


**SPM IAS ACADEMY**  
 SHARPING BRILLIANCE

**APSC Mains 2023 TS - 8 (GS Paper I)**
**Duration: 3 hrs**

|           |              |               |         |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|---------|
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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

 English ☒

 Assamese ☐

| INDEX NUMBER  |               |                 | INSTRUCTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Q.NO.         | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1             | 10            |                 | Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 20 questions and printed in ENGLISH.</li> <li>• All questions are compulsory.</li> <li>• The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</li> <li>• The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 15 marks.</li> <li>• Content is more important than the number of words.</li> <li>• Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one.</li> <li>• Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off</li> </ul> |
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| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>250</b>    |                 | Remarks:<br><br>Signature of the Student:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |





Q2. The rural-urban continuum has drawn wide attention in recent years. In light of this, discuss the importance of recognizing and addressing the interconnections between rural and urban areas. [10 marks/150 Words]

The rural urban interconnections has been there since time immemorial.

### Historical

- Since colonial the reigns of kings, there have been a division of class of people into upper-privileged and underprivileged. The privileged ones always depended on the underprivileged for their menial works which shows the connection between the two.

### Modern Time

- In the modern time too, there have been connections between rural and urban areas.  
For eg: farmers who sow crops are consumed by the people of the city  
weavers who weave clothes are worn by the city people.

This shows there has always and will always be a connection between the rural and the urban lives.

## Importance of recognising the connection between rural and urban lives

↳ The urban areas have developed from land which once belonged to some village. The massive development seen is because of the land ~~of the~~ provided by the ancestors.

↳ We ~~we~~ should never forget our grassroots roots. eg: A millionaire abroad is wearing a Gamusa woven by a handloom worker in a small village in Assam.

↳ Small sector enterprises are now getting worldwide recognition. eg: GI Tag for Gamusa, Khadi Diplomacy etc etc

This shows our roots feet should always be where it on the ground level. Because without the rural areas, there would have been no urban areas.

~~Gandhi~~ &

Q3. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics? [10 marks/150 words]

The backward communities are always fighting for their rights  
 For eg: the tribals whose lands are being encroached without their consent.

### Impact of urbanisation on backward communities

- ↓ feeling of exclusion
  - the tribals or the backward communities feel excluded when the due to lack of participation
- ↓ no facility of rehab or compensation
  - due to increasing corruption there has been no facilities made for the people for their rehabilitation
- ↓ economic issues corruption
  - with the non participation, it leads to unemployment, disparity, feeling of disgust for the government.

Government schemes for protecting their interest while keeping the urban interest at stake:

The urban economics has never been put as a second option by the government.

The developmental schemes introduced by the government for the backward or underprivileged always help in the positive direction.

For eg: - Smart City Mission is for the urban areas.

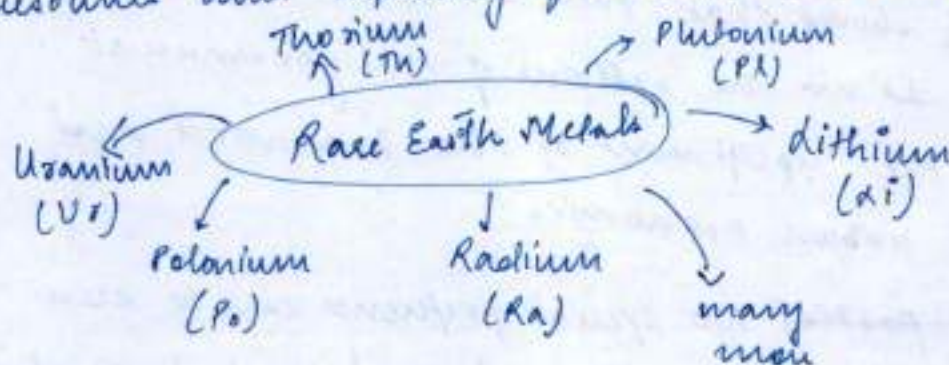
- Schedule V and schedule VI is for the tribal or backward areas. So article 371~~244~~ which provides special provisions.

This shows that there is a balance between the ~~to~~ in the actions of the government for the upliftment of the backward and the urban economics.

~~No partial~~ No special preference can be seen towards the backward and not towards the urban. Being able to keep a balance between the two is a sign of an efficient government.

Q4. What are the Rare Earth Elements? Discuss the importance of Rare Earth Elements. [10 marks/150 Words]

Rare Earth metals refers to elements from the d block of the periodic table. The name 'rare' has been given because they are present in scarce amounts in the Earth. The elements of the 'Rare Earth' category, though scarce in the Earth, have a massive application and usage in the world of evolving resource and depleting of natural resources.



Importance of rare earth metals

→ Social aspect — with the gain in competition among countries of the world, there is always quest for excelling

better than others in one matter or another. Finding or discovery of rare earth metals is one such accomplishment in this field.

Eg: The discovery of radon and polonium by Marie Curie for treating cancer was a revolution - any change in the field of science.

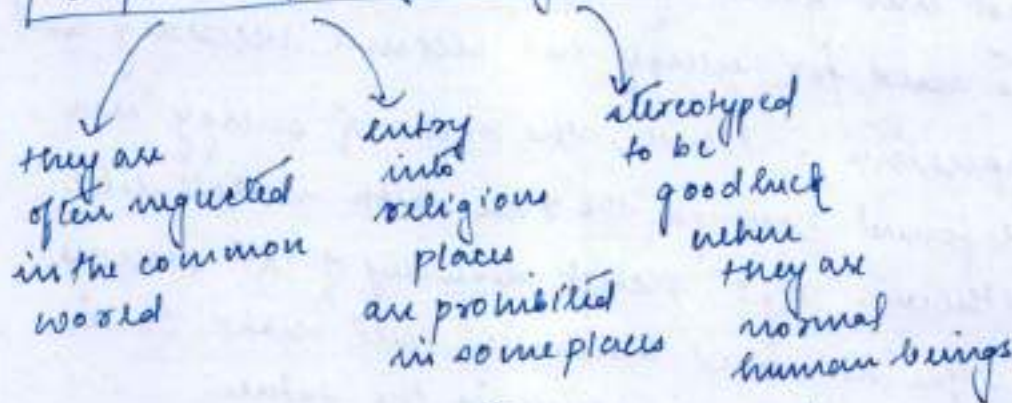
Scientific aspect - In the world of updating and ever growing digital and scientific world, the need for energy has become necessary and imperative. Hence, the source of energy can be found through the rare earth metals like Lanthanum. Eg: recent discovery of Li reserves in Jammu and Kashmir will make India self sufficient in energy in the future.

Thus, we see that along with positives, there also comes some negatives with every aspect of life. The breakthrough of India in having Lanthanum industries will indeed help generate employment but also affect the environment through its effluents from the industries.

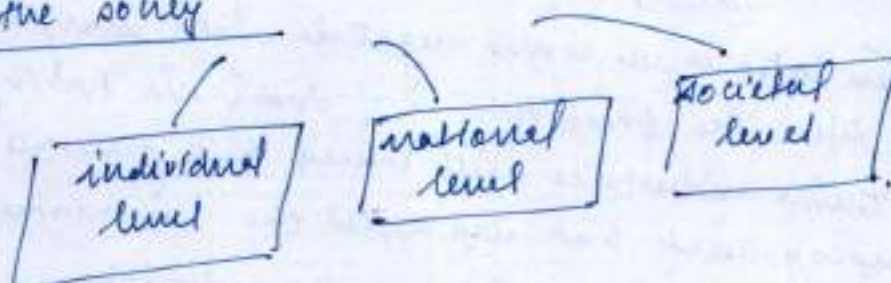
Q5. Discuss the measures to ensure the full inclusion and participation of transgender persons in society. [10 marks/150 words]

Transgender persons are the ones who have been fighting for their rights since time immemorial for equality in the society. In this modern world, run by modern thoughts, it is only shocking to see the discrimination of the particular section of society.

Disparities faced by transgender in the society



Measures for participation of transgender in the society



### Individual level

- ↳ As an individual, we should see the fact that in our presence, no individual or transgender is humiliated or looked down upon by anyone.
- ↳ Try to spread awareness by educating the people of the family first and, then outside the house.

### Societal level

- ↳ every society needs to be aware of the equality of rights bestowed on us through Article 21 - every individual is allowed to have a dignified life.
- ↳ this can be initiated in school education by inculcating sex education and the required information.

### National level

- ↳ The Supreme Court has decriminalised the 377 Article but without accepting same sex marriage, transgender right seems to be a distant reality.
- ↳ spread awareness through NGOs or SHGs or campaigns.

The difference in gender has arisen from the colonial times by British Victorian Model. Ancient India has no such restrictive behaviour regarding sex or gender. It is imperative to bring the old culture back.

Q6. What led to the Partition of Bengal in 1905? What were its consequences?  
[10 marks/150 words]

### Series of events that led to partition of Bengal

~~Lord~~ Warren Hastings 1772-73, Governor  
General of Bengal started the  
taxation of the people

↓  
William Bentinck 1823, the Governor  
General of India

↓  
Lord Cornwallis's Zamindari system

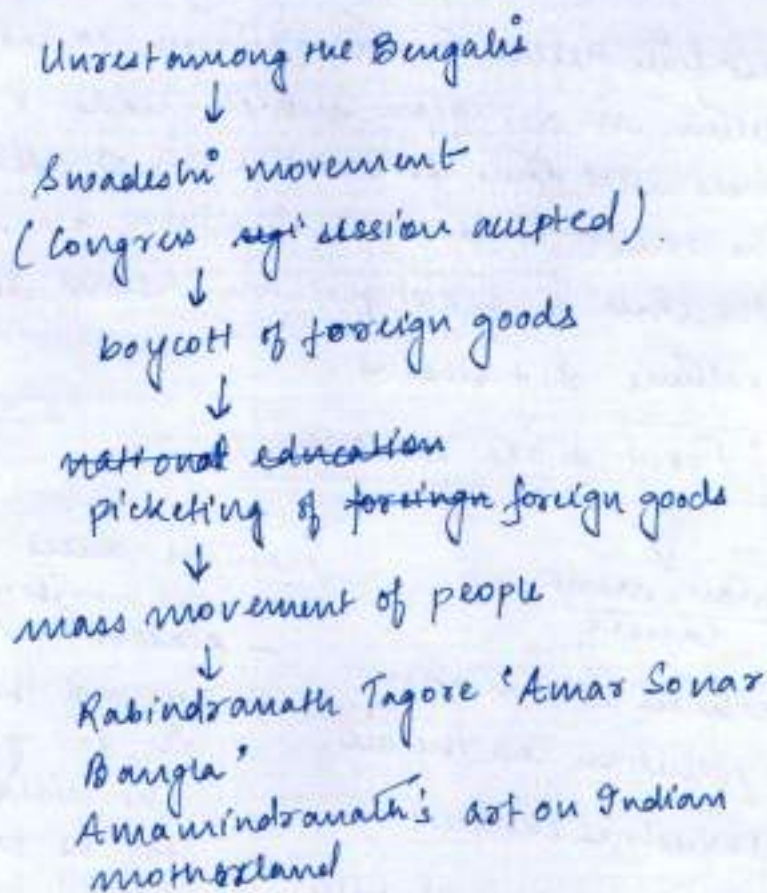
↓  
Lord Curzon - all India services age 19  
→ Official secrets Act  
→ Indian evidence Act

↓  
- Indian post office Act  
- removal of freedom of speech and expression  
- ~~was~~ no Indians allowed to keep guns  
- Durbars, sessions - 1901 while plague in India

↓  
1905: announcement of partition of  
Bengal into East and  
West Bengal in 20th July.

↓  
16 October 1905: official partition  
took place.

## Consequences of Bengal Partition



Finally this led to the annulment of the partition in 1911. But the actual annulment occurred in 1912 and capital shifted to Delhi.

Thus, the partition of Bengal or ~~or~~ was rightly termed as Swadeshi movement because of the spirit of Nationalism invoked in the Indians by the actions of the British.

Q7. Examine the reasons behind rising instances of forest fires in Assam. What measures are needed to mitigate the adverse impacts of forest fires? [10 marks/150 Words]

Forest fires refers to the extreme cases of drought condition in a region which leads to extreme dryness and thus fire occurs in the forests. In the recent time there has been an increase in the cases of forest fire in Assam due to the extreme dry seasons.

### Forest fires reasons

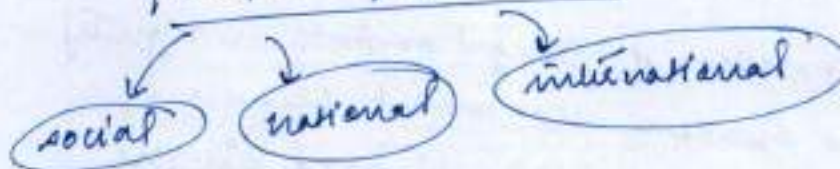
#### man made causes

- extreme urbanisation
- pollution in the air
- industries exhaust
- felling of trees illegally
- wetland destruction

#### natural causes

- pre monsoon in Assam
- seasonal conditions
- cycles of the atmosphere  
or - for eg:  
the walku cycle  
in the La Nina  
period bring  
forest fires in  
the Australia.

### Impacts of forest fires in



### Social impacts

↳ Forest fires will lead to ~~to~~ loss of biodiversity in the ecosystem. Failure of ecosystem will indirectly affect the environment and cause extreme situations.

### National

↳ anthropogenic factor have already lead to an increase of temperature of  $1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  per above industrial levels (limit  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). ~~At~~ All these factors adding to the destruction of the ecosystem.

### International

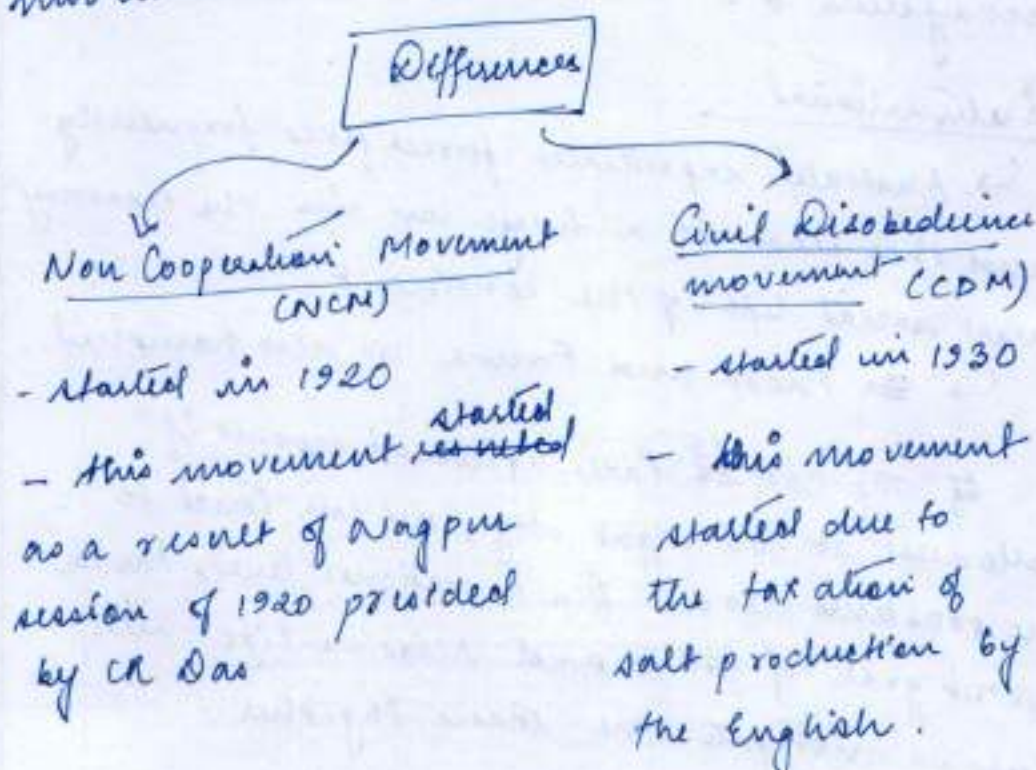
↳ Australia experiences forest fires frequently and this leads to a huge loss in the economy and social life of the continent.

↳ ~~At~~ Flora and Fauna is also hampered.

Of the COP ~~26~~<sup>15</sup> Paris agreement rooms if followed at the right way, we can tend to solve problems soon. On a national level, Panch-Amit goals of COP26 and Mission Life will help us mitigate the losses together.

Q8. In what ways the Non Cooperation Movement was different from the Civil Disobedience Movement. Discuss. [10 marks/150 words]

The two most historical and revolutionary movements of Civil Disobedience and Non Cooperation, both started by Gandhi, on Gandhi's principles have made way for the freedom struggle of the 18th century. Although both the movements were started by Gandhi, there are certain differences which tell us how people's ~~convict~~ reaction varied according to the movements.



- Gandhi started the non cooperation movement in the lieu of increase of land revenue and the atrocities on the factory workers for not being paid enough.  
eg: Champaran (1918)  
Ahmedabad and  
Kheda Satyagrah

- saw mass movement by women, children but was brought down by Gandhi after Chauri Chaura incident (1922)

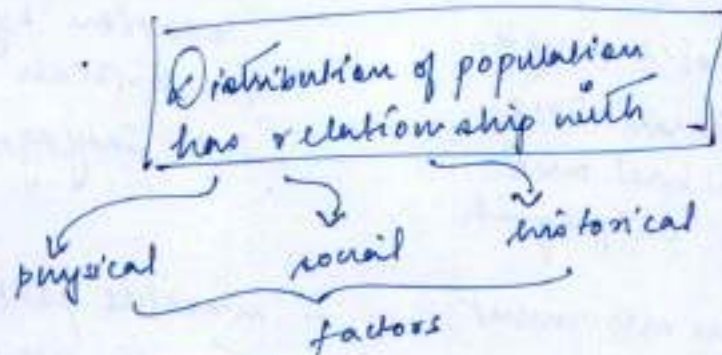
- Gandhi started this movement from Champaran with salt in his hand, in reaction to the taxation by the British.  
(Salt Satyagrah)

- massive participation by women of rural and urban areas but the friction between the administration led to its withdrawal

Thus, we see that the ideological differences between CDM and NCAM did not stop the masses from participating in their fight against the British towards freedom.

Q9. The uneven spatial distribution of population in India suggests its close relationship with physical, social and historical factors. Elaborate. [10 marks/150 words]

India is land of diversity in ethnicity, culture, linguistic, race, communities. This ethnicity diversity has been a matter of pride for India since time immemorial. Ev. ~~has~~



### Physical factors

→ The topography of India has a varying nature. This results in difference of climate, crops and ~~and~~ ~~p~~ even the people.

For eg: the semi arid regions of north west India have ~~poor~~ distributed population but ~~but~~ in large quantity while the North eastern region has scanty of people due to uneven topography and different climate.



Social factors

There are numerous problems in the ~~is~~ almost 15000 km border of India which leads to population difference intensity.



For eg: the real corridor which has heavy naval or militant activities often see less people more people (Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand etc)

The North Eastern region has the issue of insurgency due to proximity with enemy countries which attracts less people to it.

Historical factors

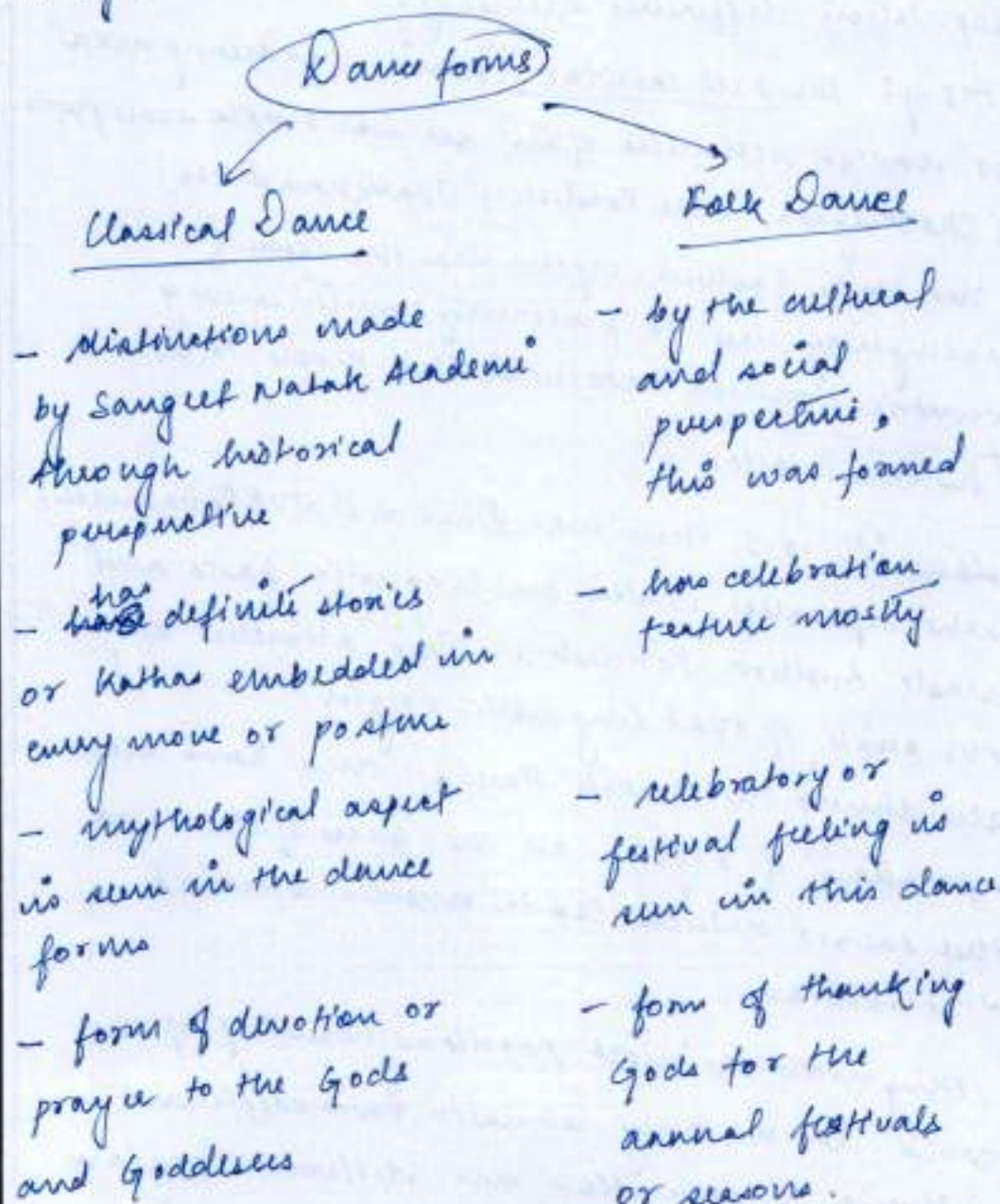
When In 1935, there was Dhar and JVP Committee who separated India on linguistic basis and made Andhra Pradesh. This attracted only the people of that linguistic origin.

Also during the British times, there have been separation of regions on the basis of class and other factors which led to uneven spatial distribution.

Being ~~with~~ the most populous country of the world it is only natural to have different intensities of population in different regions.

Q10. What are the differences between Classical Dance and Folk Dance? Throw light on the features of the classical dance form Kathak. [10 marks/150 words]

Dance is the form of expression through ~~class~~ body and hand movements along with facial expressions. Dancers always have a story to tell. Distinction



- need more training and dedication to perform with grace or stache
- eg: Bharatanatyam - Tamil Nadu
- Kathak - Uttar Pradesh
- relatively easier
- Bihu - Assam
- Ghoomar - Rajasthan
- Garba - Gujarat

### Kathak Dance

- the classical dance of Uttar Pradesh.
- refers to strong hand and feet movements
- often performed solo, or in a group with singers in front.
- historical background: was done in the courts for entertainment of the king, later due to efforts of artists of great stature, it finally got recognised as a classical dance.
- Pandit Biju Maharaj who was a maestro of Kathak dance form passed away recently.

The dance forms of India is diverse and varied. This shows the diversity and rich heritage of our country.

Q11. The development of hydropower projects in the Himalayas has been controversial. Discuss. Also suggest some alternatives to hydropower which can minimize the potential impact on the environment and local communities.

[15 marks/250 words]

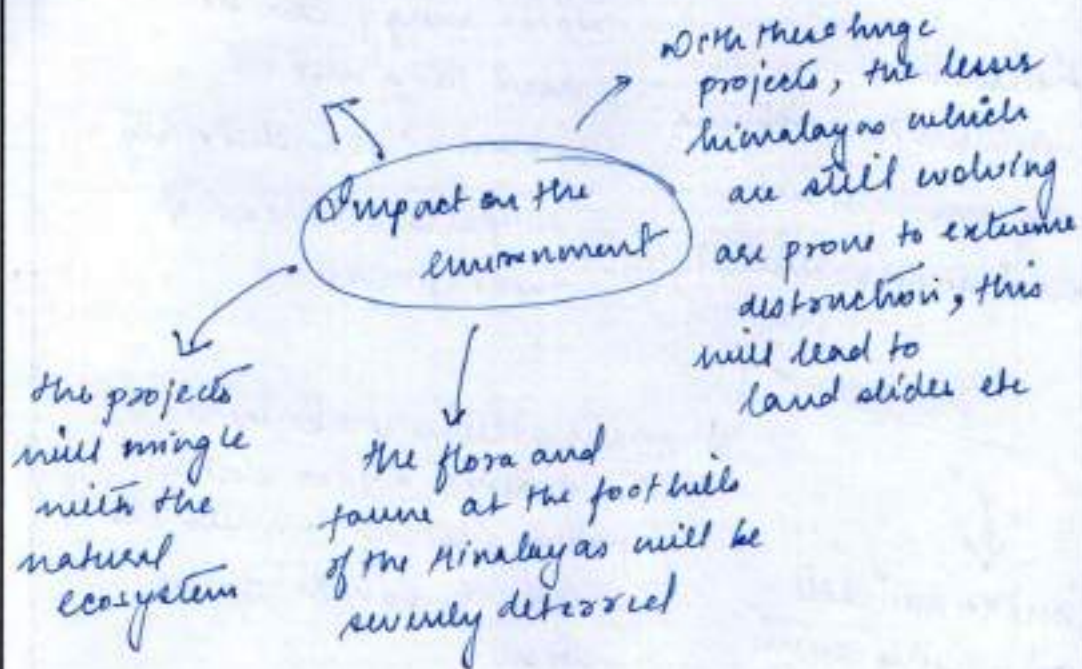
The Himalayas are the highest point of India ~~where~~ <sup>there</sup>. But in recent times, due to the quest for becoming powerful, there have been development of projects which have caused ~~have~~ a threat to the ecosystem of the Himalayas.

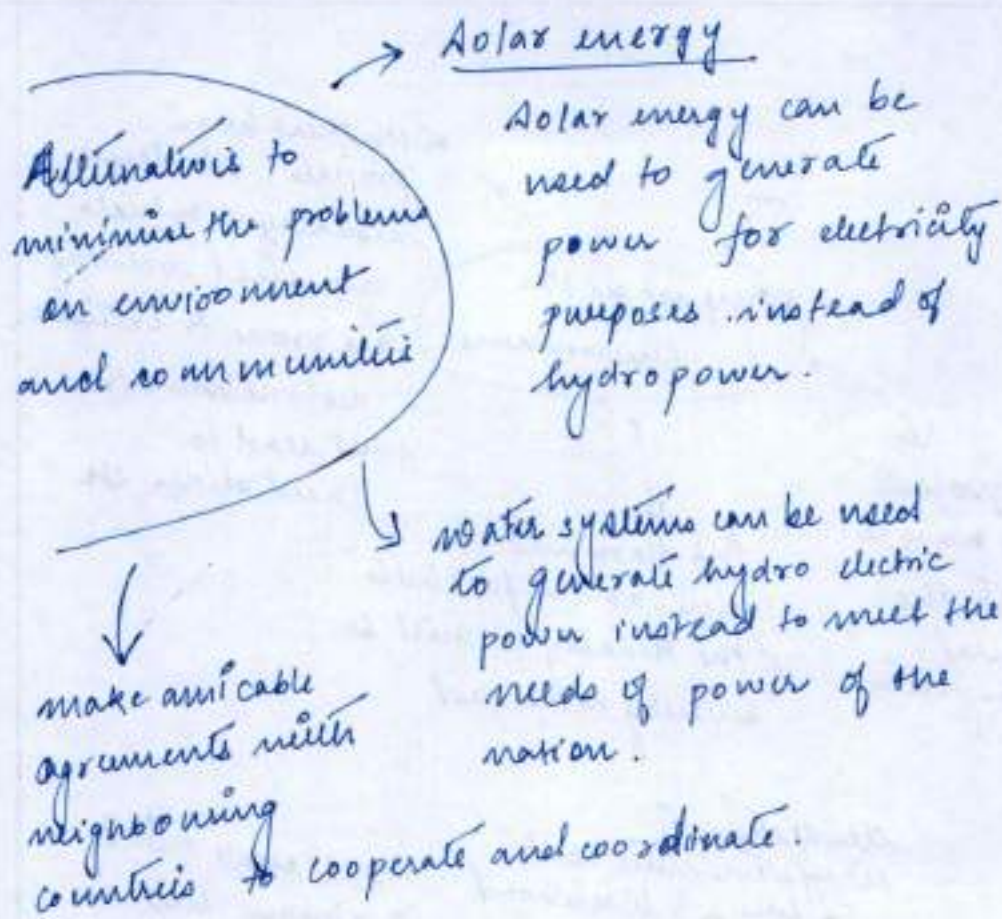
Reasons for hydropower projects in the Himalayas

- to be energy sufficient, constant construction and massive destruction of land masses have been going on

- the border issues of India with China have ~~led~~ led to the developmental activities in the sensitive areas eg: water disputes

- with the growing population, the needs of people are ever increasing. The disputes regarding water have always been on the news.



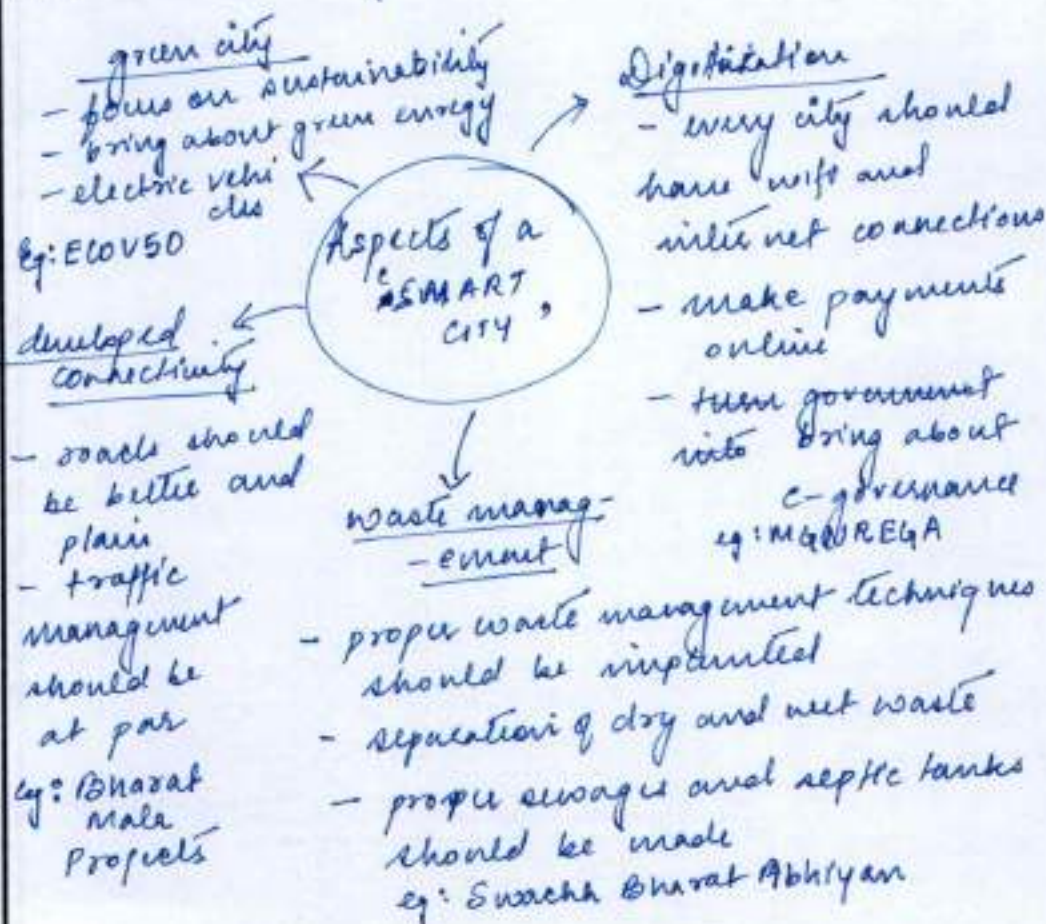


Thus we see that a developmental project has a lot of pros and cons and only working for the energy requirements while destroying the environment will lead to more devastation in the near future. Hence, we should have a balanced approach towards everything.



Q12. the Smart Cities Mission help in upgradation of existing cities in the country?  
 Critically evaluate it. [15 marks/250 words]

'Smart City Mission' is the mission introduced by the Central Government for developing the urban and suburban areas of the countries. This aims at providing the cities with every facilities of and basic amenities required to be a smart city.



poos of Smart City Mission

→ technically updoor upgraded

- Smart cities will be digitally equipped.

eg: - traffic lights automated

- Camer- CCTV at check posts

- online payments

- online complaints or

government registration

eg: BhumiPurva Mission

→ lead to

green environment

- Smart City Mission focuses more on clean and sustainable development. This will bring about green environment

eg: - Electric Vehicles under ECO VBO project

- Use of CNG in automobiles

- government of Assam plans to make all buses electric by 2050

Cleaner city

- waste management programmes

will lead to a cleaner city.

- proper septic tanks, timely cleaning of drainage will way pave way for healthier environment.

### Cons of Smart City Mission

#### unemployment issues

- with the advent of more technologically advanced offices and government departments, traditional office work will be vanished which will lead to losing of jobs of the old people.

#### Construction problems

- with the ~~so~~ more & better connectivity, there will be lots of construction in the city which will lead to traffic congestion and hamper time of the citizens  
eg: The traffic caused by malignaon flyover, Guwahati.

#### alienation of a few privatisation

this will lead to incoming of many middle men which will involve in corruption.  
This will hamper the development of the cities.

Way forward

The corruption should be checked with proper measures by the government. The middle man problem should be deleted on a whole level. There should be provisions for new employment opportunities for the people. Proper complete implementation and completion of projects within time will help in execution of the Smart City Mission successfully.

**Q13. Throw light on different types of potteries that came into existence in India during the ancient age. [15 marks/250 words]**

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**Q14. Discuss the role of such factors that are responsible for varying vertical and latitudinal distribution of temperature of the oceans. [15 marks/250 words]**







**Q15. Portrayal of stereotypical sensational images of women not only reduces their identity to a mere object of desire but also reinforces the patriarchal structure of the society. Discuss with examples. [15 marks/250 words]**

In the modern age of digitization and technologically advanced era, women are often victims to various issues of online fraud or leaking of sensational images or phish' trolling. This leads to hampering of the image of the women in the society.

Security of women is compromised through various ways

→ phishing cyber bullying

- there are many crimes of cyber bullying on women who hack into their mobiles/computer and ~~the~~ bully them for money

↓ trolling

certain cyber criminals troll people by morphing images of women which harms the dignity of women.

These actions impact the image of women in the society. With over 94 million subscribers of the internet in India, it is easy for a picture of a woman to be leaked and spread in various platforms.

With this the women's right to life (Art 21) is hampered and it questions the dignity of women. With the increasing number of criminals, these pictures reduce the women to mere object of desire and ruins her position in the society.

<sup>Some</sup> ~~But~~ men of the society who form the patriarchy take this opportunity to demean the women or victim. This leads to unacceptance in the society of the woman. In a male dominant society, women who are accused of something of this kind are often ~~stared~~ looked down upon by the society.

To every bad, there is a good to balance it. Not every male member of the society will resort to this kind of behaviour. There are men who are sympathetic towards the women in ~~these~~<sup>such</sup> situations and help them in every way possible.



**Q16. Buddhism is a social movement under the name of religion. Discuss.  
[15 marks/250 words].**

*Buddhism has been on the rise in the culture of  
India ever since the China-Tibet issue*

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Q17. Ageing in India is seen as a concern for the people. Comment. What can be done to provide the elderly with a decent quality of life in the near future.

[15 marks/250 words]

"You are born with a family but you die alone"  
 This fear of dying alone or dying miserably is  
 the concern for every ageing member of every  
 household in India.

Why concern?

↳ India, has a concept of joint families since  
 time immemorial where grandfather/mother,  
 mother/father, son/daughter stay together.  
 But in the situation where the property  
 belongs to the son and not the father, there is  
 a fear in the mind of the father regarding  
 his security in life.  
 We often see old people being admitted to old  
 age homes after the son inherits the property.

↳ Old people are not at par with the growing  
 field of technology and digitisation which  
 makes them scared of not being able to live  
 in balance with today's world. The age of

digitisation has instilled fear in the ageing people because they are used to the traditional ways of working eg: handwritten notes, written signature.

↳ The concept of nuclear families make the ageing people scared of their future of being discarded from their children and grand children. This is due to generation gap.

↳ Some ageing people do not wish to be a burden on their families, hence resort to living alone and being independent. But they fear loneliness and darkness from the separation of their families.

What can be done?

Indian culture tells a lot the generation's love and respect for each other and the values that we inculcate from our parents and grandparents and elderly people.

This can be mitigated through:

Awareness - Less spreading awareness about the ~~new~~ technology and basic necessary digital usage of software or ~~apps~~ apps can help block the generation gap.

For. eg: making online payment  
creating social media accounts.

Values from childhood - The children should be taught from childhood about the values and principles of respecting elders and not discard them or treat them as they turn old.  
eg: Barack Obama grew up with his grandparents and he gives credit of his sense of goodwill to his grandparents.

Government initiatives - Bring independent will help the elderly to come overcome the fear of getting lonely or discarded. This can be done through ~~senior~~ pension schemes or government insurance policies etc.  
eg: PRANAM Act.

The people of any age group should value the elderly at any field of life. Trolling them for being not knowledgeable enough should never be justified. Experience is the greatest knowledge, and the elderly have a lot of experience to give us life lessons than any book or YouTube Channel.

**Q18. Briefly discuss the Mansabdari system of the Mughals. [15 marks/250 words]**

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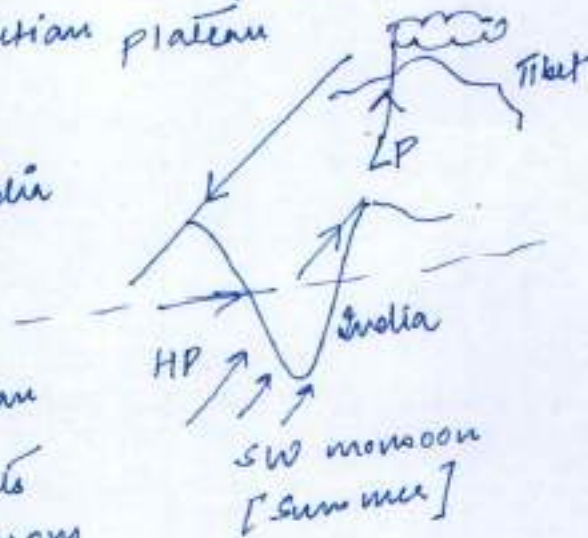
**Q19. Analyse the factors that affect the distribution of rainfall over the India subcontinent? Examine the impact of climate change on rainfall distribution. [15 marks/250 words]**

Rainfall in India has various factors for occurrence.

### Summer

According to the Kotelawala theory, the air over the Tibetan plateau gets extremely high <sup>in summer</sup>, hence an area of low pressure is created on the Tibetan plateau.

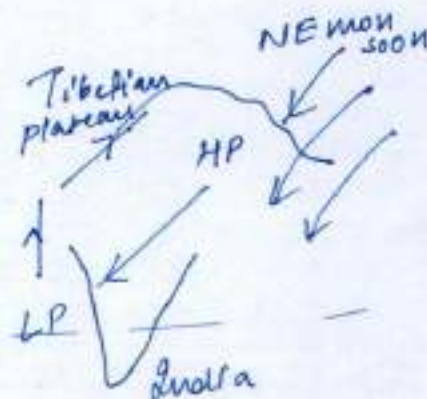
This creates an area of high pressure in India. And air moves from high pressure to low pressure (Tibetan plateau). This results in southwest monsoon.



### Winter

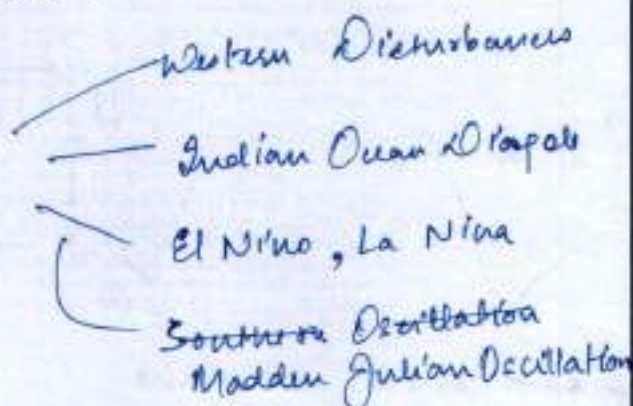
In winter there is low pressure in Indian subcontinent and high pressure in the Tibetan plateau.

This leads to movement of air from High



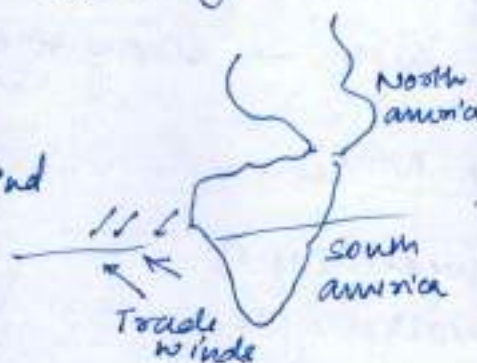
pressure to low pressure region thus leading to North East monsoon.

The distribution of rainfall is due to various reasons



### Western Disturbances

The disturbance or ~~or~~ <sup>is</sup> caused by the westerlies wind which bring about untimely rainfall is called the western disturbances.

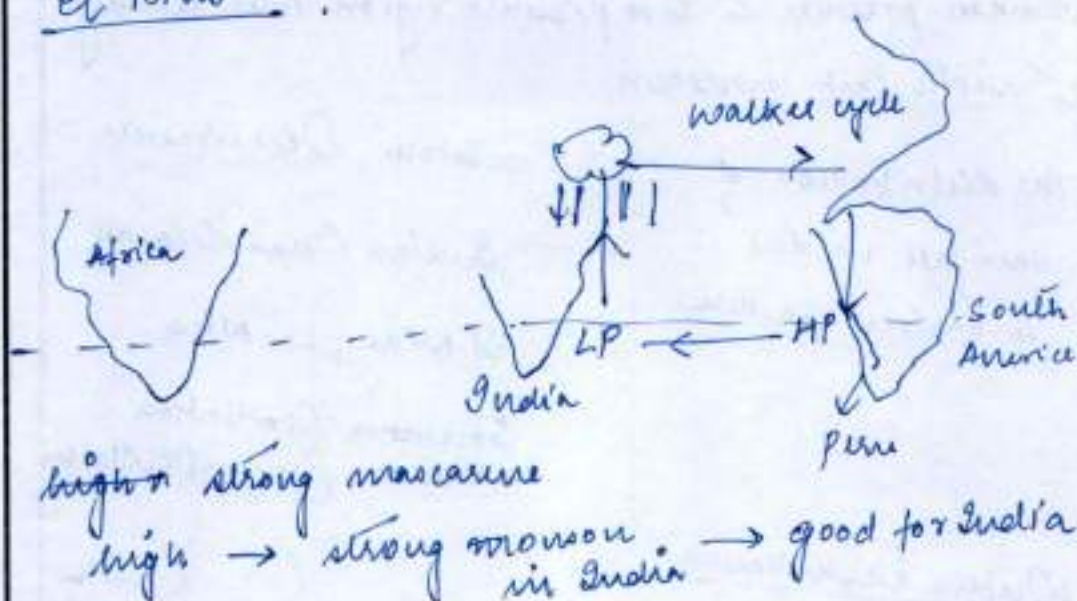


### Indian Ocean Dipole

A phenomenon ~~is~~ <sup>that</sup> occurs in the east and west side of the Indian Ocean.

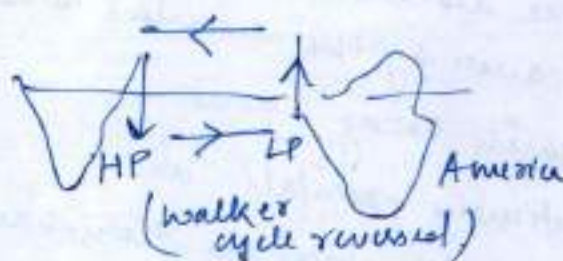
A positive Indian Ocean Dipole bring rain monsoon in India and a negative Indian ocean dipole brings about dryness in India.

## El Niño



## La-Niña

weakening of  
walker cycle  
↓  
weak monsoon  
high



## Madden Julian oscillation

When the walker cycle moves about the earth, it brings rain in the low pressure zones over the earth for a brief time. When low pressure in India, rain in India.



Impact of climate change on environment rainfall

→ With the increasing temperatures, there have been extreme low pressure in India and extreme high pressure in the Peru coast which has led to monsoon for a longer time in India (El Nino)

↓ Since Due to climate change, the El Nino phenomenon lasted for 4-5 years hence it is predicted that there may be La Nina anytime soon which will affect India's monsoon heavily and bring drought conditions.

→ The fish ecosystem is hampered due to adverse affect of climate change. The uneven extremes of cold and warm fronts have not led to fish breeding properly. This leads to coral bleaching and biodiversity loss.

Thus if these processes of environmental degradation is not stopped it may lead to harmful circumstances in the near future.  
eg: Cyclone Mocha over Bay of Bengal is developing.

**Q20. Examine the major differences between the peasant movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century and their impact on society. [15 marks/250 words]**

*The peasants*

# SPM IAS ACADEMY

SHAPING BRILLIANCE

(Don't write  
anything beyond  
this margin)



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SHAPING BRILLIANCE(Don't write  
anything beyond  
this margin)

**Q1.** Rule of the Kushanas can be considered to be the apex of the second urbanization. Discuss. [10 marks/150 words]

**Q2.** The rural-urban continuum has drawn wide attention in recent years. In light of this, discuss the importance of recognizing and addressing the interconnections between rural and urban areas. [10 marks/150 Words]

**Q3.** Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics? [10 marks/150 words]

**Q4.** What are the Rare Earth Elements? Discuss the importance of Rare Earth Elements. [10 marks/150 Words]

**Q5.** Discuss the measures to ensure the full inclusion and participation of transgender persons in society. [10 marks/150 words]

**Q6.** What led to the Partition of Bengal in 1905? What were its consequences? [10 marks/150 words]

**Q7.** Examine the reasons behind rising instances of forest fires in Assam. What measures are needed to mitigate the adverse impacts of forest fires? [10 marks/150 Words]

**Q8.** In what ways the Non-Cooperation Movement was different from the Civil Disobedience Movement. Discuss. [10 marks/150 words]

**Q9.** The uneven spatial distribution of population in India suggests its close relationship with physical, social and historical factors. Elaborate. [10 marks/150 words]

**Q10.** What are the differences between Classical Dance and Folk Dance? Throw light on the features of the classical dance form Kathak. [10 marks/150 words]

**Q11.** The development of hydropower projects in the Himalayas has been controversial. Discuss. Also suggest some alternatives to hydropower which can minimize the potential impact on the environment and local communities. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q12.** The Smart Cities Mission help in upgradation of existing cities in the country? Critically evaluate it. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q13.** Throw light on different types of potteries that came into existence in India during the ancient age. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q14.** Discuss the role of such factors that are responsible for varying vertical and latitudinal distribution of temperature of the oceans. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q15.** Portrayal of stereotypical sensational images of women not only reduces their identity to a mere object of desire but also reinforces the patriarchal structure of the society. Discuss with examples. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q16.** Buddhism is a social movement under the name of religion. Discuss. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q17.** Ageing in India is seen as a concern for the people. Comment. What can be done to provide the elderly with a decent quality of life in the near future. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q18.** Briefly discuss the Mansabdari system of the Mughals. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q19.** Analyse the factors that affect the distribution of rainfall over the India subcontinent? Examine the impact of climate change on rainfall distribution. [15 marks/250 words]

**Q20.** Examine the major differences between the peasant movements of the 19th and 20th century and their impact on society. [15 marks/250 words]