

# UPSC MAINS 2021

## GS PAPER - 1

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

1. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
2. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
3. Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
4. Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.
5. Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
6. What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
7. Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
8. Why is India considered as a sub-continent? Elaborate your answer. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
9. Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge systems when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
10. Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
11. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. (Answer in 250 words) (15)
12. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (Answer in 250 words) (15)

13. "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. (Answer in 250 words) (15)
14. Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. (Answer in 250 words) (15)
15. How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. (Answer in 250 words) (15)
16. Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. (Answer in 250 words) (15)
17. What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (Answer in 250 words) (15)
18. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (Answer in 250 words) (15)
19. What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? (Answer in 250 words) (15)
20. How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. (Answer in 250 words) (15)



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**1. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture.**

*Hint:*

- Bhakti movement is a cultural revolution in the history of medieval India.
- Bhakti literature reflects a new form of devotion to God.

**Nature of Bhakti Literature:**

- Shift to spiritual themes.
- It introduced simple and accessible styles.
- Sizeable body of literature in regional languages like Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Punjabi, Maithili etc.
- It used simple regional languages for spreading the ideas.
- It gave Inter-regional philosophical appeal.

**Contribution:**

- Important poets of the time were Kabir, Nanak, Mirabai, Jayadeva, Shankaradeva, and Madhavdeva etc. They have contributed to Indian culture with several texts and preaching.

**2. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj.**

*Hint:*

- The dawn of the 19th century witnessed the birth of socio-religious reform movements.

**Brahmo Samaj:**

- Founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy with aim to worship the eternal God.
- Focused on prayers, meditation and reading of the scriptures.
- Attacked social evils like superstitions, casteism and untouchability.
- Worked for respectable status of women.
- Just centered in Calcutta.

### **Young Bengal Movement:**

- A young Anglo-Indian, Henry Vivian Derozio (1809-31) was the leader and inspirer of this progressive trend.
- French Revolution was inspiration to the youth.
- Supported women's rights and education.
- Carried forward Ram Mohan Roy's tradition of public education on social, economic and political questions.
- Way ahead of its time

### **3. Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States.**

#### *Hint:*

- Rulers of the princely states were not uniformly enthusiastic about integrating their domains into independent India.

#### **Administrative issues:**

- Bhopal, Travancore and Hyderabad announced that they did not intend to join either dominion.
- Princely States started negotiating with Pakistan or European countries to either accede or remain independent.

#### **Socio-cultural problems:**

- Several princely states had diverse population. Some of the states that had Muslim population were ruled by a Hindu king while others that had Hindu majority population were ruled by a Muslim leader.
- Efforts put by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and V. P. Menon.

### **4. Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.**

#### *Hint:*

- It is movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope under the effect of gravity.
- Increasingly becoming serious disaster risk.
- Compared to the Himalayas, the Western Ghats along the west coast are relatively tectonically stable. Western Ghats is composed of basalt rocks which show great resistance to erosion and denudation.

#### **Causes in Himalayan Region:**

- Seismology
- Large Hydel projects
- Geomorphology
- Steepness
- unplanned growth of Tourism Climate Change:

#### **Causes in Western Ghats:**

- Rainfall
- Mechanical weathering due to temperature changes
- Anthropogenic Activities
- Windmill projects

### **5. Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss.**

#### *Hint:*

- Gondwanaland was an ancient supercontinent that broke up about 180 million years ago.

- It included India, Australia, South Africa and South America as one single landmass.
- India is blessed with the richness of mineral wealth such as coal, mica, bauxite, iron ore etc. Yet contribution of mining sector is around 1.63%.

### **Reasons for this low contribution in GDP:**

- Multiple clearances, legal hurdles and several judicial intervention
- Escalating Imports of Minerals
- Lack of new Exploration
- Low Exploration spending
- Restricted licencing regime
- Unproductive use of assets
- Habitation of tribal and indigenous people
- Small mines exist
- Lack of technological advancements
- Security challenges in the mining belt

### **6. What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples.**

#### *Hint:*

- Lakes and wetlands are important stakeholders in the sustainability of urban ecosystem.
- Reclamation of water bodies into urban land is a human induced environmental complication.
- **Environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use:**
  - ▶ Natural streams and watercourses have been altered by urbanization.
  - ▶ Number of water bodies declined
  - ▶ Increased incidence of urban flooding
  - ▶ Water bodies turned into landfills
  - ▶ Species Extinction
  - ▶ Increased level of pollutants in drinking water
  - ▶ Encroachment
  - ▶ Environmental Hazards
- **Conservation of water bodies in urban landscape is imperative for sustainable development.**

### **7. Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment.**

#### *Hint:*

- A volcano is a place where gases, ashes and molten rock material, lava escape to the ground.
- Some of the volcanoes that erupted in 2021 are La-Palma, Hunga Tonga-HungaHapai, Taal volcano, Nyiragongo etc.

### **Impacts of Volcanic eruptions:**

- **Hazardous impacts:**
  - ▶ Earthquakes, hot springs, fumaroles, mud pots and geysers often accompany volcanic activity.
  - ▶ Chemical reactions of sulfate aerosols emanating from volcano eruption can also damage the ozone layer
  - ▶ Acid rain

- ▶ Ash thrown into the air by eruptions can present a hazard to aircraft
- **Economic benefits of volcanic eruptions can be explained under following sub-headings:**
  - ▶ Soil Enrichment
  - ▶ Volcanic Land Formations
  - ▶ Volcanic Minerals and Stones
  - ▶ Global Cooling
  - ▶ Hot Springs and Geothermal Energy
  - ▶ Outgassing and Atmospheric Formation

**8. Why is India considered as a sub-continent? Elaborate your answer.**

*Hint:*

- A Continent is a huge landmass, but a subcontinent is a smaller chunk of a continent.
- India's subcontinent is a huge, relatively self-contained landmass that forms a subdivision of the continent. This is a vast landmass, similar to Greenland, but smaller than most of the known continents.

**India as a sub-continent:**

- India is a separate landmass.
- This landmass drifted from the supercontinent Gondwana during the Cretaceous and merged with the Eurasian landmass 55 million years ago.
- It is the peninsular region in South-Central Asia.
- It has a unique physical identity.
- People have shared ethnic, linguistic, cultural and historical connections.

**9. Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge systems when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems.**

*Hint:*

- The tribal knowledge systems have originated by observing nature.
- Knowledge has been passed on to next generation through oral tradition.

**Uniqueness:**

- ▶ Sustainable economic development
- ▶ Unique medicinal knowledge
- ▶ Traditional values and ethics.
- ▶ Gender parity
- ▶ Disaster management
- ▶ Traditional technical knowledge
- While mutual interaction is visible among tribal and mainstream culture, it is necessary to preserve tribal knowledge by appropriate documentation, including them in disaster management, policy making, thus making India truly inclusive in nature and spirit.

**10. Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India.**

*Hint:*

- Gig economy involves the exchange of labour for money between individuals or companies via digital platforms that actively facilitate matching between providers and customers, on a short-term and payment-by-task basis.

- **Role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India:**
  - ▶ Gig Economy is based on flexible, temporary and freelance jobs. Thereby giving more opportunities to women.
  - ▶ Allow women to enter into sectors traditionally dominated by men.
  - ▶ Enhance skill level of our female workforce.
  - ▶ It will facilitate greater participation of rural female workforce in comparison to formal economy.
- Certain challenges like wage gap between male and female workers, low internet enabled smartphone ownership etc needs to be taken care of.

**11. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment.**

**Hint:**

- The national leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozshah Mehta, D.E. Wacha, W.C. Bonnerjea, S.N. Banerjea were staunch believers in 'liberalism' and 'moderate' politics and came to be labelled as Moderates.

**Methods of the moderates:**

- Economic Critique of British Imperialism
- Constitutional Reforms and Propaganda in Legislature
- Protection of Civil Rights

**Role of Moderates:**

- Created a wide national awakening
- Popularized modern ideas
- exposed the exploitative character of colonial rule
- Based their political work on hard realities
- Created a solid base for mass movement.

**Limitation:**

- National movement had a narrow social base and the masses played a passive role.
- lack of mass participation

**12. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement.**

**Hint:**

- Constructive Program (CP) is a term coined by Mahatma Gandhi to describe one of the two branches of his satyagraha, the other being some form on nonviolence resistance, e.g. civil disobedience, sometimes recognized the value of constructive program.

**Constructive programmes during Non-Cooperation Movement:**

- Hindu-Muslim unity
- Removal of untouchability
- Educational institutions were organised
- justice dispensed through panchayats
- Legislative councils were boycotted.
- Practice of hand-spinning
- Picketing of shops selling foreign liquor

### **Constructive programmes during Civil Disobedience Movement:**

- total removal of the taint of untouchability in law as well as in practice
- Khadi as a symbol of nationalism, economic freedom, equality and self-reliance.
- women to play a leading part in the movement
- Tribals, peasants and workers were actively made participants in movements.

### **13. "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement.**

#### *Hint:*

- The leading democratic great powers had emerged the victors in WWI.
- In the political reconstruction of Europe, republics had replaced many monarchies.
- Yet the sad truth was that by the outbreak of World War II, the majority democratic states of central and Eastern Europe were annexed by stronger neighbors.
- **Serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars:**
  - ▶ suspension of parliamentary sovereignty
  - ▶ militarization of society
  - ▶ regulation and control the economy
  - ▶ breaches of international agreements
  - ▶ prewar authoritarian nationalists
- **Rise of the Democratic State System between the two World Wars:**
  - ▶ All the main alternatives to democracy suffered political, economic, diplomatic and military failures.
  - ▶ New national states began with a democratic constitution.
  - ▶ Newly formed national states took the place of the previous empires in post WW-I period.

### **14. Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples.**

#### *Hint:*

- Mountain belt is a geographic area containing numerous geologically related mountains.
- **Alignment of major mountain ranges:**
  - ▶ Rocky Mountains stretch from the northernmost portion of Western Canada to the State of New Mexico.
  - ▶ Andes Mountain ranges along the western of South America.
  - ▶ Alps are located in south-central Europe
  - ▶ Himalayas traverses portions of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, and Afghanistan.
  - ▶ Atlas mountain range in North Africa separates the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts from the Sahara Desert.
- **Impact of major mountain ranges on local weather:**
  - ▶ Rocky Mountains cast a rain shadow on the leeward side of the mountain range.
  - ▶ Andes act as a large wall between the Pacific Ocean and the continent
  - ▶ Alps impact local precipitation and wind patterns.
  - ▶ Himalaya Range obstructs the passage of cold continental air from the north into India in winter.
  - ▶ Atlas Range causes a rain shadow effect, preventing the areas beyond the mountains from receiving much rainfall.



**15. How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain.**

*Hint:*

- The Arctic and Antarctic are depositories of ice whose melting can have multiple effects on weather and human activities.

**Impact of melting of Arctic ice:**

- lead to polar vortexes, increased heat waves and unpredictability of weather
- Impact on jet streams
- increased rate of warming and creating a virtuous cycle
- intensification of Central Pacific trade winds
- New shipping routes will be opened in the Arctic region
- human-animal conflicts

**Impact of melting of glaciers of Antarctica:**

- ▶ Can upset the structure of the Southern Ocean.
- ▶ Rising sea level
- ▶ Impact on marine ecosystem
- ▶ impact marine communities

**16. Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world.**

*Hint:*

- Mineral oil is a clear, odorless liquid which is made from highly refined, purified and processed petroleum.
- The resources of crude oil are unevenly distributed in the world. Crude oil reserves are mostly distributed in Venezuela and middle-east countries.
- **Implications of uneven distribution:**
  - ▶ Energy security
  - ▶ Industrialization of many regions
  - ▶ Geopolitical impact
  - ▶ Countries with deposits of oil are potential gainers of foreign exchange
  - ▶ Migration of skilled and unskilled labour
- One common aspect is impact on environment and global warming.

**17. What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India?**

*Hint:*

- India witnessed an unprecedented boom in Information Technology (IT) in the 21st century.
- The rapid and scattered development of IT industries has produced many positive as well as negative socio-economic implications for India.

**Positive implications:**

- Demographic dividend
- Balanced regional growth

- Gender parity
- Cultural advancement
- improved health access

### **Negative implications:**

- Nuclear family system
- Work life imbalance
- Health issues like depression, mental health issues and obesity is on rise
- Rise in cyber crimes
- Socio-economic disparity
- Family is becoming less important than economic activity.

## **18. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail.**

### *Hint:*

- Population education is an educational programme which provides for a study of the population situation in the family, community, nation and the world, with the purpose of developing in the students rational and responsible attitude and behaviour towards that situation.

### **Objectives of population education is to understand:**

- demographic concepts
- influence of population trends on the various aspects of human life
- interaction of population growth and the developmental process
- evil effects of overpopulation on the environment
- biological factors and phenomenon of reproduction
- awareness of population policies
- basic demographic vocabulary

### **Measures:**

- National Population Education Project (NPEP)
- Adolescent, Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) was identified as another important focus-area under the NPEP.
- National Adult Education Programme (NAEP)
- National Youth Policy
- Reaching out to the villagers through mass media
- incorporation of Population Education within the University

## **19. What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also?**

### *Hint:*

- A cryptocurrency is a digital currency that is secured by cryptography, which makes it nearly impossible to counterfeit or double-spend.
- Based on blockchain technology.

### **Positive impacts**

- Strengthen the idea of globalization.
- Cryptocurrencies serve as intermediate currencies to streamline money transfers across borders.

- Created new avenues for employment.
- Created a new class of risk taking investors.
- potential in governance reforms

### **Negative impacts**

- expensive energy costs
- unpredictable mining
- Social inequality.
- fear of missing out
- popular tool for nefarious activities

### **Impact on India:**

- India has become one of the biggest markets in Asia for cryptocurrencies.
- created new employment opportunities
- gap between crypto haves and have not is wider
- cases of cryptocurrency-related frauds
- serious concerns on macroeconomic and financial stability

## **20. How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.**

### ***Hint:***

- Traditional social values in Indian society are tolerance, nonviolence, respect for elders, compassion for living being etc. These values are not only part of our belief system but also reflected in the social fabric of our society.

### **Factors responsible for maintaining continuity**

- Joint family
- Religion
- Village system
- Constitution

### **How social values changes over time?**

- Several orthodox and heterodox changes have taken place in Indian society on account of colonisation by British, subsequent modernization and westernization and in recent times due to globalization.
- There is a shift from collective orientation to individualism, nuclear family replaced joint family.

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