Fascism: Response to Political Instability

- Fascism, led by Benito Mussolini, emerged in Italy after the war.
- Crisis Context: Economic depression, unemployment, fear of socialist revolution, and ineffective coalition parliaments challenged parliamentary democracy.
- Example: The March on Rome gave Mussolini an opportunity to take control, as he posed as a bringer of order.
- Appeal: National unity, authoritarianism, state worship, and suppression of opposition.

- Fascism abandoned the liberal ideals of individual freedoms and parliamentary discussion in favor of centralized power to impose order out of chaos.

### 3. Nazism: Extreme Nationalist Response

- Nazism, under Adolf Hitler, was a radical form of fascism.
- Crisis Context: The Treaty of Versailles' humiliation, hyperinflation in 1923, and the Great Depression weakened the Weimar Republic.
- Appeal: Nazism appealed with promises of economic recovery, national revival, and racial purity through the Nazi Party.
- Mass Mobilization: Propaganda, youth groups, and storm troopers made Nazism a mass movement.
- Nazism used democratic liberties to destroy democracy and created a totalitarian regime.

The emergence of Socialism, Fascism, and Nazism was a result of the dissatisfaction that existed due to the inability of liberal democracy to deal with economic crises, social inequality, and national instability. Although the aim of socialism was egalitarian transformation, Fascism and Nazism replaced democratic structures with authoritarian and totalitarian systems.

### Q 12. Regionalism in India is rooted in economic disparities as well as cultural identity. Analyse its implications for social empowerment.

**Answer-** Roots of regionalism is in India's manifold diversity of languages, cultures, ethnic groups, communities, religions and so on, and encouraged by the regional concentration of those identity markers, and fueled by a sense of regional deprivation.

#### Causes of Regionalism

##### 1. Disparities in Economic Development

- India's development has been uneven. States such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat have been contributing disproportionately to the country's GDP, while BIMARU states have been lagging behind in terms of per capita income and development infrastructure.
- The creation of Telangana in 2014 was a result of its neglect in irrigation, employment, and expenditure in the undivided state of Andhra Pradesh.
- The same has been the case with Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, which have been economically backward despite having mineral-rich tribal areas.

##### 2. Cultural Identity

- The linguistic and cultural diversity of India has also influenced the regional aspirations. The reorganization of states based on the States Reorganisation Act has established linguistic federalism.
- Regional movements, such as the Dravidian movement in Tamil Nadu, have focused on the preservation of regional languages and cultures in the face of cultural homogenization.

## Impact of Regionalism in India

### Positive

- Scholars believe that regionalism plays important role in building of the nation, if the demands of the regions are accommodated by the political system of the country.
- Regional recognition in terms of state hood or state autonomy gives self-determination to the people of that particular region and they feel empowered and happy.
- Regional identities in India have not always defined themselves in opposition to and at the expense of, the national identity, noticed a democratic effect of such process in that
- India's representative democracy has moved closed to the people who feel more involved and show

### Negative

- Regionalism is often seen as a serious threat to the development, progress and unity of the nation. It gives internal security challenges by the insurgent groups, who propagate the feelings of regionalism against the mainstream politico-administrative setup of the country.
- Regionalism definitely impacts politics as days of collation government and alliances are taking place.
- Some regional leaders play politics of vote bank based on language, culture, this is certainly against healthy democratic procedures.

The need of the hour is balanced development, the protection of constitutional rights, and the decentralization of power. The empowerment of local governments, the creation of jobs in regions, and the promotion of inclusive growth can help bridge the gaps and bring about unity and harmony among the different regions of India.

### Q 13. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was not merely a litterateur but the intellectual progenitor of Indian nationalism." In the light of this statement, critically examine his contribution to the 19th-century Indian Renaissance and the freedom movement.

**Answer-** Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1838–1894) arrived at a critical juncture of the **19th-century Indian Renaissance**. He shifted the gaze inward, seeking strength in indigenous traditions. He was not just a novelist; he was a political philosopher who transformed the "cultural" into the "political."

#### Contribution to the 19th-century Indian Renaissance and the freedom movement

- Literary Contributions and National Consciousness-Anandamath (1882), This is his most influential work. Set against the backdrop of the Sanyasi Rebellion, it introduced the concept of "Vande Mataram". This song later became a rallying cry during the Swadeshi Movement (1905) and was adopted as India's National Song in 1950.

- ✓ **Durgeshnandini & Kapalkundala:** These works helped establish a sense of historical pride and a distinct Bengali (and by extension, Indian) identity, moving away from the colonial narrative of Indian “backwardness.”
- **Revival of Hindu Nationalism-** He reinterpreted Hindu symbols to inspire “Kshatriya” (warrior) values among a subjugated people. In *Krishna Charitra*, he depicted Krishna not as a playful deity, but as a shrewd, ideal statesman and warrior—a role model for a nation seeking liberation.
- **The Intellectual Progenitor of “Motherland”-** Bankim’s greatest contribution was the **Sacralization of Politics**. Before him, nationalism was a matter of petitions and constitutional debates.
  - ✓ In his work *Dharmatattva*, he argued that the highest form of *Dharma* (duty) was service to the motherland. This provided a moral and religious justification for political activism.

### Limitations

- **Exclusionary Overtones:** His reliance on Hindu symbolism and his portrayal of historical conflicts through a religious lens created a narrative that was difficult to integrate into a secular, multi-religious front.
- **Colonial Service:** Paradoxically, Bankim served as a Deputy Collector under the British Crown his entire life, illustrating the complex “double life” of the 19th-century Indian intelligentsia.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was the architect of the “**Emotional Integration**” of India. By blending the concepts of *Bhakti* (devotion) with *Desh-prem* (patriotism), he created a powerful, indigenous alternative to Western political thought.

### Q 14. Poverty alleviation in India requires a balance between economic reforms and social justice. Critically analyse.

**Answer-** Poverty alleviation in India has evolved from a state-led redistributive model (1950s–1980s) to a market-oriented growth strategy post-1991. While economic reforms have accelerated growth and reduced poverty ratios, structural inequalities persist.

#### Economic Reforms as a Driver of Poverty Reduction

- **Growth as a Poverty Killer:** High GDP growth post-1991 led to a significant increase in per-capita income. According to the World Bank (2025), extreme poverty in India (living on < \$2.15/day) dropped from 16.2% in 2011-12 to just 2.3% in 2022-23.
- **Fiscal Dividend:** Rapid growth generates higher tax revenues, which the government then reinvests into social safety nets. Without the 1991 reforms, the massive funding required for schemes like MGNREGA would have been unsustainable.
- **Structural Transformation:** Shift from low-productivity

agriculture to services and manufacturing has provided millions with better-paying jobs.

### Social Justice: Ensuring Equitable Distribution

- **Rights-Based Welfare Approach-** Schemes like the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and MGNREGA treat welfare as a right. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana* (PMGKAY) was pivotal in preventing millions from slipping back into poverty
- **Affirmative Action and Inclusion-** Reservation policies and SC/ST sub-plans aim to correct historical injustices. Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the society, like sanitation (Swachh Bharat), clean cooking fuel (Ujjwala), and housing (PMAY).
- **Multi-dimensional Focus:** The NITI Aayog National MPI (2024) reports that 24.8 crore people escaped multidimensional poverty in the last 9 years.

### The Critical Balance

- **The Reform Trap (Inequality):** Reforms can lead to “**K-shaped**” recovery, where the capital-intensive sectors thrive while the informal sector (90% of the workforce) languishes.
- **The Populism Trap (Fiscal Stress):** Over-reliance on “revdi” (freebies) without corresponding economic growth can lead to fiscal deficits and inflation, which disproportionately hurts the poor.
- **Regional Disparities:** While states like **Kerala** are nearing 0% extreme poverty (becoming India’s first state to do so in late 2025), others like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh still face entrenched deprivations.

### Way Forward

- **Labour-Intensive Manufacturing** to address jobless growth.
- **Universal Basic Services** (health, education, sanitation).
- Strengthening urban poverty alleviation.
- Enhancing fiscal capacity via progressive taxation.
- **Skilling** the youth to prevent graduate unemployment

Poverty alleviation in India cannot be a choice between the market and the state. Economic reforms provide the **capacity** to act, while social justice provides the **legitimacy** to rule. As India aims to become a “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India) by 2047, the focus must shift from “poverty alleviation” to “**prosperity creation**”.

### Q 15. Smart Villages are essential for achieving balanced regional development. Discuss with reference to rural infrastructure and livelihoods.

**Answer-** Smart Villages—villages equipped with modern infrastructure, digital connectivity, sustainable practices, and diversified livelihoods. Nearly 68.8% still reside in rural areas, making the transformation of these regions indispensable for balanced regional development.

## Significance of Smart Villages in Rural Infrastructure

- **Physical Infrastructure-** Improved infrastructure reduces spatial inequalities and transaction costs. Road connectivity improves farm-to-market linkages; electrification enables agro-processing; water security enhances health outcomes.
- **Digital Infrastructure-** Initiatives like **BharatNet** (connecting 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats with high-speed fiber) act as the backbone, providing real-time data to mitigate climate risks—a prime example of “smart” social infrastructure.
- **Social Infrastructure:** Telemedicine and digital classrooms (e.g., **e-Sanjeevani** and **DIKSHA** platforms) ensure that a villager in a remote district has the same access to a specialist or quality teacher as an urban resident, reducing the “pull factors” of migration.

## Smart Villages and Rural Livelihoods

- **Diversification Beyond Agriculture-** Smart villages promote rural MSMEs. In 2024-25, the demand for **organic processing units** and **rural tourism** (Agritourism) has surged, providing diversified income streams for rural youth.
- **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship-** Rural BPOs and Common Service Centres (CSCs) generate non-farm employment. Digital literacy and skilling reduce distress migration.
- **Precision Agriculture:** By integrating AI-powered soil analysis and IoT sensors, farmers can optimize water and fertilizer use. As of 2025, **Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS)** models in rural clusters have revolutionized pesticide spraying and crop monitoring, significantly lowering input costs.

## Pioneers of Rural Transformation

Punsari	Gujarat	24/7 Wi-Fi, solar street lights, and mineral water plants; focus on educational infrastructure.
Dhanora	Rajasthan	Known as India’s first self-planned smart village with a focus on sanitation and a 0% crime rate through community engagement.
Aibawk Cluster	Mizoram	Developed under the Rurban Mission; integrated pedestrian footpaths, agri-link roads, and sports infrastructure to stem migration.

As highlighted by the **NITI Aayog**, the goal of “Viksit Bharat @ 2047” is unattainable without the transformation of our 6.4 lakh villages. Smart Villages represent a paradigm shift from “Development for the rural” to “Development by the rural.”

**Q 16. The Pala period represents a distinctive phase in the evolution of Buddhist art in India. Examine its chief artistic features and cultural significance.**

**Answer-** The Pala dynasty (c. 8th–12th century CE), ruling over eastern India primarily present-day Bihar and Bengal marked the last great efflorescence of Buddhist art in the Indian subcontinent.

## Chief Artistic Features of Pala Buddhist Art

- **Sculptural Excellence (Stone and Bronze)-** Pala bronzes are celebrated for their technical finesse using the *cire perdue* (lost-wax) process. Major centers: Kurkihar (Bihar) and Nalanda.
  - ✓ Predominant use of black basalt (chlorite stone), highly polished to achieve a metallic sheen. There is a transition from the historical Buddha to the Dhyanī Buddhas and a vast pantheon of goddesses like Tara, Prajnaparamita, and Marichi.
- **Manuscript Painting and Illumination-** Development of miniature painting on palm-leaf manuscripts. Themes drawn from Buddhist texts like the *Prajnaparamita*.
- **Architectural Contributions-** Though fewer structural remains survive, major monastic universities flourished. Such as Vikramashila University, Somapura Mahavihara.

## Cultural Significance of Pala Buddhist Art

- **Zenith of Tantric (Vajrayana) Buddhism-** The Pala period marks the shift from Mahayana to **Vajrayana (Tantric) Buddhism**. The art reflects this through the depiction of multi-headed and multi-armed deities.
- **Transregional Influence-** Pala art was the primary source of inspiration for the art of the Himalayan regions (Tibet/Nepal) and Southeast Asia (Java/Burma).
- **Institutional Patronage-** Unlike earlier periods where merchant guilds funded art, Pala art was largely driven by the state and the monastic elite at Nalanda, Vikramashila, and Odantapuri.

The Pala period represents a distinctive and mature phase in the evolution of Buddhist art in India. Even after Buddhism declined in its homeland, the Pala artistic tradition endured in Tibet and Nepal, underscoring its lasting transregional impact.

**Q 17. Explain the factors responsible for the origin and distribution of ocean currents. How do these currents contribute to the maintenance of global ocean circulation?**

**Answer-** Ocean currents are large-scale, continuous movements of seawater driven by various physical forces. They function as the “**global conveyor belt**”, redistributing heat, nutrients, and salinity across the planet.

## Factors Responsible for the Origin

- **Wind Patterns (Primary Driving Force of Surface Currents)-** Wind is the most dominant factor for surface currents. As wind blows over the ocean, friction drags the surface water along with it.

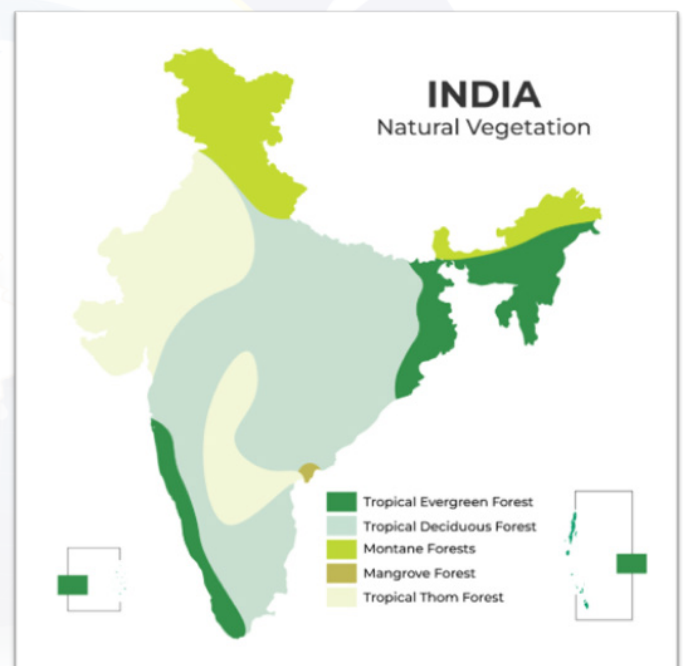
- ✓ Trade Winds: Move equatorial waters westward (e.g., North and South Equatorial Currents).
- ✓ Westerlies: Drive water eastward in the mid-latitudes (e.g., North Atlantic Drift).
- Temperature and Salinity (Thermohaline Circulation)- Differences in density cause water to move vertically and horizontally.
  - ✓ Temperature: Cold water is denser and sinks, while warm equatorial water is lighter and stays on the surface.
  - ✓ Salinity: High salinity increases water density. For example, in the Mediterranean, high evaporation makes the water saltier and denser, causing it to sink and flow out into the Atlantic as a deep current
- The Coriolis Effect- Due to the Earth's rotation, currents do not move in a straight line. In the Northern Hemisphere, currents are deflected to the right. In the Southern Hemisphere, currents are deflected to the left.
- Configuration of Continents and Ocean Basins- Landmasses obstruct and redirect currents. Leads to formation of western intensification (stronger western boundary currents).
- Gravitational Pull of the Sun and Moon- Causes tides, which contribute to localized current systems.

- In the context of climate change, any weakening of thermohaline circulation (e.g., slowdown of North Atlantic Deep Water formation) could have profound impacts on global climate patterns. Thus, ocean currents are not merely physical phenomena but fundamental regulators of Earth's environmental equilibrium.

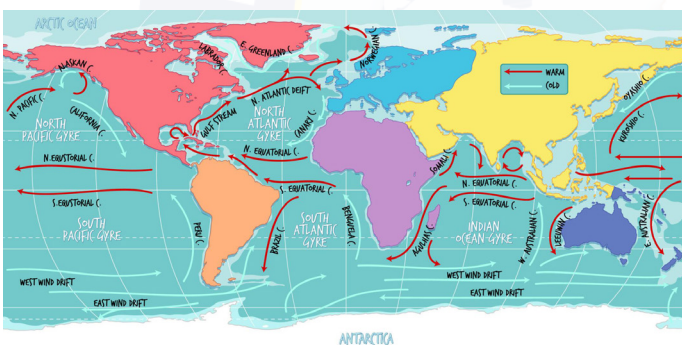
**Q 18. Discuss the distribution of 'forest resources' in India. What are the major threats to India's forest cover and the conservation measures undertaken?**

**Answer-** According to Indian State Forest Report 2023, India's total forest and tree cover is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country against the National Forest Policy target of 33%.

**Distribution of Forest Resources in India**



**Distribution of Ocean Currents**



**Contribution of Ocean Currents to Global Ocean Circulation**

- **Heat Redistribution and Climate Regulation** -Warm currents raise coastal temperatures. Cold currents lower coastal temperatures. The Gulf Stream keeps Western Europe warmer than regions at similar latitudes (e.g., Canada). The Peru Current cools the western coast of South America.
- **Maintenance of Thermohaline Circulation-** Deep water formation in North Atlantic and Antarctic regions drives global circulation. Connects Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.
- **Impact on Marine Ecosystems-** Nutrient Cycling, circulation ensures that oxygen-rich surface water reaches the deep ocean, supporting life at all depths. Where offshore winds push surface water away, cold, nutrient-rich water rises from the depths (e.g., the Peru/Humboldt Current). These areas are the world's most productive fishing grounds.
- Tropical Evergreen Forest- States like Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland have more than 70% forest cover. Dense tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests. Moreover, Western Ghats extends across Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu. Ebony, Mahogany, Rosewood, Rubber.
- Tropical Deciduous Forests-Rainfall 70–200 cm, Trees shed leaves in dry season. Most widespread forest type in India. Majorly found in central India. Species: Teak, Tendu, Palas, Sal.
- Montane Forest- Himalayan Region from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh Species: Oak, Deodar, Pine, Montane, temperate and alpine forests also found in western ghat in the region of Nilgiri hills called Sholas.
- Tropical Thorn Forests-Rainfall <50 cm, Sparse vegetation, thorny bushes. Western Rajasthan, Parts

of **Gujarat**, Xerophytic adaptations. Example Acacia, Cactus, Babul.

- Littoral and Mangrove forest- Found in tidal areas and river deltas, Salt-tolerant vegetation. Example **Sundarbans** (largest mangrove area), Deltas of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna

### Major Threats to India's Forest Cover

- Deforestation and Diversion for Development- Infrastructure (roads, dams, mining, railways). Forest land diversion under development projects. Linear projects fragment habitats. Recent example Aravali forest Deforestation protest.
- Forest Fires- Increasing frequency due to climate change. Over **36% of India's forest cover is prone to frequent fires** (FSI data). Particularly vulnerable: Central India and Western Ghats.
- Land Degradation and desertification- Desertification is a specific type of land degradation where relatively dry land becomes increasingly barren, losing its biological productivity.
- Agriculture and Jhum Cultivation- Practiced in Northeast India. Shortened fallow cycles reduce forest regeneration. Leads to soil degradation.

### Conservation Measures Undertaken

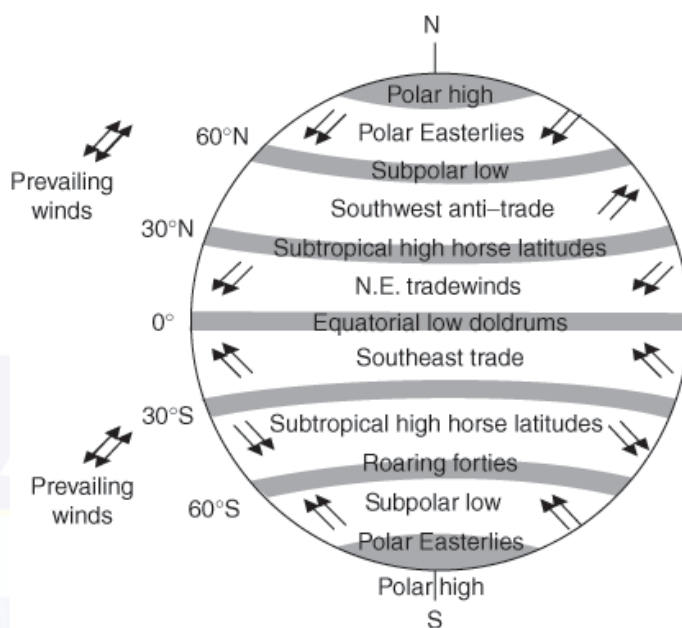
- National Mission for a Green India (GIM)- One of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), GIM focuses on both increasing forest cover and improving its quality.
- Compensatory Afforestation (CAMPA)- Funds collected from diversion projects. Used for afforestation and regeneration. Thousands of crores allocated for restoration.
- Protected Area Network- Over **100 National Parks and 560+ Wildlife Sanctuaries**. Tiger reserves under Project Tiger. Biosphere reserves in Western Ghats and Northeast.
- Afforestation Drive- '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**' Launched in 2024, this campaign emphasizes *Jan Bhagidari* (people's participation).

Sustainable forest management requires strengthening community participation, scientific forest monitoring, and balancing development with ecological security. Achieving the 33% forest cover target is essential not only for biodiversity conservation but also for India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.

### Q 19. Explain the role of pressure belts in the origin and direction of global wind systems.

**Answer-** Pressure belts are latitudinal zones of high and low atmospheric pressure formed due to **unequal heating of the Earth's surface** and the planet's rotation.

### Global Pressure Belts



#### 1. Equatorial Low Pressure Belt (0°)

- Also called **Doldrums**.
- Intense heating → Rising air.
- Heavy convectional rainfall.
- Associated with the **Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)**.

#### 2. Subtropical High Pressure Belts (30° N & S)

- Descending air from Hadley Cell.
- Clear skies, dry conditions.

#### 3. Subpolar Low Pressure Belts (60° N & S)

- Convergence of warm westerlies and cold polar easterlies.
- Cyclonic activity frequent.

#### 4. Polar High Pressure Belts (90° N & S)

- Cold, dense air sinks.
- Outward surface flow.

### Role in Origin and Direction of Wind Systems

Wind always flows from High Pressure to Low Pressure. However, its direction is modified by the Coriolis Effect, which deflects winds to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere.

### Trade Winds (Tropical Easterlies)

- **Origin:** They blow from the Subtropical High toward the Equatorial Low.
- **Direction:** In the Northern Hemisphere, they blow from the **Northeast**; in the Southern Hemisphere, from the **Southeast**.

### The Westerlies

- **Origin:** They blow from the Subtropical High toward the Subpolar Low.

- **Direction:** From the **Southwest** in the Northern Hemisphere and **Northwest** in the Southern Hemisphere.

### Polar Easterlies

- **Origin:** They blow from the Polar High toward the Subpolar Low.
- **Characteristics:** These are extremely cold, dry, and stable winds. When they meet the warmer Westerlies, they form the **Polar Front**

These wind systems, in turn, regulate climate zones, rainfall patterns, desert formation, ocean currents, and monsoon systems. Thus, pressure belts are not merely theoretical constructs but dynamic drivers of Earth's climatic and environmental systems.

### Q 20. Caste system in India has undergone significant changes in contemporary times. Discuss the factors responsible for these changes.

**Answer-** The caste system in India, traditionally based on birth-based hierarchy, endogamy, hereditary occupation, and social segregation, has been one of the most enduring features of Indian society.

### Significant changes in Caste System in contemporary times

Sociologist **G.S. Ghurye** described caste as a system characterized by segmental division and hierarchy, while **M.N. Srinivas** highlighted processes like *Sanskritization* and *Westernization* in caste mobility.

Traditional Caste	Contemporary Transformation
Fixed occupation	Occupational mobility
Rigid hierarchy	Gradual status mobility
Social segregation	Increased interaction
Ritual purity basis	Political and economic power basis

### Factors Responsible for Changes in the Caste System

- Social Reform Movements and Leaders - Anti-Caste Reformers, Jyotirao Phule – Critiqued Brahmanical dominance. B.R. Ambedkar – Advocated annihilation of caste; architect of constitutional safeguards. Periyar E.V. Ramasamy – Self-Respect Movement in Tamil Nadu.
- Constitutional and Legal Measures- The Constitution abolished untouchability (Article 17) and ensured equality (Articles 14–16). Reservation in education and public employment. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Mandal Commission implementation (1990) – 27% reservation for OBCs.
- Globalization and Market Economy- Liberalization (post-1991 reforms) increased private sector employment. Merit-based competition in global markets. Exposure to global values of equality and human rights.
- Democratization and Political Mobilization- Universal adult franchise empowered numerically dominant castes. Rise of caste-based political parties. Political bargaining strengthened lower caste representation. Political Parties like BSP, Rashtriya Jant dal E.t.c.
- Persistent Challenges: The “Modernity of Tradition”
- Despite these changes, caste has not disappeared; it has **morphed**.
- **Politicization of Caste:** Caste is used as a “vote bank,” leading to what **Rajni Kothari** called the “Politicization of Caste.”
- **Endogamy:** Marriage remains the most resilient feature. Even urban matrimonial sites frequently feature caste filters.
- **Sub-categorization:** Recent debates around the sub-categorization of SCs/STs show that internal competition within caste groups is intensifying.
- Caste-based violence persists. Honor killings and Social discrimination in rural areas.

Thus, caste in contemporary India is not vanishing but evolving from a rigid social institution to a dynamic socio-political reality. The challenge ahead lies in deepening social equality beyond legal provisions to achieve substantive justice.