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# Mains Answer Writing cum Guidance Program - 2022

Hints required to write the answers

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**2022**



## Hints to write the Answers - MGAP 2022

### Question1: Write in 250 Words

Multiculturalism is part of the Indian society and any attempt to monochrome it will be self-defeating. Do you agree, the multicultural nature of Indian society has been under threat in the recent years? Provide some suggestions on how to strengthen the cohesive nature of Indian society.

### Hints to write the Answer:

India is an inherently multi-cultural society that believes in plurality of ideas, belief and faith. It enriches Indian culture and adds to our diversity.

All religions are practiced by Indians no matter how insignificant their number is.

India is a land of both intra-religion and inter-religion diversity. Every citizen of India has right to practice, profess and propagate his/her religion independently

Any animosity between them due to the imposition of majority culture would destabilize the society and would disrupt the normalcy.

But modern India is facing a grave challenge to its constitutional commitment to multiple and complementary identities with the rise of groups that seek to impose a singular Hindu identity on the country. These threats undermine the sense of inclusion and violate the rights of minorities in India today.

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### **Examples are:**

Vigilantism of majority group and moral policing by self-proclaimed reformist groups  
Racial attacks on foreigners in India

The recent instances of cow vigilances and Una violence, communal riots, Beef protests in Kerala, Bhima Koregoan clashes etc. created a sense of insecurity and polarization in communities.

### **However, despite these concerns multiculturalism is largely present:**

The ambition and expectations of Indians are heightened by the multiple choices available and accessed through information technology.

The surge in confidence in individuals and communities in today's India has resulted in a reinvention of identities and helped them express resistance to the emergent nationalism in innovative forms.

India's constitution incorporates this notion. Although India is culturally diverse, comparative surveys of long-standing democracies including India show that it has been very cohesive, despite its diversity

### **How to strengthen cohesiveness in Indian society:**

Need for reimbursement of values of gender sensitivity, gender equality, equal

respect for men and women.

Need to fight medieval mindset and embrace the virtues of modernity with open arms while keeping its vices at bay.

Need to strengthen the spirit of nationalism amongst citizens in India.

Necessary at the village/block/taluk level social harmony committees have to be constituted to promote communal harmony among the members of the society.

Need to teach mutual tolerance and harmony so that every citizen of the country governed by the rule of law can live in peace and harmony

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

**Regionalism on one hand promotes cultural diversity and political autonomy while on the other hand it creates barriers to movement of people across different states defying the constitutional norms. Discuss.**

**Hints to write the Answer:**

Regionalism is an ideology that promotes a consciousness that the interests of people belonging to a particular region are different from those of others. The original inhabitants of a region develop a strong sentiments and attachments to its region as it forms the core of one's identity

e.g. a person migrated from one state to another are referred to by his/her region - Bihari, Madrasi, Punjabi, Bengali etc.

**Benefits of Regionalism:**

1. People cherish and celebrate their cultural diversity including language, food, festivals etc.

Eg- people of Punjab celebrate Vaisakhi while people of Kerala celebrate Onam.

2. People get **political autonomy** and right to self-governing. Eg-special political autonomy to Nagaland under article 371A.

3. Promotes unity and integrity of the nation, particularly in a multi-cultural society like India as it satisfies regional pride.

**Challenges of Regionalism:** When there is acute regional consciousness as:

1. The local people see immigrants as a threat. They believe that immigrants are stealing their jobs. Eg-north Indians in Maharashtra.

2. Fear loss of lands and forest resources. Eg Bengalis in Assam.

3. Conflicts on river water sharing. Conflict between Chhattisgarh and Odisha over Mahanadi river.

4. Fear that outsiders will outnumber them threatening their demography, cultural and social life. Eg-Nagaland the Nagas feel threatened by the arrival of Kukis and Meiteis.

5. Separatist tendencies: The demand for separate statehood due to language, religion, ethnicity, caste etc. Assam, Andhra Pradesh were reorganised based on

language, demand for Khalistan based on religion, Greater Nagalim in North-East by Naga people based on ethnicity and Vanniyars in Tamilnadu demand for separate based on caste.

### **Barriers to movement of people**

Article 19 (1)(4) of the Constitution of India provides: “to move freely throughout the territory of India”. Further, to serve the interests of the natives of a particular on priority basis, movement of people from other states are restricted by denying them basic services.

1. ‘Son of the soil’ movement: Marathi natives staged massive demonstration and protest against the migrants of UP and Bihar. Migrants from these state provide cheap labor and takes away the job of natives.
2. Recently, Arvind Kejriwal, CM of Delhi suggested that treatment to citizens living in Delhi gets delayed at the city's hospitals due to 'outsiders' coming for cheaper treatment.

There is a need to reduce regional disparity which arises due to development deficit in some backward regions of the country like Bihar, Jharkhand, UP etc. The Government should focus on balanced regional development with an aim to achieve National Integration of India.

### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Keeping in mind the importance of NGOs in India’s development process, it is imperative that adequate legal and regulatory mechanisms should be in place. Highlight the recent developments in this context.**

### **Approach:**

- *Introduce by highlighting importance of NGOs and their work.*
- *Furthermore, mention recent cases which highlighted the issue with regard to functioning of NGOs.*
- *Give arguments in favour and against regulation. Mention specific examples and recommendations or rulings where possible.*

Answer:

The World Bank defines NGOs as “private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering and promote the interests of the poor.” They have played an important role in India’s development process by carrying out supporting activities. NGOs provide last mile delivery of services where the State does not or cannot reach. NGOs provide feedback about efficacy of government schemes and complement in their implementation. National policy on Voluntary Sector, 2007 recognised explicitly the role of voluntary sector in national development.

Their wide scope of activities which affect crucial public interests requires that there be a proper legal and regulatory mechanism in place. Further, to enable them to function in an atmosphere of certainty, an 'adequate' framework is necessary.

Recent developments:

- In 2015, rules under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) were amended to regulate foreign funding of NGOs and the FCRA license of Greenpeace India was cancelled
- In recent years, there have been activist or overtly political NGOs which take recourse to policy advocacy, lobbying, mass mobilisation and strident campaigning to usher in change in government policies or play the role of a watchdog.
- The government had to probe the bank accounts of foreign funded NGOs over discrepancies.

Case for regulation:

Apart from the developments mentioned above, the other reasons are:

- The NGO industry has grown at a very fast pace in recent years.
- Misuse funds by floating NGOs.
- Most NGOs work with inadequately trained professionals.
- There is an increasing monopolization of their leadership.
- Many are funded by the government, and therefore should be scrutinised
- The Supreme Court too, in a recent judgement, has spoken in favour of this step.
- Less than 10% submit their accounts with the Registrar of Societies, as mandated by law.
- Foreign funded NGOs' agendas might be antithetical to national interests.

Case against regulation:

- Already many measures of regulation are in place. More measures might lead to over-regulation.
- Senior management personnel have been brought under the definition of "public servants" under the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 and thus are required to disclose their assets and liabilities, along with those of their spouse and children.
- More regulations might hamper the functioning of well-meaning NGOs.
- It may restrict their ability to explore alternative paradigms of development to challenge social, economic and political forces.

Hence, while it is desirable and acceptable to regulate NGOs, the government should take note as to not stifle their voices with over-regulation.

**Question:** Write in 150 Words

The diffusion of Marxism in India has been significant, but often in synthesis with progressive indigenous philosophies. Comment.

**Approach**

- Briefly define what Marxism is.
- Discuss how diffusion of Marxism in India has been significant.
- Describe how it has been in synthesis with progressive indigenous philosophies.
- Conclude with its relevance in contemporary times.

**Hints to write the Answer:**

Marxism is a system of **economic, social, and political philosophy** based on ideas that view social change in terms of economic factors. **After the Russian revolution of 1917, Marxism emerged as one of the most influential political ideologies** which shaped world events throughout the twentieth century. It not only inspired socialist revolutions in countries like China, Cuba and Vietnam but also influenced the national liberation movements against colonial rule in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

**Diffusion of Marxism in India:**

- Many of the key actors in India's freedom struggle were influenced by Marxism to varying extents, from the early revolutionaries of **Bhagat Singh's HSRA and the Communist Party to left wing Congress leaders** like Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose and others.
  - The **karachi session of 1931** passed resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy which represented the Party's Social, Economic and Political programme which clearly shows marxist and socialist influence.
  - Most of the activists drawn to Marxism in India were **fundamentally nationalists** seeking a more **militant inspiration** to their nationalism than was provided by the Indian National Congress and who **wanted to find a link between the economic demands of the workers and peasants and the fight for independence.**
  - This legacy was carried forward in different ways in the post-independence era, through **development planning, building public institutions, universities (JNU)** to attain selfreliance etc.
  - It led to more radical initiatives towards **asset redistribution in states** where powerful movements of the workers, peasants and deprived sections could create popular, democratic alternatives relatively autonomous to ruling class influence.
- How Marxism was in synthesis with progressive indigenous philosophies:**
- **Gandhian philosophy** though was against mechanization and capitalism but still **favored cottage industries** for self-sufficiency and promoted development at local

level.

- **Nehruvian philosophy** too had socialistic and pro-labor inclination, as seen in Nehru's radical statements and activities in relation to labor–capital relationship in the pre independence period.
- Not only did socialism of the twentieth century become passé, but **social-democratic welfare capitalism** too was rolled back to make way for the unrestrained movement of finance, goods, services and technologies across the globe.
- The contemporary developments (**joblessness due to automation driven by robots, aggravating pollution of air, water etc.**) forcefully **vindicate Marx's critique of capitalism** – concentration of capital and impoverishment of the workers; economic crisis owing to the anarchic nature of capital accumulation, etc.
- M.N.Roy said that the nationalist movement of the Indian bourgeoisie was essentially a **fraternal or internecine struggle** between rival national bourgeoisie **and not a struggle that could lead to the overthrow of capitalism.**

**Conclusion:**

Even today, the ideas of Marx not only remain distinctly relevant but are also likely to gain wider currency, as **the gap between the promise of universal prosperity through globalization and the actual experience** of insecurity and deteriorating living standards widens for the younger generation in the workforce.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Highlight the forms of secular architecture that evolved during medieval times. Discuss the significance of these buildings in the socio-cultural lives of people today.**

**Approach**

- *Give a brief background of medieval times and the developments.*
- *Highlight the forms of secular architecture that evolved during medieval times.*
- *Discuss their significance in socio-cultural lives of contemporary people.*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

By the 12th century, India was already familiar with monumental constructions in grandiose settings. It was only in **13th century that large-scale building activity was begun by the Turkish state**, established after the Turkish conquest of northern India. Thus, in the field of architecture, **a mix of many structural techniques, stylized shapes, and surface decorations** came about through constant interventions of acceptance, rejection or modification of architectural elements.

**Forms of secular architecture that evolved during medieval times:**

- **Khanqahs (Maner sharif) and dargahs (Nizamuddin)** for daily prayers.
- **Forts (Chittor, Golconda)** symbolizing the seat of power of a king.

- **Minars (Qutub minar, Chand minar etc.) or Kos minars** for the azaan or call to prayer.
- **Tombs (Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq)** for eternal paradise as a reward for true believer on Day of Judgment.
- **Sarais or caravanserais** to provide temporary accommodation to travellers.
- **Commemorative gateways (Buland Darwaza etc.)**
- **Pavilions in buildings and gardens.**
- The **walls of the temple in Vijayanagara empire**, had painted scenes from the 'Ramayana' and the 'Mahabharata' and many of the secular buildings of the period like **Lotus Mahal** have Indo-Muslim features.

#### **Significance of these buildings in socio-cultural lives of contemporary people:**

- These have **served as a symbol of social harmony** in the society as here people from various faiths, religions and regions intermingle with each other. **E.g. khwaja moinuddin chishti.**
- These have **increased the tolerance** in the society and have been a **guiding force** against the evils of society.
- **Tourism** has got a boost because a lot of Indian as well as foreign traveller visits these buildings, increasing the source of income for local people.
- These have **improved our relations** with other nations because **soft power** has always been central part of our diplomacy. E.g. Saudi Arabia etc.
- These **buildings showcase the vision of the people of those times** and encourage us to do even better in every aspect and not indulge in unnecessary disruptive activities.
- The **marvelous architecture, its durability** and other features have been a guiding source to the modern day architecture in physical terms also.

#### **Conclusion:**

A **secular architecture** is the one which can be accessed by followers of all religions. The **Indo-Islamic architecture**, though having influence of Persian and Turkish elements, was largely Indian in outlook. It is time that we cherish the marvelous architecture of our nation and **do not disrupt nation's harmony by changing names on religion basis** etc. but move forward with positive vision.

#### **Question: Write in 150 Words**

The Marathas failed to fill the political vacuum created by the decline of the Mughal Empire because of a number of reasons. Discuss.

#### **Approach**

- *Start with the disintegration of the Mughal Empire.*
- *Highlight the potential of the Marathas to fill the political vacuum created by the disintegration.*

- *Enumerate the reasons behind the failure of the Marathas.*

### Hints to write the Answer:

The expansionist and misguided religious policies of Aurangzeb (1658-1707) weakened the unity and stability of the Mughal Empire and led to emergence of autonomous kingdoms like Hyderabad (1724), Awadh (1722) and Bengal (1717) after his death in 1707.

Among them Marathas emerged as the most formidable force. They evolved a new system of government under the institution of Peshwa and produced a number of able and strong commanders and statesmen like Balaji Vishwanath Rao and Baji Rao. Maratha possessed the strength and ability to fill the political vacuum created by decline of Mughal Empire; however, they failed to consolidate their power due to various reasons such as:

#### **Political Reasons**

- **Personality based state:** Maratha Power was built up on the personality and abilities of Shivaji. The structure of the Maratha Empire began to crumble down as the Marathas could not produce leaders like Shivaji, Madhab Rao, Mahadji Scindia, Nana Fadnavis when they had to face a determined enemy like the British.
- **Lack of Unity:** Marathas were caught in mutual hostilities and as a result they could not consolidate themselves under one strong central authority to challenge the English.
- **Conflicts with regional powers:** The policy of Chauth and Sardesmukhi, interference in internal affairs and levying huge fines and tributes alienated most of the regional powers; hence they failed to win the support of the Rajputs, Jats and the Sikhs.
- **Third Battle of Panipat:** It gave a severe blow to their power and exposed the chinks in their armor and in subsequent wars they could no longer obstruct the expansion of the Europeans.

#### **Economic Reasons**

- **Weak revenue administration:** They failed to develop an efficient system of revenue administration based on trade and commerce. New territories were conquered but rulers were mainly interested in raising revenue from peasantry through taxation.
- **Jagir system:** Shivaji had done away with the Jagir system but the system was revived after his death.

This was against the interests of the states as jagirdars were interested in their well-being and seldom thought of state.

#### **Social Reasons**

- Maratha Empire failed to inspire the Indian people with higher degree of loyalty towards them as they were unable to satisfy basic needs of population.

### Other reasons

- Marathas also failed because they did not invest in their navy, arms and ammunition, where British forces were more superior.

Thus an absence of a national outlook, lack of unity and lack of investment in the economy and military modernization led to the decline of Maratha Empire which resulted into abolition of Peshwai after their defeat in third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1818).

### Question: Write in 150 Words

The East India Company as a political power had long been dead, what the Act of 1858 did was to give its corpse a decent burial. Analyze.

### Approach

- Give a brief background on rise of EIC as a political power in India.
- Mention provisions in Pitts India Act, 1784, and Charter Acts of 1813, 1833 and 1853 that diluted the company's independent control over Indian empire.
- Conclude with how after the Revolt of 1857, the transfer of power to British Crown was completed through the Act of 1858.

### Hints to write the Answer:

The East India Company started as a commercial entity, after the London merchants were granted the Charter of 1600 for trade to the East Indies. Later, the **Battle of Plassey** (1757) and **Battle of Buxar** (1764) transformed EIC into a political power in Bengal, as it secured the **diwani rights** of Bengal from Mughal emperor Shah Alam II. This increasing wealth and influence of EIC and its officers led to frequent interventions by the British Parliament through **Charter Acts**, each Act considerably reducing the company's exclusive political control over India. Following are of note here:

- **Regulating Act of 1773** while formally recognizing EIC's political and administrative function, gave the British Parliament a hold over it as the Court of Directors (CoD) had to submit all correspondence regarding revenue, civil and military affairs with the Parliament.
- **Pitt's India Act, 1784** labeled the Company's territories as 'British Possessions in India', limiting the role of CoD to commercial affairs, under the supervision of a Board of Control that consisted the British Finance Minister.
- **Charter Act of 1813** ended the EIC's trade monopoly over India (except trade in tea and trade with China), after successful lobbying by the British capitalists who wanted a share of the Indian trade.

Further, Christian missionaries were allowed to operate in India under domestic pressure in Britain.

- **Charter Act of 1833** made EIC a purely administrative body by ending its trade monopoly. All restrictions on European immigration and acquisition of property were lifted, which further diluted EIC's exclusive influence in India.
- **Charter Act of 1853**, did not extend the company's rule for 20 years as was the established norm.

CoD also lost its power to appoint ICS officers, who were to be recruited based on open competition system.

The Revolt of 1857 culminated with **Queen Victoria's Proclamation**, which distanced itself from Company's erstwhile policies. The Parliament passed the **Act for Better Government of India, 1858** that established the rule of British Crown on India, effectively ending the indirect rule through the EIC.

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

**"Revolt of 1857 was a wholly unpatriotic and selfish Sepoy Mutiny with no native leadership and no-popular support."** Critically evaluate the statement, putting special emphasis on the reasons behind the failure of the revolt.

**Approach**

- *State the reasons for failure of the revolt linking them to the theme of the question.*
- *Critical evaluation requires giving points on the other side of the question hence state reasons which establish the national/patriotic character of the revolt.*
- *Conclude giving an evaluation of the all points stating whether you agree with the statement or disagree.*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

The revolt of 1857 was a reaction to British policies and measures in India. It has been termed by few sections of historian's term it as wholly unpatriotic and selfish Sepoy Mutiny with no native leadership and no-popular support.

- **Wholly Unpatriotic** - The revolt of 1857 was driven more by self interest of each group participating in the revolt rather than having any common goal towards nationalism or independence. For example,

Rulers were fighting to regain lost power, money and throne. Zamindars were fighting against being thrown out of their land and increased taxation.

But, at the same time the different section fighting in the revolt as well as different rulers recognised Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader giving the revolt a sense of proto nationalism.

- Selfish Sepoy Mutiny - The sepoys had their selfish demands against the British government which included military, religious and social domains. Militarily, they loathed the discrimination against them in terms of rank, salary and perks vis-a-vis their British counterparts. In religious domain, the greased cartridges (Mangal Pandey incident) flamed their simmering anger along with other issues such foreign deputation (religion did not allow working overseas). In social domain, they were against the intermingling of various castes and creeds as a single unit under the British.

- No Native Leadership- The revolt was poorly organized with no coordination or central leadership.

Some leadership which emerged such as- Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope, Kunwar Singh, Laxmibai- were no match to their British opponents such as- John Nicholson, James Outram, Henry Havelock etc.

- No Popular Support- The mutineers were not backed by all the segments of the society. Rather some sections were used as "breakwaters to storm" by the British such as Awadh Tehsildars, moneylenders, merchants. Even modern educated Indians and most of the rulers did not support this mutiny. By some estimates, only one tenth of the population supported the mutiny which shows it had no popular support.

Evaluation-

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- Formal Leadership- Even though the leadership was not effective, all rebels had acknowledged Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader thus highlighting a single line of command. Bahadur Shah Zafar also gave them instructions once the sepoys marched to Delhi for his orders.

- Not a Selfish revolt- It was a struggle of the soldier-peasant democratic combine against foreign imperialism as well as indigenous landlordism. Many peasants joined hands with soldiers in their efforts towards freedom from exploitation. There was a sense of fraternity among different sections of people who had grievances against the British.

Other Reasons of failure-

- Limited territorial base- the Eastern, Western and Southern parts remained almost untouched.

- Lack of resources as compared to those of the British- The Indian soldiers were poorly equipped materially, fighting generally with swords and spears and very few guns and muskets. On the other hand, the European soldiers were equipped with the latest weapons of war like the Enfield rifle.

- Lack of coordination- The electric telegraph kept the commander-in-chief informed about the movements and strategy of the rebels.

Conclusion:

Hence, although the revolt could not achieve its desired objectives, but it was neither unpatriotic nor selfish and had a undertone of nationalism in it. There were some sections opposing the revolt, but that does not diminish the efforts of the mutineers.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

“The process of social and religious reform did not always follow the intended line and gave rise to some undesirable by-products as well, which have become as much a part of daily existence in the whole of the Indian subcontinent as have the fruits of these reform movements.” In light of the above statement, critically evaluate the roles of various revivalist movements in shaping India.

**Approach**

• Provide a Brief Introduction

• Write Roles of revivalist movement on the following angles:

➤ At the beginning

■ Positives

■ Negatives

➤ At present

■ Positives

■ Negatives

**Hints to write the Answer:**

The Socio-Cultural Regeneration in 19th century India was occasioned by the colonial presence, but not created by it. Revivalist movements like Arya Samaj, Shuddhi movement etc believed that the western thinking and missionaries propaganda would ruin Indian Culture and Ethos, and thus there was a need to protect the religion.

They were also influenced by the rich cultural heritage of India brought to light by Western scholars.

**The Revivalist movements in Past played important role in shaping norms which are carried till date. Their roles can be analysed as follows:**

Positives

1.) Arya Samaj movement laid the Foundation for simplicity of Vedas by preaching "Go Back To the Vedas".

2.) Prarthana Samaj movement emphasized on India's cultural heritage and enriched our Soft Power globally.

3.) Wahabi movement restricted the illiterate masses from following external culture blindly and promoted fundamentalism.

4.) Arya Samaj movement explained Chaturvarna on basis of Virtue which brought Social mobility within the system.

5.) The corrupt practices were brought out in front by Singh Sabha Movement to avoid distrust within the people.

Negatives:

1.) Conversion movements started through efforts of Shuddhi movement which led to insecurity among minorities.

2.) The focus of people shifted from Nationalism to Jingoism as a result of Wahabi movement.

3.) Religious education was narrow minded and laid the seeds of Communalism by these movements.

4.) These led to hindrance for Reformist movement and were not liberal like reformist movements which restricted openness and diversity of ideas.

5.) Orthodox preachings as propounded in wahabi movement led to hatred, discrimination and intolerance which led to sectoral divides.

6.) Britishers took advantage of it and played "Divide and Rule" to their Advantage.

7.) Complete disregard for modernity and modern education kept the masses illiterate, ignorant and the Country under-developed by such movements.

**The Legacy of these Revivalist movements has been carried till date and their imprints can very well be realised in society. In modern times their roles can be analysed as follows:**

Positives:

1.) Indianization of Clothes, Religious texts, Yoga Practices, Ayurveda as propounded by Arya samaj movement is matter of Revivalism for us.

2.) Faith in Indian Culture and Our Past is intact which is a matter of Pride.

3.) The yet not so educated population finds it easy to accept Indianness in Life rather than Westernization.

Negatives:

- 1.) Shuddhi movement has sown the seeds of “Ghar Wapsi” type of movements in contemporary times.
- 2.) The feeling of Casteism and division of society on irrational means like “keeping a moustache or horse” is analogous to revivalist movements.
- 3.) “Radical knowledge prevalent in Madrasas” is leading to hatredness among different religious communities as seen in Wahabi movement.
- 4.) “Love jihad” type of things have resurfaced and Inter-caste or Inter-religion marriages are not yet easily accepted as seen in shuddhi movement.

Conclusion:

Modernity and Openness in thoughts are the imperatives where the 21st century India needs to grow and such Conservative movements does not go in tandem with liberal globalised society of modern times, as also propounded in our Constitution.

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

A real breakthrough was made by Bhagat Singh and his colleagues in terms of ideology, goals and the forms of revolutionary struggle. Analyse.

**Approach**

- Provide a brief introduction about revolutionary extremism of Bhagat Singh.
- Mention the breakthrough made by Bhagat Singh and his colleagues in terms of ideology, goals and forms of revolutionary struggle.

**Hints to write the Answer:**

Changing the way of learning

The apathy and oppression by British government towards India inspired the ideas of revolutionary extremism and many young people, including Bhagat Singh and his colleagues, were once drawn to the idea that violent revolutionary methods of individual heroic action and assassinations, alone would free India.

A rethinking began in mid-1920s and a real breakthrough was made by Bhagat Singh and his colleagues in terms of ideology, goals and the forms of revolutionary struggle.

**Ideology**

In 1928, nearly all the major young revolutionaries of northern India, created a new collective leadership and adopted socialism as their official goal and changed the name of HRA to the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (Army).

As per the changed ideology, they preached social revolutionary and communist principles through labour and peasant organizations. Also, they were fully and consciously secular as two of the six rules of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha were (a) to have nothing to do with communal bodies; and (b) to create the spirit of general

toleration among the public.

### **Goal**

Bhagat Singh, because of his interest in studying and his keen sense of history gave to the revolutionary tradition a goal beyond the elimination of the British imperialism. Along with his colleagues, he broadened the scope and definition of revolution. For them, it went beyond liberation from imperialism and was aimed at ending exploitation of man by man. Chandrasekhar Azad and Yashpal defined revolution as social, political and economic change aimed at establishing a new order of society in which political and economic exploitation would be impossible.

### **Forms of revolutionary struggle**

From terrorism and individual heroic action, they turned to Marxism and had come to believe that popular broad-based mass movements alone could lead to a successful revolution. They helped establish the Punjab Naujawan Bharat Sabha as an open wing of revolutionaries to carry out political work among the youth peasants and workers.

Even though the HSRA and its leadership was rapidly moving away from individual heroic action and assassination and towards mass politics, Lala Lajpat Rai's death, as the result of a brutal lathi-charge during anti-Simon Commission demonstration, led them once again to take to individual assassination.

Similarly, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt were asked to throw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly on 8 April 1929. However, the objective was not to harm anyone, but to get arrested and use the trial court as a forum for propaganda so that people would become familiar with their movement and ideology.

In these ways, they made an abiding contribution to the national freedom movement and helped in broadening the nationalist consciousness.

### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Do you agree with the statement that the pioneer of Indian renaissance 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy' has been described as the "Father of Modern India" ? Give the appropriate arguments and evidences to justify your viewpoint.**

### **Approach**

- *Brief intro about Raja Ram Mohan Roy*
- *Enumerating his contributions evaluate whether he can be called as the Father of Modern India.*
- *Conclusion: Conclude as per the context.*

### **Hints to write the Answer:**

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the pioneer of Indian renaissance. The Brahmo Samaj, started by him was the earliest modern reform movement. His reform efforts encompassed religious, social, political and economic aspects.

In particular, they can be illustrated as follows:

### **1. Religious**

- Condemning blind faith and fatalism, he promoted the philosophy of Vedanta and rationality.
- Condemned polytheism, idolatry, caste rigidities and meaningless rituals, thereby promoting monotheism.
- Instilled pride and modern values in the Hindus. Gandhiji called him “the father of advanced liberal thought in Hinduism.”

### **2. Social**

- Played a crucial role in passage of Bengal Sati Abolition Regulation, 1829. He also worked for abolition of Purdah system, polygamy and child marriage; and also supported women education and widow remarriage.
- Worked for spreading modern scientific education and liberal values among Indians by opening Hindu College at Calcutta.

### **3. Political**

- He brought out journals in English, Hindi, Persian and Bengali to politically educate people and put their grievances before the Government.
- He demanded Indianisation of superior services, separation of executive from judiciary, judicial equality between Indians and Europeans and trial by jury.
- Inspired by his ideas, political activities began in Bengal. First political organisation of the country called Bangabhasha Prakshika Sabha was formed by his associates. Radical political ideas of Derozians were inspired by him.

### **4. Economic**

- He condemned oppressive practices of Bengali zamindars and demanded fixation of maximum rents and reduction of export duties on Indian goods.
- Called for abolition of trading rights of East India Company.

Thus for all his contributions towards building of a modern country, Raja Ram Mohan Roy can be justifiably called the “Father of modern India”.

### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Most of the protests, revolts and movements launched by the peasants against British policies grew out of local grievances, remained localised and had no regular organisation and leadership. Discuss with examples.**

### **Approach**

- *Discuss nature and characteristics of peasant revolts in 19th and 20th century in terms of grievances, localised nature, organisations and leadership..*
- *Conclude by bringing out the fact that not all agrarian movements were localized and rather stood for achieving much broader aims.*

### **Hints to write the Answer:**

During the British rule, the peasant movements surfaced mainly due to impoverishment of Indian peasantry owing to high rents, arbitrary evictions and unpaid labour in zamindari areas. They were centered on the issue of land ownership and land distribution. However, they witnessed gradual evolution in terms of their nature of demands and geographical reach.

### **Phase-I (19th Century)**

Initially, the peasant revolts were largely localized, had no organized leadership and centered on local grievances with following features:

- They fought only for their own local demands, colonialism wasn't their main target, as the nationalist feeling didn't fully develop till then. These revolts were directed against the immediate enemies, like planters, moneylenders and indigenous zamindars.

For example, **Indigo Revolt (1859-60)** stood merely to protect the interests of indigo growers against the foreign planters. Similarly, **Deccan riots (1870s)** remained confined to the Deccan region and were against the local moneylenders.

- The objectives were specific and limited to the redressal of particular grievances.

For example, **Pabna Leagues (1870s-80s)** were against the exploitation of tenants by local Zamindars.

- Their territorial reach was limited to the region of their occurrence. For example, not even half the Indian mainland witnessed any agrarian revolt during the **1857 Revolt**.

- There was no formal enduring organization which could provide meaningful direction to these revolts.

These struggles were also marked by inadequate understanding of colonialism and even lacked coherent ideology about future socio-economic and political programmes. As a result, they couldn't sustain themselves for long despite being militant in nature.

### **Phase-II (1905-1947)**

However, with the onset of Swadeshi Movement there was a palpable shift in orientation of these movements. They were deeply influenced by and had a marked impact on the national freedom struggle.

- They organized themselves under enduring leadership through Kisan Sabha Movements. They had wide-ranging demands which were directed against the British rule. For example, due to the efforts of Home Rule activists, Kisan Sabhas were organized in UP under the leadership of nationalists like Gauri Shankar Mishra and Madan Mohan Malviya.

- These movements had better sense of brotherhood against the common enemy. For example, the Eka Movement of 1921 stood for the collective interests of peasants coming from different social backgrounds. .

- They served as conduit for mobilizing public opinion. For example, Bardoli

Satyagraha Patrika was brought out in 1926 to mobilize public opinion.

During this phase the agrarian movement served as the means for mobilizing masses, especially with the coming of Gandhiji on the political scene. These served as the link between the nationalist leaders and the masses.

Thus, on one hand these agrarian movements represented the cause of peasants, while on the other they also served as vehicles for broadening the nationalist movement on subcontinent scale.. In fact, movements like Tebhaga Movement and Telanagana Movement, served as the blueprint for postindependence agrarian reforms. These movements later eroded the hegemony of landed classes and paved way for transformation of the existing oppressive agrarian structure.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Discuss the reasons behind the British emerging as the most formidable power in India by the end of the eighteenth century, outdoing not just every European rival but also Indian counterparts.**

**Approach**

- *Highlight the fact of British supremacy in India by the end of the eighteenth century.*
- *Discuss the reasons for their success against any foreign or Indian challenge.*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

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British arrived in India as traders at the dawn of 17th century and by the sunset of 18th century they practically became India's sole master. They were able to ward off any kind of challenge coming both from European and Indian rivals. Their success against other Europeans powers in India can be attributed to several factors.

- English East India Company was **privately and professionally managed** which helped in faster decision making. While French and Portuguese companies were largely owned by crown and were feudalistic in nature.
- Largest and **most modern British navy** was able to score victory over French and Portuguese due to faster deployment of its naval ships.
- Since, **Industrial revolution** began in England, it was able to accumulate large capital and its companies were richer and more enterprising.
- British **army was more disciplined, trained** and technologically superior. This helped small British army to defeat large foreign armies.
- Britain had a **stable government** back home unlike its European counterparts. This ensured strong control over the activities of Company with government support available when needed.
- Britain used debt market to fund its wars and increased military expenditure while during that period Dutch and French companies were facing bankruptcy.

- English held three important coastal places, namely, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta while French held Pondicherry and Portuguese only Goa. This greatly aided their expansion throughout India and supported movement of their military to different fronts via sea.

These factors also aided British against many native kingdoms. Additionally their success against locals was catalysed by following factors:

- **Crumbling Mughal Empire** and emergence of several kingdoms fighting for territorial gains amongst themselves helped British. They sided with one party against other and gained territories as favour.
- Indians **lacked a sense of unity and nationalism**. This helped British to recruit locals as mercenaries, who were ready to fight against fellow Indians.
- British were **superior in terms of arms, military and strategy** when compared to locals. Also, with organised finances they were able to pay regular salaries unlike local kings.
- Indian administrators and commanders possessed **inferior leadership skills**, as they were selected on the basis of ascriptive identities and not merit.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

Gandhiji transformed the Indian nationalism as after his arrival it was no longer a movement of professionals and intellectuals. Elaborate.

**Approach**

- 
- *Briefly introduce political ideology and vision of Gandhi*
  - *How Mahatma Gandhi was different from other leaders*
  - *Mass movements that he led after entering India's national struggle*
  - *Conclusion*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

Mahatma Gandhi was able to evolve his own style of leadership and politics and new techniques of struggle. Unlike other leaders, he united Indians belonging to different religions and classes, men and women alike under his leadership.

**How Mahatma Gandhi was different from other leaders?**

- Unlike other leaders he did not stand apart from the common folk, but empathized and even identified with them. While other nationalist leaders dressed formally, wearing a Western suit or an Indian bandgala, Gandhiji went among the people in a simple dhoti or loincloth.
- Hundreds of thousands of peasants, workers and artisans participated with him. Many of them venerated Gandhiji, referring to him as their "Mahatma"
- The act of spinning (charkha) allowed Gandhiji to break the boundaries that

prevailed within the traditional caste system, between mental labour and manual labour.

- Gandhiji appeared to the Indian peasant as a saviour, who would rescue them from high taxes and oppressive officials and restore dignity and autonomy to their lives.
- His simple lifestyle and love of working with his hands allowed him to empathise more fully with the labouring poor and for them, in turn, to empathise with him.
- Where most other politicians talked down to them, Gandhiji appeared not just to look like them, but to understand them and relate to their lives.
- Gandhiji encouraged the communication of the nationalist message in the mother tongue, rather than in the language of the rulers, English.
- Indians of one faith had also to cultivate a genuine tolerance for Indians of another – hence his emphasis on Hindu Muslim harmony.

### **Mass movements**

Gandhi transformed Indian national movement by expanding the base of the movement. The congress extended its social base after the Nagpur session and started including people from the countryside.

Movements led by Gandhi such as NonCooperation, Civil Disobedience movement, Quit India movement were truly people's movement.

Thus, the national movement led by Gandhiji was entirely unprecedented in India.

His faith in masses was boundless. His dramatic political achievement at that time was transformation of Indian national congress into political organization with mass base.

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### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**As Diwan, the Company became the chief financial administrator of the territory under its control in India and began its plunder. Elaborate. Also, discuss the exploitative nature of permanent settlement.**

### **Approach**

- *Brief introduction on Diwani rights given to the company*
- *How Diwani right given to British turned into plunder of India*
- *The problem with permanent settlement*
- *Conclusion*

### **Hints to write the Answer:**

On 12 August 1765, the Mughal emperor appointed the East India Company as the Diwan of Bengal. The grant of Diwani clearly was one such event in British imagination. Now it had to think of administering the land and organizing its revenue resources. Thereafter they began to colonize the countryside, organize revenue resources, redefine the rights of people, and produce the crops it wanted.

### **How Diwani right given to British turned into plunder of India:**

- The Company had become the Diwan, but it still saw itself primarily as a trader. It wanted a large revenue income but was unwilling to set up any regular system of assessment and collection.
  - The effort was to increase the revenue as much as it could and buy fine cotton and silk cloth as cheaply as possible. Within five years the value of goods bought by the Company in Bengal doubled.
  - Before 1865, the Company had purchased goods in India by importing gold and silver from Britain. Now the revenue collected in Bengal could finance the purchase of goods for export.
  - Soon it was clear that the Bengal economy was facing a deep crisis. Artisans were deserting villages since they were being forced to sell their goods to the Company at low prices.
  - Peasants were unable to pay the dues that were being demanded from them. Artisanal production was in decline, and agricultural cultivation showed signs of collapse.
  - Consequently, in 1770 a terrible famine killed ten million people in Bengal. About one third of the population was wiped out
- After two decades of debate on the question, the Company finally introduced the Permanent Settlement in 1793.
- By the terms of the settlement, the rajas and taluqdars were recognized as zamindars. They were asked to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the Company.
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- The amount to be paid was fixed permanently, that is, it was not to be increased ever in future. It was felt that this would ensure a regular flow of revenue to the Company

### **The problem with permanent settlement:**

- The Permanent Settlement created many problems. Company officials soon discovered that the zamindars were in fact not investing in the improvement of land. The revenue that had been fixed was so high that the zamindars found it difficult to pay. Anyone who failed to pay the revenue lost his zamindari. Numerous zamindaris were sold off at auctions organized by the Company.

- By the first decade of the nineteenth century the situation changed. The prices in the market rose and cultivation slowly expanded. This meant an increase in the income of the zamindars.

The zamindars could give out the land to tenants and get rent, but they were not interested in improving the land.

- On the other hand, in the villages, the cultivator found the system extremely oppressive. The rent he paid to the zamindar was high and his right on the land was insecure. To pay the rent he had to often take a loan from the moneylender, and

when he failed to pay the rent he was evicted from the land he had cultivated for generations.

As the Diwani rights went to the Company the “powerless” Nawab had powerless responsibilities while the British enjoyed powers without any responsibilities.

Allowed to collect revenue in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the Company became richer and millions of Indians were thrown into mass poverty.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Though nationalist, both moderates and extremists differed in their perception about the British providential mission in India. Compare and contrast their role in context of the Indian National Movement.**

**Approach**

*•Introduction: Briefly tell about the role of Moderates and Extremists in India’s Freedom Struggle.*

*•Body: Firstly, talk about the Perception of both Moderates and Extremists towards the British rule in India. Secondly, How the role of both of them differed has to be analysed.*

*•Conclusion : Conclude on the lines that maybe their methods were different but their Ultimate Goal was the same and how Useful were their contributions to the freedom struggle*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

Both Moderates and Extremists played their part in the Nationalist Movement and their contributions complemented each other. Moderates gained significance just after the formation of the Congress in 1885 and their relevance was witnessed till the Swaraj Movement. Swaraj Movement saw the decline of Moderates and relevance of Extremists grew from there on.

**Perception of Moderates:**

- Moderates believed that strong political connections with Britain will be in India’s social, political and cultural interests.
- Most of the moderate leaders were inspired by the ideas of western philosophers like John Stuart Mill, Edmund Burke, and Jeremy Bentham. Moderates imbibed western ideas of liberalism, democracy, equity, and freedom.
- Moderate leaders had faith in the British sense of justice and fair play.
- They believed in the constitutional means of 3Ps – prayer, petition and protest to redress their grievances.

**Perception of Extremists**

- Extremist disliked British rule and felt that it is responsible for the backwardness

and poverty of the Indian people.

- Extremists believed in Atmashakti or selfreliance as a weapon against domination of Britishers.
- Extremist were radical in their approach and demands of extremists were also aggressive like they aimed at nothing short of swaraj as it existed in the United Kingdom and its selfgoverning colonies.

Tilak even said, "Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it".

- They were ready to go beyond constitutional means and use extraconstitutional methods like noncooperation and passive resistance to achieve their goals.

### **Comparison of their Roles in India's Freedom Struggle**

#### **Role of Moderates**

a. Demands of Moderate leaders included revenue reduction, expenditure reduction, favourable exchange rates for Indian currency, representation on democratic lines in Indian legislative Council and Judiciary; demand for civil rights such as freedom of speech freedom of press.

b. A strong point made by the nationalists during this phase was about the economic drain of India. Dadabhai described the British rule as 'an everlasting and every day increasing foreign invasion' that was gradually destroying the country.

c. Even though their political demands were moderate, their economic demands were radical in nature. The Indian leaders advocated basically antiimperialist economic policies. They laid stress on basic changes in the existing economic - relations between India and England. They vehemently opposed the attempts of

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foreign rulers to convert India into supplier of raw materials and a market

for British manufacturers. They criticised the official policies on tariff, trade, transport and taxation.

These were regarded as hampering rather than helping the growth of indigenous industry.

d. They lacked faith in the common people, did not work among them and consequently failed to acquire any roots among them. Even their propaganda did not reach them.

e. General impression grew that the Moderates were political mendicants, only petitioning and praying to the British Government for petty concessions.

#### **Role of the Extremists :-**

a. Tilak resented any interference by an alien government into the domestic and private life of the people. He quarrelled with the reformers over the Age of Consent Bill in 1891. He introduced the Ganpati festival in 1893.

b. Aurobindo published 'New Lamps for Old' describing moderates' methods as political mendicancy.

c. Bengal partition gave the extremists a wider stage to attract millions to play their

role. They utilized the Vande Mataram movement as the beginning of the movement. The extremists advocated Boycott of Foreign goods, use of Swadeshi goods, national education and passive resistance.

Economic boycott of British made goods and the use of homemade or Swadeshi goods aimed at providing opportunities for work and employment.

d. Tilak threw a challenge to the National Social Conference in 1895 by not allowing it to hold its session in the Congress pavilion in Poona.

e. The extremists believed that Indians should have the key of their own house and Self Government was the goal. The New Party wanted the Indians to realise that their future rested entirely in their own hands and they could be free only if they were determined to be free.

f. The extremists emphasized the national scheme of education boycotting the Government controlled universities and colleges all over the country. Government threatened to take stern action against such boycotts. The extremists advocated for the establishment of National Universities independent of Government control. The Bengal National College was established by the Bengal Council of National Education.

#### **Conclusion:**

Even though moderates and extremists differed in their methodologies and ideas, and perception regarding British rule, their ultimate aim eventually merged to become one, that is, independence of India. Hence, both the strands, except for the Surat split, never worked against each other, rather helped each other in achieving their common goal, since their coming together in 1916 Lucknow session.

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#### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**While before 1920 peasant revolts emerged from the peasants themselves but after 1920 peasant revolts tended to come under the guidance of regional, national or urban-based political movement. Discuss.**

#### **Approach**

***-Introduction : Briefly tell about the nature of Peasant Revolts and Reasons behind them that took place before and after 1920.***

***-Body :***

- Tell about the nature of Peasant Revolts that took place before 1920 and provide some examples with brief description about them.***
- Mention the reasons for change of nature of Peasant Revolts after 1920s and how they gained more prominence and became a part of the National Movement.***
- Discuss the reasons behind such change of nature of peasant Revolts and how it aligned with the Overall National Movement.***

***-Conclusion : Conclude on the lines that how the changed Peasant Movements Contributed to the National Movement under the Regional, National Guidance.***

### Hints to write the Answer:

In the vast zamindari areas, the peasants were left to the tender mercies of the zamindars who rackrented them and compelled them to pay the illegal dues and perform begar.

When the peasants could take it no longer, they resisted against the oppression and exploitation; in various phases and ways.

#### **Peasant Revolts Before 1920s and their nature of Origin :**

**1. Indigo Revolt of 1859-60:** The planters forced the peasants to take a meagre amount as advance and enter into fraudulent contracts. This burdened them economically and peasants were not able to meet the basic agricultural and household requirements, trapping them in endless cycle of poverty and desperation. This led to the first peasant revolt, springing from the dire situation, from Peasants themselves when they asserted their right not to grow indigo under duress and resisted the physical pressure of the planters.

2. Large parts of East Bengal were engulfed by agrarian unrest during the 1870s and early 1880s because of the zamindars efforts at enhancing rents beyond legal limits. In May 1873, an agrarian league was formed in Pabna district to resist the demands of the zamindars. The league organized mass meetings of peasants. Large crowds of peasants organised themselves and marched through villages, appealing to other peasants to join them. So, here again the nature and origin of Revolt was Peasant Centric.

Peasant discontent against established authority was marked by a new feature after 1920s: they were deeply influenced by and, in their turn, had a marked impact on the ongoing struggle for national freedom.

#### **Reasons for change of nature of Peasant Revolts after 1920s are :**

##### **1. Regional Politics:**

- a. The U.P. Kisan Sabha was set up in February 1918 and it demonstrated considerable activity. By June 1919, it had established at least 450 branches in 173 tehsils of the province.
- b. Mappila resistance to landlord oppression erupted in 1921 was on a different scale. The impetus for resistance had first come from the Malabar District Congress Conference.
- c. The notax movement that was launched in Bardoli taluka of Surat district in Gujarat in 1928 was also in many ways a child of the Noncooperation days.

##### **2. National or Urban-based Politics: -**

- a. Return of Gandhiji from South Africa and his prominent role in the Champaran and Kheda involved Peasants and he led these struggles for the cause of the Peasants.
- b. Growing popularity of the Khilafatcumtenant agitation, which had received considerable impetus from the visits of Gandhiji, Shaukat Ali, and Maulana Azad.

c. The peasant movements in U.P. and Malabar were thus closely linked with the politics at the national level. In UP, the impetus had come from the Home Rule Leagues and, later, from the NonCooperation and Khilafat movement. It was difficult to distinguish between a Non cooperation meeting and a peasant rally. A similar situation arose in Malabar, where Khilafat and tenants' meetings merged into one.

d. The Civil Disobedience Movement contributed to the emerging peasant movement in another very important way; a whole new generation of young militant, political cadres was born from its womb. With the decline of the Civil Disobedience Movement, these men and women began to search for an outlet of their political energies and many of them found the answer in organizing the peasants.

e. Also, in 1934, with the formation of the Congress Socialist Party (CSP), the process of the consolidation of the Left forces received a significant push forward. This culminated into the establishment of the AllIndia Kisan Congress in Lucknow in April 1936 which later changed its name to the AllIndia Kisan Sabha.

#### **Conclusion:**

Peasant Revolts after 1920s became more closely associated with the national freedom movement as the prime cause of their exploitation was the oppression by the colonial rule. So, to counter the common evil, Peasants aligned themselves with the vision of national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Vallabhai Patel and also with many organisations and parties like Congress, Khilafat movement, Kisan Sabhas. It was able to bring their cause into the alignment with the Freedom Struggle and helped them in providing a more clear and robust way to fight for their rights by politicizing and organising them and demanding their rights through legal and peaceful means.

#### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar understood that persistent inequalities pose fundamental challenges to the economic and social well-being of the nation and people. In this context, discuss the key contributions of Dr. Ambedkar in the history of modern India.**

#### **Approach**

- *In the first part, discuss how according to Dr. Ambedkar inequalities pose fundamental challenges to the people and the nation.*
- *In this respect, list the contributions of Ambedkar in the history of modern India – during both Pre – independence and Post-independence period.*

#### **Hints to write the Answer:**

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar advocated equality and democracy in every field: social, economic and political. According to him, when a particular section of society is prevented

from fully accessing resources, markets, basic services like health and education, and the forums through which their voices can be heard in policy making processes, the result is entrenched inequality and perpetual state of poverty. This leads to spread of violence and hatred, which threatens Social Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity - the very edifice of a democratic Nation.

### **Contributions of Dr. Ambedkar to promote equality:**

#### ***Pre-Independence India:***

He spearheaded active movement against untouchability and stood for human rights and social justice. His contributions:

- Launched a three-tiered process of **Education-Agitation-Organisation** for the Dalits or Untouchables so that they can overcome social barriers.
- **Self Respect Movement** and an institution called **'Bahiskrita Hitakarini Sabha'** for upliftment of Dalits.
- **Pancha-Sutras for Dalits:** Self-Improvement, Self-Progress, Self-Dependence, Self-Respect and Self-Confidence.
- Public movements and marches to open up public drinking water resources/Temples for lower section of society. For example, Satyagraha in Mahad.
- **Poona pact** - under which in addition to the agreement on electoral constituencies, reservations were provided for untouchables in Government jobs and legislative assemblies.
- Founded Independent Labour party for political mobilization of the downtrodden.

#### ***Post-Independence India:***

- **Prominent role in drafting the Indian Constitution:** Incorporated the ideals of pluralism and inclusion in the Constitution, and made provisions in the Constitution to ensure social justice for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes.
- **Women rights:** Critical role in passage of the **Hindu Marriage Act**, which calls for a legalized divorce for women and the **Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act**, which legalized adoption of the girl child and provided detailed provision for maintenance.
- His writings and works before and after independence on diverse fields of caste, religion, philosophy, constitution, governance, economics and social justice are goldmines of knowledge and wisdom.

Thus, Ambedkar imbibed the rule of law, fraternity, equality and liberty among modern Indians. His work and concerns regarding a just and equal society remain relevant even today.

### **Question: Write in 150 Words**

**The task of integrating tribal population in post-independence India raised multiple debates and resulted in a policy that has both successes and failures to account for. Explain.**

## Approach

- *Delineate different approaches which were being debated for carving out the main tribal policy in India in the post-independence era.*
- *Discussing the Tribal Panchsheel policy, analyse the performance of the policy in terms of successes and failures since its inception.*

## Hints to write the Answer:

The task of integrating the tribal people into the mainstream was extremely complex, given the varied and isolated conditions under which they live and preservation of their different languages and distinct cultural heritage should lay at the heart of Government policy of tribal integration.

The debates on method of integration and regarding the places to be accorded to tribal in Indian society revolved around two major approaches. One was to leave the tribal people alone, uncontaminated by modern influences and second approach was that of assimilating them completely into Indian society which would entail loss of tribal identity and culture.

However the debate culminated after adoption of the famous Nehruvian approach of tribal development based on principle of self-empowerment. It favoured integration of the tribals with the Indian society while maintaining their distinct identity and culture. It advocated for the progress of the tribal areas in their own way. It adopted five fundamental principles for tribal development (Tribal Panchsheel):

- Tribals should develop along the lines of their own genius, and the imposition of alien values should be avoided.
- Tribal rights in land and forest should be respected.
- Teams of tribals should be trained in the work of administration and development.
- Tribal areas should not be over administered or overwhelmed with a multiplicity of schemes.
- Results should be judged not by statistics or the amount of money spent, but by the human character that is evolved.

Further, to give shape to the government's policy, a beginning was made in the Constitution through

Article 46 (State shall promote education and economic interests and prevent social injustice against SCs/STs) along with special legislations, special responsibility to governors, full political rights to tribal were some significant steps taken.

However, in spite of various Constitutional safeguards and the executive efforts of the Central and state governments, the welfare of tribals have been very slow.

Except in Northeast, the tribal continue to be poor, indebted, landless and unemployed.

The problem lies in weak execution of well-intentioned measures, divergence

between Central and state government policies, denial of justice to tribal due to their unfamiliarity with the laws, non-adherence to laws preventing transfer of lands to outsiders, accelerated natural resource exploitation and neglect of tribal education has worsened the condition.

However, many positive developments have aided welfare of tribals since 1947. . Legislations aimed at protecting tribal rights and interests, activities of the tribal welfare departments, adoption of the Panchayati Raj system, spread of literacy, provision of reservations in government services and in higher educational institutions and repeated elections have led to increasing confidence among the tribal.

As a result, besides demanding greater say in national economic development, they have also been politically and socially empowered

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

The isolation of the region, its complex social character and its backwardness have all resulted in a complicated set of demands from different states of the North-East since independence. Discuss.

**Approach**

- State the factors which make the North-East region isolated from mainstream India.
- Mention the complex social characters and resultant backwardness.
- Discuss the resultant complicated set of demands and solution.

**Hints to write the Answer:**

North-East India consisting of eight states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim has witnessed many conflict issues like ethnic unrest, insurgency, and illegal immigration since independence. The reasons of such conflicts are mostly due to following factors:

**Isolation of the Region:**

North East is a land locked region with 98% of its boundary as international borders. The region has a poor geographical connectivity with rest of the country as it is connected to other parts only via a narrow strip of 22 km known as Siliguri corridor. British authorities with the help of Christian missionaries followed a deliberate policy of political isolation of the region by fending away nationalist influence and encouraging their separation from rest of India.

**Complex social character:**

The region inhabits over 200 of the 635 tribal groups in the country. More than 220 languages are spoken in the region. Such diversity is not seen in other tribal regions

of the country. Also, most States in this region underwent major demographic changes due to influx of migrants from unstable neighboring states and countries. This often results into conflicting demands creating tension in the region. For example, in Nagaland, the demand for a greater Naga state by merging some of the areas of Manipur and Myanmar based on ethnicity is in direct conflict with other regions.

**Backwardness:**

Because of its location and terrain and also lack of focus on the part of the successive governments after independence, the region didn't secure equal benefits in the process of development. The population growth rate has exceeded 200% between 1951-2001, generating great stress on livelihoods and adding to land fragmentation. There has been almost no industrial growth in the region to fulfill the aspirations of growing population.

All these factors resulted into socio-political disturbances and unrest and have resulted into complicated set of demands from different states which can be categorized as following:

**1. Demands for political autonomy** arose for the first time when the non-Assamese felt that Assam government was imposing Assamese language on them. There were protests and riots throughout the State leading to formation of new states such as Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Manipur out of Assam. Similarly, there are demands for autonomy by different tribes in a state. Since, it is not possible to make smaller and smaller states, thus constitutional provisions like 6th schedule are used to pacify such demands.

**2. Secessionist movements** demanding a separate country are also faced by the region. Two states - Mizoram and Nagaland had strong secessionist movements. After the 1986 peace agreement, Mizoram was granted full-fledged statehood with special powers making it one of the most peaceful and developed state in the region. However, the problem in Nagaland still awaits a final resolution.

**3. Movements against outsiders:** the large-scale migration into the north-east pitted the 'local' communities against people who were seen as 'outsiders' or migrants. These latecomers, either from India or abroad, are seen as encroachers on scarce resources like land and potential competitors to employment opportunities and political power. This issue has taken political and sometimes violent form in many States of the north-east.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Equitable distribution of land plays an important role in bringing about socio-economic transformation. In this regard, analyse the progress of land reforms measures taken in India since independence**

**Approach**

- *Outlining the concept of land reforms, mention how equitable distribution of land plays an important role in bringing about socio-economic transformation.*
- *State the achievements as well as failures.*
- *Mention the factors for tardy progress and suggest solutions for successful implementation.*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

Land reforms refer to the institutional measures directed towards altering the existing pattern of ownership, tenancy and management of land. Equitable distribution of land plays in bringing about socio-economic transformation through:

- Restructuring of agrarian relations to achieve an egalitarian structure
- Elimination of exploitation in land relations and actualization of the goal of “land to the tiller”
- Improvement of socio-economic conditions of the rural poor by widening their land base
- Increasing agricultural production and productivity
- Facilitating land-based development of rural poor
- Infusion of a great measure of equality in local institutions

**Progress of land reforms measures taken in India since independence**

Post-independence, the Indian Government was committed to land reforms and consequently laws were passed with the aim of abolishing landlordism, re-distributing land through imposition of ceilings, protection of tenants and consolidation of land-holdings.

Land reforms gradually started transforming the colonial agricultural structure without facing any major backlash in the form of violence. One of the significant achievements of these acts was the abolition of absentee landlordism in several parts of India. It effectively ended landlords rack-renting the peasantry as well as extracting illegal cesses or labour (begar). The stranglehold of the money lender over the peasantry has also considerably weakened.

However, the problem of the landless or the near landless, constituting nearly half the agricultural population has persisted. Land reforms were half-hearted with regard to the imposition of ceilings and security of tenure. There is the continued concentration of land in the hands of the upper strata of the rural society. Further, a very large number of tenants were actually evicted in the name of selfcultivation. Major factors responsible for the tardy progress are the lack of political will, absence of pressure from below, inadequate policy instruments, legal hurdles, absence of correct-up-dated land records and the lack of financial support. There is a need for political commitment at the top, administrative preparedness, the provision of financial resources, breaking up the landlord-tenant nexus, effective implementation

of ceiling legislation and distribution of surplus land and simplifying legal procedures and creating awareness among potential beneficiaries. Considering that majority of the landlords in India are marginal and small, the concept of contract farming can also be explored.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

Even though the leading Indian Nationalists had long been sensible of the power of the mother tongue to rouse and move, linguistic reorganisation of states after independence took some time to become a reality. Explain.

**Approach**

- *State the position of the leaders vis-à-vis linguistic division of states during the British rule.*
- *Give the reasons for their opposition to linguistic reorganisation.*
- *Discuss the events and issues of linguistic reorganization of states in independent India and the reasons responsible for its gradual acceptance.*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

During the British rule, state boundaries were drawn either on the basis of administrative convenience or they coincided with the territories annexed by the government. Indian nationalist leaders rejected these divisions as artificial and advocated linguistic principle as the basis of formation of states. Further, after the Congress session in Nagpur in 1920, provincial Congress Committees were based on linguistic divisions. However, in post-independence India, following concerns were expressed regarding the linguistic reorganisation of states:

- The leaders felt that carving out states on linguistic basis could lead to disintegration.
- It would also draw attention away from the social and economic challenges that India faced.

The Government of India (GoI) formed the Dhar Commission and JVP Committee in 1948 to determine the feasibility of reorganization of states on linguistic basis. Both rejected language as the basis of reorganization of states and preferred administrative convenience.

But, this view of government was resisted and demands were raised from different regions for reorganization of states on linguistic basis. In 1953, the GoI was forced to create the first linguistic state, Andhra Pradesh, by separating the Telugu speaking areas from Madras state. This was triggered by a prolonged agitation following the eventual death of Potti Sriramalu for the cause.

The creation of Andhra intensified the demand for creation of other states on linguistic basis. Thus, GOI formed the Fazl Ali Commission in this regard in 1955, which broadly accepted language as the basis of reorganization of states, but rejected the theory of 'one language, one state'.

With time, the demands for creation of linguistic reorganization of states continued and resulted in bifurcation of Bombay in 1960 into Maharashtra and Gujarat for Marathi-speaking and Gujarati-speaking population respectively. Similarly, in 1966, the Shah Commission recommended bifurcation of the state of Punjab to create Haryana for Hindi-speaking people and Punjab for Punjabi-speaking people. Eventually, other states were created on the basis of cultural homogeneity, economic development, etc.

Even today, language continues to be a pertinent factor in the demand for a new state. For e.g. demand of Gorkhaland state by the Nepali speaking population, but these demands are not considered as secessionist in nature anymore. Rather, they are considered as demands arising out of need for reorganisation on the basis of cultural homogeneity.

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

**Highlight the root causes of what culminated in the 1980's as a crisis in Punjab. Enlist the steps that were taken to diffuse it?**

**Approach**

- *Giving a brief background of the Punjab Crisis, discuss the root causes that led to it.*
- *Bringing out the steps that were taken to handle the situation, analyze their effectiveness in terms of outcome.*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

During the 1980's, Punjab was engulfed by a separatist movement which got transformed into a campaign of terror.

The genesis of the problem lay in the growth of communalism in Punjab in the course of 20th century which can be attributed to various factors like:

- Partitioning Punjab twice i.e. once during partition of India and another due to linguistic reorganization of state, aggravated the disharmony between Hindus and Sikhs in the state.
- Socio-economic inequality aggravated by the Green revolution led to grievances, which were utilized by communal forces like Akalis and Khalistanis.
- Rise of Niarankari sects and sidelining the demands of Akali Dal by the Central government led to Sikh extremism gaining ground in Punjab.

- Handling of Amritsar massacre and Kanpur massacre of 1978 by the administration and judiciary was seen as apathy towards Sikh community which fanned dissent.
- Emergence of Khalistani ideology under Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala who took the path of terrorism, thus resulting in the peak of Punjab crisis.

#### **Handling of the crisis:**

In the initial years, Indira Gandhi's policy hovered between that of appeasement and tactical maneuvering instead of boldly confronting the communal and separatist challenges. Important in this respect was the failure of the government to act at the time of AS Atwal's murder in 1983, which left the people of Punjab outraged and militancy grew by leaps and bounds.

After meeting with a dead end with respect to political approach, the government took to military action, code-named Operation Blue Star which turned into a full scale battle. It can be said that the operation was hastily conceived and poorly executed without any proper planning. However, despite its negative repercussions, Operation Blue Star had established that Indian state was strong enough to deal with secession and terrorism.

In later years, government also resorted to negotiations and appeasements, but a hard policy towards terrorism was followed from mid 1991 onwards and by 1993, Punjab was virtually freed from terrorism.

The Punjab experience is quite relevant to the country as a whole as it could efface similar in futures in other parts of it

#### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**Critically evaluate the role of caste based mobilizations and movements in improving the social, economic and political status of scheduled castes and backward classes in post-independence India.**

#### **Approach**

- *State the caste-based mobilizations and movements in post-independence India.*
- *Critically evaluate its role in the improvement of the social, economic & political status of lower castes.*

#### **Hints to write the Answer:**

In post-independence India, caste-based mobilisations and movements were initiated in order to improve the social, economic and political status of the lower castes and to highlight and protest the age-old injustices.

#### **These movements include:**

- **The Dalit Movement under Ambedkar:** The Dalit Movement that had gained traction during the British rule, continued seeking justice under B. R. Ambedkar. He

demanded economic and social rights for the downtrodden. Believing that the Scheduled Castes (SCs) have to continually fight oppression within the Hindu fold, Ambedkar and his followers formally converted to Buddhism in 1956.

- **Dalit Panthers:** It was a social organization, founded in Maharashtra in 1972 to combat caste discrimination. The members were young SC men and Neo-Buddhists who were mostly literary figures. The movement was radical due to its thrust on revolution. However, nothing concrete evolved out of the movement.

- **Emergence of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and other caste-based parties:** In North India, the BSP was formed in 1984 under the leadership of Kanshiram. The party represented the Bahujans i.e. SCs, STs, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and religious minorities. The BSP succeeded in securing a sufficient base among SCs in UP, Punjab and MP. Similar parties such as the Samajwadi Party in UP, Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar focused on the downtrodden groups as their vote bank.

- **Agitations for OBC status:** There has been increased demand and agitations from various social groups to be included in the OBC list to avail reservation benefits. These include ongoing agitations such as the Jat Reservation Agitation (2016) and the Patidar agitation (2015) of Haryana and Gujarat respectively.

However, caste-based mobilisations and movements led to fragmentation and divided leadership, which retarded the development and amelioration of the Dalit community. For e.g. the leadership of the Republican Party of India (RPI), Dalit Panthers, Backward and Minorities Central Employees Federation (BAMCEF) and recently of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), to quote just a few. Further, the problems faced by community include:

- Despite the movements aimed at uplifting the lower castes, they continue to face violence and discrimination. For e.g., Una violence in 2016, Bhima Koregaon violence in 2018, etc.

- These movements could still not successfully eradicate the malpractices against the castes such as manual scavenging, confinement of the “untouchables” to menial work and sometimes lifethreatening sanitation work.

- Further, the lower castes face issues such as low literacy rate, lack of land ownership, low income, employment in caste-based occupations, poor health indicators, etc. that still need to be rectified.

- Over the years, due to the vote-bank politics, the real issue of caste upliftment has been left in the lurch and instead, the non-deserving landowning, affluent sections of the society are demanding their share of reservation benefits.

Thus, the results of these movements and efforts of the caste leaders still leave much to be desired for the true representation as well as socio-economic and political empowerment of the community.

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

Communal consciousness arose as a result of socio-political and economic transformation of colonial India. Examine.

### Approach

- *Briefly define communal consciousness in Indian context.*
- *Then highlight how it has socio-economic and political roots.*
- *Discuss the contribution of colonialism in this.*

### Hints to write the Answer:

Communalism is the belief that people who follow same religion have similar political, economic, social and cultural interests and these interests are divergent from interests of the followers of other religion.

Rise of communal consciousness in India was a modern phenomenon when the politics of popular participation and mobilization emerged, especially after 1857. This consciousness arose as a result of the transformation of the Indian society under colonialism and the need to struggle against it.

#### **Roots in colonial socio-political transformation**

- **Policy of divide and rule** which manifested itself in partition of Bengal in 1905, feature of separate electorate under Government of India Act, 1909, communal award in 1932 etc. Communal press & persons and agitations were shown extraordinary tolerance to ensure that emergence of a common united feeling of nationalism becomes difficult.

- **Rise of revivalism in religions:** The reform movements arose as a result of introduction of modern education in India. However, it also led to revivalist movements as well in both Hindu and Muslim Communities. For e.g. The Wahabis crusade against all non-Muslims and aim to establish Dar-ullslam was as odious to Hindus as Dayanand's aim of Shuddhi was unpalatable to Muslims.

#### **Roots in colonial Character of Indian economy**

- Communalism was the by-product of the under-development of Indian economy under colonial rule. Economic stagnation due to absence of modern industrial development and under-growth of social sector like health and education created huge unemployment. Especially educated middle and lower middle class were affected. This created a fertile ground for division and antagonism within Indian society.

- In pursuit of the government jobs, middle class also used communal card to enhance their capacity to compete. This gave a certain aura of validity to communal politics.

- As the agricultural growth became stagnant, the rural youth flocked town to get government jobs and professions. This widened the social base of communalism, covering rural upper strata of peasants and landlords.

However, communal consciousness was not just the product of colonial rule. They

could not have used it unless they found some fractures within the society. In fact, nationalist themselves introduced strong Hindu religious element in their propagandas such as Tilak's propagation of the Shivaji and Ganapati festivals, Aurobindo Ghose's semi-mystical concept of India as mother and nationalism as a religion etc.

People like Syed Ahmed Khan, who despite of having scientific and rational approach, projected Indian Muslims as a separate community having interest different from others.

Associations such as Muslims League and Hindu Mahasabha were established to look after the interests of particular communities. Religion was also used to mobilize masses after 1937.

Thus, communalism in India arose as a result of socio-political and economic transformation of colonial India, but was also a product of divisions within the Indian society.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

Even though the South Americans welcomed the formulation of Monroe doctrine, it's later interpretation became a pretext for United States' intervention. Elaborate with examples.

**Approach**

- Briefly write about the Monroe Doctrine and its main prepositions.
- Citing examples, explain the response of South American countries towards the Monroe doctrine.
- Discuss various interpretations of the Monroe Doctrine which later became a pretext for United States' intervention.

**Hints to write the Answer:**

The Monroe Doctrine (1823) was a foreign policy statement made by former US President James Monroe. It became a basic safeguard mechanism of the US foreign policy especially when many European powers were trying to reclaim their colonies in Latin America after the defeat of Napoleon. As per the original doctrine:

- Western hemisphere is no longer an open area for influence or colonisation by any external power.
- The US would not interfere in the internal affairs of European nations. Similarly, European powers should keep away from Western hemisphere nations' affairs.
- The US will defend the independence of Latin American countries against European aggression by treating any colonization attempt as a hostile act against the US.

Most of the Latin American states welcomed the Monroe doctrine, because they felt

that the doctrine would guarantee their independence against foreign intervention. For instance, Venezuela maintained that it will be the protectorate of the US and the UK and rejected claims of Spain. Brazil proposed an alliance with the US to which other Hispanic American republics were also invited to join. Similarly, Chile expressed its gratitude for supporting the independence of the new states and protecting them against colonization.

However, the fears of few Latin American countries, that US may use this doctrine as a pretext for intervention in their sovereign rights, came true when Roosevelt added the “**Roosevelt Corollary**” or “**Big Stick**” to the Monroe Doctrine in 1904, after the Venezuela crisis of 1902 and 1903. It sought legitimate right to intervention in the internal affairs of Latin American countries for their refusal to pay their debts to banking institutions and to keep the European powers out of the Continent.

Implicitly, it was an open invitation to invade and occupy the Latin states whenever US business interests were supposedly threatened by domestic nationalism or outside business interests. For instance, President John F. Kennedy used the doctrine to defend American interests during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

Hence, what started in 1823 as an attempt to check the growing influence of the European powers, has since become a rationale for American unilateralism and interventionism in various countries.

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

**Luddite rebellion was one of the reactions to the negative fallouts of the industrial revolution. Elucidate.**

### **Approach**

- *Give a brief background of the responses to the Industrial revolution.*
- *Enumerate the effects of Industrial Revolution upon masses.*
- *Discuss the consequences of Luddite Rebellion.*

### **Hints to write the Answer:**

Along with the promise of great progress, the advent of industrial revolution was also marked by various negative fallouts. This led to multiple reactions including:

- Luddite Rebellion
- Robert Owen and Utopian Socialism
- Legislations such as the Factory Acts
- Karl Marx and Socialism

The Luddite rebellion, 1811-1817, was one of the earliest reactions. Named after its charismatic leader General Ned Ludd, it started from Nottinghamshire during the harsh economic climate of the Napoleonic Wars and spread to other industrial areas

such as Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

Luddites were a group of English textile workers whose traditional trade and community pattern was threatened by usage of machines. In late 18th century, the conditions of these knitters worsened due to:

- invention of labour-saving machinery
- exploitation by their masters
- change in fashion
- rising population

Coupled with these were the other effects of industrial revolution with larger social impact:

- **Average life span of workers lowered:** due to epidemics caused by pollution of water (Cholera, Typhoid) and air (Tuberculosis).
- **Changing social profile:** Women and children started working in factories to supplement the meagre wages of men.
- **Poor condition of workers:** They had to work for long, with unbroken hours, under strict discipline and subjected to sharp forms of punishments. Machineries were very unsafe, especially for the children. There was no compensation even for life threatening injuries.
- **Glaring social and economic inequalities:** Concentration of economic power in few hands resulted in shocking social inequalities and created wide gulf between rich and poor.
- **Capitalist and worker's segregation:** While workers lived in overcrowded quarters without access to clean drinking water, the rich lived in suburbs with cleaner air and safe water. **Luddites feared that the time spent** learning the skills of their craft would go to waste as machines would replace their role in the industry.

As a result, Luddites started destroying weaving machinery as a form of protest. In this situation, two Combination Acts, 1795 were passed which banned any form of protest against the King, Constitution and the Government.

Due to political and economic compulsions, Luddites turned to direct methods and targeted new machinery and the industrialists. However, Luddites were not afraid of technology and did not attempt to eliminate technology out of fear. Their goal was instead to gain a better bargaining position with their employers and better working conditions. The enactment of various labor regulation laws banning child labor or fixing working hours between 1819 to 1847 can be seen as effects of this movement.

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

**“Historical events are to be evaluated in terms of their consequences”. In this context, critically assess the legacy of the October 1917 revolution in Russia.**

**Approach**

- *Briefly discuss October revolution and its causes.*
- *Examine the positive and negative consequences of October revolution.*
- *Conclude with its contemporary relevance.*

### **Hints to write the Answer:**

The October Revolution of 1917 was a critical event in the collapse of Russian empire under Tsar Nicholas II and the rise of Marxian socialism under Lenin and Bolsheviks. Failure of the provisional government post February Revolution and distress caused due to WW-I were the main causes of October revolution.

#### • **Positive outcomes**

- o After the Tsar's abdication, Russia backed out of World War I.
- o Countries across the globe were introduced to Karl Marx's economic idea of communism; Russia formed Soviet Union with its neighbouring countries such as Ukraine and Belarus, which later incorporated parts of Europe and Asia.
- o After the revolution, Lenin created free education throughout Russia and made eight-hour working day, which greatly improved working conditions. Three years later, he introduced free universal healthcare.
- o New Economic Policy of Lenin led to revival of agricultural production.
- o Lenin made the right to divorce, right to maternity leave, voting, education, standing for office and abortion all legal practices for women within Russia thus lowering gender inequality.

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#### • **Negative Outcomes**

- o Curbs on freedom; for example, total control on media including newspaper, cinema and literature; restrictions on religion etc.
- o It led to a broad division among the countries into Communist and Capitalist.
- o Treaty of Brest-Litovsk that ended Russia's participation in WW-I, contained harsh terms, such as Russia giving up a massive part of her lands – having economic consequences.
- o Stalin's Five-Year Plan did not improve the living condition of the peasantry.

#### • **Present day relevance/evaluation**

- o October revolution was a critical step in turning the USSR into a world superpower. Communism gave the world an alternative to Capitalism and still influences countries like China, North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, and Laos.
- o The Soviet Union created records, equally relevant today in wiping out poverty, backwardness and illiteracy, in establishing equality among peoples and nationalities, between men and women.

Thus, Russian revolution inspired an immense development in the class consciousness and political awareness of the working class and oppressed masses throughout the world.

**Question: Write in 250 Words**

The changes brought about by Balkan wars eventually precipitated the expulsion of the Ottoman Empire both from Balkan territory and from Europe. Examine.

**Approach**

•*Introduction: Introduce the Ottoman Empire and the process of its gradual disintegration.*

•*Body: Discuss the two Balkan Wars briefly. Highlight how the wars accelerated the First World War. Elucidate how the war eventually led to the expulsion of the Ottoman empire.*

•*Conclusion: Conclude by highlighting the role of both internal weaknesses and external forces in the decline of the Ottoman Empire*

**Hints to write the Answer:**

At its peak in the 1500s, the Ottoman Empire was one of the biggest military and economic powers in the world, controlling an expanse that included not just its base in Asia Minor but also much of southeastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Though the Ottoman Empire persisted for 600 years, it succumbed to what most historians describe as a long, slow decline, despite efforts to modernize. Finally, after fighting on the side of Germany in World War I and suffering defeat, the empire was dismantled by treaty and came to an end in 1922, when the last Ottoman Sultan, Mehmed VI, was deposed and left the capital of Constantinople (now Istanbul) in a British warship. From Ottoman empire's remains arose the modern nation of Turkey.

**BALKAN WARS**

The fall of the Ottoman Empire is sourced to innumerable reasons. The crisis of the empire was both internal and external. Amongst all the causes one of the prime ones is the Balkan wars which brought irreversible changes in the region. It hastened a war in Europe which Bismarck had warned will be caused by an issue emanating in the Balkans. It, therefore, becomes imperative to understand the Balkan wars and how it precipitated the First World War to eventual Ottoman downfall.

1. **Balkan Wars, (1912–13), were two successive military conflicts that** had their origin in the discontent produced in **Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece by disorder in Macedonia.**
2. The **Young Turk Revolution of 1908** brought into power in Constantinople (now Istanbul) a ministry determined on reform **but insisting on the principle of centralized control.**
3. There were, therefore, no concessions to the Christian nationalities of Macedonia, which consisted not only of Macedonians but also of Serbs, Bulgarians, Greeks, and Vlachs.

4. **The First Balkan War** began when **Serbia, Greece, Montenegro and Bulgaria (calling themselves the Balkan league)** launched a series of attacks on Turkey. In the First Balkan War, a loose alliance of Balkan States eliminated the Ottoman Empire from **Balkan territory**.

5. Together with the **German government**, Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, arranged a **peace conference in London**. He was anxious to avoid the conflict spreading.

6. **The resulting settlement divided up the former Turkish lands among the Balkan states.**

However, the Serbs were not happy with their gains: they wanted Albania, which would give them an outlet to the sea, but the Austrians, with German and British support, insisted that Albania should become an independent state. This was a **deliberate Austrian move to prevent Serbia from becoming more powerful.**

7. **The Second Balkan War was the outcome** of Bulgarian dissatisfaction. The Bulgarians were **dissatisfied with their gains from the peace settlement and they blamed Serbia.**

8. Bulgaria, therefore, attacked Serbia, but their plan misfired when Greece, Romania and Turkey rallied to support Serbia. **The Bulgarians were defeated and by the Treaty of Bucharest (1913), forfeited most of their gains from the first war.**

#### **WORLD WAR I AND EXPULSION OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE FROM EUROPE**

1. The Balkan wars **hastened the crisis of the region** and ultimately created the context of deep trouble after the assassination of Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand.

2. The **Austrians blamed the Serb government** and sent a harsh ultimatum. The Serbs accepted most of the demands in it, but the Austrians, with a promise of German support, were determined to use the incident as an excuse for war. Soon after, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

3. The **Russians, anxious not to let the Serbs down again**, ordered a general mobilization eventually leading to **all other major powers becoming part of the war** due to a web of secret alliances.

4. **The outcome of the war, the final nail in the ottoman empire:** Siding with Germany in World War I may have been the most significant reason for the Ottoman Empire's demise.

5. Before the war, the Ottoman Empire **had signed a secret treaty with Germany, which turned out to be a very bad choice.** In the conflict that followed, the empire's army fought a brutal, bloody campaign on the Gallipoli peninsula to protect Constantinople from invading Allied forces in 1915 and 1916.

6. **Ultimately, the empire lost nearly a half a million soldiers, most of them to disease, plus about 3.8 million more who were injured or became ill.** In October

1918, the empire signed an armistice with Great Britain, and quit the war.

### **OTHER CAUSES FOR DISINTEGRATION OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

1. **A backward agrarian economy:** While the industrial revolution swept through Europe in the 1700s and 1800s, the Ottoman economy remained dependent upon farming. The empire lacked the factories and mills to keep up with Great Britain, France and even Russia.

2. **Lack of cohesiveness::** At its apex, the Ottoman empire included Bulgaria, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Macedonia, Romania, Syria, parts of Arabia and the north coast of Africa. Even if outside powers hadn't eventually undermined the empire, it could not have remained intact and evolved into a modern democratic nation. Homogenous societies democratize more easily than heterogeneous ones.

3. **Internal rebellions:** The various peoples who were part of the empire grew more and more rebellious, and by the 1870s, the empire had to allow Bulgaria and other countries to become independent, and ceded more and more territory. After losing the 1912-1913 Balkan Wars to a coalition that included some of its former imperial possessions, the empire was forced to give up its remaining European territory.

4. **Low literacy levels:** Despite efforts to improve education in the 1800s, the Ottoman Empire lagged far behind its European competitors in literacy, so by 1914, it's estimated that only between 5 and 10 percent of its inhabitants could read. The human resources of the Ottoman empire, like the natural resources, were comparatively undeveloped.

5. **External forces:** The ambition of European powers also helped to hasten the Ottoman Empire's demise. Russia and Austria both supported rebellious nationalists in the Balkans to further their own influence. And the British and the French were eager to carve away territory controlled by the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East and North Africa.

6. **A destructive rivalry with Russia.:** Neighboring Czarist Russia, whose sprawling realm included Muslims as well, developed into an increasingly bitter rival. The Russian Empire was the single greatest threat to the Ottoman empire, and it was a truly existential threat

*Therefore, the wars in the Balkans played a central role in precipitating the first world war and the ultimate demise of the Ottoman empire both from the region and Europe. However, it would be a folly to not give due importance to the internal weakness of the empire. This includes a weak industrial base during the golden age of industrialisation, poor economy and human resource development coupled with internal frictions between different ethnicities.*

**Question: Write in 150 Words**

Discuss whether the Second World War was a conflict of ideologies or an inevitable international conflict resulting from pursuit of imperial interests.

### Approach

- *Discuss briefly the events culminating in the Second World War.*
- *Break them down into factors relating to ideology and imperial interests and weigh them against each other.*
- *Also, discuss the inevitability of the war.*
- *Conclude suitably.*

### Hints to write the Answer:

The international tensions that culminated in the Second World War were in part due to ideological conflicts and in part due to pursuit of imperial interests leading to their alignment in two rival groups.

#### **War as a conflict of ideologies:**

The First World War saw a triumph of liberal democracy across Europe. However, within a decade of this triumph, Europe was confronted with the complete denial of democratic ideals and institutions.

Dictatorships sprang up in the form of Communist Russia and Fascist Italy and Nazi dictatorship under Hitler. Even though these dictatorships held differing views on the vital problems of their nations, they were united in their denunciation of the fundamental ideals of democracy. They stood for a totalitarian state and single party government.

The rapid spread of these ideas constituted a serious threat to the democratic ways of the Western Europe. Also, Fascism was at loggerheads with Communism and wanted to check its progress.

Resultantly, a triangular contest began to rage between the ideological forces of Communism, Fascism and Democracy.

#### **War resulting from imperial interests:**

While the British, French, Soviets and Americans had large colonial empires for access to much needed raw materials, countries such as Germany, Italy and Japan did not. In addition, the deterioration of international trade led to the formation of more regional trade blocs with the 'have' nations forming blocs along colonial lines, like Great Britain's Imperial Preference system.

While "have-not" nations looked to form their own regional trade blocs, they found it increasingly necessary to use military force to annex territories with the much-needed resources. Such military force required extensive rearmament. But, rearmament also reinforced the need for more raw materials and consequently the need for territorial expansion.

Such imperialist conquests like Japan's invasion of Manchuria in the early 1930s,

Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and Germany's annexation of most of Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia in 1938, were all manifestations of the need to expand territories.

### **Inevitability of the War**

The debate around inevitability of the war is still ongoing. While some historians theorize that Hitler had his blueprint ready for action, war was inevitable sooner or later. They opine that if the treaty of Versailles had been revised in time, the war could have been averted. Other historians blame appeasement suggesting that Britain and France should have taken a firm line with Hitler. Some even accuse USSR of making the war inevitable by signing non-aggressive pact with Germany. It can be seen that while each of these factors had a role to play, culmination into a war needed much more than just ideology or imperialist ambitions alone.

In conclusion, while it can be said that conflict of ideologies was no doubt an important factor, but the incentive to join a particular ideological alignment was furthering of national interests and not commitment to ideology alone. To attribute the Second World War to either of these two factors exclusively would be a gross oversimplification.

### **Question: Write in 250 Words**

**The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) though fought locally, had far reaching and widespread significance. Explain.**

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### **Approach**

- *Briefly start with decoding the given statement.*
- *Explain how the war, despite being local, had a far reaching significance.*
- *Conclude suitably.*

### **Hints to write the Answer:**

From 1936-1939, a civil war raged in Spain between those loyal to the newly established Republican government and those who favored a conservative, militaristic system. The war has often been portrayed as a struggle between democracy and fascism, particularly due to the political climate surrounding it. Spain's army rose up against its first left-wing Republican government in July 1936. The civil war that ensued is often viewed as a precursor to the Second World War for the way it sucked in the wider international community

Though, it started with right-wing resistance against the reforms such as restoring political liberties, meeting peasant's demands for land etc. introduced by the newly elected left-wing government, but this 'local' war affected the events well beyond

the national boundaries of Spain.

### **Significance of the Civil War:**

- Spain was the first victim of joint German-Italian aggression (the fascist forces), and served as a testing ground for them in Europe.
- In this, the prospective parties in the Second World War fought a proxy battle i.e. the USSR supported the leftist government while the fascist powers supported the right wing rebellions.
- The super powers, that included the US and the UK, adopted the policy of non-intervention emboldening the aggressive plans of fascist powers against other countries.
- The most recognizable aspect of the civil war was the presence of the International Brigades, the volunteers who came from across Europe and America to fight against the fascist forces of Spain.

Even Jawaharlal Nehru went to Spain to express solidarity of Indian community towards the Spanish people.

- This war roused the conscience of the world against the crimes committed by the fascist forces, which was instrumental in fighting them during the Second World War. Though conflict started off more like a First World War battle with use of trench warfare, but by the end, it was a precursor to techniques to be used in the Second World War. Largely because of the support of Germans, there were instances of usage of air-ground coordination. The Spanish Civil War is often described as the “Dress rehearsal” of the Second World War in which the fascist countries tested their new weapons on the battlefields of Spain.

### **Question: Write in 150 Words**

**Fascism and Nazism both emerged in an unstable Europe, not only causing further instability but virtually destroying the continent in their wake. Explain.**

### **Approach**

- *Define Fascism & Nazism briefly.*
- *Discuss how its growth in Europe was related to the prevailing instability in Europe.*
- *Mention how it caused further instability & destruction in Europe.*
- *Conclude suitably.*

### **Hints to write the Answer:**

**Fascism** is a form of radical authoritarian nationalism, characterized by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition and control of industry and commerce that came to prominence in early 20th century Europe. The first fascist movements emerged in Italy during World War I before it spread to other European countries.

Opposed to liberalism, Marxism and anarchism, fascism is usually placed on the far-right within the traditional left–right spectrum. **Nazism** was just an extreme & violent form of Fascism in Germany with extreme hate towards Jews.

One of the main reasons for the growth of Fascism in Italy & Nazism in Germany is attributed to the prevailing instability in Europe i.e.

- **Political instability:** The emergence of weak, unstable & indecisive coalition governments in many of the European countries including Italy & Germany, after World War I, led to a decline in the credibility of the Parliamentary form of government.
- **Economic instability:** WW1 led to high war expenditure for the participating countries. Italy came under a huge debt, while Germany had to pay the war reparations imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. Further compounded by the Great Depression, this led to economic instability which further aided the growth of Fascism & Nazism in Europe.
- **Social instability:** The Germans & Italians started resorting to Fascists leaders to end their humiliation caused by the war guilt, treaty of Versailles and betrayal by Allied partners & bring the past glory back.
- **Fear of Communism:** The political instability, communist violence & strikes in the European countries aggravated fears of Russia-like Communist revolution & takeover. So, the elites, landowners, industrialists, armies etc lent their support to the Fascist/Nazi parties.

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• **Other factors:**

o Due to the ineffectiveness of the League of Nations, a global stabilizing force was missing to arrest the growth of Fascism.

o The leadership vacuum in Europe, after people had lost confidence in the WW1 leaders, pushed Hitler & Mussolini to be seen as new leaders

However, the growth of Fascism & Nazism only led to more instability manifested through:

- Coup d 'etat or Putsch by the fascists against the ruling government.
- Violence against the socialists & the communists.
- Ban on all the parties except the Fascist/Nazi party.
- Establishment of a Totalitarian state.
- War militarization needed more debt, which led to further economic instability.
- Creating conditions ripe for Civil war in other countries to gain allies e.g. Spanish Civil war
- Hostile takeovers of other countries e.g. Czechoslovakia by Germany. Policy of Appeasement only aided the evil designs of the Fascists/Nazis.

It finally led to destruction in Europe in the form of Second World War where millions perished & many more got displaced & injured.