

Enlite MTS
Society & Geography

KIRTAN
BHATT

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हाशिए में
नहीं लिखना
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① "An essential condition to eradicate poverty..."

As per NITI Aayog, 11.93% of Indians are multidimensionally poor in 2025.

Liberation from deprivation an essential condition

① Social exclusion and discrimination perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

(e.g.) 90% of manual scavengers from SC & ST community.

② Nutritional deprivation hinders economic participation.

⇒ Hidden Hunger - micronutrient deficiencies hinder cognitive performance.

(e.g.) Prevalence of sickle cell anaemia highest among tribles.

③ Educational deprivation leads to intergenerational poverty $\Rightarrow$ (e.g.) lowest literacy rates among STs.

④ Technological deprivation leads to exclusion from welfare schemes.

(e.g.) only 24% rural households had internet $\rightarrow$ Digital Divide

⑤ Skill deprivation perpetuates joblessness and financial distress $\Rightarrow$ vicious cycle of poverty

(e.g.) only 50% graduates have employable skills (India Skills Report).

Way forward & measures

$\rightarrow$ Ensure nutritional security $\Rightarrow$ strengthen ICDS, MDMS and food fortification

$\rightarrow$ Holistic skill development $\Rightarrow$ PMKVY

$\rightarrow$ Last mile connectivity $\Rightarrow$ physical & digital (PMGSY, Bharatnet)

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Political deprivation

4th Add govt. measures

② Evaluate how emerging technologies like AI & Big Data...

World Bank calls 21st century as the century of Industrial Revolution 4.0, where tech like AI, ML, Big Data, robotics will penetrate every sphere of human life.

Contribution to good governance

- ① Data driven policy design $\Rightarrow$ formulation of evidence-based schemes.
- ② Enhance affordability & accessibility of public services $\Rightarrow$ (e.g.) AI Bhashini tool to translate Citizens' Charter.
- ③ Personalized governance leading to participatory service delivery.
(e.g.) use of Big Data for personalized nutrition plans.

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- ④ Enhanced responsiveness → (e.g.) Kisan GPT —
AI chatbot for farmer queries.

Contribution to social inclusion

- ⑤ Eliminate regional disparities in service
infra → (e.g.) AI-based tele-education
and tele-health ensures last mile connectivity.

- ⑥ Address intersectionality in policy design &
implementation → (e.g.) tailor made welfare
programmes for Dalit women.

- ⑦ Targeted identification of beneficiaries to
minimize inclusion-exclusion errors.

Challenges

- ① Concerns of bias in AI models
- ② Lack of R&D and privacy
issues
- ③ Digital Divide.

India remains steadfast in its vision for a
human-centric & inclusive AI to ensure equity.

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③ Why do certain matrilineal & indigenous communities...

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Though majority of Indian groups are patri-lineal & patrilocal, some tribal groups have matriarchal structures with female-centric inheritance & locality.

Why matrilineal groups have more favourable status for women

- ① Equal say in decision making $\Rightarrow$ female elders are equally heard if not more.
- ② Equitable inheritance - property is often inherited through mothers.
(e.g.) Khasi tribe in Meghalaya.
- ③ Marriage autonomy - females have independence to choose partners.
 $\Rightarrow$ delayed age of marriage.

④ Economic participation - In many ST communities women work hand-in-hand with the men.

⑤ Reproductive autonomy - women can decide how many children she wants.

Why women are disadvantaged in patriarchal groups

① Patrilocality - women must relocate to her husband's home $\Rightarrow$ leads to conflicts & psychological stress.

② Patrilineal inheritance & downy - women are often seen as "source of sorrow".

③ Gender roles - expected to act as caregivers $\Rightarrow$ Triple burden of childcare, elderly care and household work.

With forces of globalization and advent of constitutional ethos, these roles are transforming fast.

Q.1

④ ~~later~~ With increasing emphasis on individual rights & expression...

Indian society has traditionally functioned on collective lines of caste, region, religion, etc. But medieval values of liberty & equality are rapidly changing this.

Emphasis on individual rights & expression

- ① Article 21 - individual's right to life & liberty.
(e.g.) right to marry a person of choice (Hadiya case)
- ② Article 19 - freedom of speech & expression
- ③ Article 17 - abolition of untouchability.
- ④ Article 14 & 15 - equality before law, prohibition of discrimination based on caste, religion, etc.

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Shift to self-asserted identities

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- ① Urbanization ⇒ leads to dilution of caste identity.
- ② Western values of individualism & consumerism
⇒ increased autonomy in marriage
⇒ live-in relations diluting institution of marriage.
- ③ Neoliberalism leading to career and "self growth" as the focal point of life.
- ④ Modern education with ideals of rationalism and humanism dilutes religiosity.

Community identities persist

- ↳ ① Social media creates eco chambers of caste pride ⇒ (e.g.) caste pages on F.B.
- ↳ ② Politicization of caste & religion due to vote bank politics.
- ↳ ③ Orthodox resistance to modernization & westernization ⇒ (e.g.) rise of "moral policing"

- ⑤ Explain how geography can play a role in neighbourhood relations of India.

India's unique geography bounded by Himalayas in the North & Indian Ocean in the South has shaped its neighbourhood relations since Indus Valley civilisation.

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Draw a map

How it plays role in relations with neighbours

- ① Historical trade relations with China and West Asia and Africa.

(e.g.) Spice trade through maritime route.

Can subdivide into opportunities & challenges

- ② Himalayas acting as a geopolitical barrier between India & China $\Rightarrow$ ensured relative peace.

- ③ Crossroads between the "West" and the "East".

$\Rightarrow$ India enjoyed relations with both western empires like Greece & Rome and 'also South-

East Asian nations.

→ (e.g.) today India is a member of QUAD and ASEAN+.

④ Security challenges due to the long coastline

→ (e.g.) 26/11 attacks in Mumbai

(e.g.) Narcotics smuggling through Gujarat.

⑤ Shared cultural value and "sacred geography"

(e.g.) Kailash mountain's significance for Indians, Nepalis, Tibetans.

⑥ Hydrological tensions due to shared rivers

(e.g.) China's weaponization of Brahmaputra & denial of data sharing.

⑦ Disaster coordination for joint response to cyclones, earthquakes, etc.

(e.g.) BIMSTEC collab on resilient infra.

It is aptly said that geography shapes history, culture & geopolitics.

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⑥ Changes in the region's climate can trigger...

The melting of glaciers & ice sheets worldwide, including the Arctic, Antarctic and the Hindu Kush - Himalayan system due to global warming is a global concern.

Changes in regional climate - vast effects

↳ ① It can trigger a feedback loop ⇒ (e.g.)
melting glaciers → sea surface rise →
 disruption of ocean currents.

↳ ② It can disrupt the latitudinal heat balance
 (e.g.) 49°C in Barcelona, Spain in 2025.

↳ ③ It can disrupt trade and transport.

↳ ④ Effect on global carbon sinks due to
 local forest fires

(e.g.) Amazon forest fires in 2023.

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Effect of changes in the Third Pole

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- ① Water Insecurity in entire South Asia & beyond $\Rightarrow$ perennial glacial rivers like Indus, Kabul, Brahmaputra originate here.
- ② Habitat loss and biodiversity loss as HKKH is a biodiversity hotspot.
- ③ Climate-induced migration can lead to refugee crisis and global instability.
- ④ Floods and GLOFs in the entire South Asia $\Rightarrow$ loss of lives & livelihoods.
- ⑤ Rising sea levels leading to disruption of trade searanes and submergence of cities.
- (e.g.) Mumbai's coastline can submerge significantly by 2050.

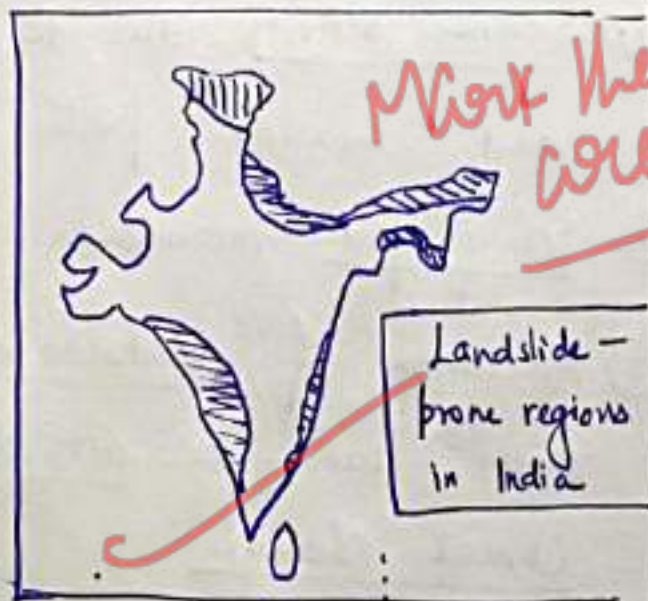
A combination of mitigation & adaptation measures are the need of the hour to check the crisis.

Q.1 ⑦ Identify the major landslide prone regions in India...

Landslides refer to the sudden sliding and downward movement of rocks & debris in mountainous regions.

Major prone regions

- ↳ Western Ghats
- ↳ Himalayas including Karakoram, Ladakh, Purvanchal, Himachal
- ↳ Parts of Eastern Ghats.



Causes in Western Ghats

- ① Increasing developmental activities including hydel projects (e.g. Sharavati)
- ② Excessive tourism putting stress on the

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fragile ecosystem.

(e.g.) Proliferation of resorts in Wayanad

③ Mining activities in the Deccan plateau.

Causes in the Himalayas

① Seismic activity due to convergence of Indian and Eurasian plates.

② Young fold mountains with persistent instability

③ Alteration of natural drainage of glacial rivers due to anthropogenic activities & Climate change.

④ Cloudbursts and flash floods ⇒ (e.g.) Kedamath landslide in 2024

Way forward

↳ ① Hazard zone mapping using GIS

↳ ② Demarcation of "no development" zones

↳ ③ Early Warning Systems for floods & excessive rains.

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⑧ Even as fertility rates decline...

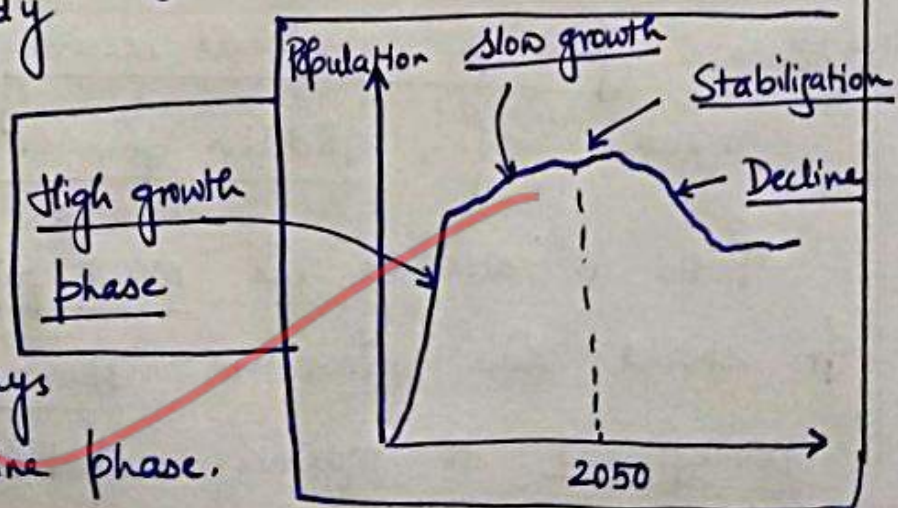
Recent UNPF report says that India's TFR has come down to 2.0 children per woman, marking a reversal in population growth.

Population momentum

↳ ① There is a time lag in population decline due to prolonged growth rate over decades.

↳ ② India's population will stabilize only after reaching its peak around 2050.

↳ ③ The already large base of population further delays the decline phase.



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Policy Implications

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① Demographic window - as per NITI, India can leverage its demographic dividend expected to peak in 2041 through conducive policies.

⇒ Skill Development and vocational training.

⇒ Focus on digital literacy

② Need for investing in geriatric care due to rising ~~non-ger~~ dependency ratio.

⇒ in line with ~~NPHCE~~ NPHCE

③ Augment health infra to deal with non-communicable diseases in rising population.

(e.g.) 25% of Indian adults with hypertension.

④ Ensure food & nutritional security & combat the menace of hidden hunger.

India is already the most populous country. It should thus invest in Human Resource

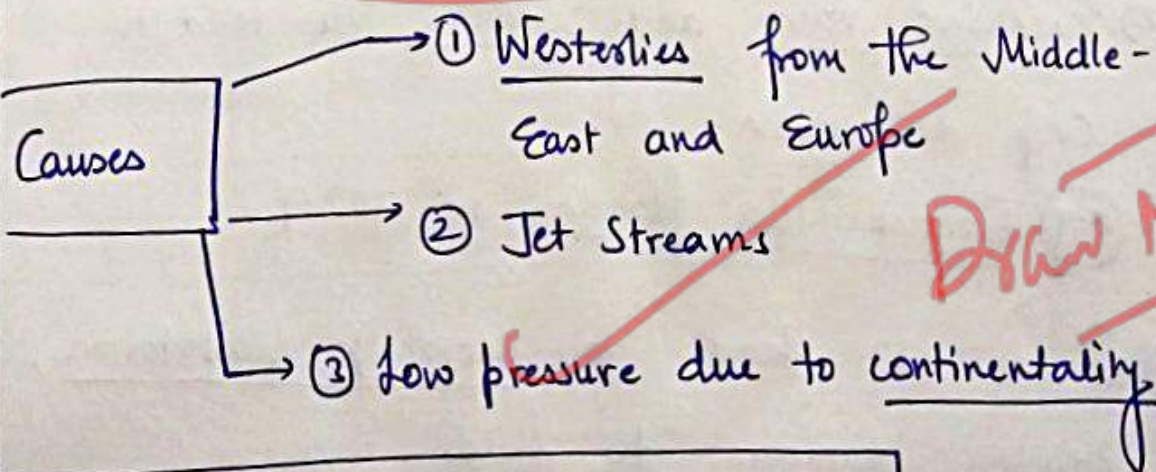
Development to maximize capabilities of Indians.

⑨ What do you understand by western disturbance...

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Western disturbance refers to instability in weather conditions in Northwest India during winter due to moisture-bearing winds from the Mediterranean.



Influence on Indian agriculture

① Positive implications

- ① It can be conducive for Rabi sowing, for crops like wheat.
- ② Reduces dependence on groundwater in

absence of monsoons.

③ Recharge of aquifers.

II Negative implications

① It can create frost conditions hindering crop growth.

② Excessive rain and storms can lead to crop destruction.

(e.g.) Banaskantha floods in 2024.

③ It can also lead to snow & hailstorms, causing damage to fields.

④ Its unpredictability and irregular nature hinder preparedness.

Climate change has amplified erratic weather patterns and the intensity of western disturbances.

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⑩ India has committed to achieving land degradation neutrality...

Changing land use patterns due to deforestation, urbanization, industrialization have amplified the concerns of land degradation globally.

Challenges involved

- ① Rapid & unplanned urbanization — NITI Aayog report suggests 50%+ urban population in India.
- ② Stagnant forest cover at around 23%.
⇒ logging of timber, forest fires
- ③ Soil erosion due to deforestation.
- ④ Degrading soil quality and increasing pollution due to chemicalization of agriculture.

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⑤ Encroachment of riverbeds, wetlands, flood-plains $\Rightarrow$ urban floods.

⑥ Diminishing biodiversity due to monoculture and ~~con~~ plantation crops.

Strategies by India

↳ ① "30 x 30" Target - Convert 30% of land into protected areas by 2030.

↳ ② AMRUT and RURBAN mission for sustainable urbanization.

↳ ③ Promotion of natural farming and ZBNF to improve soil quality (PKVY)

↳ ④ Promotion of horticulture, floriculture & periculture to enhance biodiversity.

↳ ⑤ Compensatory afforestation mandatory.

India's effort are in line with SDG 15 to improve land quality & life on land.

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① Migration leads to cultural exchange...

World Bank report suggests that India has both the largest number of internal & external migrants globally.

It leads to cultural exchange

① It leads to exchange of values bidirectionally.

(e.g.) dilution of caste identities in cities and popularization of urban values in villages.

② Exchange of cuisine, movies, music.

(e.g.) popularity of Butter Chicken in the UK.

③ Export of local culture globally.

(e.g.) tribal handicrafts in Europe.

④ Gentrification of villages and peri-urban areas.

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It fastens homogenization

① Imposition of western ideals

(e.g.) western clothing seen as a sign of freedom

② Language hegemony - English becoming a status symbol in ~~the~~ globally.

⇒ Internal migrants must adapt host's language (e.g.) recent controversy over Marathi)

③ It dilutes regional sub-identities.

⇒ (e.g.) Assimilation of Indian diaspora in the USA.

④ Homogenization of "aesthetics" ⇒ it leads to
* creation of homogenous fashion, music, architecture, etc.

(e.g.) Domination of sky scrappers.

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It preserves distinct identities

① Migrants try to preserve the memory of their "roots".

(e.g.) Lamela in Trinidad & Tobago.

② Global migration creates new markets for local products.

(e.g.) Export of Bandhani textiles globally.

③ Discrimination towards migrants hinders integration ((e.g.) Turkish ghettos in Germany)

④ Popularization of migrants' culture can also happen ⇒ (e.g.) Adoption of "Chhath Puja", a Bihari festival, in Gujarat.

Migration in a sustainable manner can be an instrument to foster universal fraternity and a sense of shared human values.

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⑫ Critically analyse how globalization...

As per Anthony Giddens, globalization refers to increasing exchange of ideas, goods, services, capital, and people beyond political boundaries.

Catalyst for expansion of human rights

① Rise of global governance and multilateral institutions.

(e.g.) ICC, ICTJ, UDHR, etc.

② Global export of values like democracy, freedom, equality, etc.

③ Proliferation of western media - movies, literature, news, etc.

(e.g.) "1984" of George Orwell becoming a global classic.

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④ Globalisation of education based on secular values of humanism & rationalism.

⑤ Global communication networks leading to enhanced scrutiny on human rights violation

(e.g.) Israel-Hamas war & global attention on "genocide" in Gaza

⑥ Social media acting as a "global harbinger" of human rights.

(e.g.) #MeToo movement.

Erosion of human rights

① Racism & xenophobia against migrants.

(e.g.) Rising shootings of Indians in USA.

② Toxic nationalism based on "othering" of the outsiders.

(e.g.) Rise of far right parties in Europe.

③ Rising hate speech online directed towards migrants and third world countries.

(e.g.) Tweets against Indians on "X".

④ Failure of UN and other multilateral institutions to enforce human rights globally.

(e.g.) Rwanda genocide.

⑤ "Clash of Cultures" leading to violence and wars.

(e.g.) Vietnam war, Gulf wars in 1990s.

⑥ Commodification of women in western media and its global propagation.

(e.g.) Animal movie.

⑦ Rise of global factions and their silence on human right violations.

(e.g.) Silence of the West on Pahalgam attack.

Thus, Globalization has proven to be a double-edged sword in context of human rights.

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- (13) Oceanic current influences climatic as well as economic prospects...

Ocean currents are permanent movements of ocean waters influenced by factors like winds, temperature, salinity, etc.

Influence on climatic prospects

- ① Desiccation effect due to cold currents and formation of deserts.

(e.g.) Mojave, Namib deserts

- ② Moderation effect on climate in coastal areas.

(e.g.) British climate influenced by Gulf stream.

- ③ Latitudinal heat balance - they help in prevention of temperature extremes and transport surplus heat to polar regions.

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World Map

④ Impact on local winds - (e.g.) cool sea breeze

Influence on economic prospects

① Areas with mixing of warm & cold currents create flourishing fishing grounds

(e.g.) Oyashio & Kurashio currents in Japan.

② Their moderating effect increases human productivity

(e.g.) Highest economic productivity in British climate areas.

③ They enable agriculture & livestock rearing in coastal areas.

(e.g.) Argentina - major dairy producer

④ They increase ocean productivity and enable seaweed cultivation

(e.g.) Sargasses sea in the Atlantic ocean.

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Ocean currents vs. tides

Ocean currents

- ① They are permanent
- ② They can be cold or warm
- ③ Caused by temperature and salinity differences, and planetary winds.
- ④ Effect climate
- ⑤ Influences local economy

Tides

- ① They are periodic
(diurnal, semi-diurnal, etc.)
- ② No such distinction
- ③ Caused due to gravitational interactions of Sun & Moon & Earth.
- ④ No major effect on climate
- ⑤ No major influence on economy.

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Can add figures for tides
one line conclusion

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④ The theme of International Day of Forests 2025...

International Forest Day 2025 has reiterated the global need to increase global forest cover to 33% by 2030, emphasizing role of forests in climate regulation, biodiversity and food security.

Vital link between forests & food security

① Climate regulators — forests are a large carbon sink and help regulate global climate.
⇒ vital for agricultural output

② Ecosystem services — forests are biodiversity hubs ⇒ pollinator species crucial for horticulture & periculture.

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③ Agroforestry practices can augment yields.

(e.g.) Germany model of combining wineyards and urban forests.

④ Minor forest produce like bamboo, herbs, berries, etc. can complement traditional agriculture.

Potential of forest resources in India

① India has a forest cover of 23% with a goal of 33% by 2030.

② India has diverse forests including tropical rainforests, montane, deciduous forests, etc.

③ Urban forestry - leveraging techniques like Miyawaki method can create urban green spaces.

④ Vast barren & unproductive lands can be converted into forests.

⑤ Biodiversity hotspots like Western Ghats and

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Himalayan region $\Rightarrow$ potential to export species to other parts.

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⑥ Mangroves and coastal ecotones can be leveraged for seafood cultivation.

Challenges faced by India

① Illegal mining & poaching in forest areas.

e.g. tribals of Mayurbhanj protested against mining projects.

② Urban & agricultural encroachment over forests.

$\Rightarrow$ compensatory afforestation cannot replace a thriving forest ecosystem.

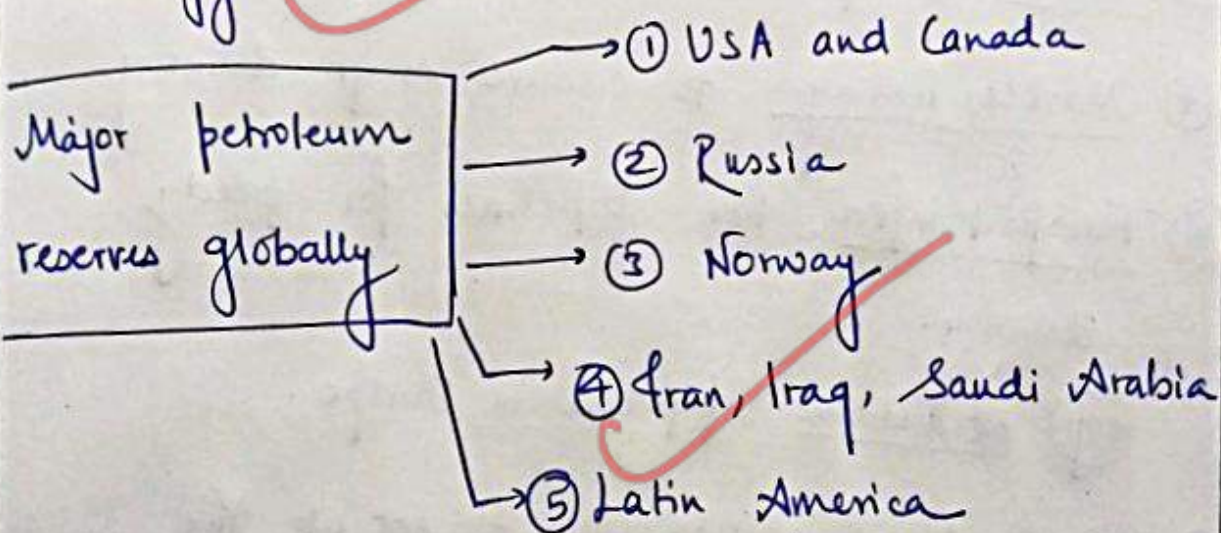
③ Forest fires induced by climate change & global warming.

④ Illegal timber logging

Forests are the lungs of the world and must be thus nurtured, for they precede civilization.

15) The location of petroleum resources...

Though world is moving towards renewable energy sources, petroleum products still account for over 60% of global fuel & energy production.



Location of reserves & refineries not mutually conducive

→ Petroleum refineries require many factors apart from just presence of resources:

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- ① Political stability and good governance
- ② Manufacturing and infra capacity
⇒ (e.g.) Heavy machinery required for
petroleum refining.
- ③ Skilled manpower to handle operations.
- ④ Market linkages to ensure swift delivery.
- ⑤ Transport Infra like pipelines for speedy
delivery.
(e.g.) Nordstrom pipeline in Europe.
- ⑥ Large capital investments to set up the
operations.

Both can be mutually conducive

- ① Developed nations with stable governments
like Scandinavian countries have both.

Q.1

② India also have petroleum reserves in the Cambay basin and Bombay High, along with refineries in Kadi, Kalol, etc.

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④

→ Can work on
point diversification

⑩ Do you think adherence to rigid customs...

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Analysts like Christophe Jafferlot argue that India is one of the few places globally where traditions along with modernity coexist without disrupting each other.

Customs & traditions can hinder social progress

① Perpetuation of obscurantism - (e.g.) belief in supernatural elements $\Rightarrow$ against scientific temper

② Continuation of stereotypes & prejudices

(e.g.) traditional gender roles in India.

(e.g.) Belief in "period impunity"

③ Promotion of social inequality

(e.g.) Varna system in India.

④ Perpetuation of communal & sectarian divides $\Rightarrow$ hinders secular morality in a society.

⑤ Violence against humans & animals $\Rightarrow$ against humanist values.

(e.g.) animal sacrifice in many religions.

⑥ Negation of material progress - many traditions renounce material progress altogether.

$\Rightarrow$ (e.g.) "Sanyas" tradition in India.

Not necessarily against social progress

① They are essential for a diverse society and a vibrant cultural mosaic. Give examples

② They give a sense of purpose & stability to human life.

(e.g.) Joint families acting as a "social anchor".

③ They can enhance social cohesion and harmony.

(e.g.) Bhakti-Sufi syncretism in India.

④ They ensure cultural continuity and a sense of identity.

(e.g.) Kumbha Mela in India.

⑤ They cater to the emotive aspects of humans and can promote love and compassion.

(e.g.) Festivals like Rakshabandhan

⑥ They uphold the social fabric and prevent chaos in a society.

(e.g.) rising divorce rates in the West due to breakdown of institution of marriage.

Hence, a fine balance between reform and tradition is essential for progress.

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⑪ Examine how transformation of small towns...

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Ex of Noida, Gurugram, Baroda, etc. — once
small towns — into economic hubs poses
both challenges & opportunities.

How they reshape socioeconomic landscape

- ① Acceleration of rural-urban migration ⇒
lead to "ruralization of ageing".
- ② New economic opportunities and employment
generation ⇒ reduce agricultural distress.
- ③ Women empowerment — new avenues of
economic participation.
(e.g.) Female LFPR rose to 40% in 2024.
- ④ Dilution of caste inequalities ⇒ replaced by
class disparities.

- ⑤ Nuclearization of families.
⇒ 52% families nuclear as per 2011 Census
- ⑥ Growth of peri-urban areas ⇒ Urban Sprawl
- ⑦ Pressure on land — rising real estate
prices due to growing demand.
⇒ proliferation of slums and ghettoization.
- ⑧ Alienation due to breaking down of
social structures. ("Loneliness Epidemic")
⇒ Rise in old age homes.
- ⑨ Mental Health crises due to growing
financial stress and poor lifestyle.
- ⑩ Rising suicide rates among youths.

New governance challenges

- ① Need for sustainable urban planning

Q.1

- ↳ Equitable housing, green spaces
- ② Urban service delivery like sanitation, roads
- ③ Creating aesthetic cities and not haphazard hubs of concrete.
- ④ Preventing corruption in urban local bodies.
(e.g.) potholes recently highlighted in Rajkot
- ⑤ Disaster resilience amidst climate change.
↳ Prevent flash floods, urban heat island effect.

⑥ Water management and security.

Government initiatives

- ① RURBAN Mission
- ② PURA
- ③ Smart Cities Mission
- ④ Swachh Bharat
- ⑤ Jal Jeevan Mission.

We must ensure that small towns ~~7.5~~ don't turn into megacity magnets, rather sustainable hubs of development.

⑩ In the context of Gandhi - Ambedkar debate on caste discrimination...

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Both Gandhi & Ambedkar were champions of social justice, but differed in their approach towards caste.

Gandhi's view

① Against caste discrimination, not Varna system per se.

② Believed in reform of Varna system

③ Held that Vedas do not condone discrimination.

④ Villages are hubs of community & harmony

Ambedkar's view

① Against both Jati & Varna.

② Complete annihilation of Jati & Varna

③ Vedas are the root cause of caste discrimination.

④ Villages are hubs of casteism.

Relevance of Gandhian approach

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- ① Gandhiji believed in reforming Varna system without eliminating it
⇒ constructive approach towards equality.
- ② He advocated for reform within the Hindu fold.
⇒ maintain unity & integrity of Hindu religion in times of polarization
- ③ He believed in truth & reconciliation between Savarnas & Dalits
⇒ enhances social cohesion
- ④ Political empowerment of Dalits without separate electorate.
⇒ ensure political unity among population.
- ⑤ Occupational equity amongst all Varnas.

→ 90% of manual scavengers come from SCs & STs today.

⑥ Gram Swaraj as a tool for social justice

⇒ every one must contribute equally.

⑦ Nai Talim to teach the values of equality & mutual respect.

Challenges faced today

Concerns of his approach??

→ ① Political polarization & vote bank politics

→ ② Social media perpetuating caste discrimination
⇒ hate speech against Dalits.

→ ③ Caste atrocities & Intersectionality of discrimination.
(eg) Hathras incident.

We must internalize Gandhiji's vision of Sarvodaya

to create a truly equal & empowered society.

Can be better conveyed

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⑨ Urban flooding has escalated into a recurrent...

Recent urban floods in Delhi, Surat, Mumbai highlight the continued menace of urban floods in India.

Causes of urban floods

↳ ① Haphazard development ⇒ encroachment on natural drainage of rivers.

(e.g.) Vadodara floods in 2024

↳ ② Vanishing of wetlands & lakes ⇒ act as shock absorbers. (e.g.) Bengaluru

↳ ③ Concretisation of cities ⇒ impermeable construction materials.

↳ ④ Deforestation leading to soil erosion and weakened soil strength.

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↳ ⑤ Poor urban governance with a lack of preparedness & early warning systems.

↳ ⑥ Climate change leading to erratic weather patterns ⇒ melting of glaciers.

Impacts of urban floods

↳ ① loss of lives & livelihoods ⇒ e.g. Chennai floods in 2010.

↳ ② loss in economic productivity due to standstill of businesses.

↳ ③ Public health crises ⇒ water-borne diseases such as malaria.

↳ ④ Mental health concerns due to increased anxiety and stress.

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↳ ⑤ Capital flight away from cities due to dip in investors' confidence.

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Remedial measures

↳ ① Floodplain zoning ⇒ "No Development Zones" along river beds.

↳ ② Revival of natural aquifers & wetlands
(e.g.) Brazil's "Lake Cities" programme.

↳ ③ Early Warning Systems ⇒ (e.g.) Chennai

↳ ④ Sponge Cities (China & Germany) ⇒ use of water permeable materials.

↳ ⑤ Urban forests — act as a natural defence against floods.

↳ ⑥ Embankments to protect critical infrastructure (Netherlands model).

one line condition

Q.1 ② To what extent has India been able to convert its geographical & ecological constraints into...

India is endowed with rich geological & ecological diversity - (e.g.) ~~16000~~ km long coastline, biodiversity hotspots, diverse physiography, etc.

Geographical & ecological constraints

⑤ Seismic vulner-
-ability in
Himalayas, Kutch,
etc.

① Peninsular India
largely in rain
shadow region.
⇒ less rainfall.

② Large arid & semi-
arid areas.

③ Isolation of the North-
-East due to Siliguri
corridor.

④ long coastline prone to
cyclones & flooding

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Opportunities for growth & development

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- ① Leveraging the long coastline for maritime trade, ports development, Blue Economy.
⇒ over 200 minor ports & 19 major ones
⇒ 2nd largest producer of seafood.
- ② Leveraging the tourism potential.
⇒ Char Dham pilgrimage in harsh Himalayan terrain.
⇒ Thar festival to celebrate deserts.
- ③ Developing irrigation infra in arid & semi-arid regions.
⇒ (e.g.) Narmada canal, Sardar Sarovar Dam, Nizam Sagar Project, etc.
- ④ Bringing the Northeast into the mainstream

through connectivity projects.

⇒ (e.g.) National Waterways, Farakka Barrage, etc.

⑤ Early warning systems for earthquakes turned Kutch into a major salt producer and shipbreaking hub.

(e.g.) Mundra salt industries.

Persistent
challenges

① Climate change ⇒ erratic monsoon impacting productivity.

② Weak governance structure ⇒ corruption, delays in projects, etc.

③ Political instability and proxy wars by external actors

(e.g.) China funding NE insurgency.

④ Digital divide & lack of last mile connectivity.

Despite challenges, India moves steadily towards its vision of

Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

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